



Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Steve A. Johnson

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

Interview # VR2-V-D-2008-116

Steve A. Johnson, an engineer in 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: 22 January 2008

Location: Illinois Public Media, Urbana, IL

Interview Format: Digital video

Interviewer: Nancy B. Rotzoll, Illinois Public Media affiliate

Technical Support (cameraman, etc):

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Interview being
processed

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 58 min/ 0.97 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

Steve A. Johnson, *Veterans Remember*, VR2-V-D-2008-116

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Steve A. Johnson was born in Amal, Sweden on May 6, 1925. He moved to Chicago, Illinois in 1928. Johnson was drafted into the Army in 1943 and inducted at Camp Grant in Rockford, Illinois. He was in the 2nd Boat Platoon of Company C, in the 543rd Engineer Boat and Shore Regiment, of the 3rd Engineer Special Brigade. Johnson received basic training at Fort Ord, California. In 1944, he boarded the U.S.S. Etamin and traveled to the Southern tip of New Guinea.

In New Guinea, Johnson was an engineer. He was hospitalized with malaria in Oro Bay before boarding another landing craft, called the Lucky Lady II, in the Schouten Islands. Johnson first entered combat in March 1945. He was part of a tank crew aboard a Landing Ship Deck (LSD). After Air Force and Naval bombardment, the LSD arrived on the Mindanao Island of the Zamboanga Peninsula. Once rumors of a possible counterattack spread, Johnson's assignment in Mindanao was called off.

On June 1945, Johnson flew in a C-47 airplane for the first time. He flew to the Maluku Islands to assist the Australian 9th Division prepare for the invasion of Japan. On September 1945, Johnson boarded the U.S.S. Hampton and arrived in Aomori, Japan. After being promoted to Technician 4th Grade, Johnson left Aomori for Yokohama. He was then discharged at Camp Grant in January 1946.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Amal, Sweden; Camp Grant, Rockford, Illinois; 2nd Boat Platoon; Company C; 543rd Engineer Boat and Shore Regiment; 3rd Engineer Special Brigade; Fort Ord, California; Auckland, New Zealand; Sydney, Australia; U.S.S. Ematin; New Guinea; Schouten Islands; U.S.S. Biddle; Leyte Island, Philippines; Landing Ship Deck; Zamboanga Peninsula; Mindanao Island; C-47; Maluku Islands; Australian 9th Division; Aomori, Japan; Yokohama, Japan; Seattle, Washington.

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