

Gerald Brace Student Worksheet 4- The Time Stamped Transcript

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.

Transcription of Words	Time ended
<p>I was going to school. I was at East Stroudsburg State college in Pennsylvania and I went through what they call the PLC program, where it's a two or six week courses and on graduation day I was commissioned a second Lieutenant in the US Marine corps. I went to school to be a teacher. I grew up in a small town where, basically you have a feeling of god, country, family and it was a strong feeling since I was a history major and did a lot of studying government also, that those rights that I had needed to be protected, so that's why I joined. Yes definitely. I was going to make a career out the military if possible but my darling wife said no. Advice to get through, well the marine corp I think was the training in which, they try to keep it on a very professional level. It was a job, don't get too emotional if possible, and that's how you approach it. It depends on what you were doing if it would be emotional, you got more emotional after something happened than during it, it was sad what went on afterwards and then you get maybe a little shakes or nervous or something, usually it was afterwards not before. My first day in country, we got off the airplane, it was about 5:30 in the morning and I felt like I'd just walked into an oven, it was so hot. We went up to the head division headquarters and were waiting, we were going through all these different sections and getting briefed and various other things. It was funny because that day they decided to clear what they called firing lanes so they were burning off the underbrush right around the ammo dump and they blew up the entire ammo dump and all you could see is shock waves</p>	<p>Minutes 1-10</p>

going through the clouds. So it was very nerve racking because you really didn't know what was going on. You were trying to expect everything that was going on. Boring. A typical day was basically boring. We go out if you were out on an operation and I was with the amphibious tractor. We would run along behind the infantry and nothing happened. Then once in a great while something would happen. Otherwise it was typically boring. One of the big things, we were on an operation and we came in to get some gas from this other area, and the VC opened up and they called an artillery but they misjudged where they called it. They called it in on top of us, instead of where it should have been. It was one of my more unexpected results. No, I could say that it was a possibility. We were standing on this highway four which was really just an overgrown macadam. It wasn't a highway anymore and I walked 15 feet east and went back to my command tractor, and an soldier near walked 15 feet west and stepped on a booby trap. So I said if I had walked the other way, it would have been a very different story. I was located south of Denang. Most of the times I worked with the creative marine corp. My MOS was 1803 and that's an amphibious tractor officer. They are the tractors that you used to go from ship to shore and when you hit the land they can keep on going and stop. So, the ones we had were the old models, they were gasoline so, we were riding around 450 gallons of gasoline. If you hit a booby trap you had a great big fireball. Physically no, mentally a little bit in the sense that, what I mean is when I was in school, I was one of these happy-go-lucky, could care less, get by by the skinner tee, don't over work yourself, have fun, and I came back a very serious individual. My family said very little when I was leaving, my father had been in World War II, I know he was nervous, I saw him at the airport and he was trying to light a

<p>cigarette and his hands were shaking. But my mother was crying. Meals, overseas, we had what they called sea rations. I guess that's different from what they use today. They were canned food, you could have canned eggs, canned bread, but they also had soup and tuna fish and beef stew. It was all canned. Really, truthfully since I was doing a lot of riding, I was only eating a meal maybe once in three days. Each meal was 3000 calories. But in the sea rations they had peaches and pond cakes where you'd snack on that the other days. Favorite canned food, probably the peaches and pound cake were my favorite. Big thing that I learned from being over there, responsibility really. I had to look out for other people. You had to take care of all these people, your responsibility. As a matter of fact, one thing my community did was go over to the naval hospital when we had first gotten into the country, and he wanted to show us what our mistakes could cause. I never got any leave, which we call RNR. Mainly because I was only there roughly 6 months, they called the third marine division out of the northern part of iCore where the marine corp was up by the DMZ and sent them back to Oakanawa. And if amphibious tractor had no officers so I took a major captain and six or seven lieutenants right back there since we hadn't been in country for a while. No, I don't think I was really close with anybody. Your close to your men in the sense that when they told me I was going back to Oakanawa, I really didn't want to go. Because they were my responsibility. So I guess I was close in that sense. No I didn't really have anyone that was like a brother. Big events in Vietnam while I was there, Tet was over with, Kazan was done, no not really that I can think of.</p>	
<p>Coming home from Vietnam you pictures of World War II they have the big parades i'm home from Vietnam we got off the military transport... we got out and went to the airfield down the LA international caught a flight I flew home. No fanfare no</p>	<p>10:00 Minutes</p>

<p>nothing most people could care less at that particular time a lot of people looked down their noses at you if you were in the military just a another day really..there for 1969 for April through November.</p>	
<p>In doing my job it was very professional at all times. Worked hard. Made sure I was well prepared and did what I had to do which was one of the lessons they taught you.</p>	<p>11:00 Minutes</p>
<p>coming home I knew there was no body waiting or a parade or anything like that. I wasn't expecting anything . We already heard what was going on at home. It was just another day in the office really. We were in amphibious tractors so you could hear us from two miles away. We were loud. If there was any animals around they high tailed it.</p>	<p>12:00 Minutes</p>
<p>We didn't deal with them the only people marines who dealt with them were in another office which was called the s5 and he went out to work with the civilians but the rest of us never got in contact with them. Amphibious means both land and sea. So it could go on land and on the sea.</p>	<p>13:00 Minutes</p>
<p>Amphibious tractors in Vietnam were used more like the army, if you know what an APC is they were the armored personnel carrier. That's how the marine corps used them. I was never believed it or not as an amphibious tractors officer was never aboard a ship at all. Even in training I never got aboard a ship. As far as a tractor goes the only one time that was I back in (can't understand) I was supposed to dig what was called the (something?) tube out where I was going to sea the Philippines Taiwan and Hong Kong however I said I will extend for the duration of the float and they said no you have to stand for six months</p>	<p>14:00 Minutes</p>
<p>I said no I was going home to get married. I gave up my platoon to be (something?) of the company. But the tractors were basically used as I said the armored personnel carrier but no one road inside the tractors except the driver because you're riding on four hundred and fifty gallons of gasoline and if you're in the tractor every thing gets burned up.</p>	<p>15:00 Minutes</p>
<p>This is the picture of the tractor when we were out in the field and some body snapped a shot for me of just sitting there waiting to move again and I believe at the time I was working with the Korean marine corps and I snapped a shot of a one of the Koreans up on the tractor as we were sitting there and the Koreans since they didn't have many tanks with them they would take the amphibious tractor and place what they called a 106 recoilless rifle on top of there and they would fire it from up on top of the tractor and it did make one heck of a noise but</p>	<p>16:00 Minutes</p>

<p>most of the tractors we operated that was but most of the tractors Carried water and a lot of ammo mortar rounds especially for these people</p>	
<p>as I said before the tractor was usually behind the infantry walking but when u sent it at night of course you sit in a circle so everyone was fair game at that particular point of time so in working with the Koreans they had their headquarters outside a little village called we used to call it check point eight for some reason I don't know why they called it that but I took a couple snapshots out the village you could see how they lived they weren't very sturdy it seemed dirt floors when they had to go to the bathroom they just went to the bathroom where ever they were. They didn't worry about running to the bathroom.</p>	<p>17:00 Minutes</p>
<p>You might have a shack but outside the shack was a nice motorbike that they could ride back and forth wherever they were going and some cases some of the snapshots I had I had them working in the fields and doing their rice and shaking their rice to get all the hard stuff off of it I don't even know what happened to those over the years I did happen to save a few. One was a bunker that the Koreans were attaching and they pulled the bodies out of the bunker</p>	<p>18:00 Minutes</p>
<p>but it was memorable in the sense that the Koreans had these people up in front close to the bunker entrance and other Koreans were lobbing grenades over their heads and I don't know whether or not that the threw the grenades out of the bunker back at em or what but one of the Koreans reached for it when it went off and so the Koreans wouldn't go get him so we had to pull our tractor up and pull the three Koreans that were wounded into to tractor and take them to their first aid station. That's one of the more memorable ones that I could remember</p>	<p>19:00 Minutes</p>
<p>“i was taking pictures with that thing when i had a chance”. “i took in about a half a seabag of clothing, utilities boots that's it. underwear nothing more you know shaving gear and stuff like that but nothing more because when you got there your utilities were changed for the jungle utilities so they were cone really quickly. your white tshirts were changed to green ones so you didn't really take much in. matter of fact i left with more than i took. a sea bag is like a sac it prolly stands about that high it's just something you throw over your shoulder and walk away with.</p>	<p>20:00 Minutes</p>

<p>but if you roll your clothes properly you'll get a lot in it i didn't take any into country with me no we left all our dress uniforms that we had back at the warehouse but as a marine officer we were required to have a set of blue a set of white two sets of green a set of cacii all dress uniforms. overseas i usually wore a tshirt and the jungle utility pants</p>	<p>21:00 Minutes</p>
<p>and since i was required that we had fire proof shirts and fireproof pants and a flak jacket and a helmet that was my daily dress those fireproof pants and shirt it got real hot if you were sitting there waiting to move you could actually dehydrate sitting there if you aren't careful so you had to drink and most of the water you drank canteens on top it was hot water you were drinking but it would taste good anyway once almost i almost got dehydrated sitting there waiting and waiting and the tractors running the heat from the exhaust i started to get a little woozy so i picked up a canteen and i drained a pint of water ten seconds or less for the infantry to move.</p>	<p>22:00 Minutes</p>
<p>no the infantry is the soldiers they walk in the marine corps everyone is trained to be a infantry officer as far as an officer is concerned wether your a tank commander or even a pilot</p>	<p>23:00 Minutes</p>
<p>yea the tank in those days the main difference is the tank is heavily armoured has a 50 caliber machine gun 30 caliber machine and all we had on the tractor was a 30 caliber machine gun that was it.</p>	<p>24:00 Minutes</p>
<p>the hardest thing you had to do was your daily routine there was no particular hard thing that i could think of that would stick out my mind. basically when i was in the when you were in the field there was no pastime back in the area but no there wasn't really anything i might go out into the beach and go swimming back at the battalion we were out in the field.</p>	<p>25:00 Minutes</p>
<p>basically 24 hours a day. well if you can call war positive in many respects and i've said this before it</p>	<p>26:00 Minutes</p>

<p>can really show inhumanity to man. i look at war as a since as why do people go to war even after you see all these because man likes to kill i look at war as the sense that even after you've seen all these horrors because man likes to kill his fellow man he enjoys it because there hunters that's why you're eyes are in the front of your head to hunt with</p>	
<p>and man likes to hunt and he can kill anything else easy he just gets it. what do you call it hard game anymore. stepping off the plane when we got off the plane it was like 5:30 in the morning. as soon as i went through the door it was like an oven it was so hot. then of course that day where i was supposed to be was the patalian the ammo dump blowing up was a little nerve racking but the next day i did go out to my battalion smoked fires he said why are you going out there i said what i get myself into finding out they</p>	<p>27:00 Minutes</p>
<p>were burning stuff that had to be burned. no there was no time i tried to look at it like a job it wasn't something emotional and when i say i looked at it like a job we couldn't win the war. at school they had to give a class and i said i wonder what class i'm in no history or geography so i took the geography. and explain very nicely we couldn't win the war in vietnam and i had 15 16 lieutenants looking at me a major critique in my class and i told them we can't win. so i do have it's a job do your job</p>	<p>28:00 Minutes</p>
<p>and get it over with. there was no reaction what so ever i felt well you can put your foot in your mouth this time you know but it worked out well if you look at the geography of vietnam you got los cambodia and its like i try to explain it like this we had to stand on a square like pieces of carpet where you couldn't step in the square and this little guy he keeps on walking around the square.</p>	<p>29:00 Minutes</p>
<p>30-37:55 "He can step in the Square any place anytime he wants</p>	<p>30:00 Minutes</p>

to and you never know when he's coming so there for once he runs and hits you if he does damage or he strikes he runs off and he has a nice place to go he rest up and you can't touch him. So it's just impossible to win that way. Well i think you have to treat even though you are the officer people aren't supposed to do as they're told when you say to.

31 minutes

Treat them with respect, look out for them if they know you're looking out for them they'll give you more. basically what i learned treat people with respect the more you get out of them. I didn't like what a senior officer said so i spoke out. His commander was standing next to him when i was chewing him out and the commander didn't say a word. Matter of the fact they gave me a letter of recommendation after the operation was over with, which was surprising.

32 minutes

What would be nice to say Is don't go. The best advice i can give you is train hard, learn all that you can and try to put the best shoe you can. In Iraq and Afghanistan now they have what's called the iuds but they make them out of Grenades they have ones that made out of hundreds of explosives. They're a whole different world over there. So all i can say is learn what you can and work hard and duck quick.

33 minutes

If i had to do it all over again yes i would. To me it was the right thing to do regardless what other people thought. I used to get maybe a little bit irritated with my colleagues while I was teaching who went into teaching secular the draft so i would get a little uptight with that. I guess you could say I'm very pro military definitely and at that particular time i was not one of the doves of the country. They'd call me more of a war hog.

<p>I think one of the things i thought was wrong and never bring up is the fact that the war will never be one of the politicians run the war And Johnson and mcnamara tried to run the war. And they said you couldn't even bomb an outhouse without them knowing. So if you're running the war that tightly you're not gonna win because they're not on the day to day round and they told with target you could hit in North Vietnam and which one you couldn't and i think they could've done a lot more damage if they bombed the dikes along the red river and flooded a third of the country. And that would've really showed down their war effort. So that's one of the things they don't talk about</p>	<p>34 minutes</p>
<p>if they affect the politics of the war course they probably studied before the protest at home the draft was really drafting the lower economic groups. Those that couldn't afford to go to college. So there's are the people that got drafted to go fight the war which i thought was totally wrong. I thought the draft should be if you're in college you get drafted at the end of your semester and say goodbye to your parents because you're going. That way everybody goes the way they're supposed to go.</p> <p>People protesting, i didn't like them. Thought they were wrong, but then again you have a lot of</p>	<p>35 minutes</p>
<p>former military Vietnam who were protesting the war. So it's what people believe and i thought they were wrong. I had friends who thought the wood stock was a great experience and they were up there doing drugs and all that stuff and i was like you guys are all idiots. That's personal beliefs and those things.</p> <p>Trip home you're in a jet filled with nothing but military people until you hit the states.</p> <p>Once we landed at the air base outside of la, everyone went their own way. I took a cab out to la</p>	<p>36 minutes</p>

international and my flight back to New York, i didn't even go to Pennsylvania i went to see my fiancé before i went to see my mother. The flight home actually was what they call the red eye and we left at 10:30 at night and only 3 people on the plane besides the steward-tress and the pilot so i had the plane to myself. That was it and i had the feeling of I'm home and that's it. "

37 minutes