

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Allen M. Dulles

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

Interview # VRK-A-L-2007-032

Allen M. Dulles, a Korean War veteran serving with the Marines, was interviewed on the dates listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Veterans Remember* Oral History project.

Interview date & location:

Date: November 28, 2007      Location: Dulles residence in Santa Fe, NM

Interview Format: Digital audio

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

Technical Support (cameraman, etc): N/A

Transcription by: Tape Transcription Center, Boston, MA

Edited by: Rozanne Flatt, ALPL volunteer

Total Pages: \_\_\_\_\_      Total Time: 1hr 7 min / 1.12 hrs

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on Dec 28, 2007

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## Abstract

### Allen M. Dulles, *Veterans Remember*, VRK-A-L-2007-032

**Biographical Information & Synopsis:** Allen Macy Dulles was born on January 22nd, 1930 in Manhattan, New York to Allen Welsh Dulles and Clover (Todd) Dulles. (His father was a lawyer and career diplomat who in 1953 became the first civilian director of the CIA. His uncle, John Foster Dulles, served as Secretary of State for the Eisenhower administration.) Allen M. Dulles grew up in Manhattan and then Buckley school in New York City and Philips Exeter Academy in New Hampshire before enrolling in Princeton University in 1947. A brilliant student, Dulles left Princeton after his third year, completing his studies at Oxford University, England. He graduated from Princeton in 1951 Suma Cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa, then graduated at the top of his class at the Marine Corps Platoon Leaders basic course at Quantico, Virginia. He was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in 1952, then shipped to Korea where he was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 5th Regiment, 1st Marine Division. He served initially as the battalion assistant intelligence officer, then in Baker Company as the machinegun platoon leader. On November 15, 1952, he was calling in mortar fire on Chinese positions from an exposed position approximately 70 yards away when he was hit by shrapnel from an incoming mortar round, suffering a severe brain injury. He was evacuated to Japan and then to Bethesda Naval Hospital in Maryland. Dulles was released to his parents care but subsequently spent many years in a series of hospitals in the United States, as well as Bellevue Sanatorium in Switzerland. He eventually moved to Santa Fe, New Mexico, where his sister Joan (Dulles) Talley lives. He never fully recovered from his injuries.

**Note to the reader:** Readers who access this interview should be aware that Mr. Dulles' brain injury resulted in the severe impairment of his short-term memory. While his long term memory is essentially intact, he has difficulty processing the events of his life. He is also deaf in his left ear, and has impaired eyesight. The injury also resulted in clinical paranoia, which is generally controlled with medication, but is evidenced in a couple of instances during this interview. For a full and detailed explanation of Allen's injuries and how they have affected his life, see also the interview with his sister, Joan (Dulles) Talley, also conducted on November 28, 2007.

**Topics Covered:** Marine platoon leader during Korean War; Allen W. Dulles; John Foster Dulles; Philips Exeter Academy; Princeton University; Oxford University; A. Robert Abboud; Bethesda Naval Hospital; Bellevue Sanatorium, Kreuzlingen, Switzerland; Joan (Dulles) Talley

**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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