

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Walter Covert

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

Interview # VR2-A-L-2016-064

Walter Covert, a half-track driver with the 19th Armored Infantry Battalion, 14th Armored Division as it fought its way across Germany in 1945, 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 28, 2016 Location: Covert residence in Caledonia, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

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

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Transcript
being processed

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 2:29 / 2.48 hrs

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on September 21, 2017.

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

© 2016 Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Abstract

Walter Covert, *Veterans Remember*, VR2-A-L-2016-046

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Walter Covert was born on May 9th, 1922 in Cherry Valley, Illinois, and grew up in the country outside of Rockford during the Great Depression, when his father, a printer, struggled to find work. He began high school in Rockford, but finished his senior year at DeVry Technical School in Chicago, working at the same time to help pay for his classes. He married Margaret Nielson, his preacher's daughter, during this time, and they had a son, Carl, a couple of years later. In March, 1944 he was drafted into the Army, and did his basic training at Camp Wheeler, Georgia, and advanced training as a tankerman at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He shipped out to Italy in late 1944, arriving in Naples in December.

During the Battle of the Bulge, Covert was sent to the Ardennes with about sixty other soldiers. The group assisted in clearing out pockets of German resistance after the Bulge had been reduced. He was then sent south and assigned to Company C, 19th Armored Infantry Battalion of the 14th Armored Division, which fought with the Seventh Army. Covert saw action near Hatten, France, and in the Lauter Valley region of Germany, serving as a half-track driver for an infantry squad. He sometimes served as a dismounted infantryman as well. At one point his half-track was disabled; on another occasion it was hit by a panzer Faust and destroyed. In March Covert was injured, hit by several pieces of shrapnel in his upper left leg. He was hospitalized near Paris, and returned to the unit after the Germans surrendered. He then served in the American occupation Army until he returned to the United States in March, 1946. He passed away on January 30, 2018 in Cherry Valley, Illinois.

Subject Headings/Key Words: 19th Armored Infantry Battalion, 10th Armored Division; M-3 half-track driver; combat action vicinity of Hatten, France; DeVry Technical School, Chicago; growing up during the Depression in Rockford, Illinois; occupation duty in post-war Germany; Margaret (Nielson) Covert;

Note to the Reader: Readers of the oral history memoir should bear in mind that this is a transcript of the spoken word, and that the interviewer, interviewee and editor sought to preserve the informal, conversational style that is inherent in such historical sources. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library is not responsible for the factual accuracy of the memoir, nor for the views expressed therein. We leave these for the reader to judge.

COPYRIGHT

The following material can be used for educational and other non-commercial purposes without the written permission of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library. "Fair use" criteria of Section 107 of the Copyright Act of 1976 must be followed. These materials are not to be deposited in other repositories, nor used for resale or commercial purposes without the authorization from the Audio-Visual Curator at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, 112 N. 6th Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701. Telephone (217) 785-7955