

Video Recording Log
Civilian Frances Schneider

Name of Interviewer: Nancy Rotzoll

Name of Veteran/Civilian: Frances Schneider

Birth Date: 06/27/1918

Recording format

VIDEO type: Mini DVD

Estimated length of recording (in minutes): 68 Date of recording: 10/24/2007

Location of recording: WILL AM-FM-TV, 300 N. Goodwin Ave, Urbana, IL 61801

Recording log:

00:00 Introduction
00:20 Growing up—Rankin, IL—moved to Chicago, IL to get a job
01:40 Chicago, IL—young and single—Pearl Harbor
02:38 Two brothers in service—one in Air Force in Panama—other bugle player and clerk—
never had to go to front—Camp Crouter, Neosho, MO
05:28 Sister-in-law
06:20 Keeping track of brothers
06:38 Visiting Fort Dix, NJ—correspondence--future husband
07:30 Husband—working in Dayton at Peterson Field--aircraft electrician in Civil Service—
joined the Air Force—sent to England—air craft electrician on B-17's
08:20 He volunteered for pilot training in U.S. after 2 years—eliminated from training because
of depth perception
09:20 He was sent to radio school in Madison, WI—Army Airways Communications School,
Ground School—high speed typing
10:15 She was promoted to department manager—answered complaints—another employee
had contact at Saint Louis University—was looking for girls to teach soldiers in radio
for their code check test—she had an aptitude for code
14:15 Went to Scott Field, IL to teach radio code—3 shifts a day—men were training to be
gunners on B-17's—gunners and radio men—had to know how to use radios and contact
ground stations and other planes
17:00 Code checks, practice
17:48 Men had to pass ten words a minute in order to be operator on planes
18:20 After 1943 school closed at Sioux Falls, SD—everyone sent to Scott Field, IL—bomber
personnel and ground crew—transmitting room
19:25 Discrimination against women—worse with civilian personnel—situations that would
now be considered sexual harassment
20:43 Variety of backgrounds—radar scientist—discrimination against black men and women
24:15 Classes lasted 8 weeks—war turned children into tough soldiers
25:15 Rations
26:20 Personnel banned from mess hall—given C-rations to prepare for war conditions
27:15 One friend—mother would send him ration cards—he would give them to her and she

would buy him groceries—later found out he died in war

28:34 A.C.S.--future husband

29:00 Flooding of Mississippi River—men working on dikes

29:28 Met future husband

31:10 Special dispensation of church service at P.X. after work—went to church with future husband

32:20 He went to teletype school at Chanute—was already a sergeant—too big to be a gunner—teletype machine—encoded and sent messages—performed repairs—6 weeks

33:50 New battalion at Scott Field—all black men in second area—totally segregated

34:50 Decoding—changing code every day—cycle groups—weather

35:02 Sending code—receiving code—decoding

37:00 Long-range B-17's

37:10 Husband at Ipswich, England—during blitz—bomb shelters

37:25 Driving supply truck—went into building to get something—came back and truck was bombed and friend was dead

38:02 Bomb shelters

38:12 Husband's secret work—went to Fort Ord, CA—2 years overseas duty—Wichita, TX—engaged and then married—Sheppard Field, TX—sent to Cincinnati, OH—sent to Minneapolis, MN—stationed at Walt Chamberlain Field—assigned station chief

40:00 Lived in private home—became pregnant—she went to live with parents in Illinois

40:40 Late 1945—war in Europe over—Japanese still holding out

41:05 [Continuation of story about husband's secret work]--He was only one at station that night—top secret duty to perform—sent weather reports to squadron flying over Canada—teletype messages of their position to Washington D.C. every half hour—was in contact with planes until they were almost half over Pacific Sea—discovered later it was the group of planes that dropped the Atomic Bombs

42:30 Brothers and husband all lived through the war

45:00 Brother in Panama said a lot of things that happened in the Gulf of Mexico during World War II were not talked about, still not talked about

45:35 Cousin in ROTC at University of Illinois called up in 1944—captured in Battle of the Bulge—prisoner of war in Poland starting December, 1944—prisoner for 4-5 months

47:00 [Story of cousin being prisoner of war, escaping]

49:18 After he had been reported missing in action, months later were told he was a prisoner

49:35 Prison camp for German prisoners in Hoopston, IL

50:50 First Christmas when all were reunited—brothers and sisters had wives and husbands

52:13 Husband discharged—had to go to Portland, OR to get discharged--[story about a car breaking down and transportation back to IL]

55:05 Rations over but hard to get appliances and machines

55:20 Bought grandparents' house—no bathroom, furnace, stove

55:58 Got washer because knew man who owned store—ice box, not fridge

56:40 Husband and father digging basement, furnace in basement, built bathroom

57:00 Husband worked for insurance company in Champaign, IL

57:10 Brothers and sisters would come to their house to socialize

57:40 Temporary housing in Hoopston, IL—for returned servicemen

58:17 End of war was a relief—never took it for granted

58:35 Vietnam War—sons registered for draft but none called

59:05 Learned to appreciate every day—enjoying small things

59:30 29 grandchildren—27 great grandchildren—11 children
01:00:30 [Second tape]
01:00:50 Parents were courageous—brother in Panama was bad at communication—
correspondence to Europe difficult
01:01:25 Husband wrote to his parents a lot—his father kept copies of all his letters
01:02:00 Father-in-law ran local civil defense unit of neighborhood—collecting scraps, saving
01:02:20 Collecting, saving, recycling—fat, metal, rubber
01:03:00 [Story about friend's car—sharing rides, car stolen for the tires, found later on blocks]
01:05:30 Food rations, low supplies
01:06:52 Wrap-up