

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Thomas Bowman

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

Interview # VR2-A-L-2014-051

Tom Bowman, a Vietnam War veteran who served with the 44th Medical Brigade in Vietnam from December, 1968 thru December, 1969, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Veterans Remember - Vietnam* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Dec 31, 2014 Location: Bowman residence in rural Springfield, Illinois

Date: Jan 14, 2015 Location: Bowman residence in rural Springfield, 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: 2:19 + 1:47 / 2.32 + 1.78 = 4.1 hrs

Session 1: Growing up in Springfield, IL, military training and service in Vietnam

Session 2: Reflections on service in Vietnam return to the states and life at home

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on April 9, 2015.

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

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Abstract

Thomas Bowman, *Veterans Remember*, VRV-A-L-2014-051

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Thomas (Tom) Bowman was born on May 9th, 1947 in Springfield, Illinois, and grew up on the north side of Springfield in a large Catholic family. He attended parochial grade school and Griffin High School (also a Catholic school), graduating in 1967. In May, 1968 he awaiting acceptance into Southern Illinois University with the hope of becoming a pilot when he was drafted. Bowman attended Basic Training at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri, and Advanced Individual Training at Ft. Sam Houston, Texas, where he received training as a Medical Records Specialist. He arrived in South Vietnam in December, 1968.

Specialist Bowman was assigned to the 44th Medical Brigade, which was based at Nha Trang. While performing his duties as a Medical Records Specialist, he also performed a variety of other tasks, including assisting in triage, as an ambulance driver, accompanying teams going to the field on MEDCAPs (Medical Civil Action Program), and escorting psychiatric patients. He spent time in several locations, including the 6th Convalescent Hospital in Cam Ranh Bay, Nha Trang, and Saigon. Bowman discusses a sapper attack on the hospital at Cam Ranh Bay in August, 1969. He describes his R & R experiences at Vung Tau, South Vietnam, and in Bangkok, Thailand. He rotated home in December, 1969, and was immediately released from Active Service. He soon was attending classes at Sangamon State University in Springfield, Illinois, began working in law enforcement, and by 1973 had also joined the Illinois Air National Guard.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Thomas Bowman; service as medical records specialist during Vietnam War; 44th Medical Brigade; 6th Convalescent Hospital during Vietnam War; attack on 6th Convalescent Hospital; Nha Trang, South Vietnam; Cam Ranh Bay, South Vietnam; Medical Civil Action Program missions during Vietnam War; R & Rs during Vietnam War; R & R center at Vung Tau, South Vietnam; growing up in Springfield during 1950s and 60s

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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