

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Donald Meier

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

Interview # VRK-A-L-2009-037

Donald Meier, a Korean War army veteran who spent his tour in Korea on a small island off the coast of North Korea, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Veterans Remember* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: December 1, 2009 Location: Meier residence in Geneseo, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Mark R. DePue, Director of Oral History, ALPL

Transcription by: Audio Transcription Center, Boston, MA

Edited by: Rozanne Flatt, ALPL Volunteer

Total Pages: 35 pgs Total Time: 2:15 / 2.25 hrs

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on Feb 16, 2010.

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

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Abstract

Donald Meier, *Veterans Remember*, VRK-A-L-2009-037

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Donald Meier was born on April 23rd, 1929 in Racine, Wisconsin. As a young child, Donald's family moved to rural Geneseo, Illinois, where his father operated a small 50 acre farm. Donald discusses growing up during World War II, graduating from Geneseo High School in 1947, and his decision to join the Illinois Army National Guard a few months later. He served with an Ambulance Company in the 44th Division in Kewanee, Illinois. He also worked in construction for his uncle and was married in November, 1951 to Joan Madsen.

In 1952 the entire 44th Division was activated for active service, destined to serve in Korea. The division trained at Camp Stoneman, California, and Meier subsequently completed medical aidman training at Ft. Sam Houston, Texas. He was then selected to serve with the 8240th Company, part of the Far East Command Liaison Detachment (FECLD). He shipped to Korea in late 1952, and was stationed on Paeng Nyong Do (White Wing Island), an island off the west coast of North Korea, just south of the 38th parallel. His unit trained and assisted North Korean partisans loyal to the south who would slip into North Korea to conduct raids against the Communists, then return to the island. Meier's specific duty was to work in a small hospital on the island that serviced the partisan forces. He and another soldier were the only Americans assigned to the hospital, otherwise staffed by Koreans. He worked very closely with the local Koreans as well, traveled to several other islands, and completed his tour in September of 1953, shortly after the armistice. He returned to the United States and spent the next four decades in construction in the Geneseo area.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Geneseo, Illinois; Ambulance Company, 44th Infantry Division (Illinois Army National Guard); Camp Stoneman, California; Far East Command Liaison Detachment (FECLD), 8240th Company; Paeng Nyong Do island, South Korea;

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