

## Student Worksheet 4- The Time Stamped Transcript

### Leon Young

Directions: As you view your assigned section of the transcript, type each word uttered by your veteran interviewee. Words like “um or so”, or colloquialisms like “you know what I mean?” do not need to be included.

<b>Transcription of Words</b>	<b>Time ended</b>
My name is Lee Young. I'm doing pretty good today, I'm looking forward to this. Haven't talked much about Vietnam, gives me a chance. I was in the army, was in the army for eleven years. When I was in Vietnam I was captain.	1:00 Minute
When I left the service I was a major. Being an officer had its privileges , yes. Also had its responsibilities, made it a balance. No, I went to Penn state University, I received my commission there, I was distinguished Military graduate. I was in the ROTC program. I became a second lieutenant. I was in the army five years before I went to vietnam.	2:00 Minutes
Then after Vietnam I stayed in for another five years. ROTC program was four years to Penn State. I was twenty one when I entered the service. My name is Lee Young, I am a graduate of Penn State University, went through the ROTC program	3:00 Minutes
received a commission when I graduated from Penn State, went in the army for five years, at that point I went to Vietnam, It was about July of 66'. I came back July of 67' stayed in the army for five more years, and then resigned and went in the civilian life. My specialty was military intelligence because I received my at what that time they called a regular army commission. I had three years in the artillery and three years transferred into the military intelligence and I stayed there until in fact resigned. I was able to call tactics on	4:00 Minutes

military intelligence in Vietnam	
<p>Yes, several different events that were major. We were the 173rd airborne brigade is who I was with, we were the reserve for the country and that meant that if there is a very bad situation going on we would be flown in and give a hand, we were also protection force for the Bien Hoa air base, our base camp was in Bien Hoa Vietnam, which is just northeast of saigon</p>	<p>5:00 Minutes</p>
<p>and in between those two major roles a number of things happened different kinds of attacks, different kinds of major battles, some very interesting interviews with prisoners by my primary job was interviewing prisoners of war and also to interview civilians of interest and thirdly to look at any material that was captured via documents, weapons. One very interesting point to me which kinda changed my attitude on the war was we went to Kushi which was the major headquarters, we had the operation there, by the time w got there, there was no body there but old woman and young children, no men and we new we had been compromised</p>	<p>6:00 Minutes</p>
<p>the missionary was basically blown. I noticed there was a old gentlemen, who was the village elder and walking around, I said "I want to detain him and put him off in the side and isolate him and be by himself and I wanna talk to him later." At about 2:00 AM we woke him up brought him into the tent, the poor man was scared to death I sat down in the area about the size where we are here he sat across from me and my interpreter sat at my left. The first thing I did was I took out my 45' and laid it on the table in front of him and of course it wasn't loaded and laid it on the table in front of him and I said "It's closer to you than too me and my interpreter is not armed, I'm not here to hurt you, all I wanna do is talk, have some information." We talked about five in the morning, me doing the talking mostly, him saying basically</p>	<p>7:00 Minutes</p>

<p>nothing. Finally I asked him if he was hungry, if he's thirsty</p>	
<p>and we decided to have a beer. So we sat there and drank a beer, just as I'm looking at you right now, and finally he started loosening up a little bit. At that point I asked him "Why are you a communist?" and he had no clue what a communist was, not an idea. So I said "Why are you supporting the Viet cong?" and he didn't know the Viet cong. So I said "How about the Viet men?" and that was the name for Viet cong before we got involved with the Vietnam war when the french were there, Viet men wore the same outfit basically. So Viet man, yes and the story he told me was fascinating, and I can understand John Carrey's position on changing his attitude towards the war. He said we were in our village and the viet men came in, they stacked their arms, took off their shirts, called a village meeting and I was a young kid at the time and asked us "What the government doing for you?"</p>	<p>8:00 Minutes</p>
<p>They responded "Taxing us, taking our food and doing nothing for us." and I said "What can we do for you?" Well these little villages had sheds basically where they stored the grains during monsoon season so it wouldn't get wet He said "We need a new roof." so they went up and put on a new roof over the couple three days. They called the village back together, said "Ok that's an example of we would do for you, once we take over." Since that day he, and the village were totally against the government, which had done nothing for them and the Americans. It was at that point that I knew we could not win that war. I was in Vietnam beginning of July 66' through May of 67'</p>	<p>9:00 Minutes</p>
<p>I left just before things got very intense the once every third airborne. shortly after that we got flown to major contact and had tremendous casualties, as a result a lot of my friends did not make it back. When I left Vietnam i came back to the united</p>	<p>10:00 Minutes</p>

<p>states to a nine month graduate school for intelligence and from there i went to a defense intelligence agency for four and a half years roughly, and it was a wonderful job but for post reasons i resigned and left the army not because of Vietnam but because of what was happening to intelligence i just served one tour in Vietnam.My wife</p>	
<p>at the time since the divorce she was already a military wife she anticipated it was already gonna happen she was not happy about it but needless to say we had a child at the time but it's part of what you do if you are in the military. I used to talk about people to Vietnam I talked about commuting the war we had A very nice base camp at Biên Hòa we stole lumber from the earth to build ourselves a barrick and it was not quite like saint size but it was very close to saint side no running water of course but it was relatively comfortable for being in Vietnam</p>	<p>11:00 Minutes</p>
<p>however when their was any action going on I would grab a helicopter and go out to where the action was and interrogated prisoners so about half the time was their their was no per say but half the time I was in the battle zone and the other half I was back at base camp which was comfortable compared to the alternative again very the time at the base camp really depends what was going on in the fighting elements as in was it little contact or heavy contact did we have prisoners so it varied sometimes it would be a at or two sometimes it would be a week or two again I'd be going back and forth between the combat zone if you will and the base camp</p>	<p>12:00 Minutes</p>
<p>I'll talk about two aspects of my time in Vietnam typical day what we would be doing is reviewing intelligence material such as photo intelligence we have 3 kinds of aircraft flying and looking everywhere for the pictures I was not a photo interpreter but given what I could help the photo interpreters after time if something was present in the particular area I would be part of it another part of it that I really enjoyed was I volunteered to to be a mentor to grade school and high school teachers in Biên Hòa to learn English.</p>	<p>13:00 Minutes</p>
<p>At Least once a week we would meet for an hour or two after a school day and literally just had discussions, it wasn't in the class per say, we had discussions and I would send away back to the states to get reading material so we conduct that type of session to help them. Interestingly enough their attitude was that they loved what I was doing and they loved the fact that we were there but their attitude to the person was "We want you to defeat the Viet Cong and the MVA but them we want you to go home as quickly as you can, we</p>	<p>14:00 Minutes</p>

<p>want our country back.” It was kinda the feeling you rippling through the old society. They wanted us there but they wanted us out as soon as we could get out, so that was kinda a typical day doing administrative things. In the field when I’d have to go out for either combat operation or interrogation we would literally be in the</p>	
<p>headquarters for the operation where it was taken place being the company headquarters battalion headquarters and as required go out on patrols, go with the combat unit and be first person in the combat arena. The third aspect that kinda mixed the two, if we got a prisoner from wherever, it didn’t matter, in upon interrogation we discovered there was a weapons cash or a food cash or perhaps even a unit that we didn’t know about, after determining , guessing, crossing my fingers a lot that this person was some what reliable, he, I and m interpreter would go down to the combat unit desicate it and call it combat patrol to find and discover the weapons or food or whatever the unit he was talking about and only one time did we ever try to get ambushed, it would work out for the most part, so typical day is a hard question it kinda varied what day of the week it was really.</p>	<p>15:00 Minutes</p>
<p>yes, again first of all I had my interpreter was fantastic and he was vietnamese of course. We also had attached to us a vietnamese military intelligence unit, so we were kinda training them as we did our thing and as I mentioned talking to the teachers and working with them improved their english skills, not that mine were great but they were better than theirs, I could help them with some degree. Talking to some of the hierarchy in Bien Hao because we had a little intelligence operation going on in the city who we talked to the police chief and people like that, wonderful people, beautiful country, unfortunately kinda destroyed at that point. The base camp was real real nice</p>	<p>16:00 Minutes</p>

<p>the air force lives well and we stole our material from them and made ourselves a pretty nice base camp, it was pretty good. Out in the field you sleep on the ground, trying to stay dry which is impossible because of the monsoons we has something called a poncho, I don't know if you have seen or heard about them but basically a heavy rubber cover that went over your head had a hood and went over your body and it was to protect you from the rain, the problem was it was so hot that the perspiration you were soaking wet any ways so you were wet from the rain and wet from the perspiration so that was kinda uncomfortable and of course being shot at occasionally is not very comfortable either so depended on what day it was.</p>	<p>17:00 Minutes</p>
<p>The third day I was in country I went out on a operation kinda a baptismal fire, at that point I had no concept as most people as most people going over there for the first time I had no concept of what it was or what being shot at was. It was an anxiety filled point in time. You're not quite sure you're gonna walk back or be carried back. After the first initial reaction you kinda take up what your training was</p>	<p>18:00 Minutes</p>
<p>and do what you have to do basically. I didn't have any friends that I knew before Vietnam when I arrived there, but being in a combat situation kinda makes you friends with everybody very quickly. There is kind of a attachment that occurs and it doesn't take very long. There were very few loners if you will over there cause your life depended on your buddies next to you and even perhaps with people you wouldn't necessarily associate with on the state side, you were happy with an associated with there for sure</p>	<p>19:00 Minutes</p>
<p>and that's good, and the unit I was in 173rd was an all volunteer unit, we like to think that we were a step above the average, they would argue that ofcourse on the other side, but because we're all</p>	<p>20:00 Minutes</p>

<p>volunteers we all kinda had a better focus i think on the mission and what we had to do. So yea we made some friendships, didn't know anyone when I first got there though. Unfortunately a number of friendships did not come back as a result of the action that took place just after I left. Not really, the third day i was there we went out on a operation, the man that I was replacing already had his bags packed and headed for the jeep to go out of country and he gave me about five minutes of advice</p>	
<p>which I literally didn't remember or hear because I was a little bit anxious and I was more concerned about getting out and doing what I had to do as opposed to what his view of it was, so basicly I didn't have much advice no. Fatigue uniforms for the most part, very often I didn't wear a rank for sure I didn't wear the intelligence symbology because that would make me a big target, let's say we were in Biên Hòa base camp it was a relatively safe city but there were VC there and I surely didn't want to be targeted, probably was it comfortable, let me think the uniform was all we had we didn't have a choice it was comfortable by definition and if it wasn't it was tough, the biggest problem i had were combat boots</p>	<p>21:00 Minutes</p>
<p>when they got muddy and slog with all the we called it smock material they were just it was miserable but it's what you had. It wasn't too thin the material wasn't too thin givin it was the temperature zone was very high typically and during the monsoon season you'd have this torrential rain you couldn't stay dry if you tried And then it would go super hot again with the humidity so nothing was comfortable it was kind of consistent within the uniformed and play with it one way or the other I don't think if it had been heavier probably would've been worse in terms of being wet and uncomfortable.</p>	<p>22:00 Minutes</p>
<p>I think my training from the intelligence</p>	<p>23:00</p>

<p>perspective was good and again I've been in for five years two dedicated to intelligence so that aspect was good but I don't think anything could can prepare to get into a war zone It's hard to describe I have been asked that question by my wife a couple times you have a anxiety level that is again hard to describe it's kind of a awareness when the remember very clearly the first air fight I was in I was down there with a prisoner and he was leading us to a arms cash supposedly and we came under fire and we couldn't see anything and there was a young man right next to me who had a grenade launcher 79th grenade launcher and he was just pumping grenades out like mad</p>	<p>Minutes</p>
<p>and I couldn't see anyone to shoot at and I was watching my prisoner to make sure he didn't double crossed us he wasn't going to make it back quite honestly but I called over to the grenade launcher man and I said what are you shooting at and he said I don't know and I don't give a damn because they won't shoot me if I'm shooting this and that was the attitude he had and I kind of adapted to that attitude if you get into a fire fight you're going to kinda return fire you may not even see the target. Yes yes again I went out of Penn State I was basically near the top of the class there I loved the uniform at Penn State and I loved putting it on at Penn State and throughout my career honestly and I resigned with very mixed emotions</p>	<p>24:00 Minutes</p>
<p>Through Vietnam I getting home was one of the things for sure secondly through most the time I was there to help win the war basically and I was trying to do everything I could make that happen and in the little area activity I was involved with After that interview that I talked about earlier where the village chief then kind of explained why they were not on our side my attitude changed a bit I still sure is heck wanted to help win the war but I didn't think it was winnable anymore So it</p>	<p>25:00 Minutes</p>

kind of changed internally changed my attitude.	
I cherish the time that I spent with the teachers of Benewah They are very unique people very honest people they were hoping that we would in fact prevail their way of life could continue I actually felt empathy for number of the prisoners we had and I interrogated they were soldiers just like we were and they were kinda assigned to go down and kill Americans but they had families and children and I would've read through the material that they had on them or was captured with them and a number of them had letters to their wives and letters to their children and it was kind of a mess if you looked at in retrospect.	26:00 Minutes
we were all killing each other for I'm not sure what reason anymore. The funniest one I can't talk about because it's the wrong audience. In Vietnam at base camp we would actually play volleyball,	27:00 Minutes
A lot of reading again talking about the teachers number of times I was working with them kind of talking to them giving him advice in terms of what they should do with respect of Americans, some of them I think wanted to throw us in the ocean but by and large they were good people very good people. A lady resigned with the Air Force and also some of the other intelligence operations going on so some days are long when you were at base camp some days were long there was just no action per se out in the field you don't have to worry about it when you're in combat and the actual combat zone it kind of took care of itself. Couldn't any of my hobbies there, I enjoyed fishing I was a scuba diver never had the opportunity to do that so personal hobbies over there,	28:00 Minutes
played a lot of cards I was in a cardplayer before then again Basecamp. A number I don't know how to say this I was part of the 1/72 military	29:00 Minutes

<p>intelligence detachment which was part of 1/73 airborne prograde we had about 20 odd people in the detachment none of them were killed we are a couple wounded basically I got to know some of the,</p>	
<p>platoon leaders, Company commanders, and what we called the rifle battalion unfortunately after I left there was a battle that took place that was called Docto and two of the battalions the rifle battalions were assigned the fourth infantry division and they suffer a 90% casualties which was right after I left and so a number of friends not people that I knew at home kind of socialized with there when I was there kinda died. Yeah again my last day of service was out of defense intelligence agency Washington DC with mixed emotions I had submitted,</p>	<p>30:00 Minutes</p>
<p>my resignation, about a month before I went through two or three levels of review because they were trying to talk me out of it but I had decided that the way the intelligence the strategic, the national level intelligence was being handled, once it crossed the river and went into the project arena I could not abide by that, too many significant things were being changed and I didn't wanna be a part of that so I resigned and I had very mixed emotions, I wanted to stay in the military I wanted a thirty year career but given that was happening I couldn't stand that so I left, it was a sad day. I have lost contact with all of them over the years, My closest friend, two closest friends coming out of the air have both died,</p>	<p>31:00 Minutes</p>
<p>Agent Orange Ketch is up with all of us. I was in this intelligence school and we had pretty good intelligence, we kinda knew what was going on on the ground over there and I was getting daily reports being able to read them daily, I didn't get them the school got them but I was able able to read daily reports and I found out that they had died. Yes, it took me almost fifty years to join a</p>	<p>32:00 Minutes</p>

<p>veteran organization and I now belong to the Vietnam Veteran Organization, the veterans of fallen wars and I'm currently the commander of the American Allegiant post 70 in Easton.</p>	
<p>I don't think I would have achieved what i have in life without having been in the service. It truly taught me lessons you can't learn in a classroom, throughout the term of leadership and not just leadership but being able to read people, relate to people and meet them in common ground and that through my career that I think I really did good. Now the other side of the coin is I had a relatively successful career in life but was limited because I kinda adapted an attitude when I came out of the military, that if I saw something that not correct from my perspective at least, I would focalize and sometimes in civilian organizations</p>	<p>33:00 Minutes</p>
<p>it's not appreciated. So I was successful but probably would have been more so if I had played the game. Absolutely, prostate cancer, a very bizarre cancer that only about 200,000 people have that's not recognized by the veterans administration as Agent Orange, I have a tendency for a couple other kinds of things that occur now and then, couple of hospitalizations from various things so yea, a lot of effect, but I look good and I feel good. The last four and a half years roughly when I was at the defense intelligence agency in the army I specialized in</p>	<p>34:00 Minutes</p>
<p>What at that time was called that is processing management, today it would be called computer science. I picked up my Masters degree during a period of time and as a result I was assigned a job of trying to automate the intelligence process from what's called production of information. Kinda break it apart the budget by in large still probably 80 or 90% of the intelligence budget is to collect information satellites, spies as we would call them and other things but collection of information. About 10% of it was used for then getting this raw</p>	<p>35:00 Minutes</p>

<p>information and coagulating it and doing things to make sense if it. So I was tasked of trying to come up with automated systems to help with the production side of the intelligence . When I left the military I had at that time possessed a number of clarence's, a big long list of clarence's and that was picked up immediately by by computer science</p>	
<p>corporation to assist them in their contract work with military so I ended up doing the same thing but in a suit. After that extent of about four years with them and two different assignments I left computer science and went to the social security administration so don't blame me for any problems you have. There I was brought into primary design information systems for them again collecting data and making sense out of it and from there to a very small consulting company which did training and a whole bunch of seminars worldwide and consulting and after that I went to what was then wesley house electric and is now Northern Grummin and became a software manager on a number of projects, the most significant one, my last one was the radar missile system on newpatchy helicopter</p>	<p>36:00 Minutes</p>
<p>if anyone has seen that awesome weapon system. So I kinda stayed in the military environment some sense even though I was on civilian side. I love computer science, my only regret about life is that I am not twenty one today and starting over, it is a fantastic field, it's the future, advice to anyone that tunes in, even if you're not going to major in computer science, pick up as many computer questions that you can, and not programming, programming is simple, nothing about programming, it's understanding the design and structure and how the best to use the systems that's the key. Yes</p>	<p>37:00 Minutes</p>

<p>when I received my orders, sounds like I have always been in school, I was coming out of another nine months of school and I received my orders to go to Vietnam and they offered me a position in school they could wave the orders and I decided without any hesitation no I wanted to go to Vietnam, I wanna be part of the 173rd and it was the second year of the major level effort going on and I want to go over there and do my thing and help us win the war. After that interrogation of kushi I understood the deep feeling of the people and I knew we couldn't win that war not win in a conventional sense</p> <p>Yes, I would kinda like to make a summary comment I guess, It's about war in general and politicians particularly. I hope the next time we get ourselves involved in a conflict of politicians let the military do what he can and not dictate</p>	<p>38:00 Minutes</p>
	<p>40:00 Minutes</p>
<p>They fought their way out of the ambush and moved to a secondary assembly point where they could be picked up, as helicopters came in to pick them up, they came under fire and lost their helicopter. So they had to escape and invade from there with no alternative air point. So they moved themselves through that area, got in several firefights, It was not only Americans on an honorary patrol it was also some of the vietnamese rangers, lost a couple of them. On the way out though they got another fire fight and they managed to capture another vietnamese soldier. It was at that point that I got the call call from base camp that they are coming in, flying in because they hit a rendezu point finally that they could get out. They were flying them in and they wanted me to interrogate them as soon as possible, I met the helicopter at the hospital a small very small hospital</p>	<p>41:00 Minutes</p>
<p>Talked to the doctor before I went to the patient, he said I can't talk to him now. He had to operate because the bullets we used had tumbled in the body once they hit. He was hit in the leg but it went up and tore up the stomach area. So he operated about 3 or 4 hours. This was probably about 3 or 4 in the morning now and when he came out of surgery he said when he's coming out of surgery talk to him, he's going to give you the information you</p>	<p>42:00 Minutes</p>

<p>need because we knew we were walking into an ambush with this operation based on what they experienced. So he's coming out of surgery, tried to converse with him, get information, and he was hardcore all the way, and when he finally recognized where he was, out of the effects of the anesthesia, first thing he said was "I know my rights, I know you need a convention," in English by the way, "I want a cigarette."</p>	
<p>I will not repeat what I said to him and we proceeded with an interrogation. About 5 to 6 hours later I was able to break him down and we determined that he was not a Vietcong soldier, he was a North Vietnamese soldier and his entire regiment was waiting for us because our plans had been leaked. As a result of that we could alter our plans and probably save a whole bunch of KIA/MIA. I got this as a result. The Long Range Patrol should have got much more. I don't know if they did or not. There was a bunch of whole other people, but I got singled out. We had a helicopter company attached to us and if we needed more we had others on call, I had a helicopter at my disposal</p>	<p>43:00 Minutes</p>
<p>If it was not needed for transporting troops or wounded or other higher priority activities, otherwise I could get one and fly into a war zone. This is a gift from the teachers of Biên Hòa, the high school and grade school teachers. I conducted a number of seminars with them on a weekly bases when I could. When at base camp, instructing them of the use of the English language. It wasn't a seminar per say, we'd sit around and talk, converse about activities. I would write to various organizations and states like <i>Reader's Digest</i>.</p>	<p>44:00 Minutes</p>
<p>and get magazines in enough copies like we all could separate among ourselves and read and talk and exchange ideas about the english language and America in general. I was talking about funny things that have happened, one of the organizations I wrote to I ask for a copy of "The little Red Book" which is a manifesto of the Chinese communist from Mr.Mao, and the reason I wanted that was I wanted to compare and contrast our way of life versus what the red book was saying, in terms of at least combat operations. I got challenged by the south and east government. They did not appreciate the fact that I was trying to import communist material. Needless to say, the material did not come in</p>	<p>45:00 Minutes</p>
<p>This is a Golden William Momental from the 173rd airborne, recognition of where I was, what I did, who I was, and I cherish it very much. Daily it reminds me of my service in Vietnam and the great unit 173rd Airborne.</p>	<p>46:00 Minutes</p>