

Wisconsin Veterans Museum
Research Center

Transcript of an
Oral History Interview with
HARRIET B. LLEWELLYN
WAAC, World War II

2002

OH
123

Llewellyn, Harriett B., (1921 -), Oral History Interview, 2002

User copy: 1 sound cassette (ca. 66 min.), analog, 1 7/8 ips, mono.

Master copy: 1 sound cassette (ca. 66 min.), analog, 1 7/8 ips, mono.

ABSTRACT

Llewellyn, a Delevan, Wis. native, discusses her service running switchboards with the Women's Army Corps in Europe during World War II. Llewellyn describes her decision to enlist including quitting her job, family reaction, and medical screening. She comments on basic training at Fort Sheridan (Illinois), receiving a uniform, and assignment to Jacksonville (Florida). Llewellyn talks about military life in Florida including living conditions and food. She discusses volunteering to serve overseas, the boat ride to Europe, and military life in Italy. Llewellyn touches upon her duties compiling a telephone directory and speaks about recreation activities relating several antidotes involving dancing, sightseeing, and the wedding of a fellow WAC. She talks about her discharge, return to Delevan, community reaction to military homecomings, and speaking engagements with local clubs. Llewellyn explains her lack of involvement with veteran benefits, former service friends, or veteran reunions by saying, "When I was home, I was home."

Biographical Sketch

Llewellyn (b. January 1, 1921) served with the Women's Army Corps during World War II. Working in the communications field she served in both Florida and Italy.

Interviewed by John K. Driscoll, Wisconsin Veterans Museum Volunteer.

Transcribed by John K. Driscoll, 2002.

Transcript edited by Abigail Miller, 2002.

Interview Transcript

John: Okay, this is an oral history interview with Harriett Llewellyn, who served with the Women's Army Corps during World War II. And this interview is being conducted at Harriett's home at 721 Parish Street, in Delevan, on October 9, 2002. And the interviewer is John Driscoll, a volunteer with the Wisconsin Veterans Museum. So, to get started, why don't you just tell me about your early life: born, raised, educated, and we will take it from there.

Llewellyn: Okay. I was born in Rockford, Illinois. My parents and I lived with my grandparents which had come from England. And they both, she worked downtown, and he worked in a factory. And we lived there for ten years. And Delevan, here, where we are now, was looking for a chief of police. And my dad was working in the courthouse and also in the field, in Rockford, and so he got the job, and we moved up here. And we lived at the lake for a while, and we found that it was pretty strenuous, because everybody in Rockford wanted to come for a weekend, or a week. [Laughter]

John: You didn't know how many friends you had, huh?

Llewellyn: That's right. And, so, then we, when school started, then, we found an apartment next door to the school, and I went all the way through to high school.

John: You didn't mention. Let me ask you, when were you born?

Llewellyn: In Rockford, January 1, 1921.

John: 1921. Okay.

Llewellyn: I should remember it because I have it on my license and on the house, and I can't remember it. Anyway, I graduated in '79, and that whole year, my folks were building this house that we are in right now. And my mother and I helped my dad, and we used to have good times in front of the fireplace. Having supper at night. Anyway, but then I graduated. I wanted a job and I got a job at the Bradley Knitting Mills. That was a very famous factory at one time. And it was down to its last legs, but they were struggling, trying to sell and do things. And I learned a lot and was able to furnish drawings and things that they didn't have any more. And selling. I did a little selling. And then it was time to fold up. And I had to leave.

John: Now, about what year is this?

Llewellyn: Well, that would be just a couple years after I graduated.

John: Okay.

Llewellyn: About 1979.

John: Okay. Okay.

Llewellyn: And so I found some woman running a newspaper uptown. She was giving it up and she was going to Janesville to work. And I happened to know her. And so I got a ride to Janesville, and I got a job at Parker Pen. But I was doing adds. Not adds, but bills, and stuff. And I didn't like that so well. I wanted to get into the advertising end, and that sort of thing. Which I did. I talked myself into it. And I enjoyed that. And then I was the receptionist, too. And I liked it. But, as I say in that little thing that I have written, it was war time. So, I got it in my head. I don't know where it came from. But I wanted to join the WAACs.

John: Now, was this after Pearl Harbor?

Llewellyn: Yes.

John: I see. Okay.

Llewellyn: Would be after Pearl Harbor.

John: Okay. What brought that on?

Llewellyn: I don't know. I don't know. My father was not a sailor or a soldier. And, no, I just had it in my mind. And, while I was working there, my dad would come over some nights and bring me back for supper, and maybe another girl, or something. And we started back and forth. And when I was back and forth, I was sort of always saying something about that. That I would really like to do that. Well, he didn't think much of it. Anything of it. And, so it went on for a while, and finally, just one day, I had to nerve to call and the people at Parker Pen that I was quitting, and going in the service. So I did. Then I called my dad and said, "You better come and get me, because I've already entered the service."

John: You had enlisted?

Llewellyn: Yep.

John: Where did you enlist?

Llewellyn: Well, there at Parker Pen. Right there in the lobby.

John: Oh.

Llewellyn: Well, not enlisted, but I mean that is where I was working. So, I gave that up, and my dad came. I called and told him to come. And he came. He had been, he went to the courthouse and got all the papers, everything I needed.

John: So, you were about nineteen or twenty years old when this happened?

Llewellyn: Yes.

John: I see. You made up your mind and did it.

Llewellyn: I did it. I know, I don't know where that nerve came from. But I did it. And my dad, all for it.

John: Okay.

Llewellyn: So, anyway, I always laugh, because I said, I was really very popular, because he always would send these big boxes with snacks and things to eat. Really came over pretty big.

John: I can imagine. Okay, where did you actually sign on then?

Llewellyn: I went to Milwaukee. And there was a headquarters there. We went through the [interruption with doorbell.] I'm not going to change my religion this morning.

John: Okay. You said you went to Milwaukee.

Llewellyn: Oh, went to Milwaukee. Went to the hospital. I'll be remembering things now. We always wore those hospital gowns, up and down the hallways. We had to all different places to go to get examined. And I was laughing because the back was always open. [Laughter]

John: Yea. I know. Now, were you with another group of women?

Llewellyn: Yes. Another group of women. There was a group there that had come in. And so, we did that. We took some papers that we had to fill in. And, let's see, there was always a lot of physicals, that sort of thing. So, then, when it was time to go, I don't know how long I waited but I don't think it was very long, we had to go to Milwaukee, and then we went down to, I'm kind of mixed up on this. But, going out to that first camp, to sign in and get the clothes.

John: Do you remember where that was? Was that Fort Sheridan?

Llewellyn: I think so. Yes, I am mixed up. And we registered, and we were really given a pile of clothes. We had all kinds of assignments. We climbed up walls and came down on a rope, and we were learning how to put our gas masks on, and all that sort of thing. And much marching, and KP. We had all that stuff.

John: What kind of living quarters were you in?

Llewellyn: Well, that was very nice. It was a camp, with regular houses, and it was very comfortable. I had to laugh after a while. We took turns doing things and I was doing KP, and I could hear my dad saying, "You wanted to be in the WAAC."

John: What did a bunch of young women think of the clothing they issued you? I mean, World War II uniforms weren't really chic, so what did you think?

Llewellyn: Well, they were very nice, and nicely made. They fitted nice and we looked nice, I thought.

John: Okay.

Llewellyn: And it was, and, we got all the clothes that we needed.

John: Now, this was sort of more or less a basic training?

Llewellyn: A basic training. We had to do that first. And then we were assigned, and we were assigned to Jacksonville, Florida.

John: Okay.

Llewellyn: To the, I was going to look up what that was. We were communications, and we were on the switchboards.

John: Okay.

Llewellyn: Then we were, you know what I mean. All the planes coming and going were tracked on this board, in these areas all the way up. And there was a name for that. But that was interesting. We worked around the clock, and we lived in a little apartment. Very plain. And then we ate downtown. And we weren't there too long. I don't know if they continued that, or discontinued that. But, anyway, then we went to, across from Florida. Somewhere in, they had a camp there. All made up for people from--the prisoners of war, is what I wanted to say. That was built there, but they hadn't used it yet. So we got the benefit of that, and that was terrible. It was awful. And there was always such strange animals walking around. We didn't care so much for that. But, then, we got--

John: Now this was while you were still in Florida?

Llewellyn: No, this is somewhere on the other side, going, in that area. And then we had, assigned, and it was months, really months, before we actually got a place to stay. We would go to this camp, but we weren't supposed to be there, and then we'd shift off to another one. And it just was goofy. And everyone one, we unpacked new, and get all the exercise, and the same thing over again, and then we'd go to another one. It was ridiculous. And then we really were getting discouraged because we wanted to get settled in work and doing what we were supposed to do. Instead of riding around. But they finally, finally, got us settled. I think we were up in Massachusetts. I know we were in, down through this area. Quite a few places where we stopped. But we finally got settled. And, I'm not sure where that even was, now.

John: Let me take a minute.

Llewellyn: Nobody is going to care who is going to hear it.

John: It's mainly your experiences, like you were saying, you were getting frustrated, there, being moved around. You wanted to get to--

Llewellyn: Get to work.

John: That is what's important.

Llewellyn: Yea. I just can't remember where that. That is awful. We were there a long time.

John: This was in Massachusetts?

Llewellyn: No. No, no. I am with it, now. They were talking about they were going to have some girls going overseas. And I kind of wanted to do that. And, so, they picked them, and I got to go. That's right. We went overseas to, oh, in--

John: England? Or Scotland?

Llewellyn: No. In Jacksonville, Florida.

John: I see.

Llewellyn: Yea. That is where we went. And we were there quite a while. And then we went to, they were calling for overseas. And I guess I mentioned that. And we went. We went to, boarded a, we waited, we were at a camp. And we needed to board that

Empress of Scotland.

John: Empress of Scotland. You showed me in the book.

Llewellyn: Yea.

John: Quite a liner.

Llewellyn: Yea. It was. In the notes, I have that it was like walking into a hotel. And, but, and the place was packed. With soldiers. And we were down, down, down, to the middle of the thing, and we had fairly nice quarters. But I noticed I said that it wasn't all so great, because we were all sick the whole time. But we had to stand, during the day, watching for planes, or whatever. So many hours. And it was not a picnic, that is for sure. With everybody, the girls in particular, being down there, didn't like it. But there was a nice little dining room down there. But we couldn't eat. So, anyway, we got to Casablanca and thought that was pretty neat. And we got out and we, quick, were hustled into a train that went along the coast of the Mediterranean. And we had to stop one place and we camped there for several days. Right on the shore, practically. And we always, we had our helmet for water, we had it for washing, washing clothes, out there. And then we realized, we weren't really sure--we weren't smart anyway--that we were going to Naples. And we went to Naples. I always remember that. And we had to go off of the boat onto another sunken boat that had been hit, and then on to the pier. And then we were taken to our headquarters. And we were fortunate. It was a lovely building of the college there. And we had nuns that were there that took care of it. And they were panicky at night, oh, it was terrible, they were so scared, because we had a plane flying around all of the time. We didn't know what they were going to do. And they had been through some bad nights, too. Before we got there, so we would have those airplanes. But we had nice, it was good quarters, nice rooms and facilities. And the doors opened on the side of this brick building to a beautiful garden. And in the view was Vesuvius.

John: Oh, wow.

Llewellyn: And it was beautiful. I had a picture of that but I guess I gave it to somebody. But the only thing we didn't like was going every night down when they had the air raids, to go down the basement. Because we always thought that if we get hit, we're not going anywhere. We didn't want to do that. But we would. And they were always panicking. And it was funny, too. You know, like, let's see how many girls were there. There were a hundred and some of us, but there was quite a group that we all had the same bathrobe, everything was the same. I know, we used to laugh at ourselves. And we worked in offices downtown. The building, the picture there the one that we worked at.

John: What kind of work?

Llewellyn: Telephone.

John: Telephone. I see.

Llewellyn: And I worked in doing, in working on a directory. Numbers would come in and we would have to bank it in a certain book, and all that sort of thing. It was very, it was fun. And then we did, we were on the phone a lot. And we, and the war was going on. It wasn't too long that the war was moving up the peninsula. And we stopped a couple places. I don't know if it was for very long. But we ended up at the very top. Near the leaning tower of Pisa.

John: Oh, okay.

Llewellyn: And we were up that way.

John: That's way up.

Llewellyn: Yea. That is way up. We stopped several times, moving up.

John: Was this with a headquarters unit? Or do you remember the unit that you were with?

Llewellyn: Yea. It was a headquarters unit. A number. I don't remember what it was. But, no, it wasn't just schooling. It was planned, and it was soon that we had to think about going home.

John: While you were in Italy, when you weren't working, did you have time off? Did you have a chance to see things?

Llewellyn: Oh, yea. Oh, yes. That is another story, too. You know, we worked eight hours a day, and then in the evenings, we were always called to go to a dance.

John: Okay.

Llewellyn: So we said we did dance our way out. Yea. Well, that was the only recreation, you know. There wasn't too much sight-seeing. I think there was more so when we got a little bit--

John: I see.

Llewellyn: --more normal. We had much, much. Oh, and I have several stories to tell you.

John: Sure.

Llewellyn: When we first started working, we were working in, we were working in Rome. But, anyway, at one time of this, and, we worked the whole--that was the very start of it, because we were working and everyday, and we finally got a couple days off. And this other girl and I decided we were going to hitch-hike to Rome. And so we did. And we got out and [making hitch-hike gesture]. You know. But there was army vehicles going around. And we got a ride with the *Stars and Stripes* guys.

John: Oh, okay.

Llewellyn: And, so they said, "Have you got a place when you get up there?" And we said, "Well, there is a place that we can go." And we were thinking of that. And he said, "Well, we are called to go right straight through up here." They had another thing they had to take care of. Well, then, he said their apartment would be available, and we could have that. Well, the apartment was at the top of the stairs, what do you call them. Now, I've forgotten that. These stairs that are so famous in Naples.

John: Oh, the Spanish Steps?

Llewellyn: The Spanish Steps. And the whole lower bottom was all women with baskets of flowers, and that. And, so, they gave us that. They went up and told them that we'd be there. So we took that, and it was a lovely widow lady. And she was very pleasant. And I remember the next morning, we went down and bought a big bouquet for her.

John: That was nice.

Llewellyn: It was fun. And I loved that place. And I've been back to it twice. But they are always doing something different to it. But it is beautiful. Have you been there?

John: No, I've never been to Rome or Naples. I've been to Italy, but not to Rome or Naples.

Llewellyn: Oh, yea, it was beautiful. Well, then, now, wait, that is not the end of the story. We were up there, and the day we went to, over to the Vatican. And we were walking around the front, and a couple of the fellows that we knew said, "You know, this is the day that the Pope talks to the people." And the army, and that. And they were going to go. "Come on and go!" Well, we hadn't planned on it, but we went. Oh, my stars! I had one of those big men with a Scotch red outfit.

Arming me. Oh, I don't know if I was going to heaven or where I am going. Oh! And we walked, these guys walked us up, these men. And then we sat around kind of a stage, and he talked, and it was just more of a welcoming, and that type of thing.

John: This would have been Pope Pius?

Llewellyn: The one before this one. The Second, I think.

John: Un-hunh. Okay.

Llewellyn: And we were just thrilled that we had done that.

John: That's great. That's great.

Llewellyn: Well, anyway, we went, and it was getting time, I guess, to go to, back down. And to get out on the road and thumb. We immediately got a ride with two fellows, you know, the motorcycle side-thing. And there was room for us two. And little did we know that they had been drinking wine, and had wine with them. And we stopped for wine, and we stopped because of wine, many times. Oh, we were scared to death, but we didn't have any other ride. And, you know, we thought, all I could think of, if, I could see the headlines of the *Enterprise*, here in town: "WAAC Killed On The Highway." [laughter] Oh, dear. It was awful. But, anyway, we got back, on that trip. And, let's see. What else did we do? I can't think. Oh, we had a wedding! One of my, one nice little gal that I knew, got to know real well. She fell in love, and so they were going to get married. And we had Mussolini's daughters, I think it is Mussolini. That built this lovely building. And, there. And we were going to have it there. And she had gotten something from home to wear. But I am the bridesmaid, and I didn't have anything. And, so, somebody had a, kind of a fancy bathrobe. So they jazzed that all up for me, and I got that on. And we didn't have flowers, so there was some areas there, some houses. Empty houses, and flowers. And I am out there in the night picking flowers for the wedding. And we got that taken care of. But as we were coming gracefully down the stairs, the lights went out. And the sirens started blowing. So, we ended up, I don't know. We finished the wedding. I don't know what happened after that. Oh, my.

John: That would be a wedding to remember.

Llewellyn: Well, it was. And there is a picture of the wedding in the book.

John: Okay. Oh, that is priceless.

- Llewellyn: These were things for my talk. There was something else too.
- John: Oh, that is a good story. That's great.
- Llewellyn: Well, you know, it is one story. Probably no one else did such stupid things like that. Now, let's see. I'm not sure. I thought there was something else.
- John: Then, did you spend most of the time in Rome, there, or did you go elsewhere?
- Llewellyn: No, we left from there. And we went through Pompeii.
- John: Oh, wow. What was Pompeii like, back then?
- Llewellyn: Oh, it was tacky! You know, it wasn't like it is now. I hardly knew it this time. And, well, you know, they were really kind, we would work so long, and then we would have several days off. And we had trips. We went to Pompeii, to the Isle.
- John: Capri?
- Llewellyn: Capri. I even bought a dress there, this year. We went there, and it was nice. But, then the last two times I've been there, it is so much more commercialized.
- John: Oh, is it?
- Llewellyn: Yea. Well, I should never have gone back.
- John: I see. It's not the same when you go back?
- Llewellyn: It really isn't. But, I can't think. What was I going to tell them, out there?

[End of Side A of Tape 1.]

- John: Oh, this is great. This would have been 1944, when you were in Italy? About that time? '43 - '44?
- Llewellyn: I think so.
- John: Were you able to get around? Well, you hitch-hiked. You said you hitch-hiked and took a trip. You were able to, there weren't many restrictions on you?
- Llewellyn: Yea. Well, no. We didn't have to be going there, either.
- John: Oh, yea. Okay. Now, the officers that you had, they were WAAC officers?

- Llewellyn: Yes. Very nice. The one thing that, the only thing that bothered me, was when we were in Jacksonville, we really were quiet free. You know. We weren't under their fingers all the time. We lived in these houses and there was nothing there. And, but, some of the girls would go out, and stay late. Real, real late. And then they expected to be promoted, you know. I mean, their promotions came up. And some of them got them. And I always kind of resented that.
- John: Yea, I can imagine.
- Llewellyn: I mean, when you are trying to do the right thing, and you have earned it, and somebody else is goofing off. But there was a little of that, probably, all over, a bit. It isn't important.
- John: Well, where else did you go in Europe? Was it mostly in Italy?
- Llewellyn: It was mostly in Italy.
- John: And, then, toward the end of the war, what was happening?
- Llewellyn: Well, we were all there, of course, and starting to move out. Move out. And we got a plane. I just read that, recently. A plane, and then we got a better plane when we got to, down to somewhere else. Oh, I have got this written down. I can read it to you.
- John: I'll look forward to it, when you give your talk to the Roundtable. But, this is great, this is wonderful. You were talking about the plane.
- Llewellyn: Yea, we got on the plane. And these were really neat planes, at this time. There was one, some of them, we weren't--I thought, they were using the tail of the thing for the latrine. The plane. But, that was-- We went to a number of places, on the way coming home.
- John: Did you fly home?
- Llewellyn: We flew home.
- John: You didn't have to take a ship home?
- Llewellyn: No. We flew home.
- John: That was probably good.

Llewellyn: Oh, yea. And how we felt.

John: Yes.

Llewellyn: It's all in that, what do you call it?

John: Well, how did you feel? The war was over and won, and you had been part of it.

Llewellyn: It was exciting. We were happy.

John: You must have been very proud, too, that you had done this.

Llewellyn: There was pride. I keep reading that thing about landing, I don't know where it is. And you know, how much home meant.

John: Oh, yes. Well, you were gone two or three years?

Llewellyn: Three years.

John: Three years. Now, when you came back, did you get out? Or did you have to--

Llewellyn: I came back. We stopped at several airports, and then we came down to Washington. And we saw the lights of the Capitol. And, then, I think we went to bed. And then the next night, the next day, we were all shipped to where we were supposed to go. All the different camps. I went to, outside of Rockford.

John: Okay. Was that Fort Sheridan?

Llewellyn: Yes. And my folks were there. Yea.

John: And, then, did you get released?

Llewellyn: We were released. Everything was taken care of. Everything, Insurance. I, what did I do? I think I saved all my money. And, then, would send it to you. It was all taken care of, right there and then.

John: Okay. Then, did you, you didn't have a Reserve time you had to do, afterwards? You were out?

Llewellyn: We were out.

John: You were out. Okay. Then, one of the questions that we always ask, did you have much of an adjustment getting out of the military, and getting back to your own

life, again? Was that--

Llewellyn: Oh, I don't think so. It was over, and I think I spoke to every club in town.

John: Yea. I'll bet. Here in Delevan? Back to Delevan?

Llewellyn: Yea. They all wanted to hear. And everybody was so happy. So, then I, what did I do? Oh, when I got out, I had a girl friend. When we first came to Delevan. And I was pal-ing around with you. Well, anyway, I went in the service, and she stayed, and worked in the jewelry store. And she was a Baptist. And so, when I came home, she said to me, one day. "You know, I have got to quit the Baptist church, and go to the Episcopal church, because I am going to marry the minister. And I've got to get used to that. You want to go?" And I said, "Sure. I'd like to go." Well, I walked in the door and I never went back to the Baptist church. I just liked it so much, and, of course, she was there. And the people they were working for had a jewelry store, and one of them had the bank, and everything. They had a party. And the nephew came home. And I had seen him in school. He was five years older than I was. And I always thought he was pretty neat. And, he was always the star of the ball games. And, so we went to the party. And we just sort of stayed together. It was, go down to his folks, and go back to my folks, and everything. And he had been to college, to work in the newspaper field. But he didn't know what he was going to do, and we were going to get married. And he thought he had a job offer down in Belvedere. But his uncle was the president of the bank and offered him a bank job. And my dad had done over the house, for a house for us upstairs. We have a house up there. An apartment.

John: This house?

Llewellyn: Yea. And so we got married. And he went to the bank.

John: Had he been in the service?

Llewellyn: No, no.

John: I see.

Llewellyn: And, so, his picture is in there. And then he was president of the bank, too. As the years went by. You know.

John: You mentioned the Baptist church, and the other thing. While you were in the service, in Europe, did they have religious services and that?

Llewellyn: I think we did have. I know, I have been down, yes, I think we did have some.

John: Okay.

Llewellyn: I am kind of mixed up. I was thinking of, I went on a trip to Jerusalem, and all over there. And we--

John: Oh. And, was this while you were in--?

Llewellyn: No.

John: Okay.

Llewellyn: And, but we, that tour agency was religious. And we would have, like we had a service in the boat on the Sea of--

John: Sea of Galilee?

Llewellyn: Yes.

John: Un, huh. Okay. After you came out, Harriett, did you stay in touch with friends that you were in the service with?

Llewellyn: No, I never did. Never. No, never heard, except one of them. A tall, lanky girl and she was a telephone operator in California. And we always called her "Timber."

John: Tall Timber?

Llewellyn: Yea. And, she was real nice. And after I had gotten home, and I must have written to her, or something, that I was going to get married. Because she, I don't know, she stayed on over there for a little while after I left. Well, anyway, she sent, oh, this box. It was as big as this. I'll show you. [Pause while Harriett goes to get a ceramic bird figurine.] It was packed in this box.

John: Oh, that is so lovely.

Llewellyn: Isn't it beautiful? And it is Dresden.

John: Oh, yes.

Llewellyn: It has a tiny couple little bits, she probably got it cheap. And they were probably, we figured that they were probably selling all kinds of stuff like that.

John: That is really something.

Llewellyn: Isn't that lovely?

John: My mom had a candy dish that was quite old, you know. About so big. And it had a nick or two on it, and she gave that to an auctioneer, and got like \$700 for it, or something. It just surprised her, totally.

Llewellyn: Yea. I should do that.

John: Yea. That is lovely. That is beautiful.

Llewellyn: I should give it to St. John's Home, in Milwaukee.

John: I see.

Llewellyn: Because they, they have facilities, and the people live there and different people can see them through the years. Rather than just, you know.

John: How did you get into painting, and you art, and that?

Llewellyn: I have that in my notes, too. When I was in Rockford, we lived with my grandma and grandpa. I was in drawing, and stuff. And we had some dairy or something like that. We would have a little contest, to color something. The kids would do it. So I was doing that, and I was doing pretty good, and I won a dollar one time. And I thought I had it made, right there. And I kept on sketching, and doing a little bit. And then when I got into high school, I did some.

John: Did you do any when you were in the service, in Europe?

Llewellyn: That was only the art. That there. There was no call for it, or anything. And I never, well, I had to work, you know.

John: Yea, sure.

Llewellyn: And had to dance.

John: Oh, yes!

Llewellyn: Everybody had a boy friend.

John: I'll bet.

Llewellyn: But, what was I talking about? I lost that.

John: You were talking about being in Europe. You said you didn't do you art work. You were busy working all the time.

Llewellyn: No, I didn't. Didn't have any desire. And, when I came home, I, well, I was working in the jewelry store.

John: I see.

Llewellyn: And I was doing, she was very active in the flower arrangements, and stuff. So, they were a wonderful family. And we were back and forth. They were almost like parents to us.

John: On another line, while you are thinking there, after you came out, did you ever do anything like reunions? Or get-togethers?

Llewellyn: No. Never had anything like that.

John: Like the VFW?

Llewellyn: I made a big sign for a neighbor that was in submarines. He just passed away the other week. Had to have this sign made for him, with a submarine.

John: How about veterans benefits? The GI Bill? Anything like that? Did you take advantage of anything like that?

Llewellyn: No.

John: Any medical things? Veterans medical care, after you got out?

Llewellyn: No.

John: Nothing like that? Okay. Looking back on it, now. What would stand out as the hardest part of it? Well, let me re-phrase that. Going in, the first couple of days, the first week, or so, that must have been a major change in life style for you.

Llewellyn: Well, I mentioned, we had our uniforms on. And how different we looked. And when we were getting on a train, they would have an army band would be playing. And you'd have donuts and coffee. And, I don't know. No, I was always eager to go, everything, you know.

John: What was it like, you grew up here in Wisconsin. Rockford, Delevan. Meeting women from all over the country. Any--?

- Llewellyn: Yea. Well, it was fun. And you can see all those pictures, there in that book. No, it was a wonderful experience. And when I was home, I was home.
- John: That was it?
- Llewellyn: Yea. And I worked in the jewelry store. Where my friends had worked, and where my husband came back to. For a while. Then, we were married. And then my dad built the apartment upstairs for us. And, so, Irv went to the bank, and he became president. And then he was retired when he died.
- John: When you talk to the History Roundtable in a couple months, now, what are some of the things that you want to tell them? That is a very nice group, by the way. You'll like them. They are very laid-back.
- Llewellyn: It will be fun. Well, I love the, what do you call it? I'll tell them pretty much some of this. I am going to tell those stories.
- John: Especially tell them about the wedding. That is priceless.
- Llewellyn: Oh, yea. I mean, after all, that was a highlight in our being there, too, you know. And you can't just say everybody worked all the time, and they went to dances, like that. You got to get a little something in it. So I hope I can do it all right.
- John : Oh, I am sure it will be great. Well, that is great.
- Llewellyn: There is so much more that I, it's hard for me to get it out, like this. And what I wrote, too, the feelings, a little bit more. And during the look back at the Capitol, you know, things like that.
- John: Sure. What about homesickness? Anything like that?
- Llewellyn: Oh, no. No time for that.
- John: You did have seasickness, though.
- Llewellyn: Oh, on that boat. Yea. But, no, and my dad. Oh, gosh, he packed great big packages. And the mails, whoever was doing it, bringing it to me, was followed by quite a few people.
- John: They wanted to see what was in there. Yea.
- Llewellyn: Well, we had fun. And he enjoyed that, doing that, too. He was proud.

John: So, you just decided you wanted to do it, and did it then?

Llewellyn: Yea. I can't blame anyone.

John: Now, was it, like, patriotism? Or was it to kind of get away into the big world?

Llewellyn: Oh, I don't know. It was something I had to do. And, I don't know. It was just--

John: Well, the WAAC was pretty new, back then, wasn't it? It hadn't been around.

Llewellyn: Um-hunh. It hadn't got too big yet. And it is different now. And a lot of, they do a lot of different things now. Difficult things. That was sort of the beginning of it all. And--

John: Were most of the women younger?

Llewellyn: Well, I'd say some of them were in their thirties.

John: Oh, yea? Oh, that old?

Llewellyn: You can see that on the pages. They don't look like young chickens.

John: What rank did you have?

Llewellyn: I have been trying to think, and I don't even remember. I was a sergeant, something. Yea, it was a good grade.

John: Okay. Do you remember what you were paid? I know it wasn't a lot.

Llewellyn: It seems to me that it was like \$20 a month.

John: Okay. That could be. I was in ten years later, and it was only \$60. So, yea. They didn't give us a lot of money.

Llewellyn: No. But I saved it.

John: When you came back to Delevan, were people happy to see you? Well, of course, everybody was coming home then.

Llewellyn: Yea. But, no, they were happy. As I say, I went to every club in town.

John: Yea. That must have been great.

- Llewellyn: And even to this day, we had a parade here a while ago. We had a store. A nice clothing store uptown. And it was celebrating its hundred and fiftieth year. And there was a period there when I worked for them. And they had a big parade. And I was one of the two. We have a man, he knows the history of Delevan. Like nobody knows it. And he and I were the, parade--
- John: Marshals?
- Llewellyn: Yea.
- John: I noticed, coming in this morning, the School for the Deaf has been there a hundred and fifty years, also. That was just Territory to State to the School for the Deaf. And Delevan was here before, I guess, when we were still a territory. Yea, it must have been.
- Llewellyn: Yes.
- John: Well, that is great. That is a tremendous story. We have got a lot of stories from guys who were in, of course.
- Llewellyn: Yea. But they can talk about different things than we can.
- John: Well, yea. I'll be talking to another woman who was in the WAAC, in the Women's Army Corps, from Madison. I can't think of her name. I will have it for you when you come up to talk to the Roundtable. She lives right in Madison and we are going to--
- Llewellyn: This man that I am talking about, there is a picture of him. And he, I worked for him, in one of the offices. And there is a picture of him in the book.
- John: Okay. In the service?
- Llewellyn: Yea. No. That book. Well, it just had a picture. I remember him being in Madison.
- John: Well, this is tremendous. This is great.
- Llewellyn: Well, I am glad you think so. Because I don't. I can't, I am so forgetful.
- John: Oh, you remember a lot. And, you know, this is something. You went and you did your thing, and this story will be around for a long time for people to look at and study. Okay. Anything else you want to add before we wrap up here?

Llewellyn: I don't think so. I'll get myself organized for the Roundtable.

John: Okay. I am going to shut this off.

[End of Interview.]