

Jean (Ross) Konwerski

Jean (Ross) Konwerski (1921-2005) was the daughter of Thomas and Daisy (Heath) Ross. Her early years were like any young girl living in Delaware County in 1920s and '30s. She graduated from Cowan high school in 1939 and began her studies at Ball State University. Things were going great for Jean in college where she was studying business and physical education, but war was raging in Europe. Two of her brothers joined the service, and she felt if she also joined in the war effort her brothers could come home earlier. So, in 1943, Jean enlisted in the US Army as a member of the Women's Army Corps (WAC). After her training in the US, she went to Europe. Arriving on the Queen Mary, she stayed on the grounds of Buckingham Palace. While in Europe, she served in France and Germany. She was sometimes close enough to the bombing that she would have to duck for cover under her desk. While serving on the Eastern front, she earned two battle stars and advanced to the rank of Sergeant.



Toward the end of the war, she worked closely with the Supreme Allied Commander, General Dwight D. Eisenhower. She wasn't his secretary but occasionally she took dictation from him. In a 2003 interview with The Star Press reporter, John Carlson, Jean stated that Eisenhower "was strict but very nice. You give more work for someone who's nice. He was very human, very pleasant."

Jean was one of the four WAC's that had the privilege of typing the Nazi surrender papers that ended the fighting in Europe. In the 2003 interview with John Carlson, Jean stated, "for that project, the typing had to be flawless."



Returning home from the war, Jean married Master Sergeant Julian Francis Konwerski who she had met while serving in Europe. They moved to Delaware County where she resumed her education at Ball State University and taught at Blue River and Union schools for several years. She retired from Area 6, Agency on Aging, where she worked as a site coordinator.