

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Wayne King

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

Interview # VRK-A-L-2011-013

Donald Wayne King, a Marine tanker during the last year of the Korean War, 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: May 5, 2011      Location: King residence in Jacksonville, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

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

Transcription by: University of Illinois at Springfield

Edited by: Roberta Volkmann and Jan Culp, ALPL volunteers

Total Pages: 42 pgs.      Total Time: 1:17 / 1.28 hrs

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on  
June 22, 2011.

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

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# Abstract

## Wayne King, *Veterans Remember*, VRK-A-L-2011-013

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** Donald Wayne King was born on April 23, 1930 in Winchester, Illinois and grew up on a farm near Alsey, Illinois. Wayne did his share of chores on the farm, growing up during the Great Depression, with neither electricity nor indoor plumbing. By seventh grade, he moved to the town of Alsey, following his grandfather's death. He soon found work in the town's grocery store and, following graduation from high school, he continued working.

In September, 1951, King was drafted and ended up in the Marine Corps, receiving his training in California. Following basic training, he received additional training at Camp Delmar, California, then was shipped to Korea in the spring of 1952. Upon arrival in Korea, he was assigned to B Company, 1st Battalion, 1st Marine Division, which occupied the left flank of the front lines, near Panmunjom, where the armistice talks were being conducted. King was assigned as a tank crewman in the tank company. His tank was usually positioned within artillery range, behind the front lines and frequently fired on suspected Chinese positions. In March of 1953, King was wounded, when an enemy round hit the tank. After a short recovery, he returned to the front and completed his tour. By the summer of 1953, he returned his home in central Illinois. He soon was married and settled down to a successful working career.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** Marine tanker during the Korea War; 1st Marine Division; Panmunjom, Korea; Winchester, Illinois; Alsey, Illinois; Roodhouse, Illinois.

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