

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Dorothy Cordier

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

Interview # VR2-V-L-2007-010

Dorothy Cordier, the wife of George Cordier, a veteran of the Pacific theater in WW II, was interviewed on July 20, 2007 as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Veterans Remember* Oral History project. This interview was part of a special video series on World War II co-hosted by WILL-TV (PBS affiliate in Champaign IL), to highlight the upcoming broadcast of Ken Burns' new documentary, *The War* in late September 2007.

Interview date & location:

Date: July 20, 2007 Location: The Cordier Residence, Springfield, IL

Interview Format: Digital video

Interviewer: Sandy Wheeler, ALPL volunteer

Technical Support (cameraman, etc): Mark Suszko and IIS Staff

Transcription by: Tape Transcription Center, Boston, MA

Edited by: Mark R. DePue; Rozanne Flatt, ALPL Volunteer

Total Time: 37 minutes Total Pages: 16 pages

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on [12/24/2007](#).

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

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Abstract

Dorothy Cordier, *Veterans Remember*, VR2-V-L-2007-010

Biographical Information & Synopsis: Dorothy Cordier was born Dorothy Vitavec in Canton, Ohio on October 21, 1919. She married George Cordier on September 24, 1941. George was driving a bus at the time in Canton. By September of 1942 George and Dorothy were parents, and in September of 1943 George was drafted into the Marine Corps. He went off to basic training at Parris, Island, South Carolina while Dorothy stayed at home with their son Richard. Dorothy lived at home with her parents and worked as a waitress in the bus depot while George was overseas, surviving on this pay plus the allotment that George sent home every month. She primarily kept in touch with George by phone while he was stateside, then letters and v-mails after he deployed to the Pacific. She describes her loneliness while he was deployed. George started the war as a signal corps wireman, and was injured during the landings at Guam. Dorothy was happy when George was reassigned, after recovering, to serve as a cook for officers, including a general in the Philippines.

Topics Covered: Wife and mother during WW II; battle of Guam; Canton, Ohio; Wife of a Marine; cook in the Philippines; loneliness and separation during WW II; V-mails

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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