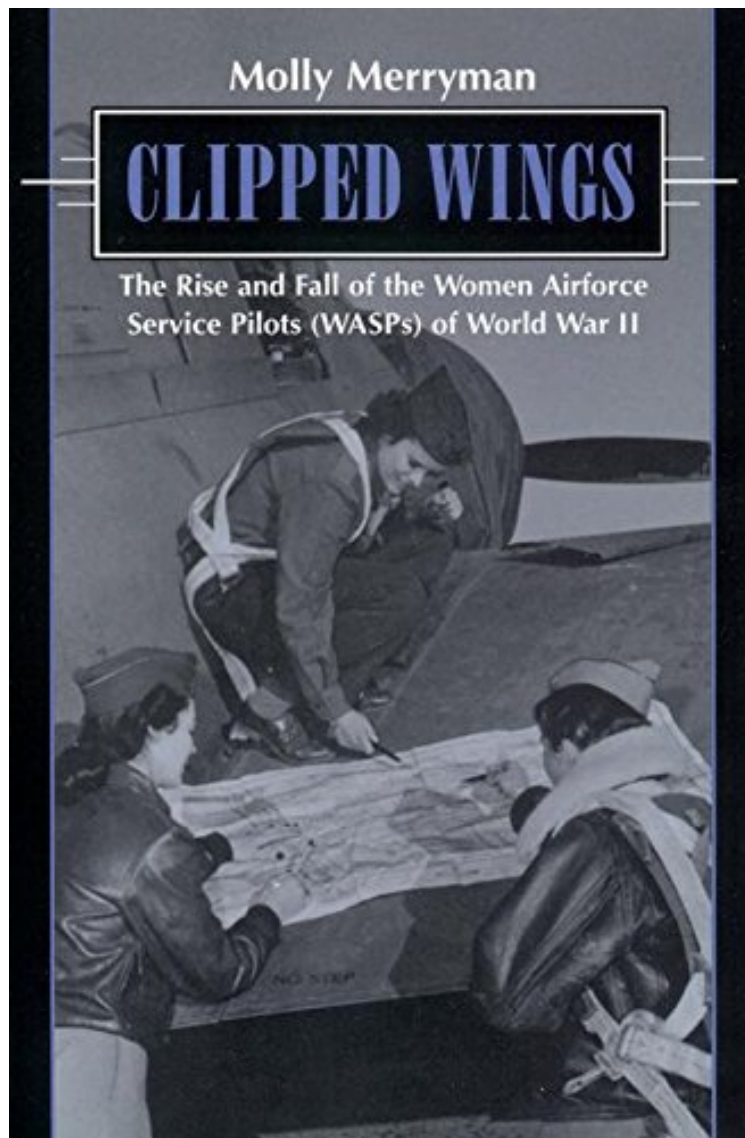


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Clipped Wings: The Rise and Fall of the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASPS) of World War II

Molly Merryman

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#150678 in Books NYU Press 2001-02-01 2001-02-01Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.21 x .67 x 6.14l, .85 #File Name: 0814755682252 pages | File size: 19.Mb

Molly Merryman : Clipped Wings: The Rise and Fall of the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASPS) of World War II before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Clipped Wings: The Rise and Fall of the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASPS) of World War II:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. WASP program, another viewpoint.By Andrew H. LippsWell

written and fully documented. The author puts forth the premise that the WASP program ended not due to the reasons usually cited; the return of male pilots from overseas or the in-fighting between the principals Cochran, Hobby, and Love. But due to a the misogynistic attitude of their male counterparts and the nation in general. She makes her point and supports it with an analysis of the role of the media. The only failings I find are that her point could likely have been made just as easily in fewer pages. And less important but of interest to those of us that study the WASP history, Merryman dismisses the often cited bickering between Jackie Cochran and Oveta Culp Hobby as the work of the media. One only has to read Cochran's autobiography to realize that her dislike of "Mrs. Hobby" (she refused to address her by her rank of Colonel) was quite real. Overall an excellent contribution to literature on the WASP program if a somewhat unwieldy read. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. For me there aren't enough photos and the ones used are not the best quality but it will let the reader see some ...By Marvin Shimel This is another story about the W.A.S.P. written by Molly Merryman, a teacher at Kent State. She touches into the problems these young women had during their short two year career. For me there aren't enough photos and the ones used are not the best quality but it will let the reader see some of the accomplishments these women made. One WASP flew our first jet fighter, the Bell P--59. Two others were chosen by Col. Tibbets, the man that dropped the first atomic bomb, to fly the B-29 and they went from one B-29 base to another teaching male pilots how to handle this giant bomber. He was ordered to quit this because it was making the male pilots look bad. There are several books about the WASP and should be in libraries for people to read their story. By the way, they are never referred to as WASPs. their title is already plural: Women's Air Force Service Pilots! Thank you. Marv Shimel 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Interesting history By Pat This book repeats many facts and events in multiple places throughout the book. Interesting information, but hard to get through.

During World War II, all branches of the military had women's auxiliaries. Only the Women Airforce Service Pilot (WASP) program, however, was comprised entirely of women who flew dangerous missions more commonly associated with and desired by men. Within military hierarchies, the World War II pilot was projected as the most dashing and desirable of servicemen. "Flyboys" were the daring elite of the United States military. More than the WACs (Army), WAVES (Navy), SPARS (Coast Guard), or Women Marines, the WASPs directly challenged these assumptions of male supremacy in wartime culture. WASPs flew the fastest fighter planes and heaviest bombers; they test-piloted experimental models and worked in the development of weapons systems. Yet the WASPs were the only women's auxiliary within the armed services of World War II that was not militarized. In *Clipped Wings*, Molly Merryman draws upon military documents (many of which were declassified only in the 1980s), congressional records, and interviews with the women who served as WASPs during World War II, to trace the history of the over 1,000 pilots who served their country as the first women to fly military planes. She examines the social pressures which culminated in their disbandment in 1944—even though a wartime need for their services still existed—and documents their struggles and eventual success, in 1977, to gain military status and receive veterans benefits.

"Well written and draws on a variety of primary source material. . . . The book adds to the continuing study of women pilots in World War II."-Net Book "An excellent study . . . its grounding in feminist history and methodology are timely and welcome."-American Historical "Merryman's work has been hailed as a fresh, astute, analysis of the WASP program. The book is well written and draws on a variety of primary source material including, military documents, interviews with former WASPs, newspapers and articles and Jacqueline Cochran's private papers."-Minerva "Clipped Wings lets us peer into the political cockpit of militarized gender construction. I've learned a lot from this fine book."-Cynthia Enloe, author of *Does Khaki Still Become You?* "Merryman has assembled a formidable study of these women pilots using recently declassified government documents, as well as interviews with surviving WASP personnel."-Feminist Collections About the Author Molly Merryman, Ph.D. is an associate professor and associate chair of Sociology at Kent State University. She has authored a number of book chapters and journal articles and is a documentary filmmaker whose projects have received national and international screenings and awards.