MARY DUNCAN CLARK

Denver, Colorado Unit

Transcript of an Oral History Interview

All rights, title, and interest in the material recorded are assigned and conveyed to the Women's Overseas Service League for the purpose of publication, use in teaching, or other such uses that may further the aims and objectives of the League, such use and participation to be acknowledged in appropriate fashion and with due credit to:

Mary Duncan Clark

PREFACE

This transcript is the product of an interview conducted 26 April, 1986, for the Women’s Overseas Service League, by Marjorie Brown.

Signed, dated agreements of release and biographical information accompany the original cassette.

Transcribed by Patricia Siggers

Lansing, Michigan 15 June, 1989

# WOMEN'S OVERSEAS SERVICE LEAGUE

2

# Oral History Project

4

6

MARY DUNCAN CLARK

8 Denver Unit

NOTE: Special thanks to the interviewer,

10 Marjorie Brown of the Denver Unit.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 12 | **MB:** | **What is your name?** |
|  | **MC:** | **My name is Mary Duncan Clark.** |
| **14** | **MB:** | **When did you join the Denver Unit of WOSL?** |
|  | **MC:** | **It was early in the seventies.** |
| **16** | **MB:** | **Were you in the Service?** |
|  | **MC:** | **Yes, I was in the Army Nurse Corps.** |
| **18 MB: What made you decide to come into the Army Nurse** |
|  |  | **Corps ?** |
| 20 | **MC:** | **My friends who were members.** |
|  | **MB:** | **What did you do before you come into the Army?** |
| 22 | **MC:** | **I went to nurses' training, and then I worked a few** |
|  |  | **months at the Indiana University Hospital.** |
| **24** | **MB:** | **What were your duties in the Service?** |
|  | **MC:** | **I started out as a staff nurse; went to supervisor;** |
| **26** |  | **chief nurse of Vietnam, in the Trang in '64 and '65;** |
|  |  | **and chief nurse in Bad Kreuznach (Germany) in '68 to** |
| **28** |  | ’70 |

WOMEN ’S OVERSEAS SERVICE LEAGUE

MARY DUNCAN CLARK, Denver Unit

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **30** | **MB:****MC:** | **How long were you in the Service?****Twenty eight years.** |
|  | **MB:** | **Where did your travels take you?** |
| **32** | **MC:** | **England, France, Germany, Japan, Vietnam, Fort Dix,** |
|  |  | **Fitzsimmons three times, and Bad Kreuznach again.** |
| **34** | **MB:** | **What kind of housing did you have?** |
|  | **MC:** | **Billets.** |
| **36** | **MB:** | **What was the nature of the medical care available to** |
|  |  | **you?** |
| **38** | **MC:** | **Very good.** |
|  | **MB:** | **What was your uniform dress?** |
| **40** | **MC:** | **Nursing uniform, fatigues, dress uniforms.** |
| **MB: Can you relate a couple of your more exciting** |
| **42** |  | **experiences to me?** |
|  | **MC:** | **Traveling overseas, I traveled with one of my friends** |
| **44** |  | **who was a nurse. We visited Germany, Italy, Greece,** |
|  |  | **Africa, Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Turkey, Asia; and then** |

46 came back through Greece, Italy, and Germany. We were told by some of the military that we were

48 risking our lives if we went through Lebanon and some of those countries; that itwas communist, and they

50 didn't allow uniforms there (military).

We went anyway; but when we packed our suitcases

52 — we had purchased some Kotex and Tampax and decided we would put our uniforms in the bottom of the

2

WOMEN'S OVERSEAS SERVICE LEAGUE

MARY DUNCAN CLARK, Denver Unit

54 suitcase, then our civilian clothes and then this Tampax and Kotex on top -- and maybe they wouldn't

56 look. When we went through we opened our luggage, and they just looked at them and didn't touch

58 anything -- and no examination was made. We couldn't laugh at them at that time, but when we arrived back

60 to our quarters we had a very good laugh over that. Then, I enjoyed very much working on the board

62 in Japan, helping with the orphans from the American military men. We helped them be adopted and helped

64 raise money to have a place for them to stay, eat, and sleep. That's about it.

66 MB: What was the greatest adjustment you had to make when you came into the Service?

68 MC: I didn't have any, I don't think, really.

MB: Did you plan on making the Service a career when you

70 first joined the Army?

MC: Yes, in a way. Right after the war -- d day, I

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **72** | **MB:** | **decided I was going to make a career.****What did you do after your Service was concluded?** |
| **74** | **MC:** | **I'm working now at home and at my business.** |
| **76** | **MB:****MC:** | **What has being a member of WOSL meant to you?****I've seen many people you do not meet with at other** |
|  |  | **organizational meetings.** |
| **78** | **MB:** | **O.K., thank you very much!** |

3

WOMEN'S OVERSEAS SERVICE LEAGUE

MARY DUNCAN CLARK, Denver Unit

80 End of Interview

82

Transcribed by Patricia Siggers

84 Lansing, Michigan

4

INDEX CLARK

Housing, 2 Locati ons

Eng Iand, 2

France, 2

Germany, 2

Japan, 2 Stateside

Fitzsimmons, 2

Fort Dix, 2

Vietnam, 2

Medical care, 2 Servi ce

Army Nurse Corps, 1 Uniforms, 2

**l**