

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with William Piper

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

Interview # VRK-A-L-2007-006.01

William Piper, a U.S. Army veteran of the Korean War, was interviewed on the below listed dates as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Veterans Remember* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location(s):

Date: July 6, 2007 Location: Piper residence, 2309 Ellendale Drive, Springfield, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

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

Technical Support (cameraman, etc): N/A

Transcription by: Carolyn Berning, ALPL volunteer

Edited by: Cheryl Wycoff and Rozanne Flatt, ALPL Volunteers

Total Time: 1 hr, 42 minutes Total Pages: 32

Accessioned into the ALPL Archives on November 26, 2007.

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

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Abstract

William (Bill) Piper, *Veterans Remember-Korea*, VRK-A-L-2007-006

Biographical Information & Synopsis: William (Bill) Piper was born October 5th, 1930 in Springfield, IL. He attended Lanphier High School, and shortly after graduation joined the Illinois National Guard (44th Division). He married Ann Cawley in 1950, and his daughter Terry was born the next year. The unit was activated in September of 1951, and Bill eventually deployed to Korea (via Japan) in early 1953. He saw action in Korea first as a communications wireman, then in the Battalion Intelligence Section of the 2nd BN, 160th Infantry Regiment, 40th Infantry Division. He saw action at Heartbreak Ridge, served for approximately a month at a POW camp for North Koreans and Chinese at Koji-Do Island, and then back to the front lines, where the 40th Division was posted at the end of the war in July of 1953.

Topics Covered: Initial service with the 44th Division (Illinois Army National Guard), training at Camp Cooke, California, service with the 160th Infantry Regiment at Heartbreak Ridge, Koji-Do Island POW camp, Kumwha valley, Taegu Korean tungsten mines, impressions of Communist POWs, Korean (ROK) soldiers, integrated military, friendly fire, and wartime experiences and perspectives.

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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