

Max R. Bonzo  
Cedar City Library Veterans' Project

**Two Interviews**

Interview 1: Interviewed by: Bryce Goodwin (Shelly Goodwin, Present)

Date: 2006

Final Edit: November 2010

Interview 2: Interviewed by: Doyl and Kathryn Ipson

Date: April 1, 2008

Final Edit: November 2010

Interview 1

Goodwin Interview of Max R. Bonzo

INT: What is your name and could you spell it after you say it?

VET: My name is Max R. Bonzo M-A-X R. B-O N-Z-O

INT: Perfect. Where do you currently reside?

VET: Right here in Cedar City, Utah.

INT: Cedar City, Utah, is this where you lived when you were enlisted in the war?

VET: Uh, yes this is where I lived...well I was with National Guard here in Cedar and we was called active duty when I was seventeen years old.

INT: Ok. Could you state your...well, you're in the National Guard; could you state your unit?

VET: Yes I was with the 213<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Battalion

INT: Ok and where was your headquarters?

VET: Headquarters was right here in Cedar, we had four other batteries; one was in St. George, one in Beaver, one in Richfield, and one in Fillmore.

INT: Ok perfect. And you said you were called up when you were seventeen?

VET: Yes, Uh Huh.

INT: So what years did you serve?

VET: I served active duty from 1950 to 1952.

INT: Ok and that was, of course, in the Korean War.

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VET: Yes that was during the Korean War but I stayed in the National Guard and also the regular army for thirty-four and a half years.

INT: So did you just retire from the army?

VET: Yes I retired as a Command Sergeant Major

INT: Ok, that was the highest rank you achieved?

VET: Yes from the 222<sup>nd</sup> Field Artillery Battalion which is the current Artillery Battalion here in Cedar right now.

INT: Awe that's great, that's awesome. Now were you decorated at all from the war?

VET: Several decorations, a lot of them with Unit Type decorations, Presidential Unit Citation which isn't given lightly to any unit but we was awfully fortunate with our episode there at Kap Yong Canyon where we won the United States Presidential Unit Citation and, also, the Korean, The Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation.

Individual honors for the National Guard, I received several meritorious achievement ribbons. One of my best was the Detur Digniori Award which was the most outstanding soldier in the state of Utah.

INT: Wow! That's great. Now that Unit Award that you guys received, could you elaborate a little bit about what happened?

VET: That was with the movie that we talked about earlier on *The Miracle of Kap Yong* when Headquarters Battery and Alpha Battery was actually surrounded by close to 4,000 Chinese troops. They was being pressured by the United States Seventh Division and the

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United States Twenty-Fourth Division and they picked our area to try to squeeze out of, but Captain Cox from Alpha Battery turned one of the howitzers on to them and we repelled their attack. We fought all night long and the next morning they started surrendering and we rounded up over 800 and some odd prisoners. We had the prisoners pick up their dead and wounded. We tried to take care of them as much as we could. We buried over 300 of their...of the Chinese dead that next morning.

INT: Now you told me that you guys had a interesting way of preparing for that battle.

What did you guys do?

VET: An interesting way to prepare for the battle?

INT: You said you read Helaman?

VET: Well it parallels the story in *Alma* [*Book of Mormon* reference] the Helaman's thousand young stripling warriors where they was promised by their mothers that if they would obey the commandments and live up to the teachings that they would not be harmed. This is almost the same talk that Brigham Young give to the Mormon Battalion when they marched. That if they lived up to the commandments and followed the obedience of the savior that they wouldn't be harmed by the enemy, and they weren't. They got attacked by a bunch of long horned steers down in Bard, New Mexico at one time, but they completed their thousand mile march. And what's interesting is this unit right here the 222<sup>nd</sup> is actually a branch of the Mormon Battalion, an extension I should say.

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INT: That's neat. That's awesome. And you said that during that battle, only four were wounded?

VET: Yes there was two guys from Richfield a Fletcher and a McNeil kid and two guys from headquarters Martin Merrill and Mel Kyle.

INT: Wow, that's awesome. So in your opinion, is that your most vivid memory of the war?

VET: We had a lot of experiences in Korea. This is one that actually where we won the Presidential Unit Citation and it was such a tremendous thing that is the one we chose the battle. But I could...I know of several. And, you know, even after fifty years there's never a day goes by but what you think of your time in Korea for that year or fourteen months that I actually spent there.

INT: That's great. Lets see, you were also...you said you were awarded the Utah...

VET: The Outstanding Soldier for the State of Utah it's called the Detur Digniori meaning to the worthiest and that's the outstanding soldier in the State of Utah.

INT: And how did you come to receive that award?

VET: Just being a good trooper.

Q. That's right. That's a good way to earn it.

Paying attention to orders.

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INT: That's good. Now you mentioned a little bit about how you paralleled yourselves to the army of Helaman and stuff like that, is there any other moment where you had a religious experience or a spiritual moment during the war?

VET: Well you have religious experiences if you have any religion at all. You know the old saying "there's no atheists in a fox hole" and that is really true. When you are being hammered on by the enemy or if you're on an offensive, you are praying constantly.

INT: That's great. That's great. Now I know your brother Doug was also stationed somewhere else. What was your family situation during the war?

VET: During that time, at one time during the war, my mother and dad had six people in the...six sons I should say, in the army at the same time, or in the Military. Doug was in the Air Force, Dave and Ken and myself and we were all together in Korea at this time too. And Dave was also a World War II veteran. And then I had a brother Jack, a First Sergeant and a brother Bob in the Military. We eventually lost Jack in Vietnam he was a First Sergeant. He got killed over there.

INT: So you didn't have any casualties in World War II or the Korean War?

VET: No

INT: From the family?

VET: No none.

That's great.

VET: We had over a hundred years of military service.

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INT: That's great. That's great. So when you talk to...I imagine you have grandchildren...

VET: Yes nine.

INT: So when you talk to them, what are the stories you like to tell, what are the stories of joy that you like to tell to them?

VET: My grandchildren right now, are actually too young. I talk more to my children about it now than I did before. But my grandchildren run all the way from five to fourteen. And the really...the fourteen year old right now is getting a little bit interested in my scrapbook and things like that because he's starting to study it in school. But the other kids are actually too young.

INT: But, do you have any favorite stories that you like to tell personally just to anyone?

VET: I try to shy away from them as much as possible because it's truly emotional.

INT: Ok that's understandable, that's understandable. What were your feelings as far as the support that you were receiving from home during the war, as far as your family, also your country, and the political leaders?

VET: You mean receiving a cake when it is thirty days old?

INT: Yeah exactly [Laughing]

VET: But we had a hundred percent support especially from our country and our families. There was a...even in combat, you go a long time eating sea rations, these are

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little portable rations that you carry with you, but whenever it was possible, your mess section would provide a good hot meal for you.

INT: That's great. That's good. Well yeah I know there was a lot of support from the country.

VET: Yeah we are in the greatest country in the world.

INT: That's great. That's great. In your mind, what is the most positive experience that you've had through your years in the Army or your years in the National Guard?

VET: Well, the most positive I think was where I actually achieved the highest pinnacle that an enlisted man can make, that as a Command Sergeant Major. When you are in that position, there is only one for every 500 men, only one for every Battalion, so answer only to your Colonel, your Battalion Commander. And this is tremendous because I got to serve under four different, not in combat, but four different Battalion Commanders who was all really super.

INT: That's great. That's a great achievement. Ok, so well you seem extremely patriotic now, how do you think your experience in the war and the other things has put you as far as your political views and your social views of this country?

VET: Well I think that you know you can't say anything bad about the United States their government or whichever way we turn you know. I am extremely excited and delighted at how the election turned out because I think we have one of the strongest presidents that we've ever had in the history of the United States [George Bush], especially under the

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conditions that he is in right now. And it really...of course you'd really want to hear all of this you can scrape it out.

INT: No, no you are fine.

But with the insults that he actually took during the run for the president you know being accused of so many unrightly things that it made me feel awfully bad, but 51-49 wasn't too bad on that, I'll take that anytime. [Laughing]

INT: I know a lot of people are glad about that as well. Now just looking back, you've been just about every position, it seems like you've been everything from the fox whole to being in charge. What advice do you have for the Service Men and Women today?

VET: Well that's very easy, just to serve loyally, follow their leaders, do what they are told and don't volunteer for anything.

INT: That's great. Now that's pretty much all the questions I have. I don't know if there is anything else you would like to add about the Korean War specifically or your experiences.

VET: Well the Korean War you know when we went in, going in as a National Guard Unit it was really quite exciting. I had just graduated from high school and went in the Unit with two brothers, two first cousins, and all the kids on my street that we played with and lived with you know, so there wasn't a strong feeling of home sickness. Yeah we spent about four in Fort Lewis, Washington and did what training we possibly could there and then they put us on a boat at Seattle and took us down the coast to San



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Francisco and loaded about another 4,000 troops on where eventually we 5,200 on the ship the General M.C. Meigs and it took us twenty-two rockin' days to get to Yokahama, Japan. We spent one hour, or well over night practically in Yokahama, right on the ship and then we scooted around the base of Japan to South Korea Pusan, South Korea and we trained there for a month and made sure we had all the equipment we needed and the guns and the 105 repelled howitzers that we had. And then we got on the L.S.T.'s that's Landing Ships and Tanks that we had and went around the bottom up through the Yellow Sea and landed at Incheon and then from Incheon we went through Seoul and right up into Chuncheon the Iron Triangle and on the front lines. And you know, we never got off the front lines. We eventually, when I rotated out of Korea, I was in North Korea and of course we crossed that thirty-eight parallel line several times back and forth you know. We never retreated, we had several strategic withdrawals but...those things were exciting. And like I said when I was over there and I was at a road junction, waiting for my...I was Wire Communication's Chief then, waiting the rest of my wire crew to come and I'd been in Korea about six months and it was hot and sultry and dirty and I got thinking was there really a United States? I couldn't remember, I could remember the tall buildings...but...but it was exciting.

INT: That's great. So just the kind of the time frame, you were in there for fourteen months...

VET: In Korea yes.

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INT: So were you there, were you there by the time that the UN troops penetrated into North Korea and then China entered and then they ended up back at the thirty-eighth parallel.

VET: We were actually on three major offenses while we were there.

INT: Ok. So you were there during that entire that whole time period and where it finally settled at the thirty-eighth parallel again?

VET: We suffered the heat in the summer and the cold in the winter. When I left there, the snow was clear to my waist.

INT: Wow.

And the wind blowing off the Manchurian Border was so cold you couldn't believe it.

Fifty degrees below zero and we would, on our machine guns stations at night, we would have to pull the breeches back every fifteen minutes or they would have frozen solid. All night long you'd here the guard pulling the breeches back.

INT: Wow. Now did you serve or have any contact with somebody that's become some what of a famous figure from the war?

VET: Well I've always said that our commander Colonel Dalley was the most famous man in the world you know. He was such a wonderful guy to fight with. All our leaders, we had tremendous officers and we had a large amount of battle-tested, battle-proven noncommissioned officers that was in World War II. See Korea started only five years after the World War II.

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INT: Yeah. Yeah. Well we think that's great. We think you are a wonderful guy as well and we appreciate your service and also your time. So...

Thank you. But I appreciated my military service and I still keep my uniform up to date, I can still put it on and wear it.

INT: That's good.

With all the ribbons and glory to it, but it is fun.

INT: It is, well you definitely earned the right, that's for sure.

Well I hope so.

INT: Well I sure think so.

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Interview 2

Ipson Interview of Max R. Bonzo

INT: Ok today is the first day of April 2008. We are in the Public Library in Cedar City, Utah to interview Max Bonzo. Mr. Bonzo would you please state and spell your full name?

VET: My name is Max R. Bonzo, M-A-X R. middle initial, B-O-N-Z-O.

INT: Ok where do you currently live? City and State.

VET: I currently live in Cedar City.

INT: State of Utah. Is this the same area you lived when you started out in the military?

VET: Yes.

INT: Did you enlist or were you drafted or how did you get into the military?

VET: I actually joined the military forty well in 1940 and well when I was seventeen years old. And I...it was just the National Guard we trained once a week in the evenings Thursday. And I joined because my friends were in the National Guard too. And then when we was federalized in 1950 after the outbreak of the Korean War then...I...became a communications technician and went to Fort Lewis, Washington with our National Guard Unit here and from there of course we trained a couple of months and then we shipped to Korea. Seventeen eighteen when I first...

INT: Let me ask that question again because she didn't have it on. The question was, how old were you when you entered the service.

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VET: When I first entered the National Guard I was seventeen.

INT: Did you have any connection in World War II? Were you involved at all in World War II?

VET: No.

INT: You were probably a little too young.

I had five or one two...four brothers that was involved with World War II.

INT: Ok was Doug in World War II?

VET: No.

INT: Ok.

Doug is younger than me.

INT: Well we wondered about that, who was the oldest of the two. Ok Doug is his brother who was a teacher here for a many a year. What year did you retire from the Military?

VET: 1990

INT: 1990 so how many years of service did you have?

VET: Perfect years, thirty-five years, but overall, forty years.

INT: And the question is which branch of the service, it's pretty obvious from your uniform that you were in the...

VET: the army

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INT: The army. Ok. Did you serve full time in a guard or reserve unit and you were basically always in the reserve weren't you?

VET: Not the reserve, I was always under National Guard but really.

INT: Ok. Where did you do your basic training?

VET: I did not do basic training. I was in the National Guard, we was federalized, we trained in our particular MOSs that's Military Occupation Specialties and then we were shipped to fight a war.

INT: In Korea

VET: In Korea

INT: Ok. Where were you stationed before going to Korea?

VET: Well of course I was with the National Guard Unit here in Cedar City, Utah and then August the nineteenth of 1950 after the outbreak of the Korean War which took place in June of 1950 we was sent to Fort Lewis, Washington. And we trained for...roughly from August 'til the later part of December and then we loaded our...loaded a ship called a General M.C. Meigs and took twenty-two days and traveled to South Korea.

INT: Ok now how many men went with our unit when you...now I say our unit because I was also in the National Guard.

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VET: Well with the whole 213<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Battalion which I was attached to with headquarters in Cedar, firing batteries in Richfield, Fillmore, and Saint George and a service battery in Beaver.

INT: But weren't we a firing battery?

VET: No. Firing batteries were the ones that actually had the howitzers.

INT: We didn't have a 155 howitzer in our unit?

VET: Not at that time. We had a self-propelled 105 M7s they was called. After we got to Korea, and after a few months we was transferred from the old 105s and we got brand new 155s

INT: And they were towed howitzers.

VET: And they was towed howitzers.

INT: And then after that you got the self propelled. What were they called?

VET: Well that's after my time.

INT: Ok. What is the highest rank you received? Now, here's where we need you to tell us a little about your various ranks and your various hash marks, and your ribbons.

VET: Well, I'm a little reluctant to talk about ribbons and whatnot, but the highest rank I achieved of course was Command Sergeant Major, which the position that that holds is he's the direct link between the Battalion Commander and the enlisted men. It's the highest ranking Noncommissioned Officer. Consequently; he can be in control of 500 people, 500 soldiers. And it is a very prestigious rank and...

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INT: There are very few of those.

There is only one for about every battalion you know, 500 men. But you work and you strive for it and little did I think when I first joined the National Guard that I would ever achieve this rank but somehow, I just loved the military. I loved to be a patriot.

INT: Well and you were good in that calling. I remember you have a friendly personality.

As I was a young man coming into it I related well to you. Some of them I didn't relate so well to.

VET: Thank you, well I know what you are talking about.

INT: I remember, Captain Woodbury was another one that I could relate with. But some of those brethren, some of those men, I keep getting church...

VET: I patterned myself as much as I could after awhile to a feller called Gaylord Whitney.

INT: Yep, I remember Gaylord, he was there when I was a...

VET: What a remarkable person Gaylord was and a fun loving guy.

INT: He was and he was very friendly and very easy to talk to.

VET: Yes.

INT: Ok. Now tell us about the hash marks a little bit, Explain those.

VET: See for each one of them is for three years of actual service in the National Guard. And I guess the Command Sergeant Major Stripes here. [Pointing to parts of his uniform] These right here are Presidential Unit Citations. Now if you was to ask me if I were ever



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to receive any individual citations or whatnot, I did not, except National Guard. But these two are Presidential Unit Citations for the Republic of Korea and the blue one is for the United States of America. Now those ribbons represent the highest possible award that a unit can be given.

INT: Now who awarded them to our unit?

VET: Ok, they was awarded the presidential unit citation here was awarded to us in Korea and there was only about seven or eight of the original National Guard Unit there at the time by General James A Van Fleet. I remember on a cold North Korean makeshift parade ground, we assembled the troops and we was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation and then later, the Korean Government awarded the Korean Presidential Unit Citation to us. Very prestigious, ribbons right here [Pointing to Awards on Uniform] some are army and some are National Guard. I was very fortunate in 1968 to be the Most Outstanding Soldier for the Utah National Guard. And I have here ribbon is Detur Digniori in French meaning to the worthiest. Six years later I received the Minute Man Award for the state of Utah for community service. And the most of the reason that I received that was because I was Co-Chairman or I mean Chairman of the National Guard Sub for Santa program here in Iron County where we furnished toys for roughly between twenty-five, thirty-five families here in Iron County every year and each man in our units donated one days drill pay to pay for this but the merchants were very good also and give us all toys and everything...a tremendous discount.

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INT: I remember that, I was in that a little bit.

VET: I received the Minute Man Award with very prestigious people in Salt Lake and it was an honor being there.

INT: Ok good. The next question is they give us a list of questions to ask you is did you serve in combat and I am interested in that because I know you did and I know you had a very unusual experience.

VET: We probably didn't get all the credit that we actually deserved for our combat experience in Korea. Now for the roughly thirteen and a half, fourteen months that I actually spent in Korea then ten and a half to eleven of them was actually in combat on the front lines.

INT: Ok now you were in an artillery unit.

In an artillery, I was communication and we strung wire lines between the different units and our headquarters and also to our observation posts on the hill.

INT: Now where were you in Korea, what was the name of the city or were you Seoul?

VET: Well when we first landed in Korea we was at Pusan that's the southern most tip. And then we traveled after we trained and come up to par with all of our equipment, then we loaded on a LST's Landing Ship Tank and sailed from Pusan down and around the base of Korea up the Yellow Sea and landed at Incheon. And there we disembarked at Incheon, went in through Seoul and over into an area called the Iron Triangle which was Kumhwa, Pyonggang, and Ch'orwon and...

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INT: Boy your memory is good. [Laughing]

VET: I practice.

INT: Well you do very well.

VET: And I still remember all the Korean that I learned there. I try to talk to missionaries but for some reason missionaries loose theirs.

INT: Hmm.

VET: Unless they push it.

INT: I've got a son that was in Korea, he'd be happy to talk to you.

[Speaks in Korean]

INT: Ok, now tell us about when you shot yourself out just in a few words when Colonel Dalley and you shot your way out of that problem.

VET: Well you know that gets...stories get turned around quite a bit  
I know they do.

And it becomes different all the time and of course you have probably seen the movie that we made "The Miracle of Kap Yong" that was just one evening, but I had several evenings as bad or even as worse than that. Nights I should say. But the particular one that I really liked and when I've heard this story that you're talking about, there is two stories gone into one. But the one where Colonel Dalley heard the message, I was standing right by the half track with him. We was clear up in almost the suicide type canyon. It was walled in on both sides. And radio communications was absolutely nil.

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We didn't have the equipment of course that they have now, but our FM radios were almost useless and we had what we called the six rock regiment, Republic of Korea Soldiers, and they was retreating, they was coming back, going right through our lines, heading right to our rear areas. One of our L19 Pilots a Fixed Wing Aircraft Pilot by the name of Lieutenant Gillis, Dan Gillis was flying up front and he was [audio malfunction] targets we could fire at and what not. And he told us about all these South Koreans. We tried to get through to General Gilmore who was I Corp Commander and ask him what was going on, but we couldn't get any radio reception either way or transmissions. So, all at once over the radio, in the half track and I am sure this was divine intervention with the Colonel Dalley's strength that he had, but the message comes through, it says "Return to your southern position, return to your southern..." and that's about it. And Colonel Dalley give the order to break camp and go south. And we did we returned back about twelve miles before we set up again.

INT: Now you didn't loose one man did you?

VET: If we hadn't of don't that then we would have been completely wiped out because there was a good six to eight thousand North Korean and Chinese troops.

INT: And as my wife said, as I remember the account, the unit didn't loose one man in their service.

VET: No.

INT: You were wounded but

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VET: During the Miracle of Kap Yong, where we was over run and they first hit the Medic Detachment of the twenty-first Army Regiment or Division I should say, five of them got killed, five first aide Medics. They were supposed to have been immune from the war too. I can still see their bodies laying right on the ground with the shelter capsule. But anyway, we was hit with about, 4,000 Chinese that night and there was just A Battery, Alpha Battery from Richfield and about three-quarters of Headquarters' Battery. And we had a sprinkling of each one of the other Batteries. There was a section from service battery there because they handled the stores: supplies and ammunition.

INT: Now is that where Colonel Dalley lowered the howitzer down and just blew himself out of the...

VET: No, it wasn't Colonel Dalley, it was Captain Cox, A Battery Commander. And he used one of our howitzers as an actual tank and went right into them. Now we killed and wounded between three and four hundred that day. We captured 831. We had four guys wounded, Martin Merril, Mel Kyle from Headquarters Battery and a Fletcher and a McNeil kid from Alpha Battery.

INT: What a story, well we better not spend too much time there or we won't get any of the others done. It says your most vivid memory of your service, the most vivid thing that you remember about your service experience in thirty-five years.

VET: [pause]

INT: Was it that experience in Korea?

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VET: No I think when I won the Outstanding Soldier of the State of Utah.

INT: Ok that probably would be.

VET: 1968 my family couldn't be there because this was taken the later part of June and my wife was pregnant with my son, she had to stay home.

INT: Now was that up at Camp Williams?

VET: That was up at Camp Williams.

INT: Ok. Did you have any religious experiences, spiritual experiences?

VET: Well you've heard the saying "there is not atheist in a fox hole"

INT: Yeah

VET: And I believe each and every man in his own way prayed every night and every day.

INT: I do to. I've never been in combat, but I've read enough about it that it scares me just reading about it. Tell about your family life while you were serving, evidently you were married, you just mentioned you had children, were you married, not at seventeen though were you?

VET: No, no I didn't get married until later, until probably...well I got married in 1963 so you can do the math there and figure out how long.

INT: And how many children?

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VET: But my wife was always very very supportive of my National Guard time and even as my family was increasing and growing up, they always attended family day with me at Camp Williams every summer.

Good

And as I said, Susan was really supportive of me. In fact just recently me and her was honored with the Molly Picture Award and also the Saint Barbara Award for myself, the Molly Pitcher for her and our local National Guard Unit. This just took place on Veterans day in November.

INT: Good. Now where did she go while you were in Korea? Did she stay here in Cedar?

VET: No I wasn't married when I was in Korea.

INT: Oh weren't you.

VET: I was just a young twenty twenty-one year old.

INT: Oh ok.

VET: I didn't get married until later.

INT: Did you feel like your family supported you while you were in the Military well?

VET: My mother and dad of course supported us because I was not alone. I had five brothers in the Military with me.

INT: What were their names?

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VET: I had three of us in Korea, me and Ken and Dave. Dave was a World War II Veteran. And then there was Jack and Bob and Doug that was serving in different capacities in the Air Force or in the Army at other spots in the world.

INT: I didn't know that.

VET: Me and my brothers have over 100 years of service in the Military. And with our nephews now we have over 200.

INT: I know you've been a very patriotic person all your life.

VET: Our sons and our nephews.

INT: When you were in service in Korea, what were the physical conditions? Were you in jungle or in sand or dessert? What was the conditions there where you were serving?

VET: I'm glad you asked that question. Believe me, North Korea is the coldest place in the world.

INT: I've heard that from my son.

VET: And we spent more time up north than we did down south. Now down south, Pusan and whatnot, it was awfully hot in the summer time. A lot of mosquitoes and things like this, bugs but we didn't get to enjoy those. We was up in North Korea and actually when I left there, the snow was about two feet deep the wind coming off that Manchurian border we must have been down to thirty and forty below zero at night. Every night we'd have to pull the breeches back on our thirty and fifty caliber machine guns to keep them working or they would freeze up with the cold. So all night long if you was on Sergeant



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of the Guard or whatever you could hear those breeches being pulled back and released on our perimeter defense.

INT: Ok, now North Korea is quite mountainous isn't it?

VET: Well it is all mountainous.

INT: Is it?

VET: Yes the whole, the whole peninsula of North- and South Korea. There is big wide areas occasionally where the rivers run and a lot of water in Korea.

INT: And a lot of storm and a lot of rain?

VET: A lot of rain in the summer they say.

INT: And snow in the winter.

VET: And I know there is a lot of snow in the winter.

INT: Are there any regrets that you've had when you were in the Military? Things you wish you hadn't have had to do or...

VET: I took my share of rear chewing out, you know but I did my share of them too. And I don't regret any part of my Army or Military service whatsoever except to the point that maybe I could have done more.

INT: Ok. Would you advise a young man today to go into the Military?

VET: Oh definitely. I talked like a Dutch uncle to get my boy to stay in. He stayed in for eight years, his commitment, but the friends he'd run around with hadn't gone on

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missions and my boy went on a mission so he lost two years there and the fellows he'd run around with got discharged and he had to spend two more years there.

INT: Ok.

VET: But he was very capable in what he was doing and now the benefits that you receive in the Military. They pay up to I think its 70,000 dollars right now for schooling. You can get your doctorate degree for that.

INT: Well this is what most of the people have been saying is that if you go into the Military, take advantage of all the schooling you can because it's top notch schooling and it is basically free to you.

VET: I spent several years when I got out to going to school back to Fort Sill, Oklahoma in communications and code and security. And I did that because everyday it'd give me one more point toward retirement. And the more retirement points you had, the more retirement pay you got.

INT: So you got a pretty good retirement from the Military.

VET: Oh I've made over 100,000 dollars just in retirement fees since I've retired.

INT: Good. Ok. After the war, what occupation did you go into?

VET: Well this is a long story too, but I trained, I went to school in Salt Lake in electronics, but I ended up in photography.

INT: I know you were a good photographer, and excellent photographer.

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I loved photography, I didn't become rich in it, but it was well enough to support my family. But the main thing was that I enjoyed it and I had my wife working for me. And I had the people I had working in my shop in my studio, fantastic working girls here in Cedar City.

INT: Ok now let's shift gears a little bit and ask you about the current conflict going on in Iraq, what are your attitudes about that or feelings?

VET: Well my attitude about that is that President Bush is our Commander in Chief and if he sent me to Iraq today, I'd go.

INT: Ok. Do you feel like it was a mistake to go there?

VET: Definitely not a mistake. What did they say about us in Korea? The forgotten war. The War of 1812 was a forgotten war as well but we got the Star Spangled Banner out of it didn't we.

INT: Yeah we did.

VET: And also, the Korean War if I can go on a little farther than, we saved South Korea. Where would it be right now if hadn't been there?

INT: It would be just a dump.

VET: And I expect the same thing with Iraq. Maybe it is going to take five ten years but where would Iraq be if we hadn't of interfered with it?

INT: I agree. Ok Sergeant. I admire you, I always have and I have a high respect for you and I appreciate your efforts. I've learned a good number of things here today and we

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hope you have enjoyed it. Are there any other things that you would like to relate to us?

We've still got a few minutes time.

VET: I don't think so, I think we have pretty well covered everything. But I have enjoyed my Military service immensely. The nice thing about the National Guard is you are in there with a bunch of friends.

INT: And you know everybody and you know their families.

VET: Pardon?

INT: And you know them and you know their families.

VET: That's right.

INT: Yeah I enjoyed the National Guard. Ok well I guess that concludes it then, we thank you again.

VET: Thank you.

INT: Thank you for your service.

VET: Now if my uniform doesn't bust to pieces.

[Laughing]