

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Louis Myers

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

Interview # VRK-A-L-2010-055

Louis Myers, a Korean War veteran who spent his tour embedded in a Korean artillery unit as an advisor, 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: Dec 31, 2010 Location: Myers residence at Lake Petersburg, Illinois

Date: Jan 18, 2011 Location: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Interview Format: Digital audio

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

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Interview being
processed

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 2:59 + 0:57 / 2.98 + 0.95 = 3.93 hrs

Session 1: Youth on farm in IL & Korean War advisor to ROK Army artillery

Session 2: Reflections on the Korean War, and revisiting South Korea in 1987

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on December 22, 2011.

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

© 2010 Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Abstract

Louis Myers, *Veterans Remember*, VRK-A-L-2010-055

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Louis L. Myers, Jr. was born on May 9th, 1928 in Macomb, Illinois, and grew up on a small subsistence style farm outside nearby Tennessee, Illinois during the heart of the depression. The Myers family lived without electricity or indoor plumbing, and Louis attended a one-room school for the first eight years. Upon graduation from high school in nearby Colchester, Myers attended college at Western Illinois State College in Macomb, and soon began working at the USDA Soil Conservation Service. In 1948 he also joined the Illinois Army National Guard, first serving in an ordnance company, and later in a field artillery unit, part of Illinois' 44th Infantry Division. When that division was mobilized in February, 1952, Myers began working full-time for the National Guard.

Following the unit's training at Camp Cooke, California, the 44th Division personnel were eventually used as 'fillers'. When Myers arrived in South Korea in late 1952, he was assigned to the 8220th Augmentation Unit, and worked as a liaison to the Republic of Korea (ROK) Army's 8th Division Artillery. He was the only American attached to this unit. Myers describes in details the innumerable challenges associated with training relatively green and often illiterate Korean troops on all aspects of field artillery operations, including forward observing, gun-line operations, computation of field artillery data, intelligence analysis, and the functioning of a field artillery operations center. He did so while speaking very little Korean, as he had received no training either in the Korean language or culture. Most of the training went on in the midst of extensive combat operations. During June and July of 1953, with an armistice agreement within sight, the Communists launched two massive offensives, both aimed at the ROK II Corps, of which the 8th ROKA Division was a part.

Subject Headings/Key Words: artillery liaison duties with Republic of Korea Army during Korean War; combat operations during Korean War; 8th ROKA Division; Chinese offensives in June & July, 1953; Tennessee, Illinois; farming in Illinois during the depression; one-room schools; Western Illinois State College; 44th Infantry Division, Illinois Army National Guard; 3637th MAM Ordnance Company; 233rd Field Artillery Regiment; 8220th Augmentation Unit; Korean War armistice;

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.

COPYRIGHT

The following material can be used for educational and other non-commercial purposes without the written permission of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library. "Fair use" criteria of Section 107 of the Copyright Act of 1976 must be followed. These materials are not to be deposited in other repositories, nor used for resale or commercial purposes without the authorization from the Audio-Visual Curator at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, 112 N. 6th Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701. Telephone (217) 785-7955