

INTERVIEW

Michael Downs  
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(Q) Dr. John Hanrahan

Q. Michael we've both been through this together, interviewing the Veterans. So I guess we can anticipate what kinds of questions I'll be asking. To start with I'm interested in knowing how you felt about going to Vietnam when you were told by, was it the Marines?

A. No, I was in the Army. I volunteered to go to Vietnam so I knew it was coming.

Q. What was your understanding of why we were in Vietnam?

A. I had none at all. It was just a place to me, I'd never heard of it. I wasn't that familiar with it. I just knew there was some fighting going on over there. I figured it had to be better than the place I was at.

Q. Where was that?

A. Germany

Q. Oh I see, you were already in the Army weren't you?

A. Yes I could probably have gotten out of Vietnam if I'd wanted to because I'd been in Germany about five months. I had close to a year already in.

Q. When did you go into the Army?

A. I went in in November of 1966.

Q. I think you told me you'd been at U.K. before that?

A. No I'd been here at Morehead. I graduated in June of 1965 and I came to Morehead that fall and went the first semester and did poorly, then started the second semester and went three weeks and quit. I just wasn't ready to go to school, coming out of high school, I was just tired of it.

Q. So then you decided to go into the Army?

A. Well I was drafted. I quit school in February of 1966 and I didn't get drafted until November. So I just kicked around for those few months.

Q. Well at that time, by February of 1966 the Vietnam situation was beginning to heat up. Did you have any understanding of what was going on over there?

A. I don't think too much, it takes things a little longer to get to places like this. We weren't too concerned about Vietnam what might have been going on overseas. A place as small as where I came from you didn't have that many people being drafted so it's not like you've got a bunch going every month. You may have one every other month or two and that's all. At that time I didn't know anybody that was over there and it was only two months before I got drafted that my next door neighbor got drafted.

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Q. So in other words you really hadn't paid any attention to what was going on?

A. No.

Q. And it just didn't intrude on your consciousness or whatever you want to call it to what was happening in the world?

A. In a small town like that you just didn't worry about what was going on too far away.

Q. Well the fact that you were drafted, you knew that there was a draft, didn't that mean anything to you? It was unusual in Peace time wasn't it to have a draft?

A. As far as I knew there'd always been a draft.

Q. Did you realize that if you'd stayed at Morehead you could have escaped the draft? Had you talked about that?

A. I knew there were a lot of people that that was the only reason they were at Morehead, but I wasn't thinking about anything like that. You know there couldn't be anything worse than growing up in Owingsville, Kentucky. I wouldn't have minded leaving.

Q. So how old were you when you went into the Army?

A. I was nineteen.

Q. Did you find that the soldiers you were with were pretty ignorant of what was going on? Were they more sophisticated than you on the issue or were you all in about the same situation?

A. I don't think there was any difference, In my basic training half of them were from Hazard and the other half were from Pennsylvania, and they'd all joined and they were crying to go home. Back in those days before all the anti-war stuff we were just like our fathers, we didn't ask questions we went in and did what we were told, it didn't make any difference if they sent you to Vietnam or China or where it was you just did what they told you to do.

Q. Well there's still somewhat of a contrast between the knowledge I think that the American man had at the time of the beginning of World War II and also Korea. Korea seemed to have hit Americans from the time of the invasion of South Korea by the North Korean communist. It was pretty well set in peoples mind what it was all about but this was not so for Vietnam. I guess it creeped up so slowly perhaps that there was no traumatic time like a Pearl Harbor or an invasion. Is that what you thought?

A. There was no event to set this off to get the public aroused and people crying for war. It was just a nagging situation, it was thought about maybe some but it didn't occupy your every thoughts.

Q. So this was in November of 1966. Where did you do your Basic Training?

A. I had my Basic at Fort Knox.

Q. What were they preparing you for, your MOS?

A. Well you didn't get your MOS until you were ready to leave. They give you all the test when you go in. a written test an aptitude test and an intelligence test. And I qualified for Officers school. they told me you had to extend for ten months. In other words from the time you graduated from officers school you had two years left from that date instead of a total of two years. So I agreed to do it. And then when we got out of Basic everybody who was an officer candidate was sent to the same place Fort McClellan Alabama. Down there you took advanced Infantry training. So that was all that was down there, you were either an Officers candidate or I think one section of the base was for the reserves to go every six months. There were about 250 of us down there and during that time we took our advanced infantry training and were waiting for our orders for Officers school. When you signed up you listed three choices you'd be willing to attend. One of them had to be one of the combat schools, which was either Infantry or Artillery. Then your other choices could be anything. So what happened down there was when everybody started getting their orders nobody got the schools they wanted so I think something like eighty percent of us dropped out. We had that option we could drop out and go back just ot our regular status.

Q. So then did you join an outfit in Germany, were you assigned to Germany?

A. No after I dropped out of the OCS program I didn't have any orders so they put me in a hold over company to await for orders. So I was down there three or four weeks and finally they sent eight or ten of us to Fort Myer Virginia to be in the old guard, the ones that do military funerals, of course they just got a call for ten bodies so they grabbed ten and sent them. Well I got up there and I was too short, you have to be fairly tall to be in that outfit. So then I had to wait for more orders. So I kicked around up there for eight weeks and ended up being sent to Germany. I didn't know anybody, it was just a place to get rid of me.

Q. Well you were in Germany, you didn't like it probably?

A. No, the worst place I've ever been. You could get killed over there real easy. A lot of racial problems. You couldn't go down town the Germans disliked you so much. And on base you had problems there after dark. And I had it pretty easy over there too. I played on an Italian baseball team. And I got off duty at twelve noon everyday. I didn't have to pull guard duty or anything else. But I just didn't like it.

Q. Those kind of things just bothered you?

A. Yes, I wasn't used to stuff like that we didn't even have a team until the year after I got out of high school.

Q. So then you volunteered for Vietnam?

A. That's the only way I could get out of Germany. So I volunteered.

Q. Now this was in?

A. 1967.

Q. Did they just ship you right over?

A. No, I got a leave for awhile. I came back for about thirty days.

Q. And then from there after being home for awhile what happened?

A. Well from there I had to report to Oakland, California. Out there you just spend two or three days falling out and getting in formation and finally they'll call your name and take you from the base there out to the air base. They had a huge building out there, you could put this town inside it, and that's where they get you ready to ship you overseas. I went over, we stopped in Honolulu for a few hours and we stopped in the Phillipines, Park Air force Base . Then we came in country at Ben Huir.

Q. Now you say we, this is all replacements?

A. Yes all replacements. We flew over on Pan American Plane. I didn't know a soul.

Q. By this time you had been trained for the infantry when you went over as a replacement in an infantry division?

A. Right.

Q. Did you know which one you were going to be in?

A. No, I had no idea they just sent us down there to Long Ben and Ben Huir replacement battallion down there. I think I was down there three days.

Q. This was when?

A. November of 1967.

Q. What were your first reactions to being in Vietnam? How did it hit you?

A. Well the only thing out of the ordinary was when we came in to land there was black smoke all over the place and I thought they'd just got through bombing or something. So we were kind of scared about that and we got down there and found out they were burning the crap from the out houses. But I don't think there was anything, the only thing is it's uncomfortable because of the heat.

Q. But the heat hits you?

A. Yes. It really hits you in the Phillipines. You stepped off the plane in the Phillipines, it's just like somebody doused you with a bucket of water it's so humid and then the same way in Vietnam. But you noticed that right off. Of course everybody else has told you about the smell, you notice that right off too.

Q. You do? What do you think it was?

A. I don't know and I swear it's the country, it actually emitted and odor. It's nothing in the country, it's the coundry itself.

Q. In the Earth?

A. Yes I guess so

Q. In the people?

A. I don't think it's the people, I don't know what it is.

Q. In the vegetation do you mean?

A. I can't describe it.

Q. Was it pleasant?

A. No, it wasn't pleasant. It was as unpleasant as some of the stuff you'd smell over there. I know when they were cooking, they had a dish. I don't know what they called it, Nukma or something that would put you out in no time, but they ate it all the time.

Q. What was it made of?

A. I don't know, I didn't want to know. It was probably dog or something.

Q. What did you think of the Vietnamese people. did you see much of them?

A. I didn't see too many of them. I never was in what you actually call a village, we were just in and out of little hamlets, sometimes a little larger. I didn't pay any attention to them, I didn't have any thoughts one way or the other about them.

Q. By this time did you feel that you were defending these people from a communist take over. What did you see at this time, why are you fighting? Why are you going into the fighting?

A. Well, I don't think I was asking any questions it was exciting, you're excited.

Q. Was it just plain adventure to you?

A. Sure, you're nineteen years old and never been away from home before.

Q. You mean you weren't particularly interested in the reason you were there, just that you were there.

A. No, and I don't think anybody else was either. I think anybody that tells you they were has just picked it up since they've come back. You don't think about things like that or I didn't and I thought I was pretty average. I think you have to be there awhile before you start asking any questions.

Q. But this business of seeing the Vietnamese people and saying I'm their defender, that didn't enter your mind at all then?

A. No, not at that time.

Q. Well then there's the ARVN did you have any opinion about them those fighting men, military outfit?

A. Our company never worked with them but we saw them occasionally, they had an outpost not too far from our base. They were just like kids, always wanting to play. They were always playing like little kids, they seemed lazy, and from what we could tell and from what we heard from other people in a fight they were useless. No telling how much equipment they'd throw down on the ground and just leave. That's how the Viet Cong were getting most of their arms at that time taking them from the ARVN. But as far as working with them we didn't do it.

- Q. So most of what you had about them was from other people, what other people said about them. And it was not particularly complimentary?
- A. No. And like I said when you see them, it's just the opinion you form by looking at them.
- Q. Well did that effect you at all, that here you are defending people who don't want to defend themselves? Or does that come later too?
- A. The only thoughts I remember having, I'd been there some time, as far as having doubts, I began to wonder what am I doing here, why are we doing this at all, why are we saving these people for anyway? Their way of life is not going to change, it doesn't make any difference whether we're here, whether the communist are here, they're just simple rice farmers and I just didn't see where it would make any difference one way or the other what type of government they had. I began to have doubts about that but that came much later on.
- Q. Well then you were, pretty much your whole existance over there was involved with your own buddies, so in a few days you had been assigned to an outfit right? Which one did they assign you to?
- A. I was assigned to the twenty-fifth Infantry Division. I stopped in Cu Chi, that was division headquarters, We stopped there and got a weeks training, teaching about explosives, how to set a claymooor mine. It's the first time I'd ever seen an M16 rifle, I'd never seen one before, I didn't even know there was such a thing and they handed me one, one day. They had some snakes. There were some bleachers where we had classes and one day this guy has a box and he pulls out a python about ten foot long and pitches it to the guy in the front row and says pass that around and let everybody get a good look at it. So they were just showing us some of the snakes over there and stuff like that. We had that for a week and then they sent me out to my company.
- Q. That training then what did you think of it, getting prepared, passing the snake around what did you think of that?
- A. It wasn't anything at all, I mean most of the stuff we had back in the states anyway.
- Q. Do you think they had prepared you for what you were going to be in, the type of fighting?
- A. No, I think the only think I could truly say about it was I was in the best physical condition I'd ever been in and I wish I was in that kind of shape today. But now as far as being prepared to fight, I doubt it. That's something else that's got to come from experience. They can tell you, you can know everything to do but you never know what you're going to do until that moment when that first shot is fired at you.
- Q. But when you think back about it, in this period of preparation, they give you an M16 that you've never seen before, they pass a snake around, so that doesn't sound like they're giving you much preparation.
- A. No, I don't know if they just want to give you that week to get adjusted to being there or . . .
- Q. Calm your nerves.

- A. Calm your nerves and that didn't happen, because as soon as it was dark the rockets started coming in.
- Q. They did?
- A. Every night while we were at Cu Chi. Cu Chi was a huge place.
- Q. Where were the rockets coming from? Were you in a Valley or what? Amongst the hills?
- A. No they weren't in the hills, we weren't in thick undergrowth but there was trees, a lot of thick covering, not the real heavy jungle, but jungle. And they would come in there of a night.
- Q. How much of it?
- A. Oh they'd fire eight or ten of them I guess. Just enough to get you out of bed and into the ditches and stuff.
- Q. Did they cause any casualties?
- A. I didn't know of any. I think one of them hit pretty close to an \_\_\_\_\_ one night and blew up a bunch of stuff. I don't remember anybody getting hit. One guy I remember getting hurt running to get in the ditch, he fell over something.
- Q. So that was your introduction to it?
- A. Yes. Then they were ready to send me out to my company. I was assigned to C company, Second Battallion, Twelfth Infantry. But before I got there B company had just about been wiped out, so they diverted. All of us to fill in there. I think there was \_\_\_\_\_ which was in the rubber plantation, we stopped there and dropped our gear. They put us on a pick up truck in the dead of night and drove us out to where the company was.
- Q. Where was that?
- A. Just out in the middle of nowhere.
- Q. And the company had been hit hard?
- A. Yes B company had been hit awful hard.
- Q. What was it an ambush?
- A. I don't know. They were just out I guess on search and destroy and just took some fire. Seems like some fellow said they'd got pinned down, all in one certain spot or something and they took a rocket or something. So we went out that night and as soon as we got there the squad leaders would pick you, they'd say anybody here from Kentucky? Anybody here from Tennessee? That's how they picked you, they liked them Southern boys.
- Q. They did?
- A. Yes, I don't know if it's because we'd do anything they told us, but they'd always ask. In the morning everybody got up and got in a line, they said we're going ten clips today, 10,000 meters.
- Q. This would be your patrol, How many men?

A. It was company size so you're talking about, well it should be forty but I can't ever remember us having that many, I can't ever remember us having over thirty. I doubt if we ever had over thirty. No, that's wrong, that's platoon size. We should have had forty in our platoon but we didn't. Company size is right around a hundred.

Q. What did you think of your leaders, your officers?

A. Well that's the thing about it, we hardly ever had any officers. Most Squads and most Platoons would have a Lieutenant, we hardly ever had one. I don't know what the trouble was. The one I had when I first got there, they had to finally promote him to Captain and made him a company commander. But most of my leaders were these old Sergeants. We did have one Lieutenant that we got for a week or so, he came over from a mechanized unit, and the first time he tried to call in Artillery he about killed us. He was right behind us. So they took him away. We had a company commander for a period of time, he had come over from the Big Red I and he didn't know anything, he got two people killed, it was senseless.

Q. What mistakes did he make"

A. Well they dropped us in this area one time, it was near Cambodia but wasn't in Cambodia. They didn't tell us but we figured it out. We got there about dark and this was the only bare spot around so they set us down.

Q. Did you go in by helicopter?

A. Yes. Went in in Battallion size, there was a bunch of us.

Q. How many would that be?

A. A thousand, maybe a little bit less than that. And he wanted all his men, he was trying to impress the Italian commander who was flying over in a helicopter, he wanted all his men to build a bunker and have overhead cover with sandbags. O.K. the only problem was that it was almost pitch black when we got there. He sends two guys out to cut down trees to make overhead cover to put the sandbags on. They're out there about five minutes and they both get killed. We had to go out and find them. Three or four of us went out and like I say it was pitch black. I found them because I could smell the blood. You send somebody out when it's pitch balck, and you're in an area you don't know anything about, to cut down a tree and they're out there five minutes and they both get killed. It was things like that.

Q. So from then on you didn't have much confidence in him, his judgements?

A. No. I don't remember him being around that long either. We had a hard time keeping Lieutenants. And I guess everybody did. I guess evidently the casualty rate was very high, we hardly ever had any. But I don't remember our company commander, I guess we got a new one probably about every three months.

Q. Do you think that had any effect on your efficiency as a fighting force? To have that much of a turnover, you'd think that there's going to be some problem. Did you recognize anything at the time as being a problem?



A. Well we never had that much contact with the company commander, you know usually you weren't out in that size force anyway. Most of the people that I took orders from were your O E7's. E8's, career men, Korean war Veterans.

Q. How were they?

A. Well the guys I listened to were good. And I sthought some of your younger officers were good. I think the one's that used their commonsense were good, but the ones that came out of OCS and did everything by the book, that didn't go over very well. I saw a couple of good, real young, First Lieutenants about twenty-two or three years old. But they were there when I first got there and then they rotated out and we didn't have much after that in the way of officers. We had the one and he got promoted to Captain. And that one Lieutenant I was telling you about that called in the Artillery on us. I don't remember any other officers, they were the old Sergeants that were platoon leaders.

Q. So that was your real leaders then, platoon Sergeants?

A. Yes, Those guys. The last one I had, no telling how many years he'd been in the army, he was a Korean war Veteran. He was really something else. Now, he saved us one night. He had to call artillery in on us.

Q. What happened? Tell me the whole story.

A. Well it was the rainy season and we were out on a night ambush. During the rainy season you go back to base camp. Each platoon pulls night ambush every third night. You've got four platoons in a company but the artillery doesn't have to pull, so your three Infantry platoons take turn about pulling night ambush. It's raining, it's miserable. The rain started in the afternoon and quits in the morning, you lay out there in the downpour all night and we went and set up our ambush, there was what they call a burn, it was kind of a little bank, like a paddie dyke wall, and we got behing that and I was in position with the boy on the machine gun. He was on watch and I went to sleep and he exploded a claymooor mine on two VC he saw coming up the path, of course we had to go out and get the bodies and drag them back in. So about four or five of us went out. They were carrying a \_\_\_\_\_ torpedo, it was one of these tupes of explosives. Evidently they were going up and blow up this \_\_\_\_\_ outpost. They just lay them in sections and they go off. Evidently they were walking point because we never did know how many were in back of them. But they set there and watched us drag them bodies in and get back and they knew every position they had, so we'd been back in position about five minutes and they hit us from the front and both sides, those rocket grenades just started coming in from everywhere. I was with the boy on the machine gun and he started firing and then it jammed and the Sergeant said pull back off this line and get this thing fixed. So we got up, started back, he put two boys down in our place, we took four or five steps and they took a direct hit with a rocket grenade and it killed them both. They had picked that machine gun out, that's what they were shooting at, if it hadn't jammed we'd have been dead. It killed those two boys instantly, both of them were nineteen, they'd been in the country about thirty days and one of them was married and had two kids. I never could figure out what he was doing in the army. But anyway, guys started crying, they started throwing their guns down.

Q. They panicked?

A. Yes. When those two boys took that rocket I got hit in the leg and something hit me in the eye, I thought my eye had been put out. The Sergeant came over, I'd always walked point for them, and he told me, get us our of here. Then he

called in artillery and the first round hit about ten feet in front of that base and we started backing up and he backed that artillery up right behind us, until finally some guys from the \_\_\_\_\_ outpost came out in a personnel carrier and got us. There was twenty-six out on patrol and we had two killed and twenty-one wounded out of that twenty-six. But you know just his experience, if he hadn't been able to call the artillery in we probably wouldn't have got out of there.

Q. The artillery was very accurate then?

A. He hit it right on the nose, the first lick. Not too many people can do that. Calling in artillery is not easy. I think that's the only time I actually thought it was all over with and we saw several close calls. Because guys were throwing down their weapons and running away. That sergeant after that got a commendation and then he got a reprimand too because he'd lost so many weapons. I remember carrying back four or five \_\_\_\_\_. But, I thought my eye was put out and I finally got back to the hospital and what had happened was when those two boys got hit that blood splattered and hit my eye and then it dried and my eye was shut and I thought it was put out but it wasn't. So I came out of that and all I had was some shrapnel in my ankle.

Q. Was it just little pieces?

A. Yes. They took a direct hit, there wasn't much shrapnel come out, it all stayed in them. I don't know what they took out of my ankle but I saw a piece come out of \_\_\_\_\_. A jagged piece, it looked like something, they'd put anything in there.

Q. But you were able to walk out, it didn't bother you?

A. Yes. I didn't think about it hurting much.

Q. Did everybody rush out when they retreated?

A. They followed me out.

Q. They all followed where you were going, how did you know where to go?

A. I just knew. I knew we didn't need to go forward, there was only about one way to go and I knew from where we came. I always felt that was the reason I did so well because I could always read a map and follow a compass. I've always had a good sense of direction, that's why they had me on point most of the time.

Q. So that was one of your closest calls?

A. Yes. We had several. I was telling you about that M16, I got rid of that in a hurry. We were out one time in some pretty thick foilage and we were walking single file. I looked over and there were four VC not twenty foot from me. We turned and I see them and they see me at the same time and we just stared, it seemed like forever. At the same time I pulled my M16 up, let go on the trigger, they fired a rocket grenade at me. My rifle fired eight or six rounds and jammed. I remember that looked like a big fireball coming at me, that's the way I remember it now. But the M16 jammed on me. The rocket hit off to the side and I got shrapnel in my leg, I got it in my eye, I got it in the top of my head, still have some there. That's the last time I carried an M16.

Q. What happened to the VC?

A. I killed two of them and two of them got away clean. I could never figure how those four had walked past thirty or forty men and nobody saw them.

Q. They didn't see you either?

A. No I assume they walked, maybe they just popped out of the ground, because after that, once I started firing, everybody started firing and still there's two we never found. Don't know what happened to them. You know they weren't up running away from us, they might have been crawling or something and they may have just popped out of the ground. But that did it for the M16 now, I switched to a 12-gauge shotgun after that. You could lay it down in the rain every night and the next morning you could just wipe it off a rag, you didn't have to worry about cleaning it or anything like that.

Q. How did you pick one of those up?

A. Well if you walked point they'd let you carry it. It's lighter and you didn't have time to worry about taking aim you just pointed it and pulled the trigger.

Q. That was good enough?

A. It was light, yes. And like I say you didn't have to clean it.

Q. Was there a lot of trouble with the M16, a lot of guys complain about it?

A. Yes, there was a lot of complaining and at that time a lot of people were like me they'd never seen one and really we didn't know, during that week they'd teach you how to take it apart and put it together but that's not enough time to really become proficient at it like we were the M14's. You could do that in your sleep because that was all we'd done for three or four months. Then they give you a week to learn how to take that M16 apart. So I'm sure it was part our fault for not learning the weapon but it was part their fault for not giving us a chance to learn how to take care of it. It did need a lot of cleaning and it was impossible to keep one clean because if you weren't sloshing around in the water you were in, it was just like being in the desert with all the dust.

Q. Were you the only one hit at that particular fire fight?

A. Yes.

Q. What happened, what did you do after that, did they take you back to the hospital?

A. Yes they brought a helicopter out and took me back in. I had shrapnel, it couldn't have been more than a one sixteenth of an inch from my eyeball. I had it up in my eye up to my eyebrow and I had a hole in my leg about the size of a quarter. I was back about three or four days I guess, they won't sew that hole up, they tack it, they don't want it to get infected. Then they started messing around with me back in the base camp wanting me to do this and do that. Pull guard duty and fill sandbags, so I just went back out to the field.

Q. After how long?

A. Three or four days.

Q. You must have still been hurting?

A. Well I wasn't too worried, I was afraid of going back out there because I still had that hole in my leg, it hadn't closed yet. But I just didn't like it, that's

what the cooks and clerks are for to do stuff like that. I felt I shouldn't have to do that kind of stuff so I just went back to the field.

Q. Did you just do that on your own?

A. Well I just told them I was ready and the next time the helicopter went out I just got on it.

Q. Well you must have been in poor shape for quite awhile?

A. No, it wasn't that bad. The biggest thing that worried me was wading in that water. I was afraid it might get infected. You know everytime you waded through a stream over there you had to strip and burn the leeches off of you and that was the biggest thing I was worried about.

Q. That must have been awful, the leeches, you see those a lot?

A. Yes. One time, it's funny about those rice paddies, you step in one and sink up to here and step in another and it was dry as a bone. One time there was about five or us in a group and we're out in front, we were evidently in a battallion size force, we had a five man point that day and we were probably out 500 meters in front of everybody else and we were crossing these rice paddies, we usually walked on the dyke if we could, we weren't going to get down in that stuff and you know they opened up on us that day and when they opened up this guy that was behind me got shot through the leg, he was from Tennessee. We all jumped in that water and I bandaged him up the best I could.

Q. Was he hurt bad?

A. No, it looked like it went right through. It didn't look very good but I don't think it broke any bones or anything. We had, one of the few colored boys I saw was with us up there, he was from Memphis, he was six foot five and I had to scrunch down myself to get where they couldn't see me so he was really having problems. And a big leech got on him and he jumped straight up in the air and was hollering get this leech off me. There were bullets whizzing everywhere and he was worried about that leech on his back. Finally they called in an airstripe, we were trying to get this boy back to where it was safe and we were wading through these rice paddies and we were carrying him and this boy from Springfield had all the rifles carrying them and a bullet hit the rifle stock on one of those things and of course those M16's are plastic almost and it splintered into his hand. We finally got back that night, we just set up positions there, there's a stream there and we just passed that stream and set up and I thought the mosquitoes were going to eat us up, they were just terrible and that mosquito repellent, it just attracted them I think.

Q. So in all of this, I kind of lost a sense of when this was happening, you began your fighting in Vietnam in November of 1967 and these are just stories of things that happened.

A. That's a funny thing most of my problems, all of the times I've gotten wounded was after TET. I went through TET without a scratch and then after that it seemed like I couldn't do anything without getting shot. But during TET they put us down around \_\_\_\_\_ Air Force Base.

Q. Well tell me how you first heard about TET and what part you played in it.

A. Well I heard about it when it happened.

- Q. Where were you at the time?
- A. We were operating not too far from our base camp probably a little farther South down toward Siagon. Then when all of this started they moved us down probably eight or ten miles outside of \_\_\_\_\_ Air Force Base which was near Siagon. And more or less we took up a defensive position down there. They were afraid there'd be some kind of attack on that air base that they would try to overrun it. So that's where we stayed, I guess for the better part of two months.
- Q. What was this your whole company?
- A. It was bigger than that, I'd say probably the biggest part of our base camp was down there, maybe not in that one area but more or less. It's hard telling how many people they had down there.
- Q. This is where most of this happened to you at then?
- A. It was after that. It started in March. After things quieted down you just went back to your normal patrolling and stuff. That's when it started happening.
- Q. Let's put these things that happened to you in some kind of order, which of these stories that you told me happened first?
- A. The first would have been when I came face to face with the four VC, that was the first purple heart I got. And that happened probably in March I think.
- Q. Was that the Ambush?
- A. No, that's where we were just walking.
- Q. Oh, the walking, where you saw the VC.
- A. Yes. The next month, in April, I got a piece of shrapnel from a rocket, from a mortar round. It wasn't too bad at all, it was in early April, I probably wasn't laid up over two or three days.
- Q. Where did that hit you?
- A. In my leg.
- Q. Again?
- A. Yes. All up and down both legs. And then the last part of April is when we were on the Ambush and I got shot up so bad. Then the last one was June twenty-third. That's when I stepped on the boobey trap.
- Q. Tell me about that story, how did that all happen?
- A. They sent a couple of companies out. We were back in base camp and they sent a couple of companies out just to search a village. Some of them were going through it, the rest of us were just surrounding it to provide security. It's pretty routine, pretty boring stuff really. Me and another boy were laying there. We'd sleep awhile and watch awhile, I got bored so I just walked up to the tree line where I could see the village and look around for awhile and I was up there I'd say thirty minutes just walking around and I got tired of doing that so I thought I'd go back and lay down. I turned and stepped on a boobey trap and I'd walked around it for thirty minutes. I took one step and hit it.
- Q. That's where you did all the damage to your foot?

A. Yes.

Q. What did it do to it, tear it off? Mangle it up, what?

A. It broke four toes on one foot, broke an ankle, broke a foot, broke both legs, cut the tendon in two, down the back of one leg and then it just tore a big hunk out of one foot, they had to skin graft it back. What happened, really the trouble I have now is they weren't able to repair that tendon. They sewed it a couple of times and it wouldn't hold, and finally they had to sew it back together but they could never stretch it back out. If I take my shoes off and stand flat footed this heel lacks about two inches touching the ground. It's what they call a drop foot.

Q. Now that's a special shoe you wear?

A. Yes.

Q. What has it got, a raised heel on it?

A. It's built up on the inside. Both of them are built up on the inside, one of them is just higher than the other.

Q. Where do you buy these shoes?

A. I don't buy them, the VA makes them. The only trouble is if you can get a pair out of them every five years you're doing good and they all look something like this. I asked for Brown and they sent me this.

Q. What is that color?

A. I don't know what it is.

Q. I thought I saw you with another kind of shoe on?

A. Yes.

Q. What a dress shoe, are those your own?

A. No, those are made for me too. I didn't even know I could get them like that. Finally the VA called me in for a check up, they do that when you first get out, they harass you and try to cut your disability. And the guy down there told me about them.

Q. Down where?

A. Louisville. He measured me and they sent me two pair.

Q. How were you getting along before they did that? A whole year without that?

A. I was wearing old shoes that I had before I went in and I'd stick a sock underneath the feel so my heel would fit in. I was wearing old penny loafers. So they made me two pairs. O.K. I'm allowed to send them off once and get them repaired, put a new sole on them and then they're condemned. After I send a pair off to be repaired then I can get a new pair. Like I say it works out to about a pair every five years. They're made in New York somewhere and that's where I have to send them off to.

Q. Is that the only shoes you wear?

A. Yes.

Q. What did it do to it, tear it off? Mangle it up, what?

A. It broke four toes on one foot, broke an ankle, broke a foot, broke both legs, cut the tendon in two, down the back of one leg and then it just tore a big hunk out of one foot, they had to skin graft it back. What happened, really the trouble I have now is they weren't able to repair that tendon. They sewed it a couple of times and it wouldn't hold, and finally they had to sew it back together but they could never stretch it back out. If I take my shoes off and stand flat footed this heel lacks about two inches touching the ground. It's what they call a drop foot.

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Q. Is that the only shoes you wear?

- A. Yes. Well I've tried to wear regular shoes. I just can't do it. I can do it for a day but I can tell it starts my leg to hurting.
- Q. Can you do much walking?
- A. Yes. What hurts is coming up and down stairs or going up and down inclines.
- Q. I guess that tendon stretches and gets sore. Have you had any therapy on it at all?
- A. No. Of course when I was in the hospital they had me doing some therapy on it trying to stretch it but it just wouldn't do it.
- Q. How much of a disability do you get now?
- A. Fifty percent.
- Q. What does that mean, how much do they pay you on that?
- A. Well right now I draw \$434, that's fifty percent of their rate. They say if you draw fifty percent you're entitled to this, and of course what I draw, \$50 of that is probably for my dependents so really fifty percent is probably \$375 just to take a wild guess. A hundred percent is about \$1200 or \$1300.
- Q. Who determines how much disablement you have?
- A. The VA. See when I got out I got a medical. O.K. the army rates my disability then the VA rates my disability and then I can take my pick whichever one's the best, which one is more. If I was drawing army disability now I'd be drawing I think \$196.
- Q. They're not very generous?
- A. Well they base it on your rank, what's that got to do with anything, you're not more disabled because you're an E5 than you are if you're an E2. If you're an Officer and you get disabled you're really in the money. But if you're a private you're hurting.
- Q. So you got a better rating from the VA?
- A. The army found me forty percent, then they base that forty percent on my rank which is nothing. Then the VA found me sixty percent and they cut me ten percent that first year out.

#### TAPE TWO

- A. They had this fellow up here at Ashland causing all this trouble. This VVA here on this 100% because he couldn't take it he's making twelve or thirteen hundred dollars a month.
- Q. How do you know that?
- A. I know he is if he's drawing a hundred percent he is.
- Q. How do you know he's drawing a hundred percent?
- A. He said so on that thing you gave out.
- Q. Is it on the paper, I didn't know that.



- A. He's bragging about it.
- Q. He's getting a hundred percent and you're getting forty.
- A. I'm getting 400 dollars, he's getting 1200 or 1300 dollars. Now he's out to be to be nothing but a trouble maker. He wants everybody to get a hundred except me.
- Q. You don't think he deserves that do you?
- A. No, I wouldn't give him the time of day.
- Q. You don't feel that you could treat him well.
- A. I don't think I could just the way I treated everybody. There's a lot of World War II Veterans the same way. They're not drawing an income, but the ones that got out on a mental discharge are the ones drawing the money. Then when they come home they get cured but their checks still keep coming.
- Q. Is there a chance they could cut your disability?
- A. No, that's the reason I didn't fight it the first time. Because Like I say they try to cut everybody that first year or two you're out. I talked to this Doctor up home who'd worked with the VA's before. He said usually if you take this cut and not fight them back they'll leave you alone for the rest of your life, and that's what happened. I've never had to go back for a physical at all, I've never been called back.
- Q. So this happened June 23, 1968. They shipped you back to \_\_\_\_\_. I want to ask what was the sensation when that happened to you, do you remember?
- A. Yes I do. You think of pain being unbearable but it's not, evidently it's the shock that sets in, that you don't feel I remember it burning, but nothing like you'd imagine.
- Q. Did you scream?
- A. No. I remember hearing that explosion and the next thing I knew I was looking straight up in the air, flat on my back. I remember it burning but it didn't hurt. And I can remember the medic giving me morpheme, I didn't feel him giving it to me but I remember him giving it to me. I'd say it wasn't anymore than ten minutes before the helicopter was there to take me back. I remember them carrying me in and putting me on a table and there were four or five people over top of me and they were cutting my clothes off of me and sticking needles and tubes everywhere and the next thing I knew I woke up in the recovery room. It was underground.
- Q. Where was this?
- A. At our base camp.
- Q. Do you feel that you got good treatment right away like that fast.
- A. Yes, I had to have been back within fifteen minutes.
- Q. Do you think that that probably saved you from a lot worse consequences?
- A. I never did know, of course if something like that happens you're afraid of losing your foot or a leg and I don't know how close I came to it because I didn't look. I remember the medic counting, he said well he's got twenty-six holes.

Q. When did he say that?

A. As I was laying there when he was looking at me.

Q. Twenty-six holes.

A. I didn't know how close I came to losing my foot. I don't think I was that close. It was cut back but not like it was dangling. So I was back in fifteen minutes I'd say. And spent probably a day there then they sent me down to Saigon to a hospital down there. An Air Force hospital. I was down there for a week. Then I went from there to Tokyo, I was there for almost two months.

Q. When did you start getting a little better so that you could walk or get on your feet. When did you get on your feet again? In Tokyo?

A. No, I had casts on both legs, the only way I could move around was in a wheel chair. When I came back to the states they finally put a walking cast on one leg. I had a full cast on the other. Then I got to where I could get around a little bit. But the two months in Tokyo, you couldn't believe some of the things you saw in those hospitals. I was in a ward for people that had open wounds. And the biggest fear was infection setting in, so those medics would have to come around and at least once a day, sometimes twice for some people, and they'd scrub those wounds out to keep them clean. It was just like taking a scouring pad. And they would have to give you gas, they'd give you laughing gas, it's the only way you could stand it. But mine never were that bad.

Q. Did they have to do it to you?

A. No, they operated on me. I hadn't been there quite a couple of days when they operated on me and I was all sewed except they left a hole about the size of a quarter in the back of my leg. And all they'd do is take this big Q-tip and they'd stick it in there and run it up and down the back of my leg. Really I thought I had the easiest treatment of anybody in there.

Q. Some of the wounds were terrible?

A. They had one guy, they were trying to save his leg and they would come and they just lifted the top of it off. It was just like you had a dug out canoe and then they'd place that top on it. I've never seen anything like that in my life. They were evidently getting it in shape to save. About ten minutes before they came to work on you they'd let you have that gas mask.

Q. You needed it huh?

A. Yes, you needed it.

Q. So you got back to where in the states?

A. When they came around they said where do you want to go? I said well send me to Fort Knox, so they sent me to Fort Riley, Kansas. That's the army for you. Both of them start with a K so they've got to be close together. I came back there in I believe it was September of 1968.

Q. Were you still in the hospital?

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- A. Yes, I stayed in the hospital until February. Usually they'll give you a leave as soon as you come back to the states. They'll let you go home but they kept me about a month and they operated again. They got one cast off and got it to where I could move around. So they kept me about a month and then they let me come home for about two weeks. Usually they let you stay longer. Then I had to come back and let them check me again and then they sent me home for two more weeks.
- Q. Were you walking by this time?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Crutches?
- A. Yes, I had crutches. I finally got around, I'd been there three months or so and they gave me a cane. I used that about six months, even after I came home. I was discharged, I was figuring to get out of the army in November and they wouldn't let me go, the hospital wouldn't release me so they held me over until February of 1969 before I finally got out.
- Q. So when you look back at it now what is your feelings about all of your experiences in Vietnam? Some of the fellows felt that the longer they were in this fighting, jungle fighting like you were, the more frustrated they became about just what they were doing over there. Did that begin to grip you after awhile?
- A. I think, like I said earlier, what got to me was even if we'd been successful so what, it wasn't going to change anybody over there. As far as most of the guys talking about what the military was doing to them, I never thought about that. I just did what I was told. I didn't think too much about the policies or this, now it got frustrating sometimes when you knew you were just going out in the morning and walk until somebody shot at you.
- Q. That's what I meant. What good was that did you feel that there was no purpose to it, or how did you feel about it?
- A. I just didn't think about it, it didn't bother me. It was frustrating, of course we were never in our base camp region too often. But when we did go in there, into the rubber plantations, they said well you can't fire on these rubber workers, you can't shoot at them until you're shot at. You go out there and check their Id's and they're all supposed to have Id's. They hand you this card and it's had pictures torn off and pasted on ten or fifteen times. But you go out there and walk around and as soon as you turn your back one of them might shoot you. I always thought we were smart enough that we didn't always have to do exactly like we were told. That's the thing I liked about our group over there. I thought we were pretty intelligent, we improvised. We didn't do like these Marines that stand up in a line and go charging at somebody, I thought we had a little more common sense than that. We never had too many casualties except for that ambush. And really you could almost give them that first shot because I never thought they could shoot that well. We had these little claymore mines, well they had one as big as a garbage can. They blew one of those on about five of us in one day and never hit a man. We were mostly worried about stepping on something.
- Q. What did you think, was most of your contact with the VC or ?
- A. Yes.
- Q. What did you think of them as fighters? Did you respect them or what?

A. No I respected their ingenuity, but as far as fighters they would never stand and fight you. How can you respect somebody that just hides and waits to get a shot in at you and then takes off. |03

Q. What do you mean by ingenuity?

A. Well just taking things and adapting it to what ever they wanted to use it for. Taking everything we threw away and using it for something.

Q. Well you had kind of a grudging admiration for that kind of thing too didn't you?

A. Yes, like I say I admire their ingenuity and you've got to admire their persistence, but as far as their fighting ability . . .

Q. Did you think they were courageous?

A. I don't think I thought about it that much. I've learned so much in the last year that now I can look back on things and understand them. But I didn't think about it back then.

Q. You mean more of the history of the war?

A. Yes.

Q. You've got a better perspective on in now I imagine, which brings me to the point of asking you about the year 1968, or course this was a tremendous year of political turmoil here at home. Did any of that seep into your consciousness while you were over there?

A. No, we never heard any fo that stuff. Of course during the conventions and all fo that in 1968 I didn't know about that.

Q. You didn't know about the conventions?

A. No, I was in Tokyo.

Q. Well what were you doing, didn't you read the newspaperapers?

A. We never saw any newspapers over there.

Q. Radio?

A. Didn't have them. All they had was Japenese television. I saw Hop-Along-Cassidy in Japenese, and stuff like that but as far as news we didn't hear anything, nobody wrote or anything.

Q. That's kind of incredible.

A. Even in Vietnam I'd say we probably never even got a hold of the Stars and Stripes maybe once a month. Of course they're not going to print anything like that in there, it's all propaganda.

Q. So, what's happening here at home, the anti-war demonstrations, the murder of Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King and Johnsons decision, after TET, not to run again for the Presidency, the campaign of Richard Nixon, evidently it just washed right over you?

A. The only thing I remember was the day I heard Robert Kennedy had been assassinated. We just happened to be in base camp that day, it seems like we were cleaning weapons or something. This boy from Massachussettes and I were really good friends and we

were together when we heard that. He was really shook up. We knew who was running for office and I don't know why but we were all pulling for Robert Kennedy. I guess just because we were young and he was young. That hit people kind of hard but as far as these demonstrations and stuff, we didn't know anything about them.

Q. I guess you were just so isolated none of this affected you. I guess the demonstrations were more or less; if they had any intentions of trying to stop the war by discouraging the soldiers they not doing that.

A. No, they weren't discouraging us, but then again everyone was so different over there. From one division to another. A lot of them were spending all their time in Base camp and then they'd go out for three or four days at a time. Of course they had access to more news than we did. We went out and stayed, we never came back. When we came back, I think the first time we were out over seventy days and then we were back just for something like three days and then we were out for fifty more.

Q. And you were always in the base camp when you came back. Did you ever get to Saigon or any place like that? Where was this base camp?

A. It was North of Saigon probably about thirty miles.

Q. What was the name of it?

A. Dau Tieng. I was right in one of those rubber plantations.

Q. Is that the I corp?

A. No, it's the 3rd corp.

Q. Were they \_\_\_\_\_ those rubber plantations over during the war.

A. They were. They were out there working every day.

Q. Who was running them, the French?

A. The Americans.

Q. Who were the Americans, were they private?

A. Private business men I guess. I only saw them one time go by in a jeep. Kind of like the guys you see in a movie with the white suits on.

Q. They could survive?

A. That was early, very early when I saw them. They were in an army jeep, being driven. We didn't have too much trouble in that area. Because like I say there's a lot of workers around there.

Q. Well then when you came home, was it that time you worked in a post office, was that your first job?

A. I came home in February of 1969. I didn't get a job until July of 1970. I put in for a lot of jobs around a lot of the factories around Mt. Sterling. They'd say you're on too much disability.

Q. What did that have to do with a job?

- A. Well they thought I couldn't do the work. Finally somebody put me on for the Post Office and I went down and took a test. I had my ten points credit so that made my possible score 110. I think I scored 108 on it. That put me top on the list. Of course all they had to do was hire one of the top three. They didn't have to hire the top one unless the other two were not veterans. If I was the only veteran they had to hire me. But, I got passed over three or four times, probably because I was out of town. Finally the Post Master at home found out I was trying to get a job and the woman that was doing the hiring in Lexington, it was a good drinking buddy of hers. She called him and I got the next job.
- Q. Was it that long? Do you think the fact that you had been wounded and had this disability made it more difficult to get work?
- A. It did around home. Like I said the only thing to do around there is get a job in one of those factories over to Mt. Sterling.
- Q. I can't understand. They felt because of the disability you couldn't do the work?
- A. Yes. If I got a job out on the assembly line or something like that.
- Q. So it took a couple of turns, how many months before you got on at the post office?
- A. I'd say it was a good three or four months. They passed me over three or four times before I finally got on. Like I say they were going to have to put a word in for me to get it then.
- Q. Where did you work then?
- A. Lexington.
- Q. What did you do?
- A. I was a clerk. Sorten mail until I got mechanized and then I operated, the last year or so I was there, one of those automatic sorting machines.
- Q. How long did you work at the post office?
- A. Just about eight years. The worst thing I ever did was quit that job. That's what happens when you fool around with these women. The kids were getting about school age and of course I was getting tired of working nights too. Eight years of night shift and no hopes of getting on a day job. Those guys had something like twenty years of seniority. I was tired of nights and she didn't want the kids to go to school in Lexington, she wanted them to come back to Bath County and grow up ignorant like everybody else over here. To be in the same shape I'm in. You grow up in a place like that, it's the greatest place in the world to grow up and then when you get grown there's nothing for you to do so then you've got to leave again. You might as well have stayed away the first time. Then they'll have kids and they'll do the same thing. They'll want to come back and raise them in Owensville, then their kids will grow up with nothing to do, it's a cycle.
- Q. So she persuaded you"
- A. Well that and plus the fact I was getting tired of nights.
- Q. It was kind of a dead end job wasn't it? I mean it must have been a pretty monotonous type of work.

- A. It was, it was. It wasn't too bad. When they brought the machines in it really made it monotonous. When you were doing it by hand you could get up and move around.
- Q. I use to sort the mail.
- A. Oh, did you?
- Q. During Christmas time when I was teaching I'd be off and I'd go over and ask them for a job.
- A. We had a lot of christmas help. It was the best job in the world when I started until Nixon reorganized the Post Office. It went all to hell after that. We had probably no supervision at all. They said look here's what you've got to do, you get this ready by this time, get it on the truck and get it out of here and then we wouldn't see them the rest of the night. Then they supposedly took the politics out of the post office, that's when all of the in-fighting began. You weren't getting your job from your congressman now you had to butter up to your boss. Then you couldn't turn around without tripping over supervisors. You'd been doing this job for two or three years but every time you turn around he's looking over your shoulder. That's when the post office went bad. It got to be a joke. We go to, right before I left, where there were almost as many supervisors as there were workers. They were all fighting among each other to see who was going to get the next promotion. There were three guys when I started they were just like me, they were level five clerks, that's what a clerk was, level five. We got a new post master in from Indianapolis, within a years time those three were level 23 and they got their promotion by buttering this guy up. And now they're running the Lexington post office. That really hurts your morale. Something like that. And then they harras the people so much and the poeple on the workroom floor they don't care anymore, they don't worry about getting the mail out, they go out of their way to keep it from going out on time.
- Q. But still you regret that you quit?
- A. Yes.
- Q. The security I suppose?
- A. The security, there's no way they could have gotten rid of me. Plus the money.
- Q. Were you making good money?
- A. I started out in 1970, I made \$3.25 an hour and the year before I quit I made over 18.5 thousand and then I wasn't getting the overtime like we did. We used to start the day after Thanksgiving working a twelve hour day without a day off until Christmas eve. So that was the times when you could really make some christmas money when you're putting in eighty-four hours a week.
- Q. So your wife wanted to go back to Owensboro?
- A. Yes.
- Q. So you quit. Did you have a job to go to?
- A. Yes I had a job down here at the Bureau for Manpower Services as Veterans Outreach specialist.
- Q. Oh, you did?

A. So, I came up here, went to work. I went in there and they had probably thirty people working in an office that they could have gotten by with five easily. I sat around all day on my hands with nothing to do so I quit that job after about three weeks and then I had to start looking for one. It took me about five months before I went back to work.

Q. That's when you got the bank job?

A. Yes, they called me one day. The bank president called me and said I'd like to talk to you.

Q. Why did he call you, how did he know you? He knew you?

A. Well he knew me, he didn't know me well but most of the people on the board of directors grew up with my dad. So I don't know if they got the word through somebody that I was back in town looking for a job but he called and offered me a job and I took it. And that was the worst mistake I ever made, going to work for an alcoholic.

Q. Who was that?

A. The bank president.

Q. He was?

A. Yes. He'd take off for three months at a time and nobody'd know where he was. One of the directors had to go one time and pick him up in Atlanta and bring him back. So we didn't get along too well. He made me a lot of promises when he hired me. He said once, I'm not going to be here forever, one of these days we'll need somebody that can take over . . . .

Side 2

Q. How did he bring \_\_\_\_\_ on you, did you buy a house?

A. Yes I bought a house. I bought one and then a little bit later I moved into another one. In July of 1982 he called me in and said he was going to have to raise it to fourteen percent. Things were bad. I said that's not my problem things are bad and I said you can't raise it on me because the notes due. The only way he could raise it is if I signed the paper agreeing to let him raise it. So I told him the only way you're going to raise it is to wait until the note comes due and sue me because I'm not going to sign a paper raising my own mortgage six percent.

Q. Well how long a mortgage was it, how long a time? It was not a ten or twenty year mortgage evidently. Six or eight or what two years?

A. Here's the way these small town banks run. They'll make a mortgage for one year renewable every year on that anniversary date.

Q. Oh, I see.

A. So after that things really went downhill, like I say he didn't come in that often but whenever he did we were into it all the time.

Q. What were you doing? What was your job?



A. I started out in bookkeeping then I moved up to teller then I moved back to the loan department. I wasn't handling loans but I worked back there and did a lot of paper work. And then me and one of the directors got into it one day. She came in, her sons account had went over drawn, he had a business there and she said the reason it was overdrawn was because some of the retail notes he sent up hadn't been credited to him yet. Of course I handled those, retail contracts and stuff. And I told her the reason they hadn't been credited was that they were messed up, they weren't filled out right and I'd told him two or three weeks ago they were laying over here for him to come and get them. Of course he was about like a bank president, he's irresponsible as could be, his mother taking care of him. And she said well it looks like you could have done that for him and I said well that's against banking regulations, we can't fill out peoples contracts for them. He has to do it hisself. She said well it looks like you could make an exception. So I gave her a good cussing in the lobby and it wasn't long after that when they railroaded me out of there.

Q. Is that when you came back to Morehead to school?

A. Yes, they fired me in December of 1982 and I started up here in January of 1983.

Q. When did you go to U.K.?

A. While I was working at the post office.

Q. Oh, I see.

A. I went to school full time and worked full time down there. I started in January of 1974 at U.K. and I graduated in August of 1977. I went nights, I'd go into work about 9:30 or 10:00 and I'd go to school right before that. At night school down there you could go four nights a week and get 12 hours. A couple of hours every night.

Q. So then you came up here in January of 1982 to get the bank job?

A. January of 1983.

Q. Well lets see, you got the assitanship in September. Did you take courses with me in January that first time?

A. Yes I had that American Biography.

Q. That was just your first semester?

A. That was my first semester. I carried nine hours.

Q. I didn't realize that.

A. I carried nine hours that semester and then I picked up six last summer.

Q. Are you going to finish in May, are you getting a degree this month? Did that guy call you again from Mississippi state?

A. No, he said he was going to mail me something.

Q. Oh, you didn't get it yet?

A. No, not yet. I put an application in down at that Lexington Technical Institute. I got a letter from them saying they're going to wait until after registration to

make some determination of how many people they need. I don't know if that's pre-registration or fall registration. I can't get around all summer and dawdle waiting on something like that. I never heard from Lindsay Wilson so I don't know what the deal was.

Q. You called it once didn't you?

A. Yes and they said we'll let you know.

Q. Yes, once you do that you've just got it, once you've called them I don't think you can do anything else. Well I guess we've got your story.