Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Evelyn O. Fields

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Veterans Remember Oral History project

Interview # VR2-A-L-2011-005

Evelyn Fields, who worked in the Office of Price Administration during WW II while her husband was in the navy, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Veterans Remember* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Jan 26, 2011 Location: Evelyn's residence in Dixon, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Mark R. DePue

Transcription by: Audio Transcription Center, Boston, MA

Edited by: Rosie Camille, ALPL Volunteer; Rozanne Flatt, ALPL Volunteer

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The interview is archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois.

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Abstract

Evelyn O. Fields, *Veterans Remember*, VR2-A-L-2011-005

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Evelyn Oberg was born on March 31st, 1923 in Cuming County, Nebraska, and grew up on the family's small farm near Bancroft, Nebraska. She grew up in rural Nebraska during the dust bowl, and attended a one-room schoolhouse. Because of her family's isolation and poor road conditions, she could not attend high school. Instead, she attended the Commercial Extension School in Omaha, Nebraska. As a small child, Evelyn remembers hearing about the Italians (Mussolini) invading Ethiopia, about Hitler going into Poland, and much more. In August of 1942 she found work in Washington, D.C. as a clerk-typist in the Adjutant General's Office. She then moved to Newark, New Jersey, where she worked for the Office of Dependency Benefits, and in 1943 moved to Chicago and began working for the Army Regional Accounting Office.

She soon met William C. Fields, a young sailor assigned to the Great Lakes Naval Training Center north of Chicago, who had received training as a teletype operator. The two were married in February of 1944 shortly before he shipped out to the Pacific, assigned to the destroyer USS Putnam. For the rest of the war Evelyn worked for the Office of Price Administration (OPA) in Pender, Nebraska. The interview highlights both Evelyn's experiences with the OPA, and many of the diary entries, letters and mementos she received from Bill while he was in combat in the Pacific. Once Bill returned to the United States after the war, the couple moved first to Memphis, Tennessee, where Evelyn continued to work for the OPA, then in December of 1946 they moved to Florida, where they lived for many years, running a jewelry store for most of those years.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Nebraska during Dust Bowl; Christmas during the Depression; William C. Fields (husband); Office of Price Administration during WW II; husband's service on the USS Putnam during WW II; service as a teletype operator during WW II; one-room school house;

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