

Interview with William Smith

VRK-A-L-2010-008.02

Excerpt from Interview # 2: February 23, 2010

Interviewer: Mark DePue

COPYRIGHT

The following material can be used for educational and other non-commercial purposes without the written permission of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library. "Fair use" criteria of Section 107 of the Copyright Act of 1976 must be followed. These materials are not to be deposited in other repositories, nor used for resale or commercial purposes without the authorization from the Audio-Visual Curator, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, 112 N. 6th Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701. (217) 785-7955

DePue: How many times do you think you went through beatings? Was it just that first encounter, or were there other times as well?

W. Smith: Oh, there were other times. I was knocked around quite a bit. But I was knocked around for just saying things, you know, like I did about that damn dog, "He's pulling the 105 howitzer," you know, just things that pop in your mind and you say it and you don't really think. I should have paid more attention to what I was saying, but things just come out, you know. Boy. I said, "If you don't behave, I'm going to send Chiang Kai-shek after you," talking to a guard, not realizing that he understood what I was saying. I mean, things like that, you know. (laughs) You walk by them and say, "Freeze to death, you son of a bitch," and then he understands English. Just little things like that. I can't explain it.