

**Joseph P. Cash
Veteran**

**Caitlyn Bunker
Joseph Lawrence
Marissa Saylor
Orchard Park High School
Interviewers**

**Interviewed on
November 8th, 2006
Orchard Park High School
Orchard Park, New York**

Q: Hi, how are you today?

JC: Real good.

Q: So, start off by telling us how your experience like, how it started out?

Q: Were you drafted?

JC: I was drafted in 1952. In 1953 they draft me again and I was 1A. That was when I go in the service.

Q: So when you were drafted, where were you living at the time?

JC: Buffalo, New York

Q: How did you feel about being drafted? Was it hard feelings or were you kind of-

JC: No.

Q: Were you kind of excited or nervous or what?

JC: I went right in, because I wanted to join earlier when I was 18.

Q: So you were happy!

JC: Yeah.

Q: How old were you when you were drafted again?

JC: Twenty-one, I think.

Q: Did you pick to what branch you were in?

JC: No, when I went in, they drafted me to tell me where to go.

Q: All right. And do you recall your first days in the service?

JC: My first days?

Q: Yeah.

JC: Physical. Physical training, they give you shots and all that good stuff. Yeah before they take you in they got you to be in good shape.

Q: Umm, so what did it feel like being like away?

JC: Away?

Q: Yeah.

Q: Where were you?

Q: Where did you go?

JC: Fort--- Fort Dix.

Q: Fort what?

JC: Fort Dix in New Jersey. D—I—X. I stayed there for a while and then I went to Aberdeen Proving Ground for advanced training in artillery.

Q: Where was that?

JC: Aberdeen, Proving Ground, that's where they test all the Army equipment, Army, Navy, Marine, tanks and artillery stuff like that. There I went to Camp Chaffee, Arkansas at Fort Smith, that's the name, Camp Chaffee, Arkansas, advanced training and artillery.

Q: What was the boot camp like?

JC: That's what that was.

Q: But like was it intense, hard did people quit...did anyone like see anyone give up, like couldn't handle it?

JC: Um we had one guy, but we took care of him, we helped him along the way little bit.

Q: So it was pretty hard though?

JC: Not Really, you got to go through training, you got to go through physical training, I got pictures running and KP duty, you know what that is? Kitchen detail. Washing pots and pans, guard duty.

Q: Dishwashers?

JC: We didn't have any dishwashers. No, your hands were the dishwashers. Fire drill, they had your fire police, guard duty around the clock, two hours on, four hours off.

Q: Is that like when you have to switch shifts and you get to sleep for four hours?

JC: Yeah you sleep for four hours [snaps fingers] and then your four hours are over that fast.

Q: Did you ever go overseas?

JC: Yes I did. Seventeen months in Japan

Q: How was that?

JC: Well it was nice there, no fighting, but there are a lot of maneuvers you got to

go out every week for maneuvers, like change monthly. I was in the 105 howitzers, Battery C, Charlie Battery, 1st Cav Division.

Q: This is when you get to see combat?

JC: No, I would have saw it if I was drafted in (19)52.

Q: So there were probably no casualties in your unit, because there was no combat?

JC: No.

Q: Did you make any friends?

JC: A lot of friends.

Q: Do you still see people from your early years or no?

JC: Years ago I did, but then I stopped, I still have some of their names, but of course. I don't know if they forgot about me.

Q: Why not?

JC: They didn't correspond with me!

[Unclear]

Q: So what are some of your most memorable experiences?

JC: Well, I took up thirty days of mountain training, and I climbed a dead volcano. Not me by myself alone. It was called Mount Azumaya-san, Mount Azumaya-san.¹ There was a small village in it, we used to repel, and well you ever see these mountain climbers, that's what I was doing. Thirty days.

Q: So where was Azumaya-san?

JC: In Japan.

Q: I was going to guess that.

JC: Thirty days of that.

Q: Do you want to share some photographs?

JC: This is all of them and some papers and stuff like that, I was going to go on the reserve, but I didn't go because in didn't have to at that time. These are some names that I went into the service with. I think some of them are from Buffalo too.

Q: Oh really?

JC: Yeah, maybe got some relatives in there, who knows? These are everyone, thought I had more names then I guess. Yeah he's from Buffalo isn't he?

Q: Yeah I think these are alphabetical.

JC: Okay. These are the other ones I when I went over there. They were all from out of town.

¹ Possibly a reference to Mount Azumaya (四阿山), a mountain which has an elevation of 7,723 ft, on the border of Nagano Prefecture and Gunma Prefecture in Japan.

Q: Massachusetts!

JC: Who?

Q: Massachusetts that's where they are from.

JC: Right. I might have some double copies here, yeah my honorable discharge, naturally. You can see this papers old, because of the envelope. Did you see them? Any relatives in there, you never know? Notice the last names, you might know?

Q: I looked in Massachusetts and there aren't any there.

JC: Texas, Watertown, Kansas. Oklahoma, Missouri, Muskogee, Michigan, Texas Everett Mass, Puritan guy. Okay now these easier, this is when I grew up a little bit, they got some, you don't want to look at those.

Q: Yeah we do!

JC: That's when I was young.

Q: This is the fun stuff!

JC: That's me right there. We got any days in there [unclear]

Q: These your friends?

JC: Yeah my neighbors, when I used to live on Sherman Street in Buffalo. This is a buddy of mine that I, he lived a couple doors down in Buffalo Sherman Street. That's his brother, that's nobody. Yeah, this is my first cousin in Erie, Pennsylvania. This the dam in, out in Rochester and everything.

Q: Is this you?

JC: Where?

Q: This big one.

JC: Yeah, I think we're at a picnic, it's always good to put down the dates on there, so you can remember what. I didn't have time to do that I guess. This is an old book. It's antique. This is Jones Beach, when I was young, me and my buddy went down. Ever went to Jones Beach? That's the Empire State Building, in New York City.

Q: Is it by Long Beach?

JC: Jones Beach, Long Island.

Q: Yeah, I've been to Long beach.

JC: That's a nice beach. Now we were in Japan over there now, [unclear] Camp Chaffee, Arkansas I believe. Maneuvers we had to run over these logs, then were looking through a periscope with the artillery. 105 [mm] howitzers.

Q: Is that you?

JC: Right here yeah. I got one over here when I was in Japan.

Q: Oh you with the ladies.

JC: One of the bars, [referencing his location in the photo] on the left side, you know had recreation too you know.

Q: Oh well get to that later don't you worry.

JC: We had a few beers every once in a while, [unclear] Sake and Akadama.²

Q: Is that like drinking games?

JC: Sake? Its wine, wait no, sake is wine, rice wine. Yeah you can drink it hot or cold. Akadama is wine. It's the good stuff. It can really knock you for a loop.

Q: Can you explain this picture too?

JC: That's me, we're going overseas, I guess.

Q: Did you ever get sea sick?

JC: Yeah twice, ongoing and coming back, man.

Q: That's the worst.

JC: Terrible.

Q: You guys date any of them?

JC: No, we didn't date any of them, it was like here, what.

Q: Pick the right way here.

JC: They were like your Playboy, not Playboy but...

Q: A brothel?

JC: No like they have over there at the Bunny Club or something like that...

Q: Like a strip joint?

JC: No strip joint, just a regular bar. Alright here on the ship again that's me. Yeah this is Camp Chaffee, Arkansas. These are my buddies from New York City. Yeah they both are.

Q: Oh, hey buddy

JC: I don't have their names. I know, now this is at Camp Chaffee, Arkansas, you got it in color, see. He's from Buffalo, I think. That's me right there. That's me there again. He's from New Jersey, this is while we were in Japan. See all the little Boy-sans,³ Babysans,⁴ that's what we call them. You're getting ready to go, more in Japan. We're in Japan. There's a monkey up here in the picture.

Q: It's a real monkey?

JC: Yeah

Q: They had a bunch of wild monkeys?

JC: They eat a lot of stuff there, that I don't think you want to eat. Raw fish,

² Akadama (赤玉), Japanese brand of fortified wine.

³ Boy-san, a colloquial reference to juvenile male camp followers in post-war Japan.

⁴ Baby-san, a colloquial reference to Japanese women who fraternized with US servicemen in post-War Japan. Term widely popularized by a comic strip created by Bill Hume. See Kim Brandt, "Learning From Babysan," *The Japan Society*, (<http://aboutjapan.japansociety.org/learning-from-babysan#sthash.9rNni4aK.dpbs>)

snakes. See how crowded it is in Japan, full of cities. It was massive. Army trucks. You know they had bicycles, y'all carry your little brothers and sisters, on their back. Yeah there they are, that's why they are bow-legged, well they got their legs wrapped around it, on their backs. You see how they do it. Se they got a big family they got all the rice patties. You know that's going by with the truck with the 105 [mm howitzer]. They got wagons, horses, they carry everything. Yeah, we were at the bar--don't tell nobody. These things here are honey buckets, I don't know if you have ever heard of them. But we have bathrooms and they dip the... Put it in there and then he dump it in the rice fields, they have honey buckets.

Q: they dump it in the rice fields? Don't people eat the rice?

JC: Yeah.

Q: That's bad

JC: that's good for them. Not for us. No you don't want to. That food really gets big over there I tell ya'.

Q: There what?

JC: Their food, you know there vegetables, ours is just regular, there is like this, cause of the fertilizer, they use manure over here so what the heck. Yeah that's one of the bars we--

Q: One that you frequented often?

JC: You got little motorcycles, with the go-karts and stuff. Like a miniature truck, but on a bicycle with three wheels.

Q: Did a lot of your friends have relationships with the Japanese women?

JC: Probably did. That's us out in the field again doing the maneuvers, we got the camouflage with 105 [mm howitzers].

Q: They don't ever get married [to Japanese women]?

JC: Not that I know of, no. I don't recall. Its gets cold out there and when we set up these guns, we have to dig around it, the ground drops down. There's our cheap mechanic.

Q: do you know who any of these guys are?

JC: nope I don't know any of their names either. It's been so long. This is the only guy I knew who was better, I don't have his address anymore, and the Blue Moon [unclear]

Q: Oh my look at you!

JC: Yeah

Q: I hope you met your lady friend after the war.

JC: No two years is long enough, this guy got emulsified. You know what that means?

Q: No, what's that mean?

JC: Inebriated. and it cold out there that's why they had to support us. Where I

was before, the first, I was on the island of Hokkaido, where Sapporo is. You know where they had the Winter Olympics (in 1972), it gets cold up there.

Q: You didn't do anything to him while he was drunk?

JC: No, we let him sleep it off.

Q: You didn't like draw on his face?

JC: He just got, he just re-upped too. See nowadays, when you re-up, you don't get the money--it goes into the bank. When he got it, he got the money, he got drunk, he got in trouble, he got locked up in the stockade, and you don't want to do that. That's me and my truck that I used to clean inside and out.

Q: Who's this guy?

JC: Again I can't remember their names dear, it's been too long. It's been over fifty years, I think they were about ready to get home I guess, they're getting all dressed. I would have stayed but they don't want to give you too many stripes so they said goodbye. They had some good guys.

Q: Is that you?

JC: Yep, that's me.

Q: That's you there, you got your glasses

JC: You know it, yeah.

Q: Is that you again?

JC: Nope, those are a couple of other guys, this is all in Japan. We were stationed somewhere at the foot of Mount Fuji. See where we got all camouflage.

Q: Did you ever have to climb Mount Fuji?

JC: No, not that one, we had to climb Mount Asumaya-san that's what we had to climb. We had tents and gasoline stoves, that's me. It gets cold.

Q: Did the tents ever keep you warm?

JC: Oh yeah you got a sleeping bag. Here we have Mount Fuji, that's Mount Fuji.

Q: Are these friendly bears?

JC: Well he's got his shorts on.

Q: No he doesn't.

JC: Yes he does. He's got his shorts on, you can't see nothing, but that's Mount Fuji where were standing, it's pretty tough to put a tent up because it's all ashes.

Q: So it doesn't stay very long on the ground

JC: This guy here, he messed up.

Q: How?

JC: He did something, well at that time he just became Private First Class and he lost it.

Q: What did he do? You don't remember what he did?

JC: I don't know if he got emulsified or what. This guy was a big guy, is that me I don't know if that's me or not, maybe not. Oh I forget it anyways, that's me right there.

Q: Oh my gosh you're so cute.

JC: Yeah, this me and Jim together, that big guy, he looks like...

Q: Frankenstein!

JC: Mutton Jeff or whatever, that's me, that's me out there, we were the 1st Cav. We got our bayonets ready for action.

Q: Wow

JC: Well...better not, that's me on guard duty. This is up in the Aleutian Islands now, we had to go that way because of a storm.

Q: Looks cold there

JC: The Aleutian Islands? Yeah, you know where it is, it's up close to Alaska.

Q: Yeah.

JC: Yeah we had to go there.

Q: My grandpa was stationed there

JC: I think we're coming home this time and I might not have too many more pictures left, so we drew away later that day, yeah that's it.

Q: Oh wow that's really nice.

JC: You can take your pictures, whichever way you want too.

Q: Oh well what's this bad boy?

JC: This here? Well when I got out of the service, wait I got married in 1960. I joined the Legion, and I've been doing service for 33 years and have been the commander for the American Legion for eight years. Board of directors, 12 years. Still volunteering, for the good of the Legion, 33 years.

Q: How did you meet your wife?

JC: At a bar actually.

Q: Oh my God, around here?

JC: No, in Buffalo.

Q: Well yeah

JC: She lived in Northpark and I lived in Buffalo, she must have got a visa to get into both of those too. I'm only kidding. You didn't get that huh? Well I had to get a visa to come work in Orchard Park. Anything else?

Q: So those are the veteran organizations you're in?

JC: Yes just the American Legion.

Q: So you going to show us what they look like or what?

JC: The what?

Q: Are you going to show us what they look like?

Q: Are you going to show us what they look like or what ?

JC: What this here is what you get. All of these---the stars are for every 5 years, so I got 2, 4, 6, 8 - 30 right?

Q: Yeah.

JC: Here's all of our stuff that we got for going to conventions and stuff and stuff like that. That's about all and we got medals, Korea, I mean past Commander's Club, they have a club for that, for that and now whatever we have a state convention when the National Commander comes in the town we get medals, a souvenir. That's all that's my commanders hat.

Q: Oh it's a hat?

JC: Oh yeah.

Q: Is it heavy?

JC: Yeah with all the medals. You got the commander--I never take it off I leave it on.

Q: Look at you!

JC: How do I look all right?

Q: All you look cute!

JC: Not bad for 74 years old

Q: You're 74 years old! Really?

JC: Yeah.

Q: You don't even look 70 years old!

JC: Yeah that's right I got some more metals out. That one is from Korea. I don't know who that one. Is anybody in your family in the service?

Q: My grandpa was a pilot for the air force.

JC: Did he have one of these?

Q: I don't know.

JC: That's the Air Force. I got it from a friend of mine.

Q: So did you guys like trade pins and stuff?

JC: No, not really. I don't want to keep keeping putting it on my hat. Some guy sometimes have a little display...that they keep all that stuff in.

Q: Where you put on a hat?

Q: When you came home from Japan, was there a party or anything?

JC: No, I got home Christmas Eve 1955 I knocked on a door of my mother and then she was.

Q: How was he keeping in touch with the family?

JC: I wrote letters to letters to my aunt. Whe was in Erie Pennsylvania and my mother. Sent money home, otherwise I would have been broke.

Q: Was she expecting you?

JC: No I got home at night time. It was an 8-hour drive when I left New Jersey or New York and got on the train I had mustered out up there, so I had my money my pocket, and an eight-hour drive on a train on New York Central, I got on a bus...I had a bus drove home, knock on the door, and she was there.

Q: Do you have any brothers and sisters?

JC: No.

Q: Oh.

JC: my sister passed away 1946.

Q: I'm sorry.

JC: It's okay. That's life.

Q: What job did you take, what was your career after?

JC: I went to work for Ford's stamping plant. I stay there for a while, I guess. I didn't like it so I drove for 35 years a truck.

Q: That's what my uncle does.

JC: Oh yeah? Is he a over-road driver? He drives over the road?

Q: Yeah.

JC: He drives midnights. He gets you sent to the place or destination for delivery in the daytime.

Q: Yeah

JC: Yeah, whatever.

Q: He drives on the road.

JC: Who's he drive for? Overnight? Roadway?

Q: I don't know. I just remember playing with this horn.

JC: Air horn. Beep! Beep!

Q: Did you honk when the kids do that?

Q: When they do this to you?

JC: Oh yeah, and can you do it.

Q: I got yelled at for doing that

JC: Is that right? Well anything else?

Q: Is there anything else you like to add?

JC: Ask me something. All right maybe I can remember some stuff.

Q: You guys ever play pranks each other?

Q: Yeah what you guys do to each other?

JC: Short sheets.

Q: What's that?

JC: You fix the sheets halfway so when the guy gets in he rips the sheets

Q: What! Explain this one again?

JC: The sheets, you fold a halfway, and when the guy opens up his bed, and he gets in his bunk. He rips his sheet but he has to put his feet in there or else they don't go anywhere

Q: That's so funny. Did you guys do anything else?

JC: I think we got some guys to get a GI brush and gave him a good bath.

Q: A GI brush?

JC: If they don't want to take a shower, we'll take care of you.

Q: What's a GI brush?

JC: It's a GI brush. You know, I used to scrub---the scrubbing brush.

Q: Oh the bristles are really hard?

JC: Oh yeah, then you'll learn to take a shower.

Q: People didn't want to take showers?

JC: Man, one guy, he didn't even want to wash his clothes!

Q: Why?

JC: He wasn't used to that stuff. His mother did it for him. He's a mama's little boy.

Q: So you used to scrub brush on him?

JC: We helped him a little bit. We straightened him out a little bit.

Q: Were you like a leader? Not like a commander or anything but out of your friends did you lead the group?

JC: Led the group? Well, maybe.

Q: Were you popular?

Q: Were you intimidating?

JC: Well, yeah I did pretty good. Oh, yeah keep your mouth shut and do your duty. Nothing to need to worry about it. Enough with KP duty well. If they needed it, it is what they got.

Q: Oh my.

Q: So did you ever get to see anyone at a reunion or anything?

JC: No. I don't know.

Q: Did they have those at all the beginning?

JC: No. That was 1954-55 people were different than I guess.

Q: What did you do as a job--after?

Q: He was a truck driver, remember?

MS: Oh yeah.

JC: I worked for Ford Stamping for a year or two. And then a guy there and was a truck driver for 33, 35 years.

Q: And then you did this is a volunteer?

JC: Yeah.

Q: So you're retired now?

JC: I had a security job for 8 years and they gave me the shaft, and I said goodbye. So now I got 365 days of whatever I want.

Q: 1 year?

JC: Yeah.

Q: For the rest of your life?

JC: Well I saved, and worked just enough for the day that I take my nap later. Get everything done in the morning wife is still working wife is still working I do the laundry on the weekends

Q: Where does she work?

JC: She works for Cluber Corp. It's a printing company. They make all the paper books, paper bags and all that.

Q: Oh, that's pretty neat.

JC: I have a basement full of books.

Q: How long have you guys been married?

JC: 46 years.

Q: Woah.

JC: Shh! Don't tell anyone about that.

Q: So cute.!

JC: Yeah.

Q: Are you going to throw a big party for your 50th?

JC: Well, yeah...

Q: If you don't plan something special you get the boot! That's the rules!

JC: Is that right?

Q: Yeah 50 if there's nothing special...

JC: 1960, I got married...

Q: You think he's going to get the boot after 50?

JC: Well, I will work on something on that. My wife threw a surprise birthday party for me and my 50th 200 people came.

Q: Where was my invite?

JC: You probably weren't around.

Q: Yeah oh yeah I wasn't.

JC: You were 1 years old then.

Q: No I wasn't I wasn't born 40 years ago.

Q: Did you have any children grandchildren?

JC: Yes. I got two kids. Boy and a girl. Joe went to school here and Lisa. Lisa Cash and Joseph cash. They're old now. They're both married now. Lisa's got three. Joe's got two.

Q: Do they go here?

JC: Little Harley does on Davis Road. He's only 5 year's old. Harley Davis cash. You know Harley-Davidson Motorcycles?

Q: My dog is named Harley.

Q: Are you related to Christian Cash? She goes here.

JC: No. Are they Italian?

Q: Yes. Are you Italian?

JC: Yeah.

Q: Yeah.

...