

Steve Hall

An Interview with Steve Hall
Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Veterans Remember Oral History project
Interview # VRK-A-L-2007-003

Steve Hall, a mortar platoon leader during the last year of the Korean War, was interviewed on May 7, 2007 as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Veterans Remember Oral History* project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: May 7, 2007

Location: VFW Post 755, Springfield, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio recording

Interviewer: Lee Patton, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: Carolyn Berning, ALPL volunteer

Edited by: Rozanne Flatt, ALPL volunteer

Total Time: 1 hr 13 min

Total Pages: 30

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

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Abstract

Steve Hall, Veterans Remember, VRK-A-L-2007-003

Biographical Information & Synopsis: Steve Hall was with the 44th Army Band at start of Korea. He was levied to Japan with the band in 1952 but found himself in August of 1952 in command of an infantry mortar platoon in the 223rd Infantry, 40th Division, knowing nothing about mortars. The unit was in combat in Korea during the last months of the war. He was wounded during the war and awarded the Silver Star. He returned to the Illinois in Sep-Oct of 1953, where he shortly thereafter was discharged from the Illinois Army National Guard.

After the war, he worked with his father driving a semi-truck until 1963, then became shop foreman at the Werner Truck Company for many years, ran a Standard Oil service station for 20 years and finished his career working for the state at the Central Management Services as the State of Illinois Division of Vehicles from 1985 to 1993. Steve lived in Springfield at the time of the interview, and served as Quartermaster for VFW Post 755 in Springfield.

Topics Covered: Illinois National Guard prior to Korea, assignment to Japan, then to the 40th Division as a Mortar platoon leader, opinions of Republic of Korea (ROK) Army, Panmunjom negotiations at the end of the war & politics, working as a state of Illinois employee.

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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