

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Paul C. Tarr III

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

Interview # VRC-A-L-2012-001

Paul C. Tarr III, who served in the Army during the Cold War in Germany from 1954-1956, 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: Jan 10, 2012 Location: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Interview Format: Digital audio

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

Transcription by: Audio Transcription Center, Boston, MA

Edited by: Cheryl Wycoff and Rozanne Flatt, ALPL Volunteers

Total Pages: 49 pgs Total Time: 2:22 / 2.37 hrs

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on May 3, 2012.

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

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Abstract

Paul C. Tarr III, *Veterans Remember*, VRC-A-L-2012-001

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Paul C. Tarr was born on February 27th, 1933 in Upper Darby, Pennsylvania, and grew up in nearby Morton, Pennsylvania, west of Philadelphia, where his father worked for the telephone company. He spoke at length about his parents' roll in civil defense exercises and wartime blackouts during World War II. Paul was very involved with sports throughout his high school and college years, especially baseball and football. He enrolled in Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania in September, 1950. Shortly after graduating in 1954 with a degree in economics, Tarr was drafted into the Army, and attended basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. He was trained as a clerk-typist, then was shipped to Germany in February of 1955 and assigned to the 30th Field Artillery Group, stationed at Hanau, Germany.

Specialist Tarr was assigned as the clerk-typist for the unit's S-2 (Intelligence Officer) but was also recruited to play on the 30th FA Group's baseball and football teams, one of sixty-four such teams among U.S. Army units then stationed in Germany. Tarr performed military duties in the morning, and spent his afternoons playing baseball or football. He also traveled extensively in Europe during this time, including a trip to Berlin. In the summer of 1956 he returned to the states on emergency leave, and was subsequently discharged in August, 1956.

Tarr also recounted his great grandfather's service during the Civil War. Benjamin Franklin Tarr enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1862 at the age of sixteen. The gun boat he served on was sunk by a Confederate ram in April, 1864. He spent the next several months in Andersonville Prison, and was released in June, 1865.

Subject Headings/Key Words: service in the Cold War era military; playing baseball and football in the U.S. Army; Benjamin Franklin Tarr, Civil War veteran; 30th Field Artillery Group, Hanau, Germany; growing up in Morton, Pennsylvania during World War II; civil defense during World War II; Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pennsylvania; Andersonville Prison

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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