

**The National Museum of the Pacific War
(Admiral Nimitz Museum)**

**Center for Pacific War Studies
Fredericksburg, Texas**

Interview with
Violet Marie Hollis Troutman
7642957
Yeoman 1st class
USN

Also present during the interview is her
son Dr. Tom Troutman

May 7, 2005

Violet Marie Hollis Troutman
7642957
Yeoman 1st class
USN

Medal Earned:
American Campaign Ribbon
Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon
World War II Ribbon
Victory Ribbon
Ruptured Duck

Violet Marie Hollis Troutman
7642957
Yeoman 1st class
USN

Original Interview
by
John B. Tombaugh and Peg Van Meter

May 7, 2005

My name is John Tombaugh and Peg Van Meter and I are interviewing

Mrs. Violet Troutman on May 7, 2005.

Mr. Tombaugh

What were your parents names and where were they born?

Mrs. Troutman

My parents were William C. and Cora Martin Hollis and both were born in Logansport, Indiana.

Mr. Tombaugh

When is your birthday?

Mrs. Troutman

March 17, 1923.

Mr. Tombaugh

Do you have any brothers or sisters?

Mrs. Troutman

I have one sister, Ileen. My three brothers are deceased; Elmer, Leroy and Russell.

Mr. Tombaugh

Where did you go to school?

Mrs. Troutman

I started school at Logansport, Indiana until the second grade when my father got sick and we moved to Fulton, Indiana. I attended school there and also at Metea, Indiana and finished school at Twelve Mile, Indiana; I graduated in 1942.

Mr. Tombaugh

What were you doing on December 7, 1941?

Mrs. Troutman

Probably listening to the radio because we could not believe anybody would bomb us.

Mr. Tombaugh

What did you do after you graduated?

Mrs. Troutman

I worked in a factory in Logansport, Indiana and was employed in the diet kitchen of the Logansport Memorial Hospital prior to joining the navy in 1942.

Mr. Tombaugh

Where did you go to sign up for the military?

Mrs. Troutman

I went to Logansport, Indiana. Sometimes a branch of the service would set up on the sidewalk and have information about their

branch. I stopped one day and talked to the WAVE recruiters, and they told me I would be a good candidate and that was all I needed. My two older brothers were in service and I always followed them around and admired them so I wanted to be in the service also.

Mr. Tombaugh

Why did you choose the WAVES?

Mrs. Troutman

Because they were taking women at age 19 and the Army was 20 years old. I was just past 19 years old and I didn't want to wait another year.

Mr. Tombaugh

Where did you have your basic training?

Mrs. Troutman

At Hunter College in the Bronx, New York.

Mr. Tombaugh

Do you remember the dates?

Mrs. Troutman

18 Nov., 1943.

Mr. Tombaugh

What were you living in at basic?

Mrs. Troutman

We were living in college dormitories, eight girls in one room.

Mr. Tombaugh

What was the food like?

Mrs. Troutman

Good, I always thought it was good.

Mr. Tombaugh

How long were you at Hunter College?

Mrs. Troutman

I was there six weeks for USNTSCH (WR).

Mr. Tombaugh

Where did you go next?

Mrs. Troutman

I went to Stillwater, Oklahoma for USNTSCH (Yeoman School). It was a college town and was just like being a secretary working in a office.

Mr. Tombaugh

What was the living quarters like?

Mrs. Troutman

It was dormitories again but we had bunk beds.

Mr. Tombaugh

What was the food like?

Mrs. Troutman

I always thought the food was good; somebody else cooking is always good. At that time I wasn't doing much cooking but I thought we were well fed.

Mr. Tombaugh

During basic and schooling you made friends. Have you kept in touch with them over the years?

Mrs. Troutman

I did for a while but then it kind of slowed up and to my regret two of the girls I was closest to haven't corresponded for some time.

Mr. Tombaugh

After schooling where did you go to next?

Mrs. Troutman

I then went to the US Navy Proving Grounds at Dahlgren, Virginia. There were a lot of Navy personnel in that area. I worked in the personnel office and kept track of where people were at and what they were doing.

Mr. Tombaugh

Do you recall the people you worked with there?

Mrs. Troutman

I can't remember their names but I can still see them.

Mr. Tombaugh

Where you in wood barracks?

Mrs. Troutman

In Virginia they were new student dormitories and some of them were not finished.

Mr. Tombaugh

What did you do on off time?

Mrs. Troutman

We would go into town and eat at a restaurant and take in a movie. We did go on sightseeing trips in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Tombaugh

Did you go to the USO clubs?

Mrs. Troutman

Not really too much.

Mr. Tombaugh

Did you stay in Virginia for the rest of your time or did you go anywhere else?

Mrs. Troutman

It was in Virginia where I applied to go to Hawaii and I was chosen to go. I was assigned to the US Naval Supply Center, Pearl Harbor, T.H.

Mr. Tombaugh

Did you go into the cities and listen to the bands?

Mrs. Troutman

Yes, we also had entertainment on the base and sometimes we would still go into town.

Where I worked was in a large office with both sailors and waves and somebody would have a car or get transportation and we could drive around or go into town.

I saw the ships that were damaged.

The beaches are what sticks in my mind and I never learned how to swim.

Mr. Tombaugh

What were you staying in while at Hawaii?

Mrs. Troutman

It used to be dormitories. So we had to have transportation to get to the base it was quite a distance.

Mr. Tombaugh

How did you get to Hawaii?

Mrs. Troutman

By ship both ways but I can't remember the name of them but I do remember being seasick for three days. I always got carsick and on the ship it was even worse.

Mr. Tombaugh

Did you see any Hollywood celebrities?

Mrs. Troutman

Yes, the two I recall were comedian Red Skelton and singer Vaughn Monroe.

I never felt sorry for myself because my brothers were in worse places, one was in Italy and the other in Philippines.

Mr. Tombaugh

Did you volunteer for bonds to be taken out of your paycheck?

Mrs. Troutman

Yes, my parents had them for me when I got home. They had moved again while I was in the service. My parents were supportive of my decision and my father told me some things of what to expect.

Mr. Tombaugh

When did you get out of the service?

Mrs. Troutman

On July 15, 1946 at Great Lakes in Illinois.

Mr. Tombaugh

Where did you meet your husband?

Mrs. Troutman

I met him at the Kewanna Church of Christ, Kewanna, Indiana.

Mr. Tombaugh

When were you married?

Mrs. Troutman

On March 16, 1947 I married Donald Wyle Troutman. He died on May 9, 1996.

He served in the South Pacific and he was a marine with rank of Staff Sgt. with the 976th.

Mr. Tombaugh

How many children do you have?

Mrs. Troutman

Just one, our son Tom.

Mr. Tombaugh

What kind of work did you do after you got out of service?

Mrs. Troutman

I worked for RBM Mfg. Co. in Logansport, Indiana.

Mr. Tombaugh

Do you have any memories you would like to share with us?

Mrs. Troutman

I was so eager to join and then we started to get our shots in basic training in New York. One day, now you had to get up and go out and muster because you didn't lay in your bunk saying you were sick. You had to get up and get dressed and be at roll call and I was so sick I came back into the dormitory and I said: "Wish to God I had stayed home." With the other girls all around and that was the only time. After I got over that they couldn't have gotten rid of me. I enjoyed the service. That one time was bad, as was the

seasickness.

Now we were all working and the officers came and announced that Japan had surrendered and explained about the bomb. Well what every we were working on in that office just flew into the air and some of the girls were dancing on the desk tops and we had a celebration in that office.

It wasn't very long after that that we left Hawaii to come back to the states.

Mr. Tombaugh

When you got to California how did you come back home?

Mrs. Troutman

By train to Logansport; I got on a train that went north to Kewanna, Indiana.

Mr. Tombaugh

When you were going to the west coast do you remember the train stops and the ladies coming and collecting your mail and mail it for you?

Mrs. Troutman

Yes, they always had coffee and donuts and not only in train stations but also in bus stations.

Mr. Tombaugh

Do you remember the POW's working in the fields?

Mrs. Troutman

It kind of rings a bell. In Hawaii I remember the pineapple fields and people working but don't know if they were POW's.

Mr. Tombaugh

Did you notice any changes when you came home?

Mrs. Troutman

Not really. There were a lot of things you couldn't get.

Mr. Tombaugh

Let's put in here what you have of your husband's military.

Mrs. Troutman

He was born in Rochester, Indiana on September 23, 1918.
I will let my son give you that information.

Mr. Tombaugh

When did he go into the service?

Mr. Tom Troutman

My father went into the service on October 14, 1942 and was discharged 29 Nov, 1945.

He was the oldest of three children and graduated from high

school in 1936. His father had died and he stayed home to run the farm while his younger brother went to college.

Mr. Tombaugh

Do you have his service number?

Mr. Tom Troutman

It's 468634.

Mr. Tombaugh

What did he do in the service?

Mr. Tom Troutman

He was in communications and listed as Telephone Electrician.

Mr. Tombaugh

He wasn't a combat marine. He was what you call a garrison unit.

Mr. Tom Troutman

He would always go in after the main party had already had landed.

Mr. Tombaugh

Do you know how long he was in the Pacific?

Mr. Tom Troutman

He went over on January 3, 1944 and was there until April 2, 1945.

He had come home on leave and was back in San Diego, California preparing to go to Japan for the invasion there when the war ended.

He was in Guam and Guadalcanal.

I have a picture of my father and his buddy at a wash station. They are shirtless and what looks to be behind them is a devastated beach area with palm trees and black sand. I would love to know where this picture was taken and what he was doing.

Here is a picture of my mother going into the service and coming out of service. She went in as a young girl and came out a mature woman.

-END-

7.5 hours