# IRENE CULLY

Denver, Colorado Unit

Transcript of an Oral History Interview

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appropriate Fashion and with due credit to: Irene Cully

PREFACE

This transcript is the product of a tape-recorded interview conducted on 4 March, 1906, for the Women ’s Overseas Service League.

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

Transcribed by Patricia Siggers

Lansing, Michigan

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| **E** |  | **IRENE CULLY**  **Denver Unit** |
|  | **MB:** | **What is your name, please?** |
| **4** | **IC:** | **Irene Cully.** |
|  | **MB:** | **When did you join the Denver Unit of WOSL?** |
| **6** | **IC:** | **In 1870.** |
|  | **MB:** | **What branch of the service did you serve?** |
| **8** | **IC:** | **Army Nurse Corps.** |
|  | **MB:** | **When did you go into the Army Nurse Corps?** |
| **10** | **IC:** | **August, 1338.** |
|  | **MB:** | **What influenced you to go into the service?** |
| **12** | **IC:** | **Probably the benefits I would receive.** |
| **14** | **MB:** | **Before you went into the Army Nurse Corps, what did you do?** |
| **16** | **IC:** | **I was working in Omaha at the Lutheran Hospital in the operating room.** |
|  | **MB:** | **What did you do in the Army Nurse Corps?** |
| **IB** | **IC:** | **I was a nurse anesthetist.** |

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|  | **IRENE**  **MB:** | **CULLY, Denver Unit E**  **How long were you in the Army?** |
| **SO** | **IC:** | **Twenty-two years.** |
|  | **MB:** | **Where did your travels take you?** |
| **EE** | **IC:** | **Germany, Okinawa, were my overseas assignments. Nadigan:** |
|  |  | **I was at Nadigan For Five years. I was on the east coast** |
| **E4** |  | **at Fort Devins; Fort Sill, OK; Fort Riley, K S . I guess** |
|  |  | **that ’s it.** |
| **EB** | **MB:** | **When you were in the Army - tell me about your housing?** |
| **EB** | **IC:** | **I lived in nurses’ quarters, and at that time it was adequate, I guess.** |

MB: Tell me about the medical care that you were able to get.

30 IC: Uery good.

MB: Can you describe some oF the uniForms that you wore?

3E IC: The taupe uniForm during the war— no, we wore the pinks and greens, which is the best looking uniForm the Army

34 has ever had. Then into the taupes; and then the blues.

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| **36** | **MB:** | **Do you have any special experiences that you ’d like to relate?** |
| **38** | **IC:** | **Well, about being scared right aFter D day. We went to France on D - 7 . We were set up in tents. They were** |

# IRENE CULLY, Denver Unit 3

strafing the area, and I was giving an anesthetic in a

40 tent. The strafing seemed to get closer and closer, and I kept leaning nearer and nearer a tent pole, which was

42 probably about 4 inches in diameter. I have no idea what protection I thought that would give me.

50 Bulge, we were at Metz in a building. However, most of

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| **44**  **46** | **MB:**  **IC:**  **MB:** | **You were in a field hospital, right? Y e s .**  **How long were you in with that particular unit?** |
|  | **IC:** | **Two years and a half, I think.** |
| **4B** | **MB:** | **Now, you lived in tents all that time?** |
|  | **IC:** | **Most of that time. At times, during the Battle of the** |
|  |  | **the time was in tents.** |
| **52** | **MB:** | **When you were in the tents, how many nurses to a tent?** |
|  | **IC:** | **Four .** |
| **54** | **MB:** | **Did you all get along pretty well?** |
|  | **IC:** | **Yes, we had to. CLaughter)** |
| **56** | **MB:** | **When you went into the service, what was the greatest adjustment you had to make?** |

# IRENE CULLY, Denver Unit 4

5B IC: I d o n ’t Feel that I had much of an adjustment to make. It uias community living; I had been used to that. I

60 hadn ’t been out of training long. I had lived with

another girl in an apartment, and I enjoyed it.

62 MB : When you went into the Army, did you plan to make the Army your career?

64 IC: I d o n ’t suppose so, but I ’m glad I did.

MB: When did you decide to stay in the service?

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| **66** | **IC:** | **After the war was over. By that time, I had enough**  **service which was counting toward retirement, and I** |
| **68** |  | **couldn ’t afford to give it up.** |
|  | **MB:** | **After you left the Army— after you retired, what did you** |
| **70** |  | **do?** |
|  | **IC:** | **I ’ve been doing volunteer work, and I did work For a** |
| **72** |  | **little while part-time in a nursing home.** |
|  | **MB:** | **What has being a member of WOSL meant to you?** |
| **74** | **IC:** | **Good friendship.** |
|  | **MB:** | **O.K. Thank you very much.** |
| **76** |  | **Transcribed by Patricia Siggers** |

Lansing, Michigan