

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Richard T. Lockhart

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

Interview # VR2-A-L-2012-008

Richard (Dick) Lockhart, an infantryman with the 106th Infantry Division captured by the Germans during the Battle of the Bulge, was interviewed on the dates listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Veterans Remember* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Dates: March 12 & 13, 2012      Location: Mr. Lockhart's residence in Chicago, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

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

Transcription by: Audio Transcription Center, Boston, MA

Edited by: Betty Workman and Rozanne Flatt, ALPL volunteers

Total Pages: 69 pgs      Total Time: 1:45 + 1:35 / 1.75 + 1.58 = 3.33 hrs

Session 1: Early life thru his capture by the Germans during Battle of the Bulge

Session 2: Experiences in captivity in Stalag IX-B, and reflections on the war

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on May 14th, 2012.

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

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## Abstract

Richard T. Lockhart, *Veterans Remember*, VR2-A-L-2012-008

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** Richard T. (Dick) Lockhart was born on January 20th, 1924 in Lima, Ohio, but grew up in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, where his family struggled financially through the Depression years. Lockhart grew up with a strong interest in history and politics, and followed the country's approach to war closely. Following his graduation from high school in 1942, he attended Purdue University for one semester, then joined the Army in December, taking his basic training at Ft. Eustis, Virginia, with follow-on anti-tank training. After volunteering for the Infantry, he was assigned to the Anti-Tank Company of the 423rd Infantry Regiment, part of the 106th Infantry Division, and trained at Camp Atterbury, Indiana. The 106th Division was shipped to Scotland on the Queen Elizabeth in October, 1944, and the division landed in France in November. By early December the unit was occupying a 'quiet' sector of the front lines near St. Vith, Belgium.

On December 16th the German Army launched a massive winter offensive which soon became known in the U.S. as the Battle of the Bulge. On December 19th Lockhart's entire regiment surrendered to the Germans. He spent the next four months as a prisoner of war in Stalag IX-B, near Bad Orb, Germany, forty-five miles northeast of Frankfurt. When Lockhart arrived there, the camp housed Russians, Serbs, French and other nationalities. The American officers and NCOs were soon shipped to other camps, and tragically, American soldiers who were Jewish were shipped to Berga, a brutal work camp in eastern Germany. The International Red Cross rated the camp as the worst camp housing allied soldiers. Starvation haunted the prisoners, and Lockhart was beaten by a German guard during a work detail. The camp was liberated by American troops in April, and Lockhart was soon shipped home. He was discharged from the Army on December 12, 1945. Lockhart's story as a life-long lobbyist in Springfield, Illinois is addressed in a separate interview, part of the *Illinois Statecraft* project. He passed away on November 21, 2019 at the age of 95.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** POW in European theater, WW II; 423rd Infantry Regiment, 106th Infantry Division; Battle of the Bulge; surrender by units of the 106th; Stalag IX-B near Bad Orb, Germany; treatment of Jewish American POWs by the Nazis; Depression experiences in Ft. Wayne, IN; memories of the country's approach to WW II; beatings by German guard as a POW; views on Holocaust deniers; views on dropping of Atomic Bomb;

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