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4	ORAL HISTORY OF NED DAVID FOOTE	
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6	December 7, 2004	
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1	Ned Foote - 12-7-2004					
2	MR. CLARK: This is an interview					
3	at the New York State Military Museum, Saratoga					
4	Springs, New York. It's the 7th of December, 2004,					
5	approximately ten a.m. Interviewers are Mike					
6	Russert and Wayne Clark.					
7	INTERVIEW					
8	BY MR. CLARK:					
9	Q. Would you give me your full name,					
10	date of birth and place of birth, please?					
11	A. Ned David Foote and I'm from					
12	Glens Falls, New York. Born in 1948.					
13	Q. Okay. What was your educational					
14	background prior to entering service?					
15	A. High school. I graduated in					
16	1967.					
17	Q. Okay.					
18	A. And					
19	Q. Did you enlist or were you					
20	drafted?					
21	A. I was drafted.					
22	Q. Okay. And you were drafted into					
23	the Marine Corps?					
24	A. Drafted into the Marine Corps.					

- 1 Ned Foote - 12-7-2004
- 2 All right. Ο.
- 3 Α. Pew.
- 4 Okay. Where did you go for your Ο.
- basic training? 5
- 6 Paris Island. Α.
- 7 Ο. Could you tell us a little bit
- about your basic training? 8
- 9 Well, that was the low point of
- 10 my life I think. Marine Corps basic training very
- 11 mush a account to it, what you've gone through
- 12 which was special. Looking back on it now there's
- 13 a lot of funny things that happened, but during
- 14 that time I mean we're -- everybody was really
- 15 scared. And -- and it's for a reason that they --
- 16 again looking back on it, they -- they really kind
- 17 of build you into what -- what they wanted the
- 18 Marine Corps, what to be. And -- and their message
- 19 was quite effective. They did make you feel that
- 20 you were above death or above being able to take
- 21 Again, I'm a grunt, so I -- I was more --
- 22 that's what they told me, you know, and that was
- 23 very effective.
- 24 Q. I forgot --.

- 1 Ned Foote 12-7-2004
- 2 A. I'm -- I'm kind of glad I went
- 3 through the Marine Corps.
- Q. Uh-huh. Now when did you -- when
- 5 were you drafted?
- 6 A. I went in the Marine Corps April
- 7 **25th**, **1968**.
- Q. Okay. Now what kind of weapons
- 9 did you train on?
- 10 A. Mostly M-14 and you did -- you
- did have one day of training on Flame Throwers and
- 12 M-79s and -- and -- and different weapons that the
- 13 Marine Corps had back then. You had -- you got to
- 14 fire them one time to make you crazy, you know, all
- types of weapons that they had. But mostly you
- 16 trained with an M-14. And I went to Vietnam where
- they gave us the M-16's Ack-Ack. We really didn't
- have a lot of training on the M-16.
- 19 Q. Did you prefer one over the other
- 20 at all? And I know you probably didn't carry the
- 21 14 in combat.
- A. No, 16 is a really nice rifle.
- 23 It was -- it's a lot lighter than a 14.
- Q. Uh-huh.

- A. A lot of people preferred the 14.
- 3 They always wanted the 14, but I think when you --
- 4 when you carry a 14 all through boot camp and you
- 5 train, I mean you -- you never let go of your M-14
- 6 and if you ever dropped it, God forbid, in boot
- 7 camp. You've got to sleep with the M-14's. You
- 8 kind of develop -- some people develop a feeling
- 9 for the M-14. They had to have the M-14. And you
- know, when I received the M-16 there's didn't much
- 11 like it.
- Q. Did you -- did you go on to any
- 13 training after boot camp, advanced training,
- infantry training?
- 15 A. Yeah, they had -- had -- once you
- leave boot camp and you're assigned M.O.S. and I
- was assigned -- assigned infantry OP-11 and we went
- 18 to Camp Lejeune which is advanced infantry
- 19 training. I spent two months, three months,
- whatever the time was in Camp Lejeune. That's
- 21 where were fired the other weapons you were talking
- 22 about.
- Q. Did you fire the M-16 there also
- or -- or did you do that in country?

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1	Ned Foote - 12-7-2004
2	A. We may have we may have one
3	day handled the M-16 and shown how to take it apart
4	and fire it. I think I think it was then. Then
5	we went immediately right back to the M-14.
6	Q. Now when you got to Vietnam did
7	you have any sort of like a week or two weeks
8	training there before you went to your unit?
9	A. No. I was there three days and
10	then assigned to my unit, then we'd go out in the
11	field.
12	Q. Okay. Did you ever?
13	A. I had training filling sand bags.
14	Q. Did you ever have any trouble
15	with any problems with your M-16 in the field?
16	A. Not not really. The the
17	it wasn't really the M-16, it was the magazine.
18	Q. Uh-huh. Yes.
19	A. And it's the dust and dirt and
20	if you didn't keep that magazine clean and kept it
21	at eighteen shells and not the twenty, it's a
22	twenty-round magazine, but you could only put

eighteen in.

23

1	Ned Foote - 12-7-2004					
2	A. Because that kind of helped					
3	Q. Right.					
4	A the jamming up.					
5	Q. Did you did you have the M-16					
6	with the with the round flesh surbrunter					
7	(phonetic spelling) or did you have the three prong					
8	one that they used in the?					
9	A. Three prong. Three prong. I					
10	know what you're talking about on that.					
11	Q. Yeah.					
12	A. The depression on the end and					
13	Q. I know guys used to use that for					
14	opening cases of cement.					
15	A. Yeah. Oh, yeah, that's right.					
16	You're you're right. I just I forgot about					
17	that. You did put her down and stand the					
18	Q. Yeah.					
19	A. That's correct. I I never					
20	I never remembered that. That was cool.					
21	MR. RUSSERT: So you when you					
22	went to into Vietnam you were assigned your unit					
23	within three days. What unit were you assigned to?					
24	MR. FOOTE: I was assigned to					

- 1 Ned Foote 12-7-2004
- 2 India Company, 3rd Battalion, Fourth Marines, Third
- 3 Marine Division. The base camp was in Dhawg Tre
- 4 (phonetic spelling) that's where I went. We flew
- 5 into Da-Nang and flew up to Dung Phar (phonetic
- 6 spelling) and then kind of got a (indiscernible)
- 7 boat up to up to (indiscernible). And there we
- 8 were (indiscernible) three days of -- not
- 9 orientation, (indiscernible). The weather wasn't
- 10 all that great, so we had to wait for choppers to
- 11 fly to -- and when the weather cleared they said
- 12 come on, you're ready to go, let's go.
- 13 O. Uh-huh. Now when did you arrive
- 14 in Vietnam?
- A. It was in October or -- yeah,
- 16 October. And I don't remember the exact date.
- 17 Q. Uh-huh.
- 18 A. We had the boot camp and I.T.R.,
- 19 the advanced infantry training, we got to come home
- 20 for thirty days and then we went to Camp Pendleton,
- 21 California, for thirty days of refresher and then
- directly to Vietnam.
- Q. So did you go up to like
- 24 Vandergrift (phonetic spelling) or the --?

- 1 Ned Foote 12-7-2004
- A. That's -- that's where I was,
- 3 Vandergrift. When I talked to a lot of people on
- 4 the Vandergrift. I didn't -- I didn't consider
- 5 going to create my where I was. I was only there
- 6 for three days when I first got there.
- 7 O. Uh-huh.
- A. But we were -- when we came out
- 9 of the deal at Vandergrift and when I mentioned
- Vandergrift some people that were older -- the
- older times didn't know where Vandergrift was and
- they always talk about Ellsrestud. Well,
- 13 Ellsrestud and Vandergrift turned out to be the
- 14 same thing. They had renamed -- renamed it. And I
- didn't know that until years later after I looked
- 16 it was black bottom, Contien when they were
- abandoned, not when -- not when they came through
- 18 functional, heavy fighting I was there after.
- 19 Contien we did kind of pass through Kha Son
- 20 (phonetic spelling) which was abandoned at that
- 21 time.
- 22 O. Uh-huh.
- A. My area of operation first, I was
- a D.M.C. and you were along the D.M.C.'s. What we

- 2 did we had patrols inside the D.M.C. and every day
- 3 we were up there. I would say ninety percent of
- 4 the time I was there we were in -- we were in the
- 5 field.
- 6 Q. Uh-huh.
- 7 A. The field meaning mountain area.
- Q. Did you do a lot of like night
- 9 ambushes?
- 10 A. Not so many ambushes at
- 11 nighttime, but we had the O.P., the observations
- posts and you had the O.P. at nighttime, a
- 13 listening post. They're always scary.
- 14 O. Uh-huh.
- A. And three of the guys supposedly
- the lieutenant would say you have to go down two
- 17 hundred meters and kind of hole up in this area and
- 18 stay there all night. Well, as soon as you got
- down there and it got dark enough you got like
- 20 moved back. This is better, the procedure and I
- 21 think they all knew it. And you'd tell the guys,
- 22 whoever was going through the line, what you called
- 23 the line, the perimeter, we would say we'll be
- 24 back, don't shoot me. And then you move your --

- 1 Ned Foote 12-7-2004
- your L.P. closer to the whole. You know, you don't
- 3 want to be out there by yourself.
- Q. Did you make much contact at
- 5 night?
- 6 A. No. No. You heard movement.
- 7 O. Uh-huh.
- 8 A. You could hear -- always -- you
- 9 always hear noises and you hear movement. You find
- signs of things that -- that the enemy -- the
- 11 M.V.A. had camped. I didn't fight the Viet Cong at
- all, not with the Viet Cong. I fought with the
- 13 regular North North Vietnamese Army which they
- were very well trained people.
- Q. Did you encounter any booby
- 16 traps?
- 17 A. The booby traps that we had were
- 18 the clay mortar mines. They either command
- detonated or trip wires. That -- that was -- the
- other kind of booby traps I would say no. Maybe
- once in a while you'd find where they'd put a
- 22 grenade in -- in a --
- 23 O. Bamboo?
- A. -- C-ration -- C-ration can.

- 1 Ned Foote 12-7-2004
- 2 They'd -- they'd put a grenade in there with a trip
- 3 wire and you know, you'd trip over the wires and it
- 4 blows up the grenade.
- 5 O. Uh-huh.
- A. We didn't have many casualties.
- 7 And all our casualties -- most of our casualties in
- 8 my company were from the clay mortars. Again
- 9 they're command detonated or trip wires.
- 10 Q. Could you describe some of your
- 11 patrols, what a patrol was like?
- 12 A. Well, ass kicking, boring.
- 13 You -- it's like every day you're going up and down
- 14 the mountains, up and down the mountains. And most
- 15 time we took trails. A few times we had to clear a
- path with machetes, not -- not very often, but
- 17 standard, what the -- what patrol you had to do was
- 18 keep off the paths. Well, the higher-ups were --
- were out in the field. I mean we had to keep on
- 20 paths in -- in order to reach our objective for
- 21 that day. You know, it's a long humps.
- 22 Q. Uh-huh.
- A. It's just -- it's -- and very
- 24 tiring. You're carrying a hundred pound pack on

- 1 Ned Foote 12-7-2004
- your back and hot, up and down the mountains. And
- 3 we know when we're going to get there and we want
- 4 to get there soon. We can dig our hole, eat our
- 5 C-rations and try to get a little shut eye.
- Q. As an infantry man what was worse
- 7 for you, the heat or the monsoon season?
- 8 A. I missed most of the monsoon
- 9 season. I wished I had missed the heat.
- 10 O. Uh-huh.
- 11 A. I missed it because I was wounded
- 12 and medivaced out. I -- I -- it wasn't October, it
- was almost toward the end of the monsoon. I do
- 14 remember when I went out to the P.O. and it poured
- 15 rain and it lasted about a week. And then -- then
- 16 it -- that was like the end of the monsoon.
- Q. And you were never --
- 18 A. And that --.
- 19 Q. -- in serious trouble during that
- 20 period probably.
- A. No. God, they -- oh, they
- 22 were -- it rained. You slept in the -- in the
- 23 rain. It would rain periodically after the monsoon
- season and -- and that was always a hassle

- 1 Ned Foote 12-7-2004
- because -- because now you're -- you're wet. And
- 3 you try to get comfortable at night and everything
- 4 is wet. You know, and that's kind of -- I think
- 5 I'd rather have the -- have the heat. Like today I
- 6 would rather have the heat than what we have out
- 7 there.
- O. Uh-huh.
- 9 A. But the heat was unbearable. You
- 10 know, I -- I did have heat exhaustion one time and
- it's kind of like a combination of walking up and
- down them hills when it's hot like that,
- 13 carrying -- I also carried a radio at -- at times
- with the old pack.
- Q. How heavy was your pack?
- A. Between -- probably between
- eighty and a hundred pounds, depending on what
- 18 you're carrying. They always wanted you to carry a
- 19 maul. You know, that was needed you could --
- 20 O. Uh-huh.
- 21 A. -- a one-shot deal that never
- 22 worked or an E tool. Everyone's forced to carry an
- 23 E tool and a entrenching tool, and maybe a mortar
- 24 round for the mortar team or some -- some machine

- 1 Ned Foote 12-7-2004
- 2 gun ammo which is very heavy.
- 3 O. Uh-huh.
- A. And when you're humping you're --
- 5 you've got to carry all that kind of stuff, so any
- 6 personal gear in your pack you -- you didn't really
- 7 carry. I mean that meant a tooth brush or a -- a
- 8 razor became a very heavy object. So we -- in our
- 9 part of the team, which is three of us, one person
- 10 would carry our razor. Most of -- most of us
- didn't have enough whiskers to shave anyway, but in
- 12 the Marine Corps you had to -- you had to keep it
- 13 clean -- clean even out in the field. You know,
- and you had to -- you had to shave and -- and you
- know, your turn to carry the razor. It's kind of
- funny thinking of it, but boy, that razor is damned
- 17 heavy. So you got rid of that stuff. You got one
- guy -- you've got to get your E tools, so you let
- one guy carry an E tool. And you know, there's
- 20 ways that we got rid of the equipment.
- 21 Q. Uh-huh.
- 22 A. And -- and like the captain will
- come around and company commander and you'll have
- 24 enough to eat for a week. They would order a bunch

- 1 Ned Foote 12-7-2004
- of E tools and I say, shit, you know, and you've
- got all these brand new E tools, but we seem to
- 4 lose them along the way. Because everything became
- 5 to damned heavy to carry.
- 6 O. Uh-huh. What kind of rations did
- 7 you carry? Did you carry the C-rations?
- A. The C-rations, 1949 I think the
- 9 dates were on them.
- 10 O. Uh-huh.
- 11 A. They were pretty tasty. You
- didn't have anything else to eat. They were very
- 13 tasty. And you learned to cook with them. You
- 14 learned -- everybody had Tabasco Sauce and -- and
- that went on everything. And you learned to bake
- 16 things. The only thing I could not eat was -- was
- 17 the scrambled eggs and bacon. I think that's what
- 18 we had.
- 19 O. Or lima beans?
- 20 A. Well, lima -- I -- I liked the
- lima beans. We didn't get that many. That was
- 22 like earlier. If you -- if you got the '48 batch
- 23 then you didn't have lima beans. But I didn't mind
- 24 the lima beans. I couldn't -- I couldn't hack

- 1 Ned Foote 12-7-2004
- 2 the -- the scrambled egg things they had.
- 3 O. Uh-huh.
- 4 A. Everything else was okay. We
- 5 learned to make good C- ration fudge and that --
- 6 that --.
- 7 Q. Well, I never heard of that.
- A. Oh yeah, that -- that was good.
- 9 You -- always in the C-rations you had a couple of
- 10 candy bars.
- Q. Uh-huh.
- 12 A. And you had like chips in them
- and they had peanut butter, so we'd take somebody's
- 14 helmet -- I'll tell you about the stew we made too.
- Use somebody's helmet and you'd heat it up, you'd
- 16 throw in cans of peanut butter and you'd -- and
- you'd melt -- melt the chocolate with it and they'd
- throw in the powdered sugar and the -- and the
- 19 powdered cream and get it all mixed up and it
- 20 was -- it was good. It was good.
- But the stew I should say we
- were -- we were somewhere and we'd use somebody's
- 23 helmet and I think we burned a hole through it
- 24 because we'd heat everything with C-four. C-four

- 1 Ned Foote 12-7-2004
- was the explosive material, but it didn't have a
- 3 blasting cap. It was very safe and you'd torch it
- 4 and within twenty seconds there was boiling water
- 5 and everything else. But when we used that helmet
- 6 that time we kind of like put too much C-four and
- 7 we kind of burnt the helmet up and -- oh, well.
- 8 But everybody donated -- we had everybody donate a
- 9 can of C-rations. And we put it all -- emptied all
- 10 the C-rations into the -- into the helmet. Oh,
- 11 that all the rest went in don't know if we'll make
- 12 stew because it didn't work and -- and the burnt
- 13 helmet didn't help the taste of it.
- Q. Did you carry extra water?
- 15 A. Oh, water, oh, yeah. Yeah. I
- 16 believe I carried five canteens. Probably five
- 17 canteens. They always had a premium. There were
- 18 times where -- where we couldn't get supplies. The
- 19 weather might be bad and I remember we went almost
- 20 a week up in -- often short of supplies, ran out
- of cigarettes. That's -- that's -- that's bad too
- 22 when you run out of cigarettes. And -- and
- 23 that's -- that's another interesting story I'll
- 24 tell.

- 2 And these -- these are all the
- 3 highlights of my Vietnam experience, not the --.
- 4 We'd find humor -- we'd find humor wherever you
- 5 can.
- 6 So when we ran out of rations, we
- 7 ran out of cigarettes, after we were resupplied,
- 8 went back to Vandergrift, the home base. I'd wrote
- 9 home to my brother, he's in college, and asked him
- 10 to send me some tobacco and wrapping papers. You
- 11 know, I'm -- I'm from Glens Falls, New York, I'm
- 12 still -- I'm still kind of naive about drugs or
- anything like that. My brother kind of wrote back,
- 14 you know, and kind of hi, you know, why don't you
- send some of that marijuana back and all that kind
- of stuff. I couldn't figure out what -- you know,
- 17 what are you talking about, I want to -- I don't
- want to ever run out of cigarettes again, so I want
- 19 to be able to roll my own when we -- when we run
- out, so everybody can have cigarettes. And he's
- 21 written back about marijuana, you know, and that's
- 22 when I started learning about marijuana. It wasn't
- from -- people always say all that stuff in
- Vietnam. Well, hey, I learned it from my brother

- 1 Ned Foote 12-7-2004
- 2 going to school, not -- not Vietnam. It made me
- 3 aware.
- Q. Uh-huh. Was there any drug use
- 5 in your unit at all, do you know?
- 6 A. After I was made aware by my
- 7 brother I did -- I did notice not drug use, but
- 8 marijuana.
- 9 Q. Uh-huh.
- 10 A. We had gone on patrols for -- one
- 11 time I was watching down on Charlie and I see a
- 12 bunch of guys picking leaves and I said what are
- 13 they doing, you know, they're picking leaves. So
- 14 that night they was walking around the perimeter
- and every night, you know, you set up your
- 16 perimeter. So I was kind of like -- and again I
- think it's my job to do line check that night or
- 18 something. And these guys had -- well, they all
- 19 had ponchos over their heads and there's smoke
- 20 coming out. Well, it was marijuana. They were
- 21 doing this C-ration can. They had -- had the
- leaves in -- in there and they were lighting them,
- 23 trying to -- trying to smoke on it. It didn't do
- 24 anything because they're fresh -- fresh leaves

- 1 Ned Foote 12-7-2004
- 2 and -- and they have to be dried out. But that was
- 3 my learning of what's going on.
- I, myself, being -- being --
- 5 wanting to be one of the guys, we were near a bill
- one time and they were kidding, saying when they
- 7 ran out, well Gin with marijuana cigarettes, a pack
- 8 of marijuana cigarettes, so I -- I bought a pack
- 9 just so I could carry so I could be one of the
- 10 guys. I never thought about trying it. I never
- 11 really wanted to.
- 12 Q. So you could buy it from kids in
- 13 the villages?
- 14 A. Oh, you -- you could buy opium, I
- mean it was -- where I was we didn't have a lot of
- 16 contact with villagers. Once in a while we did and
- 17 they would come out. Mostly the kids would come
- out and sell you -- try to you soda or -- or
- marijuana, opium, and their mothers.
- Q. So you didn't have that many
- 21 encounters with -- with the natives?
- 22 A. No. No. Not -- not where I was.
- MR. RUSSERT: Did you ever see
- 24 any Montanards?

- 1 Ned Foote 12-7-2004
- 2 MR. FOOTE: No. No. Very little
- 3 contact with -- with any South Vietnamese. We had
- 4 Kit Carson scouts a couple of times.
- 5 MR. RUSSERT: Uh-huh.
- 6 MR. FOOTE: But they were only a
- 7 short period of time and they -- they -- they were
- 8 gone. We -- we operated on our own. We're an
- 9 American outfit and we didn't have any of the
- 10 other -- other outfits, the Australians or any --
- 11 any of that.
- 12 MR. CLARK:
- 13 Q. What were your feelings about the
- 14 Kit Carsons or -- or did you not even --?
- A. I wasn't close enough to them. I
- 16 knew they were there, they -- they -- you had your
- 17 command post with, you know, the company commander
- and -- and his -- his people around him and you
- didn't have a whole lot of contact with the company
- 20 commander. Your -- your -- they're still
- 21 levels out in the field, I guess, and we -- we were
- 22 on the perimeter. And we were the low -- the low
- people. We did -- we're the -- the fighters and
- 24 the other guys were the planners and -- and it was

- 1 Ned Foote 12-7-2004
- 2 kind of like you didn't go up there unless you were
- 3 called up to the command post. And that's where
- 4 the Kit Carsons scouts were. So whatever they did
- 5 up there I had no idea and we -- we only worried
- 6 about ourselves.
- 7 Q. Now you mentioned in the form you
- 8 filled out you had an encounter with a tiger?
- 9 A. Yeah. We're near the rock
- 10 pile. The rock pile had -- the rock pile, rock
- 11 formation going way up -- way up in the sky. And I
- 12 believe they did have a unit up there. They must
- 13 chopper them up because I don't think you can climb
- 14 that hill. But at the bottom of the hill they did
- have a base camp and then they had an observation
- post on another little hill. But the observation
- post was manned by a whole squad. Was it a squad?
- 18 Yeah, it had to be a squad with mortar platoon
- 19 attached to you. And there's also a army tank on
- 20 this outpost. And we was only there for three
- 21 days and at the same time we had -- we had a
- 22 management assessment and I did try marijuana and
- 23 that's when I first tried marijuana. Because we're
- 24 by ourselves, we didn't have any command people.

- 1 Ned Foote 12-7-2004
- 2 And I remember the doc was giving everybody
- 3 different types of pills to take and all that kind
- 4 of stuff and my experience with -- with the
- 5 marijuana, I guess it's like well, I -- I never
- 6 inhaled or Nixon or whoever said that, -- because
- 7 I didn't inhale I didn't have it, because it didn't
- 8 do anything for me. And I did try all different
- 9 kinds of pills and you know, whatever the doctor
- 10 could scrounge up, which here, try this, try that.
- 11 So -- so we all hung in a -- in a little tent area
- and we had very few people out on the perimeter
- where again there's no command people there to tell
- 14 you what to do.
- 15 And before I get into the tiger
- part, we were there again three days and our
- 17 lieutenant who wasn't with us, he was down at the
- main base, didn't bring us beer. And they called
- up and myself and another guy had to walk down to
- 20 the main base and pick up our beer rations for our
- 21 squad.
- Well, me and the other guy went
- 23 down and I would kind of -- had a -- had the Jeep
- 24 with a wagon on the back with all this -- this --

1 Ned Foote - 12-7-2004 2 and the beer was stacked up so I'll give you guys a 3 ride back. Grab your two cases or whatever. Well, 4 the lieutenant was drunk, so whatever the two -- I 5 think it was like two cases of beer we were 6 supposed to take, well, we ended up taking like 7 seven or eight of them. The lieutenant didn't know 8 any better, he -- he was too drunk. And then we're 9 both got on the -- on the trailer and he drove us 10 up and I talked to the lieutenant while the other 11 guys unloaded them and kind of hid them. So we had 12 a good party that night with beer and that was it 13 for the other stuff. 14 So one of the -- it wasn't that 15 night, but maybe the next night we're -- again 16 we're all hanging out in both tents having a good 17 time actually. And somebody hollered we have 18 movement. So we kind of like stopped what we were 19 doing and went out -- out and tried to tried to 20 listen. 21 And then somebody's hollering 22 there's a tiger in -- we see a tiger in -- a tiger 23 in our perimeter. So now we're all scared and we

all got our rifles now, we -- we all start

24

- 1 Ned Foote - 12-7-2004 2 spreading out and going back to where we're 3 supposed to be in -- in our holes. And a lot of 4 people heard movement, brush movement and stuff 5 like that. Now -- now -- now we've got a tiger. 6 I was the -- I had the radio, so 7 I -- I -- I called back to -- to the main base 8 camp, the lieutenant, and reported in that we had 9 movement out here, can we get illumination. We --10 we think we've got a tiger inside the perimeter. 11 So now it become a big thing and now -- now the 12 company commander down on the line would say what's 13 going on, where's the tiger, you know, blah, blah, 14 blah, and we're going to have illumination --15 illumination right away, but you had an M-60 mortar
- 16 team which they started their illumination. All 17 of a sudden we got some artillery illumination 18 lights up our -- our perimeter and -- and the next 19 thing I know we've got the battalion commander on 20 the line saying what's going on, did you see the 21 tiger, how big is it, blah, blah, blah. I'm nervous as hell because I'm now talking to 22 23 probably the Probably a Colonel and little old me, 24 you know, E-three lance corporal talking to a

- 1 Ned Foote 12-7-2004
- 2 colonel, telling him about a tiger that we had
- 3 running around in our perimeter. We had like
- 4 twelve guys, we're lined up. We heard all the
- 5 rustling down into this little -- lone stand tree.
- 6 So all twelve guys open up on full automatic, but
- 7 we're on the line. Now -- now we needed some guys
- 8 to -- no more movement. Now we need some guys to
- 9 go check that out and it was very tough to find a
- 10 couple of people who would go down there. Now it's
- outside our perimeter and you know, it's a big
- 12 tiger.
- So a couple of guys said we'd go
- down and we're -- we're watching them. You know,
- we've got the sky lit up much like daylight
- outside, you know, and all this cost money, you
- 17 know. You get -- they call down there and they get
- 18 the rifle shots ready and -- and where -- where we
- 19 all fired at and then they all opened up again
- 20 because they saw this -- saw this tiger that's
- going to eat us all up. And they fired to make
- sure he's dead. So they -- they drag -- drag the
- 23 tiger back up and -- and it wasn't a tiger, it was
- 24 a -- I think they called it an Ontoes (phonetic

- 1 Ned Foote 12-7-2004
- 2 spelling). Not the 106 that we call Ontoes it's an
- 3 Ontoes animal that had kind of like a -- kind of
- 4 like a tiger head and some other type of body. It
- 5 had a whole bunch of different things into this one
- 6 little animal and it -- (gestured) like that.
- 7 O. Yeah.
- 8 A. There's -- there's the battalion
- 9 commander saying how big is it, how big is it. And
- 10 I say, oh, it's maybe twenty to thirty pounds and
- 11 there was like silence down there. Oh, it must be
- 12 a small cat, you know. Okay. So everything's over
- and we got this thing, we wrapped it in plastic and
- 14 said you can keep that and we want to look at in
- 15 the morning, we're coming up in the morning. So
- here comes a chopper. We got news people with
- 17 cameras and stuff. The guys grab this thing and
- 18 they hold it up for picture taking. I said it's a
- 19 little freaking animal, but there was -- there
- 20 was -- that was a fun time.
- Q. It looked bigger at night?
- A. Yeah. Well, I don't think we
- ever made -- made the Stars and Stripes. I don't
- 24 think -- they did take a picture of us holding it

- 1 Ned Foote 12-7-2004
- 2 up and I remember the stuff falling out of it. And
- 3 then we buried it. I think they buried the story.
- 4 But it cost them a lot of money that night to send
- 5 up all that illumination and -- and twelve people
- 6 emptying a whole magazine into -- into this
- 7 little -- poor little animal, like we thought we
- 8 were going to get eaten up. Maybe a few beers did
- 9 have something to do to it, I don't know. But it
- 10 was just, again, a fun time. That's our fun times
- 11 the we had though. Vietnam wasn't all bad.
- Q. Did you -- did your unit suffer
- many casualties?
- 14 A. Again, our -- our casualties
- were -- were mostly do to mines.
- Q. Uh-huh.
- 17 A. Claymore mines we lost quite a
- 18 few. One guy I can tell you about when I was hit.
- Maybe two or three months prior to that we were
- sweeping an area and the guy's name was Terry
- 21 Peacock. He was in my -- in my squad and he's a
- 22 good friend. And he -- he got this wire. He said
- 23 hey, look at this wire. Well, everybody said don't
- 24 touch it. Well, he'd -- he'd -- again he's a

- 1 Ned Foote - 12-7-2004
- 2 gung-ho marine, I mean this guy would be really
- gung-ho. And blows up, you know, and -- and 3
- 4 shrapnel all through his leg and he's laying there
- 5 bleeding and he was -- he was in rough shape. And
- we got him out and medivac'd him out, sure we'd 6
- never see him again. And it's like two months 7
- 8 later here he comes off the chopper back down to
- 9 You know, there's still bandages on him and
- 10 stuff, but not -- he's a gung-ho marine, Terry
- 11 Peacock.
- 12 And this guy would -- if we were
- 13 on a patrol and we -- if we're walking a trails and
- 14 there would be some other trails going on them,
- 15 well, he'd go off by himself to check out the
- 16 trails. And you know, I was supposed to do that
- 17 too when I was up on point, but I don't -- I and
- the other smart people would only go so far out 18
- 19 of -- out of sight, you know, and we'd check it
- 20 out, then we'd go back. You know, you don't want
- 21 to be out there by yourself. And Terry, he'd go --
- 22 he'd go for miles by himself, you know. He's just
- 23 one of them type of guys.
- 24 So anyway, he -- he come back and

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he's back in my squad and that time I was the Fire 2 3 Team Leader. We were on one hill -- we were on 4 that hill before. It's right on the D.M.C. where 5 we'd run patrols inside the D.M.C. We'd never stay 6 on a hill more than two or three days. This one 7 here we're -- for some reason they wanted us to 8 stay there for patrols in the D.M.C. And there 9 wasn't much movement around. We didn't -- we 10 didn't notice a lot of activity. But on -- on one 11 side of the hill you go -- you go out in front of 12 the perimeter and there's the D.M.C. And before I 13 get into what happened to me, there are rules of 14 engagement and -- and in the D.M.C. you could only 15 have, I believe, twenty -- twenty of us, on patrol. 16 So you could only have twenty guys and we patrolled 17 all the way up to the -- the Benhein (phonetic 18 spelling) River. The Benhein River divided --19 divided points, but each time the river was 20 supposed to be a neutral zone and we kept our 21 bargain, we didn't have any troops inside that 22 neutral zone. They did. So the neutral zone, 23 that's where I'm saying we could only have twenty

people at a time go into that neutral zone.

24

- 1 Ned Foote 12-7-2004
- when we patrolled we found a lot of stuff. We
- 3 found bunker complexes and everything else. The
- 4 captain could only have twenty people. And we're
- 5 saying we're so far away from the main body now we
- 6 see all these Brass we have twenty people and --
- 7 and what happens if we get hit. Well, now we can
- 8 bring in another fifty or a hundred if we get hit.
- 9 Well, how long is it going to take a hundred or
- 10 more people to get down in there. The rules are --
- 11 the rules are -- are really very, very strange, you
- 12 know. And again, they're in our neutral zone with
- bunker complexes, but we're not allowed to go in --
- 14 into that zone.
- 15 Q. Do you think the rules
- 16 hindered --?
- 17 A. Oh yeah, absolutely. Absolutely.
- 18 We -- the only one we could have round in the
- 19 chamber was your point man. Safety -- they -- they
- 20 said safety -- yeah, we had a lot of people fall
- 21 and -- and rounds went off. And I could not --
- 22 that's because they didn't have the safety on. So
- 23 the rule we had was not -- we couldn't have a round
- in the chamber except for the point man. And that

- 1 Ned Foote 12-7-2004
- 2 kind of -- if you get hit up on the point you've
- got to take time to put a round in your chamber.
- 4 It's those kind of silly rules that -- that
- 5 politicians put in.
- Q. Did most quys ignore that rule?
- 7 A. No. You would be court
- 8 martialled.
- 9 Q. Uh-huh.
- 10 A. But no, we didn't. We didn't
- violate that rule because the Lieutenant, because
- 12 he was under pressure right down the line he made
- sure you didn't have a round in your weapon. And
- 14 we abided by that. We had to because the threat of
- 15 court martial we had a reason.
- Being a marine it's -- it's a
- 17 little bit different. We were disciplined. And of
- 18 course we're disciplined more than the Army people.
- We're -- we're -- not to brag, but it just seemed
- 20 to me we followed orders better, you know. And
- 21 whether you're a draftee or selectee or it didn't
- 22 matter.
- 23 So back to this hill we're on
- 24 patrol and inside the D.M.C. we had -- on the other

1	Ned	Foote	_	12-7-2004

- 2 side of the hill we used to do our water run every
- day. And the water run was probably a hundred
- 4 meters. You'd have to go down a hill and there's a
- 5 really small stream trickling water where we'd fill
- 6 up canteens. And -- and our guys would bring
- 7 everybody's canteens down and maybe they'd be ten
- 8 people on the water run to go down and fill
- 9 everybody's canteens up. So we were going down
- there every day and again we're on this hill a lot
- longer than we'd ever been on any hill. So now
- they said you're going to patrol the back side of
- 13 it and -- and apparently the M.V.A. were watching
- 14 us and knew our water guys was going down there
- every day. So I guess they decided to set up an
- ambush to ambush our water run. This wasn't a
- 17 water run. This is a regular patrol and it was --
- 18 we had a whole -- I think more -- more of us than
- one squad. Maybe it was one squad which would be
- 20 twelve people.
- 21 And I was Fire Team Leader. My
- 22 squad -- my fire team had the point and I had a new
- 23 guy in the country. He's a new -- in country for
- 24 about thirty days and he's going to walk point and

- 1 Ned Foote 12-7-2004
- 2 he didn't know how to walk the point. And I was --
- 3 the second guy behind him was -- just had about
- 4 thirty days left in country. He was squad leader,
- 5 but he couldn't take the pressure. He's getting
- 6 short, he wanted to go home, so he went back to the
- 7 fire team with no -- no responsibility. So he
- 8 was -- he was the second man, I was the third man
- 9 back. And we're patrolling and going down the same
- 10 water run hill and we went past the water run. But
- I think the M.V.A. -- now I didn't know this whole
- 12 story till about four years ago when I finally met
- up with one of the guys when I was wounded that
- carried me back up to the hill and he told me
- 15 the -- the story.
- Now, when the -- I think when the
- 17 M.V.A. saw that we were fully an armed patrol going
- and we're just carrying canteens we -- we so loaded
- 19 I think they decided that they would not stay
- around and they set up Claymore mine. Well, we had
- 21 an O.B.10-2 up above us which O.B.10-2 was a
- 22 spotter plane. And we don't know whether anything,
- 23 but -- but they radioed down to our unit that we
- had the bad guys in front of us and they were

- 1 Ned Foote 12-7-2004
- 2 running. So the word came down and again I was in
- 3 the fourth squad at point, fire team, and -- and
- 4 they stopped us and said we have the M.V.A. in
- 5 front of us, proceed with caution and all that. So
- 6 I turned to the new guy and said I'll take over
- 7 point now. And he says no, no, no, I want to -- I
- 8 want to walk point, I've got to learn sometime.
- 9 Okay. We've got to move out, be careful,
- 10 look out for trip wires and all that. And as soon
- 11 as he turned around and started moving, kaboom he
- 12 was killed. It was an a command detonator, it
- wasn't trip wire. And again I just found that out
- 14 about four years ago. It killed him, it killed the
- second guy and I lost my leg. And I had some other
- wounds up and down my body. If it wasn't for my
- 17 flight jacket I probably would have died too. The
- guy behind me happened to be Terry Peacock and he
- 19 got -- he got banged up pretty bad this time and
- lost some fingers and stuff and ended up hitting
- 21 about eight guys. And so we're pretty close and
- 22 it's a pretty powerful mine.
- The Claymore Mine that they had
- 24 was a round canister type thing and any piece of

- 1 Ned Foote 12-7-2004
- 2 metal that they could find they would throw into
- 3 this mine, screws, wires and it was bad. But
- 4 anyways, it got about eight of us. And they needed
- 5 to get us back to the top of the hill to medivac
- 6 out. And I think that was quite a job because our
- 7 corpsman -- I hollered for the corpsman, you know,
- 8 that I was hit and I needed help. Well, he was
- 9 down taking care of the first guy. He didn't die
- 10 right away. The second guy died right away. The
- 11 first guy kind of drowned in his own blood after a
- while, but they were trying to save him. So I
- didn't get any immediate help at -- at that point
- and some guy started to put me in a poncho to carry
- me back up top of the hill.
- And again, we didn't have no -- I
- 17 wasn't in pain. At that point I was not in pain.
- I had I guess shock and I knew I was wounded. I
- 19 remember looking at my leg and I remember my boot
- was kind of hanging there. I said boy, that's kind
- of strange, you know. Again, shock, not realizing
- 22 it, but I -- I was -- I couldn't see. My eyes
- 23 were getting really blurry. So what -- I guess
- 24 what happened I was -- I was hit all on the side of

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- 2 my face too and the blood was getting into my eyes.
- 3 So it's kind of hard. I'm trying to watch the guys
- 4 carrying me up to the top of the hill and they had
- 5 to stop now and then. They had to sit me down.
- 6 When they sat me down, boy, it hurt. That's when
- 7 it really hurt. The back of my -- my rear end was
- 8 half blown off, which I didn't know and that's --
- 9 that's what was hurting every time they sat me
- 10 down. So it -- it was quite a job for these guys
- 11 to carry me back to the top of the hill as well as
- 12 the other guys.
- And -- and they would -- the rest
- of the company came down and we -- we didn't get a
- chance to fire back because these guys, the -- the
- 16 M.B.A. took off. So I don't -- there was some
- firing, but there -- we -- we didn't get anybody.
- 18 They were -- they were gone. They left one guy
- 19 back to set the Claymore off, he was gone.
- You know, we got back to the top
- of the hill and they called us a chopper. And we
- got a doc, he put patches over my eyes. That kind
- 23 of bothered me a lot because now I can't see
- 24 nothing. And I didn't know what was wrong with me.

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- 2 And we choppered back to the hospital ship. And I
- 3 remember these guys come up, the corpsmen, came out
- 4 and got me from the -- from the helicopter and
- 5 wheeled me into the operating room. And I remember
- 6 putting a plastic bag on my foot and blowing it up.
- 7 And -- thank you. And I saw my
- 8 foot going up, you know, and that's kind of
- 9 strange. What do I know, you know.
- 10 corpsman started cutting off my pants and my shirt.
- 11 Yeah, I must have had a shirt on. Cutting my shirt
- 12 And I had just gotten an M.V.A. belt. That
- 13 was a prized possession when you get an M.V.A.
- 14 belt. And I had finally gotten mine and I had it
- 15 and -- and this guy started taking it off me. I
- 16 said I want that belt. Make sure you put that with
- 17 my stuff, I want that belt. Oh, no problem, he
- 18 said we'll keep it right with you and all that.
- 19 And that's -- my major concern was that belt. It
- 20 had -- it had a star on it which is even more
- 21 prestigious. So I wanted -- that -- that was my
- 22 basic concern.
- 23 And then of course I went out.
- 24 And -- and when I came to there's somebody wiping

- 1 Ned Foote 12-7-2004
- 2 my face -- somebody wiping my face and the nurse
- 3 wiping my face. So I said -- I said to her I need
- 4 to go to the bathroom. She says okay, go ahead,
- 5 you're in the hospital. I'm trying to get up. No,
- 6 stay right there. I said but I need to go to the
- 7 bathroom. And she said that's okay, just go, you
- 8 know. So I kind of was arguing with this nurse I
- 9 needed to go to the bathroom, I can't hold it any
- 10 longer. And she's trying to explain to me just go.
- 11 So finally the hell with it, you know, I -- I went.
- Well, they had a tube in me. And again, I don't
- 13 know what this stuff is. So I'm -- I'm laying
- 14 there going to the bathroom and yeah, that -- that
- will teach you, you know. So -- so she -- I say to
- her how long can I skate. The word skate was
- always when you got to go to the rear area you
- 18 skated. You're not -- everybody wanted to skate.
- 19 And I said how long do I have to skate. She said
- 20 well, you're going home. I said I'm going home.
- 21 Wow. You know, and again it didn't click and --
- and then she finally told me well, I lost my leg.
- 23 So finally, you know, that -- that hit me and then
- 24 I went out again.

1	Ned Foote - 12-7-2004
2	And the second time when I woke
3	up this guy was putting a Purple Heart setting
4	it on my chest, you know, being General, I guess.
5	I don't I don't even remember it. All I
6	remember is how you doing son, everything's going
7	to be okay and then moved on. You know, and I I
8	was in and out of consciousness by then.
9	Then I went to Guam and I was
10	there for a couple of months. They flew me back to
11	St. Albans Naval Hospital where I spent another
12	four months, five months, then up to Albany
13	Medical Albany V.A. And then I get better,
14	decided I needed to get my leg and get moving and
15	I
16	Q. How long were you in hospitals?
17	A. In and out almost a year. I I
18	went I was wounded on April 19th of '69 and I
19	was April was kind of a basic month. '68, April,
20	I went to I went into service the 25th of April
21	of '68. In '69, April 19th, I was wounded and
22	April 25th, 1970 I got married. And I think I
23	picked the 25th so I could always remember my

anniversary because you don't forget when you go in

- 1 Ned Foote 12-7-2004
- the Marine Corps. So I think in March, maybe
- 3 eleven months, I went back to work. So I worked at
- 4 the Corps Medavac Fort Edward. I was ready for
- 5 work and I couldn't convince a whole lot of people
- 6 I could do any kind of work. Back then to get a
- 7 job anyways if -- if you're okay and being a
- 8 Vietnam vet there was very few jobs for you, let
- 9 alone being wounded.
- I went to many different places
- 11 to interview for jobs and of course I never got any
- of them. Decora (phonetic spelling) -- I worked at
- 13 Decora prior to going into service.
- Q. So they had to give you --?
- A. So I had -- they thought they had
- 16 to give me a job. So they did and I thank them for
- 17 it. They did give me a low job, sitting down, and
- 18 at that time they're hiring females. They never
- 19 had females before. It was kind of a job that --
- 20 not that I wanted, but they had to hire me and
- 21 that's what I had. And then I started bidding on
- 22 other jobs and I went into a machine operator type
- job. And they really tried to keep me off it and
- 24 that's when I became thick headed and -- and -- and

- 1 Ned Foote 12-7-2004
- 2 learning things and don't tell me what I can do and
- 3 what I can't do, you know, just let me -- I had to
- 4 prove myself.
- 5 Q. Uh-huh.
- A. So they let me -- they let me do
- 7 it and I ended up working there for thirteen years.
- 8 You know, I could do any job anybody else could
- 9 there and I really had to prove myself and I did.
- 10 I was machine operator and I did fine, compare to
- 11 the old time ones.
- 12 And then in the '80s -- early
- 13 '80s financial problems happened at Decora and they
- 14 had to cut -- a lot of companies are going under
- and whatever. So I was laid off in 1981. So back
- on the -- looking for a job again. No big deal.
- I -- I am an amputee, but I can do all -- I can do
- 18 the work. I've proved myself. I went to a bunch
- of different other companies and again nobody will
- 20 hire me. Even though I've proven myself nobody's
- 21 going to take a chance on me. So all during the
- '70s and '80s I've always taken the test for the
- 23 post office and kept on the -- on the rolls. I
- interviewed a few times in the '70s for the post

- 1 Ned Foote 12-7-2004
- office. I never took -- took a job because I was
- 3 working full time. Even though there were times
- 4 the post office really tried to persuade me of
- 5 taking the job.
- 6 Well, Lake George postmaster up
- 7 there was a Lieutenant J.G. that flew -- flew
- 8 planes in Korea. And he -- he was the postmaster
- 9 and at that time politics still appointed
- 10 postmasters. So he's always fighting the big --
- 11 the big boys and I interviewed with him and he
- 12 hired me. And he hired me only because they told
- 13 him not to. Higher ups told him not to hire me.
- And he said hell with you, I'm going to hire him.
- 15 So I ended up working for the post office for
- twenty-three years, which I retired non-disability
- 17 last February. I guess that brings me up to the
- 18 end of my career.
- Q. Were there any race problems
- 20 within your unit at all?
- 21 A. Yeah. Yeah. When Martin Luther
- 22 King was killed and that --.
- Q. I think it was June or July of
- 24 '68.

- 1 Ned Foote 12-7-2004
- A. In that boot camp and in I.T.R.
- 3 some of the blacks started organizing I guess. I
- 4 don't know. Again, being from Glens Falls we
- 5 didn't have a lot of racial things, we're a
- 6 white -- we're a white country up here. And so
- 7 there wasn't much contact with the other backup
- 8 groups. And I never had a problem with anyone.
- 9 But after boot camp I started seeing them
- 10 organizing and hanging with -- with them and now
- 11 there -- there seemed to be words all the time
- 12 between the whites and blacks.
- 13 And I remember on a cattle
- 14 truck -- called a cattle truck, transfer truck
- 15 taking us to training session and one of the blacks
- 16 hit a white kid with his canteen. He cut him up
- 17 pretty bad. And there's a lot of tension --
- 18 there's a lot of tension there on that. It didn't
- 19 blow up into anything big, but you -- you could
- 20 feel the tension. They stayed over here and we
- 21 stayed over here and we tried to -- we tried to
- co-mingle, but it was always an angry -- I didn't
- see it on the white guys, but I -- I saw it on the
- 24 black guys. But I --.

Τ.	Ned Foote - 12-7-2004
2	Q. Like an undercurrent?
3	A. Yes. Yes. In Vietnam
4	everybody's saying blacks there so many blacks
5	over there they can poor man the blacks and the
6	and the poor kids were over there. I didn't I
7	didn't see that many blacks in my company. I knew
8	there was blacks in my company, but I didn't see
9	them out in the field. I did see them when we went
LO	back to Vandergrift to have some hot java and
L1	whatever and they worked in that kind of stuff.
12	They all seemed to be on light duty. Out in the
13	field I didn't again I didn't didn't see
14	them.
15	And I I remember one guy, his
16	name was Stewart (phonetic spelling), and he was
17	always back and forth and he's like he's getting in
18	trouble, he'd get back to the rear and gets in
19	trouble and they'd send him back out in the field.
20	And he came back he had an awful attitude. And
21	he did not like the whites. And and he was in
22	my squad. And I I was in a hole with him one
23	time and I tried to talk to him about what's
24	why why he's angry. You know, we're all here

- 2 and we're all trying to protect ourselves. He said
- 3 the riots are coming, the riots are coming, you
- 4 know. I said what are you talking about. And he
- 5 got himself back to the rear again. But he was
- 6 very antagonistic. My squad leader fought him, he
- 7 wouldn't do anything he wouldn't -- he just
- 8 wouldn't walk point. It was a white man's war.
- 9 That's all we heard, it's a white man's war. And
- 10 yes, our whole squad was white because the one
- you're supposed to be with, as the blacks were in
- 12 the rear, except this one guy. He's a bad guy
- 13 named Stewart. Well, his turn was walking the
- 14 point. We all walked the point. We had to take
- 15 turns. It was his turn and he wouldn't do it. So
- when we got back to our hill our squad leader took
- 17 him out. And -- and they had a fight and then
- shortly after he went -- he went back to the rear.
- 19 So that was -- yeah, that was --.
- Q. Were you aware of the anti-war
- 21 movement going on?
- 22 A. Yes.
- Q. When was that? Were you aware of
- 24 the anti-war movement at all?

1 2 We knew -- we knew it was going 3 on, you know, while I was there. Yeah. It didn't bother us. We -- again, we -- we had a job to do. 4 5 Our job was to keep ourselves alive. And whatever 6 they're doing back home, you know, that didn't --7 that didn't bother me. Again, my brother's going to -- going to college at that time and he was --8 9 I'm sure was protesting and -- and his wife. Well, 10 it wasn't his wife at the time, but his girlfriend 11 (indiscernible) who was killed in Vietnam. 12 that -- that didn't bother me. That didn't bother 13 And then when I was wounded, and I've heard 14 all the stories, you know, people coming home 15 from -- from Nam, you know, (indiscernible) and all 16 of that kind of stuff. Well, that came to -- home 17 through a different -- different way and I came 18 through the hospital (indiscernible) where 19 everybody's very nice to you. We had outside 20 people coming in, different Girl Scout troops and 21 things and always bring you in cookies and -- and 22 stuff and -- and we were kind of not really aware 23 of what was going on on the outside, nor did I care

at that point. I cared about me.

1	Ned Foote - 12-7-2004
2	Q. Yeah.
3	A. You know, what am I going to do.
4	Am I going to walk again. I didn't have time to
5	deal with what was happening on the outside. I
6	knew what was happening, but I didn't at some
7	points I said boy, I wish I was out there with
8	them, you know, and I have no animosity toward
9	anybody protesting the war. I have it's a part
10	of (indiscernible) protesting a soldier and when
11	they started even even today protest the
12	wars, that's that's all well and good. Don't
13	take it out on the soldiers. We only did what
14	what we're told to do, you know. And I did resent
15	the ones going to Canada. I didn't resent them for
16	going to Canada, I resented them when they got
17	they got pardoned
18	Q. Uh-huh.
19	A so to speak when they came
20	back and part of that pardon is you had to work.
21	We're going to give you a job to work off your
22	your time. Well and the Vietnam veterans
23	weren't getting the jobs and you're going to give

the jobs to these guys who went to Canada, their

- 1 Ned Foote 12-7-2004
- choice. And I don't mind their choice, but that
- 3 was your choice.
- Q. Uh-huh.
- 5 A. My choice was to serve. Yeah, I
- 6 was drafted, but I was drafted because I wanted to
- 7 be drafted. I had a -- back then you had a choice.
- 8 You go in for -- you join, you had to go in for
- 9 four years, Army or the Navy or the -- or the Air
- 10 Force and the Army you got drafted for two. I
- 11 thought maybe at one time I wanted to make a
- 12 military career. So I said well, if I go in -- go
- in -- I think you had to join the -- the Army for
- 14 three years, so why -- why join when I could get
- drafted for two, and if I like it I can stay in.
- 16 So -- so that -- I chose that route. I knew I was
- going to be drafted. I -- I wasn't going to
- 18 school. I was just working and -- and I was 1A, so
- 19 yeah, wait for the draft. It wasn't that long --
- you know, I graduated in '67, June, and drafted
- 21 April of '68, so it wasn't all that long.
- Q. Did you ever stay in contact with
- 23 anyone or --
- A. That's -- that's another sad --.

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2	Q try to contact anyone?
3	A. That's another sad story of
4	Vietnam vets that again you you went over as an
5	individual, most most of us, went as an
6	individual and came home as an individual. And you
7	made great friendships with guys who were there.
8	When you came back for whatever the reason, what's
9	going on in the rest of the world of you you got
10	caught up in the you you had post traumatic
11	stress problems or whatever the reason, we seemed
12	to you never contacted the guys you were with.
13	A lot of us who came back didn't want nothing to do
14	with Vietnam. Didn't want to talk about it, didn't
15	want to hear about it and you just you just lost
16	contact with everybody. Your your good
17	friend maybe you went home, your good friend was
18	still there, it wasn't time to come home yet.
19	Yeah, I promise I'll write you, blah, blah, blah,
20	and you don't. You don't do it.
21	So the addresses I had of all my
22	friends were of course lost when I was wounded. So
23	I had to depend on them contacting me, which they
24	did. And again, that's another there wasn't a

- 1 Ned Foote 12-7-2004
- 2 lot of contact, of anybody having contact.
- Fortunately maybe four years ago I got an e-mail
- 4 from a guy I was with, called the Mexican. He was
- 5 from New Mexico. And he called me on the phone and
- 6 we started e-mailing back and forth. And I'm
- 7 involved with Vietnam Veterans of America and --
- 8 and I was a delegate to -- to the conventions. And
- 9 we had a convention in Anaheim. He was living in
- 10 Kansas City at that time, so he said he'll meet me
- 11 at the convention. And -- and we did. In the
- meantime he got a hold of another guy who thought
- 13 he put me onto in California who was also with me.
- 14 And we all met in Anaheim. And that's -- we had a
- really good time. And we went to Camp Pendleton,
- 16 toured the base and all that kind of stuff. And we
- 17 went to Oceanside. Oceanside was the town outside
- of Camp Pendleton where everybody hung out and
- 19 weekends and we tried on blue -- dress blue
- 20 uniforms. And we -- we had a really good time. We
- 21 left, kept in contact for a while and then it kind
- of like after probably a couple of years now.
- 23 It -- it was almost like you finally found each
- other, we know we're all okay, and that's -- you

I was very humble and appreciative and

24

like that.

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- 2 I joined the V.F.W. right away. I said well, if
- 3 somebody asked me the do something, you know, so --
- 4 so I went to a couple of the meetings and I was
- 5 kind of like ignored. And there have -- the last
- 6 meeting I went to -- again I was ignored at the
- 7 meetings, so -- so I would retire to the bar and
- 8 these guys, World War II guys would sit at this end
- 9 and I'm at the other end. I'd have a guick beer
- 10 and leave. But I have honored the Vietnam
- 11 Veterans. I -- on a Friday night I was working
- three to eleven shift, so I said I'll stop over
- 13 after I get out of work and go in a while. I'm the
- 14 only Vietnam vet there. And one of these drunken
- World War II guys came up to me and said you guys
- are nothing but cry babies. And that kind of stuff
- I don't need, Vietnam, he's okay and he don't cry
- about it, blah, blah, blah. Well, my son served on
- 19 a ship fifty miles off shore. Okay. I mean I
- don't have -- that's -- that's okay, but that's
- 21 where your son served. Of course you don't have a
- whole lot of problems with it. Maybe some other
- veterans do. So I didn't say nothing, I just got
- 24 up and left and I never went back.

there.

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- 2 So that -- that was the end of 3 organizations until I saw an ad in the paper, 4 Saratoga Chapter of Vietnam Veterans of America are 5 having a meeting. And I think I ought attend, so I 6 said I think I'll go. So I -- I got another guy I 7 knew who was a Vietnam vet and asked him to go with 8 me and we went to the meeting. And right at the 9 beginning of the meeting they said has anybody ever 10 been to -- not been to a Vietnam veterans meeting 11 before. You know, I stood up and the other guy 12 stood up and everybody clapped. They said welcome 13 home. And that's twelve years later it's the first 14 time I heard those words welcome home and -- and 15 both of us began tears coming out. Those two words 16 are very, very important to a Vietnam vet and 17 probably any other vet and I was hooked right
- So I continued going to their
 meetings. They were a very selective, we didn't
 sit around telling war stories, we talked about
 legislative items that -- that we needed to help
 each other and we're a very political organization.

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- 2 around like the traditional. So I attended their
- 3 meetings, their board meetings, just -- just for
- 4 the reason to start my own chapter up in Glens
- 5 Falls. So when I learned enough and I stole their
- 6 secretary that they had, Jim Brown (phonetic
- 7 spelling), and Jim Brown and myself started
- 8 Adirondack Chapter Seventy-nine Vietnam Veterans of
- 9 America and we're still active. Saratoga is -- is
- 10 gone -- gone away now, but Chapter Seventy-nine is
- 11 still active. I -- I served as president of that
- 12 chapter for like five years. I'm still vice
- 13 president. I went on to the state organization
- 14 where I've been active for fifteen years maybe, In
- a number of positions, for the past six years I've
- 16 been state treasurer of Vietnam Veterans of
- 17 America. I'm on some national committees, the
- 18 Membership Committee and health care and
- 19 resolutions, that kind of stuff. So I do go to
- 20 meetings, national board meetings in Washington and
- 21 I have been at Convention of Vietnam Veterans of
- 22 America, and one of ten people at the convention
- 23 that we've had since 1983. But I'm very involved
- 24 with veterans.

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- Q. Do you ever read Mortin's Vietnam
- 3 or watch any of the movies?
- 4 A. No. The only book I read is on
- 5 Vietnam except I just read -- read Capt. Gray's
- 6 book which I thought was good and I read Bill
- 7 Clinton's book which I thought was good also.
- Q. Uh-huh. Which movie do you think
- 9 is most realistic or do you think there are none?
- 10 A. If you put parts of each one
- 11 together you could have a real realistic --
- 12 O. Uh-huh.
- A. -- movie. It's very hard.
- 14 Everybody has their own -- their own story. You
- know, put two Vietnam veterans side by side and
- 16 they each have a different story. They -- there's
- just so many stories of Vietnam. To -- to try to
- make a movie of one story is very hard to do and
- when you incorporate this guy did that and this guy
- 20 did that, and put it all into where they did the
- 21 same thing. Platoon -- Platoon had a lot of good
- 22 points to it, but -- but it really got out of --
- 23 out of whack when you had fellow soldiers gunning
- 24 down the other the other fellow soldiers.

- 2 Apocalypse -- Apocalypse Now
- 3 where the guys are playing Russian Roulette, maybe
- 4 it happened, I don't know, I wasn't -- I didn't --
- 5 I didn't see it.
- O. Uh-huh.
- 7 A. So I can't say if it was true or
- 8 not, but I guess they tried to sensationalize
- 9 certain things. The best movie I ever seen that
- 10 nobody else has probably seen is called -- the
- 11 movie called Go Tell the Spartans.
- 12 O. I didn't see that.
- A. And that came out years and years
- 14 ago, one of the first movies on Vietnam. And that
- was probably one of the -- the real true -- that I
- 16 related to movies that are out there. There are a
- lot of good books out now, but the movies, yeah,
- there are good parts and parts that I don't believe
- in. There's a T.V. program, American Dream or --
- Q. I've seen some of them.
- 21 A. -- I like -- I like the program,
- I like the kid in the Marine Corps and he's in
- Vietnam, but it's so far fetched in things that
- there's no way this kid's going to do this stuff in

- 1 Ned Foote 12-7-2004
- Vietnam. Why -- why can't they just keep it as a
- 3 regular Vietnam soldier doing his daily things?
- 4 Why sensationalize this guy who's still a private
- 5 who's -- who's doing all these hero type things?
- 6 It to me becomes unbelievable, but I still like the
- 7 program.
- 8 Q. How do you think your time in the
- 9 service had a change or affect on your life?
- 10 A. Well, A, it changed my -- my
- 11 whole life, being that and what -- but I did do
- 12 sports and I'm into sports. I really like sports
- and running and swimming and doing all that kind of
- 14 stuff. But when I lost my leg I -- I could not run
- 15 anymore. I've never been swimming since. I had to
- adjust to a new way of doing things and I wouldn't
- allow myself to pity myself by sitting in a
- wheelchair which I could have done. I know a lot
- of other guys who have done that, the same type of
- wheelchairs, that I'm going to make something of my
- 21 life. And -- and I married my childhood
- sweetheart, my high school sweetheart, still
- 23 married today, which is kind of unusual. It's
- 24 thirty-five years. I've had two children, now I've

- 1 Ned Foote 12-7-2004
- got two grandchildren. And I worked at a paper
- 3 mill for thirteen years, I worked for the post
- 4 office for twenty-three. So I -- I tried to push
- 5 myself to be as normal as I can. A lot of people
- out there don't know I'm an amputee. Matter of
- 7 fact even the people in my own organization don't
- 8 know that. I was at a state meeting a few years
- 9 back and the same people who go to state meetings
- 10 all the years and I had -- my leg had -- a screw
- 11 came out of my leg and I couldn't -- couldn't use
- 12 it. So one of the guys got me a pair of crutches,
- 13 you know. I went to the meeting on my crutches and
- 14 everybody's like I didn't know you were an amputee.
- 15 I said yeah.
- Q. Hold that up and tell us where
- 17 and when that was taken.
- 18 A. That was -- that was the --
- 19 April -- yeah, it's April '68. Where it was? Up
- on the D.M.C. area.
- Q. Could you hold it up to the
- 22 camera under your -- so just a camp somewhere?
- 23 A. Yeah. This is a normal -- normal
- where we walked from that day. We set up -- that's

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- our camp that we set up. I put up the -- the
- 3 poncho liner as you see. Two of us always hooked
- 4 up poncho liners together. I had to keep my rifle
- 5 clean, the other guy might have been digging a
- 6 hole. We'd take turns. One guy digs the hole. We
- 7 don't dig a very -- very big hole. I mean
- 8 that's -- we're tired. If we got hit, then we -- I
- 9 remember a few times where we had mortar rounds
- 10 come in and everybody was out there digging like
- 11 hell. But you didn't -- you didn't -- you -- you
- made it look like when the lieutenant's up on top
- of the hill looking down to see if you've got your
- 14 hole -- it looks like a hole from up top. But if
- 15 he -- if he ever came down, you know, it's only
- 16 like a foot deep. But you -- you did things like
- 17 that too. You're supposed to stay awake at night
- 18 too and protect the camp. You had -- you had -- we
- 19 had movement, so sleep was sparse.
- 20 MR. CLARK: Yes. Okay. Well,
- 21 thank you very much for interview.
- MR. FOOTE: Thank you.
- 23 (The interview ended)
- 24 Pwss

1	Ned Foote - 12-7-2004
2	I hereby certify the foregoing,
3	consisting of pages 1 to 61, inclusive, to be a
4	true and accurate transcription from the audio
5	provided to us, to the best of our skill and
6	ability.
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