

Janis Kozlowski: What ... do you have any lasting memories of that war time that were really memorable things, things that you remember most about that time?

Eleanor Mae Cramer: Scared! Fear! Oh, we were worried, we were feared, we were scared. The Russians are close and, I mean, would my brother come home safe? Would my husband-to-be be safe? Oh, no, we were in constant worry. Because, we had no way ... they didn't tell you, you couldn't find out. You would pray and hope that everything is alright and hoped that he'd get back and it would be alright and that everything is gonna be ok. And when are they gonna come? No, it was a worry and we were just scared to death.

We listened to the news and we'd worry for our boyfriends and brother, are they safe? There was nothing. And then if you'd get a letter it had already been opened and censored. They stamped it so you knew it had been checked; opened up and checked. Nothing was allowed to do through that shouldn't go through.

Janis Kozlowski: Do you think that having gone through that period in your life where you were, I don't know if you could say deprived, but you were, you know, things were not as abundant as we're used to now. And being afraid for family members and loved ones, do you think that had a big effect on your life?

Eleanor Mae Cramer: Oh, yes. Oh, yes. Your life was not your own. Oh, yes. It was such a relief when that happened. I mean when it was over with ... you could just breathe again. It seemed like you were under stress or worry and listening to every ... any article that you could get in the news. It was a constant. And you'd pray, and pray nothing would happen and they'd be alright. And you'd hear the news and you'd think, "I hope my boyfriend or my brother weren't in that." but you didn't know. You just didn't know, that's all.

Janis Kozlowski: Did you foresee the United States entering that war and was it a surprise to you when ... well, it was a surprise to everyone I guess when Pearl Harbor was attacked but ...

Eleanor Mae Cramer: Oh, yes.

Janis Kozlowski: ... but did you think that the US would enter the war?

Eleanor Mae Cramer: No. No, didn't think of anything like that. We just lived from time to time and hoped that nothing would happen. Then when it'd get close you'd think, "please hope that my brother or my boyfriend doesn't have to go, or they don't get him, or that he'd be alright when he comes back, or you know he wouldn't be sent over there or here." You had no idea what they were going to do with them. They didn't tell you. Well, they couldn't, I guess, they weren't supposed to. But it was a worry, of course, we thought ... you know, just didn't know.

Janis Kozlowski: Do you remember where you were when you heard that the war was over?

Eleanor Mae Cramer: Yes, I was in Hollywood on Eleanor Avenue in an apartment house with my Mother. Yes, it was something else. And my boyfriend at that time, that was a relief when I saw him again, that he was still alright. He'd come on weekends but then he was with the

Air Corp and he was stationed at UCLA for quite awhile and that was something. I remember, I thought, at least he's there. No, then all of a sudden they all disappeared. That's it. They didn't tell you, they couldn't.

Janis Kozlowski: How soon after the war was over did you see him?

Eleanor Mae Cramer: Immediately! [laughing]

Janis Kozlowski: Oh, really? He got sent back to California?

Eleanor Mae Cramer: As soon as he could be released from the Air Corp he was over at my ... he went as soon as he was released, I mean he was home. No, they were very careful though, they wouldn't let anybody out, you know, until they were ready. But it was a thrill. Oh, gosh, just to see him come ... knowing, oh, it was something else! It was almost like unbelievable. A relief!

Janis Kozlowski: Did you know he was on his way or was a big surprise when he showed up?

Eleanor Mae Cramer: I knew he was released but I didn't know when he was gonna get there, because the Army didn't tell us that. But then all of a sudden, here he comes! [laughing] It was ... we knew he was released, we knew he was gonna come sometime. It was really, you just couldn't hardly wait. Live from day to day and wonder.

Janis Kozlowski: Did ... So he went to UCLA and finished out his tour with the Army Air Forces there?

Eleanor Mae Cramer: I was into the ... I was taking pre-med at UCLA, I was a student there and in the pre-medical department. Then he was in the Air Corp. The Air Corp was then stationed at UCLA. Their barracks and everything was all secretive.

Janis Kozlowski: Oh, I see.

Eleanor Mae Cramer: They went to UCLA. I mean it was right there, they had their training and everything else on the field. We could look out and see them doing their exercises or whatever they did in the Air Corp. They were performing their duties.

Janis Kozlowski: All those cute young guys out there.

Eleanor Mae Cramer: Yeah, [both laughing] yes.

Janis Kozlowski: I didn't realize they had guys stationed there at UCLA.

Eleanor Mae Cramer: Oh yes, yes. My boyfriend-to-be was there and oh, it was ... once in awhile he could sneak out and come over to Eleanor Avenue in Hollywood and stay for awhile. It was a thrill to see him.