

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Herbert A. Ericksen

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

Interview # VRK-A-L-2008-005

Herbert A. (Herb) Ericksen, an Air Force veteran of WW II and 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: January 10, 2008    Location: Ericksen residence in Springfield, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Lee Patton, ALPL volunteer

Technical Support (cameraman, etc): N/A

Transcription by: \_\_\_\_\_

Edited by: \_\_\_\_\_

Indexed by: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Pages: \_\_\_\_\_    Total Time: 1 hr 20 min / 1.33 hrs

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on 3/19/2008.

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

Interview being  
processed

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## Abstract

Herbert A. Ericksen, *Veterans Remember*, VRK-A-L-2008-005

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** Herb Erickson was born on October 1, 1925 in Chicago, Illinois. He committed to the military during WW II after passing a special test developed by the Army Air Corps to recruit promising high school students. After graduation and basic training, Herb went into cargo pilot training with the expectation that he would be sent to “fly the Hump” from India over the Himalayan Mountains to China. However, the War ended before he went into combat, and he was discharged. Back home in Chicago, Herb studied electrical engineering at the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) and joined a newly created Air Force Reserve unit at O’Hare. When the Korean War broke out in June of 1950, Herb was activated and sent to Japan where he served in the 83rd Squadron of the 437th Troop Carrier Wing as the command pilot on a C-46 cargo plane supplying the troops in Korea and ferrying out the wounded. After nine months, he was reassigned as the Assistant Manager of Air Operations in Kyosho, Japan. Following an additional nine months, Herb was discharged.

Throughout his 35-year career as an executive with Illinois Bell Telephone Company and now in retirement, Herb has remained in contact with his comrades and proud of his service in two wars and two branches of the military.

**Topics Covered:** Army Air Corps; U.S. Air Force during Korean War; pilot training; C-46 cargo planes; 83rd Squadron, 437th Troop Carrier Wing; Hiroshima, Japan following WW II; Kyushu, Japan

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