

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Warren Musch

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

Interview # VR2-V-L-2012-040

Warren Musch, a Marine Intelligence Officer during WW II, and veteran of the battle of Iwo Jima, was interviewed on the dates listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Veterans Remember – WW II* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Oct 16, 2012 Location: IL Information Service studio, Springfield, Illinois

Date: Oct 18, 2012 Location: IL Information Service studio, Springfield, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital video

Interviewer: Mark R. DePue, Director of Oral History, ALPL

Technical Support (cameraman, etc): Mark Suszko, Gregg Lipe & Tony Bateman IIS
videographers

Transcription by: Audio Transcription Center, Boston, MA

Edited by: Susan Seiber & Rozanne Flatt, ALPL Volunteers

Total Pages: 92 pgs Total Time: 1:48 + 1:50 / 1.8 + 1.83 = 3.63 hrs

Session 1: Growing up on a central Illinois farm during Depression and joining Marines

Session 2: Experiences on Iwo Jima, preparations for invasion of Japan and beyond

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on March 7, 2013.

The interviews are archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois.

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Abstract

Warren Musch, *Veterans Remember*, VR2-V-L-2012-040

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Warren Musch was born on October 25th, 1921 on the family farm just south of Virginia, Illinois, and grew up on that small farm through the Great Depression. Warren spoke extensively about his life on the farm, about attending a one-room school, and about the impact the Great Depression had on the family. Following graduating from Virginia High School in 1939, he attended Illinois College in Jacksonville. Following Pearl Harbor, Musch enrolled in the Marine Corps' version of the U.S. Navy's V-12 program, which required him to become an officer following graduation. He took Marine Corps boot camp at Parris Island, South Carolina in the summer of 1943, then took his Basic Officer Training at Quantico, Virginia, and also received training as an intelligence officer at the U.S. Army Combat Intelligence School at Camp Ritchie, Maryland. By February he was at Camp Pendleton, California, and was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 28th Marine Regiment, 5th Marine Division. While participating in unit training at Camp Pendleton, he took time out to marry his sweetheart, Haroldine Husted, in June, 1944.

In September, 1944 the division shipped out to Hawaii, and Musch, now the 3rd Battalion's Intelligence Section Officer, continued his training at Camp Tarawa, located on the island of Hawaii. In early 1945, the division steamed out to Tinian Island, where they staged for the invasion of Iwo Jima. Lieutenant Musch landed on Iwo Jima as part of the thirteenth wave on February 19th, to a very hot reception. His regiment's mission was to seize the commanding heights of Mount Suribachi, which they completed on February 23rd. Musch observed the first flag-raising on Suribachi. AP photographer Joe Rosenthal immortalized the event with a second flag-raising. For the next month, the 5th Marine Division fought its way north on Iwo Jima, with the 28th Regiment suffering over seventy percent casualties. The 5th Division then returned to Camp Tarawa in Hawaii where Musch was reassigned to the Regimental Headquarters and assisted in the planning for the invasion of Japan. He was overjoyed when the Japanese surrendered following the dropping of the atomic bombs. Lieutenant Musch spent the next several months on occupation duty in Japan, before returning home to his young wife and a career on the farm in April 1946.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Iwo Jima; 3rd Battalion, 28th Marine Regiment, 5th Marine Division; Mount Suribachi; invasion of Japan; growing up on a Depression era farm; Camp Tarawa on island of Hawaii; Marine boot camp at Parris Island, South Carolina; occupation duty on Kyushu Island, Japan; Illinois College; duties of a Marine Intelligence Officer

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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