



Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with James Robert Whitson

Part of the Illinois Public Media – WILL AM-FM-TV Central Illinois
World War II Stories project

Interview # VR2-V-D-2007-070

James Robert Whitson, a veteran who served in the United States Navy 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 October 2007

Location: Illinois Public Media, Urbana, IL

Interview Format: Digital video

Interviewer: H.F. Williamson, Illinois Public Media affiliate

Technical Support (cameraman, etc): David Noreen, Illinois Public Media affiliate

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Interview being
processed

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1 hr, 29 min/ 1.48 hrs

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on (date).

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

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Abstract

James Robert Whitson, *Veterans Remember*, VR2-V-D-2007-070

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: James Robert Whitson was born in Rushville, Illinois on June 8, 1921. He was enlisted in the United States Navy 1939 in Camp Grant in Rockford, Illinois.

Whitson traveled in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Montevideo, Uruguay; the Archipelago of Azores; the Philippines; and the Gibraltar. Whitson prepared for an invasion in Sicily, Italy. On Christmas Day, 1943, Whitson hit a dangerous wave in the North Atlantic, almost destroying his ship completely. He was briefly discharged because of appendicitis; however, he returned to England in April 1944. Whitson was shipped to Britain and Bristol, England. Next, Whitson invaded Southern France. He eventually ended up in the Pacific Theater at Eniwetok Atoll.

He served on various cruisers, including the U.S.S. Milwaukee, the U.S.S. Patoka, the U.S.S. Herndon, and the U.S.S. Dixie.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Rushville, Illinois; Camp Grant, Illinois; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Montevideo, Uruguay; Archipelago of Azores; Philippines; Gibraltar; Sicily, Italy; Britain; Bristol, England; Southern France; Eniwetok Atoll; U.S.S. Milwaukee; U.S.S. Patoka; U.S.S. Herndon; U.S.S. Dixie.

Note to the Reader: Readers of the oral history memoir should bear in mind that this is a transcript of the spoken word, and that the interviewer, interviewee and editor sought to preserve the informal, conversational style that is inherent in such historical sources. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library is not responsible for the factual accuracy of the memoir, nor for the views expressed therein. We leave these for the reader to judge.

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