

**John L. Reed  
Veteran**

**Michael Russert  
Wayne Clarke  
Interviewers**

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**Q:** This is an interview with John L. Reed at the New York State Military Museum, Saratoga Springs, New York, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2002 approximately 1:10PM. The interviewer is Michael Russert. Could you tell us your full name, when and where you were born?

**JR:** My name is John Leslie Reed. I go by “John L”. I was born near Canandaigua, New York but I grew up in Bristol Valley which is a small area somewhat west of Canandaigua by about seven or eight miles. I spent all my childhood there and attended high school in Canandaigua.

**Q:** What was your pre-service education?

**JR:** I think I have to start with I wanted to go to West Point. That was my dream. I took the exam for West Point and I got first alternate, but I could not pass the physical because I was too myopic. I decided to go to Norwich University as an alternative. I attended Norwich University from 1945....

**Q:** So, you attended the Norwich military school there.

**JR:** The military school there, yes and took ROTC. There I was involved in...we were the first cadets to come back after the university had been closed during the war. So, essentially, we were the first starting up the cadet corps again. I played an active role as a non-commissioned officer, first sergeant for two years then a Captain and Adjutant of the Cadet Battalion Corps a year for my senior year. I graduated from there as a distinguished military student and was offered a commission in the regular army but because I was under twenty-one, I couldn't take it at that time. I had to wait until I was twenty-one which would be the September following my graduation.

I started college at age sixteen. That's because I went to a one room school and at the end of sixth grade, they didn't know what to do with me, so they gave me all the regents and I passed them all and went up to eighth grade, no seventh grade at all so that's how I ended up there. At the end, when I became twenty-one, I would still go into the army as a regular officer.

**Q:** Excuse me, did you have any jobs in between graduation and...

**JR:** Between graduation I looked for a job in 1949 but since I knew I was going in the army I didn't look very seriously. I worked part time while I was waiting for my father who would go doing business in Bath, New York and I worked part time as a newspaper reporter for the Steuben Currier which was Steuben County weekly newspaper. Also, the man who worked out of that office was the county seat and he was the correspondent for the *Elmira Star Gazette*. I worked with him doing photography and interviews, so I did that, and I went to school. I decided if it didn't work out with the army maybe I'd better have Plan B. My grandfather loaned me some money and I went to Alfred University and started a master's in education.

At the end of that time in June, the Korean War started. I assumed that I would probably be called up for active duty almost immediately. I tried to speed up the process. I'd already applied for a commission and they turned me down again because of my eye. They told me to hold off and then when the Korean War came out, I immediately volunteered for active duty. I contacted people in the War Department who I was talking to said we will make arrangements for you to take a physical again, so I went to Rome to the Air Force Base and took my physical, went back home and didn't hear anything for quite some time. I couldn't make up my mind to do so I wound up working in a winery in Hammondsport, Great Western where I worked in the packing room packing champagne and wine and so forth.

Then eventually they notified me that I was going to be called up for active duty and during that time they would be working on processing whether or not I would get my regular commission. I was ordered to active duty in March of 1951.

**Q:** Did you go anywhere else for any kind of additional training?

**JR:** No, I was sent directly to Louisiana to Camp Polk and there I was going to lead a Louisiana National Guard Tank Battalion which had been ordered to active duty. There were, I was one of the few ROTC officers being sent in to that unit. One of them came from Texas A&M, another one from one of the mid-western universities. There were two from Texas A&M actually. We were filling in. The tank unit essentially was staffed by people who had very little armor experience. I remember my interview with the Colonel of the Armored Cavalry who was supervising the tank battalions there, Army Cavalry group, who was a Norwich graduate, saying its time we got someone in here who knew something about tanks.

The Colonel commanding had been a tank commander in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Armored Division. He was very interested in the fact that I was a Norwich graduate because he served under (unclear) who later became president of Norwich. It was wild because the men had very little training in the tanks. They had very little knowledge. They were constantly sending officers off to Armor School, so we were down short. At one time there were only two of us officers in the company to handle it. I was basically doing instruction eight hours a day every day. I was instructing basic gunnery and so forth.

I found that many of the draftees that had been send in there from northern Alabama, northern Georgia were virtually illiterate. They could not read the manual. We had a great deal of trouble trying to teach them tank gunnery or anything like that. We also had....go ahead.

**Q:** Did you find any friction with yourself being a northerner especially from New York State with southerners?

**JR:** Essentially, they didn't have much to do with us. They all went home every weekend because they lived in the vicinity close enough to Camp Polk to drive. The non-commissioned officers in my company were very helpful and were very good. The officers were pretty much aloof. They pretty much kept themselves out. The officers who were in my company...I never met the commander of the company until I had gone to Fort Knox and had come back from Fort Knox. He was off at some training program at Fort Knox and there was another man who came in he had no armor experience either. There were just two of us in the company. Then when one of them came back, I went to Fort Knox. So, the battalion was constantly turning over with people. There was very little stability. We did field training under limited circumstances because we simply did not have the personnel to train them to do the kind of gunnery that everybody needed to know.

In the meantime, in another part of my life I was engaged. I had decided that if I went in the army, I would not get married. However, the young woman to whom I was engaged wanted to get married. She didn't want to be separated from me. I got a five-day delay in route to go back to Connecticut where my fiancé lived. We got married then went drove back to Camp Polk to rejoin the outfit. At that time, I found myself company commander of a tank company with one 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant who came from New York and had been training quartermaster ROTC. We stepped in and immediately went into the field every week from Monday to Saturday noon time when we came back from the field. I was in the field during the month of July and August, the latter part of June and all of July and August. You want me to...

**Q:** Well then when did you end up going to Korea?

**JR:** Well, the interesting story about this...we were moved from Camp Polk in August. They took all the National Guard officers and shipped them out. I ended up as company commander and I had to sign for all the property the day they left with that stuff in boxcars. We were all transferred to fort Benning, Georgia where we became (unclear) for the Infantry School.

When we got there, none of the National Guard officers were left. All the people who were commanding the unit who went, no officers went on the train with the men and went with the Warrant Officers and NCO's. I drove over there, taking wife with me in the car. When we got to Fort Benning, they immediately started bringing in people who had served their tour of duty in Korea and they were bringing them back to the states. All these guys who were coming back had been in Korea with the 3<sup>rd</sup> (unclear) some of them

from the tank outfits from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry. I think that was the one that had the big “bug out”. Some of them were from the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav. They came back and then all the officers were now Korean guys who had served in Korea. I was relieved two days after I was there of my responsibilities as the Company Commander. Again, there was turnover.

I was taken then assigned to headquarters as assistant S-3. I served as assistant S-3 as the liaison with the armored school, the infantry school planning tactical demonstrations with participation of the tanks which I did for about two months. Then they took me from that job and made me an officer, a motor officer in “A” Company. I had formally been in “B” Company where I stayed for about a month and then one day the man who was the acting Executive Officer, a Captain, who was serving under a Major who was assigned to the battalion as acting Battalion Commander because the regular Battalion Commander was still on leave.

I was walking through the thing and he said, “Reed, take this and read it”. I held up the citation and I read it and he said, “Good. Report up to here tomorrow morning. You’re Adjutant of this Battalion and your first duty is to prepare for a parade in which we are going to award decorations to people who came back from Korea.” I said, “Why did you choose me?” He said, “I found out you were at Norwich University and you were Adjutant there so you must know something about running a parade.” Then he said, “And you can read!”

So, I went up to battalion headquarters. Then after we got the parade over, he said the next thing we have to do is to get all of the records in this outfit straightened out because next month we’re going to have an inspection from the Adjutant General outfit from the post. So, (unclear), I ran a clerk training school there. I was doing that and then in November I got a notification that I was going to be, I was also sent part time to the CBR Defense School which was offered on the post. I was also sent to a school to train me as Education Officer. Then in November I went to Desert Rock.

**Q:** You might want to hold that up.

**JR:** (holding a Desert Rock sign). I went to Desert Rock which was an atom bomb test that was held north of Las Vegas, Nevada. There were, I would say there were about twenty people from Fort Benning who went. We were flown out on a plane.

**Q:** OK. Got it.

**JR:** We landed in Las Vegas and we had one night there and then the next day we were taken up to Camp Desert Rock where we stayed for a couple of days. Then we were taken out to this test site and about five miles from ground zero we sat down and put our hands up behind our heads like this (puts hands around back of head) and waited until the thing went off then after the initial went off, we turned around and looked at it. It was a huge black cloud going up into the sky. Then some parts of it sheared off one way and some sheared off the other way. I guess they were headed for St. George, Utah in

that area. Then they loaded us in trucks and took us up to ground zero where we walked around and looked where the tower was.

Where the tower was, the steel tower was completely gone. All you could see was where the metal was embedded in the cement.

**Q:** How close to detonation was that? Timewise. Timewise how close to the detonation time was that?

**JR:** Probably about a little less than about forty-five minutes. We were up there within forty-five minutes. They kept telling us there was no danger from the radiation. We had film badges right here on pinned to our (unclear). We went up there. We walked around. They had some (unclear) and some buildings and so on and so forth and we looked at the damage. They talked about (unclear) meant to survive the impact and whether it was safe to be in here and they had Geiger Counters around showing us how you would test the site because and so forth I was the CBR (chemical, biological, radiological) Defense Officer. We stayed up there for probably about an hour. Then we were loaded back in the trucks and taken back to the thing where they took all the clothing from us. They gave us all new clothing.

**Q:** Did they have you shower down or anything?

**JR:** Showered. Took showers. We were in the desert in November. Eighty degrees in the day time and below zero at night. Every morning we were there you walked out and broke the ice on the water to wash with because the temperature dropped below freezing at night but in the daytime, it was eighty. We cleaned up and washed off our shoes and everything. We stayed there for another day for a debriefing. Then they put us on a train, a troop train which was back into Las Vegas. It had to go to Barstow, California to get straightened out to get on the line. We headed all the way across Nevada and New Mexico and Texas and so forth going back. Then we found out that the train when we got to Montgomery, Alabama, we found the train, we were going, we would have to have to go north to North Carolina to take people back and then down to Columbus. There was a Major on there who got everybody together and we all chipped in and chartered a bus to get home quicker.

Then we went back to, I went back to Fort Benning. I continued to be Adjutant. Then the Colonel who was Battalion Commander came in. He was a Lieutenant Colonel. The man who had been acting Major became Executive Officer. The man who had been my Executive Officer, acting Executive Officer became the Adjutant and I became Assistant Adjutant and I still did almost all the Adjutant work. That went on pretty much until, I think, it was January. I know I can find out directly by looking at this stuff. I have my own. "201" file here.

I was sent out into the field with the 587<sup>th</sup> Airborne Regimental Combat team. They were running problems and I was out there as an armor umpire advisor. I stayed in the field for about a week. We didn't sleep out there. Every morning we would get up and go

out, another Captain and I went out there. The only Letter of Commendation I ever got in the Army, I got from the commanding officer of the Regimental Combat team because I saved some problems for him. He's got some tanks and almost had some serious problems with people injured with what they were doing. I stopped the exercise and pulled everybody back and did it over again and he was very impressed with my initiative and so forth.

So, I did that. I had not been back more than about a week or two and I got orders for overseas with a delay in route at the Army General School at Fort Riley, Kansas where I was going to be trained as an Order of Battle Specialist. We were called there was an important shortage of Intelligence Officers in Korea. Captain Fisher who was the man who had been my executive officer and who was also Adjutant said, "You know Reed if you go over there you are probably going to blow your chances in the Regular Army. If you want, we can finagle you to stay here."

By the way, he had also gotten me promoted from a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant to a 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant within a short period of time after I started working with him. He came out one day with a file like this and he threw it down on my desk and said, "Now, there's some good letters of commendation in there. I want you to go through and pick out the best paragraph and put together a letter and hand it to me. I am going to recommend you for a promotion."

So, I went through and copied out what I thought were the nicest parts put it in a letter and took it into him and he said, "This is great!". He sent it in, and I was promoted to 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant. Another young man who was in the battalion at the time as me from Texas A&M was also sent to Fort Riley at the same time. Almost all of our ROTC officers who were there had been with the unit since we were ordered active duty and joined in Louisiana were shipped out. Some of us went to the Army Intelligence School. Others were sent overseas. One of them was sent to (unclear) – a guy from Texas A&M he ended up in (unclear).

I went to the Army General School. I moved my wife who was then pregnant back to Connecticut and went to Army General School. That was about in March, I believe, of 1952. I finished that course then I came home for about two weeks or so of leave before I then went back to Camp Stoneman. We were put on an airplane and flown to Japan. We went from Camp Stoneman to Honolulu, but we were not allowed to do anything. We were kept under guard to Wake to Tachikawa airport in Japan.

There was a man who had been in Army General School named Captain Casey. Captain Casey had been in World War I, World War II I mean. He started a business, so he applied to be exec. but nothing had happened. When we arrived at Tokyo, he got off the plane. He went in to sign in and they said don't unpack Captain because you are getting on a plane tomorrow and going back to the United States. You're being separated from the service. You're going home. We waved good-bye to him.

Anyway, we stayed in Tokyo for a couple of days and then we were put on a train which went down through Hiroshima where we could look out the window and see that than then to Sasebo which was a Japanese naval base on the China sea. Then we took a ship to Pusan and then from Pusan I went to Taegu. When I arrived in Taegu, they said why are they sending all of you guys over here. We don't have any need for you. So, they were taking most of the Intelligence MOS officers and sending them to a special school to train them as a Forward Observer both in Piper Cubs and in the trenches.

I was there and waiting for order and one day somebody came in and said hey Reed they want you up at headquarters. So, I went up to headquarter and they said we were looking at you records here and you're from Upstate New York, right? I said yes, I'm from Upstate New York. They said well we've got the barber shop quartet from Buffalo coming here. They're coming over here to do a tour. They won the national championship and we want somebody from Upstate New York to be their escort. So, I got orders to go to Special Services and was the escort officer for the Buffalo Bills. They went across Korea and did a nice barber shop quartet at a couple of places. That took me about a week.

Then I came back, and I was sitting there, and they said well it looks like you're probably going to end up in a reconnaissance company because that's your MOA. I said ok that's fine with me. I wanted to do something since I was over here. Then about three days later they came over and said hey Reed you did such a good job with the Buffalo Bills now they want you to be an escort officer for Eddie Fisher. I said what do you mean. They said he's coming over here. Now this was something because Eddie Fisher was drafted into the Army, but he was there at the request of President Truman. The Army didn't want any part of him being there. I know this because I had a meeting with General I.D. White who was a Norwich graduate who was commanding a division over there. He called me in for an interview one day because he found out that I was there with Fisher. Somehow or another he knew I was from Norwich. I don't know how he knew.

He told me we practiced the show one way but some of the things these guys said and did on stage were not in the show when the practiced it. I was getting flak about this all the time. I kept talking to these guys but essentially, I had no authority over them. The band was made up of guys who were members of Special Services and Fischer was there at the President's...he didn't give a damn about what any of these guys thought anyways and did what he wanted to do.

So, I escorted him to (unclear), Korea. He sang almost every day for about six days there. Then they decided to take the whole show to Tokyo. The Major who was his SS Liaison Officer said to me well you won't be going to Tokyo because somebody else will be going with him and it probably will be me. I didn't know anything about this and started packing my stuff and they came in and said Reed, you're going to Tokyo. I said

how come, I thought you said...well, Eddie Fisher raised the devil because you escorted him all over and you don't get to go to Tokyo with everybody else so you're going to Tokyo. So, I went to Tokyo where they did the Ernie Pyle Theater. They performed there. Then they went somewhere else and I flew back to Korea.

I got back to Korea and I went back to Taegu and they said what are you doing back here? There was apparently some problems. The problem was that the intelligence people were directly under the G-2 of (unclear). They were tightening up control of these intelligence people because they wanted to know where they were. Technically, no assignments could be made without that. Anyway, I waited for a couple of days and a guy came in, an orderly came in and said sir you're wanted up at headquarters. So, I went up to headquarters. They said Reed we don't have paper orders for you right now but you're going to a reconnaissance company up at Corps. I packed up all of my stuff and got in a jeep and went up to this reconnaissance company. I joined them as a platoon leader. We were between the Corps boundary. It was the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division and on this flank were the Turkish Brigade. We were maintaining the liaison with them watching the night (unclear). At that time, the MLR was pretty static. It was before Pork Chop Hill, but it was during that time. While I was there, I found out where my best friend from college, the only member of my class to be killed in Korea was killed in in a tank which still sat out there in the middle of no man's land. They got his body back, but he died out there in that thing.

I stayed there in this reconnaissance company. Mostly what we were doing is liaison going out at night on patrol. Sometimes to get prisoners...I was very fortunate that I had a good sergeant with me but again we had the same problem that we had to have that experience all the way through. There was constant people coming and going. The enlisted men finishing thing, non-commissioned officers going out. I had a new commanding officer when I was there come in a week and a half after I was there. The cohesion of the unit was constantly being disturbed.

I read that book the "Band of Brothers". The thing that impressed me about that is how those guys worked together and fought together for so long that they knew what they were going to do. None of the units I was with during the Korean War ever had that kind of cohesion. Constant changes in personnel. Constant shifting around. So, you hardly got to know anybody.

I stayed there and I was there for about a month. One day somebody came down and he said hey they're looking all over for you. (unclear) said you get yourself up there, up to headquarters, up to the Corps headquarters right away and report to the S-1 or G-1. I went up there and they said Reed you're not supposed to be here. You're not even supposed to be in this unit. You're supposed to be in...they said we've got a jeep going down to Seoul tomorrow and you're going down to the 330 MIS Platoon which is Military Intelligence Specialist. That's where you're supposed to be. I don't know how you got up here. I said well they told me the orders were going to be cut and set. He said



well we've never seen any orders. We don't know what you are doing here but everybody just accepted that thing and the written note that the Major at the replacement place had given me.

So, I went back to the MIS platoon. They gave me a jeep and a driver. They said we have units at all these, the 1<sup>st</sup> Marines over on the...near Incheon all the way across the peninsula we have American units. We have to have everything inventoried. A Korean certificate of loss will have to be made out for everything that's missing. We have to know who these guys are and what they are doing there.

I started over there and went to every unit that had every Division headquarters, Corps headquarters all the way across past (unclear) making out Korean certificate of loss, finding out whether we had men in the naval hospital, a naval ship, that had never been reported back to our headquarters because they're with the Marines. I had to go out and visit him and find out what was going on and so forth. That was an experience in itself because they invited me...I was there but they wouldn't let me eat in the officer's mess because I did not have "whites". Some Bosun's Mate took me into their mess to eat because I'm in fatigues. I've been driving all over. All I had was this bag. You'd go to the shower point and throw everything and get clean clothes. So, I did that for...it took me a month or so fooling around traveling back and forth getting report, going back to Seoul every once and a while. Then I kept trying to find out what they were going to do about the regular army thing. I didn't hear anything more about it.

Anyway, in late November or so, November I think it was, somebody called me and said you're on active duty for two years. I said I thought I was going to be on active duty until (unclear). Well, if you're on active duty for two years president Truman declared everybody on active duty for two years will be separated from the military by the end of their two-year stint and your two-year stint is up. So, you're going home. I said ok. By that time, I was fed up. I had not heard anything from them at this time and figured my wife was living with her mother and her mother was not well and there was things that she was writing me to come home and was hoping that I would be coming home soon. I said this is it. I'm not going to be an officer in the military any more.

So, I went and came home and was separated at (unclear), New Jersey from the military. I stayed in the reserves until 1968 in one capacity or another attending camps and so forth. Then some outfit in Schenectady was supposed to make arrangements for me to go to the armored school so I could get my promotion from Captain to Major. I got my trunk packed and shipped it down to Fort Knox and I waited for the orders and they never came. I called the War Department and they said we never received your request. I called down there and they said we never bothered, no orders were cut in this department. I was not going to be able to be promoted or anything so I resigned my commission so that was the end of my military experience.

**Q:** Could you...did you ever have contact with the Turkish troops?

**JR:** With who?

**Q:** The Turks.

**JR:** Yes.

**Q:** What did you think of them as a military unit?

**JR:** I was glad they were on my side. They were a tough nut. First of all, you took everything off of any value before you went there because if they admired it you were supposed to give it to them. You had to exchange it. They were tough characters. They did not brook any monkey business. The big problem with them is that...one-time part of the division was making a tactical withdrawal. The North Koreans hit, the Turks were charging with bayonets high. All up and down the line there would be patrols. Nobody bothered them. They didn't have patrols coming after their lines at night because they would lie in wait with bayonets. They didn't shoot they'd just bayonet them. The only other ones who were like that were the Gurkhas. Same thing. If I had to go, I'd take a battalion of Gurkhas any day because those guys were tough.

**Q:** What did you think of the Republic of Korea troops?

**JR:** I didn't see much of them. There were two, Korean troops in the service of the United States Army who were with us. We had interpreters who were Japanese intelligence officers who were employed in the United States Army because we had Chinese troops. We had Chinese prisoners. We had no one who could translate so we were using Japanese Intelligence Officers who could do that because there were many dialects in China. The Japanese had people who could speak all of those dialects.

I was impressed with the...it was interesting because when I was in Seoul the UN troops were there and I used to eat at a mess hall occasionally that had officers from all different units. The ones who amazed me were the Belgians because some of them were Walloons and some of them were Flemish. They couldn't get along at all. They were from the same country. They'd argue all the time. Also, there was a Swedish Mobile Army Surgical Hospital. I didn't know why the men said if I get hit, I want to go to that Army Surgical Hospital. So, one time I went down there to see a wounded man and I met the Major who was in charge of it and he invited me in to have some food with him and I got to see some of the nurses and I understood why the men wanted to go to that particular hospital.

**Q:** What was your reaction to MacArthur's relief? How did you feel about that?

**JR:** I thought he should have been relieved. I guess maybe because I went to the intelligence school and some of the people there were intelligence officers who served in South Pacific with MacArthur. They didn't have a very high opinion of his use of intelligence. The other aspect of it was that Ridgway was a far better commander in terms of inspiring the troops. The troops were pretty dispirited. I thought that Ridgway was a much better commander. I felt the president had the right to remove him. I did

not see how...at that time I did not think much about it but didn't think that dropping nuclear weapons would have done any good.

**Q:** You mentioned here in your paper, the form that you filled out that you thought the Chinese had better equipment than the United States did.

**JR:** In some cases, yes.

**Q:** In some cases?

**JR:** the T34 tanks were far superior to the M4s and M3s. Later they were bringing in the 26s and they were much better. Their mortars were excellent and also their artillery was very good. As a matter of fact, one of the things the intelligence people were very concerned about was their lack of knowledge of where the Chinese artillery was assigned and how it was organized and everything. They had an uncanny way of opening up on you at times you didn't expect it. Their counter battery fire was very effective. I think that was something the Americans had not expected. They had an 80mm mortar or something like that was very effective. They put those things right in your hip pocket.

**Q:** Did you join any veterans' organizations?

**JR:** When I lived in Chester, Connecticut where I came out of elementary school, I was commander of the American Legion post down there for a couple of years.

**Q:** Have you stayed active?

**JR:** No because I got involved in a lot of other stuff. I didn't have time for that kind of thing.

**Q:** Did you ever stay in contact with anyone that you knew in the service?

**JR:** No.

**Q:** Do you think its because of the churning over?

**JR:** The turnover. I stayed in contact with Vincent (unclear), a young man from Texas A&M but lost contact with him and I never stayed in contact there was so much turnover you really didn't develop those kinds of friendships.

**Q:** How do you feel your service affected your life in any way. Do you think it changed your life?

**JR:** Yes, it did.

**Q:** In what ways?

**JR:** It made me decide not to do the... and I gave up the fantasy of being an officer that's for sure and I decided to become a teacher. I thought I should do something for peace so forth because nothing has left me sadder than to think we accomplished so little over there in terms of getting to the point where we had peace and no more war. Nothing bothers me more now than the thought that more young men are going to go over there or somewhere else and die. I feel very fortunate that I came back. The only thing I have

to remind me of my service is when I put in my hearing aids. That's how I lost my hearing...from the cannons. Yes.

**Q:** Do you think you had any side effects from going into the nuclear...after the....

**JR:** Not that any that I know. They sent out information and I sent in information. I got information from them. My film badge didn't show any significant level of radiation. I had two children and I am in fairly good health. I'll be...I made it through to...I'll be seventy-four this month so I'm doing fairly well.

(change tape)

**Q:** Do you want to show each of those up to the camera?

**JR:** This is a picture of me taken...

**Q:** He'll focus in on it if you hold it back. Otherwise its too blurry. I'll leave it up to you.

**JR:** Am I holding it right?

**Q:** Yes.

**JR:** This was taken when I was at Fort Benning, Georgia in a park near Fort Benning. I took it to send home to my mother. This is a picture which includes part of me and Eddie Fisher.

**Q:** Hold back a little bit.

**JR:** You can see more of Eddie Fisher than me but when we were there we were right now in the monsoon season and it got very wet over there. Korea is having serious floods now. For days, we were in water every single day. Here's another picture of me with another officer. This man is a lieutenant who was liaison officer from Special Services. He and I were in a hotel room.

When we came back, they didn't fly us back. We came back on this boat the *General Black* which was a troop ship. It took us sixteen days to come across the Pacific from Sasemo to San Francisco and fourteen of the sixteen days were stormy.

**Q:** Do you have any other...

**JR:** Do you want to show this thing?

**Q:** Well, we did that before.

**JR:** Would you think they would like to keep this?

**Q:** That would be great. Put in in your file. I don't think we have anything like that. Yes. If you want to donate it.

**JR:** I have no grandchildren and neither of my daughters are interested.

**Q:** One last question. Did you make use of the GI Bill at all?

**JR:** Yes, I did. I used some of the GI Bill to take a training program for teachers in Connecticut, an emergency training program back in the 1950's. The rest of it I used to get my master's degree at Wesleyan University. Then I went on later and got my doctorate and became a professional Skidmore.

**Q:** Do you have any questions. No. Well thanks very much for your interview.

**JR:** Thank you. Because I don't consider my self a hero. Somebody asked me about that at my alma mater and I said you know I did whatever they asked me to, to the best of my ability no matter how crazy I thought it was. I never heard anything from Eddie Fisher. I read a book about him by his wife (unclear)

**Q:** You know that's interesting because I had never known that he had gone to Korea to entertain the troops.

**JR:** (now off camera) (unclear) and the story in that the Army essentially didn't want any part of sending him over there. They got apparently a crewman (unclear)

**Q:** I guess he's still alive isn't he?

**JR:** Yes, he is. He wrote a book.

**Q:** I guess he has some problems with alcohol and all of that and drugs.

**JR:** He got involved with some guy who was some kind of (unclear) guy who was giving him strange drugs. (unclear). He's still living in San Francisco.

**Q:** It's an honor to meet you sir. Thank you very much. I'll see you around the museum.

(last couple of minutes talking in background off camera about other things)