

Lines from Linda

by linda ayers turner knorr



TOP SECRET

**No
More!**

**HELEN
KOGEL
DENTON**

Military policemen visited U. S. Army Corps Technical Corporal Helen Kogel daily. She gave them her carefully prepared work along with her typewriter ribbons and carbon papers. The MPs immediately destroyed her carbons and ribbons by burning them in a fireplace in the same room where the young twenty-three-year-old spent endless hours typing. This continued for six weeks. As she pounded the keys on the old Royal manual, the noise was drowned out by the sounds of German bombing raids...

Helen Kogel's work in London in May of 1944 was Top Secret! Her boss was General Dwight David Eisenhower!

"I spent more time under my desk than at it" Helen recalled. "I saw buildings disintegrated and people killed on the

street."

Seeing the devastation in England after three and a half years of Luftwaffe bombing was an eye opener for the young lady from South Dakota.

The eighth of nine children from a farming family, Helen Kogel grew up on the prairie. After graduating from business school in 1942, one of Helen's girl-friends had an idea...the two would enlist in the Women's Army Corps. Kogel passed...her girl-friend was rejected.

While she served as secretary to the Commandant in Fort Crook, Nebraska, the opportunity was offered for Helen to join the staff of Eisenhower in London. She volunteered, passed her security clearance and boarded the Queen Mary. Enemy U-boat sightings were feared

during the Atlantic crossing, but seasickness became the foe for Corporal Kogel.

Picnicking at my mother Hazel Ayers' home in Stone Mountain, Georgia, members of the Collie Club of Georgia were fascinated as my mom showed us news-

paper clippings about our friend, Helen Kogel Denton. Helen would be the Grand Marshal in the upcoming holiday parade. Why would the festival committee



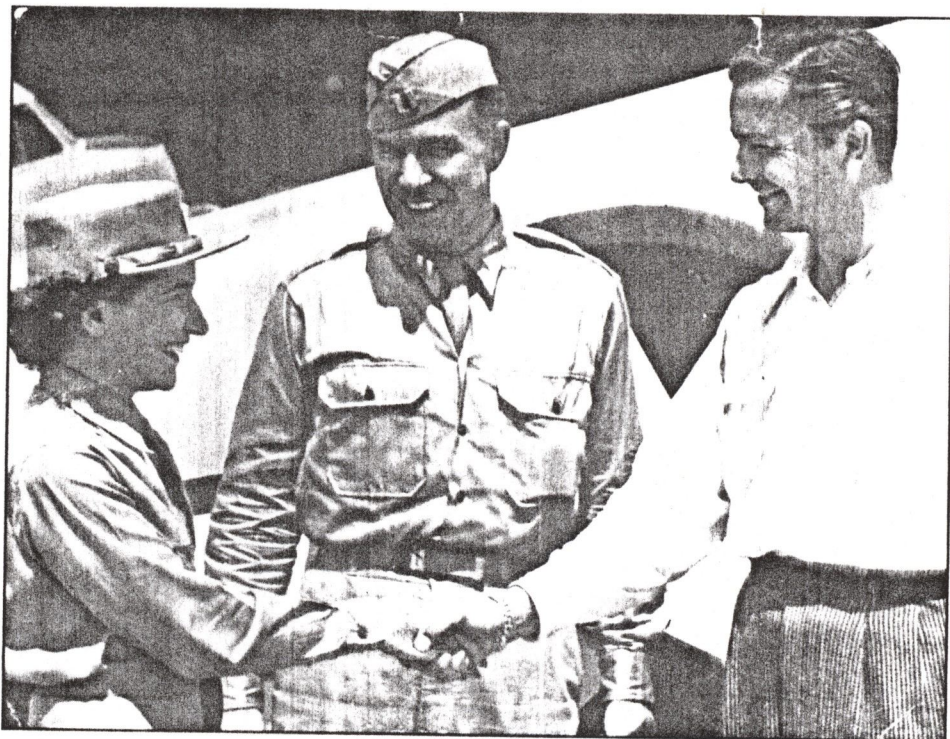
choose a petite seventy-three-year-old lady living in Riverdale, Georgia to lead the parade? The fiftieth anniversary of World War II is being commemorated in 1995. The United States is honoring the World War II veterans and the sacrifices made on the home front by the American people, providing the American public with a clearer understanding and appreciation of the enduring lessons of the war. But that day at the picnic we got a closer glimpse at Helen and her role in history.



After weeks of dictating, General Eisenhower called his weary secretary aside. "Do you know what you have just typed, Helen?" In her heart she knew. "These are the battle plans for the invasion of France...Operation Overload, D-Day." The plans for the liberation of Europe had been put in print by Helen Kogel!

On June 5, 1944 at 4:15 a.m. with the words "Okay...we'll go," Dwight D. Eisenhower, supreme commander of the United States Army set in motion the Allied Invasion of Europe, the greatest military operation the world has ever known.

On June 6, Kogel drew KP duty where, at the mess hall, they turned up the volume and gathered around a tiny radio and listened teary-eyed as Winston Churchill in all his glory proclaimed the great invasion. "I was torn up inside



Left: Fort Crook, Nebraska, Helen's (center) first Duty Station

Above: Actor Robert Young commends Corp. Kogel for her role in history

Right: Sgt. Noel Denton

knowing what was going on," Helen shared with her friends at the picnic.

In August she and the remainder of Eisenhower's office staff members landed in France the same way the D-Day troops had come. They waded into the surf at Omaha Beach. They established a new headquarters in liberated Paris.

Staff Sergeant Noel Denton from Georgia was assigned to escort the women from the beach in Normandy. The tall, dark and handsome southerner swept Helen literally off her feet, and two years later they were married and building their dream house on the edge of a cotton field near Riverdale, Georgia.

A Collie became the choice of the young couple. Their son Jon would have a "Lassie" of his own. Their love for the breed grew into Deep South Collie Kennels. Noel handled most of his own dogs, and Jon loved to emulate his father with the lovely tri color he showed in Junior Showmanship. Ch. HazelJane's Dark Destiny, Ch. Tannof's Talmidge, Ch. Brandywine Sirroco and Ch. Deep South's Summer Sunset were favorite members of the Denton family.



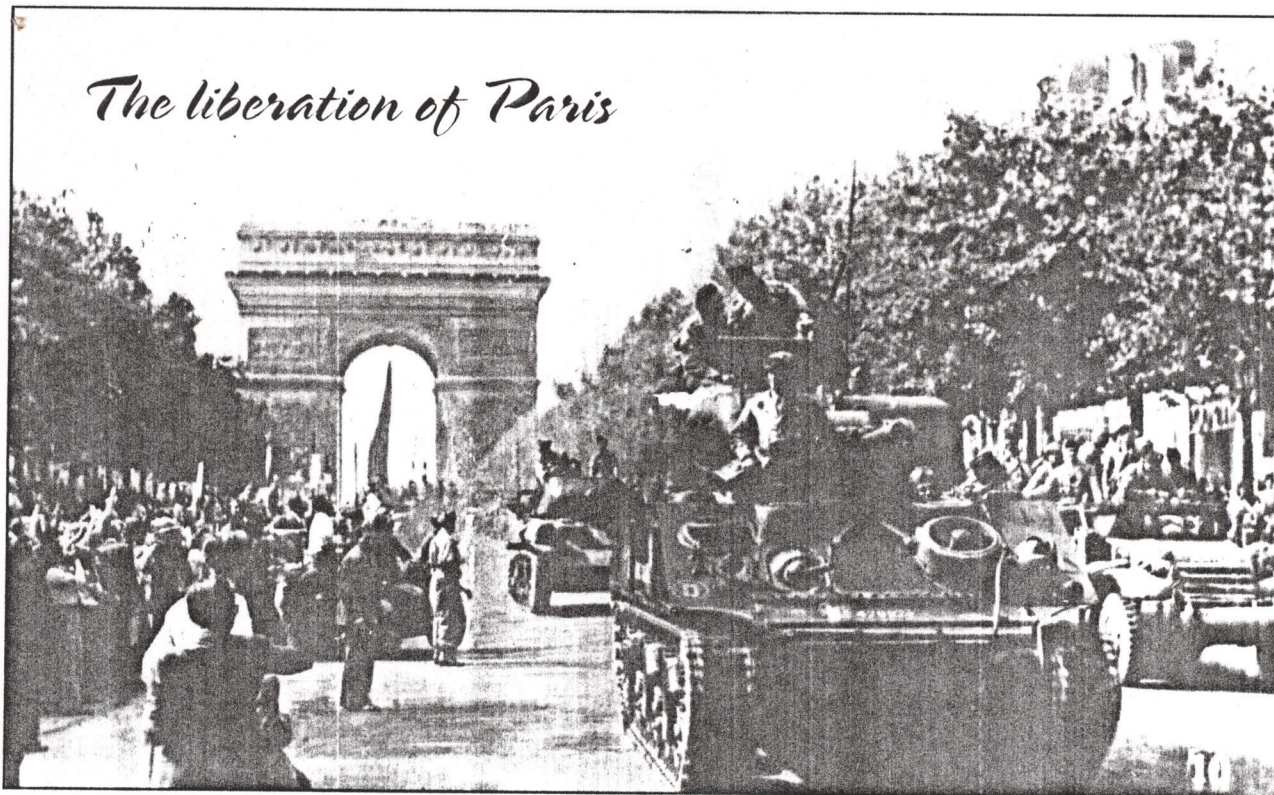


After being chosen to go to General Eisenhower's British headquarters, Helen is taking a break on the top deck of the Queen Mary on her way to London

One of the elite group of WAC's preparing to leave for Normandy
Helen, third from right



The liberation of Paris



Lines from Linda

by linda ayers turner knorr

In 1965 Noel was approved to judge Collies. The Collie Club of America's National Specialty Show of 1974 in St. Paul, Minnesota was his favorite assignment.

He was elected Treasurer of the Collie Club of America in 1976, a post he held until his untimely death in 1982. Tragically, Jon died in an accident in February of that year. Nine months later, on Thanksgiving Day, Noel died of a heart attack.

The loss of her son and husband would be enough to shatter the life of Helen Denton...

But just as determined as she was when she sloshed ashore on Omaha Beach, her desire was fueled to carry on her husband's dreams. Helen filled her husband's vacancy as Treasurer for Collie Club of America. Later she continued as Treasurer of the Collie Club of America Foundation.

This year, fifty years after General Eisenhower's suc-

cessful mission, Helen Kogel Denton was elected President of the Collie Club of America Foundation, an eight-year-old non-profit organization. Since the organization is so new, many have questioned its purpose. The foundation awards grants for education and research projects on health problems and genetics. The mission here is to better the Collie! With Helen Kogel Denton at the helm, I have a feeling the great accomplishments of the foundation will be Top Secret No More! ■



Jon Denton winning Best Junior Handler, Collie Club of Georgia Specialty 1963



Collie Club of Georgia members Martha Pinnell, Helen Denton, and Janice Geller preparing for picnic in Stone Mountain