



WOMEN VETERANS HISTORICAL PROJECT

Newsletter

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WVHP Annual Luncheon

The Women Veterans Historical Project celebrated its 7th annual luncheon on Saturday, November 6, 2004. More than 100 veterans attended the lunch, which was held in the Cone Ballroom at UNCG. We were thrilled to see so many of you.

Emily Yellin, author of *Our Mothers' War: American Women at Home and at the Front during World War II*, spoke about women who served in industry, at



Emily Yellin signs a copy of her book, *Our Mothers' War*.

home, and in the military.

This year's luncheon will be held on Saturday, November 5. Look for your invitations and all of the details in early September!

Our entertainment this year will be a short performance of *Star Spangled Girls*. Written and produced by Brenda Schleunes, this play is based on the oral histories in the Women Veterans Historical Collection. The cast will give you a preview at the luncheon, and the premiere of the play will be held the following weekend in downtown Greensboro. We will give you more details as soon as we have them.

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, November 5, 2005**. We hope to see there!

Our Newest Veteran!

We'd like to welcome Mrs. Sheila Smith to the Women Veterans Historical Project! Mrs. Smith, who served in the British Royal Air Force (RAF) during World War II, is our most recent interviewee. She sat down with Hermann Trojanowski in January 2005 to talk about her life in England and her work as a balloon barrage operator during the war.

Mrs. Smith joined the RAF in 1942, and after three weeks of training was sent to London. Living in a



Nippon hut encaged with wire mesh, Mrs. Smith worked with a crew of eight women to raise barrage balloons during

German air raids.

Later in the war, Mrs. Smith organized train transportation for British troops near Oxford.

Mrs. Smith became a model for fashion designer Hardy Amies after the war, and enjoyed a successful modeling career. She married an American in the early 1950s and eventually moved with him to the United States.

We are very happy to have the Sheila K. Smith Collection and to have Mrs. Smith as part of the project.

Women Veterans Historical Project Fund

In late 2004, University Archives created the Women Veterans Historical Project Fund and launched a fundraising campaign. All money raised will go toward more oral history interviews. Thank you all for your generous and constant support for this project.

* * Reminders * *

Are you moving to a new home? Do you know of any who will be changing their address? Please let us know so that we can update our address list and make sure that our invitations go to the right place.

Have you found items related to your service that you would like to donate? We are always happy to add to your collection.

Please contact **Beth Carmichael at (336) 334-4045** with any changes, donations, or questions.

Highlights and Updates

We continue to add new collections and to participate in various projects that highlight women in the military. Here are just a few of the things that we are working on:

- *Women and War: Woman's College (UNCG) during World War II*, an exhibit in honor of the 60th anniversary of the end of the war will be on display in the lobby of the library until November 18, 2005.
- Mrs. Louise Nash Dorsett, a member of the WAVES and Class of 1934, was interviewed for *UNCG Today*, the college's local television program
- We've added 15 new collections since the 2004 luncheon, including a large collection of WASP letters.
- We've been working very closely with Brenda Schleunes on her play about women in the military



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