



Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Joseph Matthew McCormick

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

Interview # VR2-V-D-2007-058

Joseph Matthew McCormick, a World War II veteran and interpreter with the Free French, 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 September 2007

Location: Danville Public Library, Danville, IL

Interview Format: Digital video

Interviewer: [unspecified], Illinois Public Media affiliate

Technical Support (cameraman, etc):

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Interview being
processed

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1 hr, 1 min/ 1.02 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 Matthew McCormick, *Veterans Remember*, VR2-V-D-2007-58

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Joseph McCormick was born in New Haven, Connecticut on June 25, 1919. He enlisted into the United States Army in 1943. McCormick was attached to the 53rd Quartermaster Regiment in the European Theater. He traveled from England to France, Germany, Luxemburg, and Belgium. McCormick was responsible for continuing the flow of supplies, such as fuel and food to infantrymen and their foxholes.

McCormick was instrumental in communicating with the Free French troops, who were fighting the Axis Powers. Having an education in language, McCormick was able to negotiate with the Free French. This understanding was vital for the American soldiers who were building houses and infrastructure in the devastated war areas. McCormick was very sympathetic for the Free French and considered them friends. Eventually, McCormick departed from Belgium and was discharged in 1946 in Camp Kilmer, New Jersey.

After the war, McCormick received his Master of Business Administration and married his wife Eileen; he now resides in Danville, Illinois. On July 6, 2004 (the sixtieth anniversary of D-day) he was awarded a French Diploma for his efforts in World War II.

Subject Headings/Key Words: New Haven, Connecticut; 53rd Quartermaster Regiment; England; France; Frankford, Germany; Nuremburg, Germany; Battle of the Bulge; Luxemburg; Belgium; Free French; Axis Powers; Camp Kilmer, New Jersey; Danville, Illinois; French Diploma.

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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