



Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Charles William Dukes

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

Interview # VR2-V-D-2008-111

Charles William Dukes, a World War II veteran and POW, 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: 7 February 2008

Location: Illinois Public Media, Urbana, IL

Interview Format: Digital video

Interviewer: Brent Cochrane, Illinois Public affiliate

Technical Support (cameraman, etc):

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Interview being
processed

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1 hr, 45 min/ 1.75 hrs

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

The interview(s) is/are archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in
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Abstract

Charles William Dukes, *Veterans Remember*, VR2-V-D-2008-111

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Charles William Dukes was born on March 30, 1923 in Danville, Illinois. He trained in 1943 at Camp Fannin in Texas, and took engineering courses at Fordham University, New York. He eventually trained in Fort Carson, Colorado. He entered the 2nd platoon, L Company, of the 4th Infantry Division. In August 1944, he prepared for overseas invasions at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey. He eventually trained in Barneville, France and Malines, Belgium. His Company, attached to the 1st Canadian Army and the 49th Division of the British Army, was responsible for rescuing the British Unicorn Division in Nijmegen and Arnhem, Netherlands.

He continued to Liege, Belgium and eventually replaced the 1st Division in Aachen, Germany. Dukes was captured on November 23, 1944 by German soldiers. As a POW, he was shipped to a labor camp in Rhondorf, Germany, near Czechoslovakia, and forced into manual labor. After failed attempts of escape, Dukes became a Russian POW. He was eventually exchanged for a Russian soldier in Halle, Germany. Dukes was a POW for six months. After his release, he was allowed a week's furlough in Bournemouth, England.

Dukes missed his flight and roamed England before he was court-martialed for forty-two days of being AWOL. After he received a ninety day furlough, he reported to Fort Sam Houston, Texas. Due to prostate problems, he was discharged and eventually returned to Danville, Illinois.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Danville, Illinois; Camp Fannin, Texas; Fordham University, New York; Fort Carson, Colorado; 2nd Platoon; L Company; 4th Infantry Division; Camp Kilmer, New Jersey; Barneville, France; Malines, Belgium; 1st Canadian Army; British Unicorn Division; Nijmegen and Arnhem, Netherlands; Liege, Belgium; Aachen, Germany; Siegfried Line; Rhine River; Lindberg, Germany; Rhondorf, Germany; Sagan, Poland; Siberia, Russia; Halle, Germany; Reims, France; Campy Lucky Strike, France; Bournemouth, England; AWOL; court-martialed; Barry, South Wales; Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

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