

Henrietta "Peggy Hull" Deuell

1890 to 1967

The Kansas native was a trailblazer for women in journalism and the first woman to serve on four battlefronts. Her role model was reporter Nellie Bly, made famous through stories she wrote about her "trip around the world in 72 days." She left home at an early age to pursue her profession in Colorado, California, Hawaii, Minnesota, Ohio and Texas. Her reporting of GEN John Pershing's pursuit of Pancho Villa after his raid into New Mexico is considered one of the most accurate of that event. In 1917, the *El Paso Times* sent her to Paris to cover WW I. At that time, the War Department did not grant accreditation to female journalists. But her acquaintance with Pershing gained her more than a month's access to an artillery training camp which prompted jealous male reporters to have her recalled to Paris. In 1918, she went to Washington, DC and obtained accreditation with help from GEN Peyton Marsh. She went on to cover the Russian Revolution by accompanying American troops to Siberia. She was in Shanghai for the 1937 invasion by the Imperial Japanese Army. During WW II, she was not given front-line assignments. But she reported from several Pacific Islands writing popular human-interest stories of ordinary soldiers.

"In 1944, an American G. I. wrote to her, saying, 'You will never realize what those yarns of yours . . . did to this gang. . . You made them know they weren't forgotten.'"

