

NAVAL WAR COLLEGE
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

HISTORY OF THE WAVES

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MOLLIE COOLEY DECKER

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INTERVIEWEE: MOLLIE COOLEY DECKER

INTERVIEWER: EVELYN M. CHERPAK

SUBJECT: THE HISTORY OF THE WAVES

DATE: MAY 1, 1997

C: This is the first oral history interview with Mollie Decker. Today's date is May 1, 1997. The interview is being conducted in my office at Mahan Hall.

Mollie, I'm very pleased that you finally made it over from Charlestown, Rhode Island, all the way to the base to be interviewed on your career in the WAVES in World War II. I'd like to begin the interview by asking you where you were born and when you were born.

D: I was born in the Bronx of New York City on January 25, 1919.

C: Did you spend your growing up years there?

D: No, I did not.

C: Where did you spend your growing up years?

D: My growing up years were in Canterbury, Connecticut and Plainfield, Connecticut.

C: How interesting. What did your father do for a living?

D: He worked for the New York/New Haven railroad. But he worked in downtown New York City in the water area.

C: And your mother, what did she do?

D: Mom stayed home and was a housewife until they moved to Connecticut.

C: Did she work then?

D: Later on in her life she did, yes.

C: Did you have any brothers or sisters?

D: One brother.

C: Where did you graduate from high school?

D: Plainfield High School in Plainfield, Connecticut.

C: That's in eastern Connecticut isn't it?

D: Yes.

C: When did you graduate from high school?

D: 1937.

C: Well, that was a couple of years before the war.

D: It's going to be sixty years this spring.

C: Right, your sixtieth year reunion will be this spring. Did you

work at all after graduation?

D: Yes, I worked for a dentist and this is how I became interested in dentistry.

C: What did you do for the dentist?

D: I was a dental assistant.

C: Was that in Plainfield?

D: This was in Jewett City, Connecticut, the next town to Plainfield.

C: Oh, yes, eastern Connecticut. Did you stay there until you joined the WAVES?

D: No. As life went on, we left Connecticut and moved to Boston with my aunt. In the interim, my dad died when I was fourteen, so my mother was on her own with me.

C: You moved up to Boston at that point in time. Where did you work in Boston?

D: I worked for another dentist in Boston. But as time went on and we got into the war, I got a different type of a job in Worcester, Massachusetts with the Norton Company which is a big company in the state of Massachusetts.

C: What do they make?

D: Grinding wheels and different kinds of machinery that is used

in that sort of thing.

C: That's great. So you were there before you enlisted in the WAVES?

D: That's right.

C: Did your family have any Navy connections at all in the past?

D: None whatsoever.

C: Did your brother join the service?

D: He died very early in life, short of being five years old.

C: Were any of your friends or relatives in the Navy prior to your joining?

D: No.

C: How did you hear about the WAVES?

D: Through publicity and through reading the paper. And, being always a great swimmer and liking the color navy, there was no other choice for me but the Navy.

C: Well, that's good.

D: Indeed.

C: So, the WACS and the SPARS didn't interest you at all. It was the Navy blue. When did you enlist in the Navy?

D: I believe it was in June of 1944.

C: Where did you enlist?

D: In Boston.

C: Right, Boston, where you were living. Do you remember what procedures you had to follow to enlist?

D: Naturally, you had to fill out the necessary forms. Then there were dates set up when you were called to come into downtown Boston and so forth.

C: So, that was where you enlisted and you were sworn in there, I assume.

D: Yes.

C: How did your mother feel about your decision to join the WAVES?

D: Well, being that we were very close, she never wanted to be parted from me. But she went along with what I had chosen to do. She knew New York and she knew I had relatives in New York, not that I saw them much, but I knew I had somebody there. She came to Hunter too. My girlfriend brought her down.

C: She was supportive. She signed the papers.

D: Right, she did.

C: Was there any publicity at all that you remember about your

joining the WAVES? Any articles in the newspaper?

D: I don't remember. I really don't.

C: Because sometimes they would do that especially in small towns.

D: I was living back in Coventry. I can't vouch that they put anything into the Pawtuxet Valley Times but I have a feeling they did.

C: Were you keeping up with news about the war before you joined?

D: Oh, yes.

C: There were newspapers and newsreels.

D: That's right.

C: Do you remember what your reaction was to Pearl Harbor when you learned of the attack on December 7, 1945?

D: I remember it so clearly. It was the most horrific thing I ever heard of at that time and couldn't get it out of my mind. Actually, when I was stationed in San Diego, I was fortunate to meet two people who survived that: one was on the hospital ship and one was a carpenter on the ARIZONA. They were ship's company at the base where I was at the time. I was very happy to meet them.

C: And hear that they had survived.

D: Indeed.

C: Well, that was a traumatic time. Do you think patriotism was part of your motivation for joining the WAVES?

D: Yes, I do.

C: Because it was a very patriotic time.

D: Yes, it was.

C: You were off to Hunter College and the U.S. Naval Training School (Women Reserve) in July. How did you travel to basic training? How did you get there? Did you go on the train? Did you go with a group?

D: That's a good question.

C: Do you remember that at all?

D: No, I don't, I'm sorry to say. I can't recollect if I went by train, which was the only way you could go at that time, or did somebody drive me down.

C: What was your initial impression of Hunter College when you arrived there in June of 1944?

D: Well, it was a very busy place at the time. I can't remember the exact timing of when we arrived and all that. But I know that I had to get up extremely early. All these rules, at eleven o'clock at night I had to wash the steps. You had to do things like that.

C: You had duties like that.

D: That was the first duty I ever had, washing the stairs. You went up stairs to the different levels of the building.

C: The WAVES usually were housed in the converted apartments at Hunter College or buildings that were appropriated and people moved out of. Can you describe your living conditions and what these apartments were like?

D: They were very clean and neat and somewhat spacious, I thought. Much better than the short stay I had at San Diego Naval Hospital. We were really housed in ...

C: Quonset huts?

D: Yes, that's right.

C: Do you remember any of your roommates from that time frame from basic training?

D: I remember one girl especially from Newport but she didn't appear at the convention we just had. Her last name was Dring. But she did come from Newport and I always wondered what happened to her.

C: There are Drings here in town.

D: Yes, I know.

C: Do you remember how your day was structured at basic training?

D: We had to get up at an early time to make sure our bunk and everything was in order and our cupboards were neatly arranged. Then we went on to the various classes but I can't remember them. And also marching time was put in.

C: Did you like marching and drilling?

D: I didn't mind it at all. I liked it.

C: Did you find the classes, the indoctrination and training classes, that you had interesting or challenging?

D: I thought they were interesting and challenging. The only thing that you began to realize all of the sudden was that there were a lot of rules and regulations. You couldn't go too far out or, if you were gone too far out, you were in trouble so to speak. Not bad trouble, but in trouble. I remember one time we all got an ice cream on the corner that sold ice cream. The Captain came along and we were in trouble. So, we never did that again.

C: Were you chastised for that?

D: Yes, we were, but not severely.

C: That was just something you didn't do.

D: Right.

C: Did you feel that you adjusted easily to the discipline of military life?

D: Yes, I do. The only thing that you could complain about was standing in line, forever more no matter what you did or where you went, for food three times a day.

C: So there were long lines for everything.

D: Long lines, yes.

C: That's interesting. That was different. Some of the WAVES mentioned that there were extracurricular activities at Hunter College for them to participate in (like a singing platoon or editing the newspaper there - the WAVES newspaper). Do you remember any of these activities and did you ever partake of them?

D: I don't think so. I did play basketball when I was out on the west coast. I liked that a lot.

C: What was your reaction to the food at Hunter College?

D: I guess it was good.

C: What was your response to the uniform that you wore?

D: I liked the navy uniform, I loved that. I didn't particularly care for that seer-sucker job.

C: Did you wear the seer-sucker at Hunter because of summer?

D: Yes. That's right. In the 12th Naval District, which we were in, we couldn't wear whites. Go down to San Diego and you could wear whites. But not in the Naval District I was in. You had to

wear blues in the 12th Naval District, which is San Francisco and that area.

C: You did have a little time off because, according to my information, enlisted WAVES at Hunter did get a little time off on Saturday and Sunday afternoon. Do you remember what you did with your limited time off?

D: No, I don't. I do remember one weekend my girlfriend drove my mom down to New York. I think we went over to my aunts and visited at her place. I don't remember too much time off.

C: Yes. You didn't get too much time off.

D: I do remember the Naval Hospital and the other place. Yes.

C: Did anything amusing, outstanding or interesting happen during your six weeks at Hunter that you can recall?

D: No. It doesn't stay with me anyway. I really can't. Just routine.

C: Well, at the end of your training and indoctrination in July 1944 you had to be selected or assigned to a certain rate and area of training. Did you express any preference for the kind of rating or job you wanted?

D: I did. I requested to go to the west coast, never having seen the west coast. At that time not too many people traveled. Today everybody goes everywhere. I thought this will be my chance to see

the west coast because we traveled by train, which was quite a journey. I might say when we arrived at the Los Angeles train station we looked like....(snickering) Boy, I tell you. It was hard to keep your clothes clean and everything else. I think we'd say some of us looked a little presentable as we walked into that train station.

C: Did you travel out there as a group?

D: Yes, we did. And also the officers too.

C: They were on the train?

D: Yes. We had fun on the train and I learned to play bridge, I really did. Forgot it though. But we had fun.

C: That's good. Now you selected going to the west coast. Were you selected for training as a dental technician because of your previous experience or did you request that type of a billet?

D: I requested to do dentistry because I knew it and could do it.

C: That's great. So you got what you wanted which is wonderful.

D: Right.

C: You mentioned you went to the U.S. Naval Hospital, San Diego, California for additional training. How long were you there?

D: About five weeks or six weeks.

C: What kind of classes and training did you take there?

D: Mostly you were applying yourself working right in the dental office with the doctors.

C: Oh, so it was hands-on.

D: Yes, that's right, it was.

C: I assume it was not classroom training.

D: No. There was a little of it though. But you did work right on the floor or on the ward.

C: What exactly were you doing with the patients?

D: With dental patients you were assisting the doctor - the dentist I should say.

C: Where did you live when you were in San Diego?

D: Right on the compound of the hospital.

C: Was it a quonset hut situation?

D: Yes, it was. You had a lot of people all sleeping in the same area.

C: Was it a long row?

D: Yes, it was, indeed, bunk after bunk.

C: Right, bunk after bunk. So you got used to the Navy life so to speak. Did you know anybody, any of the group of girls that went

out there with you?

D: Yes, I did. Of course, when I had to go up to Treasure Island, we left two or three behind that I was very fond of. People I liked a lot. They were lucky they stayed there.

C: When you were at San Diego for about five weeks, did you have any time for recreation?

D: Yes. I remember, for the first time in my life, putting my feet into the ~~Pacific~~ Pacific Ocean. I thought that was a big deal. I really did. And I ~~met~~^{met} this particular fellow, an Italian boy, his name is Ardanello, who really came from Rhode Island but migrated, he and his family, to that area, San Diego. He was regular Navy. He was one of the survivors of the hospital ship. He took us to North Beach and places like that. Actually, I got my first motorcycle ride from him, which I was scared to death but I did it. I went swimming. Then he also introduced to me and some others to the first pizza place, which has a well known name in San Diego. But I can't remember it. Actually, remember that great, funny star, Jerry Colonna Calona? He sings it in one of his songs and I don't know which one but that was some of the things. Once in a while we were entertained by entertainers on the base, too.

C: Oh, you were. Do you remember anybody in particular who came?

D: I do when I get to Treasure Island.

C: Okay. The Navy did provide entertainment then.

D: Yes.

C: I assumed that you went out in groups, you seemed to indicate that.

D: Yes.

C: So there was really no pairing off yet.

D: No.

C: What did you like about your duties in San Diego during this training period?

D: First of all, I liked the atmosphere. I also liked the climate. I liked working at the hospital. I really did.

C: Was there anything about your job at the hospital and your training period that you didn't like?

D: Of course, you have to do it the Navy way. But no, I really liked that set up. I really did.

C: Oh, good. Did you work on weekends at this time?

D: Not at the San Diego Naval Hospital but at the next step, yes.

C: Did you work rotating shifts at all when you were in San Diego?

D: No. The day shift.

C: How did you feel that you were treated? Were you well treated by the dentists and by the fellow corpsmen?

D: Yes. There were a couple of great dentists that we worked with. Really great. They were in the service themselves at that time too.

C: Did you feel that you were discriminated against in any way?

D: No.

C: So, there was no real ill treatment?

D: No.

C: Well treated. Did anything interesting or amusing happen during this five or six week time frame?

D: My getting into the Pacific Ocean. I thought that was a great thing to tell about. ✓

C: Right. The other coast.

D: Yes. Who would ever do that in my time, you know.

C: Right. Did you socialize with the other WAVES?

D: Yes. I visited Hollywood which was a disappointing place to me at that time. You think it's the greatest part of Los Angeles, it's not. But, anyway, I wanted to say I saw it. You know, where they put their feet and hands into the cement.

C: At the theater or something.

D: Right.

C: Did you have any contacts with civilians during this time frame?

D: You mean locally?

C: Within the hospital framework.

D: No, except one time when we had to give of ourselves in the evening to go into the wards and help the patients which would be Navy personnel. I know what else I remember too; seeing the first group of Marines who had just come back from the war and the condition of some of them. What really happens to our youth. Some of them were blind and some had lost limbs. They were out there in the early part of the war and were back in for rehab or help or whatever.

C: That must have been rather sad.

D: It really was. It really shook you up when you see ones so young. Even younger than me. I wasn't eighteen, I was about twenty-three.

C: That's kind of disturbing.

D: Right. That really stayed with me all of my life, I tell you. The premiums of war, you know.

C: Well, you moved on after your initial training in late August of 1944 to the U.S. Naval Training District Central, Treasure Island. And that's in the bay.

D: That's correct.

C: Right adjacent to San Francisco. Well, you were there for the duration of the war. What were your duties there?

D: Well, remember, this was a place where you were getting records together and they were going and coming. Mostly going. I didn't do any real chair-side work at all. It was mostly office work assembling the medical records as well as the dental records. And perhaps we'd work with the dentist if he was just checking their mouths. But most of these people were just leaving to go out to the Pacific. And at that place we only were on every other weekend. We had to stay in during the weekend. We didn't do much but we had to be aboard. We weren't allowed off every week. Only every other weekend we had off.

C: Now are you in a hospital situation there as well?

D: Not like San Diego. But you did have the clinic and they had their own hospital though not on a large scale.

C: Where did you live?

D: Right on Treasure Island. We had our own WAVES barracks and our own mess hall, so to speak, with very good food. But for the

exception that I don't like raisin and carrot salad and they always had that.

C: Did you work with other WAVES in the medical records?

D: Yes and sometimes with boys. The ones that had been out and come in for a rest.

C: What did you like about this assignment?

D: I guess I liked the activity.

C: Was it busy?

D: Yes. When you read that book I brought over you'll see the different departments. There was also a hospital on there too and other things. Radio material - that was another group. There was a lot going on. You'll catch that when you have a chance to review that book.

C: Was there anything about the assignment in medical records that you didn't like?

D: No. Sometimes it was tedious and long. But, no.

C: Did you like your living arrangements?

D: Yes. We were four to a cubicle. I was housed with a girl from Oregon, a girl from California, a girl from Indiana, and me.

C: Have you ever kept up with these people?

D: The one from Oregon I do. The one from Indiana, we tried but she never much seemed to. And I never heard much from the girl from California after we parted.

C: Did you feel that you were able to survive on your pay because you ended up with seventy-eight dollars a month?

D: I think the first part was sixty-two. Well, you didn't throw it around. But then you could do more with your money in those days, right.

C: That's true. Did you date Navy men when you were at Treasure Island?

D: Not too much. No. Well, I did date the fellow I married. So, right, I did.

C: So, obviously you dated. So you found a steady beau.

D: Yes, I did. He came from Iowa. He was in the Navy, too. He was ship's company there, too.

C: Oh, he was at Treasure Island?

D: Yes, he was there.

C: Oh, that's good. So you did date and you meet someone that you eventually married. Did you also socialize with the other WAVES?

D: Oh, yes. Sure. We had some nice times.

C: Where did you go with them?

D: Well, one place was the gym. And we'd go to town into San Francisco. We did that quite often. We liked that.

C: Was there a USO that you went to in San Francisco?

D: I don't remember that. I remember going to dances but I don't remember USO there. I do in Rhode Island before I went into the service I used to go. And then we were entertained by Bing Crosby, and what's the other fellow with him a lot? Mr. Lively.

C: Bob Hope?

D: Yes. And Jerry ^{Colonna}~~Calona~~ who is not alive. And sometimes music, some of the orchestras that were left at that time. And comics, I can't think of them all. We had some good entertainment on Treasure Island. And then when we had liberty, we use to go to Berkeley. There was a great orchestra there that we liked, (you are too young to remember) Russ Morgan. We went to see him at a place there. We'd eat in San Francisco for a change, too.

C: Well, you saw the old San Francisco.

D: Yes, I did. I have no idea what it looks like today. There were gorgeous stores at that time.

C: Sounds like a fun time for you.

D: It really was.

C: Did you ever have any contact with civilians, either on the

base or off the base, and do you remember how they reacted to the WAVES or how they treated them?

D: I can't remember names. I do remember one nice lady I met, I don't remember how I met her, but she was a marionette in the first war - World War I.

C: Yeomanette, I think.

D: Yeomanette, I'm sorry.

C: Some of the gals have mentioned that the civilians were good to them.

D: Yes, the ones I met were kind to us, too. They had us to dinner one time and things like that.

C: Right. They were very grateful for your service in the WAVES at that time. During the war time, did you keep up with news about the battles in the Pacific and the Atlantic?

D: Oh, sure.

C: Did you write to your parents, your mother in this case, or your friends regarding your WAVE experiences?

D: Yes. I had a very dear friend that wrote every week to me as well as my mom did too.

C: Did your mom keep any of these letters? Do you have any in your possession?

D: I don't think I do but I'll look though. I had a funny situation with this girl I thought the world of. Her husband was a chief in the service and was out to sea. She used to write to him religiously, every week. Somehow or other, she mixed us up. I still have that letter. But she wrote to me at his address and it took forever. And finally it found me in Rhode Island.

C: Isn't that interesting. These letters document your time in the service and you usually talk in more detail about your day to day experiences. So, we are collecting those too. Well, you left the service before V-J day. You mustered out, I believe....

D: That's right. July 26, 1945.

C: Why did you decide to leave before the end of the war, Mollie?

D: I guess because if you were married to a former... He was in the Navy and he was out. And I could get out. There was some rule or regulation that I could also get out so I did. Then we came back to Rhode Island to live.

C: When were you married?

D: I was married July 3rd of that same year, 1945.

C: Oh, I see. Were you married out there?

D: No, back home in Coventry, Rhode Island.

C: So, you got leave to go to Coventry?

D: Yes, I had some time coming to me. We both went back together and we lived in a little apartment in San Francisco until I could get out. Then we came home.

C: So, at the end of July you came back?

D: Yes.

C: How did you feel about leaving the Navy?

D: Kind of lost. Really lost. And I'll tell you another funny thing. It took me a long time after being out of the service to think it wasn't time to pack my bag and move around. It was with me - What was the next thing to do? - for a long time before I could shake that off.

C: You were back in Rhode Island on V-J Day which is August 15, 1945, the day the war ended.

D: No, I was still in California.

C: Oh, so you didn't come back.

D: No, not right away. That's right because I remember there were big parties everywhere.

C: I wanted to ask you how you celebrated.

D: Yes, big parties all together. I think this was at the apartment house because there were two or three couples, too. It was wild behavior from every direction.

C: Did you go out into the street?

D: No, I didn't.

C: I just wondered how San Francisco was during that time.

D: Well, it was wild, I can tell you.

C: How did you feel about the end of the war? What was your reaction?

D: That is was over finally. Glad because the way it sounded, they were going to have to go into the other theater of war with the Japanese. A lot of them were coming out of Europe and headed the other way. I was glad it was over. I really was for all concerned.

C: Did you ever have a chance during your service with the WAVES to meet or see Mildred McAfee, who was the director?

D: No.

C: What was the highest rate you achieved?

D: Pharmacist Third.

C: Third class.

D: Because, at that time, the rates were frozen and you didn't have much chance. They had put a cap on it. So, I was glad I got that far.

C: Right. Pharmacist Third. Because a lot of them were filled.

D: Right and they were not to open any more.

C: Were you discharged in San Francisco?

D: Yes. We drove across country back.

C: Did you receive any medals for your service?

D: No.

C: Because you are entitled to some and you may put in for them if you want to get them. Would you have stayed in the Navy if you could have? Women weren't allowed to stay any longer than the war and six months hence. But do you think you would have stayed in?

D: If I hadn't married. I've thought about it in my life many times. I know I would have. Yes. I liked it.

C: Do you feel that the WAVES have a strong sense of esprit-de-corps and camaraderie?

D: I do.

C: Did you ever speak to the other gals about why they joined? Did they ever tell you why they joined?

D: Yes. Especially the three I lived with. I'm trying to think what they said. The girl from Indiana wanted to see another part of the world, too. The one from Oregon, I'm not sure. The one from California, she seemed to like it alright.

C: So, travel and patriotism.

D: I think so. Yes, that's good.

C: Did you feel that the WAVES was a smoothly run organization?

D: Yes.

C: Did you have any preconceived expectations when you entered the WAVES of what it would be like?

D: No. But I think it was more rules and regulations than you thought there should or would be.

C: Did you know of anybody who was disciplined or discharged from the WAVES for any reason?

D: No, not where I was.

C: Did the WAVES experience change or redirect your life in any way?

D: Oh, yes. It left marks on you, especially beds, neat beds and other things kept in order and discipline. And try to take orders in the right way and not lose it with people.

C: Do you think that the war and your travels to California in the WAVES made you more independent and self-reliant?

D: Yes. Yes, I do.

C: Do you think it broadened your horizons?

D: In many facets, yes. I think I was kind of a small town girl, I know I was. You know, some of the things you run into.

C: So, you kind of grew up.

D: That's right.

C: Did you have any career ambitions as a result of your service in the WAVES? Did you want to follow this field of dental technician after the service?

D: No, I didn't. After that I got to be an office worker.

C: So, you didn't pursue that. Did you feel that what women were expected to do and be changed when the war was over or not? Do you think women were more motivated to go out into the world and work?

D: I think so. Yes, I do.

C: Did you work immediately after you left the WAVES?

D: I think I did. Yes, I did. Again, we were in a small town, back in Coventry, I did. I worked doing office work.

C: So, you pursued work of some sort. Did you maintain any service friendships when the war was over?

D: Not as many as I thought. But I have a dear friend and I've not seen her since boot camp or San Diego Naval Hospital. We correspond every year. I get a lovely letter from her after all these years from Ironwood, Michigan. She married another fellow in

the service and they ran a bar and a restaurant. He has gone on in his life. And I have another one too that writes to me at Christmas time.

C: Oh, that's great. Mollie, did you attend any WAVE reunions after the war because there were several in New York and Boston?

D: Yes, I did. A big one in Boston. Then I had two little boys. I had two boys close together. I did go to a big one in Boston. That was the only one though.

C: They probably petered out after a while.

D: Yes, they did after a while.

C: You are a recent member of the Ocean State WAVES which is the Rhode Island group, the state affiliate of WAVES National. When did you join this group?

D: I want to say it was the end of last year which was 1996. It took some time and take this and something like that.

C: You probably had to have a proof of service.

D: That's right. Oh, yes, you had to have that.

C: That's good. Well, now you are a bona-fide member of the organization. And you recently attended the WAVES conference which was held in Newport.

D: And well done. The committee deserves a lot of credit.

Everything was spelled out pretty great. I thought it was pretty good.

C: That's great. And that was for the New England regions, wasn't it?

D: That's right. We had some New York people and one lady from Florida. Some of these girls that attended this thing had a picture. They were New Yorkers, too, some of them were. They were stationed here in World War II. And they had a picture marching down main street, I don't know what it's called here in Newport, in full uniform. It was great.

C: Oh, isn't that great. I would love to get ahold of that for our collection.

D: I wish I knew her name. She was almost eighty years old. A nice lady.

C: What was the significance of your naval career for you in your life? If you had to sum it up. What was its importance? What was its significance?

D: Well, I want to say being patriotic and wanting to be part of it and helpful, of course. I'm glad I did it. Yes, I really am glad.

C: And you enjoyed it then?

D: I did. Yes, I did.

C: Was there anything about the WAVES that you felt negatively about?

D: I don't think so. You had things to do or should do and keep yourself up.

C: So, it was a positive experience for you?

D: Yes, it was.

C: Where did you settle after the war?

D: I settled in Coventry, Rhode Island for quite a while. And then later, in Charlestown, Rhode Island, and that's where we are today.

C: Right, you're still there. Did you ever tell your children about your experiences as a WAVE and your WAVE days?

D: Not too much but they were quite thrilled to know their mother was in the war.

C: Oh, that's good. Do you have any other comments to make on your WAVES service? Anything we may have left out or forgotten?

D: No. I think it was a good lesson and I'm glad I did it, again as I say, and I enjoyed it.

C: Great. Well, thank you very much for your memories. We will have this transcribed and then give you a copy to edit. Thank you.

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