



## Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Paul Francis Hackett

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

Interview # VR2-V-D-2007-050

Paul Francis Hackett, a World War II veteran who served in the United States Navy, 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: 12 September 2007

Location: Illinois Public Media, Urbana, IL

Interview Format: Digital video

Interviewer: Kathleen Ricker, Illinois Public Media affiliate

Technical Support (cameraman, etc):

Transcription by: \_\_\_\_\_

Edited by: \_\_\_\_\_

Interview being  
processed

Total Pages: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Time: 47 min/ 0.78 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

Paul Francis Hackett, *Veterans Remember*, VR2-V-D-2007-050

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** Paul Francis Hackett was born in Jersey City, New Jersey on March 30, 1923. Hackett enlisted in the Navy in December 1942. The next month, Hackett began basic training in Great Lakes, Illinois. From Great Lakes, Hackett was sent to Storekeeper's School in Toledo, Ohio for naval training. Upon achieving Storekeeper 3<sup>rd</sup> Class, Hackett trained at the Naval Yard in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; the Naval Yard in Norfolk, Virginia; and Baltimore, Maryland. In Maryland, Hackett officially commissioned the U.S.S. Mindanao ARG 3 ship as part of the U.S. Navy.

Hackett left for Guantanamo Bay in December 1943. After joining a small convey, he traveled to the Panama Canal, New Caledonia, and Espiritu Santo at New Hebrides. In November 1944, a nearby U.S.S. Mount Hood exploded, killing hundreds of naval men. Hackett remembers the deck being littered with body parts and ammunition; he suffered a concussion. Next, Hackett traveled to Russell Island in the Solomon Islands, Mantis Island, and the Ulithi Island in the Caroline Islands.

After returning to the United States, Hackett was sent to Farragut, Idaho. He received additional naval training at the University of Missouri in the V-12 program and was then discharged in June 1946.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** Jersey City, New Jersey; United States Navy; Great Lakes, Illinois; Toledo, Ohio; Naval Yard at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Naval Yard at Norfolk, Virginia; U.S.S. Mindanao ARG 3; Baltimore, Maryland; Guantanamo Bay; Panama Canal; New Caledonia; Espiritu Santo, New Hebrides; U.S.S. Mount Hood; Russell Island, Solomon Islands; Mantis Island; Ulithi Island, Caroline Islands; Farragut, Idaho; University of Missouri; V-12 program.

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