

Armond Gordon
Narrator

Wayne Clark and Mike Russert
Interviewers

Interviewed on 11/21/2005
Home Interview
Warrensburg, NY

INT: This is an interview at the Warrensburg residence, Warrensburg, NY. It is approximately 10 AM on the 21st of November, 2005. Interviewers are Wayne Clark and Mike Russert. Could you give me your full name, date of birth, and place of birth, please?

AG: Armond J. Gordon

INT: Where and when were you born?

AG: October 17th, 1937. Glens Falls, NY.

INT: Thank you. What was your educational background prior to entering the service? How far did you go in school?

AG: Ninth grade.

INT: Okay. Did you enlist or were you drafted?

AG: Enlisted.

INT: You enlisted? Why did you pick the army?

AG: I don't know. Me and my buddy, we just joined together.

INT: Okay. And you joined in 1955?

AG: 1955.

INT: Okay. Now did you select the Airborne?

AG: Yes.

INT: Now, why did you decide to go into the Airborne?

AG: The extra 50 dollars a month. Back then, that was a lot of money.

INT: Where did you go for your training? Where did you go for your basic training?

AG: Fort Dix. Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. Then, Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

INT: And that's where you went for your Airborne Training [Fort Campbell, Kentucky]?

AG: Yup.

INT: Alright. Could you tell us of the kind of training you had at Fort Campbell for Airborne? Did they have a lot of exercises and so on?

AG: Oh, yeah. Lots of exercises.

INT: How many jumps did you make?

AG: 37.

INT: 37 all total?

AG: Yes.

INT: Okay. So you were assigned the 11th Airborne.

AG: Right.

INT: Okay. Where did you go on your assignment? Did you stay in the states or did you [go somewhere else]?

AG: No. Germany.

INT: You were assigned Germany?

AG: Yeah.

INT: How long were you in Germany?

AG: Almost two years.

INT: What were some of your duties when you were in Germany?

AG: I got in with the chorus group and sang. We sang for the.. I don't know. Here you call it the president, but in Germany they call it [something else]. And then we went and sang at the Vatican for the Pope.

INT: Okay. So you travelled around in a choir group?

AG: Yeah.

INT: So you didn't have to do a lot of training duties or anything?

AG: Oh yeah. We just went on this for a little while and then [came back].

INT: So you still went out on maneuvers?

AG: Oh yeah.

INT: So you probably were stationed along the borders in Germany?

AG: Yeah.

INT: Did you have any encounters with the Russians while you were there?

AG: Well, we were here. And over the mountains, they were, you know. Yeah, it was close.

INT: Were there any problems or anything?

AG: No.

INT: So you were in service until 1957. So, basically your whole time in the service was in Germany...

AG: Right.

INT: and Europe?

AG: Right.

INT: Okay. When you came back to the states and were discharged, did you join any veterans organizations?

AG: No.

INT: Have you ever... I know you're on a walker... Have you ever, do you have trouble with your legs because of all of your jumps do you think?

AG: No. This here started maybe, 7 or 8 years ago. My legs just gave out on me.

INT: Did you ever stay in contact with anyone that was in service with you?

AG: Yeah. We worked together for many years. Worked together, drank together [laughs].

INT: What did you do after the war, what kind of work?

AG: Let's see, I was in a painters union. I painted bridges, tanks, and [things like that]. I drove beer trucks for 20 some odd years.

INT: While you were in Europe, did you ever see any of the USO shows or travelling things?

AG: Yeah.

INT: Were there any stars that you remember seeing?

AG: I don't remember.

INT: Okay. Well thank you very much for your interview.