



Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Frances Eileen Schneider

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

Interview # VR2-V-D-2007-063

Frances Eileen Schneider (née Morrow), a civilian instructor of Morse code 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: 24 October 2007

Location: Illinois Public Media, Urbana, IL

Interview Format: Digital video

Interviewer: Nancy B. Rotzoll, Illinois Public Media affiliate

Technical Support (cameraman, etc):

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Interview being
processed

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1 hr, 8 min/ 1.13 hrs

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

The interview(s) is/are archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in
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Abstract

Frances Eileen Schneider, *Veterans Remember*, VR2-V-D-2007-063

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Frances Eileen Schneider, née name Morrow, was born in Rankin, Illinois on June 27, 1918. She was working in Chicago when Pearl Harbor was attacked. Schneider received Morse code schooling at Saint Louis University. After her training, she taught radio code at Scott Field, Illinois. Schneider also worked in a transmitter room. She was educating soldiers, who would become B-17 gunners or radio operators, in an eight-week program. In order to operate on an airplane the soldiers had to pass ten words a minute. She met her husband, Jack Schneider after he was transferred to Scott Field. On their first date, Frances and Jack went to church together.

Schneider's future husband, who was already a sergeant, was then sent to teletype school in Chanute for six weeks. She continued to train soldiers at Scott Field when Jack was sent to Wichita, Texas. Eileen and Jack then finally married in Sheppard Field, Texas. Jack was then assigned as a station chief of Walt Chamberlain Field in Minneapolis, Minnesota. After becoming pregnant, Schneider returned to Rankin to live with her family. In 1945, Schneider's husband was involved in communicating weather reports to the airplanes that dropped the atomic bombs on Japan.

Jack was finally discharged in Portland, Oregon. Eileen and her husband were finally reunited in Hoopeston, Illinois. Her husband eventually worked for an insurance company in Champaign, Illinois.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Rankin, Illinois; Chicago, Illinois; Peterson Field, Dayton; Army Airways Communication School; Saint Louis University; Scott Field, Illinois; Morse code; B-17 gunners; radio operators; Teletype school, Chanute; Fort Ord, California; Wichita, Texas; Sheppard Field, Texas; Walt Chamberlain Field in Minneapolis, Minnesota; Atomic bombs; Prisoner of war; Portland, Oregon; Hoopeston, Illinois; Champaign, Illinois.

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