



Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with George Richard Boyd

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-2008-109

George Richard Boyd, a child during 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:

IL Date: 11 September 2008

Location: Illinois Public Media, Urbana,

Interview Format: Digital video

Interviewer: Nancy B. Rotzoll, Illinois Public Media affiliate

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

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

**Transcript
being processed**

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1 hr, 2 min/ 1.03 hrs

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on December 24, 2014.

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

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Abstract

George Richard Boyd, *Veterans Remember*, VR2-V-D-2008-109

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: George Richard Boyd was born in Urbana, Illinois on April 1, 1934; he was seven years old when Pearl Harbor was bombed in 1941. Boyd learned of the war through his family, brother-in-laws, and neighbors who were all involved in the service. John, his brother, had rheumatic fever as a child and could not enlist; Boyd recounts him crying for several months. John's friend, Darrel Reno, entered the Army Air Corps, and became a bombardier and navigator in a B-17. Boyd tearfully recounts Reno being shot down in Germany in 1943 and returning home with an amputated right arm.

During the war, Boyd's community donated scrap metals, used rationed books, bought war bonds, and grew victory gardens. Boyd remembers that gasoline, meat, sugar, and tires were all items that were rationed. For amusement, Boyd went to the library, exchanged cereal box tops for paper airplanes, listened to radio programs, played mock-war, and attended the Princess Theater in Urbana for only a dime. On Sundays, Boyd and his father would go to a local ice cream shop and purchase a brick of ice cream; a popular flavor was called the "White House."

Boyd feels lucky that he lived in the Midwest, since the area was involved in farming, and did not feel the effects of rationing as severely. Boyd believes that the United States won the war because of their manufacturing capability.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Urbana, Illinois; World War II era child; Pearl Harbor; National Guard; 106th Cavalry; Patton's Third Army; Battle of the Bulge; Army Air Corps; victory gardens; ration books; Princess Theater, Urbana Illinois; war bond drives.

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