

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Daniel Reese

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

Interview # VRK-A-L-2012-002

Daniel Reese, who lived in Korea in 1946-1947 while his father served in the Provisional Government, and who later served in the U.S. Army himself from 1955-1957, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Veterans Remember – Korean War* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Feb 2, 2012 Location: Offices of Reese & Reese, Taylorville, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

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

Transcription by: Audio Transcription Center, Boston, MA

Edited by: Betty Workman and Rozanne Flatt, ALPL Volunteers

Total Pages: 52 Total Time: 2:14 / 2.23 hrs

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on May 3, 2012.

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

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Abstract

Daniel Reese, *Veterans Remember*, VRK-A-L-2012-002

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Daniel Reese was born on December 14th, 1927 in Taylorville, Illinois, and grew up there until the family moved to Ft. Sill, Oklahoma in 1940 when his Army Reservist father, Leal W. Reese, was brought on active duty. Since his father was a lawyer by profession, he was sent to Harvard University, where he was taught Japanese, and subsequently assigned to the Army's Civil Affairs Division. Upon the fall of Japan, Daniel's father was posted to South Korea, where he worked in the provisional government, and was instrumental in the establishment of the South Korean Army's new military academy, soon to be known as the Korean Military Academy. Daniel graduated from high school in 1945, went to the University of Illinois for a few months, then sailed with his family to South Korea in 1946. He spent the next year in South Korea as a civilian, traveling extensively in the country. He discussed this experience in detail.

Daniel returned to college in 1947, earning his Bachelor's Degree before heading to the University of Chicago Law School, where he graduated and passed the Illinois Bar in March 1954. In May he was drafted into the U.S. Army, and received training in the Adjutant General's Corps at Ft. Benjamin Harrison, Indiana, and in September 1955 was shipped to Germany, where he was assigned to the 42nd Armored Infantry Battalion, 2nd Armored Division. During his tour in Germany, Reese assisted the division's lawyers on legal matters, while traveling extensively throughout Europe during his off-duty time. Reese was discharged in 1956, returned to Taylorville, and took over his father's thriving private law practice.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Leal W. Reese; Civil Affairs training during World War II; Provisional Government of South Korea prior to the Korean War; conditions in South Korea in 1946-1948; establishment of the South Korean Officer's Training School; 42nd Armored Infantry Battalion, 2nd Armored Division in post-war West Germany;

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