

Helen Foley, nee Fitzsimmons
Veteran

Michael Russert
Wayne Clarke
NYS Military Museum
Interviewers

Interviewed on March 11, 2004, 9 A.M.
Center Moriches New York

Q: Ok, this is an interview at the public library Center Moriches New York, the eleventh of March 2004, nine AM. Interviewers are Wayne Clark and Mike Russert. Can you give me your full name, date of birth, and place of birth please?

HF: Helen Foley...

Q: Place of birth and date of birth.

HF: Brooklyn, July twenty-eighth 1918.

Q: Ok, what was your educational background prior to entering the service?

HF: I graduated high school. From the business course.

Q: Do you remember where you were and your reaction when you heard about Pearl Harbor? How did you hear about it?

HF: Oh, I was down on Main Street on Constitution Avenue in Washington, DC. Everybody was out and it was a mob scene. Screaming and you had to get away from it. It was too much, people were screaming and hollering and kissing one another. So I said, I have to get out of here. I got to get back [Laughter].

Q: So that's the end?

HF: Yes, the end of the war.

Q: Do you remember about Pearl Harbor where you were? Where were you when you heard about that?

HF: Very sad. Some of the girls used to have a good cry all the time. It was very sad. We used to get the pictures in headquarters there see that was headquarters

for the marines there, and it was like, I don't know if you'd remember the old time movies, they'd have in the lobby, pictures.

Q: Oh, in the movie theater.

HF: You can see it all there, we saw it that very day or right after [unclear] where they put up the flag. They would put it right there, it wasn't in color though, it was black and white

Q: So, why did you enlist in the Marine Corps?

HF: Well, I was working down in the Federal Reserve Bank, Maiden Lane, Wall Street and I lived in Long Island City and Long Island City, if you've ever been there, you can see the skyline from—especially where I lived, and it was...well I have to go back. Anyway, I'd gone down there, I had some other work and I said, I was still looking around for something else. So I went down to Wall Street and I got hired right away and it was to work on the, they called them Liberty Bonds, I think so, and we had lots of them. But what really,—I have to tell you how I enlisted, that's how I enlisted. I was working there, and we'd been out on our lunch hour and sometimes we didn't want to stay in and eat in the cafeteria so we'd go out, they had these fast foods, they even had the [unclear], but I came across a recruiting office and I was very curious, I wanted to see. And I went in and I said that I was interested in the Waves, I loved the uniform, I just did not like that Army uniform—if you remember it [Laughter]. And I said —so there was a marine, I think he was a lieutenant, and he said to me: well the Waves enlistment is up and we're finished, would you consider the Marines. I said, the Marines, I never saw anyone in the Marines. So he said—well, anyway.... I said I don't know why, I have to think about it. So I went back, I just didn't know. and I kept reading things in the paper for a week or so, the whole time I was working down nearby and I did go back finally and I said I was-: oh, you're not going to do it, you're not going to go. I said I don't think I'll be firing a gun or anything like that and they were so shocked that I was going to go [Laughter]. So I guess I was getting tired of those bonds, filing them and doing things. And oh, and one of the things, one of the problems, was that I had to work nights and then you had to get up the next day and so where I lived, in the evening, you were trying to wash your stockings or something get ready and you wanted to wash your hair sometime and blow it, and you had to have lights out and the area wardens would come and open the door—I lived in an apartment building—and they'd say get those lights out and they'd blow a whistle because you could see the, you could walk down to the East River, and that was, that was a real headache. I'd say, got to get up early in the morning, I have to take the L, and then I have to take the subway to get downtown, anyway, in spite of the war, there was a lot of people, you got

squashed before you got there, so I said maybe it'd be good to really enlist. So that's what started me off [Laughter]. And that was it. And they—what struck me as funny, when I did get back and I was sworn in, they said to me: now—he said: you can't go sixty miles out of New York and you're government property and you have to—what was the other thing he said?—you'll get your orders sometime [Laughter]. So, that was it. So I got them right around the holidays but it was January that I went to go to Penn Station and when I got there, I was figuring, will I be the only one? But there was a whole lot of girls and there was girls on the train that came down from Boston. Now, that was it that started and it was real real real hectic. We got down and they started giving you. Well it was a real bad ride on the train. They kept switching and I think it had a lot to do with the war. We'd have to wait and we'd stay and I remember we ended up down in Richmond, Virginia. And it was like one o'clock in the morning and these Southern women were very cordial, they said—we got out and they were saying, they had coffee and donuts and I said oh, I just wish I had a bed so I could go to sleep because you couldn't—the old cars must have been from the civil war, with the beds in them and I'm rather tall, we didn't fit in them, you'd just [unclear] be sitting up, and there was just not many comforts that ride. So in time I realized it was probably all that they figured there could be bombings, maybe they were going to come over and drop bombs on us and here we are in a real place where they would [Laughter]. So, that was, I said, oh why did I get into this? So anyway, we finally got to camp—the women were very nice, the southern women, they would always help, you'd always heard these things, they were very—they spoke to us and they were very nice and I was so glad to get on another train and we got down to Lejeune and it was early, it was breakfast time, and we had, when we got out of the trains, they had buses, and they brought us to the base, Camp Lejeune, and we ate in the mess hall [Laughter]. The food was—we were not that crazy about it, but we were hungry and a lot of them were complaining [Laughter]. And so then we were all assigned, we went into a big room and they started to talk to us. There were already women there but there were double bunks up and down. So I remember going in and she was from Hartford, this girl, and we became great friends. She said you mind the top bunk. I said well I'll try it, I never slept up on anything like that. Then right away they measure you for the uniform, they give you all your things that you need, they give you well if they could fit you the shoes and oh you had everything. And that time it was winter so we had the warmer clothing, we didn't get the summer uniforms till later on. And that was the start of it and then it was every day, we had really a march. We had a drill sergeant with us and I think we did that for more than a half hour.

Q: And how was it?

HF: I didn't mind.

Q: So that was a male or female?

HF: Male, male it was a male. And we just liked to see them after all those formations. Unfortunately some of the girls, were having a hard time [Laughter]. I don't think they knew their left from their right foot. That was kind of bad, you felt sorry for them [Laughter]. But anyway, you'd try not to get by them so you wouldn't have to stop [Laughter]. You might be using the wrong foot. But anyway, we did a lot of that. And then we had all these classes. So I got a real sex education then. I tell you, things I didn't even know. And they had pictures, talking about everything, what you had to do. That you couldn't get married, they had told you that in advance and if you got pregnant you were going to be dumped out [Laughter]. Those times, you know, were not like now so I thought uhm. Everything about the social diseases that you would be dismissed. Well they were looking for air traffic controllers and they gave some of those tests you know—and I'm sure I really was—they probably didn't even pay attention to my paper, and IQ tests, things like that [Laughter]. Went on for days. I forget, I can't remember how many, how long we were— three months or so in boot camp, I think, I'm not sure and then we got our assignment and I was in Washington. So they figure that well Washington they had to have—there's something about that I don't know if they still do that—that's how I got sergeant. They were giving so many to see and it was supposed to have to be like that. And we were so new coming in there, we were the first marine women there in Washington and the only barracks...but the Waves were all around.

Q: Did you have a clerical or office background or business background all through high school?

HF: Yeah, that's what I did. Bookkeeping and that was the whole thing, I always did that...yeah.

Q: Now what were the barracks like?

HF: Well, just like barracks, you see we had double bunk beds and they had the garbage cans and they had...let me see, we had a nice room where there was a coke machine and you could have a date, it was like a big—probably half the size of this—and there was furniture and a jukebox and coca cola where you could entertain somebody. But there was a whole lot of other rules. You had to be in at ten o'clock every night unless you had duty. You did get guard duty but it wasn't outside it was inside and you had to log people in and out in the office. And, if they came in late at midnight or past midnight it was trouble. They'd get a real

call down from the captains. Because they had some rooms—in I forget which barracks, it wasn't the one I was in but, they would really, really tell you that you know you weren't allowed to do that. You could stay out till midnight on Saturday I think, Saturday was the night [Laughter]. So, we had a nice PX, a big auditorium, the USO came a couple of times.

Q: Did you see any well-known stars, or...

HF: Not really, these were really—I'll tell you truthfully what happens, I never forgot that. We had a Chaplain, he must have been very religious—I never forgot that—because I came in and I didn't—I didn't think—we just had a walk it was right on, it was called the compound, it was right there, and we had a very small dispensary. One bed and you'd come in and you'd say I'm a troop, do I fit it? Because I had something—one of the shots—I got such a high fever, I got so sick for a couple of days, I couldn't get out of bed and the lieutenant came in and I said I don't know, I feel like I'm going to die, I never felt this sick—because I was always very healthy—so it worked itself out, I think, must have been one of the shots that I got, though you got ahead of all that, we had a physical when we got down there. They'd jab at you and you didn't have nothing to say about it [Laughter]. But, we also had a nice laundry room. We had gas dryers, can hang your things right in, can wash your things. It was very accommodating considering that these things had to be put up, just like that I'm sure. They had a list where you had to, in the office, the company office I forgot what was the name of it, and once you got in there, you had to read when you were assigned to in the barracks duty. Certain hours, after dark, you know when everybody went to bed. They didn't want to see two in a bed and you had to go upstairs and downstairs around with a flashlight and you had to see that, you know, everybody was in, who was in, but you'd know with the log that you had in the office. I think that one of the things they had there was a—I'm trying to remember, I should've written more of this down—oh, in the morning, also in the morning—you only did that guard duty, it was like two hours so if you were there it would start at ten o'clock at night because they would be—well actually no it didn't, it started around five o'clock, six o'clock because they wanted to go into town, they wanted to eat, I don't know why. We had marvelous chow, very good food [Laughter]. I said I don't know—I said this is the best I've ever eaten. But anyway, they did, some of the girls—they asked for volunteers, the men wanted to give up the mess, they would just take the garbage out because it was very heavy, it was very hard for them. So we'd have a couple of men who used to come and they'd take those big cans out because they were very hard to handle and they said they wanted girls for the mess duty. The men weren't going to be there and they volunteered. They were mostly Italian girls and could they cook [Laughter]. I could cook like

that then, but you had restrictions. Like you couldn't always go out if you had that duty and also if you wanted to go home, if you wanted a weekend pass they only allowed so many, so you'd have to do it well in advance, you couldn't just say well I'm going home this weekend they'd say well you can't go because the quota is gone. So, if you were there, you did your two hours and from let's say about from ten o'clock on till five o'clock we used to get—you had to blow the whistle, come out of the little office, blow the whistle in the squad room, and yell hit the deck. And of course it was a lot of girls, you had to get up, even if you didn't want to eat the lieutenant will be in here or the captain [Laughter]. But, it was very strict with things we had, you know, limitations, at the same time it was very nice down in Washington. They had a very nice canteen, jukebox, you could dance, loaded with service people. So I used to go down there a lot and you'd dance. In fact, they used to take buses and they used to take us to other things, we used really go into Maryland and other places that were pretty far, it was a long ride. I gave up on it, when you get there there was all the servicemen and it was a dance but it was so crowded and I used to say it's such a long ride and a long ride back what am I doing on this, I don't need this, I'd rather do this on a weekend, you know, they'd pick it on a Monday night but we did go to other bases, I can't remember the one there in Maryland I don't know but it was a long long ride and that one I gave up on, but they made sure you had things, like to do, you know, and it was very interesting and you could spend time in the cemetery, you just walk down there, sit in and see them have the perpetual guard there. But some of the girls started to sit on the graves because it was very cool, you know it gets very hot in Washington, very humid and all the cherry blossoms were nice but I remember saying to them, I said you know what, people were coming in to visit their dead and there were funerals going on and I said you know girls we're going to hear about this, I'm telling you [Laughter]. Yeah they didn't pay any attention to me [Laughter]. Well they did, they said we don't want anybody going into that cemetery sitting on graves and eating sandwiches, things like that. But that was very interesting. Saw a lot of sightseeing, went around. My mother came down and I took her—they didn't do much of it, there was a tour bus but people weren't sightseeing even around Easter and all when they come for the cherry blossoms. You didn't have that, you know, because it was war time, people didn't have their cars to drive and I don't think there were that many—or there weren't tour buses then.

Q: What kind of duties did you do, what was your assignment and what kind of duties did you do?

HF: Well first off, first off we had to do mess duty but then they wanted volunteers and even between the office work you'd just have to take—you'd have so many days you'd have to get up—

Q: Now what kind of office work did you do?

HF: Oh it's mostly filing and typing and we had the graph type to do the metal. We kept those in a small file, it was very small and they were metal. The offices and, there's something about that—there was this girl from California, she didn't know where any cities were in the United States. She just didn't know and I remember saying to her—I forget her name—I said look, I didn't know that I knew geography that well, but I said to her will you ask me where they are, I said you're doing all these, you're typing on that graph typewriter, you're putting the offices in the file and I said that city is not in that state [Laughter]. So anyway, that worked out though, she'd always ask me after that I'd say. I just, I never thought of myself being good at geography but I just seemed to have to remember those, I just—I don't know they used to come to me. Some of them, actually I really didn't hear of much, you know, but you could look it up. We wrapped effects, you know they'd send some of them that died in the—and it was really very sad you know you'd have a wallet with money in it and there'd be a letter from the commandant and you'd have to mail that. That was the mail room, we had all kinds of tape and all paper, you know, to do it in and that was it that was part of—we had a big like a post office, it was a post office really and we had a sergeant major, a big old fat man and I guess he was ready to retire but I guess he had to stay on since we had the, you know, the war came. I never forgot him, he used to always kid the girls. So that was about it, and you did go, you had your lunch twelve o'clock, you would—oh they gave you a coffee break in there, but I said I don't need any coffee and donuts after—but some of the girls didn't want to get up, they wouldn't go for breakfast. I used to say you don't know what you're missing, the food is good in the morning too and we just had to cross over the road and there wasn't that much traffic. There was a bus that used to come from Washington and, you know, not many people had cars and it was a shopping center in Virginia—we were on the lines there—and they would drive you into—oh there's all the homes there now, I know, because I have a grandson that lives there. Oh, they had a big department store and they had restaurants and things and that was about all. There wasn't a lot of traffic, you know, you didn't have to think oh I can't, you know, I'll never cross here. We did have a wide avenue to cross and they always had a good lunch and all the meals, we got fabulous meals. The fish, I never had such fresh fish in my life and used to come right down from Boston. Really oh, the shrimp cocktails were delicious.

Q: During the summer, did you ever get—the women’s marines had a green seersucker.

HF: Yeah, yeah, I had it—my sister took them when I came home I said I don’t want to see a uniform, that’s it, let me get out. I said I really want to, you know, go back to work. I went back to work and I was working on the keypunch and you did the checks, you know, things, cancels, I did that. But not too long, maybe about a year or so. I met my husband through a girl and she used to say to me have I got a guy for you because I used to say—in fact, there was one, she was a school teacher, we had a couple school teachers in our barracks and they lived in small towns and I guess they probably—they were probably much older than I was, but it was very hard to say, you couldn’t say they looked young but I think they were much older and I think they couldn’t get married there and they figured they’d meet somebody. And so they did, some of them, but I remember the one she said, she said to me look, she said I’m very tired, I don’t feel like going out tonight, you can see this he was a—he was in the navy, like an ensign or something. She said he’s so good looking, I said that’s not worrying about, I said I’ll tell him you’re not ready to go but I’m not going with him. Because she was a, well—I wasn’t like her, I know. So I went—he was, he was real good looking—I went to the you know you come in you can come right into the barracks and then go into that recreation room, you know, we had the juke box, and you could get coke and you could sit there and you could read and I told him, I said she’s not—she’s indisposed, she’s not—she doesn’t want to go out tonight and I went fast before he’d say to me well do you want to go with me and I figured I’m not going [Laughter]. But anyway, now you had to be careful, you could get into a lot of trouble you never know...

Q: Now you mentioned here you gave blood, during the war, also?

HF: Yeah, I gave blood almost every month or six weeks they had—they set up down in Fort Meyers was their.... It wasn’t such a big base and they had like a big, it was a big room, like was even bigger than this and I would go every—and I never had any problems over it—so I always went...

Q: Now how many days a week did you have to work?

HF: We had to work six days a week, Saturdays. And we had no—the only day off we had was Christmas. We worked Thanksgiving but we had a fabulous dinner. Those girls they made those—first time I ever tasted pecan pie and they did those yams, oh did they cook. The food was something. But you know, strangely enough, there were some girls they, I don’t know, I remember one, she was a vegetarian, she didn’t know one meat from the other and she didn’t seem to find anything that great and some of them used to go out and look for hamburgers

and I said you know what you're getting, you're getting horse meat. They didn't have any meat like that, they had no—there weren't a lot of, you know, there weren't fast foods. You'd find a little wooden shack, on a road and I'd say—no they'd want to eat this stuff and they wouldn't—I think that was very strange, I don't know.

Q: Now you didn't have to pay for your meals did you?

HF: No, no, no, everything was, no...

Q: And they had to pay for them...?

HF: We got a, we got a little, I don't know what we got, twenty five dollars a month or something, something like that. It was very little. Would just pay for your fare, you know, it didn't go.... Washington is an expensive area, even, you know, living outside, because when I had my mother come down, we instead of—well they had put up, there were two Martin hotels at that time, you know with the, startup with the glass and the plastic, very.... But I was able to—they had these Southern homes, you know that are upstairs and they had the basement and they have that nice furniture, they're very—I forget what they call those homes but that's where she stayed when she came down because she came for a weekend and I stayed there with her and it was, you know, very reasonable, you didn't have to—but of course you didn't have food or anything, you had to go out to eat. But that was, but that was—I probably covered a great deal, I kept them with a lot of girls, but I ultimately I guess they didn't—well as I say, my husband passed on, he was very sick for a long time.

Q: Now you had this picture in with the things

HF: Yeah, that's my summer uniform, yeah, the white—

Q: Now if you could hold it up Wayne can focus on it there. When—

WC: Can you hold it back—

Q: Back towards you a little bit more—

Q: Otherwise it gets blurry.

Q: Now when was that taken, do you remember?

HF: Oh, gee, all this—most of the pictures were done early on when I was there, I wasn't even there a year.

Q: So somewhere forty three, forty four, somewhere there?

HF: Yeah, because they came around the photographers and I said—you know, I was saying what do we want these for, you know? I didn't even want them, and

this girl—I really liked her, but I lost track of her, I didn't know what happened to her, she was a wild one though, she put the makeup on. She said oh you've got to have the makeup come on Helen come on—well they used to call me Fitz by my last name, they didn't call me Helen. And even though I had all the writings, I have the book here, it was a book I brought with all the—this, they signed all kinds of things [moves book] they did that—. None of these girls though, they were—we had those little green hats, and these were cotton uniforms, they were—

Q: Hold it, if you hold it in front of you Wayne will be able to focus on it.

Q: Now are you in any of those—

HF: No, none—this book was given to us practically when we got there. You know, we bought them, so the other girls were in quite some time. I guess, I don't know, they were in a very early recruitment, but I, I didn't think there were that many. I was really surprised.

Q: Now what color was that hat that—

HF: It was a nice green, the bright green, not the Irish green. A little off and these were striped, they were sear suckered and they gave you the insignia to click on.

Q: Now did you have the green purse that matched it too?

HF: Yeah, I did—well, no I didn't, and you could put a cover on it. I had a brown shoulder bag and you could put the cover on it. Now I know because I went home and you know New York City can be so hot and you'd be so glad you had that uniform and there was another thing, they said you had to wear stockings oh, I said not in Washington, not in New York, it's so hot and you know, air conditioning was not that...[Laughter].

Q: There was a shortage of nylon wasn't there for some time?

HF: We were able to get some down there around Wall Street. They had these little shops, you know hosiery and clothing, Plymouth one of them and I was able to get some stockings, but—

Q: Now did the Marine Corps supply any to you?

HF: No, no, no no

Q: Well you were supposed to wear them

HF: Well they did, they did, they did but they were cotton. Who needed them? Nobody wanted them. But anyhow, I used, I said no, I bought—they had the leg makeup, but they didn't want you to use that, you know? But somehow I got away with it. I don't remember anybody—but every once in a while they'd notice. I'd

put the stuff on and then you're legs get tan, you're down there, you know. Washington's gross in the summer and that barracks? No air conditioning, no fans, oh you used to have to leave the windows open all the time. The only time they close them is when I think it rained. We used to get some good rain down there.

Q: Do you remember how you heard and your reaction when you heard about the death of President Roosevelt?

HF: Oh yeah, oh that was a time. Oh guess what, if you were tall—and I was tall, I think I shrunk a little in my old age. You had nothing to say. You, you, you, you had to march. And we did. There was about four or five of us. I think something I had in there, you could see them, and there was a parade of them coming down Pennsylvania Avenue. Yeah you know that was a time I remember. That was such a shock, everybody went oh, you know. They didn't know what to think about it. Yeah I remember that. At the time, right now I had forgotten about it, even though they did a thing about it last year on the TV, now I remember all that. Yeah, that was some hard time, all the crying and they told us, you can't go home, somebody had to march. They had the servicewomen and if you were tall, they wanted you to march.

Q: When were you discharged?

HF: It's on there, the date, it was Jan—

Q: Oh, ok, January '46

HF: Seven, yes, seven. Yes, I had three years I stayed right till the end.

WC: Now were you anxious to get out, or did you want to stay or?

HF: Well, guess what, I did. But I felt, you know, I really wanted to get married and I wasn't going with anybody and I said I remember this time in the barracks when they came in, you know, they went, they wanted us to go to Pearl Harbor and you know how hard you were going to work there? You know, this was the end, the war was over, you can imagine the wreckage and the problems and the records there. Well, surprisingly, all the women that were teachers, they volunteered to go. And there were so many oh why don't you go Fitz, why don't you go? I said, you know what, I really think I want to get on with my life. I said I'm going to go there, you're going to work very hard. And they probably did. I didn't keep in contact with anyone who went, but they asked for the volunteers. And the bad thing about it you know, in that the war was over and there was no subsistence, you know. Everybody wanted out, not everybody, but there wouldn't be enough, like the crew, the ones that did permanent mess duty, there was going

to be no food coming in, it was going to be very difficult for a number of months before you went out there, you know. And of course they'd have to get—there was, I know because I was down to that other base, I went down to that other big base, that marine base down in—it's further south, oh I can't remember the name of it, that was so very hot down there

Q: Parris Island?

HF: Yeah, oh, what a hot place. I went down there once, I said I don't know how you could stay there, and the sun beating down, but they could wear the hats and all. They had some pants and they would wear, like t-shirts, white, and these hats because it was so hot—sort of like these, but they had green, not the dark green, like an off green and you could push up the brim. I said I could never, this is too hot for me, it was so open, you know. It was like a big air field there too. In between, there were girls who wanted to get to be air traffic controllers and they gave tests on that and they were mostly Californians and you know they didn't like the east coast, they wanted to go back to California, and there was a few of them did. They made it, they didn't need many, and they only needed about two. And I think the two of them that did it, they so—I don't know what happened to them because they were gone, they just left. We started to have the empty beds then when things when they needed somebody there in Pearl Harbor because the men, there was so much death, they lost so many marines—foolishly I think. Some of it. You know, it was such a terrible war with the Japs and they used to be finding them after the war was long over, all those islands. And we got that, right after that, the flag raising, they came right to headquarters and they put the pictures all in the thing, they sent them around [Laughter]. Considering, what do you call it, it wasn't like it is now you know the TV and all, to get it so sudden you know, to see that in Iwo Jima, yeah.

Q: Now when you, after the war, were you able to use the GI bill at all?

HF: You know, I never thought of it, I never bothered, I—what happened, this friend of mine, she lived in the Bronx, she said I want you to meet somebody Helen. Well I went up and she lived in, oh, let me think of it, it was way up in the Bronx around Saint Raymond's cemetery and all, that area. And so there were two, Walsh and my husband, he was Foley, the two of them. And she introduced me and the fellow that I was supposed to go with, Walsh, I didn't go with, and I said my husband I said, he's for me [Laughter]. And we went, he said would you like to go—he belonged to the Knights of Columbus and they had a bar and he said, you know, you can have snacks and a drink and they had a jukebox, like everything, and we started to dance and all, but of course I had to get home, I worked. I said, you know, I have to get home, it's going to take me over an hour,

and I had to take the subway and then the L, way up in 170 something. And I said I really have to leave, you know I can't stay with him, I didn't stay very long. So he said to me—well he had a car, it was an old car, the door the passenger door, it was almost tied on. It was an old, old, Plymouth and it stayed by his home. He lived in a private house in the Bronx, not far. So he said, I'll take you home and I thought, Um, I don't know. I said you know it's a good drive, I said. You got to take—I forget what the name of the two bridges were. So, we went home and he took me to the door and he said goodnight and he said I'll call you and we shook hands and that was history after that [Laughter]. He called me and we went out, we were going all over. I went up—they used to have those dances up in, what it, City Island is. Remember they'd have bands, you know, night clubs.

Q: I'm not from this area, so I don't know...

HF: You don't know?

Q: No.

HF: They used to have kind of night clubs especially if you'd go up and past the Bronx, forget what the name of it was, it was very popular, and they had popular band leaders. And we went to things like that a lot, yeah, and then I...that was it. We married, gee, did I know him a year? It was very fast. So, you know, we weren't that young and he had been in the air force, and he was in the Philippines and he got the malaria and he had a couple attacks after we were married. But, that was it...

Q: Could you show us that picture that you brought over? [photograph moved]
Now how do you think—now when was that photograph taken? About the same as the other, do you think?

HF: Yeah, well, what I did—oh I have to tell you what I did.

WC: Do you want to hold that up and I can focus on it? [photograph moved]

HF: When I came home, I mean this was all forgotten, everything was put away. So when they started the memorial down there— **WC:** Yeah, World War II memorial.

HF: —I said gee, I have pictures. So I went to where I live here, he's still there, the local photographer. And I brought the picture, the small, and I had him make me—I have a big one.

WC: Ok, I got...

HF: Some of my kids have an eight by ten and I don't know what I—I paid about twenty, twenty five dollars and I got them all—

WC: Ok, you can put that down [photograph moved]

HF: —and I said—that was it. And I figured, the best thing was, this was the really uniform, you know. So I have that one, I didn't bother with the white one. But they all have my pictures, my children.

Q: How do you think your time in the service changed or had any effect on your life?

HF: Well I think so, yeah.

Q: In what way?

HF: First of all, I wouldn't have met my husband.

Q: Ah, ok.

HF: Second of all, you know, at this time, you just know a lot about the military. How they work, and you couldn't tell anybody who was interested in enlisting you know how things are, but of course you see enough of it, they show it on TV. But no I never regretted it. **Q:** Ok, well thank you very much for your interview.