

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with DeLoyce McMurray

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

Interview # VR2-A-L-2009-016

DeLoyce McMurray, a black Marine veteran of World War II, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Veterans Remember* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: 15 May 2009

Location: McMurray home in Alton, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital Audio

Interviewer: Rozanne Flatt, ALPL Volunteer

Transcription by: Audio Transcription Center, Boston, MA

Edited by: Betty Workman and Rozanne Flatt, ALPL Volunteers

Total Pages: 37 pages

Total Time: 1 hr 30 min / 1.5 hours

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on 07/14/2009.

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

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Abstract

DeLoyce McMurray, Veterans Remember, VR2-A-L-2009-016

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: DeLoyce McMurray was born in Edwardsville, Illinois where he attended black segregated Lincoln High School. He worked with his father in the trucking-transfer business, driving trucks by age 13. On graduating from high school in 1944, he enlisted in the Marine Corps. During boot camp and advanced training at Camp LeJeune, North Carolina, he was given an administrative assignment. He was assigned to the Headquarters of the 11th Service Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, comprised entirely of black troops. After an interesting train trip to California, he was deployed to the Pacific Theater. Following a brief stop at bare Eniwetok Atoll, he landed at Wake Island where he kept records, mostly payroll and personnel. White and black troops performed their duties together, but ate and slept in separate facilities.

From Wake he was sent for a brief period to Saipan following the battle there. After returning to Wake, he went in a Landing Ship-Tank (LST) to Iwo Jima in the middle of that famous battle to help evacuate wounded troops to Wake and a hospital ship. Following the war, he was posted briefly to Guam, and eventually back to Camp Pendleton where he was discharged.

Back home in Edwardsville he met and married his wife, Aleen. He used the GI Bill to continue his education at Illinois State University, and later at Shurtleff College in Alton, Illinois. Using his administrative skills, he went to work for the government as a computer operator in the days of punch cards. He continued in this profession through many advances in computer technology, eventually working in the Office in Charge of Construction. At one time he received an assignment in Thailand and was able to take Aleen and their two children there. He retired from government service after 34 years and now lives with Aleen in Alton.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Edwardsville, Illinois; Lincoln High School; 24th Service Battalion, 2nd Marine Division; Camp LeJeune; Eniwetok; Wake Island; Saipan; Iwo Jima; Guam; Illinois State University; Shurtleff College; Scott Field, Thailand; Office in Charge of Construction

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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