



Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Robert George Frederick Spitze

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

Interview # VR2-V-D-2007-064

Robert George Frederick Spitze, a World War II veteran who served in the United States Navy, 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: 9 October 2007

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

Interview Format: Digital video

Interviewer: Jesse Phillippe, WILL AM-FM-TV affiliate

Technical Support (cameraman, etc):

Edited by: _____

Interview being
processed

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1 hr, 9 min/ 1.15 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

Robert George Frederick Spitze, *Veterans Remember*, VR2-V-D-2007-064

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Robert George Frederick Spitze was born in Berryville, Arkansas on October 12, 1922. After his junior year in college in 1943, Spitze reported for naval training. He trained at the University of Arkansas, Arkansas Agricultural & Mechanical College, and Columbia University in New York. After being commissioned as an Ensign, Spitze returned home briefly to marry his fiancé. He trained on the Landing Ship Tank (LST) USS 730.

His crew trained and was eventually formed in Camp Bradford, Virginia. Spitze served on the LST 642, which was commissioned in Seneca, and eventually launched in the Illinois River. While aboard tank, Spitze was a radio and communications officer. Spitze's naval crew was involved in the invasions at Iwo Jima and Okinawa; the crew helped deliver supplies and marines onto the Japanese mainland. Next, while preparing on the Philippines for the invasion of Japan, Spritze received word that the war had ended.

In 1960, Spitze and his family moved to Urbana, Illinois. He became a professor at the University of Illinois.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Berryville, Arkansas; ROTC; University of Arkansas; Arkansas Agricultural & Mechanical College; Columbia University in New York; Enson,; Landing Ship Tank (LST) USS 730; Camp Bradford, Virginia; LST 642; Seneca, Illinois; Illinois River; Iwo Jima; Okinawa; Philippines; Urbana, Illinois; University of Illinois.

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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