

Gaylord Lewison

An Interview with Gaylord Lewison

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

Interviews # VRK-A-L-2007-002

Gaylord Lewison, a Korean War veteran, was interviewed on the following dates as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Veterans Remember* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location(s):

Date: April 27, 2007 Location: Lewison Residence in Springfield, IL

Date: May 3, 2007 Location: Lewison Residence in Springfield, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Mark R. DePue, Director, Oral History Program

Edited by: Rozanne Flatt, ALPL Volunteer

Total Time: 1:46 + 1:38 = 3 hr 24 min

Total Pages: 55 + 44 = 99

Session 1: Early life, military training and Korean War

Session 2: Korean War, plus Vietnam War and advisor duty with IL National Guard

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on 11/13/2007.

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

Abstract

Gaylord Lewison, Veterans Remember, VRK-A-L-2007-002

Biographical Information & Synopsis: Gaylord Lewison was a career U.S. Army infantryman, beginning with his enlistment in late 1949, through the early days of the Korean War, then remained in the service following the war in a variety of postings in the United States and Panama. His unit, the 3rd Battalion, 29th Infantry Regiment, was decimated at the battle of Hadong during the defense of the Pusan Perimeter. The survivors then transferred to the 27th Infantry Regiment, part of the 25th Infantry Division, and participated in the breakout from the Pusan Perimeter, the drive north to the Yalu River, and following the Chinese incursion in November 1950, saw action throughout the entire withdrawal south of Seoul, when the Chinese offensive was finally stopped. Lewison rotated home shortly after that.

By the time of the Vietnam War Lewison was a Master Sergeant, and saw action in 1965-1966 as an advisor to the Army of Vietnam, especially with the Montagnards in the Central Highlands region of South Vietnam. Sergeant Major Lewison spent his last tour on active duty as an advisor to the Illinois Army National Guard, being posted to Springfield, IL. Following retirement, he worked for many years at the Illinois National Guard as a Civil Servant. Gay passed away on February 13, 2015.

Topics Covered: Topics and themes discussed during the interviews. Initial enlistment and training; battle of Hadong, Pusan Perimeter (29th Infantry Regiment); the Chinese Offensive (27th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division); married life in the Army; Panama Canal Zone; Cuban Missile Crisis; MACV during Vietnam War; Illinois Army National Guard; Democratic Convention of 1968 in Chicago.

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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