

WISCONSIN STORIES[HOME](#) [ACTIVITIES](#) [BEHIND THE LENS](#) [THE PROJECTS](#) [TELL US YOUR STORIES](#) [ARCHIVES](#) [SITE MAP](#)**WWII home****In their own words**[Letters](#)[More stories](#)[Oral histories](#)**The program****Learn more****Special features****Funder recognition**

in their own words/more stories

Beginning in 2002, Wisconsin Public Television producer Mik Derks interviewed WWII veterans throughout Wisconsin. The following stories are Web-exclusive excerpts from just a few of their interviews.

List to audio clips with [RealPlayer](#).

**Ed Boettger**

Merchant Marine Ed Boettger recalls a story about a mysterious passenger.

**Robert Botts**

Marine Robert Botts describes how smarts and humor aided survival in Europe.

**Lyle Hougan**

Lyle Hougan explains how losing friends hardened soldiers.

**Gilman Lincoln Sr.**

Navy Seabee Gilman Lincoln, Sr. describes two unusual experiences in the Pacific theater.

**Will Lehner**

The date December 7th resonates for Will Lehner, who served on the Destroyer USS Ward.

**Wally Klunk**

Marine Raider Wally Klunk describes the battle to retake Bougainville Island, in the Pacific Theater. He also shares his insights on the strengths of the American forces.

**Jim Magruder**

Jim Magruder was the last bail out of his B-17. He

[Ed Boettger](#)
[Robert Botts](#)
[Lyle Hougan](#)
[Gilman Lincoln Sr.](#)
[Will Lehner](#)
[Wally Klunk](#)
[Jim Magruder](#)
[C.A. Van Selus](#)