

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Norman N. Neely

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

Interview # VRK-A-L-2007-036

Norman N. Neely, a Korean War veteran with the U.S. Army, 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: December 17, 2007      Location: Neely residence in Silvis, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

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

Technical Support (cameraman, etc): N/A

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

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

Indexed by: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Pages: \_\_\_\_\_      Total Time: 2 hrs 41 min / 2.68

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

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## Abstract

Norman N. Neely, *Veterans Remember*, VRK-A-L-2007-036

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** Norman N. Neely was born in Stahl, Missouri on January 14, 1931, and grew up there, the son of Everett Neely, a mail carrier and farmer. Following high school, Norm moved to Rock Island, Illinois in 1950, working for the Rock Island Railroad. He became engaged to Jean Griffith in 1951, and was drafted into the Army in October 1951, taking his Basic Training at Fort Ord, California, and maintenance training at Hunter-Liggett Military Reservation. He reached Korea in May of 1952, joining the 3rd Platoon of Baker Company, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division, then assigned to the center of the line, near the Iron Triangle.

Neely spent the next nine months with Baker Company, rotating in and out of the front line. He participated on many patrols into the zone between the Chinese lines and their own Main Line of Resistance (MLR) during the first few months. He gives detailed descriptions of several combat patrols, recons, probing actions, etc. Toward the end of his tour, Neely was transferred to the unit motor pool, serving as a driver. He returned to Rock Island after the war, got married, and worked again with the Rock Island Railroad. He eventually found work with the Rock Island County as a building inspector, working his way up to administrative positions. Late in life he became involved in the Grey Beards, a group of Korean War veterans in the Rock Island area.

**Topics Covered:** U.S. Army infantryman during the Korean War, 1952-1953; Fort Ord, California; Baker Company, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division; Old Baldy; combat patrols; American and Chinese infantry tactics; Gabriel Heater (newscaster); Rock Island Railroad; Everett Neely

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