

Title Page & Abstract

Redacted Interview

An Interview with Dean Lynn

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

Interview # VRK-A-L-2017-026

Dean Lynn, a U.S. Army tanker who saw action in Korea during the last year of the war, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Veterans Remember – Korean War* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Dates: May 2 & May 10, 2017 Location: Lynn home in Mason City, 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: 2:18 + 2:58 / 2.3 + 2.97 = 5.27 hrs.

Session 1: Growing up in rural Mason City, Illinois, being drafted and basic training

Session 2: Experiences during the Korean War as a tanker with the 245th Tank BN

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on June 14, 2017

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

Redacted Interview: Parts of Session 2 of the interview are currently redacted. The full interview will be released from redaction and available to the general public after January 1, 2032.

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Abstract

Dean Lynn, *Veterans Remember - Korea*, VRK-A-L-2017-026

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Dean A. Lynn was born in rural Mason City, Illinois on September 23, 1930, and grew up on his parent's small farm. He attended a small one room school until finishing his education at Mason City High School in 1948. Lynn spent long hours doing farm chores, but excelled at track and was an excellent horseman, especially with an American quarter horse he named Trigger. He also began dating Roberta Mae Follis while in high school. Following high school Lynn helped his father on the farm for a while, and also found a job at a local factory. In January 1952 he was inducted into the U.S. Army, and attended basic training at Ft. Knox, Kentucky. He also got preliminary training on the M-4 Sherman tank. Following basic training he flew to the west coast, then sailed to Japan on a Merchant Marine vessel. After a short layover in Japan, he shipped out to South Korea, landed at Inchon in July, 1952.

Once in Korea, he was trucked to the front line and eventually assigned to C Company, 245th Tank Battalion, which was originally part of the 45th Infantry Division. While in Korea, the unit was sent to a variety of locations along the front line (which had stabilized at that time) in support of infantry units, including American, South Korean and other UN forces, in various hot spots. Lynn was assigned to C Company's Tank 21 as its loader. He got his baptism of fire at Old Baldy in the west-central part of the line. On September 22-23, 1952 Dean's tank platoon was supporting a South Korean unit and helped repulse a strong North Korean attack on Hill 854. As a result of that action Lynn received both a Bronze Star for valor as well as the South Korean Army's prestigious Wharang Distinguished Military Service Medal. Over the next few months, including the brutal winter of 1952-53, Lynn continued to serve in various hot spots along the line. After earning thirty-six points, he rotated home in the spring of 1953. Once stateside, he married Roberta, and performed a variety of jobs until getting into carpentry. At the time of this interview, at the age of eighty-six, he was still working as a cabinet maker out of his Mason City home.

Subject Headings/Key Words: tanker during the Korean War; Hill 854 battle in September, 1952; battle of Old Baldy; Mason City, Illinois; quarter horse racing in late 1940s; 245th Tank Battalion; 45th Infantry Division; basic training at Ft. Knox, Kentucky; Wharang Distinguished Military Service Medal;

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