



Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with John Louis Frothingham

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

Interview # VR2-V-D-2007-048

John Louis Frothingham, a World War II veteran who served in the United States Marine Corps, 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: 30 August 2007

Location: Illinois Public Media, Urbana, IL

Interview Format: Digital video

Interviewer: Harriet Williamson, Illinois Public Media affiliate

Technical Support (cameraman, etc):

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Interview being
processed

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 60 min/ 1hr

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

John Louis Frothingham, *Veterans Remember*, VR2-V-D-2007-048

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: John Louis Frothingham was born on July 13, 1918 in Boston, Massachusetts. After resigning from the ROTC program at the University of Illinois, he entered the Candidate Class of the Marine Corps in Quantico, Virginia. In February 1941, Frothingham was called to active duty, commissioned as a second lieutenant, and entered reserved officers' training. After entering the Artillery Branch in Quantico, Frothingham transferred to the 1st Marine Division in the spring 1942. He married his wife, Katherine, in March 1942, while he was training at New River, North Carolina.

After a horrible defeat in the Fiji Islands, Frothingham's battalion moved in August 1942 to Guadalcanal, where the Japanese had retreated. Under the 1st Marine Division, Frothingham was a part of the 7th Marine Regiment and was attached to the 164th Infantry Regiment. In November, he defended their airfields from Japanese invasion when crossing the Matanikau River. In December 1942, Frothingham was shipped to Melbourne and Ballarat, Australia where he was made Captain. Later Frothingham was transferred to Auckland, New Zealand and then returned to Guadalcanal.

With the addition of new Marine Corps Divisions, Frothingham returned to the United States in March 1944 under the 5th Marine Division. During training in Hawaii, Frothingham became Major and was transferred to the tank battalion. The 5th Division battled in Iwo Jima against Japan, using flame-throwing tanks, before reaching the headquarters of Kuribayashi.

Subject Headings/Key Words: University of Illinois; ROTC; Marine Corps; Quantico, Virginia; 1st Marine Division; 7th Marine Regiment; 164th Infantry Regiment; New River, North Carolina; Guadalcanal; Fiji Islands; Tulagi; Cactus Air Force; Matanikau River, Melbourne, Australia; Ballarat, Australia; Auckland, New Zealand; 5th Marine Division;; Iwo Jima; Kuribayashi..

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