

Eric Walz History 300 Collection

# Dean Arnold – Veteran of the Korean War

By Dean Arnold

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## Box 4 Folder 2

Oral Interview conducted by Kevin Worthy

Transcript copied by Luke Kirkham January 2005

Brigham Young University - Idaho

Some items that were deemed non-essential to the transcript and non-helpful in general have been eliminated without reference. They may be found on the audio recording of this interview.

KW: Maybe you could just tell me your name.

DA: My name is Dean Arnold, and I was born in Rexburg, Idaho on October 16, 1921. That's me in that jeep. I was a company commander over there as you probably read on this thing.

KW: Uh.

DA: I don't know.

KW: I think I saw... you're a marine, seven battle stars, and you were commissioned as a second lieutenant.

DA: Yeah.

KW: Now, was that before or after World War II?

DA: Well, that was during World War II.

KW: During World War II.

DA: Yeah.

KW: You were commissioned as a second lieutenant. Then you were in the reserves from... from then until 1948 when you joined the National Guard. So, when you were called to the Korean War, you were...

DA: I was a first lieutenant.

KW: You were a first lieutenant. [...] And then afterwards you were a lieutenant colonel.

DA: Yeah, I retired as lieutenant colonel.

KW: [...] I'd like to ask you about some of this stuff. Okay. So, if you remember, how old were you in June of 1950?

DA: 1950?

KW: Mhm.

DA: I...twenty; I would be twenty-nine.

KW: Wow.

DA: Well, let's see, in 1950, well twenty-one, I was born in twenty-one.

KW: Okay, so 1950, shoulda been, yeah, bout twenty-nine.

DA: Twenty-nine.

KW: Okay. And what do you remember about June and July of that year?

DA: Well, I remember then that the North Koreans invaded South Korea on the twentieth of June, 1950, and I was in this National Guard unit of combat engineers, in B company, stationed in St. Anthony, Idaho, and we got word from the government the first of August that we were bein' mobilized to go to Korea, and we were mobilized, and we, uh, embar—we got on this troop train in Idaho Falls and proceed to Fort Belvore, Virginia, and there we picked up recruits and drafters to make a full compliment for our battalion.

KW: Okay, now, how many people are in a battalion, or were in your battalion?

DA: It's about, let's see... about five hundred.

KW: Okay. And what did you think when you heard about the North Korean invasion?

DA: Quite surprised, you know, there wasn't anything indicated that that was going to happen.

KW: Oh.

DA: I suppose that the governments knew that something was cooking over there, but we didn't pay too much attention to it, and you hadn't heard anything about a declaration of war or anything like that. It was a surprise attack; the North Koreans came over and...

KW: Were you angry? Or did you have any emotional feelings like that? Did you feel like America should do something about that?

DA: No, I just, uh, dec—knew that I had joined up to, to be in the military, and I took it in stride, and if they mobilized us, then that was my fate.

KW: Okay, so you just kind of heard about the invasion, and then you waited to see what the government was going to say, and then, when they decided to mobilize you, you accepted that and—

DA: Right.

KW: Okay, umm, so you did serve in the armed forces, and you were—what was the name of your battalion?

DA: 116<sup>th</sup> engineer combat battalion.

KW: Okay, and you, in the Korean conflict, you were a first lieutenant?

DA: Yes.

KW: Okay, so, how was the...the whole—how was the battalion organized? You know, who heads the battalion, and what does a first lieutenant do, and—

DA: Well, a battalion is a...in the headquarters the battalion commander is a lieutenant colonel. A company commander's grade is a—can be a first lieutenant and a captain, and I was—went in as a first lieutenant, and when I got to be company commander, I was promoted to a captain.

KW: And did you actually see combat in Korea?

DA: Yes.

KW: How many different engagements do you think you were in?

DA: Well, it was just, it was just ongoing. See, what we did, we constructed bridges and reconstructed roads because when the war was there all the bridges were dynamited when they were moving back and forth in the peninsula. So it was our job to clear mine fields.

KW: Which peninsula were you in?

DA: Korea.

KW: Oh, the Korean peninsula. Okay, I thought maybe there was some kind of sub—

DA: No, no, Korea is actually a peninsula.

KW: Okay, makes sense.

DA: And then we, like I say, we cleared mine fields, and we built roads, and, of course, being combat engineers, we had to be pretty close to the front lines.

KW: But you didn't actually pick up weapons like rifles or—

DA: Oh yes, we—

KW: Did you—

DA: Had to carry rifles all the time.

KW: Did they ever have you charge at the enemy or anything?

DA: No, no.

KW: No.

DA: No, no, we didn't do that. We were prepared to do it.

KW: Yeah.

DA: But we were tr—

KW: That's pretty lucky I'd say.

DA: We were taught that, you know, as combat engineers.

KW: Yeah, did you train doing that quite a lot?

DA: Oh, yes.

KW: Like how much would you train for that kind of stuff?

DA: Well, we, we went back to Belvore in September, and then we went overseas in February, went on a troop ship.

KW: And from September to February you were doing combat infantry training?

DA: Yes.

KW: Wow, now did you ever get involved with tanks or anything like that?

DA: We never—well the tanks were all around us, you know, we were in—we were close to the front lines, so the tanks were going up to the front all the time.

KW: But you weren't in a tank division.

DA: Oh, no.

KW: Or a tank unit.

DA: No, no, no.

KW: Okay. So, do you remember some of the different locations in Korea that you served? Did you serve all over the peninsula? Were there—was it mostly one spot or two spots?

DA: Well, the 45<sup>th</sup> parallel [sic] is the demarcation line for North and South Korea.

KW: Okay.

DA: So, at first, you see, the North Koreans overran the South Koreans, and the most southern port of Korea is Pusan, and by the time we got there, the North—that was when the Chinese came in, when we first went over there after they invaded—North Korea invaded South Korea. See they just overran our—everything we had, we only had about one and a half divisions of army and of military over there. So it was the United States, and they were all captured, and so it was—so then they had to reinforce, and when we got there, there was just a big push, you know, toward the bottom of the peninsula and...

KW: And, now, you got there in February of fifty-one, right?

DA: Yeah, then we—that was when they started back up the—that's all right, you can open that.

KW: Just get a little air in here.

DA: That's just when they started back up the peninsula, and they regrouped, and that's what we did, we started—that's when we had to move back up, and, like I say, all the bridges were blown out.

KW: And you had to rebuild them?

DA: And airfields, and I, I don't know if you've ever seen this movie MASH.

KW: I have—well, I don't think I've seen the movie; I've seen some of the episodes of the television show.

DA: Yeah, well, we built, we built a, a place for them to make that Mash hospital.

KW: Really?

DA: Yeah.

KW: You built the place—not the place that they used to film the Hollywood stuff.

DA: Oh, no, no.

KW: No, okay just a—

DA: This was the real thing.

KW: Okay.

DA: [laughter] this was the real thing.

KW: Okay. That's cool.

DA: Yeah, they were about a mile, about a mile from our headquarters, and those helicopters were flying in those wounded. They'd fly right over top of us, and so we were that close to front lines.

KW: Hmm. Hmm. Wow. Now, did you serve or fight, or whatever you want to call it, in a lot of big battles. Were they mostly kind of ongoing skirmishes?

DA: Well, we didn't—well didn't do that per se because a... the infantry in the army does that.

KW: So you were more infantry support, tank support?

DA: Right.

KW: Kind of providing infrastructure?

DA: Yeah.

KW: Okay. Well, what about friendships during the war? Did you meet new people, make new friendships?

DA: Oh, yes, lots of them. That's why we have these reunions.

KW: Oh yeah? Oh, and you said you have those every other year or something.

DA: Yeah.

KW: Now, were most of the people that you met, the friends that you made, were they people around here?

DA: Yes.

KW: People from—

DA: Well, about half of them, and then the rest of them we picked up [from] Maryland, New York, and so forth.

KW: So when you have these reunions do the people from Maryland and New York come in, too?

DA: A few.

KW: Sometimes?

DA: But the distance.

KW: Oh, yeah.

DA: Mostly our reunions are local people.

KW: Yeah.

DA: We had unit in Ashton, St. Anthony, and Rigby, and Idaho Falls.

KW: I was thinking about another question, here, I'll just—I'll ask this—Now when you were in your unit, did any of the people that you met, were any of those people already people that you knew? Were they friends that you just kind of run into while you were in the service?

DA: Well, some of them I knew.

KW: Uh-huh.

DA: And then others, why, they were recruits that we recruited to come in. The local people, here—

KW: You can—

DA: It was interesting how I got into the guard. See, I was...As you see here I was a first lieutenant in the Marine Corps, and uh, the Marine Corps sent me a mess—a letter, wanting to know if I wanted to organize a Marine Corps reserve unit in this area, and they gave me some names of some ex-Marines, and I knew them. They lived in St. Anthony. So I went up to recruit them, see if we could have a Marine Corps reserve unit, and they'd joined the National Guard. So they recruited me.

KW: [Laughter] So you decided to join the National Guard?

DA: So I—

KW: And then you were in the National Guard when the war started?

DA: Yes.

KW: All right so was that a full-time thing for you? You were a full-time National Guardsman when the war started in Korea?

DA: Yes.



KW: Okay. Okay. I didn't realize that.

DA: I was.

KW: All right. So, what was the training like? 'Cause you—all your training—you had experience from World War II. You had all this different stuff, but then you said the military trained you from September to February.

DA: Yeah.

KW: In 1951?

DA: As an engineer unit.

KW: As an engineer unit. So, what were you doing in World War II then?

DA: Well, I was on a, on a cruiser in World War II.

KW: Oh, that's right. But were you doing engineering-type stuff?

DA: Not then.

KW: No.

DA: No, I was a captain on—in the aircraft gun on that a—

KW Oh, okay, so you were firing an aircraft gun?

DA: Right.

KW: During the battles and engagements and stuff like that?

DA: Yeah.

KW: Okay. So you had—whatever—September...six months or so of engineer's training. Oh, okay. Now is there anything that you wish they would have told you before the war that they didn't tell you?

DA: Oh, I don't think so.

KW: Nothing very big anyway.

DA: No.

KW: Now—okay—another question for you, what was your image of the Koreans and the Chinese while you were actually fighting the war?

DA: Well, [sigh] well, they were ruthless.

KW: Mm.

DA: You know, they were different. Uh, Asian people are different. They're tough, you know. We would have those people, you know, they had all their—their towns were leveled.

KW: Mhm.

DA: And, uh, we went back up, why, there wouldn't be any buildings.

KW: Really, they'd just come through and raze the towns?

DA: Yeah.

KW: Wow.

DA: And a lot of kids were orphans, and uh, we'd use them for houseboys.

KW: Really?

DA: Yah. There they were.

KW: So when the Koreans came down they killed all the adults?

DA: Well they didn't kill them all but—

KW: A lot of them?

DA: They sure killed a lot of them, and the Chinese, too, you see—

KW: Yeah.

DA: The Chinese came in.

KW: Mm.

DA: That's why we had to go over there because when the Chinese came in, why, Korea couldn't defend...

KW: Handle everything.

DA: Couldn't defend themselves.

KW: Yeah, yeah.

DA: Oh, they're tough people. Well, they lived on rice and Kim chee and that type of thing.

KW: Wow.

DA: But they were very loyal. We'd have a—we'd have a group of those attached to us to do some work.

KW: South Koreans, you mean?

DA: Mhm.

KW: Oh, okay.

DA: Yeah, they would, uh—they had little wicker baskets sort of a thing on their back, and it would hold like a hundred pounds of something.

KW: Oh.

DA: And uh, they'd uh, they'd shovel gravel into those and then they'd walk, you know, on the road and bend over and dump the gravel, and that's how they'd build roads.

KW: Wow.

DA: Course we'd—we didn't do that.

KW: Right [laughter].

DA: [laughter] But they would.

KW: Wow.

DA: And we used them that way.

KW: Wow.

DA: Yeah.

KW: Wow.

DA: Yeah.

KW: Sounds like heavy work.

DA: Oh yeah, well they were—

KW: So did you—

DA: They were raised that way, though.

KW: Did you notice a big difference between the North Koreans and the South Koreans? Did you have a lot to do with the North Koreans?

DA: No.

KW: Except when you were fighting them.

DA: No, not anything to do with them, hardly ever.

KW: Oh, okay. Just when they were shooting at you or something.

DA: Just the South Koreans.

KW: Yeah, okay. What would you say about your opinion of the Koreans and the Chinese now? Has it changed much? Is it basically still the same?

DA: You've got to realize this is fifty years ago.

KW: So, how would you describe your opinion of the Koreans and the Chinese these days?

DA: Well, the North Koreans, I've got a really poor opinion of them.

KW: Do you?

DA: They're starting to build atomic bombs over there.

KW: Yeah, the nuclear stuff. I've heard of that.

DA: Yeah, as far as the other goes, I don't have any contact with them except through the news.

KW: Mhm, mm.

DA: And some of the kinds that go on missions over there, they come back and talk about it and that type of thing.

KW: I've met a few,—I think they're from South Korea. I met a lady from Seoul one time there—a few different people. They seem like really nice people.

DA: Well, they are, yah, they don't...we've—what we've done, I think we've spoiled them.

KW: Oh. How so?

DA: Well, we went in and rebuilt their entire infrastructure and their buildings. We built the roads and their bridges.

KW: You feel like maybe it would've been better if they'd done more of those themselves.

DA: Yeah, well, right now, course, you know they're, uh, they're rebelling in some respects over there now.

KW: Oh, the South Koreans?

DA: Oh, yes.

KW: Oh, really? I'm not as aware as some people.

DA: Yeah, yeah, just like we did on the other countries. We go in and give them a lot of money, and then they kick us in the butt. You know, we're being good to them.

KW: That doesn't sound too good at all.

DA: But we, uh, course we kind of lord it over them. We thought they were inferior to us.

KW: Oh.

DA: Pretty much.

KW: Oh, yeah?

DA: At that time, at least.

KW: Mm.

DA: Intellectually, why, you know, they're very bright people.

KW: Hard workers, too.

DA: Yeah.

KW: Apparently.

DA: They were, and they're tough minded. Asians are tough-minded.

KW: Mm.

DA: I don't think we could handle what they do.

KW: Hmm, maybe not. I don't know. Maybe we couldn't. Now, about you, what do you think of your life? How do you think your life changed as a result of the Korean War?

DA: Well, I appreciate the United States, you know, and the opportunity we have here for education and—like on the farm, we have more modern equipment.

KW: So it increased your appreciation of some of the opportunities here, opportunities like education and technology, available technology and stuff like that.

DA: And, of course, their density, you know, they don't have as much room, elbow room as we do.

KW: We have more space?

DA: Yes. Course we're losing that now.

KW: Yeah, could be, could be. Now was there any trauma from battle or from the hospital or anything like that that stayed with you?

DA: No. Well I saw a lot of wounded people, but, you know of course I was never wounded.

KW: That's lucky.

DA: Even going through the two wars and I was never wounded.

KW: That's quite fortunate.

DA: Oh, yes.

KW: That's quite fortunate.

DA: Talked to several others who did too.

KW: Do you feel like your religious beliefs helped you to cope with the military experience?

DA: I think so. [Sigh] Yeah, I think so. I had a—kind of a—it was a different experience. You see when I was called to be the group leader, and I was called to be a company commander, I wasn't only the military commander, but I was also the spiritual leader.

KW: Yeah, you showed me that letter.

DA: Yah.

KW: You showed me that.

DA: And some of us—

KW: So how do you think that helped you to deal with the whole experience?

DA: Well, I think it gave me a good background, and of course, you know, I wasn't very old then. I was only in my early thirties, and I'd never been on a mission, but I'd been active in the Church several years.

KW: When you say background, what kind of background do you mean?

DA: Well, like I say, I hadn't been on a mission, cause, see, in fact, I was a little bit—I wasn't really active in the Church for a few years, but then when I went in World War I, or World War II, I was active. I went in as an elder. The military commander of those kids and also the spiritual guidance, why, and I wasn't any older than any of them, most of them. I had an experience one time, well, several years ago. I was in a café down in Twin Falls, and a couple come in and sit down by me in the next booth and they had a teenager there with them, and not even more than that, and the boy said—the guy said “Did you recognize this boy,” and I said, “No.” And he says, “You blessed him back in Korea!”

KW: Really?

DA: I had that—I got a couple—not Korea, but that was when we were back at Belvore. He was born.

KW: When you were training?

DA: Yeah.

KW: Nice.

DA: And I got a picture of that group at Fort Belvore there, too. Not here.

KW: Okay, not here.

DA: But I do have it.

KW: Oh, nice.

DA: Yeah, a lot of the guys let their wives come back there and had babies before we left.

KW: And you blessed them?

DA: Of course, that process was started before I got back.

KW: Yeah [laughter] yeah, really.

DA: [laughter]

KW: I hope so. Now what did you do to entertain yourselves as soldiers in the Korean War? Or what did you do for entertainment?

DA: Well, some of them played cards. I wasn't a card player. And some of them rolled dice, and I didn't roll dice. I didn't grow up that way, but through hard work, mostly. We were quite busy.

KW: Oh yeah?

DA: Yeah. We were quite busy.

KW: So how often do you think you had maybe an hour just to do whatever, you know to—did you ever see movies or anything? Did you have radio?

DA: Yeah, they finally got movies over there for us later, in the later times.

KW: Like what movies do you remember seeing? Do you remember any particular ones?

DA: Across the Wide Missouri.

KW: Across the Wide Missouri?

DA: [laughter] well it was.

KW: What was that about? I've never even heard of that.

DA: Well, you wouldn't. It was just kind of a pioneer type thing back then.

KW: Oh, okay. Like a western kind of flick?

DA: Something like that, yeah.

KW: Doesn't sound too bad.



DA: And then, uh, like I say, we had church services when we could. We had them pretty regular, you know.

KW: That's good.

DA: Before we went to Korea, why, we had them every Sunday. And we had them on the ship, on the troop ship that we went over... We held a couple services. And we made our own sacramental trays. We—board of wood and bored holes in it.

KW: What did you make them out of?

DA: Plywood, well, kind of like ply board, you know, and then we, I forgot what we used for glasses now. [Laughter] We didn't have the regular ones. Of course a battalion doesn't—we don't—we're not authorized a chaplain. We had to be up to at least a regimental size for a chaplain.

KW: Okay, and how many battalions are in a regiment?

DA: Four.

KW: Four? Okay.

DA: Yeah. But there was a chaplain at large, you know, that was assigned to army, like I say, an area, and he'd come and visit us once in a while.

KW: How often did he come by?

DA: Oh, I don't recall, but I imagine every couple of months or something like that.

KW: Sounds good. Sounds good. Now what kind of food did you eat?

DA: We didn't have to eat—we had these C-rations they called them, but we didn't have to do that too much because we had kitchens, and we ate the regular food. We had our cooks and that type of thing.

KW: So when did you have to do the C-rations?

DA: Just sometimes when we'd have to move from one place to another, before we could set up kitchens and that type of thing.

KW: Okay. You probably preferred the regular food to the C-rations.

DA: Oh, yes.

KW: [laughter] I believe it. Now, do you know how the war affected the community back here? Did you get a lot of response or input from people about that?

DA: They supported us. They supported—course we were invaded, so that made a difference for the attitude of the people, so that was to our advantage. One thing, uh, you know the water situation. We had water points in the engineers, where they draw water out of a creek or something and then run it through a sterilization type thing, you know. It had a lot of chlorine in it, and we had powdered milk over there, and of course the coffee was the main beverage. I never drank coffee all the time I was there.

KW: Good for you.

DA: I never drank a cup of coffee.

KW: Good for you. Not that that's the worst thing you could do, drinking a cup of coffee.

DA: [laughter] No, no it isn't.

KW: Might as well avoid it, you know?

DA: Yeah, I knew that.

KW: Now, when you were talking about the community, were you thinking about the community in Korea or were you thinking of the community here in Idaho?

DA: Here in Idaho.

KW: Oh, okay. Um, cause I guess—now, do you think it was hard for the people here in Idaho to deal with the war? Was it a big stress for them? Do you think?

DA: Not a big stress.

KW: They pretty much took it in stride?

DA: Not a big stress. In some of the smaller communities like Ashton, it took out quite a few because that's a small town. St. Anthony is not a very large town, either. Idaho Falls is the largest town. And then, of course, a good part of our make-up was draftees.

KW: Yeah, now, how did the community deal with all these people being gone? Did more women work?

DA: I don't think.

KW: Like in farms or factories?

DA: I don't—well it had some impact on it. A lot of the guys who were like in utilities like the power company and telephone company and all their jobs were held open for them till they came back.

KW: Nice.

DA: But I didn't have the opportunity. When I came back I didn't have a job.

KW: Oh yeah, did—

DA: So I went to college.

KW: You went to college when you came back. Oh, nice. Where did you go to school?

DA: Well, I went to Ricks. Course I went to Ricks when I first got out of high school. See, I grew up here in Rexburg and I went to Ricks for two years.

KW: Nice.

DA: And when I came back...I don't know if you know about the history that back in the late fifties, Ricks was made a four year school.

KW: Oh, I think I'd heard about that. They, they did that just for a little while and then decided not to continue with it.

DA: During that time, why, that was just when I come back from Korea, so I got my bachelors degree.

KW: Oh, really?

DA: And then went on down to Utah State and...

KW: So you did graduate work at Utah State. So what did you get your bachelors degree in then?

DA: Well, I got my bachelors degree in, uh, it was education, teaching the future farmers and that stuff. You know, they have it in school.

KW: And then—

DA: And they I didn't particularly care for that after I took my practice teaching.

KW: Oh really? [Laughter]

DA: So I changed my so I changed my major to agriculture/economics.

KW: Okay.

DA: And got masters in agriculture/economics.

KW: From the University of Utah, you said.

DA: No, from Logan.

KW: And that's USU?

DA: Yeah.

KW: I'm not too familiar with the area.

DA: It was Utah Agricultural College then, it was.

KW: Oh, you went to an agriculture college.

DA: It was USAC, but now it isn't. They, well, they dropped the agriculture.

KW: Oh, okay. Now it's USU.

DA: Yeah. Where'd you say you're from?

KW: Where am I—mostly Florida is where I grew up.

DA: Oh, Florida.

KW: Yeah, I've been around here for a little while, but I don't think I've ever once stopped in Logan, and, you know, I think the University of Utah is in Salt Lake or something like that, and you've got BYU down in Provo, and I guess USU is in Logan there, and then there's Weber. There are just a bunch of different colleges down there. I haven't really gotten it all quite down in my head yet.

DA: Utah State is the land grant college. I don't know what you know about United States history, but when they moved west, uh, they gave these land grants for education. Every one had like 640 acres, and the government—you had to save about 160 for school.

KW: Oh.

DA: And if you were a state college, university, you've got—they called it a land grant college, and you had to teach—one of the things you had to do if you were a land grant college, you had to teach ROTC. And see, Moscow is the land grant college for Idaho, and Utah State is the land grant college for Utah.

KW: I did not realize that at all. So were you in the ROTC when you were studying agriculture/economics.

DA: No [laughter]. No, I was a captain already.

KW: Oh, okay, right, 'cause ROTC trains the people who want to be officers. So did you help out with any of the ROTC programs?

DA: No. No, I stayed in the National Guard all the time.

KW: That makes sense. Another question for you about the war: do you know any young men that didn't come back?

DA: A few. Not a lot, just a few. Well, in World War II, when that ship was sunk—I don't know if you read that part of it or not.

KW: Oh, really? It was sunk? I didn't see that.

DA: Well, it was actually the last ship that was sunk in World War II. It carried atomic bomb parts.

KW: Two weeks before the war's end.

DA: I knew—a lot of them trained were still on that ship.

KW: Really?

DA: Yeah.

KW: Wow.

DA: See, but out of the eleven hundred, there was only about three hundred thirty that survived it.

KW: Wow. How did their families deal with that?

DA: Oh well, they didn't deal with it very good. Course those people, I didn't know their families. There wasn't anybody on there from Rexburg went down. It was all other people.

KW: It's got to be hard, though. That's got to be hard. Did you have any other family members; did any of your family members besides yourself serve in the Korean War?

DA: No.

KW: No? What do you think are the most vivid memories of the Korean War experience that you have?

DA: Well, I think it was all the work that we did on the roads and the bridges.

KW: That's what really stands out.

DA: That taught us a lot of discipline.

KW: That sounds like good stuff. And I told you that I wanted to ask you a little bit, too, about some of the broader things. What do you feel were America's goals in the Korean War?

DA: Well, the reason that we went there was to keep out communism.

KW: Okay, so the fight against communism.

DA: That was it. That was the total thing.

KW: Okay. And do you feel like you were pretty much a volunteer for the service since you were already in the National Guard and everything.

DA: I was. I volunteered for the Marine Corps, and I volunteered for the National Guard.

KW: How did you feel about the drafting process?

DA: I was on the draft board here for—

KW: Were you really?

DA: Several years here in Rexburg. Yeah.

KW: So, what is that like, being on the draft board? What do you do?

DA: Well, we, when people get draft eligible, by age. See, its starts—

KW: I'm eligible for the draft. I sure am.

DA: We had a little problem. This was during the—what am I looking for?—down there in the...

KW: Vietnam?

DA: Yeah. And it was kind of bad because there was a couple on this draft board that weren't LDS.

KW: Oh really?

DA: You know, and they—a ward could only send—could only have two missionaries out at the time. And some of the people wouldn't move, where—there wasn't very many LDS that could send their sons on a mission. But that was one of the things we had to face because we had to select all eligible and process...

KW: So did you actually pick out the different names of people that would serve?

DA: Mhmm.

KW: What kind of criteria did you use?

DA: Well, age, health, and that was...

KW: Those were the big ones and maybe if they had special skills or something that would affect it somehow. Huh, that's interesting. What did you think about people who resisted the draft?

DA: Well, naturally I wasn't, I wasn't in favor of that?

KW: I could understand.

DA: I was involved. If I hadn't been, I would have been against it.

KW: And now if you hadn't been involved you would have been against...?

DA: Well, I would have been against, well probably not the Korean War because we were invaded then, but Vietnam, I'd have been against it.

KW: Wow, now how—why do you say that?

DA: That same battalion that I was in Korea, I was out of it. I'd retired from that. I was in another unit, but they went to Vietnam.

KW: Oh really? So what was the difference in your mind between what was going on in Korea and what was going on in Vietnam? Why would you support the one and not the other?

DA: Well, uh, one thing, I thought it was futile to start with. The Dutch, they couldn't do it. They tried to do it. And they couldn't do it. It was a lost cause right from the beginning pretty much.

KW: Hmm, so you thought the whole thing was just an unwise maneuver there.

DA: Yeah.

KW: And now, I—just in my reading a little bit, I noticed there was some anti-war sentiment in Korea. Of course, there was, you know, a lot anti-war sentiment towards Vietnam. As far as Korea goes, did you hear about that while you were serving over there? No, so you didn't have any word of any anti-war sentiment or anything like that?

DA: No, no.

KW: But in Korea you felt like the purposes of the war were good purposes?

DA: It was pretty good, uh, we've—if the Chinese hadn't of come in, and we'd have had all the North Koreans out of there. So when they came in, they came in swarms, so we had to settle, to compromise at the 48<sup>th</sup> parallel [sic], so that left a divided country over there. Still is. And it's giving us problems.

KW: That's interesting. What about drug use? Did you see a lot of drug use in Korea?

DA: No, that was before the—that was drugs, but not like they are now. I didn't see any. But of course, the Orientals use opium. They use it as a drug. Cigarette smoking was very, you know, real prevalent.

KW: Yeah. Did a lot of the South Koreans use opium?

DA: I don't know.

KW: You didn't get into...

DA: I don't know.

KW: Probably lucky. Uh, how did most of the soldiers treat the native Koreans?

DA: We treated them pretty good. Course we figured we was superior to them, which we probably really wasn't, but we were feeding them, and we were freeing them, so you might say that...

KW: So you think maybe there was a little arrogance there on the part of the Americans?

DA: Yeah, there was. We called them gooks.

KW: Did you?

DA: Yeah.

KW: Yeah. People change.

DA: Oh, yes. Yeah, I wish it was...



KW: That sounds good. What do you think of the strategy of the military? Did you feel that they were engaging in the best possible strategy there in Korea?

DA: Sometimes it worked. Sometimes it didn't.

KW: When did it work?

DA: For—when Douglas MacArthur was in charge at that time (he was the commanding general).

KW: Right, right.

DA: I don't know if you know—like I say, it's a peninsula. He made an end run there. He decided that—the Chinese had come through—the North Koreans, the North Koreans had come through to South Korea. And Seoul is about, almost midway up, and that's the main city in the whole...and he decided to make an end run. He went around with an amphibious landing and boxed all the North Koreans down in the South. That was in the winter time.

KW: So he cut them off.

DA: Yeah. And then, so then they were going to go on the peninsula and then, what he found was the Chinese by the thousands, and that was in the winter time, and they were just blasted. They had to withdraw. They lost a lot of people. Soldiers froze to death. It was really bad.

KW: Wow.

DA: And that part of it was bad. And then we had to start all over again, and did that. We got all up—you know the original line, the 48<sup>th</sup> parallel.

KW: Yeah, I heard that the Americans pushed the North Koreans, the communist forces all the way back, basically up into China at one time, and then they came back—

DA: At the Yalu river. That was the border, and we couldn't combat the Chinese. There was too many of them.

KW: What were your feelings about the final peace settlement?

DA: Well, I don't know, uh, we'd have lost a lot of people if we'd have kept fighting over there, and General MacArthur wanted to use atomic weapons.

KW: I think I heard about that, too.

DA: And President Truman thought that—of course, Russia, of course, was a communist country and they were sympathetic to North Korea, and they were, you know, at the time, they had got atomic weapons, too. If we'd used them, they would have thought we'd furnished them to them and...

KW: It could have been bad.

DA: Yeah, it could have been bad. It would have been atomic war, and that would have been the worst thing that could ever happen.

KW: Wow.

DA: So, I think that part of it...

KW: So you feel like the peace settlement averted atomic war?

DA: Yes.

KW: Wow. That's probably a good thing then. And one last question for you, how do you feel the returning veterans were treated after the war?

DA: I was treated well. We had that program where we got paid for going to college.

KW: Was it the GI Bill?

DA: Yeah, the GI Bill, yeah. That's what I got. It was my GI Bill. One hundred and sixty dollars a month and my National Guard pay. I went through college without any—

KW: That sounds good. Cause one of the things that I've heard about, not so much with Korea, but after Vietnam, a lot of the soldiers coming back, they got some pretty bitter treatment.

DA: Yeah, I guess they did.

KW: But you didn't see any of that yourself coming back from Korea? Now, did you hear about that? When other soldiers, you know, went back to California or New Mexico or something, did the people down there think badly of them, you know, treat them badly?

DA: I haven't heard anything about that.

KW: Interesting. Well, that about wraps it up as far as the interview.