

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Kenneth Hersemann

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

Interview # VRK-A-L-2007-039

Kenneth L. Hersemann, a U.S. Army veteran of the Korean War, 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: December 31, 2007 Location: Hersemann residence, Chatham, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

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

Transcription by: Tape Transcription Center

Edited by: Rozanne Flatt, ALPL Volunteer

Total Pages: 57 Total Time: 1 hr, 45 min / 1.75 hrs

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on 2/11/2008.

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

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Abstract

Kenneth L. Hersemann, *Veterans Remember*, VRK-A-L-2007-039

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Kenneth L. Hersemann was born on June 7, 1929 in East Peoria, Illinois. He described his youth in the Peoria area, and his part-time work on a local farm, then at the local A & P grocery store while still in high school. He continued on there following graduation from high school until he was drafted in January of 1951 into the U.S. Army. He took his basic training at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri, followed by advanced training in the combat engineers. Upon his arrival in Korea in June of 1951, Hersemann was assigned to Battery A of the 49th Field Artillery Regiment (a 105 mm howitzer unit), and worked as a cannon crewman for several weeks until he moved to the battery's mess section, where he spent the rest of his tour in Korea cooking for the unit. After a few months, and several promotions, he became the unit's mess sergeant, in charge of all food production. He described the mess operations in detail.

Hersemann returned to the states in April 1952, and spent the rest of his working life in the grocery business in East Peoria and Springfield, Illinois.

Topics Covered: Field U.S. Army during Korean War; cook (Mess Sergeant); mess operations during Korean War; 49th Artillery; 7th Infantry Division; A & P grocery store; Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri; the Punchbowl, Korea

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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