



## ALBUM [FOLLOW MY RESEARCH! --WOMEN AIRFORCE SERVICE PILOTS \(WASPS\) IN WORLD WAR II](#)

### Album Description

Hi All! I have created this album so that all of you can follow my internship project on Women Airforce Service Pilots more closely and access more of the primary sources that I have found.

The [Women Airforce Service Pilots \(WASPs\)](#) were a civilian branch of the Army Air Forces during World War II. WASP pilots took over domestic flying duties so that male pilots could be utilized in combat roles on the war front. WASPs ferried planes, transporting them between bases, carried passengers and cargo, trained new male Army Air Force , and even towed gunnery targets to help train anti-aircraft gunner cadets. WASPs were the first women to fly military aircraft in the United States, paving the way for future women in aviation. Recognition for the WASPs was delayed after the war, as the program was disbanded after Congress failed to militarize the program, meaning the pilots did not have any record of their service or access to veterans' benefits. It was not until 1977 when President Carter signed the GI Bill Improvement Act that WASP Pilots received an honorary discharge and therefore could collect veterans' benefits. In 2009, President Obama and Congress awarded the WASPs the Congressional Gold Medal, and in 2016 the first WASP was buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

*Take a look at my sources and teaching notes, and stay posted as I add more to this collection!*

**How do you see using these sources with your learners? What more do you wonder about the WASPs?**

Further Resources:

- Check out some of my previous posts on the WASPs: [Who Was Nancy Harkness Love?](#) and my [September Monthly Reflection](#)
- [Veterans History Project Collection on WASP Pilots](#)
- Want to see more newspaper articles? Check out this [search in Chronicling America for "Women Pilots" from this time period \(1940-1945\)](#)
  - Some other ideas for key words would be: "Girl Pilots", "Women Airforce Service Pilots", "Jacqueline Cochran", or "Nancy Harkness Love"

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[Women's History](#)   [World War II](#)   [Aviation](#)



### Teaching Notes:

Take a look at this image of an "Aviatrix" (a female pilot) from 1941. What clothing is she wearing? What might she be carrying? How would the clothing and gear shown in this picture contribute to *safety*? Note that flying, especially in military aircraft, was fairly risky at this time. 38 WASPs died while serving in the program, and many others were involved in non-fatal accidents.

**Reference Link:** <http://www.loc.gov/item/2016647661/>

### Created / Published

- [ca. 1941]

### Notes

- - Photo by Office of War Information (OWI).
- - This record contains unverified, old data from caption card.

### Repository

- Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA  
<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/pp.print>

### Digital Id



- [cph 3a40558 //hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/cph.3a40558](https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/cph.3a40558)

**"THEY'RE MODEL FLYERS--AND IT'S NOT JUST A POSE!" THE WILMINGTON MORNING**



**Teaching Notes:**

Read through this newspaper article from August 1941. This article was published before the start of the WASP program. What are the women doing? Who might be the intended audience for this article? What about the language might give you clues about the audience and what they thought about female pilots? Is there anything in this article that surprises you?

**Reference Link:** [https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn78002169/1941-08-10/ed-1/seq-14/print/image\\_681x648\\_from\\_530%2C44\\_to\\_4019%2C3367](https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn78002169/1941-08-10/ed-1/seq-14/print/image_681x648_from_530%2C44_to_4019%2C3367)

Newspaper: The Wilmington morning star. [volume] (Wilmington, N.C.) 1909-1990

Newspaper Link: [https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn78002169/1941-08-10/ed-1/seq-14/print/image\\_681x648\\_from\\_5...](https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn78002169/1941-08-10/ed-1/seq-14/print/image_681x648_from_5...)

Image provided by: University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Library, Chapel Hill, NC

PDF Link: <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn78002169/1941-08-10/ed-1/seq-14.pdf>

"THE GIRLS DELIVER THE GOODS"

FEBRUARY 28, 1943.



### Teaching Notes:

Explore this article from the Washington, D.C. Evening Star. What are some of the challenges that the author and Nancy Harkness Love describe? Why do you think women continued to apply to the program even though it was difficult?

**Reference Link:** <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83045462/1943-02-28/ed-1/seq-79>

Newspaper: Evening star. [volume] (Washington, D.C.) 1854-1972

Newspaper Link: <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83045462/1943-02-28/ed-1/seq-79>

Image provided by: Library of Congress, Washington, DC

PDF Link: <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83045462/1943-02-28/ed-1/seq-79.pdf>

"WOMEN'S FLYING C... , NOVEMBER 16, 1942.



### Teaching Notes:

This page contains a crossword with clues about Nancy Harkness Love. Love founded the Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron, or WAFS, which recruited highly experienced female pilots to join the AAF Air Transport Command as ferry pilots. Later, Love's WAFS merged with Jacqueline Cochran's Women's Flying Training Detachment to create the WASP Program, where women would be trained to fly military aircraft then send to Air Transport Command bases to ferry planes. See if you can solve the clues! Horizontal: 1 & 60 and Vertical: 6, 10, 23, & 53.

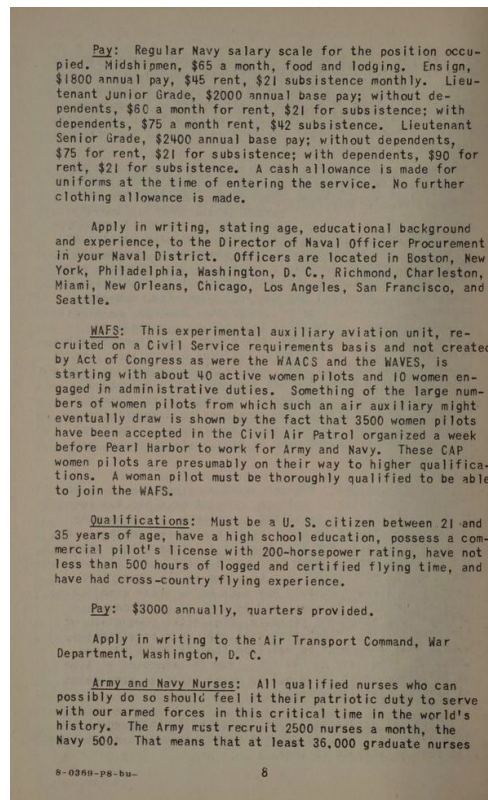
**Reference Link:** [https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn96077289/1942-11-16/ed-1/seq-4/print/image\\_681x648\\_from\\_3866%2C6222\\_to\\_9092%2C11199](https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn96077289/1942-11-16/ed-1/seq-4/print/image_681x648_from_3866%2C6222_to_9092%2C11199)

Newspaper: The daily monitor leader. [volume] (Mount Clemens, Mich.) 1942-19??

Newspaper Link: [https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn96077289/1942-11-16/ed-1/seq-4/print/image\\_681x648\\_from\\_38...](https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn96077289/1942-11-16/ed-1/seq-4/print/image_681x648_from_38...)

Image provided by: Central Michigan University, Clark Historical Library

PDF Link: <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn96077289/1942-11-16/ed-1/seq-4.pdf>



## Teaching Notes:

Read this page from the pamphlet, "War Jobs for Women." Can you find the qualifications for joining the Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron, or WAFS? The WAFS was the precursor to the WASP Program founded by Nancy Harkness Love, who recruited experienced women pilots to ferry planes for the Army Air Forces without the need for extra training. How much time and effort would it take to meet these qualifications?

Who might be able to meet these qualifications? Consider: What resources would you need to attend flying lessons and obtain your pilot's license? Who might be *excluded* from flying lessons or from the WASP Program?

**Reference Link:** [http://www.loc.gov/resource/gdcmassbookdig.warjobsforwomen00unit\\_0/?sp=10](http://www.loc.gov/resource/gdcmassbookdig.warjobsforwomen00unit_0/?sp=10)

Created / Published

- Washington, D.C., Office of war information, Magazine section [1942]

Notes

- - Also available in digital form.

"WOMAN PILOT"

JULY 08, 1943.



### Teaching Notes:

This article was written by Cornelia Fort, one of the first members of the precursor to the WASP program, the Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron (WAFS), and the first woman to die in the line of duty as a military pilot. Notice her explanation of why she joined the organization, including the fact that she was flying in Hawaii when Pearl Harbor was attacked. What specific reasons did she cite for joining the WAFS?

**Reference Link:** <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn95079130/1943-07-08/ed-1/seq-5>

Newspaper: Dickenson County herald. [volume] (Clintwood, Va.) 1939-195?

Newspaper Link: <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn95079130/1943-07-08/ed-1/seq-5>

Image provided by: Library of Virginia; Richmond, VA

PDF Link: <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn95079130/1943-07-08/ed-1/seq-5.pdf>





## **GAYLE DORA BEVIS REED-VHP ORAL HISTORY CLIP: THE JOY OF FLYING**

### **Teaching Notes:**

Watch this clip from Gayle Dora Bevis Reed's Veterans History Project oral history (16:27-17:53). How does she describe the feeling of flying?

**CATHERINE VAIL BRIDGE-VHP PHOTOGRAPH: CATHERINE IN FRONT OF P-38  
LIGHTNING**



**Teaching Notes:**

Explore this photograph from WASP Catherine Vail Bridge's VHP collection. Bridge is standing in front of a P-38 "Lightning" aircraft. What do you notice first when looking at this image? Why do you think it was created? What does the image tell us about life as a WASP?

**Reference Link:** <https://memory.loc.gov/diglib/vhp-stories/loc.natlib.afc2001001.34158/zoomturner?ID=ph0001001&page=1>

Veterans History Project, Catherine Vail Bridge Collection, <https://memory.loc.gov/diglib/vhp-stories/loc.natlib.afc2001001.34158/>



**Teaching Notes:**

A great album. Did not know their story. So much to explore. Thanks!

### Teaching Notes:




[Siobhan Miller](#) created this album following a request to transfer resources and teaching ideas from her earlier discussions, [Who Was Nancy Harkness Love?](#) and her [September Monthly Reflection](#). Why? Because of the slick feature of albums that allows anyone in the TPS Teachers Network to share an album outside the Network by way of the COPY SHAREABLE URL tool. Thank you so much, Siobhan! You went above and beyond, which seems appropriate for your theme of flight!

If anyone would like to see what that shareable version looks like, click [HERE](#). Notice that Siobhan's name is taken out by the share tool, as are all comments. (It's a privacy thing.) In this version, you can use the down arrows to open up more bibliographic information, along with the album description and the teaching notes. The + signs expand photo views slightly for presentations. You can open individual items in a new screen, too. And, of course, you can use these albums in classrooms, newsletters, emails, and lesson plans. As a courtesy, please let Siobhan (and other album creators) know that you've found their work useful and shareable.



### Teaching Notes:

Thank you,  [Peter Pappas](#) ! Yes, the WASPs are not widely known! One of the reasons I became interested in researching them is because I had not learned about their story at all in history class or in books about World War II. I hope these resources can help more people learn about their unique experiences and their importance in the history of aviation.



### **Teaching Notes:**

Good to remember for outreach. PS: I think that the shareable version looks nicer than the album inside the network.



**Teaching Notes:**

Curiosity - such a powerful motivator

"FERRY

L 12, 1944.



### Teaching Notes:

Hello! I will continue to add to this album as I find new sources!

Take a look at this small article from the *Laurel Outlook*, published in Laurel, Montana in April of 1944. One of the things I love most about this article is its many pictures of WASPs preparing to ferry planes. A strategy that could be used with this source is a "[Zoom In](#)" activity, in which students are prompted to look at several smaller parts of a primary source before the whole. Read more about my suggestions for this source in my [October Monthly Reflection](#) Post!

**Reference Link:** [https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn86075258/1944-04-12/ed-1/seq-7/print/image\\_681x648\\_from\\_1447%2C87\\_to\\_4611%2C3100](https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn86075258/1944-04-12/ed-1/seq-7/print/image_681x648_from_1447%2C87_to_4611%2C3100)

Newspaper: Laurel outlook. [volume] (Laurel, Mont.) 1909-current

Newspaper Link: [https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn86075258/1944-04-12/ed-1/seq-7/print/image\\_681x648\\_from\\_14...](https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn86075258/1944-04-12/ed-1/seq-7/print/image_681x648_from_14...)

Image provided by: Montana Historical Society; Helena, MT

PDF Link: <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn86075258/1944-04-12/ed-1/seq-7.pdf>