

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Judge Charles Evans

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

Interview # VR2-A-L-2015-034

Charles Evans, a World War II fighter pilot who flew a P-51 Mustang in Europe, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Veterans Remember – WW II* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Aug 26 and 27, 2015

Location: Home of Judge Charles Evans, Springfield, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Ron Hagaman, ALPL Volunteer

Transcription by: Patty Maynor

Edited by: _____

Transcript
being processed

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 3:50 + 1:31 / 3.83 + 1.52 = 5.35 hrs.

Session 1: Early life, fighter pilot training, and combat experiences with 8th AF

Session 2: P-51 fighter pilot experiences in Europe, and post-war career

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on October 27, 2015.

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

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Abstract

Charles Evans, *Veterans Remember*, VR2-A-L-2015-034

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Charles Evans was born in April, 1922 in Bristow, Oklahoma. He was a fighter pilot in WWII. His interest in aviation developed in his childhood when his father, who had been an aircraft mechanic in WW I, purchased a surplus Curtis Jenny biplane. Charles' father worked in the oil industry and his family moved from Oklahoma to Illinois (as a result of the Illinois oil boom) during Charles' high school years. Evans attended the University of Illinois in Champaign for two years and worked in the Illinois oil industry during the summers before enlisting in the Air Force, reporting for duty in January, 1943. He became a fighter pilot and flew P-51 mustangs in the European theater, escorting B-17 and B-24 bombers on missions into Germany and flying ground support missions, including missions near the beachheads on D-Day. Upon leaving the service, Judge Evans obtained his Bachelors and J. D. degrees from the University of Illinois at Champaign. He worked for the Illinois Attorney General; went to Houston, Texas to practice law as a trial lawyer; and returned to the Illinois Attorney General's Office. He was appointed as a federal magistrate in Springfield, Illinois and worked as a magistrate for over thirty years before retiring. Charles passed away on September 2, 2016 at the age of 94.

Subject Headings/Key Words: P-51 'Mustang'; Curtiss JN-4 'Jenny'; B-17 'Flying Fortress'; B-24 'Liberator'; ME-109; FW-190; ME-262; V-1 rockets; V-2 rockets; Luftwaffe; D-Day; 8th Air Force; 4th Fighter Group; Eagle Squadron; Debden, England; bombing missions in European theater during WW II; strafing missions; University of Illinois; oil industry; fighter pilot; bomber escort during WW II

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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