



Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Margaret Rose Henderson

Part of the Illinois Public Media ([WILL radio.tv.online](http://WILL.radio.tv.online))

Central Illinois World War II Stories project

Interview # VR2-V-D-2007-055

Margaret Rose Henderson, a World War II veteran who worked in the Naval Communications Intelligence, 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: 2 October 2007

Location: Illinois Public Media, Urbana, IL

Interview Format: Digital video

Interviewer: Harriet Williamson, Illinois Public Media affiliate

Technical Support (cameraman, etc): Henry Radcliffe, Videography, Illinois Public Media ([WILL radio.tv.online](http://WILL.radio.tv.online))

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Interview being
processed

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 32 min/ 0.53 hrs

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

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Abstract

Margaret Rose Henderson, *Veterans Remember*, VR2-V-D-2007-055

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Margaret Rose Henderson was born in Concord, Massachusetts on July 25, 1921. During a school trip, she was able to attend the openings of the Olympics in Berlin, Germany in 1936; she saw Hitler in person. While staying with a family in Berlin, she was informed of the depravities occurring in Germany. When she returned to the United States, her Berlin experience was significantly embedded in her mind and certainly influenced her interest in the war.

During her senior year in 1943 at Radcliffe College, Henderson was recruited for a secret communications course and was commissioned for the Navy. She trained for a month at Mount Holyoke, Massachusetts and then transferred to the Naval Intelligence Office in Washington, D.C. She was assigned to a communications intelligence office for the European Theater. Henderson tracked German U-boats and plotted their locations on a map. In response, aircrafts would be sent after the German U-boats.

After the U-boats were defeated in 1945, Henderson was transferred to the Atlantic Wing of the Naval Air Transport Service. She trained as an air transport officer and was stationed at Norfolk Air Station, Virginia. She ultimately left the service in October 1946. Henderson was in the Naval Reserve until she became pregnant in 1949. Margaret passed away December 28, 2009.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Concord, Massachusetts, Adolf Hitler; Germany; Radcliffe College; Mount Holyoke, Massachusetts; Washington, D.C.; German U-boats; Trident Code; Naval Intelligence Office; Naval Transport Service; Atlantic Wing; Patuxent River, Maryland; Norfolk Air Station, Virginia; Naval Reserves.

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