

Description of Exhibit Panels



Texas Woman's University completed the exhibit, Fly Girls, in 2000 for the WASP Reunion, which was held, in part, on the TWU campus in Denton, Texas.

The exhibit consists of 9 cloth panels that are attached to five freestanding fixtures or stands. The large introductory panel stands alone; all other fixtures have two panels attached.



Fixture 1: Introductory Panel

Size: 7' X 48" (panel on one side only)

Heading: Fly Girls. Gives a brief introduction to the WASP program. This heading is superimposed on a large photo image of three women in flying suits with the following text:

Between 1942 and 1944, at the height of World War II, more than 1,000 women left homes and jobs for the opportunity of a lifetime- to become the first experimental Army Air Force program to see if women could serve as pilots for the military and relieve men for overseas combat duty. These women became the Women Airforce Service Pilots of World War II, better known as the WASP. Under the determined leadership of Nancy Harkness Love, Jacqueline Cochran, and General "Hap" Arnold the WASP exceeded beyond all expectations.



Fixture 2: The Beginnings and Facts about the WASP (two panels)

Panel 2: The Beginnings

Size: 7' X 32"

Describes the beginnings of the WASP program and with bios about Jacqueline Cochran, Nancy Harkness Love, and General "Hap" Arnold. Includes photos of the key individuals and a photocopy of a newspaper headline declaring the beginning of the program.



Fixture 2: The Beginnings and Facts about the WASP (two panels)

Panel 3: Facts about the WASP

Size: 7' X 32"

Contains bullets of facts and stats, along with summary of the disbanding of the WASP and the fight in the 1970's for military veteran status.



Fixture 3: Training of the WASP

Panel 4: Training of the WASP

Size: 7' X 32"

Contains brief description of the WAFS (Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron) and Houston WFTD (Women's Flying Training Detachment) training programs, and gives history of the merged WASP. Primarily photographs and history with a copy of a diploma and some key quotes.



Fixture 3: Training of the WASP

Panel 5: Training

Size: 7' X 32"

Describes the move of the WFTD/WASP training base from Houston to Sweetwater. Features the motto of the WASP and a telegram soliciting application.



Fixture 4: The Jobs They Flew

Panel 6: The Jobs they Flew

Size: 7' X 32"

A list of the variety of flying duties which employed the WAFS/WASP, including the Ferry Command, flying low targets, etc. WAFS photos of Teresa James, Barbara Erickson and pilot training.



Fixture 4: The Jobs They Flew

Panel 7: The Jobs They Flew (continued)

Size: 7' X 32"

Large map of the U.S. with location of bases where WASP were employed. There are photos of the tow target sleeve, target guns, weather inspection, and the B-29 with Paul Tibbetts.