

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with John R. Raschke

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

Interview # VRK-A-L-2010-002

John R. Raschke, a Korean War veteran serving in a communications section of I Corps in 1952-1953, 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 25, 2010    Location: Raschke residence, rural Geneseo, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

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

Transcription by: Audio Transcription Center, Boston, MA

Edited by: Rozanne Flatt, ALPL Volunteer

Total Pages: 44    Total Time: 1:43 / 1.72 hrs

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on 03/01/2010.

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

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# Abstract

John R. Raschke, *Veterans Remember*, VRK-A-L-2010-002

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** John R. Raschke was born on July 30th, 1930 in Geneseo, Illinois and grew up on the family farm a few miles west of Geneseo. The farm had no electricity or indoor plumbing, and while they did have a tractor, Raschke also learned to work with draft animals, including mules. He attended a one room school until moving to a high school in nearby Geneseo. Raschke graduated in 1947 as valedictorian, and graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Augustana College in nearby Rock Island, where he majored in history and political science.

Raschke was drafted into the Army in early 1952 and attended Basic Training at Camp Roberts, California, where he also received extensive Morse Code training following Basic. He served for a short time at Ft. Bliss, Texas, then was flown to Japan, and shipped to Pusan, Korea. In-country only a few days, Raschke dislocated his shoulder, and spent several weeks recuperating in Japan. He then returned to Korea, and served in the I Corps message center, specifically working in a mobile message center that relayed radio messages from the front line units to the Corps headquarters. He was still in Korea when the armistice was signed in July of 1953, and returned to the United States and to civilian life just in time to spend Thanksgiving with his family. He spent the rest of his life working on the family farm.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** Geneseo, Illinois; chores on the family farm; one room schools; U.S. Army during the Korean War; Camp Roberts, California; Ft. Bliss, Texas; 7th Infantry Division; I Corps during the Korean War; President Harry S. Truman; General Douglas MacArthur

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