An Interview with Joan (Dulles) Talley

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

Interview # VRK-A-L-2007-033

Joan Talley, sister of Allen Dulles, a Korean War veteran who suffered a severe brain injury during action in 1952, was interviewed on the dates listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library’s Veterans Remember Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: November 28, 2007  Location: Talley 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: 1 hr 22 min / 1.37 hrs

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

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

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Abstract

Joan (Dulles) Talley, Veterans Remember, VRK-A-L-2007-033

Biographical Information & Synopsis: Joan (Dulles) Talley was born on December 28, 1923 in Washington, D.C. to Allen Welsh Dulles and Clover (Todd) Dulles. (Joan’s father was a career diplomat and then lawyer before he became the first civilian director of the CIA in 1953. Her uncle, John Foster Dulles, served as Secretary of State during the Eisenhower administration.) This interview covers Joan’s early years growing up in a diplomatic family, and especially her relationship with Allen Macy Dulles, her younger brother by six years. Allen served as a lieutenant in a Marine regiment during the last year of the war in Korea. Joan chronicles the family’s reaction to Allen’s combat injuries in Korea in late 1952, his slow and tragically limited recovery from the severe brain injury that he suffered, and her involvement with his care after that injury.

This interview supplements an interview with Allen M. Dulles conducted on the same date. See also the interview with A. Robert Abboud, who served as a lieutenant in Dulles’ platoon and tells of his injury.

Topics Covered: Allen Macy Dulles; Allen Welsh Dulles; Martha ‘Clover’ Dulles; John Foster Dulles; Eleanor Dulles; Philips Exeter Academy; Princeton University; Oxford University; Bethesda Naval Hospital; Bellevue Sanatorium, Kreuzlingen, Switzerland; Jungian psychology; Santa Fe, New Mexico; John Stratton Gilman and USS Monitor

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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