

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Sandy Dehner-Wheeler

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

Interview # VR2-V-L-2007-007

Sandra (Sandy) Dehner-Wheeler, a daughter of a WW II veteran was interviewed on July 13, 2007 as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Veterans Remember* Oral History project. This interview was part of a special video series on World War II co-hosted by WILL-TV (PBS affiliate in Champaign IL), to highlight the upcoming broadcast of Ken Burns' new documentary, *The War* in late September 2007.

Interview dates & location(s):

Date: July 13, 2007      Location: IL Information Studio, Springfield, IL

Interview Format: Digital video

Interviewer: Mark R. DePue (Director of Oral History-ALPL)

Technical Support (cameraman, etc): Mark Suszko, IIS

Transcription by: Transcription Professionals, Chicago, IL

Edited by: Mark DePue, Rozanne Flatt - ALPL volunteer

Total Time: 1 hr, 11 min      Total Pages: 21

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on December 24, 2007.

The interview(s) is/are archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois.

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# Abstract

Sandy Dehner-Wheeler, *Veterans Remember*, VR2-V-L-2007-007

**Biographical Information & Synopsis:** Sandra Dehner was born on March 12, 1939 to Frederick and Mona Lutes Dehner of Lincoln, Illinois. This interview gives Sandy's reminiscences of her early years while her father was in the U.S. Army fighting in the South Pacific. Sandy talks about how her father's mobilization affected her mother, Mona Dehner, and the three young children her mother was caring for in Lincoln. Her father Frederick was deployed to Bougainville, leaving Mona with three children and no steady income except the allotment that Fred sent home every month. She received quite a bit of help from other relatives in town, especially Fred's brother and others. Sandy describes sending and receiving letters to her father, and her father's return from the war. Mona would pray nightly that her husband, who at 36 was quite old for a draftee, would get sick so he could come home early and escape the devastation of war. Ironically, Fred came down with a lung infection, was evacuated to the states, then spent several months stateside before he finally returned home. He eventually acquired pleurisy because of his wartime experiences.

**Topics Covered:** Growing up during World War II; Lincoln, Illinois during World War II; battle of Bougainville; homecoming; recovery from illness (pleurisy) contracted during the war, family separation; letters.

**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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