

NARRATOR: Koehler, Patricia (Pat)
INTERVIEWER: Ellen Haffner
DATE: September 19, 2005
LOCATION: Parma, Idaho
PROJECT: Women in WWII/Veteran's History Project

Tape Counter	Page No.	Summary
TAPE ONE		
0000	1	Introduction.
0007	1	Koehler spoke about her time training in RADAR in Ballywooden, Ireland. She described the equipment they used and the Nissan huts they lived in. She explained that the weather was generally rainy.
0070	5	Koehler explained that they later transferred from being in the field to a cadet training base in the area. Koehler moved in January of 1944 to work at a fighter base in Hope Cove, England. She described the differences between Ballywooden and Hope Cove. Koehler talked of her experiences getting to go for rides in some of the different air planes. She told of the preparations for D-Day at the base in Hope Cove.
0120	7	Koehler talked about the air-sea rescue unit at Hope Cove. They would rescue planes that had crashed into the channel. She shared a story of one pilot finding a group of Germans in the English Channel. Koehler described how they would hike and play tennis in their spare time at Hope Cove. She shared about visiting the local Tea House. Koehler told a story about witnessing a plane crash land onto the air field. She was proud that she ran towards the crash instead of away from it.
0160	9	Koehler described some of the people she worked with and lived with at Hope Cove. She talked of her marriage and honeymoon. After a week Jim returned to his unit in Munich, Germany, and Koehler went back to work at Hope Cove. When they married they hadn't seen each other for three years. For a while they worried that Jim would have to go to the Pacific Theater, so they were very relieved to hear of the end of the War with Japan.
0220	11	Koehler told of getting to see Jim for only two days before he returned to the U.S. She only saw him a few days over the course of their first year of marriage. Koehler talked of getting out of the service. She spoke of one friend who had married a Canadian, went to live in Canada, and then died in childbirth. Koehler described how she heard about the end of the War in Germany and how she

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		and her friends celebrated. She broke down crying when she first heard the news.
0290	14	Koehler explained some of the lessons she learned from being in the service. She felt that she could not pray for Jim because there were so many people that were dying that it seemed strange to her to pray for one special person. Koehler talked about the time she spent in London working for her uncle at his stamp trading business while she waited for an opportunity to come to America. She talked of the process she had to go through to get to America. She finally was able to get a seat on a Pan-American flight on Christmas day.
0377	16	END OF TAPE ONE SIDE ONE TAPE ONE SIDE TWO
0390	16	Koehler spoke more about the work she did for her uncle. He traded stamps, and he needed help. His business picked up after the War because people could not take money out of England, but you could buy stamps and take them out of the country. She spoke about receiving her first tip while doing this job. Koehler described the char lady who came to clean the office. This woman called Koehler "that piece."
0420	18	Koehler talked of an Australian soldier who would come to take tea with those at Koehler's office each day. Koehler described in more detail what she had to do to get a visa and passport to come to America. She had no problems getting the documents to leave initially, but she struggled getting back into the country after a visit to England in 1949. She had to spend her daughters christening present in order to get back into the country.
0450	20	Koehler described her journey from England to America at the end of the War. She took a train from New York to South Bend, Indiana, to join Jim. On the train trip, she saw Lena Horne. She discussed her train trip. She was surprised by all of the food they served her. When she arrived she saw Jim in civilian clothes for the first time.
0500	23	Koehler told of the three Christmas dinners she got to eat that year. She spoke of what they did after returning to America. Jim had a job in Michigan for a year before he decided to move to New Mexico to study law. She described what their lives were like while staying at the University of New Mexico at Albuquerque. They decided to move north because they did not like living in the desert. Jim couldn't find a job in Oregon, so they moved to Idaho.
0545	25	Koehler explained how they ended up living in Parma, Idaho. Jim was working at a law firm in Caldwell, when he was offered a job

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		working for the state attorney general. After this he got a job working for an insurance firm. He kept an office open in Parma during his time at these other jobs. Koehler worked as a secretary in his office. When Jim was offered a job as a court administrator in Caldwell, he shut down his practice in Parma, and Koehler retired. Koehler described his job as a court administrator.
0610	27	Koehler talked about some of the changes she has seen in Parma over the time that she has lived there. Although she still felt like an English woman first, she had really enjoyed living in Idaho.
0655	29	END OF TAPE ONE SIDE TWO END OF RECORDING

NAMES AND PLACES INDEX

Parma, Idaho
Caldwell, Idaho
University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, New Mexico
Koehler, Jim
Ballywooden, Ireland
Hope Cove, England
London, England
Souly, Don