

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Sam Million

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

Interview # VR2-A-L-2009-031

Sam Million, an Army veteran who was stationed at the Sugamo Prison guarding Japanese war criminals in 1947, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Veterans Remember – WW II* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: October 28, 2009 Location: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Date: February 5, 2010 Location: Telephonic Interview; Crossroads, Mississippi

Interview Format: Digital audio

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

Transcription by: Tape Transcription Center

Edited by: Marianne Lawrence & Rosie Camille, ALPL Volunteers

Total Pages: 83 pages Total Time: 1:54 + 1:45 + 0:08 / 1.9 + 1.75 + 0.13 = 3.78 hrs

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The interviews are archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in
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Abstract

Sam Million, *Veterans Remember*, VR2-A-L-2009-031

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Samuel J. Million was born on November 26th, 1927 in Auburn, Illinois, the son of Sicilian immigrants Giuseppe Millione and Katherine Giganti. Million spoke extensively about his parents' life and struggle as immigrants in their newly adopted country. He also recalls Pearl Harbor, and about coming of age during WW II, of rationing, metal and rubber drives, Victory Gardens and a brother in the military.

Million enlisted in the Army in October of 1946, and did his Basic Training at Ft. Bliss, Texas. He was then sent to Camp Stoneman, California for shipment overseas. By early 1947 Million was in Japan, assigned to serve as a jailor at Sugamo Prison, where those Japanese accused of war crimes were imprisoned. Sam spent his first couple of months assigned to Cell Block 6 guarding lower ranking prisoners. Thereafter, he was moved to Cell Block 5 and given a unique assignment. He spent the next six months watching General Hideki Tojo, the former Japanese Prime Minister, for six hours a day. (Tojo had attempted suicide prior to his capture by the Americans.) Million shares his insights into the Japanese culture and militaristic society from this perspective. He returned to the United States in March of 1948. He passed away on January 20, 2015 in Lacombe, Louisiana.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Sugamo Prison, jailor at Sugamo Prison; Tokyo, Japan; General Hideki Tojo; Tokyo Rose (Iva Toguri); Pearl Harbor; Japanese War Crimes Trial; Camp Stoneman, California; WW II metal and rubber drives; growing up during WW II; General Douglas MacArthur

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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