

**Edith 'Eadie' Green
Civilian**

**Interviewers
Names Were Not Provided**

**Interviewed on January 7th, 2010
Hudson Falls, New York**

Q: Do you mind if I ask you a couple background questions before we get started?

EG: No

Q: Alright, so can you tell me your date of birth?

EG: December 3rd, 1916.

Q: Where were you born?

EG: I was born in Glens Falls, New York.

Q: Did you grow up there?

EG: I grew up there, yes.

Q: Where did you go to school?

EG: I went to school at South Street school.

Q: What did you do for a living?

EG: What did I do for a living? Well after I graduated as a matter of fact, when I was thirteen years old, I went to work at Erlanger's downtown, and it was very nice I mean I just did it to keep busy. We didn't need any government regulations then, and I just worked there.

Q: Did you ever have any children?

EG: Yes, I had one child that was stillborn and then I had my son Jeffery who lives in Massachusetts.

Q: Do you have any brothers or sisters?

EG: No, they are all gone I was a baby of ten in the family, my oldest sister died a year ago.

Q: What did you do during World War two? Did you work at all?

EG: World War two yes, I worked at Erlanger's, and I used to manage the department, and I used to go to New York to buy I just never went to college. I was ready to go to college only my father was ill, and it was too hard for my mother, and I didn't go.

Q: What would you have majored in if you went to college?

EG: I think I would have majored in the same work I was doing at Erlanger's.

Q: Do you have any specific memories of living during the great depression?

EG: During the great depression well, I tell you I was born during the great depression, and I don't remember anything. I remember my mother telling me that everybody was sick, they had the flu, and it used to cost them a dollar for a lemon. And of course it cost a dollar for eleven today. But those days a dollar for eleven was a great deal.

Q: Do you remember what it was like in America when Hitler came to power?

EG: Oh yes, yes it was dreadful. I mean we used to hear about it and read about it and all, but we were very concerned and that was it. What else could we do.

Q: Do you think that this country should have gone to war? Do you think that we should've after Pearl Harbor do you think that we should have immediately gone to war, or should we have waited a little bit to see what would happen?

EG: I think it was necessary to go to war. My husband immediately signed up for war and knew we were not married at the time, and he had signed up because his brother was at Guadalcanal and his brother died there not there but he was in a foxhole with six other guys and he was the only one that out alive and the other guys were killed and that left a great mark on him and then my husband decided he would go into service. He went into the marine corps.

Q: Did you approve of this decision?

EG: Yes, but he was going to California, and I said well I would join him there and of course he went right over to the islands. Then his brother was in this horrible accident, and he went onto a screech of Santos, and I knew that only because we had a code, and he had told me where he was going otherwise I would have never in a million years. I

didn't hear from him for several weeks. We were married before he went over. I wish to join him and of course he went right over. That was the story.

Q: Did any of your friends have any of their boyfriends or husbands involved in the war?

EG: Very few of them. No, I don't think so. They were involved but they were not sent overseas.

Q: Where did your husband go exactly?

EG: He went to the Pacific. He went to Pasquale canal and went to Espirito Santos. The only reason I knew that is because we had a code, and he was able to tell me by the code where he was otherwise, he would have never been able to tell me. He was gone for four years before I saw him again.

Q: How often would you get letters from him?

EG: Well, I got letters all the time and there was a time when I read in the paper where Espirito Santos had been bombed and I can remember how dreadful I felt, and I didn't hear from him for a long time and then finally I did get a letter and he told me that he was okay.

Q: Was he injured? Any serious injuries?

EG: No, he wasn't.

Q: Did your husband ever talk about any war experiences that he had?

EG: No very little about it, very little. I wish I could show you some pictures, but I don't have any right now. I think my son took over the big pictures of him there and he was in charge of the beer. He told me that he was able to give me the beer to the guys. Before we were married, the license had elapsed, the blood test had elapsed and my brother knew the judge, and he got him to fix that so we could get married that night. And we were married that night.

Q: That's hilarious. So how did you meet Irv?

EG: How did I meet him? He was working for Coen brothers shoe store at the time, and I don't know, one of the fellows there I knew had invited me over that night to play poker and I didn't feel like going, but I said oh, well, what am I going to do so, I went, and I sat next to him and that's how I met him. And I don't think it was love at first sight or anything. In fact, it took me a long time to decide.

Q: So, you guys were dating for quite a while before you married?

EG: No, not a long time at all. Very short time. As a matter of fact, we went out on a New Year's Eve date. I remember I was supposed to go to Albany, and I didn't, and he had asked me out, so I said oh, okay I'll go. And I did and I don't know, we got together that night, I guess.

Q: What's your opinion on the GI Bill?

EG: The GI Bill? You mean? What GI Bill? You mean the new health bill?

Q: Yeah, like when veterans would come back from war and they have a home and like all this.

EG: Oh, I see. Oh, that bill. Well, there's an awful lot of bills. I think that the government had every right to do it, and I think that they didn't do it properly. I don't think they did half of the things that they should have done. I mean, the young men were really in bad shape when they came home and a lot of them were not physically but emotionally upset. My husband wasn't and I don't know why he wasn't because he went through so much, but he just was good. But I guess maybe because he had somebody waiting for him. But I honestly think it was unfair because I think the government should have done a lot more for the fellows when they come home and should do it.

Q: Do you think if your son was interested in going into the war today, do you think your husband would approve of that?

EG: I'll tell you. My son was called in, and he had fallen on a ski slope when he was thirteen years old and had injured his back. So, he was not. They wouldn't accept him because he was called, and he wasn't accepted. So, he went off to school.

Q: How did FDR's death affect you?

EG: How did what?

Q: Franklin D Roosevelt, the president. How did his death affect you?

EG: Oh, it was dreadful. I was on the golf course. I was playing with a neighbor, and we were both I don't know, somebody came along and told us, and we were both shocked. Of course, we couldn't finish playing golf. We were very upset.

Q: Did your family and friends support your decision to travel with your husband when he was in California and how you would follow him around?

EG: No, he came back to Kingston, North Carolina, after the war and he was still in the service, and I joined him. They were very happy that I joined him, and it was tough. It was very hard. My family approved, but we didn't have any money. And I got a job working in a shop. They were all black people working there and it was very difficult at the time because people were against the black people. It was very difficult. His commanding officer stopped by one night. We had a big thing of salami that my mother had sent us because she knew we didn't have any money to buy anything. So, she sent us this salami, and he came to the door, and we were eating, and I thought oh my god my husband was out of uniform or something. But he said he heard we had an apartment because we lived in a little room, one room with a potbelly stove. It was really a big, big home. And I just lived in this one room with a potbelly stove, and it was really bad. I used to go down when he'd go to work, I'd go down and have my breakfast or have my lunch or something and start looking and I finally found an apartment. And this particular night, this officer came to the door, and I said oh he's been out of uniform, or he's been something. So, he said, I heard you had an apartment, and I wondered if you knew of any place, and I said no. I said we don't. He said, my wife is pregnant, and I want her to come down and I said, well you can get a room someplace and he said no, it would be a problem with the food, and I said well, oh I invited him to eat the salami with us. Oh, he loved it. I said, you know, she could, if you get a room for her, she can eat with us if you share the meal. So, he said oh, that would be wonderful. Well, he was there the next day with his wife, and he was very good to us. They finally said you know that she's trying to eat with us, and she was very lonesome. And he said, why don't you quit your job? I said, if I quit my job, we won't eat. So, he said he was a sergeant, and he was promoted to staff sergeant so that his wife had a place to eat. That's the truth. And he was very good to us. You know, I got sick. I remember getting sick and I didn't want to go to the hospital, and I called the doctor in town, and he came in and he said I had some sort of infection, a bladder infection or something. He said, do you have any children, I said no, he said why not. I said because the doctor told me I couldn't have any because I was built so small. Will you do me a favor he said, I said yes, he said will you please come to my office and let me examine you. I said yes, so I went to the office. It was a big, high stairs I remember climbing up the stairs into this little officer and he examined me, and he said there's no way that you can't have children every woman can have children, and he says yes, you can have children. You go home and enjoy yourself. That's exactly what he said. You girls all know about this, so I guess you're old enough. He said, when you finish having intercourse, you put a pillow between your legs and don't get up. I was pregnant within two months. Yeah, he was really something. I had to come back home because it was too difficult there, and I came back home, and the commander used to fly up Glens Falls on a weekend, on a Friday night he could stay till Sunday, and he came after so that was nice.

Q: Did the fact that your husband was in the Marines change your perspective on war, like the concept of war?

EG: Oh yes definitely. I mean before it was, you know, something you just went through you know, you listened to all the remarks and things that people said, but it was just a phase that you went through. But then it became very important.

Q: Where were you when the atomic bomb was dropped?

EG: Where was I? I don't remember exactly where I was. I don't remember.

Q: Do you remember hearing anything, like on the radio?

EG: Oh yes, I remember it very well, but I don't remember where I was for the life of me, I can't remember. Isn't that funny.

Q: Was that decision sort of kept secret to drop the atomic bomb? Did the country really know anything about it, or did they sort of keep that to themselves?

EG: No, we knew about it of course we all heard about it, and it was dreadful and funny I can't remember where I was. Strange.

Q: What do you think students should take away from World War II? What do you think that they should remember the most about it?

EG: About the day it was over. Yes, I remember that day very well. I was at the movies and a friend of mine screamed because her husband was in the service and I heard her scream. They stopped the movie to tell us that it was over.

Q: Could you watch the movie after that? Could you watch the rest of the movie after learning that?

EG: Oh, no we were all so excited.

Q: All right Pearl Harbor. Do you remember where you were for that?

EG: Oh, yes, I was at my brother's house and my sister-in-law, and I remember that distinctly and I wasn't with my husband but that's shortly afterwards he went in.

Q: Did you know where Pearl harbor was or was that the first time that you'd ever heard of it?

EG: Yes, first time I'd ever heard of it.

Q: Were there a lot of protesters to the war?

EG: Oh no we didn't hear that at all. I don't remember hearing that or maybe I just didn't listen but because at that point it wasn't important truly but no, I don't remember that at all.

Q: A lot of students today, when you think about women's during the war, tend to think about factories and how they were building airplanes and materials. Did you know a lot of people that were involved with the factory work?

EG: My sister was. My sister and her husband they were in Florida and then they had to go to Rome, New York, because he was involved in this factory work and she became involved in it too, but I was a baby of a family of ten and this sister just died yesterday a year ago.

Q: Did you always ever want a big family?

EG: No, I mean I lost my first child, and I can remember with Jeffrey, they kept me. I didn't even ride in a car all the time I was pregnant with him, and it was just great. When I first rode in the car it was when I was ready to deliver.

Q: When did your son find out that your husband was involved in the war? Did he ever ask questions?

EG: No, I'll tell you honestly my son knew he was involved when he was a little boy. Wait a minute he wasn't born. No, he knew he was involved, but it didn't mean very much to him, not much at all.

Q: Did your husband ever tell you any stories?

EG: No, he never told me any stories, and he had beautiful pictures I know that my son took home with him, and he has his medals and everything and my son has them all. But beautiful pictures.

Q: What medals did he win? Do you know?

EG: I don't know, I don't know. I really don't because he never spoke about it, and he was really right with it all the time. He just was very good about it.

Q: So exactly how long was he over in the Pacific? Four years?

EG: He was there for four years.

Q: And how long was he like in America but like in the bases and stuff?

EG: He was in right where he was in Espirito Santos all the time. As a matter of fact, someplace here I have a tape. A friend of mine lived in the Pacific. I mean this was later and she told me that she came over to get her mother and take her back with her and I said, where is it? So, she said it was in Espirito Santos, and I said oh you're kidding that's where my husband was. She says, well it's become a resort town now and she sent me a tape of it, and it was beautiful. It was a lovely resort town, and she invited us to come over to see it, but we never got there but the tape is beautiful. It was very exciting.

Q: How long ago was that?

EG: Oh golly, don't ask me.

N2: What was it like on the home front like with the rations and everything. Was that hard?

EG: What?

N2: Like the rations and everything what was it like on the home front here?

EG: Well, while he was there?

N2: Yeah, and just like your experiences.

EG: Oh, I don't know. I worked all the time, and I remember one day I was standing by the window, and I saw this marine walk by, and I screamed. And this girl said to me, what are you talking about and I said oh that's her and she says, my goodness, he's been gone so long, you've forgotten what he looked like, and I said, it was true. Oh no, we thought about it all the time. It was in our minds all the time.

N2: So, it's not like it was now like now people don't really think about the war unless they have like a family member involved in it.

EG: that's right.

N2: So, it's not like it wasn't like back then?

EG: No, no, no, not with me because I was very conscious of it. When he came home, I wasn't sure that he was the man I was married to. It was very awkward. We went to New York on a honeymoon and that was fun. We went up to the Scaroon Manor, that's in Schroon Lake and there was a friend of mine who was sitting on the porch and she was kind of avoiding me. She was sitting with her husband. I said, you met my husband,

haven't you? Her mouth opened and she said oh I thought you were on a weekend pass. So, I said, no and I said we were married. So it was, the war was very much in our minds someplace. I have some pictures.

Q: Did he propose or was it just a mutual thing to get married when he came home?

EG: Oh, he came home on Saturday morning and I was in bed with my sister when he walked in and he came home, he was on the plane with Jack Benny and he said oh, I bet you're going to be married. He said oh no well he walked in the bedroom, and he said well what do you say we get married tonight? So, I said great. So, my father knew the judge and the judge did all the paperwork because our blood test had expired and that was it. that's how we got married.

Q: Pays to have connections.

EG: Yeah. Yes, it was great.

N2: What did you do to take your mind off the war? Like you said you golfed. Did you do anything else?

EG: What did I do to get my mind off the war?

N2: Yeah, and like other people in the area.

EG: You know my mind was never off the war. I used to go to a girl's house, we used to get together, and we'd play cards or try to do something a couple nights a week and the rest of the time we were at home. I lived with my parents, with my mother and my sister and that was it. It wasn't very pleasant. So that's it?

Q: Yeah, I think that's all we have.