

NAVAL WAR COLLEGE, NEWPORT, RI

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

HISTORY OF THE WAVES

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OF THE  
WAVES

NO. 63

JANET COIT PETRUCCI

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NAVAL WAR COLLEGE

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NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND  
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THE HISTORY OF THE WAVES

INTERVIEWEE: JANET COIT PETRUCCI

INTERVIEWER: EVELYN M. CHERPAK

SUBJECT: THE HISTORY OF THE WAVES

DATE: MARCH 20, 1998

EMC: This is the first oral history interview with Janet Petrucci, who lives in Pawtucket, Rhode Island. Today's date is March 20, 1998, and the interview is being conducted at her home. Janet, I'm so pleased that you consented to be interviewed for our World War II WAVES Oral History Project. You had a very interesting position in Communications Intelligence in Washington, which you're going to tell us all about when you get to it. But before we begin the story of your career in the WAVES, I'd like to ask you where you were born and when you were born.

JCP: In Providence, Rhode Island, on June 22, 1918.

EMC: What did your father do for a living there?

JCP: Well, he was an electrician.

EMC: And what did your mother do? Did she work outside the home?

JCP: Yes. She was a secretary.

EMC: Did you have any brothers or sisters?

JCP: One brother and one sister.

EMC: Did you spend your growing-up years here?

JCP: In East Providence.

EMC: East Providence. And where did you graduate from high school, and when?

JCP: East Providence High School in 1936.

EMC: This was in the height of the Depression, wasn't it? What did you decide to do after you graduated from high school?

JCP: I went to Rhode Island Academy of Beauty Culture. I was a hairdresser for five years. Then I went into the Navy.

EMC: Oh, that's great. So you developed a profession before you went in.

JCP: Yes.

EMC: Did your family have any connections with the Navy at all?

JCP: My brother also was in the Navy. My aunt was in the Navy, during World War I.

EMC: Now tell us about your aunt, because this is interesting.

JCP: I don't know an awful lot about her, other than she was stationed in New London.

EMC: But she was --

JCP: She was a Yeomanette, a Yeoman (F). But other than that, I don't recall too much about it.

EMC: That's very interesting that she was in the very early Navy when it was very unusual for a woman to join.

JCP: Yes.

EMC: Did she ever talk about her experiences?

JCP: No.

EMC: Did she ever talk about her experiences as a Yeoman (F) in the Navy?

JCP: Not really an awful lot. No.

EMC: Oh, okay. Did your brother join in 1941 or before? Before December 7th or after?

JCP: No, no. After.

EMC: After the war started. Do you remember where you were when Pearl Harbor was bombed by the Japanese on December 7th, 1941?

JCP: It was a Sunday morning, and I was ironing something to wear.

EMC: How did you feel? How did you react to the bombing of Pearl Harbor?

JCP: Just like everybody else -- surprised.

EMC: And horrified.

JCP: Right.

EMC: Right. Horrified by that. Did you keep up with news about

the war before you enlisted?

JCP: Yes, you know -- reading the paper, listening to the radio.

EMC: Sure.

JCP: And that sort of thing. Listening to the radio.

EMC: Yes. No TV in those days.

JCP: No.

EMC: How did you hear about the WAVES? Do you remember how you first were introduced to them?

JCP: Actually, I don't. But I suppose because of my brother going in, and feeling that you want to do your share. I guess that's maybe why.

EMC: Do you feel that patriotism was your main motive for joining?

JCP: Oh, yes. Sure.

EMC: Did you want to escape small town life at all?

JCP: No. Because I'm not a city girl.

EMC: Right. So you weren't yearning for travel or adventure?

JCP: No.

EMC: But you just wanted to help your country. What was attractive about the Navy versus, let's say, the WACS or the SPARS?

JCP: I guess because of being sort of in the family sort of thing. Between my brother and aunt --

EMC: So you felt comfortable with joining the Navy. When did you enlist in the Navy?

JCP: May 18, 1943.

EMC: So that was not even a year after the WAVES were established. They were established July 30, 1942. Did you have to go to Boston to enlist?

JCP: Yes.

EMC: Submit your papers. And did you have to go there for tests and physicals -- to Boston?



JCP: See, now you've got me.

EMC: Do you remember that?

JCP: I don't recall going to Boston, other than to get sworn in. That's what I remember about it.

EMC: How did your mother feel about your joining the WAVES?

JCP: It didn't bother her. She thought it was a good idea.

EMC: She was supportive then.

JCP: Yes.

EMC: That's great. Because some parents were a little shaky about their daughters joining the WAVES. Was there any publicity about your joining in the local newspapers? Sometimes they did do that, you know -- put in clippings and photographs of women who joined.

JCP: Yes.

EMC: After you were sworn in in Boston, you were then assigned to basic training and indoctrination. And was there a gap of time

between your enlistment and being sworn in, and your going to Hunter College?

JCP: No. Just a few months.

EMC: Oh. You had to wait a few months. And then you went down to New York City, and you were trained at Hunter College. Did you go with a group from Providence?

JCP: No. I went alone.

EMC: On the train?

JCP: Yes.

EMC: And then when you got off in New York were you met by anybody?

JCP: See, I don't remember. In my mind, I can't picture the journey.

EMC: Right. Okay. But anyway, you got there -- alone, as you say. And you got yourself to Hunter College.

JCP: There had to be a bus or something I guess.

EMC: Yes -- to transport you up to the Bronx.

JCP: Yes.

EMC: Because that's where the training was. Now, do you remember anything about that training period, that six weeks that you were at the U.S. Naval Training School, Women Reserve, in the Bronx? Do you remember your living conditions there?

JCP: It was just like a college. It was a dormitory sort of thing.

EMC: Do you remember how many gals you lived with in your room?

JCP: No. I don't remember.

EMC: Was it quite a few?

JCP: I would say three. I'm not sure, though. I think there were three.

EMC: In the room. Do you remember anything about the kinds of classes you had to take?

JCP: Well, the only thing I remember is learning how to march and that sort of thing.

EMC: Did you like that? Did you like the marching?

JCP: Yes. I didn't mind it.

EMC: Was there any other physical exercise that you were required to take?

JCP: The only thing that stays in my head is the marching and getting shots.

EMC: Oh, really? Yes. You had to get immunized.

JCP: Right.

EMC: And you had to get your uniform.

JCP: Yes. Well, yes.

EMC: What did you think of the Navy uniform?

JCP: I thought it was neat.

EMC: It is. Now, you must have been there in the summer of '43.

JCP: Well, no, because we were -- Well, that wasn't long, you

know, to basic.

EMC: Right. Basic training was six weeks. But you probably went in in August, do you think?

JCP: We left there in July, and I went to Washington.

EMC: Shortly after you were sworn in in May, you were down in New York City.

JCP: Right.

EMC: Do you remember any regimental reviews at Hunter, parading on the grounds with your group?

JCP: Oh, yes. Everybody all seemed to get along well. I don't recall anybody having any arguments of any kind and --

EMC: Any discipline problems.

JCP: No. I think everybody was anxious to do their part.

EMC: Which is good. Yes. I think they were a cooperative group. Now, some of the ladies told me that they had extracurricular activities there, like singing groups.

JCP: Oh. You sang when you were marching.

EMC: But Edith Smith was in a special group that sang on the Perry Como show.

JCP: Oh, really?

EMC: Yes.

JCP: No. I don't know anything about that.

EMC: No. But you sang those songs that were in the little booklet when you were marching.

JCP: Right.

EMC: How did you feel about the discipline of military life? Did you like it?

JCP: I didn't mind it.

EMC: Did you have any time off at all, limited time off to go into New York City?

JCP: No.

EMC: So you were pretty much kept there, as far as you remember. After your six weeks were up, you graduated from there. But before that, you had to decide, or they had to decide, where you were going to be placed and what kind of a job you were going to take.

JCP: That was, I guess, determined by where you had to fill in answers about yourself, you know, on questionnaire sheets. They ask you all kinds of questions, and you answered. And I understand that that's how they determined where you would go.

EMC: So no tests really.

JCP: Well, it's a form of a test.

EMC: A test -- Yes, but -- Well, that's interesting. Now, what did you put down? What did you want to do? Did you know?

JCP: Not really. I didn't have anything in mind really. I just figured what they figured I was best at.

EMC: Yes. So, what did they figure that you were good at? What did they assign you to?

JCP: Well, like I said, I went to Washington. I was in Washington a couple of weeks. They sent us to Dayton, Ohio --

EMC: To someplace called Sugar Camp. Now what was that?

JCP: Oh, it was a camp with log cabins, and had a swimming pool. So this was summertime, which made it nice for us. It was owned by National Cash Register. I believe it was used for salesmen's conferences.

EMC: But they must have turned it over to the WAVES.

JCP: They did. The Navy took it over, or they gave it to them for the duration, I guess.

EMC: Yes. I've never heard of anybody going to anything like that. What were they training you for there?

JCP: What we were doing was soldering wires, and all kinds of things like that, which I understand eventually had to do with the work we were doing. Parts of the things that we were soldering the wires were used in Washington.

EMC: So that's what you were doing all day -- soldering wires? Was that boring?

JCP: I don't know. Not really. Because you didn't do just one. You'd finish one, and then you'd get another one.



EMC: Was it kind of an assembly line work?

JCP: Probably. Yes. I guess you could call it that.

EMC: Do you remember if there were lots of WAVES there?

JCP: There was quite a few.

EMC: Oh, my heavens.

JCP: The cabins had two bedrooms with a bathroom between. But they put cots in, so that there were three girls in each room -- each bedroom.

EMC: And were all of you doing the soldering? That's the main purpose? Did you have a special building where you went?

JCP: Yes. We had to leave -- We went on a bus, and went to this other building.

EMC: Within the campsite?

JCP: No, I think it was off in the campsite.

EMC: It was off the camp. Oh, isn't that interesting.

JCP: Yes. It was a big building.

EMC: Was it in the city?

JCP: That I don't remember -- somewhere in Dayton.

EMC: Oh, isn't that something. So you stayed there eight hours a day.

JCP: So we were there from July till September.

EMC: So almost a couple of months.

JCP: Yes. And then we went back to Washington.

EMC: Now, did you write letters home during this time to your mother?

JCP: Sure.

EMC: And father?

JCP: Sure.

EMC: Too bad you don't have some of those.

JCP: Not my father. Just my mother. He left my mother with three children.

EMC: Oh, dear. So he was out of the picture.

JCP: Yes.

EMC: Too bad your mother didn't keep those.

JCP: It was just general information -- what you did, where you went -- you know.

EMC: That's great. That's great stuff. But that sounds like kind of a very different time. Did you make any lasting friendships with any of those gals?

JCP: Yes. Not right now. Some of them have died, you know. I still, especially at Christmas time, I hear from a lot of them. Not particularly the ones from Sugar Camp, but from Washington, D.C.

EMC: Yes. Oh, that's fascinating. So, I guess the soldering of wires was preparatory to your work in Communications Intelligence. So when you finished this, you were back in Washington, you said.

JCP: Yes.

EMC: And now what were you assigned to there?

JCP: We went into a big building. Originally this land was a school, a private school. They had a chapel and that sort of thing. What we did was -- I don't think it makes any difference today if you say anything about it -- but there would be big machines. And they would bring these round circular --

EMC: Disks maybe? Or tapes?

JCP: Disks. And they had all numbers all around the edge. And you would get a paper from -- somebody else would bring these papers. And you had to set the disks on this machine according to what they wanted. And then you turned the machine on. And then when it stopped, a paper would come out. And with all numbers and stuff on it. And then that went to another department. They told us that's all the information that we would ever get. Because they said if there were any spies around, that if you knew more, then you probably might get in danger. You could even get kidnapped, you know.

EMC: Oh, sure.

JCP: So I guess it would be a security measure.

EMC: Well, that was top secret work.

JCP: Right.

EMC: Did you have a top secret clearance?

JCP: We must have. But we only lived, you know, across the street in the barracks.

EMC: Yes.

JCP: So we didn't have too much other than our badge with our ID picture. Not as far as the work was concerned, you know.

EMC: You were pretty confined. But I wonder if they had to investigate your background in order to select you.

JCP: Oh, sure.

EMC: Yes. To have you do that. So you'd have a secret clearance. So you were in this room with these huge machines, putting in these disks. Did you actually put in the disks yourself and the paper?

JCP: We had to set it up.

EMC: Set it up.

JCP: You had to set it up according to the directions of the paper that came with it. There was, I would say, maybe eight or ten across in a row. And then you'd turn the machine on. And when it stopped, at this point, the paper came out. And then that went to another department.

EMC: And you really had no idea what you were doing then.

JCP: Only they did tell us eventually that it broke the Japanese codes.

EMC: So you were actually involved in code breaking.

JCP: Yes.

EMC: That was your work.

JCP: Yes.

EMC: How many gals were involved in this, doing this type of thing?

JCP: Oh, gosh. I don't know. Because it was a three shift operation. One week you worked from eight to four, the next week four to twelve, and then twelve to eight during the night -- the night shift.

EMC: So twenty-four hours a day somebody was there.

JCP: Yes. They were running all the time.

EMC: Isn't that amazing. How many girls on one shift, though, in this room?

JCP: Oh, I couldn't tell you. It was a big room.

EMC: Oh, really?

JCP: Yes.

EMC: And so did everybody have their one machine to set up?

JCP: Well, whatever material was brought to them.

EMC: Yes. And putting it on a different machine.

JCP: No. You stayed at the same machine all the time.

EMC: Right. That's what I mean. You did. And each person stayed at their own machine.

JCP: Right.

EMC: And fed in these disks --

JCP: There were like six in a group. But you only stayed in your particular group.

EMC: Right. Oh, isn't that something. It's amazing. And you were doing that for --

JCP: Oh, until they stopped for --

EMC: Right. For two years about. Did you find it challenging at all?

JCP: It could get boring. Because it was the same thing over and over.

EMC: Oh, yes. I'm sure it would get boring.

JCP: All the girls -- there were a few men; everybody seemed to get along good. And I never heard of anybody fighting.



EMC: Yes.

JCP: You know like bickering, or anything like that.

EMC: Oh, that's good. Were there WAVE officers in there too?

JCP: Yes. There were ensigns. I guess they were to oversee that everything was going along right.

EMC: More like supervisors.

JCP: Yes.

EMC: Now, according to the information that you provided me, you were chosen as a supervisor of your group.

JCP: Yes.

EMC: Do you remember when that happened and why?

JCP: Oh, gosh. I really don't. No.

EMC: But do you know why you were chosen as a supervisor?

JCP: I hope it was because I knew what I was doing.

EMC: Because you knew what you were doing. You must have been good at what you were doing.

JCP: Well, I don't know about that. But anyway, it was worthwhile.

EMC: Oh, that's interesting. So you did that for two years. And you said you were up in Nebraska Avenue.

JCP: Yes.

EMC: That's the area you were in. And you said you lived right on the grounds.

JCP: Yes.

EMC: You showed me a picture of the barracks.

JCP: WAVE Quarters D.

EMC: WAVE Quarters D is what it was.

JCP: Yes.

EMC: And can you describe them, and what your living situation was like?

JCP: They were just barracks -- like big wooden buildings. And there were two floors. When you went into the door, there was a desk for security. And you went into the area where your sleeping quarters were. And there were bunks, like two sets, and lockers.

EMC: Oh, so four in a room.

JCP: Yes. It was not a room.

EMC: Oh. It was a long hall.

JCP: It was just a big building. And there were lockers and a bunk. And that was it. I mean each one had a locker across from the bunk. That's all. The showers and head (toilet) were all together at one end of the building.

EMC: Yes.

JCP: They did have rooms with couches, and chairs, and tables in the Recreation Room.

EMC: Yes.

JCP: And you could write letters, and that sort of thing.

EMC: Kind of a recreation area then.

JCP: Yes.

EMC: Oh, that's right. Did you enjoy living in that type of situation?

JCP: It didn't bother me.

EMC: Did you make friends with some of the women there -- some of the gals?

JCP: Yes.

EMC: And these were the lifelong friendships that you still hear from.

JCP: Yes.

EMC: That's great. Now, you must have had some time off. They must have let you out sometime from this work.

JCP: They depended on what shift you were working.

EMC: Yes. You rotated shifts, I guess.

JCP: Yes. Every week.

EMC: Yes. That's good. But it kind of disrupted your sleeping hours.

JCP: Right. You'd just get used to it by the end of the week. And then you'd get another shift.

EMC: Shifted again, yes. What did you do for recreation?

JCP: Oh, we used to walk. We used to play ball, and do all things like that. And go down and get the bus and go into Washington itself.

EMC: Yes.

JCP: Go to a movie. Go shopping.

EMC: What was wartime Washington like when you went down there?

JCP: Busy.

EMC: I'll bet. Did you ever get a chance to go home on leave?

JCP: Oh, yes.

EMC: So you came back to East Providence.

JCP: Sure. No. It was in Pawtucket.

EMC: Oh, Pawtucket. Did you ever have a chance to travel, to take any extended trips?

JCP: No.

EMC: So you were pretty much confined to Washington, or at least coming here. Did you stay there for the holidays -- in D.C.?

JCP: I don't really remember.

EMC: Did the Navy ever provide any entertainment for you?

JCP: No. It was pretty much on your own what you did.

EMC: So they didn't entertain you.

JCP: No.

EMC: Were there any discipline problems among the women that you were associated with in this group?

JCP: I wouldn't say so. As long as you did what you were told.

EMC: Did you feel that there was any pressure in this billet?

JCP: No.

EMC: It was just do what you had to do. So you really weren't aware that you were involved in code breaking.

JCP: Not really. They didn't tell us what we were doing.

EMC: Did you have any suspicion that you might be, though?

JCP: No. I don't think so. It was a job. And you did your job. Until, you know, afterwards when they said that.

EMC: Yes. Did you keep up with news about the war during this time frame?

JCP: Oh, sure. Well, you'd listen to the radio or read the newspaper.

EMC: Yes.

JCP: That's how you knew.

EMC: That's how you knew is right. When V.J. Day came around in

August 1945, how did you celebrate? Do you remember?

JCP: I guess we went out. We didn't do any drinking or anything like that. But we had good times together.

EMC: Um hum. How did you feel about the end of the war?

JCP: I was glad, you know. Mostly I think because you feel the boys will be coming home. And no more killing, and that sort of thing.

EMC: Right. So it was a joyous time.

JCP: Yes.

EMC: Now, you had been married while you were in the WAVES.

JCP: Right.

EMC: Weren't you?

JCP: Yes.

EMC: And who did you marry? And where were you married? And when?



JCP: Oh, boy. Okay. I married Walter Petrucci. And we got married at St. Leo's Church in Pawtucket. And it was January 4, 1945.

EMC: Oh, right. Was he in the service?

JCP: He was in the Army.

EMC: And where was he stationed then?

JCP: At the time that --

EMC: You were married.

JCP: In Texas.

EMC: Now, had you known him prior?

JCP: Yes. I knew him before. We both went in the service. We knew each other before.

EMC: Okay. But did you manage to see each other during these two years?

JCP: When he was stationed on the east coast, like when he was in New Jersey and I was in Washington. If it was a weekend or

something, you know.

EMC: Oh, yes. You could see each other then.

JCP: Yes.

EMC: Oh, so you were dating him during your time in Washington.  
Oh, that's -- that's good. Did you get married in your uniform?

JCP: No.

EMC: Did you have to get special permission?

JCP: He did.

EMC: Yes. Did you have to get special permission to wear the  
gown?

JCP: No. Some girls, they had to get special permission.

EMC: So after that, you went back to Washington.

JCP: Yes.

EMC: And where did he go?

JCP: He was still in New Jersey at that time.

EMC: Did he go overseas after that?

JCP: Well, he went to different states before he went over.

EMC: So, yes. But that was quite something. Because at first, you know, when the WAVES were established, you couldn't be married. But later they rescinded that.

JCP: Well, I think they were afraid that they'd have children. And then they'd have to be discharged.

EMC: Yes. Right. So then later they said you could marry somebody who was in the service before. Did you ever have a chance to meet Mildred McAfee Horton who was the Director of the WAVES?

JCP: No, I didn't. No.

EMC: Because she was in Washington, too. What was the highest rate you achieved?

JCP: Second Class --

EMC: Communications Specialist?

JCP: Yes.

EMC: That's good.

JCP: I was up for First Class at the time.

EMC: But you didn't quite make it because of --

JCP: Well, end of the war.

EMC: You got out. The end of the war. Did you receive any medals for your service?

JCP: Oh, we got a special ribbon. That's mentioned in that letter.

EMC: Yes. The special ribbon that you got -- probably the Victory Medal.

JCP: No. It's not that. No.

EMC: No?

JCP: It was for Communications.

EMC: Oh, right. The special ribbon for the Communications Specialist. Yes. How did you feel about leaving the Navy?

JCP: I had double feelings about it. Because I was glad the war was over, and I wanted to get home. But I had made a lot of friends. And you know you feel -- You hate to lose your friends. Not that you lose them, but you're leaving them, you know.

EMC: Right. You won't see them for awhile.

JCP: Yes.

EMC: So you had mixed emotions about that. And when were you discharged?

JCP: November -- I think it was November 20th, 1945.

EMC: Just a couple of months after the war was over. Did you go back to Rhode Island then?

JCP: Yes.

EMC: Had your husband been discharged?

JCP: No. He didn't get out until March of the next year.

EMC: Forty-six. A couple of months. Did you feel that the WAVES had a strong sense of esprit de corps -- that they were all cooperative and working for the same goal?

JCP: I would say yes.

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

JCP: As far as I was concerned, yes.

EMC: No problems, no glitches?

JCP: I don't recall any problems.

EMC: Did the WAVES experience and your two years in the service change or redirect your life in any way?

JCP: No, I wouldn't say so. Because I went back to hairdressing. And when he came home, it was always like before.

EMC: Yes. The old life. Right. You resumed that. Did the war make you more independent and self-reliant?

JCP: It could have.

EMC: Ready to act on your own.

JCP: I would say I think you grow up more when you do something like that.

EMC: Oh, yes. You were away from home. Did you feel that what women were expected to do and be changed after the war was over? Do you think that women decided they wanted careers after the war was over, or do you think they were content to go back to home and hearth?

JCP: As a general rule, I would say they -- the women -- it helped women get more independent.

EMC: And look for work. Did you work for any long period of time after the war was over?

JCP: Did hairdressing. Five years hairdressing before I went in, and then when I got out I did oh, maybe a year or something -- two years I guess.

EMC: But after you had your children, did you work?

JCP: Occasionally. I used to help a friend out.

EMC: Yes. But not full time.

JCP: No.

EMC: Oh. Okay. Now, you mentioned that you maintained service friendships when the war was over.

JCP: Yes.

EMC: I assume it was the gals that worked with you in Washington, D.C.

JCP: Yes.

EMC: Did you ever visit them? Or do you just hear from them by letter?

JCP: Well, we had one reunion in Washington.

EMC: Oh, you did?

JCP: There were a few girls there. Not an awful lot. But other than the writing, -- and I've had a few drop in that have come from the middle of the country to the east coast.

EMC: Yes.



JCP: They've stopped.

EMC: Well, that's great. So, you know, that was quite amazing -  
- this bonding that happened in World War II between you and  
these other women, because you've still kept in contact. Do you  
remember when that WAVE reunion in Washington was?

JCP: No. It's got to be maybe twelve years ago.

EMC: Now, do you belong to the Ocean State WAVES group here.

JCP: Yes.

EMC: And thus you belong to WAVES National, as well.

JCP: Yes.

EMC: Have you ever been to any of their reunions or conferences?

JCP: No. I've never even gone to their meetings or anything like  
that.

EMC: So you're kind of an inactive member of the group.

JCP: Yes.

EMC: Did any of your daughters -- you said you had three daughters before, did any of them join the service at all?

JCP: No.

EMC: Did you ever speak to them about your WAVE days?

JCP: No. As a matter of fact, they used to use my uniform on Halloween to go trick or treating.

EMC: Do you still have your uniform?

JCP: No.

EMC: Because some of the girls do.

JCP: Yes.

EMC: And they donated one to our Naval War College Museum, which is great.

JCP: Oh.

EMC: We are glad to have that. Do you have anything else you want to say about your career? Anything that we missed? Anything outstanding that happened?

JCP: I remember -- When the war was over, Eisenhower -- We were there for the parade when Eisenhower went down Pennsylvania Avenue.

EMC: Oh, really? That must have been a thrill.

JCP: Yes.

EMC: Did you ever march in any of the parades?

JCP: No.

EMC: Oh, you must have been there when FDR died.

JCP: Forty-five.

EMC: In '45 -- April.

JCP: Yes.

EMC: Do you remember anything about that, and how people felt?

JCP: Not really. I think most people were saddened.

EMC: Because I think that -- well, his funeral cortege was going

through Washington at that time. Those two were outstanding events. What significance, would you say, was your naval career to your life? What was the significance for you? It's importance.

JCP: Oh, I guess mostly that you felt like you were doing something for your country, you know, by serving. I really enjoyed it.

EMC: And what you did really made a difference.

JCP: Well, I would say so.

EMC: What did they tell you afterwards about your code work?

JCP: That eventually it had to do with helping to break the Japanese code, which helped to win the war.

EMC: So you played a very direct part in that, along with the other WAVES and --

JCP: Yes.

EMC: Right. In Washington, D.C. doing that. Well, that's great, Janet. I want to thank you very much for your reminiscences of this time frame and your very important work. It will complement two other interviews that I've done with women who served in

Nebraska Avenue -- Jane Rembowski Scheck and June Nesbitt Gibbs.  
They were there, as well.

JCP: Well, I'm glad I could accommodate you.

EMC: Thank you very much.