

Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Presque Isle Historical Society

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Date: Interview recorded in 2008 about events ca. 1942 - 1944

Description: Interview with Emery Skillin about the Army Air Base in Presque Isle

Emery: The war was right at its height then.

Brian: Yuh

Emery: Airplanes going through Presque Isle here just like.... Unbelievable to imagine just how, how busy it was here for those several years.

Brian: Yeah, because you lived here. I Mean, for somebody - my generation.

Emery: Oh yuh.

Brian: You see the commercial flights coming in, but there's nothing on the base....

Emery: You have to see this to understand it. The best way would be, I guess, if you went to a good movie, a World War II movie?

Brian: Uh Huh.

Emery: And, uh, that's the way it was here in Presque Isle, boy. Things were really hopping.

Brian: Is that right?

Emery: Yuh, a busy little place. This was the last point of debarkation before they all went to the European Theater. All of the airplanes went through Presque Isle Air Force Base.

Brian: Really?

Emery: They went up through Greenland, Labrador, and then eventually curved back down into, uh, England, of course, which was our prime compatriot just like they always have been.

Brian: Right

Emery: And, uh, came back down into England and then from England they were shipped, you know, moved around all over the European Theater.

Brian: Uh huh

Emery: But, Presque Isle Air Force Base was really on the map.

Brian: Isn't that something. Yeah, because you don't see it there now. The base is still there, but it is not used for any, any military stuff, so.

Emery: Right. Yuh.