

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Jack Williams

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

Interview # VR2-A-L-2014-006

Jack Williams, a turret gunner on a Navy TBF Avenger in the Pacific theater during WW 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: Feb 20, 2014 Location: Williams residence in Springfield, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Ed Cunningham, ALPL Volunteer

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

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

Interview being  
processed

Total Pages: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Time: 1:20 / 1.33 hrs

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

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# Abstract

## Jack Williams, *Veterans Remember*, VR2-A-L-2014-006

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** Jack Williams was born on August 31, 1923 in Kansas City, Missouri. He was adopted while young, and grew up as an only child. During high school he worked in a drug store.

World War II broke out during Jack's first year of college at the University of Illinois. He decided to join the U.S. Navy and trained at the Great Lakes Naval Air Base as a gunner. His rank during his time in the service was Navy Aviator First Class. Williams served in the Pacific theater, assigned to the U.S.S. *Petrof Bay* (CVE 80), an escort carrier from 1944 to 1945. The ship saw action in the Battle of Leyte Gulf, and at both Iwo Jima and Okinawa. Williams served as a gunner in a Grumman TBF Avenger, a carrier based torpedo bomber.

After Japan surrendered, Williams returned to the University of Illinois under the GI Bill, earning a teaching degree. Throughout the course of his teaching career, he taught shop class at several smaller school districts in the Danville, Illinois area. He later moved to Springfield, Illinois, and spent six years working for the state. Williams retired at sixty-five. His wife has predeceased him, and he has two children, Susan and David.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** U.S. Navy; World War II in the Pacific; U.S.S. *Petrof Bay*; Grumman TBF Avenger

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