

WOMEN AIRFORCE SERVICE PILOTS ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

COPH OHP_015



Center for Oral and Public History
California State University, Fullerton

Administrative Information

Acquisition

All items in this collection were donated to the Center for Oral and Public History by the interviewer and interviewees.

Access

The collection is open for research.

Preferred Citation

Citations must identify the oral history number, interviewee, interviewer, date, project, and the Center for Oral and Public History.

Literary Rights and Quotations

The oral histories are made available for research purposes only. No part of the audio tape or the manuscript may be quoted for publication without the written permission of the Center for Oral and Public History, California State University, Fullerton.

Requests for permission to quote from these materials should be addressed to:

Center for Oral and Public History
California State University, Fullerton
P.O. Box 6846
Fullerton, CA 92834

or

coph@fullerton.edu

The request should include identification of the specific passages and identification of the user.

Women Airforce Service Pilots Oral History Project

O.H. #2176

BRICK, Katherine (1910-1995)

Interviewer: Gail Gutierrez

Date: November 12, 1989

Status: Final typed, 47 pp.

Tape length: 2 hrs.

Born in Maine, Brick received her pilot's license in 1941, and in 1943, she joined the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP). Brick recounts training in the Civilian Pilot Training Program (CPT); difficulties of women learning to fly; training at Howard Hughes Air Field, Houston, Texas, and Avenger Field, Sweetwater, Texas for the WASP program; recalls Jacqueline Cochran; types of aircraft flown, the Fourth tow-target squadron; discrimination; sabotage; Camp Davis, North Carolina; duties while in the tow-target squadron; Officers Training School, Orlando, Florida; uniforms, wages, and militarization; deaths of fellow WASPs; disbandment; and women in aviation since World War II.

O.H. #2177

CRITCHELL, Iris (n.d.)

Interviewer: Gail Gutierrez

Date: August 2, 1990

Status: Final typed, 67 pp.

Tape length: 3 hrs. 45 min.

A native of California and member of the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP), flight instructor and pilot examiner, relates her experiences while in the 1936 Olympics; her travel and experiences in Germany and the rest of Europe immediately prior to World War II; olympic training at that time; learning to fly in Los Angeles in the 1930s, for a woman; an instructor at Brackett Field, La Verne, California; training naval cadets in Carson City, Nevada; joining the Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron (WAF); Nancy Harkness Love and Jacqueline Cochran; training received at Howard Hughes Air Field, Houston, Texas; ferrying duties, types of aircraft delivered including bombers and pursuits, qualifications for ferry command, and the WASP program; lack of training, disbandment, and militarization given to WASPs; hardships at various military bases; women in the military after the war; the establishment of University of Southern California's College of Aeronautical Engineering in Santa Maria, California; and the establishment of a curriculum in special aviation courses at Harvey Mudd College, Claremont, California, for the Bates Foundation.

O.H. #2178

DRESBACH, Marjorie (1917-1996)

Interviewer: Gail Gutierrez

Date: April 28, 1990

Status: Final typed, 34 pp.

Tape length: 3 hrs.

Raised in Oklahoma, her love of flying began after a ride in a dirigible. She recalls receiving her pilot's license in September 1942; Tulsa, Oklahoma, during the Great Depression; the beginning of World War II; her meeting and admiration for Jacqueline Cochran; cost and type of planes used in learning to fly; joining the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP); training at Avenger Field, Sweetwater, Texas; recollections of training difficulties; deaths of WASPs, assignment to Spence Field, Moultrie, Georgia; test-flight engineers, cross-country flying, wages, duties, and military life at Spence Field; weather during flight; problems encountered at other bases; disbandment of WASP program; militarization denied to WASPs; and Army Air Force Reserve.

O.H. #2179

JUDD, Pearl (n.d.)

Interviewer: Gail Gutierrez

Date: May 19, 1989

Status: Final typed, 48 pp.

Tape length: 3 hrs.

A former member of the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP), recalls requirements for obtaining a pilot's license in the 1930s, the expense of obtaining a pilot's license, requirements for WASPs, and training at Avenger Field, Sweetwater, Texas; civilian and military instructors, activities on and off the field for women, social life, duties and dangers in the test-flight engineer squadron; uniforms, wages, and military etiquette; cross-country solos; Minter Air Base, Bakersfield, California. Includes comments on disbandment, lack of militarization, Jacqueline Cochran, discriminations, death of fellow WASPs, and availability of women for work in aviation after World War II.

O.H. #2180

LONDON, Barbara (n.d.)

Interviewer: Gail Gutierrez

Date: October 29, 1989

Status: Final typed, 41 pp.

Tape length: 2 hrs.

A native of Washington state and former Women Airforce Service Pilot (WASP) during World War II, London began flying in 1939 through the Civilian Pilot Training Program (CPT) and received her pilot's license in early 1940, her commercial license and her instructor's license in 1941. She describes the training in the CPT for both her private and commercial license; introduction to Nancy Harkness Love, the Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron (WAFS); as squadron commander while stationed at Long Beach Air Base; various aircraft ferried across the United States for delivery at Newcastle Air Base, Wilmington, Delaware; duties, taming, and being the first and only WASP to receive the Air Medal; transition from WAFS to WASPs; uniforms and hardships while delivering aircraft; disbandment of the WASP program; lack of militarization; availability of military status for women in the Air Force after the war; women in aviation since World War II, and Jacqueline Cochran.

O.H. #2181

SECCIANI, Joyce (n.d.)

Interviewer: Gail Gutierrez

Date: October 22, 1990

Status: Final typed, 76 pp.

Tape length: 3 hrs. 15 min.

A native Californian describes experiences learning to fly in the Civilian Pilot Training (CPT) program at El Centro Junior College, California; flying in the desert and joining the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) program, Jacqueline Cochran, and training at Howard Hughes Air Field, Houston, Texas and Avenger Field, Sweetwater, Texas. She recalls problems in training, assignment and duties in the tow-target squadron; discrimination at Camp Davis, North Carolina; requirements for joining the WASPs; radio-control operations; uniforms, wages, military etiquette, and militarization; March Air Force Base, Riverside, California; Riverside during World War II; military life of a woman; attitudes of male counterparts; disbandment; and opportunities for women in the Air Force after the war.

O.H. #1927

TURNER, Alice Jean (b. 1910)

Interviewer: Gail Gutierrez

Date: May 9, 1987

Status: Transcribed, 105 pp.

Tape length: 3 hrs. 30 min.

Born near the United States and Canadian border in Albert, Canada, Turner held dual citizenship until the age of twenty-one when she chose American citizenship, received a degree in nursing, and moved to California in 1935. She describes the Los Angeles area during the Great Depression, nursing duties in pediatrics at Los Angeles Children's Hospital, training, qualifications, wages, working conditions, and attitudes of doctors. As a nurse, during World War II, she explains the qualifications, training, assignment to Camp Stoneman, California, a training station and port of embarkation; training Army and Navy corpsmen, debarkation hospital Birmingham General in Van Nuys, California; Los Angeles during VE and VJ days; American prisoners of war returning from Bataan; Italian prisoners of war working and hospitalized at Birmingham General; military dress, etiquette, and living conditions on base for nurses.

Related material:

GUTIERREZ, Gail. "Forgotten Wings: An Oral History of Women Airforce Service Pilots, The WASPs." Master's project, California State University, Fullerton, 1990.