



Center for the Study of Tennesseans and War

Captain Dorothy L. Vollmer (1927-2012)

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Photos



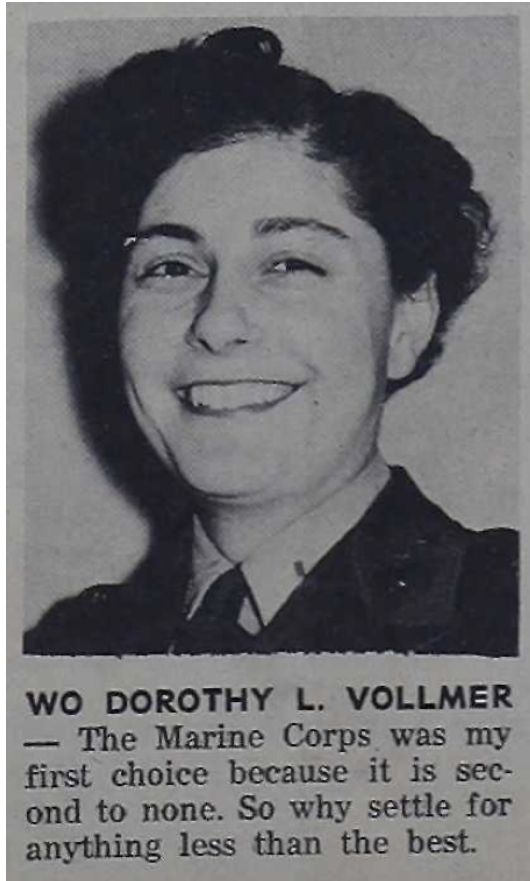
Above: Captain Dorothy Vollmer in her Dress White uniform. This uniform was worn by officers only and was discontinued in the year 2000.

“Captain Dorothy L. Vollmer, USMC (Ret.) - Obituary & Service Information.” Captain Dorothy L. Vollmer, USMC (Ret.) Obituary, February 2012. <https://www.memorialparkfuneralandcemetery.com/obituaries/Captain-LVollmerUSMCRet-32960/#!/Obituary>.



Above: Dorothy's engagement announcement in the local newspaper, *The Evening News*. She would later break her engagement.

The Evening News; Publication Date: 1/ Jul/ 1947; Publication Place: Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, USA; URL: <https://www.newspapers.com/image/58559709/?article=cb5a5930-6769-48f7-bcae-ce914329bfb8&focus=0.36439097,0.7010704,0.4851857,0.9713597&xid=3398>



Above: WO Dorothy Vollmer in Camp Lejeune Globe on their article celebrating the birthday of the establishment of the Women Marines. She was asked why she decided to enlist in the Marine Corps.

"Happy Birthday, Women Marines: Why did you choose the Marine Corps as your branch of service?" Camp Lejeune Globe, February 13, 1964, https://media-cdn.dvidshub.net/pubs/pdf_61320.pdf. P. 3.



Above: The gravemarkers of Capt. Dorothy Vollmer (top marker). Her older brother's gravemarkers is with hers (bottom marker).

"Capt. Dorothy L. Vollmer," Find a Grave. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/84963528/dorothy-l-vollmer/photo>



Above: The Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal that Dorothy had received four of over the course of her service.

"Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal." Home of Heroes. <https://homeofheroes.com/medals-and-awards/marine-corps-good-conduct-medal/#:~:text=The%20Marine%20Corps%20Good%20Conduct,testament%20to%20their%20good%20character.>



Above: The National Defense Service Medal that Dorothy Vollmer had received.

“National Defense Service Medal.” Home of Heros. <https://homeofheroes.com/medals-and-awards/national-defense-service-medal/>

Captain Vollmer’s Resume

 Resume.pdf

Captain Vollmer’s Pre-Interview Questionnaire

 Pre-Interview Questionnaire.pdf

Interview Questions

 Interview Questions.pdf

Interview

Captain Dorothy Vollmer was interviewed on April 11, 2005 at The University of Tennessee - Knoxville by Kurt Piehler and Stephanie Crump. The interview covers her life from early childhood to the present moment of the interview. Also included was her life during her twenty-one years of military service.

Revised Transcript

 Dorothy Vollmer Interview Transcript

Betsey B. Creekmore Special Collections and University Archives Audio and Transcript

Vollmer, Dorothy L. "Vollmer, Dorothy: WWII Oral History - Part 1." April 11, 2005.
<https://digital.lib.utk.edu/collections/islandora/object/wwiioh%3A2104>.

Vollmer, Dorothy L. "Vollmer, Dorothy: WWII Oral History - Part 2." April 11, 2005.
<https://digital.lib.utk.edu/collections/islandora/object/wwiioh%3A2105>.

Vollmer, Dorothy L. "Vollmer, Dorothy: WWII Oral History - Part 3." April 11, 2005.
<https://digital.lib.utk.edu/collections/islandora/object/wwiioh%3A2106>.

Vollmer, Dorothy L. "Vollmer, Dorothy: WWII Oral History - Part 4." April 11, 2005.
<https://digital.lib.utk.edu/collections/islandora/object/wwiioh%3A2107>.

Vollmer, Dorothy L. "Vollmer, Dorothy: WWII Oral History - Part 5." April 11, 2005.
<https://digital.lib.utk.edu/collections/islandora/object/wwiioh%3A2108>.

Vollmer, Dorothy L. "Vollmer, Dorothy: WWII Oral History - Part 6." April 11, 2005.
<https://digital.lib.utk.edu/collections/islandora/object/wwiioh%3A2109>.

Vollmer, Dorothy L. "Vollmer, Dorothy: WWII Oral History - Part 7." April 11, 2005.
<https://digital.lib.utk.edu/collections/islandora/object/wwiioh%3A2110>.

Medals

During her twenty-one years of service, Dorothy Vollmer earned five medals. She earned four Good Conduct Medals and one National Defense Service Medal. The photos of the mentioned medals are under the ***Photos*** section.

Good Conduct Medal (USMC)

It was established in 1896 to recognize the good behavior and service of an individual in the Marine Corps. During a three year period, the service member cannot have a court martial and nonjudicial punishment.

Navas, William A. "Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal," *Navy and Marine Corps Awards Manual*. SECNAV Instruction 1650.1H (2006). Ch 4 P 7.

National Defense Service Medal

The medal was established in 1953, after the Korean Conflict. Those eligible have to have served on active duty/reservist during any of the four specific periods. The four periods were the Korean Conflict (1950-1954), the Vietnam War (1961-1974), the Persian Gulf Conflict (1990-1995), and the War on Terror (2001-2021 or 2022).

Navas, William A. "National Defense Service Medal," *Navy and Marine Corps Awards Manual*. SECNAV Instruction 1650.1H (2006). Ch 4 P

Organizations

After Dorothy Vollmer retired from the Marine Corps, she joined the Memphis, TN chapters of several organizations two of which are military related.

Military Order of the World Wars (MOWW)

The veteran organization was formed after World War I, otherwise known as The Great War, in 1919 by a group of veteran officers. The organization was originally named the American Officers of the Great War (AOGW) and they had their first national convention in 1920. They had twenty-two chapters at the start. During the first national convention, they changed the organization's name to the Military Order of the World War (MOWW). The number of chapters grew to fifty-five by 1921. The name changed once more to Military Order of the World Wars during World War II. MOWW partnered/sponsored with other youth organizations to teach them the important values. The organization now has a total of seventy-six chapters.

Bennett, Charles W. "A Short History of The Military Order." Military Order of the World Wars.
<https://moww.org/about-moww/history-of-moww/>

Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)

The veteran organization was founded in 1929 and was originally named The Retired Officers Associated (TROA). TROA expanded and reorganized at the start of World War II. The organization was renamed the Military Officers Association of America at the start of 2003. MOAA became a federal charter in 2009. The organization helps military members and their families in many situations. MOAA now has over 360,000 members.

"Mission: History," Military Officers Association of America. <https://www.moaa.org/content/about-moaa/mission/#:~:text=MOAA%20was%20founded%20in%20Los,branches%20of%20the%20uniformed%20services.>

Location History

What the birthplace and place of death were like during the time period when Dorothy Vollmer lived there.

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania (1927)

Harrisburg, PA had almost 87,000 people. The city was in the beginning of an industrial decline. The population was moving out of the city and into the suburbs. The city was religious, because they had a little over 80 churches and their attendance was high. More money was spent of goods and services than other counties in the state.

Kiner, Deb. "Harrisburg in the 1920s had 410 corner grocery stores, 81 churches and 33 elementary schools," *PennLive*, July 11, 2017.
https://www.pennlive.com/life/2017/07/harrisburg_in_the_1920s_had_41.html

"Harrisburg, Pennsylvania facts for kids." Kiddle. https://kids.kiddle.co/Harrisburg,_Pennsylvania#Industrial_decline_1920.E2.80.9370.

Memphis, Tennessee (1970)

After the signing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, African-Americans began to change how they fought for equality. They went from protesting to running for elected positions at every level of government. Memphis was slow to desegregate which harmed the reputation and image of the city which led to the deterioration of the inner city.

Dowdy, G. Wayne. *A Brief History of Memphis*. Charleston, SC: History Press, 2011.