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### Private Lorraine J. Turnbull

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Private Lorraine J. Turnbull

United States Marine Corps Women's Reserve

Alyse Beauchemin and Hailey Hammick

HIS361-A: Gender and World War II

Professor Judy Barrett Litoff

December 5, 2019

## **Table of Contents**

<b>Part I: Historical Setting and Context.....</b>	<b>Pg. 2</b>
<b>Part II: Letters.....</b>	<b>Pg. 8</b>
<b>Part III: Conclusion.....</b>	<b>Pg. 12</b>
<b>Part IV: Bibliography.....</b>	<b>Pg. 17</b>
<b>Part V: Appendix.....</b>	<b>Pg. 21</b>

## Part I: Historical Setting and Context

Lorraine Jane Turnbull was born on July 12, 1923 in Edgerton Dane, Wisconsin to Roland Alexander Turnbull, a partner in the J.B. Turnbull and Son Flour and Feed Mill (along with his own father), and Inez Adeline Lenora Strommen. Lorraine had two siblings, Jean Evelyn and John Martin. Jean Evelyn attended a technical college and later became a medical assistant. John Martin attended the University of Wisconsin, enlisted in the Army during the Korean war, attended the University of Minnesota, and eventually became a veterinarian.<sup>1</sup> Similar to her siblings, Lorraine had a passion for learning.

Lorraine was an honor student at Cambridge High School and graduated in 1941. She then went on to attend Carroll College for two years, then joined the Marine Corps Women's Reserve (MCWR) on October 1, 1943.<sup>2</sup> She attended boot camp at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, which was one of the biggest Marine bases in the world with “thousands of acres” of land at the disposal of the Marines.<sup>3</sup> It contained barracks, classrooms, three mess halls, a post exchange, a post office, chapel, uniform shop, laundry, beauty parlor, theatre, and service club. Daily changing movies kept the recruits entertained as well as dances, amateur theatricals, bowling alleys, a piano, a fountain room, and a library. For exercise outdoors, sailing, canoeing, tennis, badminton, and volleyball were made available.

In terms of job-related facilities, a Specialists Schools Detachment was also present on the grounds which trained Marines for Motor Transport jobs, Paymaster jobs, Message Center jobs,

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<sup>1</sup> Lorraine J Robinson, *Norwegian American Saga* (Bloomington: Xlibris Printing, 2012), 75-78.

<sup>2</sup> N/A, “Lorraine Turnbull Wed at Cambridge,” *Janesville Daily Gazette* (Janesville, Wisconsin), November 7, 1946.

<sup>3</sup> US Marine Corps, “U.S. Marine Corps, Women’s Reserve: Camp Lejeune, N.C”, *World War Regimental Histories* 82 (1943): 9, accessed November 5, 2019.

the Quartermaster School of Administration, Quartermaster School of Aviation Supplies and Material, and finally the Cooks and Bakers School. Additionally, there was a Casual Company, where enlisted personnel who have completed training awaited duty assignment.<sup>4</sup>

The Women's Reserve School at Camp Lejeune was set aside for indoctrination, training, and specialized training. The Recruit Depot was where “boots” or enlisted personnel had a six-week indoctrination course which included drill, physical training, study of military customs and courtesies, Marine Corps organization and administration, Navy and Marine History, naval law, weapons, chemical warfare, map-reading, infantry weapons demonstrations and combat techniques, war dog detachment, camouflage school, and Paramarine School.<sup>5</sup> Private Turnbull was assigned to mess duty at Lejeune as a butcher’s assistant. Turnbull “spent thirty-eight of her first forty-four days in the Corps inside a mess hall.” She woke up at 4:30 am for duty at 5:30 am, served meals three times a day, and stayed after each shift to clean up. She was quoted saying “I need a couple of toothpicks to hold my eyes open...I wear boondockers when I’m on duty. By the end of the day I swear they both weigh a ton,” expressing how exhausting her relatively menial assignment could become.<sup>6</sup>

Once she completed her basic training at Camp Lejeune, Turnbull was assigned as an aviation machinist mate at the Naval Air Training Center in Norman, Oklahoma starting on April 2, 1944. Turnbull was quoted saying that she “loved” her work. She started work every day at

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<sup>4</sup> US Marine Corps, 12.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Peter A. Soderbergh, *Women Marines: The World War II Era* (Westport: Praeger, 1992), 55-56.

7:30am as a crew chief on an SNJ Texan airplane, took care of it, inspected it each day, and kept it in “going” condition for any moment a pilot would need to fly.<sup>7</sup>

In September of 1944, she was sent to the assembly and repair shops at the Marine Corps Air Station in Cherry Point, N.C., which is only 30 miles from Camp Lejeune.<sup>8</sup> She was assigned to the “fool mess hall” again, much to her chagrin.<sup>9</sup> At Cherry Point, the first female Marines qualified for flight pay, due to their expert work on aircraft.<sup>10</sup> This was a major accomplishment for women in the Marines, and while Turnbull did not qualify for flight pay, she was selected to be one of 500 out of 8,000 women in aviation to go to the Marine Corps Air Station in Ewa, Hawaii. Her selection occurred in September of 1943.<sup>11</sup>

Before leaving for special training in California in October of 1943, Turnbull took an unsanctioned trip to Washington D.C. using a weekend pass. She wrote to her mother:

“This weekend you will probably be surprised to hear I was in Washington D.C. When I came home from work...I learned of a fellow who was driving up there so Allen [a girl she worked with] and I took advantage of it...[when in DC] We were to meet this marine at 1 o’clock, but he didn’t show up until almost 9 o’clock. Were we worried or were we! In the first place, we weren’t supposed to be in D.C. There is a 50 mile limit for weekends around here. Anything over you have to have a 71 or 62 hr pass so you can produce papers when a S.P. or M.P. meets you. Secondly,

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<sup>7</sup> Peter A. Soderbergh, *Women Marines: The World War II Era* (Westport: Praeger, 1992), 129.

<sup>8</sup> Judy Barrett Litoff and David C. Smith, *We’re in this War Too: World War II Letters from American Women in Uniform* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1994), 51.

<sup>9</sup> Peter A. Soderbergh, *Women Marines: The World War II Era* (Westport: Praeger, 1992), 55.

<sup>10</sup> N/A, “14 Women Marines Now Rate Flight Pay.” *New York Times* (New York, New York), December 25, 1944.

<sup>11</sup> Barrett Litoff, 218.

we were almost broke and couldn't have bought train tickets back to C.P ...We missed morning muster.”<sup>12</sup>

After her two weeks of training in California were completed, she was shipped out to Ewa, Hawaii in February 1945. As soon as she got there, she began working on planes. In November of 1945, she returned home.<sup>13</sup> Turnbull attended the University of Wisconsin following the war. It is not clear how long she attended, what she studied, or if she finished her higher education, but on October 26, 1946 she married Gordon Lee Robinson, a fellow Marine who served three years in the Pacific Theater.<sup>14</sup> Both the bride and the groom were stationed at Camp Lejeune at the same time and did simultaneous duty in California and Hawaii together. However, they did not meet until their return home to Wisconsin. They settled down in Sylvan Mounds, Lake Ripley and had two daughters, Dagne Ellen Robinson and Marilee Jane Robinson in 1950 and 1952, respectively.<sup>15</sup> Turnbull later divorced Gordon Robinson, and married Leonard Theodore Wilcken in 1972. After divorcing Wilcken, she was married to Harry Albert Taylor 1983 until his death in 1987. She is survived by three grandchildren and one great grandchild.<sup>16</sup> Those grandchildren had the opportunity to listen to their grandmother's war stories and learn about a little-known branch of the Marine Corps that began in 1941.

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<sup>12</sup> Lorraine Turnbull to Inez Turnbull, 10 October 1944, letter folder 8, *Letters by Women During WWII*: Lorraine Turnbull Papers, Bryant University Archives, Smithfield, Rhode Island.

<sup>13</sup> N/A, “Woman Marine Granted Release, Served in Hawaii,” *Wisconsin State Journal* (Madison, Wisconsin), November 30, 1945.

<sup>14</sup> N/A, “Lorraine Turnbull Wed at Cambridge,” *Janesville Daily Gazette* (Janesville, Wisconsin), November 7, 1946.

<sup>15</sup> N/A, “Turnbull-Robinson,” *Wisconsin State Journal* (Madison, Wisconsin), September 20, 1946.

<sup>16</sup> Lorraine J Robinson, *Norwegian American Saga* (Bloomington: Xlibris Printing, 2012), 60-93.

Early in 1941, Congresswoman Edith Nourse Rogers made clear that she would introduce legislation to form military women's corps. Public Law 77-773 created MCWR and SPARS. With help from Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, the Navy Bill, Public Law 689, was signed on 30 July 1942, establishing the Navy Women's Reserve (WAVES). The same law authorized a Marine Corps Women's Reserve (MCWR) the same year. On October 31, 1942, Secretary of the Navy, Frank Knox authorized the Marine Corps to create a women's reserve and to accept women applicants for commissions and enlistments. Exactly a week later, November 7, 1942, approval was given by the Commandant Lieutenant General Thomas Holcomb for the formation of Marine Corps Women's Reserve. The commissioning of Major Ruth Cheney Streeter as Director was held on January 29, 1943. Her goal for the newly formed reserve was to have 18,000 enlisted and 1,000 officer personnel in the MCWR.<sup>17</sup>

When women signed up to enlist in the Marine Corps Women's Reserve, an individual neuropsychiatric interview was part of the routine entrance medical examination for boot camp. The study was conducted to find reasons outside of patriotism for why women joined the reserve. According to the study results, most women still had patriotic answers like they "weren't doing enough" or "they wanted the war to be over." Therefore, two categories of women were established: "those who were attracted to the service (which could include patriotism)" and "those who [...] were repelled from civil life by various circumstances." It was found that 78% of applicants to the MCWR were attracted to the service in some way, shape, or form. "Patriotism was, of course, a dominant motivating factor in practically all recruits," though it varied in intensity and depth. Despite the efforts to go beyond this motive in the investigation, nine percent could

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<sup>17</sup> Laurie Scrivener, "U.S Military Women in World War II: The SPAR, WAC, WAVES, WASP, and Women Marines in U.S. Government Publications", *Journal of Government Information* 26, no. 4 (1999): 0-23, accessed November 5, 2019,



give no other reasons for volunteering. The psychiatrist conducting the interviews speculated that the study was completed far too fast to get adequate results.<sup>18</sup>

More than half of all WRs were engaged in clerical work, and others held traditionally feminine jobs such as cooks and bakers, laundresses, librarians, and clerks in post exchanges. But new ground was broken as women worked as radio operators, parachute riggers, motor transport drivers, aerial gunnery instructors, link trainer instructors, control tower operators, motion picture technicians, automotive mechanics, and many other assignments. Because many women had little work experience or background in the types of jobs available to them as Women Reservists (WR)s, job assignment was heavily determined on a “women's interest” which was derived from an interview. Jobs were separated into four different classes: “Jobs in which women are better, are more efficient than men,” “jobs in which women are as good as men, and replace men on a one-to-one basis,” “jobs in which women are not as good as men, but can be used effectively when the need is great, such as wartime,” and “jobs in which women cannot or should not be used at all.”<sup>19</sup> Eventually, the MCWR had women working in all these categories except combat and heavy lifting.

In order to apply to be a Marine, women had to be Caucasian, although on August 2, 1943 a Native American woman was inducted into reserve. African American women were strictly not allowed to become part of the Marines. Women also had to meet rather stringent qualifications, which prescribed not only their age, education, and state of health, but their marital status as well. At the start, the eligibility requirements were similar for both officers and

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<sup>18</sup> Philip Solomon, Meyer Brown, and M.R. Jones. “Neuropsychiatry in the U S Marine Corps Women’s Reserve: II An Analysis of Motivations for Entering Military Service.” *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry* 14 (1944): 406–10.

<sup>19</sup> Jeanne M. Holm, *In Defense of a Nation: Service Women in WWII* (St. Petersburg: Vandamere Press, 1998), 86.

enlisted women: United States citizenship; not married to a Marine; either single or married but with no children under 18; height not less than 60 inches; weight not less than 95 pounds; and “good vision and teeth.” Women in the reserves also had to face the problem of sexism which will be further explored in this paper. Unofficial nicknames for the women’s reserve cropped up such as “Femarines, WAMS, BAMS, and Women's Leatherneck-Aides.” Additionally, WRs also had to be taught judo for self-protection when inducted into the Marine Corps Women’s Reserve.<sup>20</sup>

September 1, 1945 was set as the original termination date set for Women’s Reserve. All WR units were to be disbanded, however, the date was pushed back to September. 2, 1945--VJ Day. Plans were made for gradual demobilization of Women’s Reserve. On June 12, 1948, the Women’s Armed Services Integration Act passed, and women could officially become a part of the regular Marines. On November 4, 1948, the first group of three wartime WR officers were proudly sworn into the regular Marine Corps.<sup>21</sup>

## **Part II: Letters**

Lorraine Turnbull may have been only one of the five hundred WR aviation mechanics to serve in Hawaii<sup>22</sup>, but her experience during WWII was illustrative of the wartime experience of six million other women in the US with war jobs.<sup>23</sup> During WWII, the need for battle-ready men stimulated changing gender roles in the United States by prompting women to undertake

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<sup>20</sup> Holm, 79.

<sup>21</sup> Pat Meid, *Marine Corps Women’s Reserve in World War II* (Washington D.C.: Historic Branch, G-3 Division, U.S. Marine Corps, 1968), 92-94.

<sup>22</sup> Lorraine Turnbull to Inez Turnbull, 1 October 1944, letter folder 8, *Letters by Women During WWII*: Lorraine Turnbull Papers, Bryant University Archives, Smithfield, Rhode Island.

<sup>23</sup> Laurie Scrivener, “U.S Military Women in World War II: The SPAR, WAC, WAVES, WASP, and Women Marines in U.S. Government Publications”, *Journal of Government Information* 26, no. 4 (1999): 0-23, accessed November 5, 2019

traditionally masculine wartime jobs. Through this opportunity, Turnbull joined the Marine Corps Women Reserve on October 1, 1943, eventually becoming an aviation mechanic.<sup>24</sup> Private Turnbull described her wartime experience by writing over seven-hundred pages of letters to her mother, Inez Turnbull, her sister, Jean Turnbull, and her brother John Turnbull. In these letters, Lorraine Turnbull describes many broad topics such as sexism in the Marines, letter writing and her relationship with others, and how the war impacted her.

Like other women entering the military for the first time, Lorraine Turnbull faced many challenges and new experiences adjusting to the Marine life, most of which were rooted in sexism. During World War II, 262,700 more women served in the armed forces compared to World War I, but gender-based discrimination still followed them despite the changing times.<sup>25</sup> Turnbull herself greatly experienced this as an aviation mechanic, a job “in which women are not as good as men” according to the Marine Corp “job appropriateness” classifications of the time.<sup>26</sup> Turnbull recalled in a letter that many of her male aviation instructors would “smack down” the grades of women taking her mechanical course to promote the grades of male students. Additionally, the instructors did not believe women should be undertaking mechanical work.<sup>27</sup> Despite this, Turnbull excelled in her studies and became one of the 1,000 WRs selected for duty in Hawaii<sup>28</sup> after undertaking advanced training in Norman Oklahoma in April of 1944. By the end of the war, 7.7% of women enlisted in the Marines were involved in mechanical work.<sup>29</sup>

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<sup>24</sup> Lorraine Turnbull to Inez Turnbull, 1 October 1944, letter folder 8, *Letters by Women During WWII*: Lorraine Turnbull Papers, Bryant University Archives, Smithfield, Rhode Island.

<sup>25</sup> Scrivener, n.p.

<sup>26</sup> Pat Meid, *Marine Corps Women's Reserve in World War II* (Washington D.C.: Historic Branch, G-3 Division, U.S. Marine Corps, 1968) 34.

<sup>27</sup> Lorraine Turnbull to family, 19 March 1944.

<sup>28</sup> Judy Barrett Litoff and David C. Smith, *We're in this War Too: World War II Letters from American Women in Uniform* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1994), 218.

<sup>29</sup> Meid, 29.

Drill instruction and mess duty were also expected to be difficult tasks for women to undertake, but once again, many male Marines were proven wrong. Turnbull did not much care for the drill and marching required of her, writing that it made her work feel like “slave labor,”<sup>30</sup> but Marine drill instructors overall were “surprised” with the performance of women. They found women were able to learn and execute close-order drill and retain its “inherent discipline” faster than the men,<sup>31</sup> despite their resentment towards women, which felt “more than a battalion of Japanese troops” according to one member of the Women's Reserve.<sup>32</sup>

Mess duty, like mechanical work, was listed in the MCWR job classification as “skilled work” that women should only undertake “when the need is great.”<sup>33</sup> Despite this statement, women excelled in the mess hall, yet resented the dull, menial environment of the work. Lorraine Turnbull spent thirty-eight out of her first forty-four days in the Marine Corps working in a mess hall, beginning work at 5:30am in the morning.<sup>34</sup> In a letter she wrote to her sister Jean, she remarked that the work “wasn’t too hard,” but just exhausting.<sup>35</sup> Marine General Holland M. Smith once argued that “America’s ‘womanpower’” was the nation’s “greatest untapped potential,” and indeed it was during WWII.<sup>36</sup> One of the greatest oversights ultimately of the Marine Corps leadership during WWII was the failure to recognize the capabilities of female recruits and treat them with the utmost dignity during the war.

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<sup>30</sup> Lorraine Turnbull to family, 30 September 1944.

<sup>31</sup> Meid, 59.

<sup>32</sup> Jeanne M. Holm, *In Defense of a Nation: Service Women in WWII* (St. Petersburg: Vandamere Press, 1998), 82.

<sup>33</sup> Meid, 35.

<sup>34</sup> Peter A. Soderbergh, *Women Marines: The World War II Era* (Westport: Praeger, 1992), 55.

<sup>35</sup> Lorraine Turnbull to Jean Turnbull, 15 February 1944.

<sup>36</sup> Erika S. Nau, “The Spirit of Molly Marine,” Professor Litoff’s Google Drive folder for Women and WWII (1990): 0-4, accessed November 5, 2019.

Despite the Corps viewing WRs as “better and more efficient than men” at clerical work,<sup>37</sup> many Marine bases found themselves overrun with women assigned to office work because it was assumed that it would take two women to complete the work of the one man they were replacing.<sup>38</sup> Heavy lifting and combat was strictly forbidden for WRs under the impression that women were not tough enough for those roles. Ironically, the first commanding officer of the MCWR, Major Hurst, feared “the indication that the [female] recruits might be tougher [than males]” when the first two applicants to the Women's Reserve program weighed-in at one-hundred and forty-five pounds each. Only after the assumption was made that the average female weight would not be that high, did the men relax knowing they would not have to compete for their jobs.<sup>39</sup> Discrimination towards women in the Marine Corps further extended to unflattering unofficial nick-names and derogatory comments, yet in the face of all the sexist adversity Lorraine Turnbull endured, she still wrote in a letter just before she graduated training in 1944 that the Marine Corps was “the best organization in the world.” Continuing, she wrote that she “was proud to be a part of it,” even if she was eventually assigned to clerical work, which she described as “the worst deal in the world,” that she could be given.<sup>40</sup>

Letter writing like this was a common means of staying connected to loved ones for women (and men) serving in the Marines. Lorraine Turnbull usually wrote to either her mother, brother, grandparents, or sister at least once a week or when she had time. In a letter to her sister, Turnbull explained that between classes and studying, the WR did not “leave us enough time to learn M.C. stands for Marine Corps,” let alone eating normal meals or writing letters.<sup>41</sup> For this reason,

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<sup>37</sup> Meid, 35.

<sup>38</sup> Holm, 85.

<sup>39</sup> N/A, “Women Marines Face Extra Drills,” *New York Times* (New York, New York), March 13, 1943.

<sup>40</sup> Soderbergh, 53.

<sup>41</sup> Lorraine Turnbull to Jean Turnbull, January 1944.

Turnbull revealed that a “favorite saying,” amongst the other WRs was, “Letters! When the hell do you find time to write’em?”<sup>42</sup> In letters to her mother, Turnbull explained that she was so backlogged with letters, she did not predict she would reply back to many people<sup>43</sup> and that she “would resort to using v-mail,” a lighter and more efficient way to send mail, in the future.<sup>44</sup> Turnbull ended up not using v-mail as much as she anticipated between her war letter writing years of 1943, 1944, and 1945 and mostly wrote on blank paper, or stationary from Camp Lejeune, the air station at Cherry Point, or general USMC stationary. Very rarely were her letters hand typed due to the fact she was often hurried to write them, usually at the end of the day.

Throughout the war, letter exchanges between families, friends, and couples separated by the war became a powerful tool to maintain relationships. Besides corresponding with her family, Lorraine Turnbull wrote to a “mail friend” she knew before joining the Marines, named Ward “Wardie” Pringle. Pringle was an Army Lieutenant who was able to attain a two-day pass to visit Turnbull when she was stationed at Camp Lejeune. During that time, the pair walked, canoed, and discussed the future. They had intended on continuing their discussion after the war, but Pringle was tragically killed overseas in March of 1944.<sup>45</sup> Letter-writing became one of the few ways Turnbull could express her sorrow, writing to her mother that she would “give anything” to allow Pringle to be alive again.<sup>46</sup> Unfortunately, Turnbull’s loss of someone close to her was not unique among Americans during WWII. In fact, after the restriction against WRs marrying fellow male Marines was lifted, many women reservists became involved with fellow Marines, and some, like Pringle, did not survive the war. Nevertheless, letter writing was an important morale booster for

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<sup>42</sup> Lorraine Turnbull to Jean Turnbull, 17 December 1943.

<sup>43</sup> Lorraine Turnbull to Inez Turnbull. 19 January 1944.

<sup>44</sup> Lorraine Turnbull to Inez Turnbull. 25 August 1945.

<sup>45</sup> Soderbergh, 85.

<sup>46</sup> Lorraine Turnbull to Inez Turnbull. 25 August 1945.

war-separated relationships and the practice was encouraged by the military, even if those involved in the war effort saw very little free time to write.

Using Lorraine Turnbull's WWII letters, historians have a greater perspective of the impact of the war on American women, especially those who served in the military. Normally, Turnbull wrote anywhere from a paragraph to two or three pages per letter depending on how much time she had to write. For unclarified reasons, nearly all her 700 pages of letters have survived, and for additional unknown reasons she would always sign her name "Bub" or "Bubbie." But through her letters, it is understood that similar to other women in her position, Turnbull experienced an expanded world of opportunity, an avenue to participate in the war effort by doing something that was unconventionally for a women at the time, and greater respect for the military, or in Turnbull's case, the Marines.

By joining the Marine Corp Women's Reserve, women originally had access to more than thirty types of assignments, but by the end of the war, that number grew to 200.<sup>47</sup> Private Lorraine Turnbull was assigned as an Aviation machinist's mate around February of 1944 and proceed to undergo twenty-one weeks of training in Norman, Oklahoma. According to Turnbull in an excited letter to her mother, the course she was taking in Norman was worth "between \$5,000 and \$6,000" and would take up to two years to complete outside the military.<sup>48</sup> Through her training, she discovered her passion for aviation, writing that after the war, she would like to take aeronautical courses, work for South American Airlines as a mechanic, and get her pilot's license. The war gave Turnbull this opportunity to explore her passion for aviation.

Additionally, Private Turnbull wrote in the same letter that she will be "very restless" and "never able to settle down" when she finally returned home and would have to adjust to civilian

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<sup>47</sup> Meid, 93.

<sup>48</sup> Lorraine Turnbull to family. March 1944.

life.<sup>49</sup> During her time in the Marines, Turnbull's eyes were opened to different jobs that were available. Additionally, she had the opportunity to visit different parts of the country like California, Hawaii, Oklahoma, Washington D.C.<sup>50</sup> she normally wouldn't have much access to and had the opportunity to meet other women interested in aviation mechanic. During the war, Turnbull undertook specialized training that was "restricted" to military personnel like canine training, camouflage training,<sup>51</sup>judo,<sup>52</sup> but most importantly, she had the opportunity to help demonstrate that women had the capability of doing important military work only men were once thought capable of doing.<sup>53</sup> Once Turnbull returned home from service she explained to a newspaper journalist that being in the Marines was "the greatest experience in the world," and one she "wouldn't have missed for anything." Continuing, she said that if the need arose again for her mechanical skills, she would "gladly do the same thing all over again" to serve the Marine Corps and her country.<sup>54</sup>

### **Part III: Conclusion**

After four years of war service, 19,000 recruits, and over 200 different assignments undertaken, the war office of MCWR closed on June 15, 1946.<sup>55</sup> Lorraine Turnbull returned home in November of 1945. The reason it took her three months after the war ended was because she had to finish her assigned tour of duty amidst the demobilization of the MCWR. The day after WWII was finally over for the US, Turnbull wrote a letter to her family remarking "this is

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<sup>49</sup> Lorraine Turnbull to Inez Turnbull. 25 August 1945.

<sup>50</sup> Lorraine Turnbull to Inez Turnbull. 10 October 1944.

<sup>51</sup> Ibid.

<sup>52</sup> N/A, "Toughening Up the Women Marines," *New York Times* (New York, New York), June 20, 1943.

<sup>53</sup> Lorraine Turnbull to family. January 1944.

<sup>54</sup> N/A, "Woman Marine Granted Release, Served in Hawaii," *Wisconsin State Journal* (Madison, Wisconsin), November 30, 1945.

<sup>55</sup> Holm, 93.



it” symbolizing that she knew her time with the Marines was ending. However, she did explain that she was thankful that there would not have to be an invasion of Japan and “more lives lost.” Ultimately, Turnbull was able to sleep-in until noon that day, but had to return to work the next day, “as if nothing had happened.”<sup>56</sup> Her work in Hawaii continued until November of that year.

To symbolize the patriotism and hard work of the WRs during the war, a statue was erected in on a small square on Canal Street at Elk Avenue in New Orleans. The statue is titled “Molly Marine” and to date, it is the only monument commemorating the service of the thousands of women serving in a branch of the armed services who did not “have a nick-name,” like SPARS, or WAVES, and did not “need one,” because, “they are Marines,” according to General Holcomb of the Marine Corps, nothing less.<sup>57</sup> But perhaps the best quote to encapsulate the legacy of the MCWR during WWII is this paragraph written by an unknown author just after the war ended:

**“It is rumored that when it was announced that women were going to be enlisted in the Marine Corps, the air was colored with profanity in the language of every nation as the members of the old Corps gathered to discuss this earth-shattering calamity. It is entirely probable that the wailing and moaning which went on that day amongst the old Marines was never equaled-never, that is, until it was announced that the women Marines were going home. Then a complete reversal of attitude, many of those same Marines declared that the women in their offices were essential military personnel and absolutely could not be spared from the office.”<sup>58</sup>**

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<sup>56</sup> Lorraine Turnbull to family. 15 August 1945.

<sup>57</sup> Mary V. Stremlow, *Free a Marine to Fight: Women Marines in World War II* (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Library, 1994), 2.

<sup>58</sup> Holm, 94.

Ultimately, WWII impacted WRs such as Lorraine Turnbull, but in an even greater sense, WRs impacted WWII. This fact is evident through the numerous contributions and sacrifices made by Women Marines and hundreds of letters by a private named Lorraine Turnbull.

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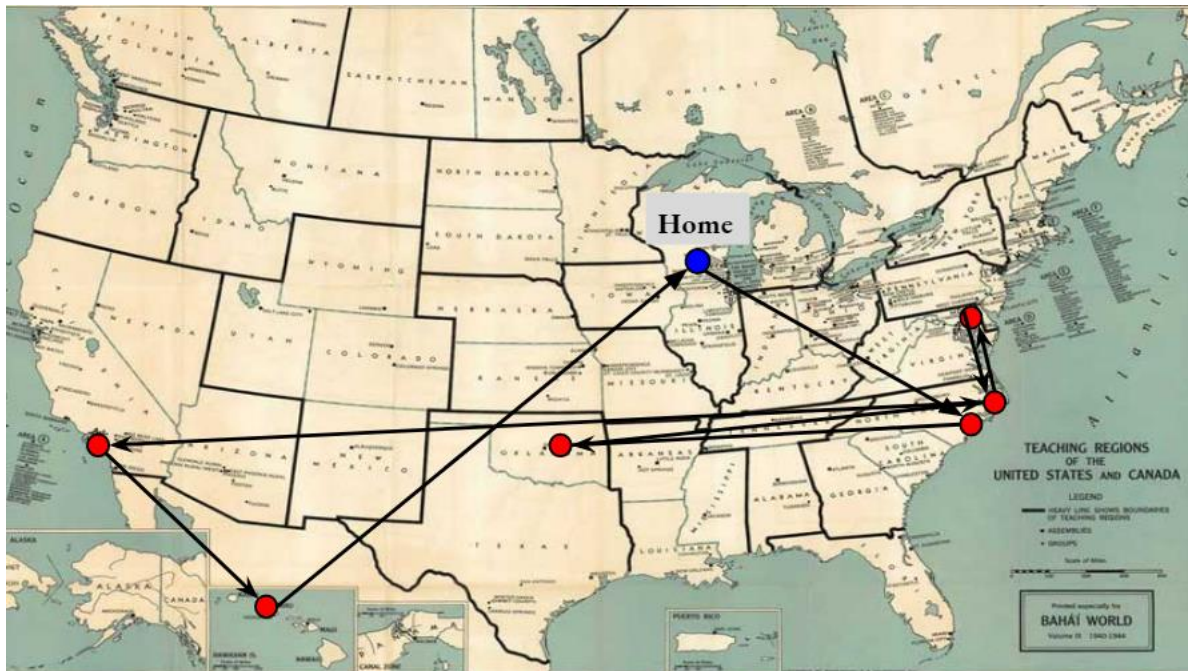
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## Part V: Appendix

- 1.) A map that traces the movement of the Lorraine Turnbull during her time with the Marines:



### 2.) A timeline of Lorraine Turnbull in the MCWR

- a.) **October 1, 1943:** Lorraine Turnbull of Wisconsin joins the MCWR
- b.) **October 1943:** Turnbull attended basic training at Camp Lejeune
- c.) **April 2, 1944:** Turnbull was assigned to Naval Air Training Center in Norman, Oklahoma
- d.) **September 1944:** Private Turnbull was sent to the assembly and repair shops at the Marine Corps Air Station in Cherry Point, NC
- e.) **October 1944:** Turnbull makes an unsanctioned visit to Washington D.C. for weekend
- f.) **October 1944:** Went to school in California for two weeks for Hawaii duty training
- g.) **February 1945:** Private Turnbull was transferred to the Marine Corps Air Station in Ewa, Hawaii
- h.) **November 1945:** Turnbull completes her tour of duty and returns home