

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with **Rayburn Martin**

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

Interview # VR2-A-L-2009-008

Rayburn Martin, a World War II veteran, 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: February 25, 2009

Location: Martin residence, Springfield, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Richard Schachtsiek. ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: Audio Transcription Center, Boston, MA

Edited by: Rozanne Flatt, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Volunteer

Total Pages: 18

Total Time: 1 hr 19 min / 1.32 hrs

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on 06/29/09.

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

Abstract

Rayburn Martin, *Veterans Remember*, VR2-A-L-2009-008

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Rayburn Martin was born on October 7, 1916 in Webster County, Kentucky. He spent his youth working on a farm and attending school (3 to 4 months a year) through 8th grade. He attended high school in Blackford Kentucky, and graduated in 1938. He enlisted in 1940, and after training at Fort Knox, Kentucky and Fort Benning, Georgia, he was assigned to Camp House, Texas with the 84th Infantry Division, where he worked as a medical supply officer. He received additional training at Camp Claiborne, Louisiana, and thereafter deployed to England.

Martin arrived in France in September of 1944, and was assigned to Company C, 309th Medical Battalion, part of the 84th Infantry Division, where he worked in medical supply. In December of 1944 he was wounded by a piece of flying shrapnel that impaled his neck just behind his ear where it nicked a major artery. Within hours he was transported to Cheltenham, England (UK) to receive medical attention. He returned to combat in time to serve in the Battle of the Bulge. Following the war, he was sent to Camp Atterbury, Indiana, and was discharged in October of 1945. He worked for the next forty years with the International Harvester Tractor Works in Chicago. He moved to Springfield, Illinois with his wife around December 1986, where he is the current State Chaplin for Purple Hearts (joined 2005-2006), and an active member of the VFW. Rayburn passed away on January 3, 2018.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Camp Claiborne, Louisiana; Fort Knox, Kentucky; Fort Benning, Georgia; Blackford, Kentucky; 309th Medical Battalion, 84th Infantry Division; Quartermaster, Sergeant; Geilenkirchen (N. Rhine-Westphalia), Germany; English Channel; General George S. Patton; Cheltenham, England (UK); Purple Heart; Medical Supply Sergeant; Battle of the Bulge; International Harvester Tractor Works, Chicago, Illinois.

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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