

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Gary Burgard

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

Interview # VRV-A-L-2014-010

Gary Burgard, who served in the US Army in Vietnam from March 1968 to March 1969, 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: 13 Feb, 2014 Location: Burgard residence, Sherman, Illinois

Date: 13 Feb, 2014 Location: Burgard residence, Sherman, Illinois

Date: 4 Jun, 2014 Location: Burgard residence, Sherman, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Tom Murgatroyd, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: Audio Transcription Center, Boston, MA

Edited by: Linda Kopecky & Rozanne Flatt, ALPL volunteers

Total Pages: 44 pgs Total Time: 1:40 + 0:28 + 0:06 / 1.67 + 0.47 + 0:1 = 2.24 hrs

Session 1: Early life, military training and early months in South Vietnam

Session 2: Experiences in South Vietnam with 9th Division and MACV

Session 3: Returning to the United States after tour in South Vietnam

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on July 15, 2014.

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

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Abstract

Gary Burgard, *Veterans Remember*, VRV-A-L-2014-010

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Gary Burgard of Sherman, Illinois was born in May, 1944 in Rushville, Illinois. He grew up in Jacksonville Illinois, attended school through college there, and was a 1966 graduate of Illinois College, where he was active in sports and fraternity life. He was a private pilot and became a charter and instructor pilot at the Jacksonville Municipal Airport prior to his entry into the Army. After his induction, he received training at Ft Polk Louisiana, and then attended the Non-Commissioned Officer Candidate Course, graduating in December 1967, at Ft. Benning, Georgia. Upon graduation, he was promoted to Sergeant, E-5.

Burgard arrived in South Vietnam in April 1968, where he served as an infantryman, MOS 11B10, with the 9th Infantry Division near Saigon. He then was transferred to a MACV (Military Assistance Command-Vietnam) team south of Saigon near the Mekong delta. Burgard was injured by enemy fire twice, and later received the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service, and the Army Commendation Medal for heroism. He returned to the continental U.S. in March, 1969, married, and became employed by the State of Illinois, from which he retired in 2001. He and his wife Judy are part time real estate brokers, and they have two adult children.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Jacksonville IL; Illinois College; Viet Nam; Saigon; Dong Tan; Kien Hung; Claymore mine; Singapore; Australia; Rest and Recreation (R&R); Ft. Benning, Georgia

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