

NAVAL WAR COLLEGE, NEWPORT, RI

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ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

WOMEN MARINES IN WORLD WAR II

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EDNA HILL SCHULTZ

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NAVAL WAR COLLEGE

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NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND  
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WOMAN MARINES IN WORLD WAR II

INTERVIEWEE: EDNA HILL SCHULTZ

INTERVIEWER: DR. EVELYN M. CHERPAK

SUBJECT: WOMEN MARINES IN WORLD WAR II

DATE: JANUARY 28, 2003

EMC: This is an oral history interview with Edna Hill Schultz of Jamestown, Rhode Island. Today's date is January 28, 2003. My name is Evelyn Cherpak. I'm the curator of the Naval Historical Collection at the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island. Edna was in the Marines, Women Reserve, during World War II. So I'm very pleased that you were free today to have me come and interview you on your World War II experiences and career in the Marines. I'd like to begin the questioning by asking you where you were born and when you were born?

EHS: I was born in Portland, Maine, in 1922, the 4th of August.

EMC: What did your father do for a living there?

EHS: My father was a musician. He was a pianist and an organist, and he gave piano lessons.

EMC: Very interesting! Was your mother a homemaker?

EHS: She was a teacher. At that time, during the Depression, they told married women they could not teach because they were taking money from their husbands, and they would be all right. So she said, "Well, all right." But she opened up her own little private kindergarten.

EMC: Oh, very enterprising!

EHS: Yes, very enterprising. She was good.

EMC: Fantastic! So she had a job during the Depression years.

EHS: Yes. She was, I think, the original liberated woman. It didn't occur to her that she wasn't liberated.

EMC: Did you have any brothers or sisters?

EHS: Yes, I had one sister. She was two and a half years younger than I.

EMC: Did she join the military?

EHS: She was in that program they had for nurses. She's a nurse. They paid for her nursing school, because they were so short on nurses. So she was in that. But she didn't go into the military.

EMC: Oh, okay. So she didn't join the WACS or the WAVES as a nurse. Did you spent your growing-up years in Portland, Maine.

EHS: Yes. Well, right across the river, which is South Portland--there's a near bridge connecting, the same as it is from Jamestown to Newport. I lived in Portland proper until I was about 12, and we went to South Portland.

EMC: Did you graduate from high school there?

EHS: Yes, I did, South Portland High.

EMC: In what year?

EHS: Nineteen forty.

EMC: Did you attend college at all?

EHS: Yes, I did. I went for two years up to what was then called Westbrook Junior College. It used to be for women only, at that time. Now it's coed. It's still there, but....

EMC: Right, so that's in Portland.

EHS: Yes, it is. It's in Portland.

EMC: What did you study there? What was your goal?

EHS: Well, I kind of liked liberal arts in a way. But on the side I took up typing and shorthand because I figured, well, I've got to make some money. That seemed to be what girls did then.

EMC: Exactly. When did you graduate from Westbrook Junior College?

EHS: Nineteen forty-two.

EMC: Did your family have any military connections at all?

EHS: Well, there's a long line us that were in the service, I guess. One of my grandfathers was a little drummer boy in the Civil War.

EMC: Oh, wonderful!

EHS: Then my father was in during World War I.

EMC: Interesting. Do you remember your reaction to the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, December 7th?

EHS: Yes, I do.

EMC: Where were you? How did you feel?

EHS: I was in college still because I didn't graduate until the following summer. We couldn't really believe it, but it was really shocking because you heard it on the radio. No TV, of course, then. What I do remember, and shortly after that, almost all the boys in the class disappeared. They just went.

EMC: No men around then.

EHS: No.

EMC: What was your personal reaction? Did you feel fear or shock?

EHS: I think I was real mad. I thought, gee, what a dirty, rotten thing to do. Like, no fair!

EMC: Right. Can you comment at all on the patriotism of this country at that time?

EHS: Terrific! Everyone wanted to cooperate. My sister used to airplane spot, and my father was a blackout warden, and we very gladly went on rationing.

EMC: Yes. How did rationing affect you, do you remember that and

what you were limited to?

EHS: Well, you did have to be careful. You couldn't always get what you wanted. But people were good sports, and a lot of borrowing back and forth. My mother might run out of something, and the next-door neighbor, "Well, I'll trade you this for that. You've got more."

EMC: Sugar and the like?

EHS: Sugar. Then, of course, being as I was young then, I did run into many people in the Navy because the fleet was around Portland quite a bit.

EMC: That's good to know.

EHS: Big ships, too. Well, of course, at that time you didn't know, or no one said they were coming. You just saw them. I made friends with a cook on board one of the big ships. Instead of bringing me flowers, he brought me steaks.

EMC: Oh, that's great! That's wonderful. Something that was kind of difficult to find, I guess.

EHS: Very. It was.



EMC: Meat probably was rationed.

EHS: It was.

EMC: And gasoline.

EHS: Oh, yes, gasoline. Well, of course, public transportation was a lot better then than it is now.

EMC: Absolutely.

EHS: A lot better.

EMC: You had buses downtown, and everything was localized, I guess, in the downtown area, not spread out.

EHS: Yes, it was. Then, of course, when I went to work at the ship building, lots of buses. Or else, if you carried so many people with you, you got a C card, which gave you more gasoline. So people had to drive together.

EMC: Double up and drive.

EHS: Right.

EMC: Now, where did you work after you graduated from Westbrook?

You mentioned the shipyard.

EHS: Yes.

EMC: Tell us what you did and where.

EHS: South Portland Shipyard, and they built Liberty ships. There were two yards, an east yard and a west yard, and they were sort of in contest with one another. I was secretary to the chief electrician in the east yard. It was very interesting because I got to go on harbor trials to take notes on the instruments and everything. It was very interesting.

EMC: Yes. How far out did you go on these trials in the Liberty ships?

EHS: Well, they used to go-- Of course, they were careful about submarines.

EMC: Yes.

EHS: You had to go-- The whole Portland Harbor was netted, so you had to get permission to go out. Maybe we'd be gone for four or five hours.

EMC: Oh, and you had to take notes then on the instruments.

EHS: Yes, the electrical installations, the degaussing, which, of course, was the anti-mine thing that they had. But it was very interesting.

EMC: Yes, that sounds like quite a responsible job. How long did you spend there before you joined the Marines?

EHS: Well, I wasn't quite old enough. Then you had to be 21, and I wasn't. I was only 19 at the time I went to work there.

EMC: In '42 you were 19?

EHS: Then my boss, who had been in the Navy, he got the idea he was going to rejoin. We were beginning to have a few little labor troubles, unions. He said, "Well, guess I'll rejoin." I said, "If you do, I will."

EMC: Oh, for heaven's sakes! That was your motivation to join.

EHS: Yes.

EMC: But you did not join the Navy, you joined the Marine Corps.

EHS: Yes, I did.

EMC: Can you tell me how you heard about the Women Marines?

EHS: There were recruiting posters, and they would send you a booklet, if you requested it, to tell about them and what they did and everything.

EMC: So did you send for a booklet on the Marines?

EHS: Yes, indeed, I did. Read it over, and said, yes, well, I think so.

EMC: What was attractive about the Marines versus the other services that were open to women?

EHS: Well, it must be the old esprit de corps thing. Well, it's more difficult to get into them than it is.... So, of course, that was why I thought, well, if that's the most difficult, I'll start with that one. Then if they don't want me, I'll go somewhere else.

EMC: What year was this that you joined?

EHS: 'Forty-four.

EMC: Well, that's great. So you were real spunky and selected, you thought, the hardest service to get into. Where did you go to

enlist?

EHS: Boston. I had to go Boston for tests and exams and all that sort of thing.

EMC: Then did they notify you?

EHS: Yes, they did, and sent orders, you know, finally.

EMC: Right. Were you sworn in in Boston?

EHS: Yes, I was.

EMC: Now, that was after your initial trip.

EHS: I had an official call and all that sort of thing.

EMC: I had an official call, and then you went down there.

EHS: Yes.

EMC: Okay. Was there any publicity about your joining the Marines in the Portland papers?

EHS: Oh, yes indeed. My mother would've seen to that, and my father. Oh, yes.

EMC: Were you the first woman to join the Marines from Portland?

EHS: No, there were others. When I went to boot camp, there was another lady, a girl she was then, that went along with me that was from that area.

EMC: Oh, good! How did your parents feel about your decision to join the Marine Corps?

EHS: Well, I think my mother was a little horrified because, of course, that's a whole new ball game. But my father, he was just plain delighted, very pleased. He used to go around saying, if he suspected somebody could do something and they didn't, "What are you doing in the war? My daughter's in. What about you?"

EMC: Oh, that's great.

EHS: Yes, he was great. Then my mother came around, and then she was terribly proud of it. Always bragging.

EMC: Did they hang a star in their window?

EHS: Oh, they did all kinds of things. Whenever I got a chance, I got a pass or something from Camp Lejeune, we would meet in New York City, which was fun, and she just lapped that up.

EMC: That's great.

EHS: She said, "Oh, well, in your uniform, you can go anywhere, into the most fantastic ball in the world. All you have to do is wear your uniform and go in."

EMC: Yes, well, I think that at that time the civilian population was supporting the war and welcoming the servicemen and women.

EHS: Oh, they were wonderful. They couldn't do too much for you. They were just wonderful.

EMC: That's great. Did you feel that patriotism impelled you to join the Marine Corps to any degree?

EHS: I would think so. I'm not a violent person at all. But always did, you know, love the country.

EMC: And wanted to serve.

EHS: And, of course, came from a long line of people that were in; there were even some relatives in the Revolution.

EMC: Oh, right. So you have a long heritage of military service

in your family. Well, you joined the Marine Corps in 1944. Do you remember what month you started out?

EHS: It was in the fall. My orders came in. I signed up in May, so I was on standby. My orders finally came, and I went down in late summer.

EMC: Where did you head down to for your basic training?

EHS: Camp Lejeune.

EMC: In North Carolina.

EHS: Yes.

EMC: How did you get there?

EHS: Well, it more or less said in my article, we got chits, and we went on the railroad trains then. Nobody flew anybody anywhere. We got a train from Portland, Maine, to Washington, D.C. Then this peculiar train. As I said, it was so old it looked like we were taking the Confederate soldiers down or something. Abraham Lincoln. Very, very old. That went right on to the base itself.

EMC: Oh, I see. Now, do you remember--did you go by yourself or



did you go with a group once you got to Washington?

EHS: We grouped up when we got to Washington.

EMC: Did you go alone from Portland?

EHS: From Portland to Washington, yes.

EMC: Oh, okay, you went by yourself.

EHS: That was fun, too, because on the train the porter was very protective. He knew I was leaving home, and he said, "I'll keep an eye on things. No one will bother you."

EMC: Oh, that's good. Because you were on a civilian train.

EHS: Yes.

EMC: Now, when you departed from Washington, was it solely Marine Corps Women Reserves?

EHS: Yes, it was.

EMC: So that was your meeting point.

EHS: Yes.

EMC: It was a military train, so to speak. An old train.

EHS: Very old.

EMC: How can you--can you describe the trip? What was it like?  
Dusty, hot?

EHS: Yes. It wasn't at all modern. You had to put the windows up because the sun was hot, and there was dust, stuff like that; and the old primitive toilets. Well, there wasn't any. It just went town in the tracks more or less.

EMC: Oh, really! Kind of a hole in the....

EHS: The bunks were three high.

EMC: Oh, you had bunks.

EHS: On the train, yes, to get as many as we could. As I said in my article, I forgot that I got the top one. Then when they hollered, "Hit the deck!" I hit it all right.

EMC: Did you jump out or something?

EHS: Yes, and I forgot I was way up there. So it was a bit of a

jolt.

EMC: But you didn't break anything?

EHS: No, I was fine. Just kind of rattled.

EMC: Did they have a stepladder to get up there?

EHS: Yes, there was a little ladder to get up.

EMC: So during the day did you have a seat?

EHS: Yes.

EMC: In the parlor car, so to speak.

EHS: Yes.

EMC: Sounds very interesting.

EHS: It was quite an experience.

EMC: But with the lack of air-conditioning, it must have been devastating.

EHS: It was pretty hot, yes.

EMC: Did you stop anyplace along the way?

EHS: No, I don't think we did. I think they tried to get us down there just as fast as they could.

EMC: Now, when you got to Camp Lejeune, which is out in the boondocks in North Carolina, what was your initial impression of the camp?

EHS: Well, it was a very nice camp. It sprang up practically overnight. But it was very nice, very well laid out. All of the barracks were brick.

EMC: Oh, they were?

EHS: Yes, nice yards, lawns. Very, very nice. The accommodations were nice, too.

EMC: What were your living conditions like? Can you describe your room?

EHS: Well, of course, we were in the squad room.

EMC: What is that?

EHS: Well, one big long room with bunks. I think there about maybe 40 in a squad room.

EMC: Oh, so 40 bunks in a long room.

EHS: Yes.

EMC: Now, how were they grouped, do you remember? Did you have any privacy?

EHS: Not a whole heck of a lot. After a while you didn't care. There was no one there but the girls. Everything was--we had nice shower facilities and bathrooms and everything, very nice.

EMC: Where did you keep your things?

EHS: Well, at first we had a footlocker. Then after we got out of boot camp and were assigned, we had closets, small lockers that you could hang things in. Then right down the center of the room there was big rack that you put things, of course, in impeccable order, just so.

EMC: Right, right. Military order. So you were attending boot camp at Camp Lejeune, and you described your living conditions. Can you talk a little bit about where these Women Marines came from and what social classes, so to speak, and backgrounds?

EHS: It was a complete potpourri. Everybody. As I said in the article, ministers' daughters, coal miners' daughters, Southern belles, secretaries, married women whose husbands were serving overseas, clerks, beauticians.

EMC: A whole mix.

EHS: A mix of all.

EMC: From all over the country.

EHS: Everywhere imaginable.

EMC: How did you react and relate to all these women? Did you have any special friends?

EHS: Yes, I did. Well, a number of them, but some very special friends. That I heard from after the war; and after I was married, they came to visit me, which was nice.

EMC: Yes, very, very nice. Were they from the New England region or from all over the country?

EHS: One was from the West Coast. Two or three others were--one was from Florida, and one was from the East Coast.

EMC: Very, very interesting. Well, during boot camp, can you tell me how your day was structured? Did you get up at six a.m. with reveille?

EHS: Oh, yes, indeed. They'd come into the squad room, turn on these big overhead lights, and yell: "Hit the deck!" You'd better really get moving because you had to get cleaned up, police up your area, put everything away, and get to chow, of course, which nobody missed.

EMC: What was the food like at chow?

EHS: Delicious. Really very, very good. Amusingly enough, the mess hall we ate at was run entirely by women, and they were mostly ex-restauranters. About the only man in the place was the meat-cutter.

EMC: Isn't that interesting. So they were the cooks.

EHS: They were good!

EMC: Now were they enlisted in the Marine Corps as well?

EHS: Yes, yes, indeed.

EMC: Okay. So it wasn't private.

EHS: No, no.

EMC: It was totally Marines.

EHS: All Marines, yes.

EMC: Isn't that interesting. They had to cook for all these women.

EHS: Yes, they sure did.

EMC: Well, you got up, and you had your breakfast and your three meals there.

EHS: Yes, we always had plenty of good food.

EMC: Well, that's good. What did you do during the day? What kind of classes did you take? Do you remember anything about that?

EHS: Well, I remember we were awfully short on what you might refer to today as a human computer. You know how it is in the services: six copies of everything and this and that, and all this paperwork to do. So I went directly to work in the office.



EMC: Oh, you didn't go to boot camp at all?

EHS: Oh, yes, I did my boot camp first.

EMC: Yes. That's what I wanted to ask. Do you remember what your day was like at boot camp? What did you study, what did you learn?

EHS: Mostly, of course, it was military procedure, what you did, you know, who was who, and what was said when. We drilled. Yes. In fact, we had a drill team that was very good. I mean we did exhibitions.

EMC: Oh! Who led the drilling? Who instructed you in the drilling?

EHS: Well, at the time I was in, of course, women hadn't been in the service very long. So most of our DI's were men then.

EMC: Were they tough on you?

EHS: They were-- No, not really. Exacting, perhaps, but very much the gentlemen. No one was allowed to swear or use bad language, that sort of thing.

EMC: Or shout and yell at you maybe.

EHS: Yes.

EMC: Oh, that's good. Were you on this exhibition drill team?

EHS: Yes.

EMC: Oh, you were! Oh, that's great.

EHS: I made one horrible mistake once that I'll never live down. I was small, so I was always at the tag end. It was a very windy day. Of course, when you're marching, you do not look--you keep your eyes ahead. I misinterpreted the command that he yelled, and I go marching off all by myself.

EMC: What did they do to you, anything?

EHS: He was nice. I mean he laughed. He said, "Well, it seems like we have a woman here." Oh, I could have crawled under the sidewalk.

EMC: Oh, dear. Did you enjoy the marching?

EHS: Yes, I did because I loved to dance, of course. I come from a musical family, and I enjoyed it.

EMC: Oh, good! Now did you have to march to class? Did you march everywhere that you went?

EHS: When we were in boot camp, yes. Even to church, you know. We had to march to church, too.

EMC: Did you have obligatory chapel or church? Were you obliged to go?

EHS: Really, it was better if you did. Besides, when you're in boot camp, you don't get to do much of anything. So even that was a perk, you know, get out and go to church.

EMC: So pretty much all day you were involved in classes.

EHS: Yes, in something. Pretty structured, yes.

EMC: Now, did you have homework? Did you have to study and pass tests?

EHS: Yes, there were some things that we had to pass. Oh, of course, we had to learn all the commands.

EMC: How long was your experience at boot camp?

EHS: We did six weeks then.

EMC: Yes, that's the norm, six weeks of boot camp. Now, did all the other women who were in your company that attended classes with you, did they respond positively for the most part to this training?

EHS: I would say they did. Of course, there were a few little glitches, but they soon got over it. As a general rule, they were good sports.

EMC: There weren't any people who dropped out or anything at that point?

EHS: Well, if there were, they discovered it quite early that they simply weren't going to be suitable. So they would-- But not many. I really can't think of any more than one or two.

EMC: Now, when did they issue you your uniform?

EHS: Well, we were there about two days. They told us to bring a minimum of civilian clothing, just something sensible. I think it was only about two days that they issued us uniforms.

EMC: What did you think of the Marine Corps uniform? Can you describe it, too?

EHS: It was really great, I thought, very sharp. The cloth was excellent.

EMC: Did you get a wool uniform?

EHS: Yes, it was. I had two of them, as a matter of fact.

EMC: Probably summer and winter.

EHS: Then in the summer we wore washable uniforms that we ourselves could clean because the women did not have the laundry done for them. We had to do it ourselves.

EMC: Do your own laundry. Did you have a washing machine?

EHS: No, as I said in the article, we had no washing machines, no dryers. Just a series of old set tubs, so-called, with a grinder ringer that you had to do by hand, and scrub boards. Then usually we were permitted to hang out in back of the barracks; we had lines. If the weather was bad, there was sort of device that had racks on it that slid into a heater, and you had to put them in there.

EMC: Oh, good.

EHS: We had irons in the squad room.

EMC: So that was for the summer uniforms. Now they were cotton, weren't they?

EHS: Yes, they were. They were a sort of a--I think you'd call them seersucker.

EMC: Yes, it was seersucker. That's very nice.

EHS: Then, of course, the one that I'm wearing, that was a dress white. That was also washable.

EMC: Yes. And the winter, did you have a wool?

EHS: Yes, we did. We did. Then, of course, they had to be dry-cleaned. We had a dry cleaner on base.

EMC: Yes, on base. Well, that's interesting. So the women had to do the washing, the men had....

EHS: Yes, we did.

EMC: Now, did you have to put name tags in your clothing?

EHS: Yes, indeed.

EMC: Yes, so you could identify.

EHS: We certainly did.

EMC: Now, did they issue everything, even underclothes?

EHS: No, you could bring your own.

EMC: Your slip or something.

EHS: Yes, any underclothes.

EMC: Yes, underclothes you had yourself.

EHS: Yes, you had your own. They would sell them in the post exchange, too.

EMC: What kind of shoes did you wear?

EHS: Well, they were oxfords, and they were also a very nice brand, very nice. They would wear and wear and wear. If we were dressed a little bit, we were permitted to wear pumps, very plain ones, but nevertheless....

EMC: Could you wear any jewelry?

EHS: We could wear a watch, an I.D. bracelet, a simple ring, and that would be it.

EMC: Make-up you could wear, couldn't you?

EHS: Oh, yes. As I said in the article, Helena Rubinstein had nail polish and lipstick which was called Montezuma Red, and it matched our hash marks, which were red, and that was fine. But no purple lipstick or anything like that. Oh, no!

EMC: Everything was very matching.

EHS: It was. Everything had to match.

EMC: Oh, that's interesting. The stockings, of course, were?

EHS: Well, nylons were a thing of the past because, of course, they used them for parachutes. So we had to wear lisle hose.

EMC: That was a thick cotton.

EHS: It was cotton, yes, not too thick, but cotton. Then, of course, to hold the darned things up you had to have a garter belt or a girdle or something because they didn't have pantyhose and things they have now. They had seams down the back of them,



and to get those things straight!

EMC: Yes, that's a problem.

EHS: Well, you had to be quite athletic to go all around and look up the back of your legs.

EMC: Oh, those were the days. How would you sum up your boot camp experience?

EHS: Well, I thought it was fun. I have rather a strange sense of humor. Maybe I see things that are funny that other people might not. But I thought it was fun, and I took it very seriously. I kept my mouth shut. I was not smart or anything of that sort. Even though I was wanting to laugh, I didn't.

EMC: Oh, good.

EHS: I just went along with it, you know.

EMC: Oh, I should have asked you, were your instructors women in the courses that you took?

EHS: Yes, most of them were.

EMC: So Marine women were teaching you, not men. Interesting.

Well, it was time for you to get to work, as you said, after your six weeks of training. You stayed, obviously, at Camp Lejeune.

EHS: Yes, I did. They needed people of that sort administrative.

EMC: Where were you assigned to work?

EHS: Schools command, which would be where all of the new women recruits would come in.

EMC: Oh, I see.

EHS: So I helped teach them, as well as I did payrolls for my company. I got books and all of the things--you had to call in the morning how many for chow, you know, and who's on leave, and all that.

EMC: All that. So you did a lot of administrative work.

EHS: Yes, I did.

EMC: Now when you said you taught them, what did you teach these women that were coming in?

EHS: Well, for instance, if I needed some help in the office, I'd teach them how you fill out this form, and how you do this,

how you do that.

EMC: Oh, so you were sort of an office administrator.

EHS: Yes.

EMC: Oh, so your helpers you would train. Oh, I see. But you weren't in the teaching of the actual boot camp situation.

EHS: No, no.

EMC: How large was this office for the Schools Command? How many Marine women worked there?

EHS: I'd say about 20. It was quite a big room.

EMC: You had a supervisor there?

EHS: Yes, we did. Although I really handled almost like acting first. There was a man that was a supervisor, and this was rather amusing.

EMC: Now, was he a Marine?

EHS: Yes, indeed. He had been, I guess, in combat, and they felt he needed to have a little change. Pretty tough, and he was not

happy at first. Oh, man! So I just told the girls, I said, "Well, there's more than one way. Treat him like a king. Bring him coffee. Always say, 'Yes, sir.' Do everything he says. Don't give him any guff. Ask him things nicely." Well, he began to lap this up. He loved it. Then one time he asked me--because we could get nylons once in a while at the post exchange, not too often. So he asked me, "Do you suppose you could get my wife some nylons?" I said, "Surely. I'd be glad to." Well, after that, we were in. When he left, he even said, "You know, I guess you could tell I didn't like it very well, but I'll tell you something, I never had more fun in my life."

EMC: Oh, that's good. Well, did you get his wife the nylons?

EHS: Yes.

EMC: Oh, you were able to.

EHS: Oh, yes.

EMC: Oh, that's good. Well, you knew how to treat him.

EHS: Yes, he ate right out of our hands.

EMC: Very good. It sounds like an interesting job. Did all the women pull their weight in the office? Was there any conflict of

any sort?

EHS: I didn't notice much of it. There were one or two that were a little resentful because I made a rate awfully fast because they needed somebody in that particular position so bad. So I made a rate before some of them did, and they were going to be working for me. But I told them, I said, "Now this is ridiculous. You know I can't do it without you. There's no way."

EMC: What was your rate that you made?

EHS: I wound up corporal.

EMC: When you came in, what was your rate?

EHS: Well, of course, it's plain old private for a while, and you had to make PFC, and then you went to corporal.

EMC: Oh, I see. Did you make PFC or did you jump that?

EHS: No, I was a PFC for a while.

EMC: Okay, private first class. Then you made corporal. Well, that was pretty good. Do you know how much money you made as a corporal?

EHS: Yes, about \$100 a month.

EMC: Now, did you send that home or did you save it?

EHS: I saved some, but I kept some because, of course, one, you'd like to take little trips now and then.

EMC: Did you buy war bonds?

EHS: Yes indeed, I did. I had quite a few of them. They came in very handy after the war and I got married and all that; by the time I set up housekeeping, we had that.

EMC: Yes, because they did encourage the service people to buy war bonds, so I wondered if you did. Well, your work situation sounded fairly pleasant and good.

EHS: Yes, it was.

EMC: Did you work eight hours a day, and did you work weekends?

EHS: Yes, we were likely to be on-- We were supposed to have Sunday off, but it could be during the war that something would come up, and then you'd have to go.

EMC: Oh, so you would sometimes work weekends then if you had

to.

EHS: Yes.

EMC: But normally would you have them off?

EHS: Well, you'd have Sunday anyway.

EMC: Oh, okay.

EHS: Of course, if you were asked a little bit in advance--  
Suppose you wanted to go on a short trip, maybe to the beach or  
something like that, you could ask if you could have a pass as  
long as somebody was covering for you.

EMC: Oh, okay. So it was pretty much a six-day week.

EHS: Yes, it was.

EMC: What did you do on your limited time off? Where did you go  
for recreation?

EHS: Well, they had everything on the base that you could  
possibly think of. They had bicycles, swimming pools, golf  
courses, movies--a number of different movie houses--a new one on  
every night. We had our own what they called a slop shoot.

EMC: What is that?

EHS: It was just like a little beer hall, just for us. They had a jukebox there, and you could dance, and you could get 3.2 beer, which you might as well forget, and Cokes and snacks, and you could dance. Of course, there wasn't any TV then. But you could play games, card games.

EMC: That was just for the women?

EHS: That was just for the women.

EMC: No men allowed.

EHS: They were on certain occasions if they were asked, you know, if you had a date. The men loved to go there, of course. So sometimes they'd just be around: "Do you need a date tonight? Because I'd like to come in."

EMC: Oh, I see. But could you go to any of their clubs?

EHS: Well, we generally didn't unless we were with one of them.

EMC: You had to be escorted to go to their clubs.



EHS: Oh, yes.

EMC: Now, did you have much opportunity to fraternize with any of the Marine Corps men that were there?

EHS: Oh, yes. We used to--they had many get-togethers. They had dances and parties where everybody was asked.

EMC: Oh, I see. Okay.

EHS: They had a nice boat house with Lightning Class sailboats.

EMC: Where would you sail?

EHS: We'd sail on New River. What was really fun was to sail over on a nice moonlight night to a little place called Sneads Ferry. Very, very rural. They had the best fried shrimp, and you could get a cold real beer. It was pleasant there, a lot of fun.

EMC: Sounds nice.

EHS: Then, of course, the guys that took us in boats were all qualified. I mean they knew what they were doing. They were all Marines, so they could sail.

EMC: Yes, right, right. You wouldn't go out unless.... That's

interesting. You said you went to the beach. What beaches did you go to?

EHS: Wrightsville.

EMC: Oh, you went down to Wrightsville.

EHS: They had a bus, which was nice, to take us down there at no cost.

EMC: Oh, that's great. For the day?

EHS: Yes, we would go for the day. Of course, what we liked to do is stay all night. They had all kinds of little tourist houses and things there.

EMC: Oh, so you could do that.

EHS: So you could do that and come back the next day.

EMC: Oh, that's good.

EHS: It was fun, yes. It's a nice beach, very nice.

EMC: Yes, yes. Did you ever go to Jacksonville? I guess which is the nearest little town.

EHS: Now that, of course, the time that I was there was just a little--practically a bump in the road. All of a sudden, this huge big base, and it was nothing. Very, very rural. Not even, I don't think, there was even any--there might have been one little guest house if your parents came or something.

EMC: Well, you mentioned going to Jacksonville for a steak dinner in your article, which is kind of fun.

EHS: Yes.

EMC: I think you should relate that and what you did, because that was quite amusing.

EHS: Well, the man that had the restaurant was himself a former Marine and had been wounded; it left him with a bad leg. But he had been in the restaurant business in Brooklyn, New York.

EMC: Of all places!

EHS: But he was an entrepreneur, I guess, because he noticed, gee, there isn't even any restaurants in this little burgh. He said, I think I'll open one up. Very unpretentious, of course, but clean. He told myself and one of my girlfriends, "You know, I could make you a really good steak if you'll come into

Jacksonville." So we did, and we had the steak ordered. It was about to be served, and all of a sudden a ruckus broke out, a few people that didn't know how to act, you know. They crashed around, and bumped into tables, and knocked over the spices, and clattered and banged. The steak was just coming out. So I told my girlfriend, I said, "Get down under the table." There was a chair handy, and I shoved it out in front of them as they were stampeding up the way, and they fell over it, a bundle of bodies. Then the MP's had no trouble picking them up and carrying them out.

EMC: What a riot! You were pretty spunky to do that.

EHS: That was how much I liked steak.

EMC: Yes, you didn't want that ruined. Well, that was kind of interesting. Where did you meet your husband? Can you tell me the circumstances?

EHS: Yes.

EMC: Was he on the base?

EHS: No. I met my husband when I was still in college. He was up in Portland. He was a carrier man.

EMC: What's a carrier man?

EHS: Always on carriers.

EMC: Oh, was he in the Navy?

EHS: Yes, indeed. He was a boatswain's mate.

EMC: Oh, I see. So you did meet him at Camp Lejeune.

EHS: No, I met him in my hometown. He was a blind date. We knew one another for five years before we got married. We corresponded during the war, you know.

EMC: Oh, do you have those letters?

EHS: I wish I did.

EMC: Oh, dear.

EHS: When I moved one time, we lost a lot of stuff.

EMC: Oh, that's too bad because they would have been priceless.

EHS: I know it. I felt so bad.

EMC: Because we collect World War II letters. Yes, they're wonderful. People have written books on those letters. Well, that's too bad. Oh, so you knew him. So you were corresponding with him when you were at Camp Lejeune.

EHS: Of course, we used to go back and forth about him being in the Navy and my being in the Marine Corps. He called me a "jar head," and I'd call him a "swab jockey."

EMC: Oh, that's kind of interesting. Well, we talked about dating. Did you date at all? I mean we talked about recreation, sorry. Did you date anybody when you were there?

EHS: Oh, yes.

EMC: Oh, despite the fact that you had a beau.

EHS: Well, we were not engaged then. I thought it was better that way. Of course, we didn't know what the outcome of the war would be. He didn't know either, of course. He was in a lot of action.

EMC: In the Pacific?

EHS: Yes. A lot of it.

EMC: Yes, where most of them were. Oh, so you had dates on the base.

EHS: Oh, yes. No one in particular, you know.

EMC: Just anybody, yes. Just a friend.

EHS: Just a friend.

EMC: You mentioned one interesting incident, and we should go over this because enlisted are not allowed to fraternize with officers.

EHS: Oh, no!

EMC: But you breached that rule once?

EHS: I did.

EMC: Can you tell us about that?

EHS: I found out an old friend of mine that I'd known for a long time was going to be at Camp Lejeune, and he happened to be a major, and he wanted to see me. So I said, "Well, gee, I don't know how we can work this, but let's think." He said, "Well, I can get the use of a car." So he did. Then he said, "Come over to

the post exchange," and he told me what the car looked like. I went by myself, of course, out of the way. He opened up the trunk: "Get in." I said, "Okay."

EMC: You could have stifled in there.

EHS: Well, I wasn't in there long, just to get out of the area where someone would know my face. Then we went to the officers' club at a remote part of the base where no one would ever know if they saw me. He put some captain's bars on me--I had no rate--and introduced me as "Captain Hill" from Washington on her way to Camp Pendleton. Just stopped in briefly.

EMC: Well, that was pretty clever.

EHS: Yes. Nobody caught on to it, and, of course, I didn't tell anybody except my very best girlfriend who was helping with the plot, you know.

EMC: Right.

EHS: Yes.

EMC: Oh, that's great.

EHS: That was so funny because no way--you couldn't even



fraternize with the women officers. In the line of business like you just weren't supposed to be friendly with them.

EMC: No, it was just a professional relationship.

EHS: Yes.

EMC: Very military. Well, where did you live when you were working in the Schools Command? Did you change your barracks?

EHS: Yes, we did. They were maybe a little better supplied; instead of a footlocker at the foot of our beds, we had dresser drawers.

EMC: Was it a long room, too, with bunks?

EHS: Very long, yes. Bunks on both sides and a clothes rack right down through the middle. There was a nice little lounge at the end of it where you could-- If you didn't feel like lights out quite so early, you could go in there and talk.

EMC: Oh, good. What time was lights out usually?

EHS: Ten.

EMC: Well, that's what I thought.

EHS: Yes.

EMC: Reveille was at six?

EHS: Six.

EMC: That's standard.

EHS: Yes, it is.

EMC: You got your night's sleep there. Did you find your work routine, boring, or interesting?

EHS: I found it interesting. Of course, there was a lot of routine, but you never knew. Things came up that you had to deal with.

EMC: Were you treated well in this assignment by your supervisors?

EHS: Oh, yes. Oh, yes. Very nicely.

EMC: Did you ever suffer any discrimination or harassment in any way?

EHS: On a very small basis maybe. There were a few men that definitely-- I didn't know whether--but they didn't approve of us.

EMC: Oh, I would imagine.

EHS: Yes. Most of them were just great. But there were some that just didn't approve of us.

EMC: What did they do? How did they react to you?

EHS: Well, they would make comments like, "Oh, well, are you girls doing--you're just here to take care of us." You know, in a carnal sense.

EMC: Oh, oh, oh.

EHS: Yes.

EMC: Oh, dear.

EHS: That, of course, did not please us much, you know.

EMC: What nickname did they use for you? Which is kind of interesting.

EHS: Well, they called us "BAMs."

EMC: What does BAMs stand for?

EHS: Broad-Assed Marines. But I said, "Why, that's silly. A lot of us have butts a lot smaller than yours are."

EMC: Did you ever say that to anybody?

EHS: Yes.

EMC: Oh, and what was their reaction?

EHS: Kind of left them in left field.

EMC: Very good.

EHS: They never thought about it that way.

EMC: Of course. Now, that's pretty clever. So you were pretty spunky.

EHS: Yes, I guess.

EMC: But not totally out of line. What did you like about your assignment, your work assignment?

EHS: Well, you met a lot of different people, of course, a lot of different people.

EMC: You mentioned you had special friends.

EHS: Yes.

EMC: Did they work in the office with you?

EHS: Yes, they did. One of them did, and the other one did not. She was a really good friend, but she was with Motor Transport, and she was one heck of a mechanic.

EMC: Oh, really!

EHS: Back in those days, I suppose.... I know we went on a trip once, and she was driving. She did have a car.

EMC: Oh, were you allowed to have a car on base?

EHS: Only she did because she was Motor Transport, and she was a little older than the rest of us, and she'd get one. You couldn't go hog wild with it because of the gas rationing.

EMC: Sure.

EHS: But she took me to New York City to buy my wedding dress--  
I was still in the service--because I knew I was going to get  
married when I got out.

EMC: Oh, I see.

EHS: And we.... [Change to Side B of Tape]

EMC: She was taking you on a trip to New York to buy your  
wedding dress.

EHS: Yes.

EMC: She was the mechanic. Can we just go over that? You said  
you stopped somewhere, and the car had trouble.

EHS: It was making a strange noise, but she knew what it was.  
But we didn't have the right tools with us. So she said, "We'll  
stop at the gas station." We stopped at the gas station. "Oh, I  
don't think I can fix this. I don't know what you're going  
to...." She said to him, "Have you got tools?" She said, "Well,  
I'll borrow your tools." So she borrowed the tools, tinkered  
around, and fixed it. "Thanks very much."

EMC: Oh, isn't that something! Very clever.

EHS: A woman fixing a car!

EMC: Yes, it was better than they could do.

EHS: Yes.

EMC: Oh, that's amazing. Well, they have all these talents, you know, that were untapped.

EHS: Well, that's just it. That was about the first time that women ever got doing some of these jobs.

EMC: Exactly. These were the nontraditional jobs that these ladies were doing.

EHS: Yes.

EMC: It's just amazing. Because other than that it was teaching, nursing, or clerical work.

EHS: Right. That was it.

EMC: Very, very limited. Yes, very, very limited. Well, that's great. So did you buy your wedding dress there?

EHS: Yes, I did.

EMC: You took it back to Camp Lejeune?

EHS: No. It needed some alterations. I had them keep it. I said, "When I set my wedding date, send it to you."

EMC: Oh, so were you engaged at that point in time in the service?

EHS: Yes, yes. I had gotten engaged.

EMC: Oh, when did you get engaged, what month or year?

EHS: Let's see. It was in April '46.

EMC: Oh, okay. So it was a little bit after the war.

EHS: I did not get out until the following month.

EMC: Oh, you got out in May '46 of the service

EHS: Yes.

EMC: Okay. Very good. Now, you mentioned that there were some outstanding visitors at the base, and I want you to just mention



them. You said that President Franklin D. Roosevelt visited.

EHS: Yes, he did. It's hard to imagine now, but he was riding around in an open car, no bulletproof, no nothing, with his little dog. You could see him very well. One thing we remember, of course: When we discovered that he was coming, naturally, they said, "Well, then we have to have a review, parade." Oh, Lord, it was hot. So I said, "Well, we're going to have a little trouble, girls. Someone is going to pass out." So the biggest girl in the--a big Irish girl--in the platoon, I said, "All right, I'm behind the bushes there. If somebody passes out, come get them. We're all set on those." Finally we heard the president had said, "Oh, never mind all that. It's much too hot."

EMC: Oh, that's good.

EHS: So we thought, oh, wow, that's nice. We don't have to do it.

EMC: Oh, that's great. So did you stand outside and see him pass by?

EHS: Yes.

EMC: Everybody was allowed to, I suspect, visiting the base.

EHS: Oh, yes.

EMC: Also you had a tennis pro come.

EHS: Yes, Helen Wills Moody, who was at that time an excellent tennis player.

EMC: Now, did she come to instruct or what?

EHS: Yes, she came to help us out and goodwill. "Anyone that's interested, I'll be available and give you some pointers on what you might be doing wrong or what you can do better."

EMC: Did you attend that?

EHS: Yes, I went. It was fun.

EMC: Oh, good.

EHS: They had nice courts. Any of the games were free; it cost you nothing. You could go to the golf course, and all the clubs were, you know, no charge.

EMC: That's great. Did you meet any movie stars who passed through Camp Lejeune at all? Because there were some.

EHS: There were some, but I do not think I did.

EMC: Did you keep up with news about the war?

EHS: Oh, yes, we did. We did have, of course, radios now. Imagine, that's all. We had a radio in our lounge, and you could tune in and get the news all day. Of course, they would keep us informed as to what was going on.

EMC: Oh, yes, I'm sure they did. Did you have access to a newspaper?

EHS: There must have been one, but I don't remember specifically, no.

EMC: Did you write to your parents or friends from Camp Lejeune?

EHS: Oh, yes. My mother would have had fits if she didn't hear from me.

EMC: Did you ever have leave to go home?

EHS: Yes. Well, I didn't the first year I was in. But the second year I had a leave to go home.

EMC: Now, did you ever see your parents during that time? Did

you meet them anywhere?

EHS: Yes, we'd meet in New York. I'd get a 72, what they called.

EMC: Yes, 72 hours, three days.

EHS: I'd zip up to New York, and we could meet.

EMC: By train?

EHS: Yes.

EMC: Did you ever meet your fiancé during the two years you were in?

EHS: Yes, I did. I went down to Norfolk when they commissioned the MIDWAY. He put it in commission. He was on board then. So he asked me to come down to the event and that was most interesting. Something funny happened. I went down to the yard where she was tied up, and on the gate was a Marine guard at the gate. He'd told me, "Well, I'll meet you right outside the gate." Because I had to be wise. So I saluted the guard there, the Marine, and I said, "Permission to come aboard." The Marine guard said, "Sure." So I met him at the top of the gangplank. "How the heck did you get on board?" I said, "Look who's on the gate."

EMC: Oh, isn't that something! So you actually got on the ship.

EHS: Yes.

EMC: Did you have a tour of it?

EHS: Oh, yes, and we stayed for dinner. An excellent dinner.

EMC: Oh, that's great. Good for you. So was that the only time you saw him in two years?

EHS: Actually, yes, I guess it was.

EMC: That was a long time.

EHS: He was out in the Pacific all the time, it seemed like.

EMC: Oh, yes, he was at war. It was wartime, so you couldn't. Did you ever meet or see Ruth Cheney Streeter who was the director of the Marine Corps?

EHS: Yes.

EMC: Where did you see her?

EHS: I believe she came down to the base once and gave a talk.

EMC: Kind of a pep talk?

EHS: Yes.

EMC: Good, good.

EHS: There was a little park down there that they named for her, Streeter Park, which was right near our compound.

EMC: Yes, the first director. That's great. Well, VJ-Day came on August 15, 1945. Where were you on VJ-Day, and what was your reaction?

EHS: Well, I was on a leave in Maine with my mother and father and sister, way down in Maine, rural, all nice right on the seacoast. That's when we heard on the radio that they dropped the atomic bomb. I was due back the next day. I had to leave, but I heard of it. So I got on the train, and, of course, the celebration in New York City--wow!

EMC: Did you stop in New York and get off?

EHS: Just briefly because I had to make a connection and was due back at the base. Then when we got to the base, there were celebrations going on there, too.

EMC: Oh, I bet.

EHS: Everybody just forgot it for that one night. There were bonfires and revelry and fun.

EMC: Oh, that's good. That's great. So how did you feel about the end of the war?

EHS: I was glad, of course, because I kept thinking, oh, well, at least my future husband won't get blown up.

EMC: Right, right.

EHS: He had a near miss on the WASP; he was assigned to it. He didn't make the ship. So they told him, "Well, the next time around--" It wasn't his fault. The WASP was lost. That was when the Kamikaze hit her.

EMC: Blew her up.

EHS: Yes.

EMC: Oh, boy! Boy, was he lucky.

EHS: Was he ever.

EMC: So you stayed on in the Marine Corps after August 15th?

EHS: Yes.

EMC: How long did you stay, and what did you do?

EHS: Well, when we signed up, we signed up for the duration plus six months. So I had to do my six months.

EMC: You did your six months. Well, you were needed, because some gals got out earlier.

EHS: Mustering out, you know, all that: the pay records and the service record books and the discharges and the money.

EMC: Yes, that's a lot of responsibility. Now, who were you mustering out? Were you mustering out the women or the men?

EHS: The women.

EMC: Oh, all women, okay, you were mustering out. Were you discharged from the Marine Corps at Camp Lejeune?

EHS: Yes, I was.



EMC: That was in what month and year?

EHS: That was in 1946 in May.

EMC: Now did you go home right away to Portland?

EHS: Yes, I did.

EMC: Did you receive any medals for your service?

EHS: Well, I did have--I can't even remember what they were--ordinary ones. No Purple Hearts or anything of that sort. But, yes, there were Good Conduct, which, of course--good thing they didn't know about some of the things. But anyway....

EMC: Now, what one thing did you do that would have blemished your good conduct record?

EHS: Well, there was the little matter of one time we borrowed the general's launch.

EMC: Oh, you did?

EHS: One night, yes.

EMC: You were with some men, I guess.

EHS: Oh, yes. Yes, of course.

EMC: How did they get away with it?

EHS: Well, they were among the mechanics and the keepers of the general's launch. He never used it. So they said one time--it was a beautiful night--"Does seem too bad nobody ever takes a ride on this thing." They said, "Let's take a little ride."

EMC: On the New River?

EHS: Yes.

EMC: Oh, that must have been very romantic.

EHS: Oh, it was very nice.

EMC: Then you had another liquor incident that I thought was kind of cute.

\ EHS: Oh, yes.

EMC: That would have gotten you in trouble.

EHS: It would have had we been discovered.

EMC: Now, what did you do? Where did you buy this liquor?

EHS: Well, North Carolina, of course, is a dry state. So you had to go to the liquor store, and you had to have a ration book. You, of course, had to prove you were 21, which I was. The ration book would give you one bottle a month.

EMC: That's enough.

EHS: Yes, one bottle. But then, after you got it, what are you going to do with it? You couldn't drink it in the street. Now, you couldn't bring it back on the base. You couldn't go into a place and drink it. The only thing they had was what they called "bottle clubs," and you had to join this club and pay dues.

EMC: For heaven's sakes!

EHS: All we wanted was to have some for Christmas. To get it on the base was tough. Because, of course, they would examine our bags, but they weren't allowed to touch us. So I said, "Well, okay, a batch of us get flat pints, and bury them under our trench coats which we wore in the winter. Don't move to fast and gurgle or anything. Let them look at your bags and all that." Of course, sometimes the Marines on the gate would give you the wink, and we got it on. I said, "Now we've got to get it out of

sight because if it's caught...."

EMC: Inspection.

EHS: We had to do our own laundry, as I said, but Clorox came in brown glass bottles then. We all had them up on a shelf above our clothes for doing the laundry. So I said, "Well, everybody, we can take the Clorox out, rinse the bottles out real good, fill the bottles up, and put them back up there." Then we would come back with the flat pints, sneak them in the bathroom real quick or something, dump the water out, put the booze in the Clorox bottles, put the top on, and stick it right back on the shelf in plain sight. Bag inspections are awful. They looked everywhere: toilet tanks, your bags, you know, good heavens! And they never touched one of us, never.

EMC: How clever! Now that was great. Pretty sharp.

EHS: So we had a New Year's Eve party with something decent to drink beside that awful 3.2 beer.

EMC: Right. Oh, that's great. Right in the barrack.

EHS: Yes.

EMC: It didn't get too noisy?

EHS: No. We were very discreet. For heaven's sake, don't anybody forget and put the booze in the wash water. Nobody ever caught on.

EMC: That's great. That's a cute incident. Well, you also received the Ruptured Duck when you left.

EHS: Yes, we did.

EMC: Yes, that's the eagle actually.

EHS: I don't know where it ever got that name. I suppose somebody made it up.

EMC: Right, right.

EHS: Maybe it was an airplane name or something; I don't know.

EMC: Well, I guess you were leaving the service. They gave it to people who were leaving the service; you kind of ruptured out or something.

EHS: Yes, yes. Maybe that's it.

EMC: Were you happy or sad to leave the Marine Corps?

EHS: Well, I enjoyed it frightfully much. I guess maybe if I hadn't had plans to get married, I might have stuck around a while.

EMC: But you had plans to get married.

EHS: Yes, I did.

EMC: When did you get married?

EHS: In June.

EMC: Oh, right immediately after, '46.

EHS: Yes.

EMC: Summing up, some questions about the Marine Corps. Did you feel that the Marine Corps Women Reserve had a strong sense of esprit de corps?

EHS: Yes, I think they did. I think they did. We had a sign down there that was kind of cute. As you came onto the women's compound, you had to pass by this old gate, and it said: "Through this gate passes the best-dressed women in the world."

EMC: Oh, that's nice! That gave you kind of a lift. Did you have any preconceived expectations when you joined the Marine Corps?

EHS: Well, I had relatives that were in the service that were men. No, I figured it would be not the easiest thing in the world, but most interesting.

EMC: Good. Did it turn out to be "most interesting" for you?

EHS: It certainly did.

EMC: Great. Did you think that the Marine Corps Women Reserve was a smoothly-run organization?

EHS: I think so. From what I saw, I think so.

EMC: They had ironed out the kinks. Did you know of anybody who was discharged for disciplinary reasons or for pregnancy or for homosexuality?

EHS: I think there was one for pregnancy, only one. They gave them an honorable discharge.

EMC: They didn't penalize them.

EHS: They didn't make any judgments or anything. Of course, if

they were married and it was their husband, why, that was all right. But sometimes, of course, it wasn't, although I don't think there was as much of that as there is now.

EMC: Did the Marine Corps experience change or redirect your life in any way?

EHS: Oh, well, I don't really know. Except, of course, I was marrying a career man in the service, so I knew just exactly what might happen.

EMC: Right, what you were getting into.

EHS: And that I would have to spend a lot of my time handling things myself. He was stationed on the island of Guam. I had to wait a year before I could go. I had an infant at the time, but I went all the way over there by myself so I could be with him.

EMC: Great, great. Do you think the war and your experience in the Marines made you more independent and self-reliant?

EHS: Yes, I think so. It gave me a feeling, you know, you can handle it.

EMC: You can handle it, you can do it. Right. Did it broaden your horizons at all?



EHS: Well, it was awfully interesting, of course, to meet people from different states, hear them, their lives and stories they told you.

EMC: Yes, because people didn't travel that much in those days.

EHS: No, they didn't.

EMC: You pretty much stayed where you were. Did you maintain any service friendships when the war was over?

EHS: Oh, yes. We wrote, and, as I said, a couple came to visit me.

EMC: Are these people still alive today, do you know?

EHS: Unfortunately, a couple of them aren't. I felt badly about that because--this is dumb, but I said to myself, oh, they can't be dead. I'm not. Like that matters.

EMC: Did you attend any Marine Corps reunions after the war of the women's organization? There is a Women Marines Association.

EHS: Yes, there is, and I just recently joined it.

EMC: Oh, you did. Oh, good.

EHS: Yes. I heard from a lady on the West Coast who called on the phone on account of the article that was written.

EMC: Oh, yes!

EHS: She said, "I tracked you down." We talked. She was very nice, and she was in the boot camp class just following the one I was in. So she was at Lejeune the same time I was.

EMC: Yes. Oh, fabulous!

EHS: She got a big kick out of it.

EMC: Yes, it was very interesting. So you recently joined the Women Marines Association.

EHS: Yes, I just sent in my check. She suggested it. The lady that called me said, "Well, why don't you join?"

EMC: Well, there is a Women In Military Service for America, the WIMSA Memorial in Washington, D.C.

EHS: Yes. Now, I'm a charter of that.

EMC: Oh, good.

EHS: I sent some money for that.

EMC: Great. And you're registered there. Fabulous. Can you tell me, if you can, what the importance and the significance of your Marine Corps career was for you?

EHS: Well, I felt that my doing the work I was doing, someone else was able to go out and take care of Hirohito and Adolf.

EMC: So in other words you felt you were contributing to the war effort.

EHS: Yes.

EMC: Releasing a man for service.

EHS: Yes, for service. Trying, you know, be nice to people. We did have people, of course, there were tragedies. There were some ladies that the war left widowed, and that was tough on them.

EMC: Oh, yes. Very bad. Well, you finished your career in the Marine Corps. You said you married a career Navy man.

EHS: Yes, I did.

EMC: How long was he in the service after the marriage?

EHS: He did 25 years.

EMC: Oh, so you spent 25 years moving around, through 1971?

EHS: Yes. He retired here in Newport. Well, he was a few years older than I, but he joined the Navy way back when he was only about 19 years old. So by the time the war came, he'd been in a while.

EMC: Oh, I see.

EHS: He'd been in a couple of years.

EMC: So you kind of trekked around the country.

EHS: Wherever he got stationed, I'd naturally try to go.

EMC: But you ended up here. He ended up retiring in Newport.

EHS: Yes, in Newport. He was on recruiting duty once in Buffalo.

EMC: So you were all over. Did you work at all during this time frame when he was moving around?

EHS: Well, there was a little matter of my having had six children.

EMC: So you did work, but at home.

EHS: At home. Sometimes I would do something that I could do at home. I was rather good at sewing and doing alterations. In one little town I was in, they had no one. So I said, "Well, yes, I can do this. You come to my home, and I'll fit you, do your work and make a little extra."

EMC: Wow! Did you ever talk about your Marine Corps days to your children?

EHS: Oh, yes.

EMC: Did any of them join the Marines?

EHS: My grandson. Mine were sort of-- Well, they missed Vietnam by a hair.

EMC: Oh, so they didn't have the opportunity to join the service.

EHS: Well, one of my sons was in the Army briefly, yes. But he

was too young to hit Vietnam.

EMC: Well, that's good, that's good.

EHS: Then I had another grandson who was in Desert Storm in the Navy.

EMC: Oh, oh, well, they had their touch of warfare.

EHS: A bit of it.

EMC: Oh, that's great. So did you decide to retire here in the Newport area?

EHS: Well, I'm from New England, of course. Although my husband wasn't a New Englander, I think he liked being around the seacoast.

EMC: So this is where you ended up.

EHS: This is where we ended up.

EMC: Very good. Excellent. Well, do you have any more comments on your Marine Corps career other than what I've asked you? Any other interesting anecdotes or things that happened?

EHS: Well, let's see.

EMC: That we missed or overlooked?

EHS: I think we've covered everything pretty well.

EMC: Oh, just one last question, about your article. I want you to mention that because that's most unique. You did write an article on your Marine Corps experience in Naval History, which was published this year. Can you tell us what motivated you to do that and the results of it for you? Why did you do that?

EHS: Well, I wrote it for my grandson who was then in boot camp at Camp Lejeune. Of course, it's pretty rugged. I had a letter or two, and he sounded a little bit alone. So I thought, well, I'll write something that'll make him laugh and put it in the right perspective and everything so he'll hang in there. So I wrote it for him mainly. Then his father read it, of course. He thought it would be a good idea to send it in. Oddly enough, my grandson, all the gunner sergeants and people who knew him, they read it, and they got a big kick out of it. They said, "Oh, yes, she really should get that published."

EMC: How did you find Naval History? How did you find out about that magazine?

EHS: Oh, because my son-in-law subscribes to it.

EMC: Oh, okay. So that was the tie-in there.

EHS: Yes, that was the tie-in there. So he was really the one that sent it.

EMC: Great.

EHS: He had a copy of it, you know, and so he....

EMC: And you had photographs?

EHS: I had all those old pictures.

EMC: Wonderful.

EHS: They very kindly sent them back to me. I didn't think they would.

EMC: Oh, of course, they do. They do, yes. That's wonderful. Well, I want to thank you very much, Mrs. Schultz, for your time this morning and for your reminiscences about your two years in the Marine Corps, 1944 to 1946. I enjoyed it.

EHS: Well, I enjoyed doing it.



EMC: Thank you.

[End of Interview]

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