

The Biography of Private Eddie Winslow RN12

Name: Edward Winslow
Nationality: English
Age: 32

Background:

Born to Anslow and Margaret (Maggie) Winslow, Eddie (as he was called by his parents) had an interesting childhood. Eddie's mother was an ardent Huguenot who refused to convert to the "official English religion", while Eddie's father was a boatwright. From an early age Eddie was subjected to many a heated argument between his parents over religious matters. Maggie, being quite large and a bully often pummeled Eddie's father into unconsciousness, thus "winning" the arguments. As a result Eddie was raised at home as a Huguenot, but quickly learned to keep this secret outside the home. He would sneak out of his house to attend Church of England events and be seen, so that to everyone outside his immediate family, he was a proper Englishman and a good member of the Church of England. While doing this Eddie was able to keep Maggie in the dark about his religious activities, thus learning the crafts of deception and deceit that would serve him in later life.

At the age of 14 Eddie suffered a tragedy. While his parents were having another religious argument, Maggie went a bit too far in her attempts to win, and ended up killing Anslow. When the local constable came by, summoned by neighbors after hearing the death screams of Anslow, Maggie not only refused to come along peacefully, but also killed the constable with a butcher knife. The constable's deputy was able to escape Maggie's butcher knife and immediately summoned help from the local military garrison.

A detachment of British Regulars arrived on the scene soon thereafter. Maggie refused to surrender. The locals thought she had gone quite mad because as one local, Fred broke out in a loud French song, one that I have never heard before, and came charging out of the house with a bloody cleaver raised over her head. She had a wild look in her eyes and charged the line of soldiers summoned to collect her. Well, that Corporal had no choice; he had to order his troops to shoot Maggie down. "Poor Eddie. I don't know what will become of him now". Eddie returned from knocking about the town soon thereafter to discover that he was now an orphan. This was quite the story and made all the papers. An investigation was launched and the background of Maggie was discovered. The authorities were not at all pleased that Eddie was raised in the home of a fanatical French



Huguenot mother who was capable of murder. It looked like Eddie would end up in a government orphanage (or worse) until a stroke of luck befell the parentless child. A sergeant of the Grenadiers (record of whose name has mysteriously been lost) petitioned the court to take custody of Eddie and was granted.

Not much is known about the next few years of Eddie's life, except that the home he was taken into was a loving home, and he had a stability that he had never known in the past. The next time that Eddie surfaced was when he voluntarily accepted a commission in the Grenadiers. (It is not talked about, and there is no direct evidence, but the word on the street is that it was Eddie's own adoptive father who pressed him into service. The story is that on Eddie's 18th birthday, dear old dad took his son out for a celebration. After a few rounds of ale and when he wasn't looking, a shilling was placed in one of Eddie's drinks. When poor old Eddie took up the shilling that was in the bottom of his mug, pressed into service he was).

The Grenadier's life is not what Eddie had hoped. The discipline and torture (Eddie's words) were quite bad. To top it off Eddie's commanding officer was a simpleton. The only reason he had his post was due to his very influential father. On more than one occasion Eddie's commanding officer ordered his men to march into friendly fire. On several occasions Eddie's comrades were killed or injured. Unable to stand officer's sheer incompetence any longer, Eddie committed the unthinkable act of causing the death of his commanding officer by causing a grenade to go off in the officer's vicinity, the fragments and concussion causing his death (The unofficial story is that Eddie lit the fuse on a grenade, tossed it at his commanding officer, and yelled "Catch". At this signal all of his comrades scattered, and the officer indeed tried to catch the grenade (and succeeded). Eddie may have gotten away with this if this act had not occurred on the parade ground. He was quickly arrested. Normally this would be an offense punishable by death, but the dead officer's peers thought the officer was worthy of death, but they did not have the means to accomplish this feat themselves. Now, as the British Army was much improved due to the officer's untimely departure, they could not bring themselves to kill Eddie. Instead they sentenced him to prison for 8 years.

Prison was worse than the Grenadiers, which was inconceivable to Eddie. His faith failed him. He had to use all of his wits to survive. While in prison Eddie came across a plan to survive. Relying upon his mother's teachings from years past, and his fluency in French, Eddie befriended a dying Huguenot priest, as the priest seemed to get more respect and better treatment than did a Grenadier who killed his commanding officer. Eddie learned everything there was to know about being a priest and began to preach to his prison mates and the guards. Within months Eddie was in all respects a Huguenot priest. Eddie loved his new role. The treatment by his captors was better and he did receive a little better treatment (More due to the fact that the others and the guards thought Eddie was stark raving mad more than any other reason).

One day about four years into his sentence, Eddie got hold of some really rotten food and the sickness that befell him was horrid. The guards were sure Eddie would die. To prevent him from infecting the other inmates Eddie was moved to solitary confinement placed on deathwatch watch. The cell they placed him in was very much less secure than his old cell, and was actually above ground. Miraculously Eddie started to recover, but he used guile and deceit to make the guards believe that he was still deathly ill. One dark

and stormy night Eddie saw a chance for escape and took it. A guard not thinking Eddie was a threat was careless and allowed Eddie to attack him from behind.

Now Eddie was free.

He made his way down to the docks. Using the knowledge that his father had bestowed upon him before his untimely demise, Eddie was able to quickly secure a position on a trader making its way to some place called the Caribbean. Any place had to be better than prison, so off Eddie went. Down into the Caribbean his ship sailed right into a Pirate ambush. By sheer luck Eddie was able to avoid being killed in the boarding action and became a member of the Pirate crew. The captain of the pirate vessel was of French descent, so Eddie's Huguenot ruse served him well. Pirate life was WORSE than prison. Eddie hated it with a passion, but was not able to affect an escape from this new life. He was too new and thus closely watched by his comrades. One day the pirate ship was sailing along when the French frigate Themis happened her upon. The battle was short, and Eddie managed to survive as the French took him to be a genuine Huguenot priest. Shortly thereafter the Themis started back France for re-supply, Eddie in tow.

Three days into the return trip the Themis ran into the British Man-o-War HMS Isis. An hour after the initial engagement, the Themis was a floating wreck and was easily boarded. One of the things that the British marines found was a poor soul who claimed to be "Eddie", a British Grenadier captured by the French. This was very peculiar indeed as there were not British Grenadiers in this part of the world. Nevertheless, with no way to verify his story, the captain took him at his word. Anyway, they were on their way back to England, so the mystery would soon be solved.

A day out of port a strong storm brewed up and forced the HMS Isis off course and she ended up having to take refuge in the port of Cork. Sensing this was his only opportunity to escape, Eddie jumped ship and swam ashore. After expending such a large amount of energy to reach safety, Eddie was quite tired and went to a local pub to dry off, warm up, and get something to eat.

While eating, someone tapped him on the shoulder. Eddie turned and heard someone yell, "catch" to him. He saw something silver flashing toward him and instinctively grabbed it out of the air. Upon inspecting the object Eddie's heart sank. In the palm of his hand was an English Shilling and next to him stood 2 burly infantrymen. Eddie had been pressed AGAIN. There was no getting out of it now. The recruiters eventually found out who Eddie was and most of his past. Not wanting to pass up this recruit, they instead placed Eddie on a ship to the colonies to fight against the French and their Indian allies there. If he got killed, no loss for the crown. Besides, he was pretty much already trained. In his official records Eddie is branded a "murderer". Upon reaching the colonies, Eddie was put into service of Gordon's company, 1st Battalion, 60th Regiment of Foote, where he serves to this day.