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Interviewers**

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**Q:** You went to work for yourself as a truck mechanic?

**EG:** No I went to visit, they take these guys that work, i work for sunset electric, they had this system in where you can go in and they paid you so much and about half, and then the government will give you a check every month.

**Q:** like on the job training.

**EG:** Yes on the job training, yup.

**Q:** Now where were you, you were born in Cohoes?

**EG:** Yes

**Q:** When were you born?

**EG:** June 26<sup>th</sup>, 1918. I didn't stay there very long, that was during a war the first war and my father went out bought a home out in the country thought he was doing somebody good out in the country, that was only about 6 months when I left Cohoes.

**Q:** What was your educational background prior to entering the service?

**EG:** I started, you probably understand this maybe I don't know, they had these CC camps.

**Q:** Ah yes yes Conservation Corps

**EG:** Yes, and it was me and my sister, it was either her going to high school or me going to high school and one of us, my parents couldn't afford both, so I went into the ccs, and my sister went through high school and when I came back out of the cc camp I didn't finish school, I was going to finish but I didn't.

**Q:** Now they paid you going through CCC?

**EG:** A dollar a day 30 dollars a month.

**Q:** What did you do there?

**EG:** Well we built dams, roads and booster rust up north in the Adirondacks, we did everything conservation department. They did good work. Very good.

**Q:** Were you fed well?

**EG:** Oh yes, we had uniforms and all under clothes and everything and the food was very good. I thought it would be a wonderful thing right now as a head of today to get these kids off the street. You know. I thought it was very good for the kids.

**Q:** Do you remember where you were when you heard about Pearl Harbor?

**EG:** Yes I was driving a truck.

**Q:** How did you hear about it?

**EG:** I heard it on the radio in my truck. I was just coming into East Greenbush and that's when I heard about it.

**Q:** How did you feel when you heard about it?

**EG:** Well, I guess we all felt about the same you know, it's a kind of bad.

**Q:** Did you enlisted or were you drafted?

**EG:** drafted.

**Q:** And what branch of service did you go into?

**EG:** the army

**Q:** Okay, when did you go in? Do you remember?

**EG:** 44, July.

**Q:** Where did you go for your basic training?

**EG:** Fort Dix, I went through Fort Dix, but I went through in Texas, Camp Wolters in Texas. For basic training yes.

**Q:** Did you go onto any specialty school or anything?

**EG:** No, I didn't because they were hurting, that was the time of the bulge, and they were hurting, as soon as you finished basic you were gone.

**Q:** So you were and infantry among them?

**EG:** I had 11 days home, they call it a delay in route, well you had service you probably got that.

**Q:** So you were shipped overseas almost right away?

**EG:** After my 11 days.

**Q:** Did you go in a convoy or a single ship?

**EG:** No we went in convoys.

**Q:** Did you go as a replacement?

**EG:** Well no, I couldn't say replacement, it was just a mess, we were trying to get all we could get over there, and it was just about the end of the bulge. I went into the heart of France that's where I landed. I was with Paten. I was actually in the eleventh armor with him.

**Q:** Did you ever see Paten yourself?

**EG:** Yes, I see him yeah

**Q:** Did you ever have any encounters or talk to him?

**EG:** no, they got him all wrong, he's a wonderful person, Rumors with everything, there were a lot of jokes about him, he was on the front line yeah, he was a good man, real good man, I thought he was, troops liked him.

**Q:** When did you see your first combat?

**EG:** A ship landed it took us 17 days to go across, as soon as the ship landed.

**Q:** Did you fight at all in the bulge, or did you get there just as it ended?

**EG:** no, like I said I was in the heart of France, and then from there they took us in a big area and put us in a big field and then at night about 12 maybe 1 o'clock in the morning [unclear], quite a few people got killed that night you know, that was my first experience.

**Q:** What about winter equipment and clothing, was that sufficient?

**EG:** I guess it was, I think so I don't know, we had to do what we had to do it's it's what we had, he was a good general, we had all good officers. Wasn't much they could do.

**Q:** Were you ever wounded or injured?

**EG:** no I got frost bite.

**Q:** Has that given you problems over the years?

**EG:** It has and now I have patches disease in my one leg, and I went down to the hospital, down to the veterans thing to see what I could do or get out of them you know, but they don't want to hear about it, they got more people down there, that they will never take care of.

**Q:** What kind of weapon did you carry? You carry The M1?

**EG:** the M1, yeah.

**Q:** how did you like it as a weapon?

**EG:** I thought it was very good, little heavy. Lot of people tried it and I did myself, we capture Germans and we take their rifle because they had a nice little burst gun, light, and so they had the same ammunition. It was very light the M1 was very heavy.

**Q:** What did you think of your officers, the ones that were directly over you?

**EG:** Well most of the time we would have second lieutenant or general, once in a while 1<sup>st</sup> lieutenant but most of the time you would have 2<sup>nd</sup> generally your commanding officer.

**Q:** What were they like mostly?

**EG:** it was just like anything you know, couldn't find them when you wanted them. Actually the first guy I saw get killed was our 2<sup>nd</sup> lieutenant officer, he's standing right beside me on a pill box and the one shell was fired, must of got him had to get him right in the heart chamber cause these pill boxes were concealed very good. We were standing on top and didn't know it.

**Q:** Where did you go next?

**EG:** Well we tried to get out of there, and the Germans had us all zeroed in you know? They pinned us down for most of the day then we got out of there and we went our different ways of directions toward the Germans you know, there wasn't anything we could do.

**Q:** You follow Patten all the way through Germany?

**EG:** Yeah I went all the way to Berlin, from the heart of France to Berlin.

**Q:** Were there things that stood out more than others, any stories you recall that you want to tell us about?

**EG:** No I don't think so we kept pretty busy, everybody kept pretty busy.

**Q:** Now with Patten moving so fast, did you ever drive or ride on any of the tanks or did you?

**EG:** oh yeah I drove them, there was two of us on 1 tank, we were going behind the lines and see how strong they were how many tanks they had, we had radio equipment in there and we call the air force in, that was pretty good.

**Q:** Did you ever liberate any of the concentration camps?

**EG:** Yes, Yes quite a few of them - we went on forced marches, and some of the kids and old people were in there. Most of them were killed, they were on their hands and knees and they were shot through the head you know.

**Q:** How did you feel when you saw these camps?

**EG:** I guess everybody felt the same that that was the job and we had to do it.

**Q:** Did you know that they existed prior to that?

**EG:** Oh yeah we knew before going into war we knew going in we were told about them, sure yeah.

**Q:** Now when you reached Berlin, did you have to stop, did you meet up with the Russian soldiers at all?

**EG:** Oh well that's a good question, we were in Berlin and the Russian were on the other side of the river and they took us out of there, Berlin, we had to go back 3-6 miles. And then I don't know how the Russians ever got in, but they made it after a while they had an awful time passing, getting across that river you know. They were tough troops but I guess they didn't have any opportunities upstairs. They ended up having to pick Berlin.

**Q:** Toward the end were there a lot of German surrendering to your units?

**EG:** Yeah, more than we could have you know, we just took them into big fields and built fences up and did the best we can.

**Q:** They didn't want to be surrendered to the Russians.

**EG:** no way, no way people, women jumping out of the windows and things.

**Q:** Are there any experiments that stand out more than others that you recall?

**EG:** yeah, I think with the kids and the old people, they stand out and will stand out, I can't remember the name of the the concentration camps we took over, but there was one there that they say this woman was taking human bodies and making lamp shades.

**Q:** I think that was Auschwitz.

**EG:** yeah all so many years now I can't remember.

**Q:** you remember where you were when you heard about the death of President Roosevelt.

**EG:** I was right in the middle of it somewhere in fact I don't even know what month I was.

**Q:** It was in April of 45.

**EG:** yeah I guess, I had what ya call it. Frostbite, I was sick for the line, you know, you probably remember that, we were there for 3 weeks, and most of us got frost bite and everything it was February, and it was kind of cold, fox wool is all we had.

**Q:** Alright, how long did you stay in Germany, did you stay in after the war?

**EG:** yeah I was in camp Phillip Moore, in think it was outside of Paris and we were there about 3-4 weeks. Trying to get a boat going.

**Q:** Did you get to see any USO shows?

**EG:** one. Bob Hope, yup, that was in combat.

**Q:** When did you return home?

**EG:** Umm, well I landed Christmas afternoon, in Virginia.

**Q:** Was that 1946?

**EG:** 45, yeah 1945.

**Q:** You came back in 45 okay. When were you discharged?

**EG:** well, they asked me if I wanted to go home for a 3-4-day pass for the holidays, because I have 2 kids and a wife, and when I went home I overstayed a week. And then I came back and they said they didn't care, and then I got discharged.

**Q:** Now you said you use the GI. Bill? Did you use the GI Bill?

**EG:** For my job? Yeah yes I used it yup.

**Q:** For training, did you ever buy a too using the GI Bill too?

**EG:** yeah I bought a couple house, but I didn't keep them too long, I had bad tenants, I'm not going to cry about it, it's done and over with you know.

**Q:** You ever use the 52 20 club?

**EG:** No you know I never got a penny out of that, I never collected unemployment in my life, and the 52 20 club that, I could of got it, but my brother in law got a job in public steel and I was only home for 2 weeks so I went to work.

**Q:** Did you ever stay in contact with anyone that was in service with you?

**EG:** No, not too much.

**Q:** You join any veteran's organizations?

**EG:** No

**Q:** How do you think your time in the service changed or had an effect on your life?

**EG:** I don't know, it's hard to say, kind of makes you bitter I think a lot of the time, you know, if you think about it, better if you didn't, but you did it for your country that's all. I thought there might be some dates on here, but.

**Q:** On your dd2 14 there probably would be.

**EG:** Here's some of the places I got 4 battle stars here.

**Q:** Well thank you very much for your interview.