

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Korean War

Personal Experience

O.H. 1219

CARL B. CLIFFORD

Interviewed

by

Don F. Baker

on

July 11, 1989

CARL B. CLIFFORD

Carl B. Clifford was born on August 25, 1925, in Willard, Ohio, and he was the son of William and Julia Brown Clifford. He graduated from Akron Central High School, Akron, Ohio, in 1943. He was a member of a "January class," which meant that he graduated after only three and one-half years, so that he could fight in World War II. Mr. Clifford earned a BA degree from Baldwin-Wallace College in 1953. He earned graduate credits from Akron, Youngstown State, and Kent State Universities.

Mr. Clifford married Sylvia Patricia Sweeney in January of 1948. They have three children: Patricia L., 38, Janet L., 34, and Kevin S., 24. Mr. Clifford was a member of the U.S. Marine Corps in either active or reserve status from 1944 to 1972. He served in World War II and Korea.

Mr. Clifford was employed as a teacher by the Newton Falls Board of Education from 1957 to 1988 when he retired. Mr. Clifford has been the recipient of the Silver Beaver Award from the Boy Scouts of America and a Presidential Citation.

Mr. Clifford is a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, Kiwanis, the Boy Scouts of America, and the Newton Falls United Methodist Church. He is interested in sports and collecting automobile license plates.

B: This is an interview with Carl Clifford for the Youngstown State University Oral History Program, on the Korean War, by Don F. Baker, at 4444 LaFrance Street, Newton Falls, Ohio, on July 11, 1989, at 11:00 a.m.

Do you remember how you first found out about Korea and what you knew about it at that time?

C: I kind of had a feeling about Korea when I was in Japan in 1946.

B: Really?

C: Right. The war ended, and somebody talked, at that time, that MacArthur and some people were having a rough time in North Korea, that the communists were coming, and so forth. I made a stupid statement, at that time. I said, "If this problem is not straightened out in North Korea, we will be back over here in a few years." I was joking, of course, but I went home. I got out of the regular Marine Corps and went into the reserves with the K company third battalion, or the twenty-fifth Marines in Cleveland. I went to Baldwin-Wallace College. I was three years into college when Korea broke out. That would be 1950 or 1951. I think that it was the last part of 1950. In November of 1951, I believe it was Harry Truman that said, "All of you reserves could go back and go to Korea."

B: It is my understanding that you were in World War II.

C: World War II before that. A whole bunch of us from Baldwin-Wallace College were in the Marine Reserve in Cleveland. Why were we in the reserves? It was a nice weekend income. A good weekend income. I was a first sergeant. We were building up retirement points of which I receive today. We were performing a kind of community service, too. We did several things for Cleveland and Akron, such as parades and things like that. It was reserve, and we were training but not as well as we could have been because we really were not very good at military things in 1950, 1951, or 1952. Everybody used to say, "Well, how did you win World War II?" We just got the most people there in the quickest time. That is all. We did not have more airplanes or more bombs, and if we would have had all that stuff in 1941, the Japanese never would have attacked Pearl Harbor. They never would have attacked, but, they thought, "Well, these bunch of lazy Americans. They do not have an Army. They do not have a Navy. They do not have a Marine Corps."

In fact, in 1941, I only heard of the Marine Corps through my dad. I really did not know much about it. I knew the Merchant Marines. I knew a little bit about the Army. Then, the next thing I know, my brother went in the Three C's, but I soon learned a lot about the Marine Corps. Well, anyway, getting back to Korea. It is a long story. The next thing I know, Harry Truman says, "I want the reserves back over there." Well, they packed a bunch of us up, sent us to Seoul, South Korea, and looked at our Military

Occupational Spec. That is your MOS.

B: Do you want to explain that a little bit?

C: MOS means what were you trained to do in the military service, or military occupational specification. Mine was a radio man, or an infantry radio man. Now, I had gone to Baldwin-Wallace College for three years, and they said, "Well, we could use you." I was training to work in education and things like that. They said, "We could use you in the training department back in the United States." Andersack, who was a PFC or a corporal, at that time, graduated from Baldwin-Wallace. He came back the United States with us. He became a captain. He went from a corporal to a captain and went back over to Korea. Bob Foster, a friend of mine who was in Baldwin-Wallace with us and played on the Baldwin Wallace football team, went to Korea. His Military Occupational Spec was infantryman.

They said, "We do not need you as an infantryman anymore. We need you as a technician in some field." I do not remember anymore what it was. Andersack had completed four years of law. Here was an infantry rifleman who was going to come back to the United States. There were a lot of law cases, at that time, that had to be settled in the military service just like there is today. I came back and went into different kinds of training. So, what started out to be an infantry conflict for me in 1950 or 1951 turned out to be a training experience for me back at Camp LeJeune. So, I came back from Korea after only about thirty or sixty days and ended up in the United States. I really had an education because, at that time, we had an influx of Marines. We were just getting reorganized again. Reserves, draftees, and so forth. Camp LeJeune went from about five-thousand marines to well over forty-thousand in the next, I will say thirty, sixty, or ninety days. Somewhere in there, or about three months. They all had to be trained. So, this is a good experience for me in a way. I was in the S-3 section. The S-3 section is plans and training in the Marine Corps. Just because someone said, "You are in education, and you get in plans and training."

I went there, and I had to go to meetings at the division level. And they said, "Now, we are going to form the Sixth Marines." I am trying to think of what battalions. Well, first, second, and third battalion. They set up commanding officers, executive officers, and first sergeant. That was all they had. The next day, truckloads of troops came in. Then, out came a training schedule from the division that says, "We are going to start out just like we are basic infantry people." Then we started on basic infantry maneuvers. I thought it was good because I had never done it before. I did not know what platoons. Now, remember that I am all the way through World War II, but I did not know what platoons really did, how the mortar companies worked, where you got the tanks from, and so on. I was getting the big picture for the first time. Not only were we training them, but they were training us. We trained that outfit for about ninety days. All kinds of infantry tactics and so forth.

Then, they went to Korea. You would turn around on Monday morning, and here

would come another fifteen or twenty-thousand young men from Camp LeJeune. We would turn around and do the same thing all over again. Rifle platoon tactics, infantry tactics, regimental tactics, and battalion tactics. It was the first time that I would ever see this stuff worked out. I would have liked to have all of that training before World War II. In fact, it is amazing that we got through World War II. We have now at Camp LeJeune and various other places what is called ITR.

Maybe you read in the paper about young guys that go in the Marine Corps. They are going to Infantry Training Regiment, or ITR. Well, now they are learning platoon tactics, squad tactics, battalion tactics, and regimental tactics. I do not know if you remember or not, but in World War II in Italy, some of our infantry people were in the Marshall Islands. One time, the Marines were shooting at the Tenth Army because we really did not understand what everybody was doing. The Navy does certain things, and the Army does certain things. In fact, I am sure that maybe it was a rumor. I have never had it confirmed. I think that we shot down one of our airplanes one time. I have heard that rumor. They would not put it in books, magazines, or papers.

B: Why did this occur?

C: Well, it was because somebody captured some of our airplanes and decided to use them against us. Then, when they came over, somebody said, "All these planes are not ours. They are being flown by the enemy." To be specific, it was P-51's in Italy. So, we, the Army, shot down P-51's. Well, somebody did not get the word, and some of our American pilots were still flying P-51's and were shot down by Americans. I am sure that this has happened. Like I said, I was not sure where it happened. It was just a rumor.

B: Now, you were in Korea itself for a short period of time, correct?

C: Yeah. Clear over and clear back.

B: Okay, did you have any thoughts about becoming actively involved in Korea, or where they sent you? What were your feelings about that having gone through World War II?

C: My personal feeling was that I was a little scared about going back over there again. Because being in the infantry, there was a lot of bullets floating around you. I did not like that part about it, but as far as feeling political about it, I was not sure all that was. I was confused at that point. MacArthur was right in what he was doing, but then, he started going too far if you remember. President Truman finally removed him from command in the Far East and brought him home, but I did not have an association with all of that upper level echelon business.

The guy that I associated with was Chester Fuller, the First Marine Division Commander. That was the fellow I saw and heard from the people. All that we talked about was getting the job done and coming home, so many Chinese had this hill to take and that hill to take. So, as far as that, I did not even know what Congress was doing. I

did not even know what the United States was doing. I did not know what anybody was doing, so I had no feelings of pro or con. I was just in the Marine Corps Reserve, and we were going over there to do a job that somebody told me was necessary to be done. That was why I went over to Korea.

B: How did they get you over there?

C: By boat.

B: How long did it take?

C: Thirty days.

B: What was it like being on the boat?

C: I had a rare experience there. We went in convoy. We loaded out of Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The Marines came from Camp LeJeune, Vegas, Guantanamo, and Panama to join Marines from the First Division at San Diego, California and Seattle. So, in convoy, we lost a propeller on our ship.

B: Oh, no.

C: Yeah. We were short of food for a few days. We were just adrift in the Pacific Ocean. So, we had to eat oranges and a slice of bread for breakfast, orange and a slice of bread for dinner, and an orange and a slice of bread and maybe toast with a little creamed chipped beef or something. So, supplies had to be air-dropped to our ship, the S.S. Sea Sturgeon. I remembered that to keep us going until we could get to Korea. We finally got there. Korea did not look like anything that I had seen in World War II. It looked pretty modern. Having spent time in the islands of Okinawa, Guam, and others, we did not see much civilization, but in Korea, we saw civilization. So, it was a little different situation.

I do not think that Korea, which was supposed to be like this now. I know this now, but I did not know, at the time. It was supposed to be under the United Nations shell. Was it not? They were flying the blue flag with the white wreath. They were saying that all of the troops were there. Well, I saw British Marines, Canadians, and French. Those are the three that I remember specifically. There were the United States Marines and a lot of the United States Army. It seemed like everybody had a different idea of what we were doing. Does that answer your question?

B: Yeah.

C: Alright. Well, the army thought, "Well, we were going to occupy this whole peninsula." The British were the ones who were up with the Marines, went up behind the enemy at

the battle line, and shut off the South Korean supply line. But, they did not count on something. I gathered this after I got back from Korea, not when I was there. I had no idea this was going on, at the time. In fact, I did not even know where we landed. We landed at our assigned site. My commanding officer, Captain McQuade, knew. They shut off the supplies, but it was not the South. It was not the North Koreans we were in trouble with then. Coming over the hill, it was the Chinese. That was where the United States foreign policy with China or whoever got into trouble. That was about the time I came home.

B: Could you describe a typical day that you had in Korea?

C: Well, it was unusual. I was just attached almost as soon as I got there. They said, "I do not know how you got here, but you should not be here. You should be back in the United States." That was what they said to Foster, Andersack, and myself. There were about, if I remember, a planeload of guys. We came back by plane. They wanted us back there right away, because, as I said, Andersack was not an infantryman anymore. He was a lawyer now. There was a dentist with us and a doctor. In other words, everybody had been to college.

B: You were talking about the fact that they took you out of the assignment almost immediately.

C: Yeah.

B: So, what did you do there?

C: One day, believe it or not, I was the non-commissioned officer in charge of unloading a ship. I never did that in my life. Andersack, who was the lawyer, was helping me because, at the time, I was a gunnery sergeant, and he was a corporal or a sergeant. I do not remember which, but we did not know, at that time, that we were going to go back to the United States. We did not know why we had been put in this separate pool to help unload ships.

The Americans were unloading equipment like mad in Korea, at the time. That, I know, so we took charge of a detail of guys over there grumbling and growling and saying, "We do not know what is going on, but we are unloading the ship." Then, one day, when we were busy unloading the ship, some guy came down, a first sergeant from personnel or something. He said, "You, Andersack, and Foster got to get on this plane to go back to the United States." Well, we were happy.

B: I can imagine.

C: Wonderful! Because, at this time, this was the staging area. I do not know if you know where the staging area is.

B: Well, will you explain it?

C: Well, equipment comes in off of ships in one direction, and troops by the thousands come in another direction. Now, you have got to get troops and equipment together, and they move out into a combat area into a demilitarized zone. That is what they call it. So, we were literally like a rear echelon motor transport people. We did not even have anything to do with motor transports. This is where they put everybody when they do not know what the heck to do with them because they have them in the wrong spot for a while. You unload ships, you load ships, and you help clean and arrange trucks to motor transport, but whatever they have you to do at this checking station.

You take one of the biggest check-in stations, or lines of debarkation in the United States, in the Hawaiian Island and Harrison Field. They bring about twenty-thousand Marines in there. Those kids do not know what the heck they are going to do there, so they have them cut grass, straighten out lawns, clean trucks and cars, clean their own equipment, and then, train a little bit. Then, they have the afternoon off from 4:30 on.

That was about what I was doing. I had the afternoon off from 4:30 on. I thought, "I do not know what they are doing, but it seems like a pretty good job." I reported to like a headquarters and service first sergeant. I checked with him everyday. He did not even have an area for me to go to, so my Korean experience was not like a lot of people that were in an organized infantry company or something that went over and got assigned to an organized area to take care of.

B: What did you do with your free time?

C: We ran around the countryside and looked at different things and so forth with what little free time. Sometimes, we did not have a whole lot of free time, but from 4:30 or 5:30 on or something like that, sometimes the U.S.O. would bring a movie in or something. Then, we would see that. I saw a movie I think six days a week because there was no place to go or see really. You could not get out of the area.

Korea was not really into a full-fledged battle, yet. They were getting ready. Although, the communists, or the North Koreans, had walked over the South Koreans pretty good. In fact, they had pushed our own Tenth Army, which was over there, at the time, right down to the end of the peninsula. So, now, it was time to push them back. I think they thought that Korea would be over with in just a little while because it was just the South Korean Army. That was not going to be hard to take care of.

I do not think that they anticipated many casualties or anything else, but when the Chinese entered the thing, now, we were in a war. They called it Police Action by the President and by Congress. It was not a war. Everybody had a joke about that. The only thing that I remember about Korea that sticks with me more than anything else was that we got a pay increase. You may think that is funny, but, at the time we got the pay increase, we started paying income tax. That was like toward the end of the war. It seems to me that was the time.

I did not smoke, but they used to put a warning on cigarette packs: "Do not

smoke. This cigarette may be dangerous to your health." But, they did not put that on the M-1 they handed you. These might be dangerous to your health. You would get your head shot. You would get killed or something. So, I came back, trained one group of men who went to Korea, trained another division who went to Korea, and trained a group of men. They became part of the First Marine Division.

B: Before we leave Korea, one other question. You said that you went around the country a little bit. Could you describe what your impressions were? Of the people or what you saw?

C: I did not see many people. We did not have an interpreter with us or anything like that. What I saw was agricultural. My brother, who is much younger than I am and was in the Air Force, had been to Korea since I had. He said, "You would not believe the size of the cities, the roads, the cars, the factories, the McDonald's, the Coca Colas, and all of that." There were none of those things when we were there. It was an oriental community.

The one thing that I do remember about Korea, at the time, was when I was in church and in Sunday School. I used to hear about missionaries going to Korea and doing work in Korea. I was looking for that, and I did not see any of it. We have been sending money over here to Korea. I have met some Korean missionaries before I went to Korea. They were talking about how poor the people were and how they needed help building churches, schools, and all that.

I thought that I would see some churches and schools, but I always missed that. There may have been some someplace, but I never saw them. That was the one thing that I looked for in Korea: the work of missionaries. Everybody spoke Korean. We did not understand them, and they did not understand us. After a while, we were getting a little better communicated, but I remember that about Korea. I did not see any work by missionaries, yet you hear about missions every week. It was like you hear people talking about building hospitals in India, but I do not know where they are at.

There must be one hospital there someplace that we donated money to, sent doctors to, and so forth. You would think that the way we were working at these things that there would be a lot of schools and a lot of hospitals built by the Catholic Church, the Methodist Church, the Baptist Church, and various other churches. They are all doing missionary work in these countries. Where did it all go? I used to have a teacher in school who was a missionary to China for about five or six years. What work did they do? Look at China today.

B: Before they sent you over to Korea, did they give you any additional training, or did they just load you up and send you off?

C: They just loaded us up and sent us off. We did not have the slightest idea where we were going or what we were doing.

B: So, there was no training to refresh you or anything of that type?

C: No. The best training that I ever had was when I came home from Korea.

B: Okay.

C: I helped train a division. That was really the first time that I knew what the heck was going on. Camp LeJeune was the first time I saw we had what we called a mad moment. It was at the end of our training where we spent one-million dollars worth of ammunition, powder, and so forth. What they would have is simulated. The actual aircraft came in, and they would drop flour sacks and stuff like that. But, there was electric detonators on the ground that would blow up, so it looked like a bomb. So, the actual aircraft came over, strafed, and bombed. They would get off the target, and the Navy gunfire would come on. You would hear this banging. The infantry would be looking at all this. Now, spectators on the side could see the Navy off in the distance, the Air Force coming, and could see the Marines out there. Navy gunfire would take over, and they would put in shells for maybe ten or fifteen minutes.

As soon as that lifted, I suppose because the guns got hot up there or something, the aircraft would come in and do a little angle strafing. Well, that all impressed you sitting over here in the bleachers watching all this softening up the enemy supposedly. Well, there really were not any enemy there, you see? Then, they would say, "The Marines are going to land." This was a kind of a show. Now, all of a sudden, coming out of the woods, from backing away in a truck would be the enemy. They had red helmets on with little red stripes.

You would see blanks, of course. Machine guns, rifles, mortars, hand grenades, and all of this stuff. It was a very impressive show. Of course, the Marines won that battle. It would take about fifteen minutes, but the booming, the crashing, the lights, and the whole thing was called a mad moment. It cost Uncle Sam a pretty penny, but that was the culmination of training. It gave you a lot of confidence.

B: Let us go into the Camp LeJeune experience. You were sent there. What happened when you got there? Did they train you to train people?

C: Yeah. When I went into Camp LeJeune, I reported to the Sixth Marines, or Sixth Marine headquarters. The Sixth Marines is the Sixth Marine regiment. You probably are not familiar with Camp LeJeune, but at Camp LeJeune, we have the Second Marines, the Fourth Marines, the Sixth Marines, and the Eighth Marines, the four regiments, and the Tenth Marines. The Tenth Marines were our artillery and tanks.

B: What does a regiment consist of?

C: Really, those three. They are supposed to be.

B: How many men in a regiment? Do you know?

C: If it is reinforced, give or take one way or the other, about twenty-thousand. So, the Sixth Marines, as an example, right now are in the Mediterranean. The kid across the street is in the Sixth Marines. They will come back, and the Fourth Marines will go out there for a while. They will visit Lebanon, Greece, Italy, and North Africa. I made that trip once, too. So, you do that out of the Second Marine division.

The First Marine division is still right now in Okinawa. Parts of the Third are over there. I say parts because it is not a reinforced division, but they could bring it up to strength in five minutes. I am sure. So, a lot of people like myself hopped in and out of the First Marine division at times during World War II.

A lot of people from Pittsburgh and the Pennsylvania area were in the Fourth Marine division during the war. See, we had three more divisions: the Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth. But, right now, we just have the first and second. The first on the West Coast, and the second on the East Coast. So, in the Sixth Marines, we were doing this training. I do not think that they do it this way anymore. I never hear the other young Marines coming back and telling me about it, but what they do is called I.T.R. training, or Infantry Training Regiment.

When you come out of boot camp, you now go to I.T.R. I think that it was twelve weeks. They load them on the ship, take them off the ship, climb the ladder, go down the ladder, make up mock in invasion, and mock landings. That was good training. The Marines today are much better trained than we were in World War II. They are much better trained and have much better equipment. They did not know what the heck they were going to do. The Air Force, the Marine Air Force, maybe you have seen the President's helicopter. It says U.S. Marines.

There is a whole bunch of them somewhere in Cherry Point or East Coast here. The men that work with them are the same men that land in them, come back, and take off in them. But, before, it was not that way. They did not have a striking force as such. Guys used to say, "Well, what plane are you going to put me on?" Well, they do not ask that question anymore. They already have a seat assigned. They know exactly what plane they are going on. The pilot knows exactly where he is going.

Most guys who are doing whatever they are doing where he lands it come back and get in the same airplane. The only ones that would not would be the casualties. There are extra aircraft taken along to outload the casualties. So today, everything is done on a computer, you know. They know exactly what percentage of casualties they are going to have in a battle, or anything like that. That was partly what we were learning to do in the Sixth Marines of the Second Marine Division.

B: Could you go through a typical day at Camp Lejeune with you as a trainer?

C: A typical day for me would be to get up at about 6:30 a.m. Being a staff N.C.O., I did not have to sweep and swab my deck. I lived in a little room with another staff sergeant, gunnery sergeant, or master sergeant. There was two of us to a room. We had pretty nice quarters. They were air conditioned and had good bunks. The troops still slept out in the actual barracks. We go to chow. Sometimes, run to chow.

B: What did they feed you?

C: We would eat the best. This is my opinion. Other people have other opinions. We would eat the best food there is to eat. I could have bacon and eggs for breakfast, cereal, seven choices of fruit, or whatever I wanted. The only question that they ask in the Marine Corps is if you take it, you eat it. You do not throw it away. That was a rule, and you had better stand there and eat it. If you take it, you eat it. If you do not want it, you tell the guy when you are getting your food.

You would say, "I do not eat that many eggs. Take some back, please." But, if you take it, you eat it. They do not want to waste food. I saw some girl one time. She took too much food. She was standing over by the garbage pail. There was an O.D. there, or Officer of the Day. He said, "You are not going to throw all of that food away are you? You eat it. If you take it, you eat it." She could not eat all of this food. I am telling you. I think that she was going to end up getting sick eating the food that she took that she did not know she was going to have to eat. It was a pretty good rule. I do not know if it is the same way today, but during the war years in Korea, we did not waste an ounce of food.

B: Why did you have to run to breakfast?

C: Physical training. If you were not the first sergeant and you were under thirty-five years of age, you still take all of the physical training with the rest of the troops. I was not down at Camp Lejeune. I was the gunnery sergeant. You have to be in shape to stay in the Marines to be promoted. If you get fat, floppy, and lazy, you get discharged. It is that simple in the Marine Corps. You have to pass a physical every year. You have to fire your rifle every year.

A rifle is not something that you carry around and never put a bullet in it. You familiarize yourself every six months, and you qualify every six months. Which means that twice a year, you are on the range. Well, if you do not want to shoot, you do not want to be in the Marines because you are going to shoot in the Marines. Everybody, even photographers. We even took our Navy Corpsman with us.

In the Marine Corps, your medical supply comes from the Navy. So, after breakfast, you would walk back to the barracks, pick up the troops, and go to an assigned training area. You would be there by eight o'clock. You would be there sitting and waiting. The training may come from a division level, or a regimental level, person that day.

There are different types of training. If you are teaching machine gun operation, that is taken care by the machine gun people. That is in their area. But, if they were teaching like an overall air-to-ground landing situation, they would have a large screen up there and a big instructor that has been through it several times. He would tell about the various phases. You would do that at eight o'clock and take a ten minute break. They used to have a smoke break.

You would train something else at nine o'clock. Maybe something else at ten

o'clock. A little physical fitness before you go back to the barracks on the way back or an obstacle course or something like that. Or, walk back. It may be two miles to walk back. That all was good training. Just walking back to your barracks. Good training. Eat a big dinner. Have a lunch.

B: What kind of lunch did they have?

C: Well, we ate a light lunch. You could have sandwiches, beans, or whatever. A pretty good lunch, really. A choice of drinks. The food was good. You would run into a guy who would say, "This is lousy food." But, I ran into a lot of guys who said, "Hey, I love it." One of the guys, Don, who was with me who is over in Ohio now, and I used to eat dinner every day. Don weighed a lot. He weighed about 250. He was six feet two inches tall or six feet three inches tall. He ate all he could eat, and they never turned him down on anything. He had to watch himself not to eat too much because he would put on more weight. He would go up to 275 real quick. Then, he could not run out of the helicopter real quick or something like that. He knew that he was going to have to run or carry somebody or something like that.

So, we would get back, and at the end of the day, you had the choice of a movie or somebody would get a pass to get off of the base all together, or an over night pass. We were in Jacksonville, North Carolina. They had U.S.O. dances in there. Movies in there. Some guys liked to get off the base. Me. I did not.

Later, at Camp LeJeune, my wife came down. We stayed in a trailer. Right in the staff trailer housing down there. We had a good family. Our daughter was born down there, Tricia. You would go out the next morning, and the training would be maneuvers out in the field. Do that all morning: Squad tactics, platoon tactics, regimental tactics, battalion tactics. You would see all of this stuff. You would get an idea of what was happening. You would not be alone. We would get to see on these things that I am calling maneuvers, war games, and things like that by Marines from Texas and Tennessee. They have a little more gung ho spirit down there. More than we do here in Ohio. It was interesting.

B: What did you do specifically?

C: Before this operation would take place, I would have the job of helping to organize the operation and plan. That is plans and training. We would get the word from the division and from the regiment. I was in the battalion. Those three. The entire section out of this overall operation order had to plan it out. My commanding officer Robert was the main commanding officer. You knew that you were going to have so much ammunition, so much gasoline, and so many trucks. You ordered transportation. The S-4 is the transportation department. You would just send a request down to them, and they knew what they had to have. The S-2 is intelligence. The S-1 is administration.

There were four functions of this operation: S-1, S-2, S-3, and S-4. I was in S-3. We were plans in combat, and we were plans in operations. In civilian life when we were

not in combat, we were training. Plans and training. The educational section of the Marine Corps. So, I knew pretty well where we were going, what we were going to do, and what we were supposed to do almost a month ahead of time. Almost a month ahead of time, I got these letters. That was what my day would encompass after I would get through with this training business. If I was not on the training that day, and sometimes I was, I had about four or five enlisted men working for me. We would retype up these training orders according to Marine Corps regulations. There is a book in there that tells you how to do it. That would take sometimes late into the night. I can remember working on operation orders sometimes right through the night.

B: Really?

C: Yeah. All night long. But, then maybe you would have a few days off. You would do work on operation orders, you would have light days, you would go out and take part in training yourself. Somebody would say, "We are going to have a night compass march now. Where are the coordinates? Here is where we want to go. Can you go take a compass and see if you can do it?" So, I would take myself, and two or three other guys. We would take a compass, and go out through some woods that we never saw before in our life, and see if the compass thing would work. Because, now, in the next two or three days, you are going to take maybe two or three platoons through there. A platoon of men with about forty-one men in each platoon. You are talking about losing one hundred and twenty men if it does not work. So, you have to go out and do it yourself first, if you are going to have firing--live firing--that is different from dummy practice. Live firing at Camp LeJeune, North Carolina, we fired toward the ocean. Well, I would go out sometimes and see the artillery fire. The shells would land out in the ocean. The Navy would stop all the ships from running up and down the East coast. The aircraft up above it, you had to make sure no airplanes flew through the area. You would see some 155's, which were made right out here at the Ravenna Arsenal.

B: Really?

C: I saw that [it said] "Ravenna, Ohio" right on the box a lot of times. Sometimes we would go to live firing on mortar. That can be dangerous.

B: Why?

C: The mortar is not packed correctly. It is supposed to land out there at two hundred yards. The mortar pops out of that tube, and lands about twenty feet from you. Yes, sir. We killed twenty-two young men one time at LeJeune with short round from a mortar tube. The first time you know it is when the first one comes up short, then everybody screams and yells and jumps to the ground.

B: Whose fault is that? The manufacturer's?

- C: Yeah. Somebody right back here from the Ravenna Arsenal. I am not sure if that is where that came from, the mortar ammunition. Because I only saw 105's and 155's from the Ravenna Arsenal. Mortar ammunition, but I do know we had some marines killed with short round. A mortar man is always concerned that when he says, "One on the way," that he sees it leave. Just so it goes out there one hundred yards, or two hundred yards, or three hundred, or four hundred, or five hundred.
- B: You can actually see a mortar shell leave?
- C: Oh, you can see it go, sure. It is a little puff there and it takes off. That thing goes up there and runs out of propellant, it does not go anywhere. It comes back, and the explosives are still in it. It is going to explode when it makes contact right out there twenty yards from you. Somebody is going to get hurt seriously. Same with the guy that freezes with a hand grenade. You have got to throw the thing. The first time in the Marine Corps, when we have guys throw hand grenades, an experienced Marine is behind you at all times. You are in a hole. This is part of our training. I went through this quite a few times. You pull the pin, and hold the spoon down.
- B: What is the spoon, the safety?
- C: The handle that comes down the side of the grenade. You tell him, "Throw!" If he does not throw that thing, you take his hand, and snatch it out and put it over the side of the sand bag entrenchment you are in, because that thing is going to explode. Now, it does not have heavy explosive in it. It has training explosive. But, it is going to do enough that somebody is going to get seriously burned if you do not get it away from you.
- B: Okay, you were talking about better training. Could you compare the training in World War II and the kind of training that you were giving these guys in Korea?
- C: World War II was so much hustle, and so much rush, and so much immediate emergency, that we did not take time to do the type of training that we had time to do in Korea. There is good training going on in the Marine Corps right now. But, I doubt if the fellows that are being trained can see what they are being trained for. Although, I am sure it is being explained completely. They cannot see what they are doing as I did not when I was younger. When you are at the bottom of the ladder, the people at the top all know what is happening, but you just do your little part. The training is much better now. [In] World War II, we did not have time. We just loaded guys in. My brother was also in the Marines. He went over seas with a 1903 rifle. That is a bolt-operated rifle--Springfield, 1903--that shot one round at a time. After he came back from Guata Canal, they issued him an M-1. [For] an M-1, you put eight rounds in it at a time. It is a semi-automatic. He was still reaching up trying to pull the bolt back sometimes. The M-1 won World War II. I got a Jap rifle right back there. After he fired one round, he had to reach over, pull that bolt back, shove it home and around. Our guys were listening

to that. You could hear that bolt go home. Then our guys would just shoot in that area. They did not even worry.

B: Were they still using M-1's in Korea?

C: No. We switched to the M-14 there. We are now working on a version of the M-1. The M-14 is much quicker. Now we have got the M-16, which is much quicker yet.

B: The M-14, was that semi-automatic too?

C: No. It could be both semi-automatic and fully-automatic.

B: Do you know how many rounds were in the cartridge?

C: Well, you could take and put a banana clip in there, and you would have thirty rounds. But, you did not dare fire much, you would burn the barrel out. You would get the thing so hot, you could not hold it. So, you have got to use judgement even though you see, what is this jerk on television a while back? Rambo. All the stuff he did. You cannot shoot guns like that. You would burn the barrel out. You have got to shoot just a few short bursts to keep it cool. Even machine gunners, they have two or three extra barrels. Sometimes they would put enough ammunition through it that they would have to get that barrel off of there.

We have gone away from the water cooled machine guns of World War II to air cooled guns now. They are a lot lighter, have more fire power. [I] do not know how anybody can keep from having a lot of casualties in combat now. They are doing the right thing when they say disarm. Nobody can win. It is a losing situation. Look at the Israelis. Sophisticated armaments have just put war to the point where you are not going to have ten percent casualties anymore. You are going to have seventy-five percent casualties with the equipment they have today. It is a shame. So, disarmament was necessary. Preparedness is still necessary. You know if you have disarmament, that is fine, but that does not mean send everybody home. You had better have somebody here that is trained because you might need it.

B: Are you familiar with the kind of weapons that the Koreans had. The North Koreans, the Chinese? Were they comparable to ours?

C: At the end of Korea, the Chinese were starting to get pretty sophisticated, but we were superior in weapons in the Korean War. We could get more there. We had more supplies for ammunition. Our airplanes were superior. Our basic infantrymen, through the education and so forth, is better, man for man, than any army in the world. For instance, I was shocked, during World War II the Japanese could not fix their own motor vehicles. They were mostly agricultural people. They did not know what a carburetor was. They did not know what a generator was. They did not know what an alternator was. They did

not know what anything was under that hood. But, our kids were going around finding anything they could, and they would wire it up and make it go. They could run a jeep. They could hot rod a tank if they wanted to. On the street here, you could find some kids that can go wire up a vehicle and steal it right now. But, the Japanese do not do that. They were still worried about driving horses. The Koreans were still agricultural people. But, our kids, they do not have to ride a bicycle anymore. That is out of the picture. They ride motorcycles or something like that.

B: Do you know anything about differences in tactics or methods of combat, or whatever between World War II and Korea? Was it the same kind of war? Same kind of methods, or was it different?

C: Yeah. Tactics have been pretty much the same since the Civil War. But, having the men and the machines, and the things to perform a certain tactic based on certain training, that is why you train officers. There were places where you could not use tanks. They would bog down in the swamps and things. You are not going to use tanks on the side of a mountain which we almost tried to do. You cannot drive a tank up the side of a mountain. You can have all of the tanks in the world, but if they cannot get to where you need them. You can set them down and fire them. They have got ninety millimeters and one hundred and five millimeters on them. You can use them for artillery then. The tactics is pretty much the same, but the situation demands a different tactic. We teach a lot of marines about onfalleto fire.

B: About what?

C: Onfalleto fire. That is when fire crosses, which is more potent than head-on fire. A lot of people would think, "Well, the enemy is rushing here, and you shoot them like that, you will win." You will win if you have got somebody on your flanks, and the fire is crossing.

B: Do you know how to spell that?

C: No. I really do not. O-n-f-l-e-t-a-l.

B: I have never heard that term before.

C: I can believe it. I saw it a few times in a couple of tests we had in the service. What is the most effective type of firing in such and such a situation? They teach us pretty early that you want to pay attention to your flanks real close, because you could be walking into a trap or something like that.

B: Your flanks were your sights.

C: Where were your sights? Fire left and fire right. You advance forward by looking back. There was no use running away out here and find yourself getting cut off and captured. That is a waste. You can only go forward as well as you have a supplies right behind you that will let you go forward. You cannot be a John Wayne hero. All that stuff that John Wayne did is not true. It sound good, but it is not true.

B: Talking about leaders, what did you think of the leaders that you had? Like your officers and people like that?

C: I have the utmost respect for almost all the officers. They are good men. They are well trained. When I came back, I was in the reserve again. I came back the same reserve outfit I left.

B: Really?

C: Yeah. I did not learn anything. I was not real bright. [laughter] Really, we had a good bunch of men. Tom McQuade who is the assistant high school principal at Barberton High School, was my reserve commanding officer again. He was a good man, a good teacher, and a good administrator. He was fair, very firm, and very serious about doing a good job. I do not know how to describe some of these people, but there are people who are not going to burn the flag. Let us put it that way. There are people who are not going to show disrespect for American. But, they are also respectful to elderly people. Help people that are in trouble. This all goes along with the old system of knighthood. I look at it that way. It is a part of life. If I called Tom, and some of the guys I was with in third battalion, and said, "We have got to go and help somebody that is in trouble," we would go. They would come. They would help me. We would get things done like that. So, it is not just a military thing. It is kind of a bond. You work together. If I had to go back in combat again with Tom, I would go tomorrow. Because, I know that he would know that what we were doing was the right thing to be doing. We would do it the right way, and have less casualties, and still have success. He was a brilliant field commander. We went out and spent a lot of time in the evening.

I do not think you knew it, but when I was still teaching on the staff, we used to train out at the Ravenna arsenal. Back in them swamps back there. We would divide up our regiment out of Akron., Half of them would come over here, and put on a white armband or a piece of tape on the helmet. They would be the enemy. They would go and try to hide from us. We would be the friendly forces and we would go out and try to find them and capture them. You learn. They used all the tricks they knew to avoid us, and we would use all the tricks we knew to find them. We carried blank ammunition. It is good training though. You can make mistakes, and you can get killed if you do not train. That is for sure. You have to have a feeling for what you are doing. You have to have done it, not talked about it. A lot of the experienced Marine officers are not there any more. We lost Korean people. We lost World War II people. The Vietnam people were all different. They were all mechanized. I do not think as well schooled, either.

You have to understand what the heck happened at Gettysburg. You have to take time to understand what Sherman was doing, running through the South. I went to some of these schools, and listened to some of these men talk. They would explain all of this jazz to you. It made sense. They would say, "Now, do not you get yourself in this situation." Education goes on, I would like to see someday--this would be a real thrill--I would like to go to the War College in Washington D.C. and see what we are teaching majors, lieutenant-colonels, colonels, and brigadier generals. That has to be a fascinating.. I am sure I could not go to it, but I would like to see what they are teaching them for a day. Go in and look at their classes and listen to what is happening, because that is where the thing is won and lost.

B: Not training and education?

C: Not making that mistake, because that mistake can get you killed or captured. If you want to do a little research, you will find out that in Vietnam, less than two thousand Marines were captured. That is good compared with some ten or fifteen thousand. Somebody might say, "Well, what percent of the Marines were over there as compared to the Army?" Well, we had a couple of divisions over there. They had the Tenth Army Division, and a different outfit. But, percentage-wise, about the same number of troops. Now, percentage-wise, were the casualties the same? The answer is no. They did not have the training, so they took on more casualties than the Marines did. That is unfortunate. I get a Marine magazine here monthly. How many of our guys are missing, and so on and so forth? How many Army? They say the Army is still drafting people. They do not have the same attitude as when you are a volunteer and you want to go do something. It is a different attitude.

B: Do you have any opinion about whether Truman should have fired MacArthur over in Korea?

C: I have heard both arguments. I have heard that he should and that he should not have. I, personally, have no opinion. I am not exactly sure where all that happened. MacArthur was speaking from a military point of view. Harry Truman, of course was a Captain during World War I, so he had some military back ground. He thought that the civilians should have handled that situation. I am not exactly sure. It would be nice if you could sit down on Monday, and see how the game was played on Saturday. I am sure there are still people riding around saying, "MacArthur should never have been fired. They should have let him go on into North Korea." I am not sure that is true. That might have gotten us into a big war with China. I do not think we could win that one. On land, we cannot beat China. They have too many troops. There are other people saying, "He was right. They should have gotten him out of there right away, because he did not know." So, he did get him out of there, and he did end it.

We still have troops in Korea. We have troops in Korea right now. Korea is not really settled. Right while we are sitting here talking, there is a line up there, there is an

army outfit up there doing duty every day. In some cases they are being fired upon. In some cases, they are returning fire. There is still barbed wire on their side of the line. There is still barbed wire on our side of the line. We are walking sentry duty. They have the North Koreans that are trying to get into South Korea. They have South Koreans trying to get into North Korea. It is not over. It is not over. I do not think it is going to be over for a little while. They have jobs in order to get the economy going correctly. They have not got time to cause us trouble on that border line. That is not over right while we are sitting here talking. It could erupt tomorrow. That is the sad part of it. We have got one or two armies over there now. An army is four divisions or more. In the Marine Corps it is only three divisions or less--it is not an army. It is just a corps of men. There is no doubt in my mind that we would bring men up from Okinawa right into it tomorrow. We would be right back to where we are talking about now.

B: From the perspective of today, do you think Korea was a necessary war, and what did you think at that time?

C: Well, at that time, I thought it was necessary. Now, I think we could win the war economically. Here we are sitting here talking, and President Bush spoke in Poland today. That, to me, is winning the war the nice way. Without shooting men and bullets and stuff like that. I would like to find an economic way of keeping everybody with butter, and money, and everything. Keeping them happy. They would not have to fight then. The reason you fight is you want something that they got in their back yard. You got to defend it. Somebody said, "Oh, we should not have to fight." Well, you are going to have to win democracy in every generation if you want to keep freedom one way or another. You might not have to do it on the battlefield again, but you are going to do it with words.

I would like to see the battle with words. We could win that battle. It is too bad we could not have spent a little more time talking before Korea broke out. But, you cannot talk. I am sure, with what Korean soldiers I saw, you are not going to talk to them. You cannot talk to someone who does not see, does not have the same education or same feeling about freedom that you have. They were forced, a lot of them to go there and die. They did not want to do that. So, until they are educated about their system of government, and get off of this communist fanaticism, "America is a bad country, and let's just fight the Americans." This is not true. Japan--look how they have prospered after they fought us. Look how fantastic Germany's economy is after they fought us--our enemy. There are guys in Germany who have better jobs than people here in Newton Falls. The battle of words now is better. But you still have to be prepared for that guy who does not want to talk. There is somebody out there that still thinks guns are better. Who is that guy over there in Lebanon?

B: Quadaffi.

C: Quadaffi, and that other guy who runs around with a bed sheet on his head. He doesn't

have to wear that.

B: Khomeni, is that who you mean?

C: Well, Khomeni is gone. Arafat. He is running around. He is not walking silently and carrying a big stick. He is carrying a big stick and making a lot of noise. He is one of those guys who would like to have his way with words and bullets. He is smart enough, he has been out in New York, and a couple of other places. He now knows the world is bigger than what he thought it was. He thought it was just Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Iran, and a few things like that. He is going around the world, and is saying, "Oh my god, there's more people out there than I thought. Maybe we do not want to have this war." So, he has mellowed a little bit, but way in the back of his mind--he is an old war horse--he will fight. You have got to keep him in check all of the time.

B: We hear a lot about Vietnam and its veterans today, and very little about Korea. How do you feel about that?

C: I lucked out real good. I went over to Korea and came back. I ended up training here. I had a daughter there in Camp LeJeune. I lived the married life. I saw a lot of good friends, of course, go to Korea, and get killed. I did not come home for any recognition. Not as a serviceman from World War II or Korea. It has not done anything for me. I do not think you need recognition. You went over to protect your life of freedom and democracy, and your country, and so forth, and you come home. I came back to a good job, and had a good life. I am alive. I do not complain. I do not want a monument. I do not think it is necessary. There are a lot of people making a lot of noise about it. I just want to know who these people are.

I think sometimes they are politicians who want recognition. It is like a man standing up and yelling about abortion. He did not have no baby. Let the women talk about that. Now, if they want to talk about whether I am going to pay for a woman to have an abortion, I might get in that discussion. But, as far as whether they can have a baby or not, I do not care. But, if they are going to ask me to pay for it, I care about that. So, there are two sides to the abortion issue: the economic side, and the moral side. I do not like to mix the two. So, that is really the way with a lot of things. We do not need a Korean monument, really.

It is like someone said, "Did you ever get any medals?" Yeah. They send you medals, but what are they for? Well, you do not really remember that too much either. You get a medal for being in this area for a certain amount of time. I will tell you when things were happening, I was not sitting there saying, "My God, I got a medal today." It is like keeping score. I came home and somebody said, "Did you get any medals?" I said, "I do not know. What for?" It is like right now, they are giving out medals to men who were prisoners of war during Korea, and even during World War II. The President has signed, and Congress has made a special medal. I scratch my head about that. The last thing we wanted to do was to become a prisoner.

B: Right.

C: How would you give a guy who did not get his job done--got captured--a medal. Do you mean to tell me that the next time we have a little battle someplace, it is better to get captured so you can get a medal? Well, prisoners of war get a medal, see.

B: That makes sense.

C: In some cases, they are giving extra bonuses to prisoners of war. I am not sure about that. In our outfit, we talked about not becoming a prisoner. We talked about, if we had choice, we would take as many of the enemy with us before they got us. Maybe that is talk now, and maybe it is not. Most of the Marines I know, that was not talk. They would take as many of the enemy with them right now. If you are going to captured prisoner, you are going to get killed anyway. After they get the information they want from you, you are no longer valuable to them. Being a prisoner is no big deal.

Another thing, I had a real good shock about in April or May. They turned around and gave all Japanese from World War II that were moved from the West coast into prison camps [money], some of them as high as twenty thousand dollars. That made me scratch my head. In 1940, the men were getting eighteen dollars and thirty-seven cents for combat pay. It went up to thirty-seven fifty. When I went into the service, we were getting fifty dollars a month. I did not know what to do with all of the money. Of course, they give you your food, clothing, and a place to sleep. Those are the main expense items. Then they raised our pay to seventy-five dollars. Now, a private in the Marine Corps gets something like two hundred and fifty, plus all these others--clothing, food, and allowances. If he has got a wife, they pay him extra money for the wife. They pay him extra money for his housing. So, he is getting pretty near a thousand dollars a month, where we used to get fifty dollars a month. Can you understand that?

So, how much is Ollie North's retirement that they just took away from him? They took twenty-three thousand dollars a year away from him. To me, they did not take it away from him, they took it away from his wife and children. That retirement that he earned, was their money in a way. I know it is coming to him, so it is not fair to pick on the wife and the children. That went a little bit too far. As far as Ollie North is concerned, there is not a man in the service who did not do the same thing.

You cannot go around telling Stokes and Metzenbaum up here in Cleveland, who cannot stay out of drunk driving. . Stokes has been arrested twice for drunk driving. He is down there asking this man--college educated trained military officer, why he did not tell him the truth about what is going on. If Ollie North tells this man what is going on, and he tells the newspaper, the people that Ollie North works for in those other countries are dead. The more he talks like we are talking now, the more people will die. Because the American constitution does not apply in Iran. It does not apply in Iraq. They do not give two doodly dits about the power of the constitution. It is a wonderful thing for us to have. It is easy to be a hero here in the United States. You got all kinds of protections and freedom. Go out in Iran, and see how tough you are. That is where he lived, where

you can get shot every day. That is where he was dealing. It is no doubt that he probably did some things wrong, but he surely did a lot of things right, as far as I am concerned. There is no way for a Congress to find out what he is doing. Congress should have asked his immediate superior.

Lieutenant Field General Paul Kelly should have been the man on the stand. They should have said to him, "Did you give Lieutenant-Colonel Oliver North permission to do this?" The commandant of the Marine Corps is responsible for every Marine. What was he doing in the White House? Who put him in there? Get to the people who were in charge. Surely a lieutenant-colonel is not running our foreign policy. But, he's told the same as any sergeant--if I was captured, what am I supposed to do? Three things: I give my name, my rank, and my serial number. If they ask me if I get mail, the answer is, "I do not know." If they ask me how old I am, "I do not know." If they ask me where I live in the United States, "I do not know." If they ask me my congressman, "I do not know." I give three things: my name, my rank, and my serial number. Tomorrow morning when they question me again, I give them my name, my rank, and my serial number. That is by Geneva Conference. That is the world code of military etiquette. Nothing else to my president, to my congressman, name, rank, and serial number. But, to my commanding officer who assigned me to this job, I answer his questions. So, my commanding officer is the responsible individual.

Somebody said they were not trying to compare Ollie North to what happened in Germany. Those were generals that were in charge of the prison camps. They made the decisions. Ollie North was like my commanding officer. My commanding officer was Lieutenant-Colonel Prickett. He was responsible for me. But, he did not form our world policy. This is what I am saying. I do not think they have got the right guy. I have noticed that Paul Kelly finally got out of the Marine Corps just about the time that Lieutenant-Colonel North was on the stand. It was probably the smartest move he made. Now we have commandant Gray in charge of the Marine Corps. He has changed a whole lot of things. There are no Marine Officers in the White House lately. All lieutenant-colonels are at the regimental level where they are supposed to be. I never quite understood that myself, what they were doing there. We have internal revenue people, that CID and CIA, and all these people that form foreign policy. Let them do it. I will grant you that Lieutenant-Colonel North is probably a pretty good man. He was a Marine that should have been in the Marine Corps doing Marine things. Something is wrong someplace.

B: Well, to finish up, is there anything that you would like to add that we did not cover?

C: Yeah. It would be nice to cut our national budget as far as armed forces go. Would it not? But, can you do it? Can you really honestly do it? Gorbachev is saying that we should cut it, and he will cut it. Yeah. I think we ought match that. It would be nice if we could cut it. I do not think we can go so far back that we are like we were at the beginning of World War II. We could not even defend our own Naval ships in our own Naval yards. That was sad. My brother had to train with a broomstick. That is a fact.

He trained with a broomstick in World War I. When he first got a rifle, they gave him an outdated one. Six months later, they gave him a new one. He had no idea how to shoot it, or do anything else. That is not right. I think that we ought to be training with the latest equipment, hoping we never have to use it.

I would like to believe in a good, strong civilian reserve. That is what I was in--the reserve. I went to camp, stayed on the side, did all those things. It costs money to keep trucks, and tanks, and cows, and everything seven days a week in the military service. It is very expensive--all that food and clothing and everything. It would be nice if you could have everything at home. I think Switzerland does this, a couple other countries have an armed reserve that you serve in. Then you have them. You pick up the phone and call them, you can get them all together. I think they do just as an effective job as you can have a full-time paid army if you train your reserves correctly. Do not let it turn into a political thing.

I would like to see us save a lot of money that way and put it into worthwhile endeavors, you could talk about anything you want to--hospitals, roads, jobs for men, schools, all these things. The armed forces is expensive. It would be nice to cut that budget, but not to the extent where you weaken the country as bad as we were weakened before World War II.

B: I really appreciate you giving me all this time. That is really helpful to me.

C: I am a person who has one idea and it is probably not correct. But, it is nice that you do this. I appreciate this because somewhere we have got to accumulate a lot of opinions of a lot of men. It would be nice if we could sit here with Chester Fuller in this room--the commanding general of the First Marine Division in Korea--and get his point of view. All I ever heard him do was bark orders out to the men, and tell us to get on the ball and get this done. I am sure, deep down in his heart, at night, he had to be thinking about maneuvers, and operations, and the movement of men. We were sitting there, and he sat about that same distance from me one time. We were talking after dinner. He asked me, "What do you think generals do?" I said, "Sir, I do not know." I had a lot of respect for him. He said, "Do you know that only good generals make sure the men have their mail, or money, a place to sleep, plenty of food, and are taken care of? I will bet you thought I was a war lord or something." I said, "Yes, sir." He said, "That is something we do, too, in our spare time. If you do not feed them," I will use a couple of the words that he would use,"get them a proper beer, and smokes, and get them their mail, and keep the morale high, you do not have a bunch of division men. You have a bunch of division grumblers."

He knew more about a general's job than I thought I did. He was just a brigadiere general, but he was good. He was going to run for Congress when he came back. He got a little too old too quick and died. I never thought about a general being responsible for my mail. He said, "You have got to get the mail through. The guys want to hear from home. You have got to feed them three meals a day, so I have to go down there and see what the cooks are doing." I said, "Really?" He said, "Yeah, I got an officer in charge of

chow hall, but I want to go with that officer and see." Chester Fuller was a good man. He said, "I have to make sure that the food gets here and the money gets here. Everybody likes to be paid. I want the morale to be high." We had basketball team. He was a good general. But, I never thought that was his job. I thought he had to plan out where we were going to go and who we were going to shoot.

B: That is what I thought, too.

C: That was the last thing that I thought he had to worry about.

B: Okay, thank you.

End of Interview