

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Bill Spriggs

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

Interview # VRV-A-L-2010-001

Bill Spriggs, an army infantryman assigned to the 4th Infantry Division during the Vietnam 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: January 11, 2010 Location: Kankakee Co Historical Museum, Kankakee, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

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

Transcription by: Audio Transcription Center, Boston, MA

Edited by: Rozanne Flatt and Rosie Camille, ALPL volunteers

Total Pages: 48 pgs Total Time: 2:19 / 2.32 hrs

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

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Abstract

Bill Spriggs, *Veterans Remember*, VRV-A-L-2010-001

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: William (Bill) Spriggs was born on September 23rd, 1945 in Kankakee, Illinois. He grew up in Kankakee, raised by his mother and maternal grandmother, and attended catholic schools throughout, graduating from high school in 1963. He worked in a variety of jobs after that while waiting to be drafted. He received his draft letter in November of 1965.

Spriggs attended Basic Training at Ft. Hood, Texas, and was subsequently assigned to the 4th Infantry Division, then stationed at Ft. Lewis, Washington. He spent the next several months training with his unit, Company C of the 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, part of the 4th Division. In July of 1966, with the division slated for deployment to Vietnam, he went on a short leave. Due to a national airline strike, he and hundreds of others missed the unit's deployment. Spriggs arrived approximately forty-five days late to Pleiku, in the Central Highlands of South Vietnam. He served as an 11B - infantryman throughout his tour.

For the next several months, Spriggs went on almost daily foot patrols, usually at the platoon level, searching for the enemy, mostly Viet Cong, but sometimes North Vietnamese regulars as well. The unit suffered a steady stream of casualties, including several company commanders while he was there. In the spring of 1967 Spriggs returned to Kankakee on emergency leave due to the failing health of his grandmother, who had raised him. He returned to Vietnam in May to complete his tour, spending the last few weeks working out of fire bases performing logistics and communications missions. He finished his 365 day tour later that year, and returned to his civilian life immediately after returning to the U.S.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Kankakee, Illinois; Indian Caves in Kankakee County; 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division; infantryman in Central Highlands of Vietnam, 1966-1967; Pleiku, South Vietnam; Viet Cong; North Vietnamese Regular Army; airmobile operations; infantry patrolling in Central Highlands; airmobile operations in Vietnam; emergency leave; basic training at Ft. Hood, Texas; Ft. Lewis, WA

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