

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Fred Stockmeier

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

Interview # VR2-A-L-2007-012

Fred Stockmeier, a World War II POW (European theater), plus a veteran of the Korean War, was interviewed on the below listed dates as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Veterans Remember* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: July 24, 2007 Location: Stockmeier residence in Elk Grove Village, IL

Date: September 26, 2007 Location: Stockmeier residence

Interview Format: Digital Audio

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

Transcription by: Tape Transcription Center, Boston, Mass.

Edited by: Rozanne Flatt, Volunteer ALPL

Total Time: 2 hr, 47 min + 3 hr, 6 min = 5 hr, 53 min Total Pages: 93

Session 1: Early life through WW II experiences

Session 2: Korean War experiences and beyond

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on 12/13/2007.

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

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Abstract

Fred Stockmeier, *Veterans Remember*, VR2-A-L-2007-012

Biographical Information & Synopsis: Fred Stockmeier was born on February 26, 1924 in rural northwest Ohio, and grew up in that area. He was inducted into the Army in August of 1943. Following Basic Training he was assigned to the 63rd Infantry Division as a wireman/radio operator in an artillery unit, then training in Mississippi. He was later transferred to the 100th Infantry Division. His unit shipped out to Marseilles, France where he was assigned to Company A, 1st Battalion, 398th Infantry Regiment. The division took part in operations in southern France until Mr. Stockmeier was captured on December 4th, 1944 near Bitche, France. The Vosges Mountains Campaign is described in *When the Odds were Even*, by Keith Bonn. He spent the rest of the war being shuttled between various prison camps, eventually being liberated by the Russians southeast of Berlin. He and several other prisoners took off on their own, walking west toward the American lines.

Mr. Stockmeier found work in Ohio after the war, attended college and got married in the subsequent years. Since he was still in the inactive Reserves, he was recalled into the Army in 1950 following the beginning of the Korean War. He was shipped to Korea, arriving in late December, 1950 where he was assigned to the personnel section of the 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division. He soon was completing casualty reports and performing other clerical work for the regiment, which was in full retreat due to the Chinese entry into the war. Mr. Stockmeier relates numerous incidents from that year, including the cold, dealings with Korea civilians, food poisoning, and working with other UN nations. The interview concludes with his reflections on his life and family after the war.

Topics Covered: WW II POW in European theater; 398th Infantry Regiment, 100th Infantry Division in WW II; combat operations near Bitche, France; the Vosges Mountains Campaign; liberation from prisoner of war camp; Russian soldiers; Korean War; 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division in Korean War; personnel duties during Korean War; Greek and French units in Korean War.

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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