*m* **INTERVIEW OP JANUARY 22. 1980** WITH MRS. FRANCIS HUCKINS

Hi I wa® born in a *k*story house that my grandfather built^iixA and grandparents on both sides lived in the house. MBtxnyxlKtkwdtx

Not his father, because his father died - right after he was born his father died, and grandparents—, grandmother, his mother and my mother a^d father - we all lived in

that great big house, it was 4 stories you know, lie always had a

live-in maid - you'd call it that. She was just cart of the family

(wheiv' almost. And when my mother died, she died when she was just 39,and'f£he

died - it was a good thing we had somebody there that kept things going.Jp My sister was 17 and I was seven when ray mother died. I don't have ji too many memories of her because I think the last year before she died she was probably sick and I was into everythin»-. As I look back-I was always considered a bad child\* I didn't *^*

think I was being bad. I was doing what cam^iiaturally I remember

**lC*'*'-v *• U ' h ^***

once coming home from sohoolpny mother was still alive and £ there

was a child in the class that was moving. She was a little Jewish

child - there were a lot of Jewish in

*Li*ew York anyway.

\* thought that was wonderful because we never moved and 4

I thoughf’that was very interesting. So I couldn't have been more than vwould -

the first or second grade so I^helpast her move, so I was helping Jch

and they had the police out looking for me when I didn't come home from school, but I didn't do it to be bad. I just thought I was helping. I remember I was carrying somethin»- - I don't remember what it was — but a neighbor was out too looking for me and she got hold of me and shook me mightly and saidMyou're a bad girl, put that down",

and I didn't want to put it down, I said this belonged neighbor {:$

and she was moving.

Q. This was in Brooklyn?

That's in Brooklyn.

Q. And you said you were born in 189^? June 19, IO96? f e

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## That»g rrrrort .\_ *mm*

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The reason I say that I have a friend here In

Kansas City - I itiidix didn't know the Duchess was born on that day and couldn't car«y but she's very interested because she has that birthday and so she's told me time and again that we were all born on the same day.

Q. And your father was a businessmen and what was his name?

William J. Castello.

Q. When did you start attend Columbia University?

That would have been 191\*\* to 1910\*

Q..And you were enrolled in the Teacher's College? f *A* '-tsxs Y e s .

Q.Would you describe some of the activities you were interested ini at

that time? You previously mentioned you were a member of the dramatic society.wkt

1 Yes, I had to EmxauDixxKx commute and that was very time-consuming and a lot of the things that v/ent on I could not take part in, because

I had to go home every night. I had a long string on me, awixluut to

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be sure I came back home. '^MSi^'finally I must ofSi^ia "'quite an upset, I realized j was a round peg in a square hole. That wasn't what I was interested in and I went and talked to the authorities there. I

asked if I could take other subjects, and of course they don't want to do that because it makes trouble for people\*.

d t<

tsxxHtxumaax take extra time to get in some of the gfekftx subjects that I wanted to get in. to.

Q. So then you went liberal arts program?

KtV' Liberal arts, yes, that's really where I belonged. And I got a

B.S. They didn't change that. So I\* I'm a mixed pickle. I have

about as many credits ih toward a B.A., as I did towards a B.S.. But that doesn't matter, I had a lot of fun even though I had to

go home every night and ride the subway. It's quite a little trip from out in l6th Street. Every morning the whole orew came in from

Naw Jersey - would rot mi u,

■■ ■■

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**watch for your friends to get on. It wns fun.**

**Q. And then right after you graduated you went to Gamp?**

**p.\V«Yes, I went right to camp. You see the war really began In 191^ -**

# the other countries were already at war before vie entered, but

**had entered and a lot of the boys I knew from school had gone as ambulance drivers and that kind of thing and there was a lot of talk about, to keep you all Qtirred up, and so I wanted to do ray part too. I don't remember, you asked me once how I found out about this, I don't remember.**

**Q.But you were aware of the war - it coincided with the years you were In college?**

**^.H'Yes, but I don't think I thought as much about it until fcMexl&xkxxearx**

**probably the last year, when some of the American boys began to jpeioc goa you see, and Jobs like ambulance drivers, before we really our own troops over there. But I was very interested *¿R***

**Q.What were your reactions to events you read m about in the press, sinking**

# of ships for example?

**f.ri'NO, I doh't remember that, although I remember I had a job one summer working for Western Electric, I think they make telephones; I remember seeing the troop ships going out. They would go out to New York harbor and I was working in Nevi York flity. That was about all I could say I knew, and then the boys I knew that had gone over. And then as soon I was through I decided to go down to camp.**

**Q.So n what was the first camp you stationed at?**

**Camp Mills. There wero two camps on Long Island. One of them was C&rap Mills. It was the closest in. And General Mitchell who got in great trouble with the Air Force - he was there at that time. He was having a rough tirao 3dr\* because they didn't agree with him. He was perfectly right, but that was all proved later. And the camp was**

**not completed when I was there - it** -was still Just tents. **All the**

permanent buildfcngs were not up yet. Yea\* But there werefc these hostess houses, like the YWCA, and the big building we had and YMCA, and War Camp Community Service and Jewish Community Service. Those were the organizations that were there that we worked with and we all did similar things.

Q. What organization did you actually serve with though?

# WaxxfiuapxcBaiiunttyxuxxtnBxaK^x

pti It was the War Camp Community Service sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, *H* It was a Catholic organization. That was the first time the Knights of Columbus — any Catholic organization that I know of got actively engaged in a war. I don't know that they ever did that before. Do you know?

Q. No.

j^lNo, I think that was the first time.

q .Yo u said that at tit the tine you could not go overseas, because of the age rx requirement?

^ ». Vbecause^ „ ^thought I didn't have/

£,n•NojjspTTiaa to be 2 5 . They^tohs^xkhtxkxixiiail enough sense anyway.

SEtoJtyxW\*Jr\*x\*Yra±9tx Somebody asked me if I had a romantic feeling for the men -- a strange thing, I didn't have a romantic feeling — I was terribly concerned; they were almost like little boys to me, although some of them were old enough to be my father, but it was

a diffferent feeling. Oh, there were *a* lot of them that I was drawn

more to one person than another, but I don't remember having any

remember having any romantic feeling at all.

Q. You said before, that a large part of your Job was not only as a hostess, but ixaxiarxexyx the friendship element ,\*\*~-

Cworking *j*

PI'.Yes, txlktiucxNitkxtkKm^ you talked with them, you didn't know when they were going to leave — they weren't allowed to tell you — they would hang around and hang around. One thin«- I remember, it was

such a little thing, but such a nice thing. One soldier didn't have

We probably were about the same age. Anyway, he wanted to Rive me something. I remember keeping the apple until It rotted and I oouln't eat it.

But you would know when they were going, and they would hang

around. And then at night I would lie and I could hear them marching to their trains. Taking them into New York to p:et on board ship and everything would be so still, but you could hear that sound m i of the feet marching. I could hear it even yet.

It \*s funny how that stayed Just right with me, and it gave you awful feeling and if it was someone you knew — some of the boys

who had been in there who were in that group would be going — then it Just made you feel pretty bad. And once and awhile there was

somebody that whistled\* maybe to keep his spirits up, and then you would hear him pipe down, ffchey weren't allowed to whistle. They weren't supposed to make any noise. But you could hear thatv|;^ai of feet} marching fMthHjc tread of feet, gettinr on the train. Those were

little things - like seeing them with the bayonet and hearing that

sound of the men marching — that stay with you.f.

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Q. Did you sign up for the duration of the war? I didn't sign up, I Just went.

Q.But it was understand that you would stay in camp for the duration?

There was ho question about that.

•¿jVi You see, the flu came along in 1918 and as I say the camp wasn't

completely finishld. Some of the men were still in tents and we

^ - because -

were luoky that our house was built^/~~At least we were fairly

sheltered beoause we were in this house. But I had the flu, ivr\_ai\_"\*and it was Just not my time to die. I was very, very sick,

Q. With the influenza?

Yes, with that terrible 1918 flu. I had that, and of course there was a shortage of nurses, doctors. I had an Army doctor, this

may sound romantic, but it wasn't — he stayed with me all night

and Just held onto my hands, and I can remember that so well because it almost felt — he didn't think I was going to live — I was not supposed to , so he stayed there and, and he held my hand. It was Just aB though I could feel the life from his own hand oomlng through to myxBmpc me.

Q. What was your daily routine within the camp?

'll\* Well, we visited with the men. We had a olace where we sold tobacco and stamps — Just as a matter of convenience and we had a huge cafeteria. Of course the men ate in their own quarters,^ but you know they have a bottomless pit, so they were over there all the time, and no matter what you were supposed to do, if somethinfr happened, for instance, the big dishwasher would go haywire, so we all would mo in and wash dishes. You did what­ ever was necessary. And if there was maybe a leak or something you mopped the floor. But most of the time it was fraternizing, you might say, with the men — talking with them. And then we did have dances now and then— dr parties more, it wasn't a dance. Something to give them an outlet.

Q. Your official Job title would have been hostess then? fM'Hostess, that would be the category.

Q. What did you get paid per month?.

$25, but I had my board and room inxiMouEiitKof course. It never occurred to me that that was anything — it was perfectly

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alright. I was so enthralled with whet•T'-Se&OfinfrnPQal^yi^blqfcal

1 was d e l v e d .

Q. Do you recall®! what days, and hours per day you would put in?

- **')-**

Q. You wont to bed with taps?

Y e s , and I got up with reveille. I didn't always maybe go to bed with taps. We put In long hours. And you did anything that was to be done. But mostly It was talking with the men. And. they played cards. In fact, I didn't know a thing about cards, I was no good at cards whatever, not here, but later over at Scofield Barracks. They wanted you to sit down with them -

X couldn't tell you all the different kinds of cards, I wouldn't har&ly/£now one from the other, but if you'd sit down at one end

of the table and play w ith the group and somebody would be behind

me to bid, you know to tell me what to do, and I didn't know anything about it at all. Probably gambling games I'm sure. I know they gambled, hut they weren't supposed to - they could use matches you know.

Q. Did you wear uniforms or any soeclal kind of clothing?

f,H''No, I didn't have a uniform. I had a picture of myself, I had a green suit.

Q. What length was the hemline?

IpA'They were fairly long. Just about min-calf.

**Q. Didnv't the hemlines go u p doing the war?**

Well, not like they did recently. I remember when I was going to Columbia, when I was going to school, I took the streetcar. There was a streetcar that ran one block from where I lived and I had to take that to the subway and they had what they call hobblesklrts. They were so tight, and I had to hobble to the car to .vet on. The conductor was In the middle and you put your money in there. I remember once I didn't make it and I sprawled the full l e n g t h

and Just about ruined It. But that was between 191^ and 18. Somewhere In there.

Q. You said you called your preen suit your lucky suit?

I had a suit with a skirt and coat, and I always thought that was lucky. I don't know why. This man who later became president of the Burlington — C^tQ. — he was Just a young flier there and

I don't remember how we met. I suppose in our hostess house, and so I asked If he could take me u p to fly. Oh course he would of been court-martial£ed and I don't know what would have happered to

me, but anyway, friends sald,H don't go you'll be killed/ Well, *I* said \^ou^ me because you're afraid, that

they'll ask you if you knew that I was going. That's all you're worried about. So he took me up and we flew out over^T.... T .... *J,*

I remember I wanted to ask him something and I said f\*»xg»±Jirxfci»x pkfcXKtyxfcssixKfcx what is that, i^axgntmrxtraxxufcxmyxNiiKJtxnHfcxx

I wanted to put my head down and pretty nearly had my arm cut off. The wind was so strong. I soon took it in and I didn't move again.

Q.You flew'over New York?

We went out over Long Island-over what would be ftjrfc&ftxS&Milflxiiax Great South Bay and the Ocean — on that si^e. The south Bide. We had a little flight — not too lon^, but it was a thrill.

It was open cockpit, you know. My ftravjt friend, she was just

in tears — she was sure I was going to be killed. She'd have to tell. I said that was all she was worried about — not me,

**Ithat/**

she'd get the dickens for not telling}l was doing it. ixHBnfcxHp

\*M±k\*XEX£8SfxfctH«»XRfi«rxfc>Mi:kx I heard from him af ter^jjgf^, quite

a few times. He was an engineer. I must of run into engineers with-

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out /knowirigit./ He was an enrineer, and was finally president /

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of/the CB & Q. *f* It was funny, one day when my husbanfl and I were

... **| >**

living here, there was a bis: piece in the Sunday paper that showed — they came in on private cars, you know, the CB & Q, and I don’t remember what other railroads there were, and it pave his namei

and I was Just dying to call him and I decided no^I wouldn't do it.

Q. I wonder how many women had rone up in an airplane in 1918?

Q. Was there ± any special training before you went to work as a hostess? Did they have a course?

£V\ ‘No, I don't remerabei7havin/r any.— Any training fax at all. And I

can't remember how I found out that they, of course I knew that people were going and helping out, but I don't remember how I found out about the group that I worked with.

Q. Through the church perhaps?

Not my own particular parish church. I Just don't remember.\* Through school I may have heard of it.

Q. What were the other women, did they have similar backgrounds, were they mostly college-educated, and Catholics, I would assume?

^.A’Well, the woman who was in charge was very prissy, I had to be

very careful. I don't think she ever approved of me. She thought I should be older, that I was too young to be there. She was probably right. She kept her eye on me, I'm sure, all the time

t o s e e that I wasn't doing things I shouldn't be doing. She had been a socialite really. A lot of people like that went into that work. I don't if she was paid or not. I would say we had

about a half a dozen people on our staff, and most of them I think

•would have been college people. They were all top-notch people.

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Q. What was your father's reaction to your work?

I think my father must have been a little bit proud of me. I think he wa He wasn't the kind of person .... he would sit on me^KRe told me "never mind your ancestors, Just be sure you're a good ancestor." He would be

more apt to say that if he thought I was getting out of hand, but I thin

A

he probably was proud of me. He never questioned it at all.

Q. Was he supportive?

YesJixhe was. My sister,I think^was x supportive while I was down there, I don't think she really approved too much of ray doing it and besides

I think I got away from her. She had picked my college, you see, and

I got jocxi1 away from that. I never thought or realized that until time josxKKctxanAx went on and things happened, and pieced things together

but I never thought about it much then, and as I say, I had the flu

;hen.

andjTHe camp was quarantined — nobody could go in or out. But when I

Cat rfchat time they lifted^ got over the flu, and was on my feet again^therriuarantlne.julxx tiltsix

And when I was well enough they gave me about a month, so I went home. But I was on my feet. However she told me they burned all ray clothes —

£hat they thought they would spread the disease, and I exspect people did feel that w a y ^ ^ i ^ d i ^ t remember them doing it, but she told me they burned all my clothes, and then when I came back^S'Cluty they had filled my place and I wen^to Camp Uoton which is farther out on Long Island.

Q. Were you hostess for officers, and enlisted men both?

Yes, there was no discrimination. It was mostly enlisted men. Yes, they would be more apt to come in than the officers would. I don't remember any discrimination at a31, until later. I found out when I was at the regular army place, in Scofield Barracks — there was discrimination there.

Q. You did mention racial prejudice at Camp Upton, I believe?

Yes. The last year I was there, I was there until 1919, really, the last men ith® had come back from overseas, and at the very end, they brought back the complete black regimenttand I told you that I was

sitting here one night— I had Channel 19 on— and looking, and a?l of

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a sudden It said the Men of Bronze; it was the story of the black

regiment. In was there at camp when they cleared out all the white troops and brought in the^Jj^ijL/regiment from overseas. They marched

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them down £k b e b Fifth Avenue and gave them a little applause and then they brought them there to camp to be discharged from there, and so it was full of black soldiers all the time. I feel very keenly about the black issue. ixhadxifcxhisrRx So of course when I saw

that on the screen, and it showed them marching down 5th Ave., and it said they went to Camp Upton« I was bug-eyed, thinking who was it, of course I had been there when they were there, and there

was no trouble whatever, no trouble whatever, and. I have since read that even Pershing — they didn’t want the black troops at all. They said they^Kti^fHr^ifrht, and this and that, and

the officers overseas wanted them to attach to their units, and so they attached them to the French, because the French at that time were in a very bad spot. I can't remember the particular place now and they were having a terrible time, and as I told you, they're used to working with the — they had so many colonies in Africa, they were used to working with the blacks, and the French were so tickled to death to °-et the black regiment when they were over there, so they were attached to the French a good part of the time they were over there — not all the time, but a good part of the time originally, and helped the French. I was proud of them.

How long were the returning j;oldie^s in the camp, coming back from

* **Did you do much hostess work with Europe before they were discharged/**

them?

**Yes, *Ktxznxxxxx***

Did you notice a differonco between the men that were there after training jmrtxfcEEBx before they went overseas, and those that were coming back?

^\V'You mean , whether they had prown *U]* was funny, but a boy that I had knovm at Columbia came back and we were having: a danoe and he came in and saw me and he was so surprised to see me

and I was surprised to see him too. He had a lot of social life —

Cfor the

we were supposed to do that, make thing# interesting^Tand during the daytime of course, cards and things like that.

Q. What was your friends reaction?

fH'. "Fancy seeing you h e r e k n o w , I don’t remember what JafcRx he said, but he was surprised anyway. *\* was surorised to see.

Q. Did they want to talk to you about what they'd experienced?

No, I \*HR±fcxbHl±HxaxKnx can't say...there was one of the women who worked with us, that was tfeatr there on the staff, had a son and he was one of the younrer of the boys that went over, and

when he came back — he finally died, he was in awfully bad shape, and I remember how upset I was, because I knew his mother, and

he was in and out of our place so much.

Q. Was he wounded?

fg. Yes. And of course I was terribly upset over that, and really I didn't see much of the wounded there as I did later when I> worked

In the hospitals, you see. I didn't see so much of that. Of course, the men were all eager to ret home, and they were fairly light-hearted because of the fact that they were back in the United States and ready

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***to* be discharged, bo they were not too down In the mouth.**

Q. One incident you had related earlier about how the war really came home to you, would you describe that again?

Well. 1 "ns curious because of belnr new I wanted to know about every« that was going on, so I heard these people outside — there was a

m r a d e ground I guess, I was curious to know what was going on, so I

went to the window and looked and watched. And I watchedj/ja^couple of^c

before I equally saw them spearing the dummy - I don't remember seeing it at first or I'm sure I wouldn't have looked after that« so I saw 1

I was so interested in everything- — it was a new experience and I wanted to know about Rxertyx everything; so he would give the command Just like a se^rgeant would, in no uncertain terms. He'd say

something, it-{60k me a couple of days to figure out what he was

saying, and I thought, and I still think that what he was saying was "get ready to n-rowl". That's what it sounded like,j5 because they

would make these awful sounds, and then they'd charge with their bayonet8 . I was upstairs you see, inside the house and they were

down.on the ground. Rxxlxiixixthtnkx But I think that's what they said, and when it suddenly came over me that's what he was saying and that^semhat, they were training bayone$t practice — that just

j petrified me. I never looked out the window again after that. I

was terribly unset fr^fecrealizing it, and I realized then that

*f*

# , , . Cmentally^

most human beings, unless they are unbalanced^ 'jtisf'can't in cold

bloody take a bayonet and run±x£ ■ run it fcJcrsMgk into somebody.

They have to be stirred u p to do anything — before they could do that. I know it has to be. Of course, if you don't do it, the other guy does.

Q. That helps sometimes I'm sure.

I Ye 8 . I know that but, it was airls all so new to me, and I was just horrified — just horrified to think of that.

Q\* You mentioned earlier, that at War Cnmr> Community meetings you were appointed as a representative?

W Yes, I w a s . I don't know why, I've never been able to figure that ou

because the older people out there should have gone. Again I like people so well, and I've never have trouble meeting

anybody and I didn't have the feeling — you know the Catholic church had never done this kind of think thing before and the YMCA, YWCA, or whatever lixwaK were well established you see. War Carao Community Service was new — Just¿wartime — that organization started then and Jewish Community Service —

that too was started then. The YMCA and YWCA had been in practice in most of the big cities for a long time.

But I didn't have any trouble at all and I was sent to a number of the meetings when we would have community meetings.

I had no trouble at all in getting along with them. And the man in War Camp Commy Service — when the whole thing was over with

in 19 19 » he asked me one day "what are you going to d o y ^ w h e n

***w* •'**

you go home now?". I said Ifm going to go home, kBxfesct I'm going

**J** *J*

to go to bed, and I'm going to stay in bed probably for a month.

*\\*

He said "you want to bet on that/" I said.no lira Just not gbing

4 *\*

to think of a n y t h i n g . H e saidawould it be okay if I got your jname

***J*** **I**

and address. So I ^ave it to him and within about12 months, after

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I was discharged, I got a letter from them,

course V ar C V op

of W at

Community Service continued afterwards in the little towns surroun

the camps, where the men would go on leave, you see and they'd have a community house, and it was the same thing, playing cards, and so on.

Is that what was later a kUSO Center,off-base?

Same type of thing exactly. So I went to Baltimore and that was t)? where they had an opening. I wanted to go and I did go. I went to this friend of mine - my best friend in college had stayed in Washington during the war and she and her sister

had worked with the railroad administration. Railroads went back to, had been under the government — they took them over, and then they went back to private ownership. And they were Just going back to private ownership. She was with Southern Pacific and she had a sister — not the b k h one who was my best

friend-who had a marvelous job. She was private secretary to

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one of the top men, so of course she was going to keep her Job, and they were going to California, and her sister who was my friend, she had a job which was not as orestigious at that,

but of course she was going to go to California too. I was in Baltimore and we used to talk back and forth on the phone, and

she said we're going to California wouldn't you like to comef tool7

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and I said I'd love to — C a l i f o m i a tI'd love it. So\_,to make

a long story short - I can see them now, they were standing out

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on the doorway of the train, and It came through Baltimore, looking to see If I was there, and Retting on. We didn't have any sense at all — no sense, it was Just a biß; lark. I had never been to California and I was so thrilled to fro.

Q.By train, that must have been quite a trip?

Well it was a — I don't remember how we went, if we went up\* Cc k J

by Chicago Washington - Chicago. I don't remember, but anyway,

It was fun and 1 liad these two friends with me anyway.

Q. And from California you went to Hawaii?

Yes.

Q. Do you think that a lot of your HnHKHxlxlxkx ^ unusual life can be traced back to your experience in World War One? If you had not prone to the camp, would you have done the other things later?

I dop't know. I think I would have done some crazy thing. I remember when people would come to our house, and call,

and they'd say, don ’t tell her where Jrou live, because she'll come and see you, and I would do it. I was awfully Rood on skates, and I would do things that the boys did 'cause I

wasn't afraid at all, and we had m e a t long wagons that carried

stage scenery — I don't know if they have them anymore or not — they did in the N.Y. area, because they had

< sM5Wx\*Xft»Akxqni£®xfifixR8»Xxfck!iSifeRr»xso33noftWix so many theaters

they were almost a half block long and I would get on the back

of onel" 0f course 1 was strictly forbidden to do such a thing

(There were others that did

but It was just too tempting. I wasn't, the only ono.&Rfcjuc

fcJHPxkHfcxJ;hHreixwRr\*xaix«yK More boyo than girls. A lot of the cross "cob'-lest one 8 . \_ Cihings

**street;ss htxdl axKBCTmxatnniiEr, bhiut they wer-e oblong xi? , They weren't**

paved like they are now and you'd have to nut your'e feet up like this underneath, but I wasn't afraid I never thought of being afraid at all, I had an accident. I broke ray collarbone and I can remember very well one of the boys saying to me, "It's rood enough for you, you shouldn't have been doing thatr>" Of course they were hanging on^^ getting a ride on the back there, and I was looking the other way, and the

thing started and threw me off# balanoe, and I fell and broke

my collarbone, and I had to go back home and face the music, This maid that we had — I went in the basement, because I thought I would never have to go through the upper front door, and as soon as

she saw me — - I imarine I was a little pale, and it was hurting me too

I didn't know what had happened, and all I wanted to do was pet to my bedroom and lie down — she saw immediately that something was wrong wttkxms and she called my sister right away. So the word was out right away.

Q. Did they ovor bring orisonen^of-war as In WWIIjjfF

J No.

ft. Did the soldiers you saw ever have a oreoccupation or say anything about the enemy - about the German?

t\! No , I don't remember them saying anything particularly. I had one friend

that fcxx had a pretty rugged time and was in pretty bad shape when he oarae back, but I don't remember him saying anythin,?, for Instance, about tho Germans. But it was an awful feeling you had yourself

you know about that. It was a terrible thin?.

Q.jThen after the war — you were able to qualify for the W..O.S.L. because of your overseas duty in Hawaii?

£,l4<Well, I went to California with some girls, it was in the middle of the year. I could have taught - that was one thin? I could have done.

Q.Which city did you go to?

f’lH/ San Francisco. That's a wonderful place — it has an air of its own. There's no olace like it. I told you these two friends — fcfchese girls

I went with — they had an older sister who lived back in N.Y.\* *w t S h e* had 2 friends, 2 maiden Indies«\*\* she had told them to look after us to soe what we were up to. And they did, they were always coming to see u at an inopportune time, when we didn't want them\*

Hy grandfather had died many years before — they had waited until I was at least gJTbefore they settled the estate, and so *l^yStSa* letter from the lawyer in N.Y. saying that I had some money in the hank«.£o right away — I was having an awful time because Alice had her Job you see she was quite a secretary\*, she had a good Job.

»XRjixtyps. Then -S-Afe'- got somethin? to do because she could type, I couldn't tvoe even, and so I remember one thing, I was even, I don't remember where — some business office — I sealed the envelopes

for the mail. I didn't have to rro in until 10 or 1 1 in the morning.

I thought if my father had ever seen I was licking envelopes he would have died, but I had to get something and we put all of our money — the

3 of us we put all our money in the not and used that to live on.

And then Alice had her .lob of course, and Ann got a Job, and I was

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the only one that walked the streets. I tell you, I lived on these little sweet rolls. We had one good meal at night and I had put my money in so I could eat that, but the rest of the time I was living: on these sweet rolls and coffee. Rut anyway, but then this money came along from my grandfather, and ri"ht away I had an idea that I

wanted to °o around the world. I had a friend who was the first little girl I ever played vrith and she had worked for the Rockefeller Roundatlt fcX^£hey had a lot of interests in China, particularly, and she had

rone to China and was working for them. Of course, I had heard all about that, and. she was encouraging me too, so I thought, that's what I'll do. I'ljust work as I go — I felt sure I'd set something to do.

And you were about 22 at the time?

Yes. But anyway, I tried to •-’•et this friend of mine to go'with me,

but

her sister\*" Skfci' had a fit — she said pet her awav from me I don't

want)(fto leave/ 7 She came out here with me and encourage her. And

# Ruch travelling^

of course she didn't have any money really to dcvj sbHT kept Inra telling

her we'd pet something to do» as vre -went, and we'd work. Alice persuaded her not to come with me and these two maiden ladies that were

looking after us all the time — they vrere Just wringing their hands

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to think that I was rolnmto do this awful thing. J go. And I went on the Mason Line, and went in style. I had enough money to do it In style, and then when I rot over there was a medical

officer aboard. In fact, they assigned me to a certain table, and I

was assigned to the ship's doctor's table and he had this military

I've forgotten his name now — anyway he was a doctor from San Prancisoo He wasjriieatherman General in San Francisco and lie was on leave. And

he was at the table. He did hlr best to discourage me, to go home,

go home lie was always trying to tell me that I shouldn't be running

loose. Then after I had been there 2 weeks - long enough to see the Islands — do the things you usually do. I can't remember how I

heard that they were .lust frantic to '-et somebody out at tfcRX Scofield. They were setting un this« program out there, but he knew that I was contemplating that and so I asked him one day if he wouldn't give me

an recommendation. And he said no he wouldn't, and I was so angry with him. But I think maybe Vie did, because anyway I got thé Job I applied for, and they hadn't had anybody with any experience in that kind of thing, that I had during World War One, and so there

wa3 no question, they were Just so glad to 'ret someone^, not me in

particular — but someone that had some training. It was a cavalry post — 17th Cavalry — it was r Regular Army, and that was very different from the other men that you knew — enlisted men.

They didn't particularly like to have a woman there, and they made

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it quite clear they didn't like to have^-Woman around. Of course, you\*see, they hadn't had any women, besides that, they were cavalry toe, which is another thing.

Q. So you were the first woman hired for that type of position?

ÇnU\* Yes, and it wasn't easy. They didn't like it.' There was one man, I tbld you a Tout who came from Chicago, his face was all pock-marked, and

I was really afraid of him — he just glowered at me for a long time. He really could have been naan I \*:n sure, but I didn't know how to combat him, but the only thing I knew was to be avrfully nice to him.

I Just buttered him up as best I could, and I finally got him on my side And he was a perfect bouncer. Anybody that came into the hostess house that was doing anythin1-; that wasn ’t Just right — out they went —

he escorted them out for me. When I finally got him on my side, but

he could have been a bad erp:.^

**Q. Your salary at Scofield was considerably more than at Camp Mills p"uptor J^HiYes, I probably would have ranked as a 2nd £n^a Lieutenant, I imagine.**

I don't know, I never thought about It, in those terms. And I did have

>ffleers' quarters. I have pictures of those too someplace. They were just typical army they look like 2 story houses. I was interested because

WOSL had their annual rneetln r — last years'convention— In Hawali^-and I wanted to ro s o badly — because I could have rotten out to see Scofield I Imagine those barracks mlrht have been rone, maybe they have new ones by th4s time.

Q. Sometimes if they built them well, they lasted a lon.r time.

*J?tH'* Well, they could be, because they were new when I was there, but it

was a very interesting experience and they txw? had two hostess houses -

>

that camn must be at least 2 miles lonr. Its a hu.e base. I think its

**the largest army base the ;**United States has — it .still **is I think.**

Q. And it's located outside Honolulu?

*fM'* It's about 20 miles, rouphly, outside Honolulu, and of course they let me come Hack and forth. .They had transportation and I could come back

- JL-Wqnted to."

and fortnjT I didn't como in too often,there wasn't any need too,

but the interesting thinr was that they had § what lad been a general's equipage, and it was called a d.ou°'herty war on. It was just like a surrej

with a fringe on top as in "Oklahoma". It had side curtains and fringe and they had 2 mules to pull it, not horses but mules and £ I understood it had boon the general's equinare. Ha had rotten an automobile. You

see autos weren't too prolific at that time, and. so novj I had that to

ro back and forth from these two hostess houses. And I'd. be at one, one part of the day^and the other, the other oart of the day. Oh, things would happen, for instance, one day they told me that one of the men —

he was roin^ to kill one of tvo other won because he found, he was running

around with his wife, and I was petrified, but I didn't know what I'd c about it. I was so scared. Just thinrs like that that I certainly wac prepared to handle, but nothinm serious really ever developed.

But they had these 2 mules, and they were called Pinky and Strawberry.

I can seo Pinky and Strawberry now pul linn; that equi^jaye with me in it, with the things on the side.

*Q* • Did you have a driver?

Yes, I had a driver, and he — they didn't like him at all. He'd been^ library duty, you know the kind of boy that would be assirned to librar duty, and he was assigned to be my driver, because he was a nice boy.

And the men hated him, they Just called him all kind of names, ana made life miserable for him.

Q.

F.rt!

Didn't you leave after 6 months?

Yes,-,and meantime my family were Just about bavins: a fit, and JckRtlsxKkj fxwKKtxkramHVxxund in fact when I went home, if I was aoinm across the)^

tbev wanted to knowwbere I was soin - and when I'd be back,

**\_**

They w

W k J ereaw

unset when I went to Hawaii. V.’hen 1 was in the States bad but when I went over there — that was a little much.

it vwsn't so

I came back to the States, and I can't remember now Just how Ion??; I was back before I went to Oteen in North Carolina. It's a TB hospital ther and there was no veteran's hospital at that time because there wasn't an

veteran's administration. It was Public Health I think, and I was world?

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there and I rornornborJtHe sick nurses' ward, and they were all patients

3. 3 '

Well one day fckayxxantxfckJirii\* and the next day they were gone. It was kind of grim. I had been doing lots of little extra things for these patients that I didn't have to do, but you do anyway. So one of the Red Cross workers who was there at the hospital and Kha came and said,

say "what's the idea of you doing our Job?^ She alad, I go someplac

***i***

and you've been there and done something. She said;why don't you Join

usV7 So, I did. I had to *go* and take training of course, -first.I went to Savannah, Georgia p — that was where they had a training schoo and I had an option to do either the work they call home servlceSj^w

as it was called in those days wthat term

JtMxworking with families like here In Kansas City — or I could go N Into an hospital and work. I had training for both sides of It, and . it was social work — working with famlles^^ani^inefr pfo Mems R\*rxfc8\*x»®5tfeljrx And of course I had lots of experience working with servicemen. And then I had worked in the hospital too with patients

as well. So I went and took the training at Savannah, and when the time was up they asked me which I preferred and I said that I preferred the hospital end, so I stayed with that. Even after I was married

my husband s^^jiftey^&meilBj me wherever we were. He said there was always somebody that found out you were here and wanted to know if you wouldn't come help.

Q. How were you qualified to become a member of W.O.S.L.?

After World War One I went to Scofield Barracks and that was Territory of Hawaii.— you see the war was not officially over when I went there and worked, so that's how I qualified.