

Maria Ward, Cournty Harris, Hannah Manzi, Dawson Dewyer

## Transcript

Dawon: "Where are you from originally?" (0:07)

Mr. Hartly: "I was born in Champagne, Illinois." (0:09)

Dawson: "How old were you when you were drafted?" (0:12)

Mr. Hartly: "Exactly 19 years and 6 months." (0:14)

Dawson: "And how did that make you feel?" (0:17)

Mr. Hartly: "I knew it was coming, everybody I went to school with was going in front of me." (0:19)

Dawson: "Were you scared, upset, happy to be serving your country or was it neutral feeling?" (0:25)

Mr. Hartly: "I guess I felt proud to go. I mean my dad was in World War 2 and one time I was gonna join the airforce but, I changed my mine when the draft came around." (0:31)

Dawson: "When you were told you were going to Vietnam, was your family upset or were they happy or were they...." (0:44)

Mr. Hartly: "Well I was really surprised when I got my draft notice. I went to my dad's house to tell him and I thought he'd be upset. But, he just looked up from his coffee and looked at me saying 'It'd make a man out of you.' At that time two out three men were going to Vietnam, getting drafted. So, you knew you were going." (0:56)

Dawson: "Where were you placed in Vietnam?" (1:17)

Mr. Hartly: "First, I was at flight border at a place called 'Tu a waumbay'. I was there with one outfit for 4 months and had to move out and move south. We were outside of Siha gon, the largest base in Vietnam." (1:21)

Dawson: "Was it a scary enviroment or were you comfortable where you were at?" (1:35)

Mr. Hartly: "Oh, it was scary the whole time." (1:40)

Dawson: "Did you choose to be a druck driver or was that manatory?" (1:43)

Mr. Hartly: "No, what it is when you're drafted you fill out what you've done in your life. Now, when I was drafted I worked on Capitol Hillfor the republican party in the mail room. But, I also had a part time job driving tow drucks. So, they needed druck driver and I believe that's how I got that job." (1:47)

Dawson: "When you were a druck driver, did you have a partner or someone that was always with you in the truck or was it just you?" (2:08)

Mr. Hartly: "Well, when i got to Vietnam they lost my records and I couldn't drive a truck. But, they my M.O.S which was what my job was. And so for the first 4 months I couldn't drive..." (2:16)

Dawson: "When you were over in Vietnam, did you think about coming home or anything in particular that made you want to go home?" (2:33)

Mr. Hartly: "You counted the days when you were in Vietnam, what you had left in the country. and ever morning you woke up, you took one number off." (2:42)

Dawson: "Did you ever write letter or any form of communication to your family or friends?" (2:52)

Mr. Hartly: "Yes, I wrote letters. I wrote to my mom every week and to my wife just about every day that I could." (2:59)

Dawon: "While you were in Vietnam, did you practice any particular culture or did you do anything that is strictly vietnamese?" (3:05)

Mr. Harty: "No, nothing vietnamese. No, uh I drank vietnamese beer." (3:14)

Dawson: "Were there any stand out packages or something you recieved from people back home?" (3:26)

Mr. Harty: "Well, I was supposed to get a pair of jump boots mailed to me and before it got to me the package was open and they were gone. I got a couple of old treggers for christmas while I was there..." (3:35)

Dawson: "At any point of time, were you injured or hurt in Vietnam?" (3:48)

Mr. Harty: "I broke my ankle in Vietnam." (3:53)

Dawson: "Uh, doing what?" (3:56)

Mr. Harty: "Uh, the condensation on the trucks early in the morning, the trucks were wet. And so the one time i was driving we went down to motorpool, started up the truck and the windsheild had a lot of water on it. I went to go start the engine to arm it up, went to go get out and stepped on a runnerboard and fell off of it and broke my left ankle. I kept driving that morning and about noon I couldn't take the pain no more. I came back with the medic and they said I sprained it and put an ace bandage on it. And so they put me on guard duty. Well, a week later I couldn't take the pain no more, called them up on the radio and I told them if they didn't come to get me I was gonna shoot my foot off and they finally took me to a hospital. Found out I had a broken ankle and at the hospital I tried walking with one crutch and a broken ankle." (4:48)

Dawson: "So, the medical enviroment wasn't very great?" (4:51)

Mr. Harty: "No, he was just a medic the first time but, once they sent me to a hospital, had a X-ray, found out it was broken." (4:55)

Dawson: "Did you have any friends in Vietnam that were....that you considered family, that you still talk to today?" (5:02)

Mr. Harty: "No." (5:11)

Dawson: "Did you like enjoy your time when you were there? Was there anu outstanding fun moments?" (5:12)

Mr. Harty: "Not that i can think...not fun fun no. We had a few beer parties while I was there but, you know, that was about all." (5:25)

Dawson: "Were there any memorable moments that you will always have for the rest of your life?" (5:35)

Mr. Harty: "Well, there's a nightmare I have which really never happened. When we were getting ready to go to Vietnam they taught us if you're in a convoy or an ambush, you're supoosed to stop, get out of the truck and walk towards them shooting. Well that didn't happen in Vietnam. When we were in ambushes, you'd just get another gear and just get out of the way as fast as you can. You'd run through them and keep going. Well, this nightmare I keep having and I've had it ever since I've come home. And as the convoies stopped and we get underneath the trucks, shooting back , you see this never happened. I just have this nightmare. And, uh about 4 years ago it stopped while we were underneath the truck and whoever I'm working with at the time of the nightmare is with me in the dream and I kepp telling him 'why am i here? We did this once.' Then the dream ends. Well, about 4-5 years ago , the dream went a little bit further. Everybody on our side ran out of bullets at the same time and that's when the dream. i wake up, the dream gets longer and longer as the years go by." (5:42)

Dawson: "So, in anyway does that dream effect you when you wake up?" (6:56)

Mr. Harty: "Oh sometimes I jump up, but it's not that. It just wakes me up." (7:04)

Dawson: "Was Vietnam overall a scary expirience?" (7:10)

Mr. Harty: "Oh, yes. Yes, weren't too many nights where you didn't hear a gun fire or explosions." (7:13)

Camera guy: "Oh I'm sorry Steve. I just wanted you, if you can just repeat part of his question when he says 'is it a scary experience.' Then say yes Vietnam was scary." (7:23)

Mr. Harty: "Okay, yeah. Okay. Well can I tell you the scariest time in Vietnam for me?" (7:33)

Dawson: "Yes." (7:40)

Mr. Harty: "It was a tenna fence of 68 and this is one story I tell everybody. A lot of military say we didn't know they were coming, we knew. And we loaded up everything we had. Now the base in Jordantin was long, about 18 miles out of Sihagon. Now the convoy was so big, depending where we went and amo we took, if tanks weren't with us or army peronal care weren't with us, it depended on where we were going. This one convoy we were listening to the radio, like a football game, and at the front of the convoy the tanks were in Sihagon before we left. This convoy was 18 miles long and we unloaded because we knew that we had to get everything out that we had in supplies and that's what we did. That night we came back and we knew they were coming. And everybody loaded the whole base. Now Long Ben was the longest base in south Vietnam, it was 4 miles from our corner to the opposite side of the base. And that's where that amo dump was that night the base got hit, all around us except for us. We were at what you call T.C Hill, that's a transport company. In the morning, we'll come off the line because the shooting stopped, just a couple shots going on. As I was cleaning the 60, I see a mushroom cloud come up, 5 miles away. And all I could think someone just dropped an atomic bomb. It was the largest mushroom I've ever seen and I seen the sound waves coming. And I thought it was over, the amo dump was buring all night, and it finally exploded. That was the scariest thing while I was over there." (8:12)

Dawson: "And that was your scariest moment?" (9:33)

Mr. Harty: "Yes, that's when I thought it was over, thought it was done. I've been shot at and bulls slamming the trucks around me. But..." (9:37)

Dawson: "Were you thankful from then on?" (9:42)

Mr. Harty: "Was I what?" (9:46)

Dawson: "Were you extremely grateful from then on?" (9:47)

Mr. Harty: "Oh, yes." (9:49)

Dawson: "Is there anything you use daily because of that event?" (9:50)

Mr. Harty: "No. No, not at all." (9:55)

Dawson: "Did you learn any vietnamese things you didn't know before , some techniques or anything?" (9:58)

Mr. Harty: "No because we didn't mingle with the vietamese. We weren't allowed in the cities. I was in some places where I was stationed. We couldn't even stop or get out of our trucks, couldn't talk to the people." (10:12)

Dawson: "Was there anything that you regret or wish that you would have never done or been a part of?" (10:23)

Mr. Harty: "No. No, I'm very proud to be a Vietnam vet." (10:30)

Dawson: "Did you have any nicknames or is there any not specifif names for people?" (10:36)

Mr. Harty: "Uh, a few guys did, but mostly I went by my last name. And in military we thought, I thought they wanted you to do that. They didn't want you getting on a personal base, so you wouldn't be too sad if someone was to be killed. And luckily no one in my company was killed. A couple wounded but, no one was killed." (10:44)

Dawson: "What was your chose thing to do in your free time or any time you weren't busy?" (11:05)

Mr. Harty: "We work 12 hour shifts, 12 on 12 off. And other then a tenni fence we were locked down a couple days. We had 1 day off in Vietnam and then 1 sunday I went to church. And it was, well I should of went to church more often. But, I felt like I was letting everyone else down, everyone who was working on sundays. Christmas day I worked and Bob Hope was 8 miles from where I was and we were holding bomb for the air force. So, we didn't have a whole lot of free time to do anything." (11:15)

Dawson: "Was god a part of your everyday life?" (11:54)

Mr. Harty: "Yes" (11:58)

Camera man: "Can you..." (12:00)

Mr. Harty: "Oh, well yes god was, but at times there we didn't hayoutime to go to church. The only way found out it was monday is at the Mess Halls and the whole country they gave you milery pills when you walked in. And everyone walked in and saw all the milery pills and say 'Damn, I missed church again!'" (12:01)

Dawson: "Was...what was your favorite memory, if there was one, or your most exciting letters or thing in that sort you recieved or you did in Vietnam?" (12:25)

Mr. Harty: "Well, one thing I did, that I wasn't supposed to. Two days after the tens affensive, we were told there was a 50 caller machine gun in Sihagon waiting for us. So, I got in a jeep 60, on the back of it and one truck behide us. We went to Sihagon to get this 50 caller machine gun. Now we've been listening to the war like a radio on a football game, like I said that's all you could do is listen. Uh, we knew about the embassy being blown up so, I knew the embassy was. I was the only one whho knew how to get there, and we weren't supposed to do a duce and a half in there, but the duce and a half followed us in. We got to the embassy on aside of the embassy had so muvh grass on it, looked like it was made of gold. There were holes in the embassy and smokw was pouring out." (13:32)

Video 1:

Dawson: was it a very scary feeling when you enter that area?

Veteran: oh yes, yes there is a no John Wayne out there, everyone is scared but once you start shooting you don't think about it.

Dawson: what year did you begin your service?

Veteran: 1966 (14:05-14:09)

Dawson: and in what year did you finish your service?

Veteran: In 1968, I served 2 years active. At the time when you were drafted you served two years active then two years reserved and then two years on inactive reserve well if you came back as a Vietnam vet you didn't have to do after inactive reserve duty at all. (14:10-14:34)

Dawson: when you returned home did you feel, was there any feeling of you wanting to return? How did you feel when you came home?

Veteran: oh relieved, very relieved and cold. now in Vietnam if we were out at night on convoys when you were stationary you had to wait to come back with an escort and we would lay on the hood of the trucks because it was so cold and we have no coats but the temperature was 75° and we were freezing because you're used to 95 to 105 something like that and I came back in February in 1967 and it was freezing. And I was so cold I couldn't manage. (14:35-15:32)

Dawson: how did you feel leaving when you stepped on the plane to leave?

Veteran: lonely, I was I was only because I left all my brothers behind me.

Sound guy: Steve if you could use a little bit of the question when I left Vietnamese to start that

question so they can understand

Dawson: how did you feel when you step on the plane to go home?

Veteran: well I was happy to leave and just thinking back I got two orders the night before to go home and that was one of the longest nights in Vietnam because every night there was gunfire and explosions miles away but you could still hear them and that alone made me think can make it through one more night? ([15:33](#) to end of video)

Video 2

Veteran: get to that plane and take off, get off of the ground when they do that ,the pilots, they gradually go up in altitude. well in Vietnam they go straight up and they don't stop until you get to 30,000 feet. ([0:00-0:21](#))

Dawson: what was your typical day like? Did you have a routine?

Veteran: oh yes. Well they would switch us back-and-forth from dayshift to night shift depending on what was being moved. there was not a whole lot of movement at night if you did it, it was all convoy with the night shift. you load the trucks for the next day so you were up [at 4 o'clock](#) every morning, you at breakfast and you would be at the motor pool by six and you would be back at six that night. ([0:22 -0:58](#))

Dawson: was there anyone else on the point to set up the pilot that you knew?

Veteran: no there wasn't anyone from company.

Dawson: was the plane filled?

Veteran: oh yes

Dawson: when you got on the plane why did you guys go straight up?

Veteran: because they didn't want to get shot down. The Air Force Base that we took off at was half a mile off the bay and around there is Vietkong. on that side of the river we had to haul bombs to the base because the Air Force only had certain truck. we knew what was outside the base ourselves. ([0:59-2:10](#))

Dawson: when you realized I had exited Vietnam in the plane was it a sense of relief?

Veteran: oh yes, you could sense it with everyone on board. Now on the plane the guy I was sitting next to was a staff sergeant, ton of metals on and it was a clear man. He was in combat a little longer than I was. In combat you get strips a lot faster because when the guy in front of you gets shot you take his spot so some guys come back as officers when they didn't even leave as officers. They would just step up and take the Next seat. ([2:11-2:51](#))

Dawson: did you ever receive a promotion or any form of a higher rank?

Veteran: I reached E4 when I was in Vietnam. I went over as a private specials fourth class.

Dawson: can you explain what that is a little more?

Veteran: it's like a corporal to stripes in at that time you were in specials and your specials not a corporal, now I was supposed to go To the E5 board but they changed my date to leave and the E5 five board was 2 weeks later after I leave. I would've gotten to Sargent. they wanted me to extend it 2 weeks to get my stripes and go home as a Sargent but I didnt need that stripe and I did not want to stay there for two more weeks. ([2:52-3:43](#))

Dawson: now it says here you MOS was 64810.

Veteran: 64810 yes.

Dawson: now what does that mean? Veteran: Every job got a number, as long as you got a number you have a job. Now what that was is a light truck driver, 5 ton below is what you could drive you couldnt drive a tractor-trailer. ([3:44-4:02](#))

Dawson: and your branch was The army. was there any sort of friendly rivalry between the army and navy?

Veteran: not in Vietnam no. Not at all everyone worked together.

Dawson: what did you guys transport?

Veteran: usually we carries Hollister rounds and 155s and 175s rounds, those are the big canons on tanks. But uh we hold everything from parts of the trucks, food, pallets of beer was nice to carry. But Hollister rounds were usually what we carried. ([4:10-4:53](#))

Dawson: and how big were your trucks?

Veteran: about the size of a dump truck today.

Dawson: did you usually drive to the battlefield or to bases to drop off the loads?

Veteran: oh the supplies? We usually drove to the bases. Now one time I did go to an outpost and the only thing out there was two hollisters with 50 infantry men with barbed wire around them about the size of half a city block. Now when we got there we got unloaded and we had to spend the night because we couldn't go back. In certain places you were stuck there for a night, sometimes two nights. ([4:56-5:51](#))

Dawson: did your truck ever break down or have a mechanical issue while you were driving it or in any situation?

Veteran: the one that I was in I turned the truck over in a convoy, right in front of an ambush and I had to jump out of my truck and run around it to the other truck with bullets hitting around me on the ground. And they brought me my truck later that day and it had a couple bullet holes in it but it was alright. ([5:52-6:10](#))

Dawson: can you explain a little more on where you were and how that experience was?

Veteran: well when I was up north it was tewiah Air Force base and when I get there well can I tell you when quick story on how I moved around in Vietnam?

Dawson: go ahead

Veteran: when I left here to go to California to catch my flight they sent me home first and sent my records to California. Well when I got to California they didn't have them and they told me I couldn't go anywhere until I had my records there. And I said "well I'm in no big hurry to get to Vietnam, I can stay here a little bit longer in California" three days later they called everyone up for the next day's flight and you stayed in the hanger with five thousand men. I went over there to the hanger with an empty envelope because my records were supposed to meet me over there in Vietnam. Well on my way over to Vietnam I was supposed to land in Long Bay well during the night the air strip was mortared and they detoured our flight to Camwah Bay. Camwah Bay was an R and R center. It looks like Hawaii over there. I reported with an empty envelope and they told me I wasn't going anywhere until my records got there. I liked around, beautiful place and I couldn't hear no shooting so uh four days later they put me in the back of a C 130 and sent me up north to Tewiah Air Force base. Beautiful place, it was right on the sea, white sandy beaches, and I'm thinking I can spend a year here. We had lunch in a real nice mess hall well about a half an hour later they put all the guys in the back of a Dufenhalf and took us 10 miles down the coast. Now our base was probably about the size of half a city block maybe a little bit bigger, it was all transportation companies that's all it was. Tents, sand bags and sand and barbed wire, all it was. And that's where I stayed for 4 months. ([6:30-8:14](#))

Dawson: what is a Dufenhalf?

Veteran: well what it was it is is they make all their trucks in half and their weight was 5 tons and when you put them on rough roads they only carried half the load so they called them Dufenhalf or 2 and half ton trucks.

Dawson: what was the journey overseas like?

Veteran: going over?

Dawson: yes.

Veteran: oh um I got smashed in Alaska on the way over. I was 20 years old and I found a bar in the air port that served me a mixed drink. And I believe I was drinking Tom Collins I think, I can't remember it's been so long. But uh they had to carry me back on the plane. I feared it was my last time. ([8:30-9:05](#))

Dawson: was it the same feeling landing it Vietnam and leaving Vietnam?

Veteran: Oh no. It was two completely different feelings. Landing there you didn't know what to expect, you didn't know what your future was, you didn't know where you were going to go and where you were going to end up at. But coming home you knew where you were going. ([9:06-9:29](#))

Dawson: at the time did you have a relationship with a women?

Veteran: I was married at the time when I went to Vietnam. ([9:30-9:48](#))

Dawson: when you were over seas did um did you group, can you explain what your people around you were called?

Veteran: the guys in my company?

Dawson: yes your company.

Veteran: oh yes.

Dawson: were the guys in your company um in any way prepared for battle?

Veteran: well when you got there everybody had been there for awhile. You rotated out, I mean everybody had a new guy in the company and everybody had a new guy to go home. So you got to know everything that was going on from everybody. ([10:00-10:26](#))

Dawson: what was the reason for you only staying a year? Or 11 months.

Veteran: that's all it was, it was a one year tour. ([10:27-10:33](#))

Dawson: when you came back um did you join any groups or any forms of people who wanted to know more about the war or any um like did you have any interviews when you recently came back?

Veteran: No. I got out in 1968 and in 1976 I joined American Legion.

Dawson: what is the American Legion?

Veteran: It's the military legion. They have different parts. They have the regular legioners, all military, sons of legions, and then you have the daughters. ([10:34-11:22](#))

Dawson: do you attend any meetings or parties or anything to celebrate what you did or to remember anything?

Veteran: yes as a matter a fact Veteran's day we're having a thing at my post, there's always a something going on.

Dawson: when was the last time you saw people from your company?

Veteran: oh. 20 years ago? 30 years ago maybe. ([11:43-11:52](#))

Dawson: when was the last time you saw somebody from your company?

Veteran: I think in 1976 there was this one guy named Bill Mcgeifer who lives in New Jersey and he came up here to visit me and my wife. As a matter a fact while he was here he got married to his girlfriend. I was his best man. And I had seen him a couple times but not since then. ([12:09-12:30](#))

Dawson: what was your first impression of Vietnam?

Veteran: my first impression of Vietnam when I got off the air plane was like I said I was a little hungover but uh the heat was very surprising, I didn't expect that. I knew it was warm there but nothing like that was, it was unbelievable. It was like walking into an oven. ([12:35-12:59](#))

Dawson: was there anything different when you landed in Vietnam that stood out to you that was

different from back where your were from?

Veteran: oh the streets were one thing, especially being in convoy the whole town. Speeding in Vietnam was 15 miles per hour because the roads were so bad. The only good road in all of Vietnam was were I had ended up in Saigon. ([13:04-13:31](#))

Dawson: have you ever returned to Vietnam since then?

Veteran: no but I've thought about it. Well the only thing I'd go back for is the beaches. Now when I was in Tewiah up north, we had to go over top of a mountain. And what it was called was Tewiah Bay, there was a small opening in the mountain where the ships could come in from the China sea and Tewiah Bay was maybe 4-5 miles across. Great big circle, mountains all the way around it. Well we built a pier, the United States built a pier out into the bay for the big freighters to unload. Well that freighter sat there for an hour and the sand settled you could see the bottom in about 50 feet of water. And when you're on one side of the bay looming across, the sand was so white it looked like snow. It was beautiful. ([13:31-14:24](#))

Dawson: did it ever reach that point when you were over there that it snowed?

Veteran: no (chuckles) it rained like hell but it never snowed. ([14:25-14:34](#))

Dawson: was there any exotic animals over there that you've never seen before and never had an experience with?

Veteran: I knew they were there, there were lions I believe in the mountains as well as tigers but we never came across any of them.

Dawson: was there a specific food you guys ate everyday?

Veteran: no no no

Dawson: do you remember any specific foods you liked?

Veteran: no the military food no. The fried chicken wasn't too bad. ([14:54-15:06](#))

Dawson: when you were over there was there anything you remember you still practice today?

Veteran: no nothing that I can think of, other than thank god I'm alive.

Dawson: how did going over to Vietnam impact your life today?

Veteran: I think it made me a little bit braver than before. I used to be able to take pressure and work pressure wit jobs and I don't fold underneath that. ([15:15-15:46](#))

Dawson: what was training like to become a soldier?

Veteran: that's when the military started losing me. Driving a truck is a 5 week course. You have maintenance and driving and safety. And in the middle of the training in the third week I got pneumonia and ended up in the hospital. And i was in the hospital for a week. And the only way you can get out of the hospital is in the morning they'd line you up and if you walk in and tell the doctor you feel better they would let you out and that's really hard to do when you have pneumonia. But after a week there I finally could talk and they turned me lose and I went back to my company and I finished the 4th week and the 5th week. (15:48-end of video)

Veteran: When everyone graduated and were getting their orders to go to Vietnam they realized I missed the third week so they couldn't give me my license so I had to sit around for two weeks and wait for the next cycle to get to the third week then I went back for the third week of school and then they lost me again they would send me out in an infantry outfit to take them to the ammo dumpsters and they would forget about me I kept going over once a week asking do you

have my orders do you have my order yet and that's when they finally sent me home because I didn't have my records

INTERVIEWER did you ever, was there any training with everyone not just specifically truck drivers or was there just a basic boot camp that's everyone had to do

Veteran: oh yeah, yeah you go to there first for eight weeks of basic in forte pragonals north Carolina

Interviewer: and what was that like

Veteran: Hell it was tough you went down as a soft kid and came back I was 5 foot 8 135pounds I was as skinny as a rail when I graduated I weighted 150pounds soild as a rock made a mon out of you that's what my dad told me

End was 1:13

Interviewer: was there any kind of basic training you had to do with everyone before undergoing truck driving

Vet: the very first thing you have to do when your going to the military is go to basic training and where I took mine was at fort prog north Carolina and that's for 8 weeks lots of pe work lots of shooting lots of classes and after that you go home for leave then go back for extra training for whatever your mos was going to be like truck driving

End was 2:20

Interviewer: Were there any people, were you allowed to exactly quit or leave if you couldn't handle it

Vet: no no

Intviewer: so what happens if someone couldn't keep up

Vet: oh I've never seen that happen before I mean there were some guys that we're over weight and had problems they got over it they got through it

Interviewer: do you think the military nowadays is any different from the military back then

Vet: better weapons got better guns now when I was in Vietnam military was switched over from m14s to m16s now all the emfetry go the m16s as being truccck drivers we got the m14s which at the time was the better weapon. You could put them in the sand and pick them up the next day and shoot it a 16 when they first came out with the m-16s the least little bit of dust got in there and they would jam and of course they would later come up with the m-16a1 which had a button on the side and if it jammed you just press the button but that's why I got trained on everything the army had

Ended at 3:31

Interviewer: did you use a specific weapon every single day

Vet: every day was a 14 depending where we went I had a 16 machine gun

Interviewer: and was your truck or did you ever undergo fire while driving your truck

Vet: oh yes there was they will take pot shots at us and every once in a while they try to take out 2-3 trucks the deuce lahams were the lightest and the fastest trucks so we rode in the back .the tankers and the 18 wheelers all the big big trucks would be in front pf us the vietnames harassed the convoy they would pick on the smaller trucks and that was us

3:45-4:19 is important

Interviewer: did you ever feel at any point that your life was in danger while in the truck

Vet : oh yes every time we went under fire

Interviewer:and did a bullet ever come close to you or injure or harmanyone near you

Vet: guys in the convoy were hit and the closest would have bullethole in the hoods and in the tires. **One time I was on a convoy and I didn't even hear the bullet the bullet hit right behind my head on an angle iron bar or like a holding bar and hit right behind me kept going so.(4:50)**

Ended at 5:00

Interviewer:was there anything that you wish you hadn't saw?

Vet :the dead bodies I mean they the guys that could go out in front of the convoys and if there was ever an ambush set up they would go into the jungle and get them and of course they had to kill them and they would bring they out and lay them on the side road so everybody could see what happens to the veitcan and we would have to drive pass that the **worst thing id ever seen I don't know how they did it when we went by this one veitcan was laying there with the top of his head cut off and nothing inside like a white bowl all you could see was a face and a body of course and that was about the grossest thing I'd ever seen over there (5:05-5:52)**

Interviewer: was there a specific smell over there

Vet: rice patty's and they used a lot of oxen for working in the fields

Interviewer: what was the environment like was it wet was it a humid area

Vet: well it was both in the monsoon season it would rain 3 or 4 times a day and depending where you were in the country you could set your clock by the rain and at the base I was at

during the monsoon it rained at 5 o'clock every day but then maybe it rained at 9 in the morning then 12 but every day at 5 o'clock

Ended at 6:32

Interviewer: did it ever flood?

Vet: yeah I've seen some flooding not a whole lot though , all the highways were built up high so the only thing that would flood would be the rice patties

Interviewer: when you arrived home was your family excited to see you?

Vet: oh yes well the first day I got home I wanted to hide I didn't want to see anybody but my wife my one brother picked me up well I caught a cab to get to where he worked at and he took me to my wife's house and I just wanted to stay there for a day or two so I could calm down well one of my working buddies from where my brother worked he called my mother that afternoon and wanted to know if he could come over and see me and so very body knew I was home and I called hell for that.

Interviewer: did realize anything or learn anything that had happened while you were overseas once you got back?

Vet: uh I don't think I learned anything over there that I could use besides shooting a rifle.

Interviewer: when you arrived home were there any citizens that had an effect on you or any one that you didn't know did anything happen to you with them?

Vet: no I knew a lot of Vietnam vets that I have heard stories of being spit on and disrespect but I didn't have any of that.

(8:05-8:40)

Interviewer: why would they have been disrespected like that what is the reason for that?

Vet: At the time I guess not just the hippies but the younger generation here in this county were protesting against the war they wanted us out of it and thought all Vietnam vets were baby killers but it wasn't our choice I mean when you got in a fire fight you didn't know who you were shooting and what they would do a lot of times was they would be shooting and have the kids behind them carrying ammo you didn't know that.

Interviewer: who was the president at the time and did you like him.

Vet: oh I guess it was nickson yeah he was ok he was an ok president I thought .

Interviewer: did he have an impact on you and what you did in the war?

Vet: no he didn't no but one thing we had to do was while I was in Vietnam they had what we call a solider of the month everybody had to send one guy up and it's a drill you had to go through and it would be one guy from each comp yard tchill and they ask you a bunch of questions and the one thing you had to know was the chain of command that's the president of the united states all the way down to your sergeant you had to know the generals in charge, Cornell in charge you department and you had to know everybody's name.

Interviewer: what was your bosses name or like what is it called the highest rank that controlled you?

Vet: well my immediate boss was Sergeant Jamison.

Interviewer: did you like your sergeant?

Vet: yes me and Sergeant Jamison got along well.

Ended at 9:49

Interviewer: was there anybody that you really did not get along with but had to stand with them because of the point in time.

Vet: no because in Vietnam you couldn't have enemies there was enough of them on the other side of the bobbed wire everybody had to be close.

Interviewer: was there any time at night when you felt your enemies where near you or close to you then everybody thought?

Vet: oh yeah yeah well right across the road as a matter of fact one night there was bales of hay across the highway and they were stacked maybe 30 or 40 feet high well someone found out there was a Vietcon in there shooting the trucks going by I don't know how must have seen a flash of the mussel well they called in aa chopper and he burnt the whole bale down in no matter of time.

(10:04-10:40)

Interviewer: did you at any point fell as though you weren't going to make it back home?

Vet: no no I thought positive the whole time you had to.

Interviewer: and what were some of those positive thoughts?

Vet: well like I said you count the days and while your there and you got the dates set in your head and the hardest time is when you get below 100 now uh...

Interviewer: how many days did you stay there , do you stiull remember that?

Vet: no no I don't I know it was eleven months something like that but like I said when I was supposed to extend 2 weeks after my orders came in and I couldn't stay there any longer some guys went back for the second tours some went back for third I don't understand why.

Interviewer: when you got home was there any specific thing or anything that you ate or any possible thing that you wanted to do since you were in Vietnam?

Vet: first thing that had happened when I got back my uh like I said I called a cab from the airport to where my brother worked and he took me to my wife's house the first thing we did was stop and get a six pack of beer for me and him to drink at that time the pop tops had just come out when I got drafted you had to have a can opener to open a beer well in Vietnam they didn't have pop tops so we had to use what's called a p38 it's a little can opener everybody gets them you keep them with your dog tags matter of fact I got mine on with me but uh you open a can of beer with it well I went to open the first one with a p38 and my brother said try turning it over cause it's a pop top I had forgotten all about them.

Interviewer: do you still have anything from Vietnam like your helmet, uniform, weapon all that?

Vet: the only thing I have is my dog tags that's the only thing I got.

Interviewer: were you allowed to keep anything or did you not choose to keep it?

Vet: everything I owned was lost on the trip back from Vietnam when I got back to California the only thing I had was the stuff on my back all my duffle bag was gone my small suitcase was gone .

Interviewer: why was it gone?

Vet: I didn't send any pictures home of me in Vietnam I kept them in albums and apparently they found them and the justify who took them they took everything my survaine clothes my shaving kit everything I owned .

Interviewer: were you not allowed to keep pictures?

Vet: uh they never told us that but that's the only thing I could figure that happened.

Interviewer: do you wish that you had that stuff?

Vet: oh yeah yes yes I had a real nice camera when I was in Vietnam a 35mm and I took quite a few pictures and I lost the camera that day I was so upset and when I came home like I said the only thing I had was my dog tags and that was all.

Interviewer: was that one of your hobbies overseas taking pictures?

Vet: was that what?

Interviewer: one of your hobbies?

Vet: oh no not a hobby.

Interviewer: what did you consider a hobby overseas?

Vet: you didn't have time for them, I had heard stories of golf courses in Vietnam but I'd never seen one of them.

Interviewer: so overall was the experience a plus or something that you wished never happened to you?

Vet: oh no im very proud to be a Vietnam vet and I learned a lot and like my dad said I believe it did make me a better man .

Interviewer: would you do it again?

Vet: if I was 19 yes.

Interviewer: well thank you for doing the interview.

(14:45-15:05) stops interview other guys talks vet goes on with another story

Vet: I got one picture all the pictures I brought with me were just me and the trucks and stuff like that but theres one picture in there that's fading out know and it was taken that night when we were coming out what we called a hooch I had an m-16 on my shoulder and my sergeant Jamison was standing in front of me and I remember the instructions from that night we were told, now where we were we were right off the highway route 1 the main highway in Vietnam and from the highway to the bobbed wire I say maybe its 30-40 yards and we were another 30 yards inside the bobbed wire our instructions were if anybody crosses the road don't shoot until they get to the bobbed wire and all of us look at each other and said if they stand up on the side of the road we were goanna take them out I'm not goanna let them get across the road and everybody had to be set know that night we were on the perimeter laying down behind sand bags just waiting the whole base was getting lite up except our corner and we had a lieutenant a rookie he had what's called a m-79 it's a grenade launcher it throws the grenades 100 yards in the air straight out and he was right behind us playing with one of them and accidently fired it off and it landed right in front of us (starts the 4<sup>th</sup> video)and we thought for sure that was the vietcon coming through to blow up the bobbed wire first and the n they were goanna come across well that never happened turns out it was our own fire so he could have killed somebody with that thing.ended(0:10)of 4<sup>th</sup> video

Interviewer: did you ever have to get rid of somebody?(0:14-1:52)

Vet: yes uh I went to a nuclear power plant of the Calvert cliffs down south Maryland and every year they have to interview so many people and I'd say of 10 years of going down there for

outages book I had to go see the shrink 7 times and the one time i went was the worst and I found out later it was a bad joke but I walked in this guy had all the record I had everything I've done and looked at he and said if I had anything to do with it you would never go to that plant again and I'm thinking what the hell did I do I didn't do nothing he said you're the type of person that could kill yourself and everyone around you in a heartbeat and so I'm thinking I'm really messed up in the head well then I found out he said that to every Vietnam vet down there and then he did something I thought couldn't be done he went to the pentagon being a shrink in a nuclear power plant he got a kill count for everybody in Vietnam on that job and so apparently the pentagon gotta count I know when we were in ambushes you return the fire but we never stuck around to count the bodies the very first time we were ahead I was on a 60 and the next day they reported 14 dead bodies aside the road now if we killed them all we don't know you don't know when the emfetry came in if they killed them all if we got a couple of them but apparently we have body counts on our records and I never knew that.

Interviewer: and is that something you regret doing:

Vet: no not at all

Interviewer: do you have any kind of hate for the Vietnamese?

Vet: no not the Vietnamese people no I feel sorry for them people, now I do know a few guys that have been back to Vietnam , and in one way I'd love to go back but then again I don't think I could handle it cause all the monuments in Vietnam are dedicated to the Vietnamese winning the war that we didn't do nothing over there and that's why I don't think I could go back.

Interviewer: (2:27-2:48) what were the conditions of the roadways?

Vet : the roads in Vietnam were full of potholes I mean big big holes driving a truck you had to be careful because the roads were so bad they were all cambered so the water would run off of them during the monsoon now one truck I did turn over the reason was I went to far over the edge and hit a really big pothole I didn't see it and when the truck came down I to far off the road and it turned up on its side and that's when they started shooting they were sitting there waiting on us and they knew that's the only shot they would have when the truck went over they'd get a lot of attention but the roads in Vietnam were 20 miles an hour was about the max you could do in a truck and jeeps could go faster because they have better suspension and were I had ended up at was long ben it was 18 miles out of Saigon that's the only good highway I've seen in th3e whole country Saigon wasn't that bad but the highways were terrible.

Interviewer: did your truck go into any traps?

Vet: no we had trucks that hit mines tanks would hit them to they usually sweep out in front of us like I said depending on where you went in the country is what security is what security you had like there's a few places where we went up in Thailand they would go out the night before in

tanks and line the road every 50 yards and stay there all night and wait for us so they make sure we could get through.

Interviewer: did you ever drive a tank?

Vet: have I what?

Interviewer: did you ever get to drive a tank?

Vet: no no

Interviewer: so it was strictly...

Vet: yeah just the jeep and the deuce Laham

Interrupts (4:37-5:02)

Interviewer: you said you were married before you went into the service how did your wife impact you overseas?

Vet: now I said I was married when I went into Vietnam I was supposed to have gotten married in march of 67 I was engaged at the time well when I got drafted in October of 66 I knew I was going to Vietnam I knew it so we decided to get married in December before I went to Vietnam then she would get an allotment that's you get more money if your married and so when I came home from basic training for Christmas leave that's when I got married and the guy that was my best man at my wedding died 3 days after the wedding on an airplane so I was kinda mentally upset when I went back into the army but then I came back home again before I went to Vietnam.

Interviewer: was it the happiest moment of your life?

Vet: when was it?

Interviewer: no was you getting married the happiest moment of your life?

Vet: yes at that time yes, the happiest day of my life was landing in California when I came home.

Interviewer: alright

16:19-the end is just us ending the interview