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Mary Trebing Louisville Aviatix

The Women's Air Force Service Pilots (WASPS) of World War II provided an invaluable service to the American war effort. As more male pilots volunteered or were drafted into the United States Army Air Force (USSAF) it was necessary to seek out qualified female pilots who could transport military aircraft throughout the country. Louisville resident Mary E. Trebing was one of those WASPS who performed admirably and ultimately gave her life for her country.

Mary Elizabeth Trebing was born on December 31, 1920, the daughter of William and Myrtle Trebing. Mary had one brother, William, and a half-brother, Harry McLaughlin. She attended schools in Louisville and, according to her brother, was very bright. Eventually Mary would move to Wilburn, Oklahoma, attend Eastern Oklahoma Agricultural College, work in the local District Attorney's office, and take flying lessons at the local Winson Cocke Airport.

In 1943 Mary's brother William received his draft notice for the USAAF. At that time the WASPS were being formed and Mary saw her opportunity to put her formidable flying skills to good use for the military. (See WASPS story on page 2) Mary was assigned to Avenger Field in Sweetwater, Texas where she received her military pilots wings. The following letter was written by Mary to her brother on March 16, 1943.

Dearest Bud:

Here I am, on the flight line, waiting for a ship. When I first got out this morning, I checked out a parachute, helmet and goggles, and came out here and the sky suddenly got black. My instructor said, "Well, we might as well check the stuff back in, it's going to rain."

Well, I checked my stuff in, ambled over to the Ad building, had a cup of tea, and wrote mom a letter. When I got back, the sun was shining brightly, and my instructor was up with another student - so - I'll have to wait till he gets back. Maybe get heck too!

I have to practice on stalls and spins today. I have had solo time on the ship. I fly - it's a honey. We get an army check ride after so many hours, and I'm about ready for mine. I'm not afraid of it though.

They really work us here - we have to be ready to go at 7:00 a.m. in the morning- and we seldom get home before 8:00 p.m. We have regular army rules, same as cadets. We have calisthenics and marching drill - guess you can sympathize with me. The Trebing's can really take it, can't they? They have to!

It sure gets lonesome here - the guy I think I am going to marry, someday, (don't tell ma!), is in Orlando, Florida, which isn't too far from you. Maybe you'll get to see him someday - he may be shipped off any day though. He's a swell guy.



Mary Trebing

they were good!

I have a theory of flight test coming up this p.m. so guess I'll study a little.

My address is on the envelope, Are you broke? What the heck are you doing?

Love from your sis.

After completing basic training Mary reported to Love Field in Dallas, Texas where she continued her training in ground school. In another letter to her brother in September of 1943 Mary writes:

Dearest June Bug,

Right now I'm in "Emergency Equipment" class. (Life rafts, etc.) Guess we're about finished with ground school, I hope. So far we haven't done much flying. Everyone has to take an acceptance check ride before going on trips. The check ride is about two hours long, and the girls who have already taken it say that they have to do everything in the book, so I have something else to worry about.

The biggest thing right now to worry about is the letter I got from Hal today. (Your future brother) He is supposed to be shipped out right away, and I don't guess I'll get to see him. Boy, the lump in my throat just won't go down.

Then when I think of you in combat too - Well it's a good thing they work us seven days a week - guess I'd go batty. I'm batty enough as it is. I meant to send you money enough to get up here next weekend, but after I call Hal this evening, I won't have enough left to buy a good square meal,

38 Who Gave Their Lives

Name	Status	Class	Date	Plane	Place
Champlin, Jane	T	43	3 June 43	BT-15	Westbrook, TX
Clarke, Susan	A	44	4 July 44	BT-15	Columbia, SC
Davis, Margie L.	T	44	16 Oct. 44	AT-6	Walnut, MS
Dussao, Katherine	A	44	26 Nov. 44	AT-6	New Carlisle, OH
Edwards, Marjorie	T	44	13 June 44	AT-6	Near Childress, TX
Erickson, Elizabeth	T	44	16 April 44	PT-17	Near Sweetwater, TX
Fort, Cornelia	A	WAFS	21 Mar. 43	BT-13	Near Perrin, TX
Grimes, Frances	A	43	27 Mar. 44	A-24	Otis Field, MA
Hartson, Mary	A	43	14 Aug. 44	BT-13	Near Perrin, TX
Howson, Mary	T	44	16 April 44	AT-6	Near Sweetwater, TX
Keene, Edith	A	44	25 April 44	BT-13	Near Mission, TX
Lawrence, Kathryn	T	43	3 Aug. 43	PT-19	Near Sweetwater, TX
Lee, Hazel Ying	A	43	23 Nov. 44	P-63	Great Falls, MT
Loop, Paula	A	43	7 July 44	BT-15	Medford, OR
Lovejoy, Alice	A	43	13 Sept. 44	AT-6	Brownsville, TX
McDonald, Lea O.	A	44	21 June 44	A-24	Biggs AFB, TX
Martin, Peggy	A	44	3 Oct. 44	BT-13	Marana, AZ
Moffatt, Virginia	A	43	5 Oct. 43	BT-13	Ontario, CA
Moses, Beverly	A	44	18 July 44	AT-11	Near Las Vegas, NV
Nichols, Dorothy	A	43	11 June 44	P-39	Bismarck, ND
Norbeck, Jeanne	A	44	16 Oct. 44	BT-13	Shaw Field, SC
Oldenburg, Margaret	T	43	7 Mar. 43	PT-19	Near Houston, TX
Rawlinson, Mabel	A	43	23 Aug. 43	A-24	Camp Davis, NC
Roberts, Gleanna	T	44	20 June 44	PT-17	Lorraine, TX
Robinson, Marie	A	44	2 Oct. 44	B-25	Victorville, CA
Scott, Bettie Mae	A	44	8 July 44	BT-13	Waco, TX
Scott, Dorothy	A	WAFS	3 Dec. 43	BC-1	Palm Springs, CA
Seip, Margaret	T	43	30 Aug. 43	UC-78	Near Big Springs, TX
Severson, Helen	T	43	30 Aug. 43	UC-78	Near Big Springs, TX
Sharon, Ethel Marie	A	43	10 April 44	B-25	Tecumseh, NB
Sharp, Evelyn	A	WAFS	3 April 44	P-38	New Cumberland, PA
Tompkins, Gertrude	A	43	16 Oct. 44	P-51	Long Beach, CA
Stine, Betty	T	44	25 Feb. 44	AT-6	Near Quartzite, AZ
Toevs, Marion	A	43	16 Feb. 44	BT-13	San Jose, CA
Trebing, Mary	A	43	16 Feb. 44	PT-17	Near Norman, OK
Webster, Mary	A	44	9 Dec. 44	BT-15	Claremore, OK
Wetz, Bonnie Jean	A	43	29 June 44	BT-15	Randado, TX
Wood, Betty Taylor	A	43	9 Sept. 43	A-24	Camp Davis, NC

A - Active Duty

T - Trainee

Plane Designations

A Light Bomber
 AT Advanced Trainer
 B Medium or Heavy Bomber
 BT Basic Trainer
 P Fighter
 PT Primary Trainer
 UC Light Transport

A-24 Douglas SBD3 Dive Bomber

AT-6 Texan

B-25 North American Mitchell

BT-13 North American Vultee

BT-15 North American Vultee

P-38 Lockheed Lightning

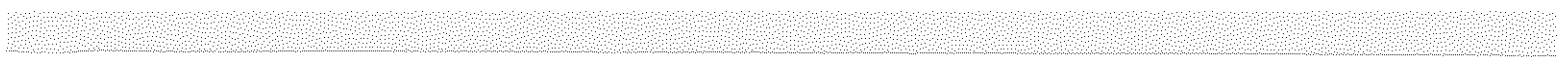
P-39 Bell Airacobra

P-51 North American Mustang

P-63 Bell King Cobra

PT-17 Boeing - Stearman Kadet

UC-78 Cessna



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