

The Girls Who Stepped Out of Line
By Major General Mari K. Eder

- Author visit at Library 21C: **Sat., Oct 7 at 3 p.m.**
- Americans and the Holocaust Traveling Exhibit at East Library: **September 5 – October 11**
- Women Air Service Pilots of WWII lecture at Cheyenne Mountain Library: **Tue., Sept. 26 at 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.**
- Culture Fest at Cheyenne Mountain Library: **Fri., Sept. 22 at 5:30 - 8 p.m.**

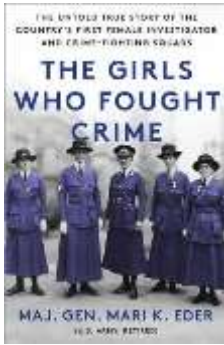
Author Background



Mari K. Eder, retired U.S. Army Major General, is a renowned speaker and author, and a thought leader on strategic communication and leadership. She was born in Grove City, Pennsylvania and currently lives in the Washington DC-Baltimore Area. She has served 36 years in the army, but she retired from it in 2013.

During her time in the army, she has served as Director of Public Affairs at the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies and as an adjunct professor and lecturer in communications and public diplomacy at the NATO School and Sweden's International Training Command. She served in a number of senior positions in the Pentagon, on the Army Staff, as Deputy Chief of Public Affairs and Deputy Chief of the Army Reserve, and with DoD's Reserve Forces Policy Board.

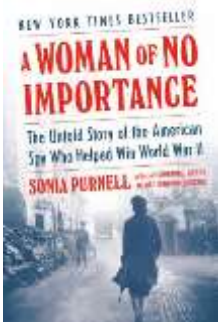
Today General Eder speaks and writes frequently on communication topics in universities and for international audiences and consults on communications issues. She also lectures on security issues, ethics and leadership. When not writing, lecturing, or traveling, Eder works with rescue groups, fostering rescue dogs. Her new book, *The Girls Who Fought Crime: The Untold True Story of the Country's First Female Investigator and Her Crime Fighting Squad*, just came out this month and is on order at the library.



Mari K. Eder Books

- *The Girls Who Fought Crime: The Untold True Story of the Country's First Female Investigator and Her Crime Fighting Squad* (2023) (on order)
- *The Girls Who Stepped Out of Line: Untold Stories of the Women Who Changed the Course of World War II* (2021)
- *American Cyberscape: Trials and the Path to Trust* (2020) (not available)
- *Leading the Narrative: The Case for Strategic Communication* (2011) (not available)

Memoirs/ Biographies of Women Mentioned



- *Courting Danger: My Adventures in World-Class Tennis, Golden-Age Hollywood, and High-Stakes Spying* by Alice Marble (not available)
- *Undercover Girl* by Elizabeth Peet McIntosh (not available)
- *OSS Operation Black Mail : One Woman's Covert War Against the Imperial Japanese Army* (about Elizabeth Peet McIntosh) by Ann Todd (available as physical book and eBook)
- *A Woman of No Importance: The Untold Story of WWII's Most Dangerous Spy, Virginia Hall* by Sonia Purnell (available as physical book and eBook)
- *Hungry Ghosts: One Woman's Mission to Change Their World* by Mary Taylor Previte (not available)
- *Witness: One of the Great Correspondents of the Twentieth Century Tells Her Story* by Ruth Gruber (available as eBook)
- *Haven: The Dramatic Story of 1,000 World War II Refugees and How They Came to America* by Ruth Gruber (available as eBook)
- *Things We Couldn't Say* by Diet Eman (available as eBook)
- *The Bravest Voices: The Extraordinary Heroism of Sisters Ida and Louise Cook during the Era* by Ida Cook (available as eBook)
- *One Woman's Army: A Black Officer Remembers the WAC* by Charity Adams Earley (not available)

Characters



Alice Marble- an American tennis player who won 18 Grand Slam championships between 1936 and 1940

- Worked as a spy for the US Army when she photographed her ex-lover's bank records. This man was a Swiss banker suspected of laundering Nazi gold, jewels, painting, and currency.
- Marble was one of the first to publicly address tennis's segregation practices and challenge the establishment.



Hilda Gimpel Eisen- a Polish-American businessperson, philanthropist, and Holocaust survivor.

- Imprisoned in the Lublin Ghetto with husband David and then transported to labor camp.
- She escaped and joined Parczew partisans, a Jewish Resistance Movement.
- She was recaptured by German forces, but then she escaped by jumping out of a window when she was taken into questioning. Her husband David was killed as a resistance fighter.
- She remarried another Holocaust survivor named Harry Eisen, and they moved to California and became millionaires with a large chicken egg distribution business.
- She was a leader of the Lodzer Organization of Southern California, a group of Holocaust survivors who donate to Jewish charities in Israel and locally.



Stephanie Czech Rader - an American undercover intelligence agent.

- She was born to Polish immigrants in Ohio, and she was selected to serve as a spy for the OSS due to her knowledge of Polish culture.
- She was one of two OSS agents working at the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw under the guise of finding family members in the aftermath of WWII.



Elizabeth Peet McIntosh- an undercover agent for the OSS.

- She was asked to join the OSS due to her fluency in Japanese.
- She was assigned to Morale Operations where she created "disinformation," or fake reports, documents and postcards, which would "undermine Japanese morale."
- Her main job was to intervene in the postcard communication that troops would send home to India while stationed in Japan.



Virginia Hall - An American who worked with the United Kingdom's clandestine Special Operations Executive (SOE) and the American Office of Strategic Services (OSS) in France during World War II.

- An expert at support operations – organizing resistance movements; supplying agents with money, weapons, and supplies; helping downed airmen to escape; offering safe houses and medical assistance to wounded agents and pilots
- Known as “The Limping Lady”



Mary Taylor Previte

- As a daughter of missionaries, spent more than three years of her childhood in a Japanese concentration camp in occupied China, until a team of six American paratroopers and their Chinese translator rescued her at the end of the war.
- Over 50 years later, in 1997, she began to seek out and thank, in person, each of the soldiers who had been involved in liberating the camp.
- She became the first woman to become president of the New Jersey Juvenile Detention Association.

- She later became an American Democratic Party politician who served in the New Jersey General Assembly.



Ruth Gruber - an American journalist, photographer, writer, humanitarian, and United States government official.

- During World War II, Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes appointed Gruber as his Special Assistant.
- Acting on behalf of the Roosevelt administration, she escorted 1,000 Jewish refugees from Italy to the United States and recorded their stories.



Dame Mary Sigillo Barraco - WWII resistance fighter in Belgium who suffered Nazi torture.

- She posed as a Red Cross volunteer and snuck prisoners out of detention; worked on underground newspapers; rescued downed Allied airmen; smuggled documents and passed information between Resistance members about sabotage of Nazi strongholds; and helped smuggle Jewish children to safety after her hairdresser mother worked to change their looks.
- Knighted by the Belgian king in 2004 for her service to the Resistance during the war.



Berendina Diet Eman- A WWII Dutch Resistance Fighter.

- She established a resistance group with her fiancé, Hein Sietsma, and other friends which relocated 60 Jews in safe houses in cities as well as rural areas.
- Eman continually delivered, by bicycle and trains, false ID papers as well as extra ration cards to the people in hiding.

- She was eventually caught and sent to a concentration camp, but she survived the war. But unfortunately her fiancé was executed at the Dachau concentration camp.



Ida and Louise Cook- Two sisters who helped 29 Jews escape Nazi persecution.

- They smuggled valuables such as jewelry on their trips back to England from Opera performances which allowed Jews fleeing Germany to satisfy the British financial security requirements for immigration.
- Ida Cook also helped fund this endeavor with her earnings as a successful romance writer who wrote under the name Mary Burchell. She wrote 112 books.



Marion Armstrong Frieswyk - First woman in the Map Division's Cartography Section of the OSS.

- She and her colleagues developed a unique system of map production and evolved it rapidly to improve map quality and production efficiency.
- Marion produced customized maps and 3D topographic models to support both strategic studies and military operational plans for the US and its allies.



Elizabeth Bemis Roberts- Enlistee of the "Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service" (WAVES) during World War II.

- Worked on the top secret classified program ULTRA. This program made the machines which decoded messages written by the German Enigma coding machine.
- This program is thought to have shortened the war by a year and a half.



Ola Mildred Rexroat McDonald - The only Native American woman to serve in the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP).

- After she graduated the WASP training, she was assigned the dangerous job of towing targets for aerial gunnery students.
- When the WASPs were disbanded, she served 10 years as an air traffic controller for the Air Force.



Katherine Flynn Nolan - A heavy casualty field hospital nurse in five major battles.

- She earned five battle stars, moving with the troops from France to Belgium to Holland to Germany
- When hostilities ended, she treated survivors of Nazi concentration camps as well as American POW's.
- In 2007 she was awarded the highest French order of merit, The Legion of Honor, by the government of France.



Charity Adams Earley - the highest-ranking African-American woman in the army by the completion of the war.

- She was the first African-American woman to be an officer in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (later WACs)
- She was also a commanding officer of the first battalion of African-American women to serve overseas during World War II, the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion.

Discussion Questions

1. Which one of the stories in the book resonated with you the most – personally?
2. Have you heard of any of these women before reading this book? Are you interested in reading more about any of these women?
3. Was there anything specifically about these stories that surprised you? Did you learn anything about the wartime effort?
4. What obstacles did these women face and how did they overcome them?
5. What would you have done in these women's situations? Do you think that you would have put yourself in danger to help Jews escape persecution? Do you think you could have been a spy?

6. How do you think that these women's achievements helped women become more integrated in the army and the workforce in the long run?
7. Why do you think it took so long for many of these women to earn the recognition they deserved? Why do women's contributions often get overlooked in history?
8. Do you have any questions that you would like to ask the author?
9. Do you think that women should be drafted by the army?
10. What kind of setbacks do you think women face in the army today?
11. Are there any WWII wartime stories from your family that you would like to share?