

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Iver Yeager

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

Interview # VR2-A-L-2012-032

Iver F. Yeager, who grew up during the depression on a small, northwestern South Dakota ranch and served as a young officer on a destroyer in the Pacific during World War II, was interviewed on the dates listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Veterans Remember* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: July 20, 2012 Location: Yeager residence in Jacksonville, Illinois

Date: July 26, 2012 Location: Yeager residence in Jacksonville, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Mark R. DePue, Director of Oral History, ALPL

Transcription by: Audio Transcription Center, Boston, MA

Edited by: Roberta Volkmann & Jan Culp, ALPL volunteers

Total Pages: 107 pgs Total Time: 3:15 + 3:01 / 3.25 + 3.02 = 6.27 hrs

Session 1: Early life on northwestern South Dakota ranch thru college at
Macalester

Session 2: Combat experiences as naval officer on the USS Dyson in
Pacific

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on August 16, 2012.

The interviews are archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield,
Illinois.

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Abstract

Iver Yeager, *Veterans Remember*, VR2-A-L-2012-032

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Iver F. Yeager was born on April 24, 1922 in Yoder, Wyoming, but spent his early years living in Denver Colorado until 1930 when the family moved in with his mother's uncle on a small ranch in northwestern South Dakota. Yeager spent the rest of his formative years there with his mother and step-father, helping with chores, attending church and going to school in a one-room school just a few miles away in a very isolated part of the state. He attended the last two years of high school in Newell, SD, fifty-five miles away. Yeager enrolled in Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota in 1940, where he had received an academic scholarship, and worked his way through school while excelling in academics. He majored in philosophy and religion, but the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in December, 1941 changed his plans.

Yeager enrolled in the Navy's V-7 officer program, which allowed him to complete college before beginning officer's training. He completed his studies in January, 1944 and attended naval officer's training at Plattsburg, New York. Following that, in June of 1944 he began training at a tactical radar school in Hollywood Beach, Florida, then headed to the west coast for passage to Hawaii. Once there, he was assigned to the USS Dyson (DD 572), a Fletcher-class destroyer, which soon shipped out to the Philippines. The ship survived a massive typhoon in December of 1944, and supported the landings at Okinawa, where it survived kamikaze attacks. Following the dropping of the atomic bombs and the end of the war, Yeager accompanied the ship back to the U.S. and helped put the ship in mothballs at Charleston, South Carolina. While there, he also married his college sweetheart, Natalee Carlander. Iver passed away on July 21, 2016.

Subject Headings/Key Words: service on a destroyer during World War II; USS Dyson (DD 572); Macalester College; one-room schooling; growing up on a small ranch in depression era South Dakota; December 1944 typhoon in waters off of the Philippines; naval operations off Okinawa; Tactical Radar School during WW II in Hollywood Beach, Florida; Little Beaver Squadron

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