

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Arlyn Lober

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

Interview # VR2-A-L-2016-063

Arlyn Lober, tanker with the 11th Armored Division and veteran of the Battle of the Bulge, Rhineland and Central Europe campaigns, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Veterans Remember – WW II* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Dec 20, 2016 Location: Lober residence in Springfield, 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: 3:21 / 3.35 hrs.

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on February 15, 2017.

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

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Abstract

Arlyn Lober, *Veterans Remember*, VR2-A-L-2016-063

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Arlyn Lober was born on May 8th, 1924 in Cissna Park, a small farming community in east-central Illinois. His parents operated a small restaurant in town, a profession that consumed most of their time and energy, but Arlyn and his younger brother had plenty of time for games, sports and other activities. He graduated from high school in May, 1942, then immediately enrolled at the University of Illinois, where he was involved in the Army ROTC program, and also joined the Army Reserve. In March, 1943 he was drafted into the Army, and took his basic training at Camp Roberts, California for five weeks. He was then transferred to the University of Oregon, where he spent the next nine months taking engineering classes as part of the Army's ASTP (Army Specialized Training Program). That program was terminated, however, and Arlyn was then sent to California and assigned to Company C, 42nd Tank Battalion, part of the 11th Armored Division. Lober served on an M-4 Sherman tank crew. The division sailed from New York on September 27th, and after arriving in England, spent the next three months continuing their training.

In early December the unit off-loaded in Cherbourg and very soon got a new mission – to reinforce General Patton's 3rd Army as it raced toward Ardennes and the Battle of the Bulge. Driving across Europe, Lober's unit reached the combat zone on December 30th, and in his first action, his platoon encountered enemy tanks, with Lober's tank knocking out three enemy armored vehicles. In early January, during a lull in the action, Lober and a buddy were evacuated due to their frostbit feet. He rejoined the unit after a three week convalescence. By that time the Bulge had been reduced. Sergeant Lober was reassigned as a tank commander, and stayed with the unit throughout the 11th Division's fight in the Rhineland and Central Europe campaigns. The unit was in Austria when the war ended on Arlyn's twenty-first birthday. A few days later he personally saw the horrors of the Gusen concentration camp, part of the Mauthausen camp system. He returned to the U.S. in February, 1946, returned to the University of Illinois on the G.I. Bill, and spent the rest of his life teaching and coaching.

Subject Headings/Key Words: tank crewman during the Battle of the Bulge; 42nd Tank Battalion, 11th Armored Division; M-4 Sherman tank; growing up in the 1930s in Cissna Park, IL; Army Specialized Training Program (ASTP); Gusen Concentration Camp (Mauthausen); frostbite casualty; University of Illinois;

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