

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Eldon A. Yetter

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

Interview # VRK-A-L-2009-010

Eldon Yetter, a Korean War veteran and sergeant in the 1st Marine Division, 5th Regiment Service Battalion, 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: February 7, 2009

Location: Home of Eldon and Rosalyn Yetter, Havana Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Rozanne Flatt, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library volunteer

Transcription by: Audio Transcription Center, Boston, MA

Edited by: Richard Herndon & Jan Culp, ALPL volunteers

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Total Time: 1 hr, 25 min / 1.42 hrs

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

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Abstract

Eldon A. Yetter, *Veterans Remember*, VRK-A-L-2009-010

Biographical Information: Eldon Yetter was born on a farm outside of Havana, Illinois on August 21, 1929. His father was a farmer and his mother a schoolteacher at a one-room schoolhouse, where he attended school. After graduation from Community High School, he started farming and also helped with funerals at a local funeral home.

Yetter was drafted in August of 1951, during the Korean War. He was sent to the San Diego Recruiting Depot, where he volunteered for the Marine Corps and was assigned to the 1st Marine Division, 5th Service Battalion, Graves Registration. Boot camp at San Diego was followed by cold weather training at Big Bear Mountain, then additional training at Camp Pendleton, California. He deployed to Pusan, Korea and was trucked to the Panmunjom area, where he spent most of his active service supporting units in the line. He talks of the enemy cemetery at the Imjin River and the work of the five-man team handling Graves Registration for U. S. dead and burial of enemy dead. His outfit was flanked by Scottish and British United Nations units. He returned on the General Riegel troop ship and was discharged as a Sergeant in August of 1953. He returned to farming, married his sweetheart, Rosalyn Kleier, and also became an insurance agent, specializing in farm coverage. Yetter is active in the VFW and was a sergeant-at-arms for the American Legion, where he participates in events such as parades and Military Rites for Veterans.

Subject Headings/Key Words: U.S. Marine during Korean War; Camp Pendleton, California; cold weather training at Big Bear Mountain; Graves Registration, 5th Service Battalion, 1st Marine Division; Panmunjom; cemetery at Imjin River; contacts with Scot and English United Nations units; Home: Havana, Illinois. Farmer; farm insurance; married Rosalyn Kleier.

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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