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COCHRAN

**COCHRAN, JACQUELINE**

**OH-541**

**136 pp.**

**PRCQ**

Aviatrix; active in the Eisenhower campaign, 1951-52.

DESCRIPTION – March 11 Interview: Experience of starting to fly in the 1930s when the field was dominated by men; no problems with gender discrimination; opposition to women in the service academies unless women are also to be drafted for combat; advice to young women; philosophy on women who work; how she became involved in the British Air Transport Auxiliary (ATA) in World War II; lack of qualified pilots in Canada; her extensive flying experience prior to the war; getting checked out to fly in Canada; flying a bomber to England; conditions in England; shuttling airplanes coming back from strikes to disperse them; women in the ATA; diverse nationality of ATA pilots; recruiting American men and women for the ATA; flying early in the war; asked by Henry A. “Hap” Arnold to form a group of American women pilots for the Air Transport Command (ATC) in America; permission to write her own directives and train 5,000 women pilots; general description of the kinds of women recruited and most common kind of flying they did; advertising brought in 68,000 applicants; her recommendations for number to recruit and how the training should be organized; training organized in Texas; instructors were civilians under contract to Emory Riddle; women trainees given special civil service rating; General Barton Yount; controversy over militarization of the women pilots; comparison of Cochran’s program and that of Nancy Love; her feelings on organization and authority; anecdote about being asked to fly the B-26; setting up the training program for the B-26; administration of the training program; assignment of the female pilots after completion of training; working with General Arnold; male pilots in the ATC; General Charles George.

March 12 Interview: Her observations of the Women’s Airforce Service Pilots (WASPs); post-war contact with WASP pilots; character of the recruited women and behavior expected of them; Cochran’s recommendations at the end of the WASP program; reservations on women in the military; importance of family over career; deactivation of the WASP program; going to Asia at the end of the war; called in as consultant regarding the Women in the Air Force (WAF) in 1950s; deficiencies in the program; recommendations for improvement in the program; WASP uniforms; autonomy for the Air Force; trains of gliders in Burma; gathering support for an independent Air Force; anecdote about the Air Force Association (AFA); convention of the AFA at Madison Square Garden; Army concerns about an independent Air Force; service as reserve officer and assistant to Gen. Arnold; finding competent staff for the office; some observations about Arnold; some comments of the contemporary state of affairs.

NAME INDEX.

[U.S. Air Force Academy Oral History Interview, by Major John F. Shiner and Captain Robert S. Bartanowicz, March 11-12, 1976]