



## Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Alexander G. Samaras

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

Interview # VR2-V-D-2007-062

Alexander G. Samaras, a United States Navy veteran serving 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: 7 November 2007

Location: WILL AM-FM-TV, Urbana, IL

Interview Format: Digital video

Interviewer: H.F. Williamson, WILL AM-FM-TV affiliate

Technical Support (cameraman, etc):

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

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

Indexed by: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Pages: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Time: 1 hr, 2 min/ 1.03 hrs

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

The interview(s) is/are archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in  
Springfield, Illinois.

Interview being  
processed

# Abstract

Alexander G. Samaras, *Veterans Remember*, VR2-V-D-2007-062

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** Alexander G. Samaras was born in Champaign, Illinois on June 29, 1921. Samaras enlisted in 1943 in the Navy V7 program at the University of Illinois, allowing him to finish his college degree. After graduation, Samaras reported to Tower Hall, Chicago for midshipman's school; he was commissioned as an Enson in the Naval Reserves. After marrying his wife, Samaras reported to Solomon Island, Maryland for LCT (Landing Craft Tank) training. In New Orleans in February, Samaras was assigned to LCT 509 aboard the LST (Landing Ship Tank) 510. The LST travelled from New York to Halifax in a convoy of about thirty LSTs.

German submarines attacked the convoy, resulting in the loss of two ships. The LST Samaras was aboard was torpedoed, but fortunately the torpedo was inactive. The LST headed for North Ireland, Wales, and then Plymouth, England. In April 1944, LCT 709 was launched, with Samaras as a commanding officer. The following months, Samaras prepared for Operation Overlord with the 50<sup>th</sup> Signal Battalion. Samaras was responsible for unloading supplies, troops, food, ammunition, prisoners of war, and vehicles to the Juno, Gold, Sword, Utah, and Omaha beaches.

In April 1945, Samaras was promoted to Lieutenant, Junior Grade. He was dispatched to Okinawa Island, Japan, serving as an executive officer on LCSL (Landing Craft Support Large) 81. Samaras was on picket duty, responsible for protecting Okinawa from surprise attacks. In December 1945, Samaras was sent home, being officially discharged from Great Lakes, Illinois in February.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** Champaign, Illinois; University of Illinois; V7 Naval Program; Tower Hall, Chicago; Enson; Solomon Island, Maryland; Landing Craft Tank 509; New Orleans; Landing Ship Tank 510; New York; Halifax; German submarines; torpedoes; North Ireland; Wales; Plymouth, England; Landing Craft Tank 709; 50<sup>th</sup> Signal Battalion; Operation Overlord; Omaha Beach; Utah Beach; France; German 88s; Lieutenant, Junior Grade; Landing Craft Support Large 81; Okinawa Island, Japan; Great Lakes, Illinois.

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