



Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Malcolm Gale Davis

Part of the Illinois Public Media – WILL AM-FM-TV Central Illinois
World War II Stories project

Interview # VR2-V-D-2007-047

Malcolm Gale Davis, a United States Army veteran who served during World War II veteran, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Illinois Public Media – WILL AM-FM-TV Central Illinois World War II Stories project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: 25 September 2007

Location: Illinois Public Media, Urbana, IL

Interview Format: Digital video

Interviewer: H. F. Williamson, Illinois Public Media affiliate

Technical Support (cameraman, etc):

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Interview being
processed

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 23 min/ 0.38 hrs

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on (date).

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

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Abstract

Malcolm Gale Davis, *Veterans Remember*, VR2-V-D-2007-047

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Malcolm Gale Davis was born on April 21, 1918 in Urbana, Illinois. He graduated from Urbana High School in 1936. After high school, with the help of a friend, he acquired an apprenticeship for the University of Illinois Press. He was then drafted into the Army in 1944. He received training at Camp Blanding in Starke, Florida. He was in the 119th Regiment of 13th Army Division.

After Florida, Davis was transferred to Liverpool, England. From there he first entered the front lines in France, on Christmas Eve 1944; here, he was able to dig his first foxhole. Davis was among the first soldiers to fight in the Battle of the Bulge. He recalls how a metal-covered, pocket Bible he carried with him during the war saved him from injury, when shrapnel hit the Bible instead of him. After crossing the Rhine River, Davis and his division entered Germany through the Black Forest. Due to the thick snow terrain, Davis remembers many soldiers catching trench foot. His division entered Camp Lucky Strike before returning home.

Davis continued working for the university press as a journeyman; he was a journeyman for thirty-five years. He also acquired a part-time job with a grocer for twenty-two years. His highest rank was Private First Class. Davis maintains that he was the only man in his unit to survive the war.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Urbana, Illinois; University Press; Camp Blanding, Starke, Florida; 13th Army Division; 119th Regiment; fox hole; Liverpool, England; Battle of the Bulge; Rhine River; Black Forest, Germany; Camp Lucky Strike; Patton's Army.

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