

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Kenneth Hanson

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

Interview # VRK-A-L-2007-035

Kenneth Hanson, a Korean War veteran and POW survivor, was interviewed on the dates listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Veterans Remember* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location(s):

Date: Saturday, October 20, 2007 Location: Hilton Hotel, Springfield, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital Audio

Interviewer: Mark DePue, Director of Oral History, ALPL

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: and Rozanne Flatt, ALPL Volunteer

Indexed by: _____

Total Time: 1 hr 1 min; 1.02 hrs

Total Pages: 23

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Abstract

Kenneth Hanson, Veterans Remember, VRK-A-L-2007-025

Biographical Information & Synopsis: Kenneth Hanson was born on November 23, 1931 in Brinsmaid, North Dakota. Ken grew up in poverty during the depression years, and joined the Army in January 9, 1951, and attended Basic Training at Ft. Riley, Kansas. He arrived in Korea on August 25, 1951 with a regiment that was organized in Japan. The unit was redesignated as the 14th Infantry Regiment, and assigned to the 25th Infantry Division. The unit moved into the front lines on September 10th in the Kumhwa Valley. The unit later moved farther east to Heartbreak Ridge. It was here, on March 1st, 1952, that Ken was captured by North Koreans while occupying a listening post forward of the lines. He discusses being beaten when initially captured, his interrogation by the North Koreans, and his transport to a permanent prison camp, Camp 2, annex, near the Yalu River. He also discussed his repatriation (in August) at Panmunjom following the signing of the armistice in July 1953.

Topics Covered: Korean War infantryman and prisoner of war; 14th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division; Fort Riley, Kansas; Kumhwa Valley; Heartbreak Ridge; Prison Camp 2 annex; repatriation; Panmunjom

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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