

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Jerome Wiese

Part of the Illinois Public Media ([WILL radio.tv.online](http://WILL.radio.tv.online))
Central Illinois Vietnam War Stories project

Interview # VRV-V-D-2015-082

Jerome Wiese, who was combat medic in the Army during the Vietnam War, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Illinois Public Media – WILL AM-FM-TV Central Illinois Vietnam War Stories project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: March 6, 2015 Location: WILL-TV Studio X, Campbell Hall, Urbana, IL

Interview Format: Digital video

Interviewer: Stretch Ledford

Technical Support (videographer): WILL Staff

Transcription by: Illinois Public Media staff

Total Pages: 42 pgs. Total Time: 1:08 / 1.13 hrs.

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

Jerome Wiese, *Veterans Remember*, VRV-V-D-2015-082

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Jerome Raymond Wiese (from Rantoul, Illinois at the time of the interview) was born May 16, 1952 at Camp Atterbury, Indiana and grew up on military bases, since his father was a career soldier. Wiese felt compelled to be a soldier and enlisted in the Army in May of 1970, a few days after he turned eighteen years old, walking through a crowd of anti-war protestors to do so. He was eager to go to Vietnam, so he was immediately sent to Chicago, Illinois for his induction. He went through ten weeks of training to become a medic and was sent to Vietnam. Once in Vietnam, he was assigned to headquarters as part of the 2nd Battalion, 1st Battalion, 196th Brigade of the 23rd Infantry Division and was attached to Charlie Company, 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry, part of the 23rd 'Americal' Division then located in the Da Nang area. As a medic, he went on patrols, delivered mail, served as a first responder and tend to wounded soldiers, all the while carrying a M16-A1 rifle and ammo. Wiese talks about his experiences in Duc Pho, South Vietnam, drug use in the military, the enemy his unit faced, and what it was like to lose someone in battle. Wiese talks about how he went to Vietnam to fight communism but soon changed his perspective, instead wanting only to survive his tour. After his tour in Vietnam Wiese was assigned to work at the hospital in Fort Belvoir, Virginia. Wiese served from July 17, 1970 to May 1, 1972. He says the friendships made in Vietnam were indescribable, and he struggled in civilian life without these friendships. Wiese's believes that his exposure to Agent Orange during the war resulted in prostate cancer.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Jerome Wiese; combat medic during Vietnam War; Agent Orange; Duc Pho, South Vietnam; use of booby traps in Vietnam; prostate cancer; rear echelon troops during Vietnam War; conscientious objector; drug use in U.S. Army in Vietnam; claymore mine; combat medic badge; combat infantryman badge; 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment, 196th Brigade, 23rd Infantry Division

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