

**Hector Allen
Narrator**

**Wayne Clark
Interviewer**

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At 6845 St.Hwy 29
Dolgeville New York**

WC: My name is Wayne Clark. Sir, for the record, would you give your name, date, and place of birth.

HA: Yes, Hector. J. Allen, I was born in Troy New York, March 31st 1932.

WC: Did you attend school in Troy?

HA: I attended St. Peters Academy until we moved to St. Johnsville during World War II.

WC: Is that where you completed your high school education?

HA: I graduated from St. Johnsville Highschool in 1949.

WC: Now, during World War II did your family experience any sort of rationing or any hardships because of the war effort?

HA: Well, I was kind of young but I remember the ration books with the various red and blue coupons or whatever they were that limited you to certain numbers of pounds of meat and butter and stuff like that, there was all of that, and gasoline rationing too, just a faint memory of that.

WC: Do you have any family members that participated in the war?

HA: Yes, my father had died and my mother remarried my stepfather, he was in the 106th division in the Battle of the Bulge, that was a brand new division and the Germans ran them out, and he was captured. He was a POW until the end of the war.

WC: And, as a student in school during the period of the war did you participate in any of the scrap drives or any efforts like that?

HA: Yes, yes, when we still lived in Troy we gathered up all kinds of aluminum pans and things like that and various other metal objects. There was a vacant lot, I lived up Hoosick Street in Troy, Hoosick St. and Oakwood Ave, and right in that area there was a vacant lot and they piled junk up there for the scrap drives.

WC: Did you participate in any sort of air raid drills in school at all?

HA: I don't remember any in school, but I remember the air raid drills at home, you know, the sirens would go off and then everyone would have to put the lights out and there were wardens that came around, knocked on the door, if you get a knock, you turn your lights on. I remember some of those.

WC: Was there a lot of celebration when the war did end?

HA: Well I was in St. Johnsville by that time and yes, people drove around, fire trucks and all that, sirens going, the bars, there were eight of them in the little village of St. Johnsville at the time, and they did a stand-up business I suppose, but I was only twelve years old so that didn't affect me very much.

WC: Okay

WC: Now you mentioned you graduated high school in 1949.....

HA: Yes.

WC...did you go onto college at that point, or, what did you do?

HA: No I didn't, I worked the local factory, a dyeing factory, they dyed rayon, nylon, orlon, various synthetic fibers and it was only a couple blocks from my house, so I had a job there, I always intended to save up money to go to college but unfortunately I bought a car and there were girls involved and money just drifted away, how it got to be, I was probably saved by the draft because then I was eligible for the G.I Bill, and that's what I did later.

WC: Now when were you drafted?

HA: I was drafted on November 7th 1952, I was twenty and a half years old, and I just kept waiting and waiting. I guess they drafted people older than twenty at that point in time. That was common, when you hit twenty. I went down to Albany for the physical, went to Amsterdam was local board 38 in Amsterdam, they put us on a train and we went to Albany and walked from what was then the railroad station up to a building where they had the medical facilities for the inspection

WC: I think it was the old post office building, I'm not sure. It's right on the corner of State and Pearl I think, downtown, or Broadway. Broadway and State I believe. Now, you were drafted into the army?

HA: Yes.

WC: Where did they send you for your basic training?

HA: Basic Training was at Camp Breckinridge, Kentucky. It was a large base that had been built for 2 divisions, that would be approximately 36,000 people in World War 2. They used half of it and the 101st Airborne Division ran the training program at that point.

WC: Was that your first time away from home?

HA: Yes, basically.

WC: How difficult was Basic Training?

HA: Not too difficult, because I wasn't in bad shape at that point. The job I had in the factory involved a lot of hauling and piling cases, and stuff like that. The official title was Shipping Clerk but it was more of bull work job more than anything else.

WC: Had you ever handled a rifle before you went into the Army?

HA: Oh yes, we all had. I had my own rifle, my own shotgun all that kind of stuff.

WC: After you completed your basic training did you go on to any additional training after that?

HA: Yes, I had taken this AFQT test. I qualified for officers candidate school but they had filled up at that time, and so they sent us to a leadership school, an N.C.O school of sorts and I had the dubious distinction of being the first person bounced out of that class and it was a series of errors I suppose, What happened was, I was on guard duty, we didn't have our own rifle, you had to the supply room pick up your M1 and I picked up, I was in a hurry because my Grandmother died and I tried to get it compassion leave, and I was mucking around with that, and they gave me a rifle without a sling. I said "well I'll come back after I get this other done" so I went to check with the Red Cross people about Compassion Leave, which was refused because Grandparents evidently didn't count, it was just a wild shot. I came back, the supply room was closed and here I was with a rifle with no sling and guard mount was a half hour. So I went to guard mount with a rifle with no sling. You would have thought I was trying to assassinate the President or something, they pitched a hissy fit there. The next day I had to go to the company commander of this unit and saluted smartly and said "No excuse, sir." The next thing I know I had orders cut and I was to report to Fort Lewis, Washington. (Both Laugh)

So that's my experience and I'll tell you a story now because I had served in the line company for seven or eight months and they chew gum and walk at the same time without tripping too much and I got sent back to the Ninth regiment personnel office, which the service called the Ninth Infantry, and the reason that that happened was because on my papers it said I

was a Shipping Clerk. But as I said it was more of a Bull Work job. It got me that spot. When I got there I was able to look at my own records and those son-of-a-guns had put on there "Not Suitable for Further Training." (Both Laugh) I hid that from the people at Oneonta State and Albany I don't know what I would have done.

WC: So basically they had you do an on the job training, so during this time what were you doing.

HA: Still at Camp Breckinridge you mean?

WC: Yes.

HA: The N.C.O was the kind of thing where you polished the back of your belt buckle, soles had to be shinned, stuff like that....It was not my type of deal anyway. But it was going okay because the PT was not difficult, you could manage that, and it was supposed to be a month. The funny thing about that also was I had friends there that came from George Company of the 502nd Airborne Infantry, where my basic training company....They found out where I was and they wrote me a letter. I was sitting on a sandbag reading this letter and they "All the people, last names A-H went to Germany" and here I was sitting on a sandbag in the middle of frozen chosen at that time, so that was it

WC: When did you go overseas to Korea?

HA: I went over in April and got there in the first part of May of 1953. War still had three or four months to go but....

WC: How did you go over there, by ship?

HA: Well, we went to Fort Lewis, I got to Fort Lewis, some people took a train out, but I blew some money and flew out, from Albany to Detroit, to Minneapolis, all the way to, on one those Lockheed Constellations a big plane, very high class plane at the time and I got the three days late...I figured, what the hell are they going to do, send me to Korea? Which they did. (smiles) Nobody said a word. I walked in, they gave me \$20, which was called the Flying Twenty, and I was pretty much flat broke at that point, and there was a pX there that sold pitchers of beer for 50 cents or 75 cents, pretty cheap. I went to Tacoma once, got a bus and went down, blew the Flying Twenty right away and then I was broke again. The boat that took me there was called the *General R.L. Houze*, it was the kind of boat that had one smoke stack, way in the back, this was not a big ship. On the way over it some storms and stuff, man that baby bounced. You'd stand on the deck and the bow would go right in the water, some of us thought we were surely doomed at this point.

WC: Did you get seasick?

HA: No I didn't, but it was very close because the first night was Puget Sound and then turned west out into the Pacific, when you did that the rolls started (gestures up and down with hands) and we ate at tables standing up, you know with cafeteria trays....a guy across from me got sick right there I almost did at that point but... I did not, which was a fortunate thing because I was one of the people appointed on the stairwell detail, and the stairwell got messy because this was down two or three decks, people would get sick and would have to try to get up to the top deck so they could throw up over the railing and.... some of them didn't make it. We were packed in there; you almost had to get permission to turn over. These were metal bunks with canvas and it was tight to roll over.

A friend of mine had joined the Coast Guard. He got a medical discharge from the Coast Guard because he was chronically seasick. He came home and they drafted him and he was on board the ship. We brought him oranges from the mess every day, kept him going, but the ship took eighteen days to get to Satsuno Japan, it was a slow boat.

WC: How many soldiers were aboard the ship?

HA: I don't know. Maybe a thousand, maybe more.

WC: Did you go with your unit or were there as replacements?

HA: This was all replacement stuff. We landed in Inchon and the boat couldn't get up to the dock so we had to go down these ropes into a LCI and onto the dock, fortunately this was well beyond the time when people were shooting at those guys. We got to Korea without any other incident.

WC: What was your impression of Korea when you got there? Did it smell different?

HA: Well, it was different in a lot of ways it pretty well run down, that territory had been fought over a couple of times. The North Koreans occupied, we blew them away, the Chinese came back and blew us away, we came back again, that whole area was pretty well devastated. I remember going through Seoul and it was pretty much wrecked. I remember also, when we got of the ship at Inchon, we got on a train to go north and the windows were all blown out and said on the side of them U.N Troup Coach, and there were bullet holes and windows out and all kinds of stuff, wooden seats, it was not a very plush ride to get up there. On the way up I remember two things: Number one, a couple of trains came down from the north, one of them had flat cars with all wrecked equipment, jeeps, tanks, trucks, anything that had been used up. Another one was a hospital train that came down; you would look in the windows and see these poor guys. That didn't do much for troop morale. As you said we were not going over as a unit, we were all replacement, so we went to Ra-Poh-Dem-Oh and stayed there probably three or four days before they got us sorted out and assigned to a division.

WC: Where were you assigned?

HA: I was assigned to 2nd Division, 9th Regiment, Easy Company.

WC: And whereabouts where you at that point?

HA: At that time, Easy Company and the 9th had taken some casualties at a place called Hill 355 and they were refitting and we were back in reserve area. Which was very fortunate, would have been far tougher to into a new unit when they were on line, in active combat. But I had two or three weeks there and then we were moved up to the Kansas Line, spent some time there, before we actually went up to the M.L.R

WC: What does M.L.R stand for?

HA: Main Line of Resistance. That was the front line.

WC: When did you see your first combat action?

HA: The Kansas line was a fallback position with all trenches and bunkers and barbed wire etc. We were there for a couple of weeks and it was pretty, pretty poor because it rained all the time. Damn trenches were filled with water and everything was all mud. We went up on line probably about the middle of June. And we stayed up the until the war ended, and I remember this date, July 27th 1953. 10:00 o'clock at night they shut it down. I remember that clearly.

WC: Was there any celebration at that point?

HA: Not by us. A Lieutenant came by and I was on a .50calibre crew at the point, and I'll tell you about that later, and we unloaded all the weapons he said. As soon as he left we loaded them all up again because we heard all this stuff about "War's gonna be over, War's gonna be over" when I was in basic training they talked about how it's over. On the ship on the way over "well it's over" and all this time it was over, but it didn't happen . But it finally did on July 27th and just before the end at about 9:00 0'clock, the Chinese let loose with a whole bunch of mortars and somebody told me that their mortars were trigger mortars, our mortars had a fixed fire you drop the shell in and up she went. I don't know if this was true or not but they blew off a whole bunch of ammo at that point in time, we just sat there and waited it out. Then it was over and very quiet, we looked at each other and said "Do you think?...." "Yeah, maybe." But, then it did.

WC: Did you have any close combat experience with either the North Koreans or the Chinese?

HA: Well, on the east edge of the Komar Valley, there was a small group of hills called the Boomerang. Unfortunately, the Boomerang was not the highest ground around. The highest ground was a hill called Hill 1062 off to our right front and the Chinese had that. Nobody was going to want to take that, because it was a long hall up that hill. I was on the .50 caliber crew at the time so I avoided going out on patrol, that was the worst duty at that point in time. We were supposed to be notified were the patrols were. That failed a few times. On time we pinned down one of our own patrols, fortunately we missed everybody. See, the .50 caliber was not T.O.N.E

for rifle combat but it came with the old World War 2 mess truck that had the ringmount over the passenger side of the cab and the Company Commander was a new guy from West Point, Captain Bell was his name, a nice guy, intelligent leader and he took that off and got a tripod mount somewhere and he picked five guys to run it, I was one of them. The problem was, none of use had heavy weapons training we were light weapons infantry, .30 Cal was as high as it went and they gave us a manual for this thing. Well, you take the backplate off where the triggers are and inside there was a thing called a timing screw. After a while, it wasn't running right, you would fire maybe ten rounds it would jam, you would have to open it up, get it back going again. Eventually it got so bad we sent it back to Ordinance and they sent us what looked like it was out of one of those John Wayne movies from World War 2. One of these Watercool 30's you know? The Big Fat Girl. A-Team gun basically. The only thing was they didn't send up the tank or the waterhoses so we had whittle plugs for the holes so that when we filled it up with our canteens , but if fired more than 100 rounds with it, as we did once, the steam would build up and the cork would blow out. This war was run the cheap, I'm telling you. The C-rations were 1942 and ten years in storage did not improve their flavor.

WC: You were eating ten year old C-rations

HA: Yes, the C-rations came in a box of 4 cans, 3 with food and the 4th had powdered coffee, powdered milk and a candy thing. The candy was chocolate or a jelly thing. It was like hockey pucks, really quite bad but...we ate it because out in the boomerang the company mess was back maybe a mile or two. You could only use that road at night, so most of the time we ate C-rations. Some were really atrocious, they had one called sausage patties and gravy, and this was poor. Nobody that I knew liked that and it would say on the top what it was. So, the guy went back to the supply dump to get the C-rations for the day. He would bring them up and turn them upside down and then you would pick. Spaghetti and meatballs wasn't too bad, it was like Chef Boyardee. The hash wasn't too bad either. Sometimes in the morning they would bring up actual food like scrambled eggs, which had been scrambled hours before and pancakes. Some of the stuff they would bring up in these thermal cans and I swear to god they used these thermal cans for gasoline at one time too. They all had a great taste of ESSO extra or something like that.

WC: Now what about your clothing and your boots, were they adequate?

HA: Well, this was summertime, they were okay. The clothing was okay. But for quite a while we didn't get too many opportunities to wash. But, we fixed that. They had engineering sticks, you know, that had like a groove you use for barbed wire and we found some of those and over the hill from our position Korea was a lot of like sandstone and springs would seep out and we found one down by the jeep trail and we made like an aquaduct. We tied the sticks together with combo wire, for radios and field phones, so we could get under that and we had a shower. It was not a great deal of water but it was some amount. After the war ended they had shower points, you could go back there to a big tent, you left everything except your boots, cartridge belt,

helmet and weapon and everything else was in the laundry, you got clean pants, underwear, shirts, socks, stuff like that, but that wasn't a daily occurrence.

WC: Now, how much time did you spend in Korea?

HA: I was there about 15 months. They had a points system , you got four points a month for being on line, 3 points in close reserve and 2 points for rear echelon. You needed 36 points to graduate and after war time ended I had 12 amassed, then the points stopped , it would have gotten me out of there in July of 1954.

WC: Once the war ended what did they have you doing?

HA: Well was a sore spot with us, we all thought “ the war's over the 2nd division is going home.” We thought that for about a month and then we realize this was not going to happen. We moved back, the Demilitarized Zone was about 3 miles or something like that, so we moved back a mile a half, something like that. We built all all new fortifications, we spent all summer and into the fall, digging again. Unfortunately the 9th Infantry Regiment was paired with the Thailand Battalion and the Thailanders didn't to dig. The British had people there, the French had people there, the Australians, the Greeks, all kinds of people were there but we had to be paired with the Thailand Battalion. At different time periods we were moving into areas they spent time in and didn't do anything. Eventually, by the Fall, there was another whole line, complete with : landmines, konchatina wire, got your hands pretty much cut off with that stuff, that's what we did, that was our summer vacation in sunny Korea,

WC: Did you get any sort of R&R at all?

HA: Yes, yes got R&R. After I transferred through down regimental service company my R&R time went up.

This is a family show right?

laughter

WC: Did you have much contact or interaction with the Korean People?

HA: No, because there was a big zone behind the line where they were not supposed to be. Although they were, after the war the seeped back in. We didn't have situations like there were in Vietnam or today in Afghanistan where our people are mixed in with the population, that would have happened early in the war when I wasn't there. By the time I got there it was like World War One time, there was a definite line.

WC: Did your unit suffer many casualties?

HA: When we were on line I think there were about fifteen casualties. None dead, all wounded but that's what I know because they were all spread out. I had been in the 3rd platoon but they

took us out of the platoon and set us up in an almost autonomous unit with the five of us. We didn't have to put up with any of the platoon leaders, lieutenants, or anybody, just the First Sergeant, whose name was Pace. I think Pace thought I was once of those wiseass New Yorkers, and Pace was dead-on with that one because eventually by the time I was ready to leave for service company he was great. He said to me "You don't have to go you know, you can stay." I thought that one over for about three seconds, but then I said "No, I think we're good." Because they had nice tents with floors, and this was living.

WC: When you were up on line were you living in bunkers or what?

HA: Bunkers yes.

WC: Did you see things like rats or snakes?

HA: I have a rat story. We had sleeping bunkers down the back slope, most of the action took place at night, hardly any took place during the daytime, because of our superiority with the airforce and artillery they didn't challenge that very much. I was in there one time and a rat was and I said "I'm going to fix that damn rat," and I shot the rat. Anyone with smarts should know you're not supposed to discharge a .45 in confines like that. It took me a couple of days to get my hearing back. That's probably why I'm wearing aid today, that was a mistake, but I got that rat. And then the snake, we were clearing out, back on the Kansas Line the War hadn't ended yet, and they had an M4 Tank with a dozer blade on it. The driver sat looking over the blade, and he had this axe that comes up and we were providing security for this, we were walking alongside it and watching him bulldoze these straw houses out of the way, to make sure they would not provide cover for the Chinese or whoever. The guy bulldozes up a great big snake that comes right over the top, he pulled down that hatch, and popped right out the top. The tank stopped and the snake had been totally squashed, it had to be about five or six feet long.

WC: When did you end up leaving Korea?

HA: I left in July of 1954.

WC: Where did they send you next?

HA: My time wasn't up until October, but they weren't about to reassign me somewhere, so I got out a couple months early.

WC: Where were you discharged from?

HA: Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, first thing I did... there was a clothing store nearby and I bought real clothes.

WC: Now just going back to Korea for a minute, you did receive CIB, correct?

HA: Yes.

WC: What did you do to do to earn the CIB?

HA: I don't know what the qualifications were, but the entire company received the CIB.

WC: At Kilmer, you decided not to make the army a career?

HA: In Camp Kilmer, just as we were getting our last pay, and medical stuff, this old First Sergeant gets up on the stage and he says you better reenlist, reup, because it's mighty cold out there. But by this time it was August and it was hotter the hell out there, we laughed and everybody went away, and that was the end of that. (smiles) I had no intention because the pay wasn't all that great, today people make what I consider... Wow. You see my first army pay was 67 bucks and there were no bonuses or anything, just 67 bucks. If you came back in you came back at your own rank, but mine had stayed PFC, what happened to that was the First Sergeant of Company E, that I eventually got on with. He had put me in for Corporal, but then I transferred, and they didn't take that with him. I got to the personnel office, the officers records section, the guy was a World War II Chief Warrant Officer can't say what he was because this is a family show, but nobody liked this guy. Nobody got promoted. He was like Captain Queeg from the Caine Mutiny. My job was to type up the efficiency reports, cause every officer had an efficiency report at least once a year, and every time they changed duty stations. The superior officer doing the efficiency report would hand and handwritten copy to me and I would translate whatever the hell they said onto a regular form that went to the Department of Defense. Every three they had to re-apply for reinstatement and to continue, the Chief Warrant Officer had to re-apply and he did. The mail came in from the Department of Defense, from the Pentagon, and one of my jobs was to open the box, and I saw his enlistment and they had turned him down, because his efficiency report wasn't very good. So I notified a couple of my friends and I said "watch this." I marched down to the Warrant Officer, saluted him, and laid that letter down in front of his desk and went quickly about face and walked back. He looked at that and then he went away, we didn't see too much of him after that. But I was almost gone anyway. I had one other experience. Since I was still a PFC, I was still eligible for guard duty, and so I was guard mount one night, I was on the first shift, it was still daylight. Across a little barbed wire fence was the Thailand Headquarters. So I'm walking along, walking my post in a military manner, as they say and I hear this screaming and hollering and I see three young kids, you see people hired Korean boys as "Chogi" boys, to do housework and chores. And there Thailand people, probably officers, chasing these boys right over towards me because there was a latrine there, covered up with a tent, these kids ran into the tent, bad move, they shot them. They started popping them off right there, I think they had carbines and they must have killed them, and here I am with an M1 with one clip. I should have done it, laid right out in the open, fifty yards away. I would gotten a ride back home, maybe to Levenworth, I don't know. (nervous laughter) I'm sure they killed them, I called for the Sergeant of the Guards and he called for the officer of the day, all kinds of people around, they moved me right away. So I never found out what all had happened. I should have done it.

WC: Were you affected by any tropical diseases at all, like malaria?

HA: No, what they had when I first got there was a pill called Chloroquine, a big pill that wasn't coated or anything. So every Sunday you would go through the mess line and they would give you one of these and you were supposed to eat it. Then I found out these would only quell the symptoms of malaria not cure it, nor would it prevent you from getting it. They would just make sure you could stay there to service the Government of the United States of America, After that I did whatever I could to get rid of that pill and I never got malaria. The one thing some people got was Hemorrhagic Fever, which came from rat bites, or lice on the rats, similar to the Black Plague. You got that, I think the casualty rate was about 90%.. I don't think it was wide spread, but you didn't get a shot for it.

WC: Once you were discharged, did you make use of the G.I bill?

HA: Oh, yes. I went to SUNY Oneonta.

WC: And you got your degree in....?

HA: 1958, and the I went to Albany for my Masters, but by that point the G.I bill had expired, but I only think I got \$110 a month. But at that time, Parents today will be happy to know, there was no tuition for SUNY Albany. \$110 a month wasn't bad, so the five of us rented an apartment at \$60 dollars a month, so it worked out to about \$15 dollars each which wasn't bad. So the rest was beer money and gasoline, and entertainment. I got married in my junior year and then it went up to \$135 a month.

WC: And you became a teacher and taught for....

HA: Yeah, I got a job at Little Falls High School, in Little Falls NY. Which was close to home, I knew a lot of people in Little Falls, because St. Johnsville was ten miles up the road. Stayed there for 34 years, I didn't intend to stay, but I did.

WC: Did you stay in contact with anyone you were in the service with?

HA: Yes, in fact this summer I'm going over to New Hampshire to see a buddy of mine from Company E of the 9th Infantry. I've seen a few of them but very rarely. Some of the guys I was in basic training with were from Amsterdam New York, Joe Campo still lives there , and Dave Crane, but he died about ten year ago.

WC: Dave Crane was a banker. Wasn't he?

HA: Yes, he worked for Key Bank. Did you know Dave?

WC: Yes, many years ago.

HA: He and Joe were in Camp Breckinridge with me , and I think he's been dead at least ten years and for a while Joe and I and our wives would go and.... but for the last couple of years we've kind of slacked off on that, I should call him.

WC: Have you attended any unit reunions or division reunions?

HA: No, some body convinced me, quite a while ago, a World War 2 veteran, to join the 2nd Infantry Division Association, which I did for a few years, but then I stopped because the reunions were mostly World War 2 people and nobody I knew was there so...

WC: Did you join the American Legion or the VFW?

HA: Yes, but the VFW eventually went kaput in St. Johnsville but I still belong to the legion.

WC: How do you think your time in the service changed or affected your life?

HA: I don't know... I was growing up anyway, I tried not to let it bother me too much. One of the the guys who was coming with us today was wounded, so he gets treatment. He had a treatment yesterday so he couldn't come today. He says, I treated it too lightly, but hey.... What am I going to do? Cry? I don't know if it affected me or not.

WC: Do you think you would gone on to college had it not been for the G.I Bill?

HA: I don't know. I don't know.... I wasn't going anywhere before I got drafted. But one of the reasons was I knew I was going to be drafted and it took a long time for them to get to me. I expected to be drafted until maybe 1951 but I didn't get drafted until 1952. That was my excuse anyway, for not doing anything serious. (laughter)

WC: Is there anything else you'd like to touch upon in the interview?

HA: I don't know. A friend of mine landed on D- Day at Normandy and he said it was " A great experience for a young man who was there ." I don't think so. Charlie may have been right but I don't really subscribe to that.

WC: Did you see any U.S.O shows when you were over in Korea?

HA: Oh yes, Marylin Monroe came, she wore a great big purple dress, spray painted nylons, so it was perfect. Then there were some others who were not quite as good. There were some whose talents were so great, but their efforts were good, and I can't remember who else I got to see. We really didn't get to do a whole lot of things, we were on the tail end of everything, but we did have a New Years Party. This was just before I went to the service company, and we had been in our tents, and we'd stopped digging because everything was frozen. I didn't know what we were doing, not a whole lot. We were issued some money, I don't remember how much. The company commander sent the deuce and a half back to Incheon or someplace important, and loaded it up with beer it was beer from Northern Michigan called Gobbles Golden Ale and I think it was basically green, I didn't know if it was brewed especially for St. Patrick 's Day or what but, we drank that, and here we are, halfway around the world,

freezing to death, in a tent with a small stove on one end and the tent ran on kerosene, if you stood next to it you'd roast, if you stood ten feet away, you'd freeze, we were drinking this cheap beer, and everybody back home was enjoying themselves. At least in World War 2 there were various hardships, there was rationing , and all kinds of other stuff, but In the Korean War people went right on like nothing was happening . I came home and I went to the Sentry Hotel in Mendenville, (motions off screen, acknowledging other) You've been there Donnie right?

Donnie: Yes

HA: I went up to the bar to buy a drink, it was the first Saturday night I'd been home, and a guy came up and said. "Hey, how's it been? I haven't seen you in a while. Where have you been?" and I said, "I've been away." But then the Bartender says, "I'm going to buy you a drink as soon as there aren't so many people around." But I never got the drink and nobody ever knew that I was gone. (Hearty Laughter)

WC: Well, thank you for your interview.

HA: Yep, no problem.