

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Wade Lemons

Part of the Illinois Public Media ([WILL radio.tv.online](http://WILL.radio.tv.online))

Central Illinois Vietnam War Stories project

Interview # VRV-V-D-2015-075

Wade Lemons, who served in the infantry in Vietnam, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Illinois Public Media – WILL AM-FM-TV Central Illinois Vietnam War Stories project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Location: WILL Studio, Champaign, IL

Interview Format: Digital video

Interviewer: Illinois Public Media staff

Technical Support (cameraman, etc.): WILL Staff

Transcription by: Illinois Public Media staff

Edited by: Illinois Public Media staff

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

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Abstract

Wade Lemons, *Veterans Remember*, VRV-V-D-2015-075

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Wade Roy Lemons was born into a large, close-knit family on July 19, 1948 in Scheller, Illinois. When he was twelve, his family moved to Sesser, Illinois. He was drafted into the U.S. Army straight out of high school at age eighteen, being classified as a 1A. Lemons joined the infantry, going to Advanced Individual Training for six weeks, at Fort Lewis, Washington. He was then transferred to Fort Benning, Georgia for twelve weeks in an intense Non-Commissioned Officer School. Lemons was sent to South Vietnam, landing in Cam Ranh Bay in September of 1969 as an E5, where he was assigned to the First Cavalry Division. He attended refresher training in Biên Hòa before being sent to his unit. Besides the heightened threat of enemy troops throughout the night, Lemons and his fellow soldiers had to adjust to extreme temperatures and poor sleeping conditions. One of his strongest memories of that time was the immense weight of the ruck sacks the troops carried in the field. Dealing with termites, leeches and soiled socks became a part of their everyday routine.

Lemons comments on the biased media coverage during the war, and how the news media only seemed to care about the numbers of the dead. He also laments America's lack of support for the soldiers in Vietnam at the time. However, over the past five years Lemons has observed a drastic change in the public's treatment of war veterans, versus the more hostile reception he encountered over forty years ago. Lemons' combat experiences left him with post-traumatic stress disorder.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Wade Lemons; infantry during Vietnam War; Cam Ranh Bay, South Vietnam; anti-war protests; Sesser, Illinois; post-traumatic stress disorder; Kennedy assassination; South Vietnamese Army; Biên Hòa, South Vietnam; drugs abuse in Vietnam; napalm; Montagnards; short-timer's calendar

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