

Jack Martin Oral History, 2009



In 1942, at age sixteen, Jack Martin lied about his age to enlist in the army. Trained in anti-aircraft coastal artillery, he served in the Panama Canal Zone and Europe during World War II. Later a member of the occupation army in Japan, Martin went to Korea as part of the doomed Task Force Smith. On July 22, 1950, North Koreans captured and took as prisoners Martin and the other men in his division. After living for nearly three years with little food, shelter, and clothing, Martin and the other Americans were freed on August 26, 1953.

Kentucky Historical Society Collections

War is not just a compilation of dates that represent a series of battles. "[Kentucky Military Treasures](#)," an online exhibition that illustrates the personal stories of bravery, innovation, heartache and perseverance, provides evidence of the people and artifacts history books often neglect. To learn more about this item and others in the military collections of the Kentucky Historical Society, visit "[Kentucky Military Treasures](#)."