

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Bernie Goulet

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

Interview # VRK-A-L-2009-001

Bernie Goulet, a Korean War veteran serving with the U.S. Army's 7th Division during the Inchon landing, the Chosin Reservoir and the Chinese Spring Offensive, was interviewed on the dates listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Veteran's Remember* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: January 6, 2009 Location: Goulet residence, Springfield, Illinois

Date: January 22, 2009 Location: Goulet residence

Date: June 11, 2009 Location: Goulet residence

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Mark R. DePue, ALPLM Volunteer

Transcription by: Tape Transcription Center, Boston, MA

Edited by: Cheryl Wycoff and Rozanne Flatt, Volunteers, ALPL

Total Pages: 113 Total Times: 2:20 + 3:05 + 19 min/2.33 + 3.08 + .32 = 5.73 hrs

Session 1: Early life through action at the Chosin Reservoir during Korean War

Session 2: Korean War action with 7th In Division in winter and spring of 1951

Session 3: Two stories from Korea

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on 06/16/2009.

The interviews are archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in
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Abstract

Bernie Goulet, *Veterans Remember*, VRK-A-L-2009-001

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Bernie Goulet was born on April 22nd, 1931 in Springfield, Illinois. Bernie grew up in Springfield during the Great Depression, and had many memories as a young boy during the Second World War, having two older brothers in the service. It was during this time that he decided he wanted to go into the military, and he enlisted after graduating from Springfield High School in 1949. Following Basic Training in Fort Riley, Kansas, he was assigned to Fort Carson, Colorado where he went through ski training, then was assigned to a tank unit. When the Korean War began in June of 1950, Goulet volunteered for combat duty. He was flown to Japan and was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, part of the 7th Infantry Division, then being reorganized.

Goulet participated in the Inchon landing in September of 1950, then landed at Iwon in Northern Korea, and took part in the fighting in and around the Chosin Reservoir. The division was evacuated from Hungnam in early December, 1950 along with the rest of the X Corps. By early January, following the reorganization of the 7th Division due to heavy casualties, the 31st Infantry Regiment was sent into the line, now stretching just north of Seoul. Over the next several months, Goulet and his unit saw heavy action as the front line moved south of Seoul, then north again, then reeled back with the Chinese Spring Offensive of April 1951. By the time Goulet left Korea in June of 1951, the line had finally stabilized. He was discharged from the Army in October, 1951, and soon joined the U.S. Army Reserves but otherwise returned to civilian life, spending most of his working life at the Post Office.

Subject Headings/Key Words: 31st Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division; infantry combat operations in Korea, 1950-1951; Inchon landing; Chosin Reservoir; military cemetery near Hamhung, North Korea; evacuation of X Corps from Hungnam; Operation Ripper; Douglas MacArthur, & relief by Harry S. Truman; Gen. Matthew Ridgway; capturing Chinese Prisoners of War; surviving cold weather conditions; reflections of Korean soldiers and civilians; injuries

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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