

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Robert Evans

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

Interview # VRK-A-L-2015-026

Robert (Bob) Evans, an Infantry platoon leader with the 2nd Infantry Division during the first year of the Korean War, 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: Aug 4, 12, 13 & 14 Location: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library,  
Springfield, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: mark R. DePue

Transcription by: \_\_\_\_\_

Edited by: \_\_\_\_\_

Transcript  
being processed

Total Pages: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Time: 2:24 + 2:51 + 2:47 + 1:53 / 2.4 + 2.85 + 2.78 + 1.88  
= 9.91 hrs.

Session 1: Early years in Wales, and as child refugee in Canada during WW II

Session 2: Officer training in U.S. Army, combat in Pusan Perimeter and during  
Chinese offensive

Session 3: Battles of Twin Tunnels and Chipyeong-Ni in spring of 1951

Session 4: Convalescence in Japan, return to the U.S. and reflections on the war

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on October 21, 2015.

The interviews are archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield,  
Illinois.

## Abstract

Robert Evans, *Veterans Remember*, VRK-A-L-2015-026

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** Robert (Bob) Evans was born on December 19, 1930 in Springfield, Illinois to a Welsh father who managed a coal mine in Springfield, and to a Scottish Jewish mother. The family returned to Swansea, Wales when he was six, but when the town was bombed by the Nazis in June, 1940, his parents sent him and his older sister to Hamilton, Canada (on Lake Ontario) for the duration of the war, where they lived with the family of John Powell. They returned to Wales in 1946, but Evans decided to come to the United States in 1948 to attend school. He enrolled in the John Marshall School of Law, skipping college, then decided to join the U.S. Army rather than be drafted, in part so he could take advantage of G.I. Bill benefits. Following Basic Training he was transferred to Ft. Lewis Washington, but because of his high test scores, soon was given the opportunity to attend the Infantry Officer Candidate School (OCS) at Ft. Benning, Georgia. He returned to Ft. Lewis and the 2nd Infantry Division in early June, 1950. Days after he returned, North Korea invaded South Korea, and the 2nd ID was soon alerted for deployment.

Lieutenant Evans' unit arrived at Pusan, South Korea on August 15th, 1950 during the height of the fight to protect the Pusan Perimeter. He served as a platoon leader for a heavy weapons platoon in Company K, 23rd Infantry Regiment, and 2nd Infantry Division. The Company was soon attached to the 1st Cavalry Division, and saw its first combat on the Naktong River in the northwest sector of the perimeter. Following the Inchon landings in September, the 2nd Division spent the next few weeks in mopping up operations in South Korea. By mid-November, the 2nd ID had returned to the front and was well north of the North Korean capital of Pyongyang. On November 25th, the day after Thanksgiving, the Communist Chinese launched a massive offensive that sent the American and South Korean forces in western North Korea reeling back toward the 38th parallel. The 23rd Regiment did not go through what became known as the "Gauntlet at Kuni Ri," where most of the 2nd Division was decimated. Because the regiment was in better shape, it played a key role in the crucial battles at the Twin Tunnels and Chipyeong-Ni, which were south of the 38th parallel, battles many historians credit as crucial turning points in the Korean War. Evans talks about these experiences in great detail.

Bob also discusses his injury in the spring of 1951, his recuperation in Japan, and the few months he worked in Japan while waiting to return home. He concludes the interview by discussing his return to civilian life, his marriage shortly after he earned his law degree, and his general reluctance to discuss his military experience to family and friends until this interview.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** Korean War; 2nd Infantry Division in Korean War; 23rd Infantry Regiment; Pusan Perimeter; gauntlet at Kuni Ri, North Korea; battle at Chipyeong-Ni, South Korea; Twin Tunnels battle, South Korea; child refugee from England during WW II; Swansea, Wales; combat at Naktong River, 1950; Inchon landings; Infantry Officer Basic Course; Ft. Lewis, Washington;

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