

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Francis Walle

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

Interview # VR2-A-L-2014-001

Francis Walle, an artillery lieutenant in the 79th Infantry Division who saw action in northern Europe in 1944-45, 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: January 27, 2014 Location: Walle residence in rural Bloomington, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

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

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Interview being
processed

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 2:11 / 2.18 hrs

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on June 11, 2014.

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

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Abstract

Francis Walle, *Veterans Remember*, VR2-A-L-2014-002

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Francis Walle was born on October 26, 1912 in Piper City, Illinois and grew up on a small farm nearby. In early 1942 he was working for Farm Service when he was drafted. While in basic training, he was selected to attend the Field Artillery Officer Basic Course at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma. Once commissioned, he was assigned to the 97th Infantry Division, which was then stationed in the United States. In August, 1944 Lieutenant Walle shipped out of New York City for England as an individual replacement. The following month he landed on Omaha Beach, and spent several weeks at Fontainebleau, France waiting for an assignment. On Thanksgiving day he was sent to a forward replacement depot and was then assigned as a forward observer to the 310th Field Artillery, part of the 79th Infantry Division.

Lieutenant Walle, while with the 79th Division, saw action in the Lorraine region of France before heading north and east into Germany in February; the 79th Division was now part of Simpson's Ninth Army. After the Nazis surrendered, he served on occupation duty in the Ruhr region of Germany. By October, 1945 he was reunited with his family back in Illinois. Mr. Walle passed away on August 23, 2014 at the age of 101.

Subject Headings/Key Words: farming in Illinois during the Great depression; Field Artillery Officer Basic Course during WW II; 310th Field Artillery Battalion; 79th Infantry Division; combat operations in northern Europe, late 1944-1945; occupation duty in post-war Germany; Piper City, Illinois

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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