



Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Joseph Hester Smith

Part of the Illinois Public Media – WILL AM-FM-TV Central Illinois
World War II Stories project

Interview # VR2-V-D-2008-123

Joseph Hester Smith, a United States Marine Corps veteran 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:

Date: 8 February 2008

Location: Illinois Public Media, Urbana, IL

Interview Format: Digital video

Interviewer: Harriet Williamson, Illinois Public Media affiliate

Technical Support (cameraman, etc): Henry Radcliffe, Illinois Public Media affiliate

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Interview being
processed

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 2 hrs, 32 min/ 2.53 hrs

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on (date).

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

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Abstract

Joseph Hester Smith, *Veterans Remember*, VR2-V-D-2008-123

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Joseph Hester Smith was born in Maywood, Illinois on October 5, 1923. He was an African American serviceman who enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in June 1943.

Smith traveled from Washington, D. C. to Rocky Mount, North Carolina, experiencing discrimination and segregation early on. He was shipped to Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, in Jacksonville, North Carolina. Smith recounts how African American marines trained at Montford Point, North Carolina and Caucasian marines trained separately at Paris Island, South Carolina.

He served in the Pacific Theater as a truck driver in the Okinawa Campaign. He was discharged in December 1945.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Maywood, Illinois; United States Marine Corps; Washington, D. C; Rocky Mount, North Carolina; Camp Lejeune, Jacksonville, North Carolina; Montford Point, North Carolina; Paris Island, South Carolina; Okinawa Campaign.

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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