



Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Olive Cocker Clark (née Brewster)

Part of the Illinois Public Media ([WILL radio.tv.online](http://WILL.radio.tv.online))

Central Illinois World War II Stories project

Interview # VR2-V-D-2007-045

Olive Cocker Clark (née Brewster), the wife of World War II veteran George Cocker, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Illinois Public Media – WILL AM-FM-TV Central Illinois World War II Stories project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: 17 September 2007

Location: Illinois Public Media, Urbana, IL

Interview Format: Digital video

Interviewer: David L. Noreen, Illinois Public Media affiliate

Technical Support (cameraman, etc): Henry Radcliffe, Videographer, Illinois Public Media ([WILL radio.tv.online](http://WILL.radio.tv.online))

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Transcript
being processed

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 28 min/ 0.47 hrs.

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on December 4, 2014.

The interview is archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois.

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Abstract

Olive Cocker Clark (née Brewster), *Veterans Remember*, VR2-V-D-2007-045

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Olive Cocker Clark, née Brewster, was born on July 27, 1920 in Passaic, New Jersey. After marrying George Cocker in 1942, she moved to Childers, Texas where George was stationed. She remembers the town being very small, muddy, and even having wooden sidewalks. In Texas, George, a private, taught Norden bombsight and automatic pilot lessons to lieutenants for flying. While in Texas, Clark got a job as the secretary to the City Manager. Even with their combined incomes, the couple lived meagerly and struggled to make ends meet.

Clark was sad when she had to leave Childers, Texas for Langley Field, Virginia when George was once again transferred. While in Langley Field, Virginia, Clark worked for the United Service Organization (USO), which eventually became the CIA. There, she made sandwiches and served soldiers; at night, the USO would hold dances for the soldiers, which Clark regularly attended. Eventually, after taking the civil service exam, Clark began working as a secretary for the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics. Meanwhile, George was transferred overseas to Guam and Saipan, where he helped to repair airplanes. Realizing she was pregnant, Clark left her job in Virginia and returned home; she gave birth to a daughter named Susan. In retrospect, Clark felt times were difficult but she was never uncomfortable being a wife during the World War II era.

Subject Headings/Key Words: World War II wife; war bride; New Jersey; Childers, Texas; Air Force base; Norden bombsight; Langley Field, Virginia; German submarines; Red Cross; United Service Organization; civil service exam; National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics; ration cards.

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