

## Resource Sheet#3

### Document B-*Interview with Mae Graybill*

Jody Sopronyi: “What did you do at Martin?”

Mae Graybill: “We worked on the B-26 Marauder. Margie and I built the last section of the fuselage before the tail went on. We were with a group of men, but she was my riveting partner. We got a certificate of achievement. It didn’t mean anything to me then, but I wish I could find it now. Margie was my partner the whole time I was there, except they did pull me off of the B-26 fuselage section to go up and do a section on the Mars flying boat, and that was with a man as a partner. The Mars was this big navy plane [140,000-pounds]. They only made six. When the war was over, Canada bought them all because they could fight forest fires with them. It was a tanker. It took off from the water and landed on the water. The Mars was so huge. They had steps to go up, and all around they had a guardrail where we could walk, and you could walk right into the plane from where we were, to rivet. I heard from a lady who was a flight nurse on one, the Hawai’i. She said they always dreaded taking off from and landing on the water, and she congratulated me on a job well done.”

Source: Graybill, M., & Sopronyi, J. (2007, August). A real rosie [Special section]. *America in WWII*.

#### Background Information

Mae Graybill migrated from Hershey, PA to work in the Glenn L. Martin plant outside Baltimore, MD just one year after she graduated high school. Although Mae was laid off along with many other female workers when the war ended, the Glenn L. Martin Company called her back on the job. In this interview, Mae is reflecting on her experiences as a riveter for aircraft at the Glenn L. Martin plant. Like many other women, she originally migrated to Baltimore seeking employment in a wartime industry. She lived in a small trailer home, which was common of the housing provided through the plant for migrant wartime workers. Although most women were laid off after the war and did not regain a factory job, Mae was recalled to work as a riveter once again and remained in Baltimore.

#### Guiding Questions

- 1) Describe the work Mae performed at Glenn L. Martin during the war.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2) To what extent did the Glenn L. Martin Company value Mae Graybill’s work?