



Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Merlin Arthur Taber

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

Interview # VR2-V-D-2007-066

Merlin Arthur Taber, a Conscientious Objector 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: 27 July 2007 Location: Illinois Public Media, Urbana, IL

Interview Format: Digital video

Interviewer: James W. Meadows III, Illinois Public Media affiliate

Technical Support (cameraman, etc):

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Interview being
processed

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1 hr, 34/ 1.57 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

Merlin Arthur Taber, *Veterans Remember*, VR2-V-D-2007-066

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Merlin Arthur Taber was born on November 24, 1926 on remote farm in Iowa near City Rapids, Iowa. As a Quaker, Taber received Conscientious Objector, 4E status. In 1944, after a year and half of education at William Penn College, Taber was sent to Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri for a physical and mental examination. He volunteered for the Civilian Public Service and helped with building roads, dams, and at a mental hospital.

In early 1945, he developed irrigation facilities on the Columbia River in Trenton, North Dakota. He also fought fires at a ranger base in San Bernardino National Forest in southern California. Taber later helped as medical test subject in Philadelphia, getting infected with jaundice and Hepatitis A. In late summer 1945, Taber was sent to Byberry Mental Hospital in northeastern Philadelphia, where he helped prevent altercations among patients.

After discharged from Civilian Public Service, Taber returned to school, receiving his PhD in Sociology from the University of Iowa. After receiving a job offer, he eventually moved to Champaign, Illinois.

Subject Headings/Key Words: City Rapids, Iowa; Conscientious Objector; 4E status; William Penn College; Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri; Civilian Public Service; Columbia River; Trenton, North Dakota; San Bernardino National Forest, California; Byberry Mental Hospital, Philadelphia; University of Iowa; Champaign, 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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