

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Donald E. Palmer

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

Interview # VR2-V-L-2007-025

Donald E. Palmer, a World War II navy veteran, was interviewed on the dates listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Veterans Remember* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location(s):

Date: October 25, 2007 Location: IL Information Services, Springfield, IL

Interview Format: Digital Video

Interviewer: Mark R. DePue

Technical Support (cameraman, etc): Mark Suzsko and IIS studio staff

Transcription by: Tape Transcription Center, Boston MA

Edited by: Rozanne Flatt, ALPL Volunteer

Total Time: 1 hr 59 min; 1.98 hrs

Total Pages: 37

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on 2/8/2008.

The interview is archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois.

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Abstract

Donald E. Palmer, *Veterans Remember*, VR2-V-L-2007-025

Biographical Information & Synopsis: Donald (Don) E. Palmer was born on November 30, 1923 in Springfield, Illinois. He grew up in Springfield before enlisting in the U.S. Navy in 1942. He was soon assigned to the 4th Beach Battalion, (Company B-4) a newly organized unit that had the mission of prepping beaches in the European theater prior Army units hitting the beach. The units cleared obstacles, marked lanes, and facilitated other units as they hit the beach and moved forward. Palmer's job much closer to an infantryman than to a typical sailor's duties. Don was with the 4th Beach Battalion for the amphibious landings at Gela, Sicily, Salerno, Italy, and St. Tropez in southern France. Following this landing, Don returned home for 30 days leave, and then was assigned to a more traditional naval assignment and posted to the Pacific. While there, his ship supported the landings at Mindoro, Philippines and Okinawa.

Topics Covered: 4th Beach Battalion, WW II; amphibious landings at Gela, Sicily; Salerno, Italy; amphibious landings in southern France at St. Tropez (Operation Anvil); General Patton; 531st Engineer Battalion

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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