

Biography of Margo Duggan



Margaret Agnes (Margo) Duggan was born at home in Charlestown, MA in January of 1916. Her parents were both Irish immigrants and her father, Patrick, was at that time a Boston policeman. Several years later, the family moved to Medford, MA after the dissolution of the Boston Police as a result of the famous strike of 1919.

Margo attended St. Clement's School in Somerville, MA and graduated from St. Clement's High in 1933. She spent several years working for Boston newspapers. In February of 1943, only days after the establishment of continuous active service for women in the US Marine Corps, Margo enlisted. She was the first woman in Massachusetts to join the Marines as an enlisted person in WW II. She trained at Milledgeville, GA and served in

Santa Barbara CA as an instructor in Ship and Aircraft Recognition. She was demobilized from the Marines in December of 1945.

After the war Margo remained in California and attended the University of California at Berkley. In late 1949 she began work as a civilian employee of the United States Trust Territories Administration. She worked on or visited a number of locations in the Marshall, the Mariana, and the Caroline Islands. These included: Saipan, Tinian, Anguar, Koror, Peleliu, Yap, Ponape, Kwajalein, Majuro, Truk, and Ebeye. She also spent time at Trust Territories headquarters in Hawaii. When asked about her experiences in the Pacific she often said, "We worked six days and played seven nights."

By 1953, she had returned stateside. At this time she was employed by Edgerton, Germeshausen, and Greer (EG&G) and was for a time associated with their work on timing devices for the atom bomb testing in Nevada. Sometime in 1954 she was struck by a car while crossing the street in Honolulu and returned to Medford MA where she lived until 1985. Her later career included stints working for Polaroid Corp. and Houghton Mifflin publishers. These jobs were punctuated by several long solo trips to Europe. She never married, but was devoted to her nieces and nephews.

After 1985 she moved with her sister Mary Daly to Chatham, MA. In her later years she was a resident of several assisted living facilities and nursing homes in the Boston area. Margo died in 2005.