



Marian Pauline Light Hess

US Marine Corp

Private First Class

Camp Lejeune, South Carolina;

Parris Island, North Carolina

Interviewed by Haley Collins, February 2013

Marian Pauline Light Hess is one of the last surviving female veterans of the Second World War from Lebanon County. She is an extraordinary woman who was not afraid to step up to the call of duty when her country needed her. At the age of eighteen Marian decided to join the Marine Corp. Backed by a supportive family, Marian left her hometown of Hamlin to embark on her journey as a member of the Marines.

When Marion Hess made the decision to join the military she was the first of her family to ever do so. With permission from her mother and father, Marian left her hometown of Hamlin for Philadelphia. There Marion was sworn into the Marines by Patty Berg, a famous golfer and a lieutenant in the Marines during that time.

After being sworn in, Marian headed for Camp Lejeune, South Carolina, where she completed her basic training. Marian remembers her time at basic training fondly, "I really enjoyed it all, I really did." After Marian completed her basic training, she left Camp Lejeune for Parris Island, North Carolina. There were multiple jobs available to women, but Marian spent her days working in the telegram office delivering telegrams to all the different people in the post exchange. While in Parris Island Marian received the honor of Private First Class and several decorations including an American Campaign medal and a World War II Victory medal. Not only did Marian serve her country in North Carolina, she also met her husband Walter Hess who was serving in the Army at the time. Marian and Walter were wed at Parris Island's Post Inn Church.

After her time of service was ended Marian and Walter settled down in Pennsylvania, and together they had three daughters. Walter worked in a chicken plant, and Marian got a job at the paper box factory. Marian recalls that her favorite part of joining the Marines was having the opportunity to meet so many different people and make new friends. While Marian had no clue that, at the time, she helped pave the way for many young women of today to be able to join the military and make a difference for their country. She encourages any woman who is thinking about joining the military to do so.

Thank you for your service to our country, your positive attitude, and for being so gracious to share your story with us. God bless you, Marian.

Portions of Marian's interview are posted on YouTube:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zfaGeDcqqtg>

