

2

equipment. My job didn't change. I was still working on the same size lenses.

Working there was very unpleasant. There were mostly men employees and a few women. Some men used foul language and had no respect. One day I was sent to another division to pick up some "lens scratch filler." Big joke! There was no such thing! They thought it was funny, but I didn't. Eventually I was transferred to the engineering section as a secretary.

Then I heard that Curtis Wright Company, an airplane factory making bombers, was hiring and paying much more than American Optical. I went to work in the personnel office, second shift, 3pm until midnight. I have a vivid memory of seeing the working ladies in the factory standing by the planes with what we called "babushkas" on their heads. It was a good place to work.

Then in August 1943, as I was on my way to work, I saw a sign in front of the post office that said, "THE MARINE CORPS NEEDS YOU. FREE A MAN TO FIGHT." Immediately I went inside and signed up! One month later I was on my way to boot camp. That ended my work in a defense factory and started my adventures as a Marine!