

**Edward D. Bushey
Veteran**

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

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New York State Military Museum
Saratoga Springs, New York**

Q: Could you give me your full name, date of birth, and place of birth please?

EB: Edward D. Bushey Senior, Hudson Falls, New York, October 27, 1928.

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

EB: Two years of high school.

Q: Did you enlist or were you drafted?

EB: I enlisted.

Q: Why did you decide to enlist?

EB: Well, I thought I would like to serve then, so I figured I'd try that. And, I get, uh, now I [unclear]...

Q: Why did you pick the Army?

EB: Well, really I enlisted for 1st Calvary, which was in Japan, [unclear]... but I didn't get in it until the Korean War, I got it up in Korea.

Q: When did you enlist?

EB: July 20th, 1948.

Q: Where did you go for your basic training?

EB: [unclear]

Q: How long were you there?

EB: I guess I was there probably 16 or 18 weeks, because I went to a clerk typing school ? [unclear], and then I was transferred.

Q: Did you have your basic training there also? Infantry training?

EB: Yeah, oh yeah. Then I went to Fort Devens, Massachusetts, and I was in a heavy weapons company.

Q: What were some of the types of heavy weapons you worked with?

EB: 75 recoilless rifle.

Q: When you went to Korea, is that the type of unit you were with?

EB: Heavy weapons. 8th Calvary didn't have a 3rd Battalion, so we became their 3rd Battalion.

Q: What did you do between 1948 and 1950, when the war started?

EB: Well, one summer we went down to Camp Bedford, Massachusetts, where we trained National Guard and Reserve, in that summer. And in the winter time we went back to Fort Devens. Then the next year we went to find [unclear], and well we were there probably four weeks before the Korean War broke out. Then they shipped us right back, put us on a tube train [cutoff by interviewer].

Q: What unit were you in at that point?

EB: I was in the 7th Infantry Division in Fort Devens.

Q: So was your whole unit sent out by train?

EB: Yes.

Q: How did you end up in the 1st Cav?

EB: Well, they didn't have a 3rd Battalion, so we were their 3rd Battalion.

Q: Okay, so they needed another battalion to beef up the unit?

EB: Yeah.

Q: Where did you land when you went into Korea?

EB: [unclear] Pusan, Korea?

Q: So this was when they were pushed back into that pocket?

EB: Yeah, they were.

Q: When did you get into Korea?

EB: It was August 9th, 1950.

Q: What was it like when you landed there?

EB: Oh, I couldn't believe it... when I opened my eyes in the morning and saw that... terrible.

Q: Where you put right into the front lines?

EB: Yeah, I went up a week after I got there, right up on the front lines.

Q: How did you feel, your first combat?

EB: Kind of shaky when the first shell hit the ground... I was lucky I wasn't ever hit.

Q: Now where was your recoilless rifle? Did you set it up on a tripod?

EB: Yeah, we did. When we went up, the rifle companies were on the front lines used it. But then they also [unclear] motive on the trucks during road patrols.

Q: How many were assigned to one of the recoilless rifles?

EB: I'd have to say seven, I'm not entirely sure on that.

Q: How did that work as a weapon? Did you like being in a unit like that?

EB: Yeah, it went really well.

Q: Did you ever carry a sidearm or have a rifle with you also?

EB: Yeah, M1.

Q: What was most of your duty like in this unit?

EB: We needed to get prepared to move from place to place a lot, even after they started moving up. After one started up, they moved pretty fast.

Q: Were you on the [unclear] landings?

EB: No.

Q: Did you move up the coast then?

EB: Yeah, we met the 7th Division in [unclear], in fact we went up on patrol and on the right side of the road there were two North Korean tanks. On our way back down after meeting 7th Division, the tanks were still there, and I never understood why they didn't fire at us right then... they must've been sleeping, lucky for us.

Q: Did you go all the up the coast then? To the [unclear] river?

EB: Yes, up the [unclear] River.

Q: Now, you were there in the winter also? What kind of gear did you have?

EB: Yeah, well we had a [unclear] and a sleeping bag. We had winter clothes but [unclear]. They said it went to 42 degrees below 0.

Q: Did you ever suffer from frostbite at all?

EB: No, I was lucky with that too.

Q: How did you keep your feet from freezing up? Did you have extra socks?

EB: We had heavy socks, but I was lucky my feet never froze. But it was cold enough to freeze, that's for sure.

Q: Did you ever have troubles with your weapons operating? With it being so cold...

EB: No, nope.

Q: What happened when you were up by the Yalu River?

EB: Well that day, they gave us our sleeping bags, and said, "Don't lose them, you won't get any more." Then we were with the artillery, firing at [unclear] level, I mean, it was [unclear]. At about midnight they said, "Well we better move out." So it went down the road, and they had a machine gun on this side (points left) and one on the right side. There was a tank coming down too, and trucks with wounded (soldiers) in it. And they were crying, I could hear them. I had been down on patrol earlier in the day, on the road that went that way (points to camera) and they had it blocked, I mean, there were tanks that didn't make it down through. [unclear after this]

Q: How were you able to get out of the encirclement?

EB: Well we had already poured over the side where that machine gun was, to the right, and then evidently, the tanks must've knocked it out because it wasn't there when I went over that hill. By morning we had made it back to the other units. (Mentions story about William Cole, a friend from Tennessee who was thought to be dead by the enemies, and walked wounded for four or five nights to safety).

Q: How'd (William Cole) contact you after 44 years?

EB: [unclear] he got my phone number and address and then he called me. In fact, [unclear] twelve years ago he came up to Watertown to look for another guy, and I went out there and I met him. Him and his family.

Q: How long were you in continuous action during this fall back from the Yalu River?

EB: [unclear]

Q: Was there fighting almost every single day?

EB: Oh yeah, [unclear] 24 hours a day you hear it going over your head.

Q: Now, did you abandon your recoilless rifle? Or were you carrying it with you?

EB: No, that was gone, [unclear].

Q: How did you keep supplied with food?

EB: We were pretty well supplied; we didn't go hungry. They had a lot of canned stuff, kind of got used to it after a while.

Q: Were you ever able to bathe? Did you get to wash your uniform during that time?

EB: It was about two or three months before they brought in a big tent, with portable showers. But we used to bathe in the river sometimes.

Q: How long did the retreat last?

EB: [unclear] I'd say roughly three months; I don't remember exactly.

Q: When you reached the 38th parallel, is that when you set up a defensive position?

EB: Yeah, they set it up but they were put back farther again, back down below [unclear]. And then they got back up again, back up to the 38th parallel.

Q: How long were you in Korea?

EB: Eleven months. I left July 20th, and that was the day I was supposed to have gotten discharged.

Q: One of the things you remembered was about a Sergeant telling one of the men he was going to be hit first...

EB: Yeah, on a ship we had this section Sergeant used to say to this one guy who was always doing something, he says "I hope you're the first one to get hit." On the first night we went up on the line, he was the first one that got hit. (Laughter) He didn't get killed but...

Q: You said one thing that made an impression on you were the Korean children...

EB: Yeah, oh yeah, [unclear] enjoyed the candy. We used to get candy all the time, [unclear] they did enjoy the candy.

Q: Did you have much contact with the Korean people themselves?

EB: We had Koreans that were with us. They used them for different things, like KP and stuff like that. Of course on the front lines we didn't have much KP because all you had was just canned food.

Q: Most of the time did you live in tents?

EB: No, very seldom did we ever get to put them up. Because we stayed one place, gone the other. [unclear]

Q: You weren't ever there for when they were digging trenches and bunkers? You were more moving, correct?

EB: Yeah, we were moving [unclear].

Q: I noticed you got the Bronze Star with "V", how did you get the Bronze Star?

EB: Now, we were under fire, I think it was tank shells, which is what it sounded like, but there was ammunition in the building and we had workers take it out of the buildings.

Q: I also noticed in a newspaper article that you had to wait for it for a little while...

EB: [unclear]

Holds up article about him receiving his Bronze Star from Gerry Solomon (January, 1994)

Q: When you got back to the States, how much longer were you in the service?

EB: I was in until April '52.

Q: Where were you assigned, your last year in the States?

EB: Well, I was discharged from Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania, but I was at Fort George Meade, Maryland, which was just temporary. And I got over there, I told them I had been in [unclear] school, so I ended up in the headquarters company working the Post Office.

Q: And that was your assignment until you got discharged? In April of '52?

EB: Yeah.

Q: You waited until you got back to the States before you got Malaria... how'd that happen?

EB: I was home on a 30-day leave, and I was home for about 15-days and me and my girlfriend went to my grandmother's in Burlington, Vermont. We went to the movies and came back, then I started sweating. Then after a while it went back to normal, then the next day I was alright, and came home. One day, I had another incident, my father called an Army doctor, who looked at me and said I had Malaria.

Q: Did you ever use the G.I. Bill after you were discharged?

EB: No, no, never used it.

Q: Did you stay in contact with anyone that served with you?

EB: William Cole, recently, but I only knew of a couple that were there, I mean the rest of them were gone.

Q: Have you ever been to any of the reunions?

EB: No, I haven't.

Q: Did you ever join any veteran's organizations?

EB: [unclear] American Legion [unclear], then I joined the Korean Veterans one in Glens Falls in '92.

Q: So do you think you're the "Forgotten War"?

EB: Yes, I do. I mean up here, there is very little Korean stuff.

Q: How do you think your time in Korea had an effect on your life?

EB: Well it was an experience, that's for sure.

Holds up pictures of himself, one in uniform (1952), one of him at the 38th Parallel, and one of him in uniform in 1949.

Q: Did you have any feelings, either way, when MacArthur was relieved of command? Did you ever think about that?

EB: No, I really thought that he was doing a good job. I got to see General Ridgeway after he took over, but I never saw MacArthur.

Q: How did you feel about MacArthur? And how did you feel about Ridgeway as generals?

EB: Well, it's kind of hard to tell, they were both good men, good generals.

Q: Well thank you very much for your interview.

EB: Yeah, I hope I did alright.

Pictures of him in a book are shown at the end.