



# Title Page & Abstract

## An Interview with Clarence Berbaum

Part of the Illinois Public Media ([WILL radio.tv.online](http://WILL.radio.tv.online))  
Central Illinois World War II Stories project

Interview # VR2-V-D-2007-042

Clarence Berbaum, a radio repairman for the United States Army during World War II, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Illinois Public Media – WILL AM-FM-TV Central Illinois World War II Stories project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: 15 September 2007

Location: Illinois Public Media, Urbana, IL

Interview Format: Digital video

Interviewer: Jesse Phillippe, Illinois Public Media affiliate

Technical Support (cameraman, etc): Henry Radcliffe, Videographer, Illinois Public Media  
([WILL radio.tv.online](http://WILL.radio.tv.online))

Transcription by: \_\_\_\_\_

Edited by: \_\_\_\_\_

Transcript  
being processed

Total Pages: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Time: 53 min/ 0.88 hrs

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on December 4, 2014.

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

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# Abstract

## Clarence Berbaum, *Veterans Remember*, VR2-V-D-2007-042

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** Clarence Berbaum was born on November 5, 1919 in Champaign, Illinois. He graduated from Champaign High School in 1938. He was drafted on February 11, 1942 when he was twenty-two years old. On the night he left his family for the war, he told his father that he did not think that he would be returning.

After Berbaum was inducted at Camp Grant, Illinois, his groups of inductees were sent to Fort Knox, Kentucky to learn basic armored training. Next, Berbaum was sent to Pine Camp, New York, where he was assigned to the 4th Armored Division, responsible for driving a tank. The following fall he enrolled in a radio school in Fort Knox, Kentucky. He returned to the 4th Armored Division, which was now in the deserts of California. Berbaum received a chance to join the Division Signal Company while in California, because he had operated on radios previously. After several months, the Division moved again to Camp Buoy, Texas. Berbaum applied to the Army Air Force and luckily was accepted into the Air Force cadet program, which included five months of college in Mount Pleasant, Iowa. After graduation, he was told by the company commander that the school was closing, and he could either return to his unit or enter into the Infantry.

Upon joining the 100th Infantry Division, Berbaum served in the European Theater. He helped with radio repair, typically posted roughly one mile behind the actual battle line. The 100th Infantry first saw action in the Vosges Mountains in November, 1944, where they captured the citadel of Bitche, France. Later, another significant and casualty-filled battle at Heilbronn, Germany took place. By the time the war ended in Europe, the 100th Division was circling Stuttgart, Germany. He then trained for future battles in Asia until Japan surrendered. Berbaum returned home in 1946. After the war, he continued his interests in radio, television, and even created a documentary of his army career. Clarence passed away on November 26, 2014.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** Champaign, Illinois; radio repair; hand radios; wire communication; Camp Grant, Illinois; Fort Knox, Kentucky; Pine Camp, New York; 4th Armored Division; Division Signal Company; Camp Buoy, Texas; Army Air Force; 100th Infantry; European Theater; Vosges Mountains; Concentration Camps; Biche, France; Heilbronn, Germany.

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