

# Fanny Hill's Wartime Experience

## Introduction

Fanny Christina Hill was born in Hempstead, Texas in 1918. Her father, a struggling farmer, died when she was young, leaving Hill's 30-year-old mother alone to care for five children. Her mother worked as a domestic laborer for a white family, although the onset of the Great Depression, which Hill dates in the interview to 1926, when the agricultural economy began to collapse. During the Great Depression, Hill and her sister worked various domestic services jobs throughout Texas. By 1940, Hill and her sister had saved enough money working in Tyler, Texas, to relocate to Los Angeles, California. Los Angeles was a major destination for African Americans from Texas and Louisiana<sup>1</sup>.

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## Primary Source

Follow link to read [Fanny Hill's Wartime Experience \(1942\)](#) <sup>2 3 4 5 6</sup>

The book where the interview is captured, [\*Rosie the Riveter Revisited: Women, the War, and Social Change\*](#) by Sherna Berger Gluck is available to borrow online for free from archive.org. The Fanny Christina Hill interview begins on page 28.

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<sup>1</sup> [Fanny Christina Hill, interviewed by Jan Fischer](#), June and July, 1980, and February, 1981, as part of the Rosie the Riveter Revisited oral history project funded by the Rockefeller Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities. The text linked here indicated it was republished from the original text, [\*Rosie the Riveter Revisited: Women, the War, and Social Change\*](#) by Sherna Berger Gluck, © 1987, with permission of the author.

For other interviews, visit the [Rosie the Riveter WWII American Homefront Project](#) at the University of California, Berkeley.

<sup>2</sup> *The California Eagle* and the *Los Angeles Sentinel* were local black newspapers.

<sup>3</sup> Figueroa Street.

<sup>4</sup> William (Billy) Mitchell was a US Army General credited as the founder of the Air Force. The B-52 bomber used during WWII was nicknamed the Billy bomber in honor of him.

<sup>5</sup> The Serviceman's Readjustment act, passed in 1944, guaranteed a variety of benefits to veterans, including healthcare, low-interest mortgages, and free college.

<sup>6</sup> Hill moved to neighboring Compton.