

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Eddy Nicklaus

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

Interview # VRV-A-L-2011-004

Eddy Nicklaus, Marine infantryman during the Vietnam War, and an Army transportation NCO during the 1991 Iraq 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: Jan 27, 2011 Location: Eddy Nicklaus residence, Sterling, IL

Date: Feb 17, 2011 Location: Eddy Nicklaus residence, Sterling, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

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

Transcription by: Audio Transcription Center; Boston, Massachusetts

Edited by: ALPL Volunteers: Betty Workman and Rozanne Flatt, ALPL Volunteers

Total Pages: 49 + 39 = 88 Total Time: 2:31 + 1:58 / 2.51 + 1.97 = 4.48 hrs

Session 1: Early life, and service in the Marines as an infantryman in Vietnam

Session 2: Service in the IL Army National Guard & tour during Desert Storm

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on June 27, 2011.

The interviews are archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in
Springfield, Illinois.

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Abstract

Eddy Nicklaus, *Veterans Remember*, VRK-A-L-2011-004

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Eddy Nicklaus was born on August 17th, 1945 in Sterling, Illinois, the first-born of identical twins, his brother being named Teddy. Eddy grew up in Rock Falls, Illinois, experiencing the typical idyllic childhood of the 1950s and '60s. When high school graduation approached in 1963, the two brothers decided to enlist in the Marines. Eddy and Teddy stayed together throughout their basic training in California. Eddy married his high school sweetheart, and in March of 1965, the twins' unit, the Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, of the 3rd Marine Division, deployed to South Vietnam, and were stationed near Da Nang. For the next year they went on combat patrols and other combat operations, with Eddy serving as his platoon's radioman. Following his return from Vietnam, Eddy left the Marines and returned to the Rock Falls.

In 1982, the two brothers joined the local Illinois National Guard unit, specifically, E Troop, 106th Cavalry Regiment. In 1987 the unit was reorganized into the 1644th Transportation Company, a long-haul truck company. In 1990 the unit was mobilized during the build-up of Desert Shield/Desert Storm, with Eddy being a senior NCO by that time. The unit participated in the movement into the western Iraqi desert in February, 1991, following closely behind the combat units. Upon the unit's return to the states on May 28th, the company's reception was radically different from Eddy's experience returning from Vietnam.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Rock Falls & Sterling, Illinois; U.S. Marines in Vietnam; Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division; Vietnam radio operator in Marine infantry platoon; Da Nang, South Vietnam; Vietnam era protests from marine's perspective; Marble Mountain, South Vietnam; Illinois Army National Guard; E Troop, 106th Cavalry Regiment; 1644th Transportation Company; Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm; unit's reception returning from Iraq

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.

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