

**William Frederick Ball  
Narrator**

**Mike Russert  
Wayne Clarke  
New York State Military Museum  
Interviewers**

**Interviewed on November 23, 2005, 11:15 A.M.  
Warrensburg White Residence  
Warrensburg, New York**

**Q:** Could you give me your full name?

**WB:** The whole thing?

**Q:** The whole thing.

**WB:** William Frederick Ball.

**Q:** When and where were you born?

**WB:** In Glens Falls, New York.

**Q:** Ok, and when?

**WB:** When?

**Q:** When, yes sir.

**WB:** Hmm...Ah, Ok I'll stay straight with you. [Laughs] I get silly sometimes.

**Q:** [Laughs] Ok.

**WB:** I was born in Glens Falls Hospital.

**Q:** And when?

**WB:** 1929--so that makes me eighteen years old when I joined the army.

**Q:** What was your educational background prior to entering the service?

**WB:** I graduated from high school.

**Q:** Did you enlist in the army?

**WB:** Wait a minute, wait a minute! I think you spell that D-R-A-F-T.

**Q:** Oh, you were drafted?

**WB:** Yes, I was.

**Q:** So you were drafted in 1947. You said you were eighteen, correct?

**WB:** [Nods]

**Q:** Where did you go for your basic training?

**WB:** Oh my, you're digging deep now...to a lot of that stuff I said go away...I was drafted in Glens Falls, but I can't remember where I was sent.

**Q:** You were trained as a trained as a truck driver in the Army?

**WB:** No, I was a truck driver when I went into the Army, so they made me a truck driver! Isn't that the way they do it?

**Q:** Sometimes--sometimes they don't. What kind of trucks did you drive?

**WB:** Oh, I drove two and half ton trucks--most of them in the Army, and one and a half ton as a....civilian! Almost forgot that word. [Laughs]

**Q:** How long were you in the Army?

**WB:** Now you're digging my brain so deep! I was in for however long I had to be in. [Chuckles]

**Q:** I know from your form that you ended up in Korea and Germany. Were you in Korea during the war?

**WB:** It was during the late end part of the war--I just got the boys right up to the front, that's all.

**Q:** So you drove the troops and supplies back and forth to the front?

**WB:** Yup.

**Q:** Were you ever under fire?

**WB:** Nope. For the period I was in there it was kinda calm...[it was] all over I guess. None of the fightin', none of the gunfire...

**Q:** How did you like driving the two and half ton trucks? Did you ever have to repair them or did you just drive?

**WB:** Well, since I was partially a mechanic in civilian life, if there were minor things I would fix it.

**Q:** Where did you stay while you were in Korea? Did you live in tents or in barracks?

**WB:** In Korea?

**Q:** Yes.

**WB:** I was in tents part of the time, and sometimes buildings. It depends on how close you can get to the officers. Then you can get in. [Laughs]

**Q:** What were the men in your unit like? Were you friendly with your fellow soldiers?

**WB:** Oh, yes--I never had any problem with any of them.

**Q:** How about your officers?

**WB:** Officers? The ones I remember were pretty good.

**Q:** How about your food while you were in the service? Did you like your food, or have any complaints about it?

**WB:** You have a choice?

**Q:** [Laughs] No.

**WB:** Well, let's say...it was food, it was decent, you could eat it without choking, and things like that. But it was alright...I'd say it was alright.

**Q:** Were there any experiences that you had that stand out more than others?

**WB:** Not really. It was more or less calm when I was there.

**Q:** What did you do in Germany? You drove trucks and supply trucks and troop trucks there too?

**WB:** Same thing, yes. But that was after the Germans...

**Q:** Yes, after the war. Where were you stationed in Germany? Do you remember?

**WB:** Oh, man. This brain you know...they've been shrinking my brain for days and days and days and days--and I don't know what's left in there! It may be there but I've gotta find it!

**Q:** Well, do you remember where you were stationed in Germany?

**WB:** Not really.

**Q:** How did you like being stationed there?

**WB:** In Germany?

**Q:** Germany, yes.

**WB:** Anywhere where they're not shooting at me, I'm satisfied--it doesn't bother me. But if there's *zoom zoom* all the time, I don't like it.

**Q:** Was there anything unusual you did while you were in the service?

**WB:** I don't recall anything...unusual, really. Mostly...take the troops around, take the supplies up. Things like that when I was a driver. Didn't have any real problems, didn't have any real firefights, and didn't have any real shooting at me. I mean, every time I went over there, once in a while I would hear *zing zing*...that's about all. I think I had a very, very quiet period while I was in there.

**Q:** When you left the service did you ever stay in contact with anyone you met in the service?

**WB:** Oh...probably was one or two maybe, because they were from my area. But we didn't go along with it--we separated after a while.

**Q:** After the service, you returned to the Glens Falls area?

**WB:** Came out of the service, went back to Glens Falls, and went back to driving a normal truck. It's what I did before I went into the army. Went back to that job and...[shrugs]...no problems.

**Q:** So that's the job you stayed in until you retired?

**WB:** Oh, no. I changed over to some other jobs. But they were driving jobs. Nothing serious. Nothing exciting. Just backin' up, they loaded it up with the forklifts, and they do their thing and go. [Laughs]

**Q:** Do you think your time in the military caused any changes in your life?

**WB:** I suppose, yes.

**Q:** Do you think you would have ever gone to Germany or Korea if you didn't go into the service?

**WB:** I had thoughts of it--in Germany...I had thoughts of it. But it was stronger home.

**Q:** Thank you very much for your interview.

**WB:** Anytime.