



Robert J. Morris

**U. S. Army
Korean War-Homefront
Corporal
2nd Infantry Division
9th Regiment**

Robert J. Morris

**Veterans
History
Project
Transcript**

**Interview conducted
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**Niles Public Library
Niles Public Library District
Niles, Illinois**



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Veteran's History Project Transcript

Veteran: Robert J. Morris

Rank: Corporal

Branch of Service: U.S. Army

Theater: Korean War - Homefront

Unit: 2nd Infantry Division, 9th Regiment

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Interviewer: Neil O'Shea

This Veterans History Project interview is being conducted today on Wednesday, August the 8th, in the year 2007 at the Niles Public Library in the group study room. My name is Neil O'Shea. I am a member of the staff here at the Niles Library, and I have the privilege of sitting across the table from Mr. Robert John Morris, who was born in 1932, and served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. And we appreciate Mr. Morris coming in today

Thank you.

to share his memoir of service to his country with us. So, Mr. Morris, how did you come to be in the U.S. Army?

010 – drafted into the Army

Well, my-- people that were born in the same year I was, if you were in my era, when you became eighteen years old, you went and registered for the draft, knowing that somewhere around the age of twenty, you would be drafted. That's how I got in the Army. I got drafted.

So you were drafted?

Yes.

Did some of your friends make a decision to enlist or--

Oh, yeah. I knew guys in the Coast Guard, in the Air Force, in the Marines, and the Navy, and they all thought they could get out of combat by doing that. They had to serve more time than being drafted but that's what--

And did that strategy work for them?

Oh, yeah, sure. Sure. Most of the guys, with the exception of the Marine Corps, most of the guys that I knew, if they did enlist, served, if they did serve in Korea, they weren't on the front lines, or that sort of thing.

Had people in your family served in the military?

Well, my father was a Reserve-- my father was an Army lifer. He went in the Army at the beginning of World War II and stayed in twenty—twenty-five years. I've forgotten. But he went in as an officer.

Did the Army ever beckon to you as a career?

No. No. Not at all. Not at all. I just wanted to serve my two-- I realized it was an obligation-- and I wanted to get out. I had no desire to make it a career.

So if you enlist, joined up voluntarily, then your required duty time is certain years active, certain years reserve?

Well, you've got to meet your obligation either way you cut it. The longer you serve on active duty, the shorter your reserve time is. If you serve, I guess I served two years active duty and six years reserve time. Now, if I would have, say, enlisted for three years, I guess my reserve time would have been cut down by a year, or maybe two. I really don't recall that much about it anymore.

So you were drafted, then, at the age of twenty-two?

Twenty.

Twenty. Pardon me. Twenty. Did that disrupt your life or--?

No, not at all. I guess I prepared for it. I just knew it was going to happen and, unless there was something I didn't know about physically, that I would be going in, and that's what happened.

So was your generation, I guess you were in eighth grade or high school during the World War II years?

Yeah.

At the outbreak of Korea, were you all-- was there a feeling of patriotism or

Oh, sure. Oh, sure. Much more than probably the guys in Vietnam. Yeah, I would say so. You just expected that to happen and it was a way of life, you know.

So, there were no surprises in the family when you did that?

No. No. Not at all. Not at all.

So where did you-- where were you inducted?

Fort Sheridan, Illinois. We went down there, and we spent a week there being processed, and then we were sent out to different locations across the country.

042- basic training, "it was it was."

So your basic training was

I went to California

Ford Ord, or

No, Fort Lewis, Washington, or, I'm sorry, Camp Roberts, California.

Camp Roberts.

Yeah, they closed it right after the Korean War was over.

And was that a pleasant experience, basic training?

No. Yeah, it was all right. I mean, if you look back on it, it was, you know, it was what it was, but, you know, it wasn't anything that I'd want to do over again or I'd recommend, you know, to people who want to go out and have fun. It was what it was.

Yeah.

And I'm sure it wasn't any more pleasant anyplace else. It was warm.

Yeah. Were there--did you meet interesting people in basic training?

I think you meet interesting people all through the military. I met people that I'd never thought I'd ever even talk to, you know, and that I'd never have a chance to meet any other time. And it was—really, it was, that part of it was very interesting. I really enjoyed it. And I've never kept in touch with anybody, particularly. I thought I would, but I didn't.

Yeah.

But--yeah.

So, did some of the people you went through basic training with, including yourself, were you thinking about you might have to go to Korea or--

Oh, yeah. There was no doubt. In fact, out of my outfit, my basic training class, for want of a better word, three guys went to Europe, two guys went to Alaska, five guys stayed in the States, and everybody else went to Korea.

And how many would that have been, roughly, that went to Korea, then, out of that?

Oh, probably two hundred and twenty.

Wow.

061 – orders for Korea lost!

Yeah, the rest of them. The only reason I stayed was because they lost my orders. I was supposed to go to Korea. I was-- that was what I was trained for. And when it came time to ship everybody out, there were five of us that sat back, and they didn't have any orders for us. And they didn't know why. And it turned out that they lost my orders, and I was one of five guys, and so they kept me on as a holdover trainee in California. And I went through two training cycles as a--

Two basic training cycles?

Right, as a cadre man, which was like a drill instructor in the Marine Corps. And we would go out there and train troops. So that's what I did for a year after I got out.

Did you enjoy training troops?

Oh, sure. It was fun. We'd get up in the morning, and take them out, and then sit under a tree and wait for the instructors to be done with them, and then take them back, and then we'd be done for the day.

062 – no leave for a "holdover"

And the only reason I found out that this wasn't the best thing that'd ever happened to me because I wanted to go home. I'd been in the Army for a year, and everybody else was going home on leave around me, and it was my turn, and I asked for a leave, and they said, "We can't give it to you, because you're not assigned to anybody. You're a holdover." "And what does that mean?" And they said, "Well, you're never assigned to anybody. You can't be promoted. You can't get a furlough. You can't do anything. You're just here." And so I, "Well that's silly! I mean, how do I change that?" I mean, you know, obviously, I wanted to make more money, which means promotion, and not that I want to make a career out of it, but every time you get promoted, you make more money. Not a lot, because they don't pay a lot.

But, anyway, so they finally put me in as a permanent party. By this time, the Korean War was over, and they were closing the camps. So they assigned me to a security guard outfit that was attached to the MPs. And we did that until the camp closed. And then they sent us all to Fort Lewis, Washington. And then I got my furlough and I got promoted all in the same breath. So, when I got to my new station I was a PFC, which was a big deal, because they just-- the rank had been frozen all this time, and they unfroze the ranks of people who could get promoted.

Anyway, I was due for sergeant the day I got out of the Army. And they asked me if I wanted to make sergeant. And I said, "Well, sure." And they said, "Okay, you are going to have to reenlist." I said, "No, I don't want to do it that bad." So, I just took my

So, you were in this sort of limbo?

Yeah.

Official, Official ease.

Yeah.

And they decided to make use of you while you were in this limbo.

Right. They didn't want me to serve and do nothing. God forbid!

So they used you as a sort of a like a trainer.

Yeah. Yeah. They had an extra pair of hands that they wouldn't have had otherwise. And so they took advantage of it. And it worked out good for me, except for getting promoted. That's all I really cared about.

You don't think they just decided you might be good at this training and they just decided to keep you on in some sort of--

Well, they knew the bubble was going to burst eventually anyway, because the war was almost over, and, you know, when it was ended, they just knew it would be a matter of time before this camp got closed, and then they had to do something with all these extra people. In fact, they had a lot of guys who wanted a career, soldiers that ended up getting tossed out of the Army. They just, because they didn't have anything else to do with them, it was peacetime, and they so they just--

So, some of them-- Some of the young men that you worked with, that you trained,

Mmm hmm

they went to Korea, is that right?

Oh, the Korean War was over. They probably went, but there was no, you know, it was just a matter of them being occupation troops, more or less, you know. They were there. They are still there.

So was-- Were you all pleased that the war ended then or were some people thinking, "Oh, I really wanted to get over there," or--

Oh, I didn't know of anybody that really wanted to go.

Yeah.

Nobody really, you know, they, unlike the guys in `Nam that says, "Hell, no, we won't go," it never occurred to us to do that.

Yeah.

We just-- We knew if we did that, we'd probably end up in prison, and so we didn't.

So, did you gain weight, lose weight, while you were in the Army?

When I was in the Army, I just got out of high school about two years before, or a year before. I weighed 150 pounds, six foot tall. I was six foot tall, since I was about fourteen, which I was a skinny little rundown kid. I went-- I had fourteen, or sixteen, weeks of basic training. When I got done with basic training, I went up to 185 pounds, and I didn't have an ounce of fat on me. I don't say it was bulk, but I was in the best shape I've ever been in my life. And I stayed that way until I got out of the Army. But I was in the infantry, so they worked us all the time. And it wasn't like hard work, but we kept, you know, regimented, you know. We had a certain time we had to go to bed. We had a well-balanced diet. I ate good as a civilian, but, you know, when you eat good, it means you're filling your belly. There, they give you a well-balanced diet, that kind of stuff, so, yeah, it did me a lot of good.

Your parents still recognized you, though, when you came home on your eventual

Oh, yeah.

furlough?

Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah.

Yeah. The Army must have thought you were a good authority figure, maybe, or something, do you think?

Well, I don't know. You know, they, if they would have had the machines they've got today where they have, you know, they can look up your personnel record now in five seconds, they probably would have, because my father was an Army officer, and he was in military intelligence. It probably would have helped me a lot. But in those days they didn't know, they had no way, I mean, they knew it, but it would, to look it up on a computer, they didn't have that kind of knowledge.

118 – characters in the Army

Do you ever find yourself at odd moment thinking about somebody back there in those times and chuckling about what a character they were?

Oh, yeah.

Yeah?

Sure, all the time.

Yeah. I remember a guy when I was at Fort Lewis, a guy, we called him Gizmo.

Gizmo.

Yeah. And I don't remember his name anymore, but everybody called him Gizmo. He was a black guy from the south side of Chicago. And he was probably a gangbanger, and we just didn't know it at the time, a nice guy, but he always talked real tough. And he sounded like he had a whisky voice.

He had this real heavy-- and he was always getting in trouble because he was always flouting authority. Well, it turned out he wasn't drafted. He enlisted in the Army. And when we found out about it, we really gave his life living hell, because, you know, he enlisted and he was acting the way he was. He was like, you know, guys that were complaining because they got drafted. I always wondered what happened to him. But he got tossed out of the Army, not a bad discharge, but he was one of those guys that after the war was over, they didn't want him anymore. They needed him when they got him. They, you know, in the war, the Army was open to anybody. But after the war was over, they got rid of a lot of people.

My father was one of them. He was in and out of the Army all the time. And he was an officer and his, when he died, his chaplain was a guy who had been in the Army Reserve. And they let him go because they didn't need chaplains anymore. And he wanted to make a career of it, and he was planning on doing it for the rest of his life, and then getting a small

Pension or something?

Yes. When he got out, well, he would have, he would have gotten a big pension, because he was a colonel, but he would have taken that, and then gone and gotten himself a little parish someplace, and gone from there, yeah.

Yeah. What high school did you attend, may I ask?

Sullivan.

Sullivan Tigers, right? Sullivan Tigers.

Yes, very good. How do you know that?

I've met a lot of Chicagoans over the years working in libraries.

So, most of the time, so far, you're in California?

Mmm hmm.

And then you're Private First Class, and you come back from your furlough, and then you go to

Fort Lewis, Washington.

140 – Fort Lewis

And that's an exit point, a departure point, Fort Lewis, or

Well, Fort Lewis was a-- I don't remember the initial words. I hate to hesitate to use them, "T.O. and E." outfit – (possibly *Table of Organization and Equipment*), but they were regular Army.

And that's like you still go through cadre. You go through like you're doing basic training all over again, except you're no longer training. You're doing it like the real thing, maneuvers. We took

maneuvers up in Alaska. We went over to different places in the country like Tacoma. I can't think of the name of the town right now. It's in Washington State when they made the movie *To Hell and Back* with Audie Murphy. We did that movie. They used us as extras, you know. We played German soldiers and--

Boy, that's fascinating! They had American soldiers portraying Germans!

Yeah, the war was over with, and they needed guys, you know. They got-- the studio, I guess, paid them to do that, so our outfit was selected to do that, and--

Have you ever seen the film?

Yeah. Oh, yeah. It turned out that our outfit-- they had another outfit that was going out there and doing this anyway. And we didn't go. So what they did do, they had a Division parade right at the beginning of the movie and at the end of the movie. And we, normally on payday, we would get paid, and we'd get a weekend pass. Because Audie Murphy was in town doing this movie, they had a Division parade, and they wanted to film it for the movie, and they did. It took about two hours to film it the way they wanted it. And, so, yeah, I remember it very well.

So Audie Murphy, of course, was a

The most decorated hero of World War II.

He was-- was he from Texas or something?

Yeah. He was a little farm boy from Texas. And he was a good looking little kid. And that's what he looked like, a little boy. He was a real boyish looking guy, a little guy, but, you know, he was a war hero. So, he ended up making cowboy pictures.

Yeah, so he fought against the Germans, then, is that right?

Oh, yeah, he sure did. They were like living hell.

So, at this time, are you assigned to the 2nd Infantry Division?

No. I was assigned to the 44th Infantry Division. The 2nd Infantry Division was in Korea and about, see, I got out in November '54, they sent the 2nd Division back from Korea. They deactivated them in Korea and sent them back to this country in Fort Lewis, Washington. That's the outfit I was in when I got out. I was in the 44th Division, and they deactivated it, and made it 2nd Division. And I remember that so well, because I had to change all my patches, and I had like less than a month to go! In all my uniforms, I had to change everything.

Did you have to change the patches yourself?

No, I didn't have to, but I did.

So, you cut them off and then sewed them back on, or whatever?

Yeah. Yeah. You got to pay somebody to do it, you know, and, by that time, I was a corporal and I, you know, was making big money, 220 dollars a month.

So, when you're in basic training, when are you assigned to an Army unit?

When you're in basic training.

When you're in basic training?

Yeah.

So, you were assigned to the 44th, when you were in basic?

No, no. No, no. I was assigned-- I was in the 7th Armored Division.

7th Armored Division.

7th Armored Division. That was Camp Roberts, California.

Camp Roberts.

That was-- the whole camp was the 7th Armored Division.

And then you were--

Then I went to Fort Lewis to the 44th Division.

44th.

Right. And then they brought the 2nd Division back. And they deactivated the 44th. And I was in the 2nd Division. And then I got out.

Then you got out.

Yeah, at the end of the, at that time, when you got out, you had a choice of being in the active Reserve or the inactive Reserve. If you took the active reserve, you could cut down your reserve time for, I think, it was a year. So you only had to serve five years instead of six. Well, I decided I didn't want to be active. I didn't want any part of it. I just wanted to be out. But they send you letters once in a while.

Yeah.

I knew guys that got called back in for various things. I don't remember what they were anymore. Scared me half to death!

So your period of obligation--

I served two years of active duty and six years of inactive.

So your inactive duty period ended in 19--?

`60, `50, wait a minute, no, no, 1954, six years, yes, it was in 1960.

1960.

And then I had to write them to send me a discharge.

Yeah?

And then they finally got around to doing it. And I got discharged in 1961 or 1962, I forget what it was anymore.

So from Fort Lewis then, you were on these maneuvers?

Yeah.. I was still stationed in Fort Lewis. It was still my permanent station, but I spent two months in Alaska.

Yeah? Tell us about Alaska.

Well, I was-- They sent us there on maneuvers. We went by ship from Seattle up to a place called, oh, man, my mind is-- I can't remember the name of the port... Whittier, Whittier, Alaska. And then we got aboard trains, and then they took us to Anchorage, and we were there for three days, and then we went from there, then we went up to Fairbanks. And that was all by either truck or walking. And we got up to Fairbanks, and there was a little camp. It was a military installation, but we were supposed to attack them, take on the aggressor forces, at that post. And they were the enemy. And we were supposed to go and take them. Well, they annihilated us.

Oh, dear.

Wiped us out. Completely wiped us out.

How do you-- how do they annihilate you without--

Well, you know.

Use paintball, or something, or?

Well, just about. It's not quite that, you know, what they do today. They had this -- we were supposed to get on this gully and then go to up the other side and then take over the installation.

When we got down on the gully, they dropped tear gas on us, and anybody who came up with a tear in his eye was dead. Well--.

So had you known they might hit you with tear gas?

No, no. No, we never, you know.

That wasn't fair, was it? That was poor intelligence or--

We don't know. I mean, you know, the thing was, we got hit. All we know, we got our butts whipped.

Because they used tear gas?

Yeah. Yeah.

Was that a legal weapon in those days?

I don't know.

Whatever they want to do is whatever they do.

They react like if it were real combat.

So, did you eventually dislodge this force?

No, no. No, we were dead. We were gone, so they sent us back to the States. That was all. We just, you know, I mean-- I look back on it. I think what a waste of time and money. But it was like they had nothing better to do.

I suppose Korea, there was a cease-fire in '53 then.

Yeah.

So the Army has to sort of slowly retract or

Get small.

Contract.

Go back to peacetime.

But still be worried in case something might happen, and then you got all these huge

Yeah, Well, you know, if you think about it, we have not been to war, a real honest-to-god war, since World War II. Korea was not a war. It was a police action. Vietnam was not a war. We're not

at war now. It's not just because the president says we're at war. It's just not done that way. It has to be declared a war by the powers that be. And they're not declaring wars. It costs too much money. And who are we fighting anyway right now? And we don't have an enemy-- we don't have anybody who walks around with a uniform on. Even in Vietnam, we knew who the enemy was. They had uniforms. Now, I mean, we're just fighting people, and how do you kill a civilian? They are all civilians. The kids are soldiers. Everybody. It's a very confusing thing. At least in our time, we knew who we were fighting against. But we were not really at war in the strict sense of the word. It was not a declared war.

That pseudo tear gas, did it make you sick or anything?

Oh, no.

Just as pepper sting in your eye or whatever?

It smells terrible, and it makes you-- they didn't use it real heavily. I mean, just enough to know it was there.

Yeah.

And when you're carrying sixty pounds or eighty pounds on your back, and you're going up the side of a hill, and you've got a weapon, and the whole thing, and then, all of a sudden, there you are, you're willing to give up, anyway, you know. You know it's a game and but-- that's the

If you had gained the camp or the fortification, would you have been rewarded or--?

Well, yeah, in the sense that you'd-- it would have been on your record that you did something that was good. But, I mean, as far as, there were no extra rations or anything like that.

How many troops tried, or was it just for your outfit that you think that they staged that?

Well, no. It was-- we were going after a couple of hundred guys, and we were a couple of hundred guys. I don't know how they decide who to send and who not to send.

It was like I was, also, I went to leadership school. And I had less than a month to go to get out, and they had a leadership school, and they had to fill the school, and I had to complete, it was like thirty guys a month, and they take them from different outfits. They take like two from this outfit to fill the ranks. And we were going maneuvers. My outfit was going maneuvers to San Diego. Well, San Diego, if you've ever been there, that's like Hawaii. I mean the nicest.

It's a lovely place.

Oh, it's a beautiful place, great weather. The climate is the best in the world, next to Hawaii. And I was looking forward to it. It was a waste of time, because I was getting out, and I would have been discharged the same time I was in San Diego. So I thought, well, this is silly! They said, "We've got another job for you. We're going to send you to leadership school." And I said, "What do you mean?"

I'm getting out. This leadership school, I get through with that, and I'll have a week to go, and I'll get out." They said, "We've got to send somebody." And it was supposed to be a voluntary thing. This is the Army. "Give me three volunteers, you, and you," and that's the way it is! So they said, "You're volunteering!" I said, "I don't want to go to leadership school," I said. "Well that, or if you go to San Diego, you're not going to like it. Believe me, you're not going to like it!" So I took them at their word. So, I went to leadership school.

So you never got to go to San Diego?

No, not then. But my whole outfit went. So, I got out of leadership school, and I went back to my outfit, and the whole place was empty, because they still had a week to go before they were done.

And the leadership school was-- took place in?

In Fort Lewis.

In Fort Lewis, yeah.

And what I did was mostly classroom stuff that you had to learn how to be a good leader of men. But whatever they taught me, I already knew. I'd already learned all that stuff in different aspects from different people. But this way, I got a certificate that says I graduated from leadership school. That's one of the pictures I'll be bringing in, from my class from leadership school.

Yeah. That will be nice to scan to add that to the record.

So, then, you, what do they say, mustered out to-- where you were discharged from?

Fort Lewis.

From Fort Lewis, and then you make your way back by plane?

They give you mustering out pay and you go home when you want to go home.

So did you make a beeline for Chicago?

I sure did, went right over to Sea-Tac Airport, took off the next day to Chicago.

It was nice to be home? Your family was glad to see you and--

Oh, yeah, you know, of course.

You're back, yeah.

Sure, but, you know, it's--

Did you have any trouble making the adjustment to civilian life, or anything, or?

No, not really. Not really. I suppose, had I been in combat. When I said I met people in the Service that I remember, one kid in particular, he was a farm boy from North Dakota. And when I met him, he was eighteen years old. He'd just gotten back from Korea. He was a sergeant, and he made sergeant right before they froze rank. This guy was not old enough to vote. He was not old enough to have a drink legally. But he had just served a year and a half in the front lines of Korea. He was a combat veteran. He was in as high a rank as he could probably ever get in the military. But he was like a big old kid. But he was a war veteran, you know, a battle-weary guy. And I thought, My God! I am two years older than him, and I haven't seen half of what this kid has seen—different--

I wonder how his life turned out?

I'm sure he went back to the farm.

Yeah.

But I saw this same guy do something that I never, I mean, I guess, growing up on a farm-- somebody got hurt when we were on maneuvers. And they pulled their arm out of the socket. Well, you can imagine how much it hurt. I mean, the guy was just screaming! And his arm was like this, and he couldn't straighten it out. And this guy came over and, whatever he did, he grabbed it, and just yanked his arm, and put it right back in the socket. And I just stood there in amazement! This guy is a teenager and he's doing stuff like that. He knew what to do.

Yes

I wouldn't have known what to do. I would have said, "I'm sorry. I wish there was something I could do to ease your pain, but I don't know what to do!"

Yeah.

And this guy had, you know, the smarts to do something. But, oh, my God!

So is, when you, after you were released from the Army then, or active duty, did you keep up with any of the friends you made in the Army, or?

No, which really surprised me, because I met a lot of guys, a lot of people, that you think you are going to keep in touch with, you know. You think this is going to be my best friend forever. Look at all we've been through, blah, blah, blah. They're just acquaintances.

Yes.

People you know. I ran into a couple of guys quite by accident. I was working downtown. At the time, I worked at First National Bank, and one guy was a messenger. He was coming to the bank all the time. And he was one of my guys when I was a cadre man. He had been drafted in the Army, and

he was like thirty-five years old. He'd married and had two kids. And for whatever reason, he'd never got drafted. And they drafted him in the Army. And he came over to me, and I was taking-- this was when I was taking the guys out, you know, out to the field, and I was like twenty-one, twenty, and I was in good shape. And this guy was in good shape for a thirty-five year old man. But he was still thirty-five, and he wasn't in the best shape. And he came over and he said, "Bob," he said, "I'm not asking for any special treatment, but I can't keep up with these kids." And he told me what happened. He says, "If you could see your way clear to help me out, I would really appreciate it." What the heck. He came, you know, like a man, and asked me. So I saw he got the easier jobs, you know, whatever I could do to help the guy out. Well, he was the guy that I ran into all the time. And he praised me that day.

That's good.

He said, "I don't know what I could have done without you." And I was glad I was there to help.

345 – integration of Army

I was also, during the time I was in the Army, this was when they integrated the Army.

Fascinating.

And that was, I mean, we didn't even realize it was being done. And when we went to Fort Lewis, we went, that was the days of the old barracks where they had the wooden barracks. And there was like four squads to a barracks. They had two on the first floor and two on the second floor. And about most of the guys were from the Midwest in our basic training outfit, most from Chicago, a lot from Chicago, and they wanted to integrate everybody. But they wanted to do it softly without making a big deal out of it. So, they just told everybody just go find a bunk, so which ended up with two black barracks, two white barracks. They said, "This isn't going to work. This isn't what it's supposed to do!" So they put everybody alphabetically, which pretty much worked out pretty good. But a lot of guys had their noses out, you know; I'm not going to be next to a black guy. What is that. You know, and I never met a black person in my life before I went in the Army, and I'm from Chicago!

Yes.

When I say I never met them, I just never lived with them. You know, we had black neighborhoods. We had Jewish neighborhoods. We had Irish neighborhoods, and we had Polish neighborhoods, and so on and so forth, back in those days. And it just wasn't, you know, you never thought much about it. And I knew I'd seen black people and I'd met a couple of them, but you know, I never had any problems with anybody.

So one guy was from the west side of Chicago, and he said, "What do you think of that?" You know, we got a - and he used the "n" word." his name was Edward. We had a guy, we had double bunks in those days. He was on the bottom, and the guy above him was a black guy, and he was from the South, and he was the nicest guy you ever met. And by the time basic training was over, these guys were like brothers. Never had any racial problems, in any of the barracks. Everybody was fine. Everybody got along fine. So I thought it was very interesting.

Yes, sort of common sense and decency prevailed.

Yeah. Yeah. And guys would help one another. And I mean there was never a thing about black, or white, or red, or yellow. We had Spanish, we had Orientals, we had American Indians. That was another thing, too. We had a couple of Indians. And they weren't Native Americans. I had an Indian kid tell me one day, he says, "We can't be Native Americans. There were no Americans when we were first here. There were just us. We're Indians."

That's good.

Red Power.

Yeah.

And that part I enjoyed. I met a lot of people in the Service.

Some of the vets say that same thing about the-- because you meet different people from all parts of the country.

Sure.

And it's a great mixing that goes on in.

Oh, yeah.

And, as you were saying about Gizmo, you wind up talking and being with people you would never imagine otherwise.

And then some folks are really good in certain situations that you might not think, like your farmer.

Oh, he knew what to do.

Yeah. And he was just as laid back about it like it was an everyday thing to him.

Yeah.

I'm like, Oh, my God! Thank God he was here!

So when you, so you didn't, it was hard to keep up with these, in the way of life, you just don't maintain some of these acquaintances, as you put it, in the Army, although you run into some of them later.

Well, I did, but, I mean, you know--

You're young and--

395 – theory of friendship vs. acquaintances

Yeah, and you meet, you know, you go from one station and the next. Like the guys from Korea. I stayed in the States, you know. So, I met a whole bunch of new guys and I-- one philosophy that I always had all my life is in the word friendship, I believe in my heart of hearts, if you meet five people in your life that you can consider friend, you've met a lot. Because, I mean, these same guys, they weren't my friends. At the time, they were acquaintances. They weren't my friends. I mean, they might have been, had circumstances been different. But they were acquaintances. You make acquaintances all your life, and some of them you keep. I'm just talking about real close friends, and I think that's an admirable thing to have, but it doesn't happen very often. But acquaintances, yeah, you meet people all the time. And that's part of the adventure of life is to meet people, you know, and to share their lives and learn from them.

Yeah.

Did you regret not being sent to Korea?

I did at the time, because I thought that's expected of me. That's supposed to be what I'm-- that's what I am supposed to be doing. That's what I was trained to do. And, you know, there's guys over there that got sent over there that, maybe, shouldn't have gone. Maybe, you know. I just thought I was patriotic enough to believe that was what my lot in life was supposed to be.

Pardon me. You did the basic training at Camp Roberts?

Yes. in California.

An armored?

Well, they called it-- it was just an outfit that was the division that was there.

416 – two cycles of training, "Army logic"

Did that content-- did the content of that basic training differ from the next basic training you experienced?

Yes, but it had nothing to do with armor.

Nothing to do with armor?

It was an infantry training.

Infantry training.

They had heavy weapons infantry, they had light weapons infantry, and, every other cycle, like I went though light weapons infantry, that was my MOS the cycle after that was heavy weapons. And that was the one I taught in. I didn't have a clue what the hell they were doing. I mean, some of it I knew.

But you taught the MO, light infantry, did you say?

Yeah. Yeah.

And, I'm sorry, MOS refers to?

MOS is your job description. I don't remember what the MOS means anymore. But that's what your job description is. Your MOS (Military Occupational Specialty), is 1745, that means you're heavy weapons infantry training. That's what you went through, you know, what you're going to do.

So when I went, now, Camp Roberts was in the middle of the Mohave Desert, so I had desert training. And I ended up in Alaska! Military. I mean, this is Army logic! I had a friend of mine I met after I got out who was an Army, he was a clerk typist in the Army personnel division at Fort Riley, Kansas. And these guys would come in to be assigned to basic training, and he'd say, "What did you do in civilian life?" So, he'd type up that. And he remembered so well, one guy came in, he was a fireman, and they made him truck driver. The guy right behind him was a truck driver. They made him a fireman! And I thought, well, that's typical military logic.

That's very good!

So, when you were released from the Army in Fort Lewis--

Yeah.

You made your way home, and then--

Sure.

Did you have some money saved or a paycheck?

No, no, no, no. They gave you a-- they gave you a-- I forgot how it goes, what they call that now. I was drafted in Chicago. That is where I got paid when I got out. I got paid from-- I got a check to buy a ticket to Chicago. Now, I could use it anyway I wanted. I flew home.

Yeah.

But, yeah, they had to pay me or drop me off in Chicago. They had to get me back to Chicago in order to get out. That's where I got in. That's where they took me in. That's where I got out.

Yes . And they pay you all the time that you're in the Army?

Oh, yeah. Sure. Yeah.

I just wondered if you'd treated yourself to a new car, or something, when you got home or--

That's another thing. I haven't driven a car since 1955.

Wow.

I never liked to drive, and I decided I didn't want to do it anymore, so I didn't. But yeah.

462 – effect of military experience

So did your military experience help you in the job world?

Yeah, I think it did. I think it did. I think I got, I took that with me, as far as work ethic, which has always been very good, but, I, yeah....

And, as you look back, what impact or influence do you think the military experience had on your life?

Prompt. I'm overly prompt. And I have very I have little patience with people that aren't. If I say I will be at a certain place at a certain time, I will be there. There will be no doubt. I will not be early. I won't be late. I mean, I will be early rather than late. And I have kids. I've got three boys that are nothing like that. My youngest one, he gives me a hard time because he gets tired of hearing me bitch about it. But it just drives me crazy! I have, since I've been with the Service, I have no patience with people that are late. If you have a job, and not being a driver, I've worked at different locations, I used to work for Jewel. I was a manager for Jewel. I worked all over the city. I lived on the north side. I had to be at a certain place at a certain time. I made sure that I was there. It was not their problem to see that I got there. It was my problem to see that I got there. If I had to leave a half hour early, I left a half hour early. But I was never late. And I have no patience with anybody who is late. I just don't understand how you can be late. You take that into consideration. And I learned that in the Service. That's the way it is.

497 – view of compulsory national service

So you think-- is there anything you'd like to add to the interview at this time, or?

I don't-- I can't think of anything right off the top of my head. I do think, and I pulled the politics, really should never enter into something like this, but I have, I think the worse thing Richard Nixon ever did was stop the draft, I really believe that.

You know, I was going to bring up the question of whether or not national military service, you think was a good idea, or national service, because we often wind up talking about that in these interviews.

Well, I can't speak for anybody, and I told this to my kids, this a hundred times, and, without exception, my kids never had to worry about the draft, my three sons, and they said, "Well, Dad, you know, I'm glad we don't have it!" I says, "Well, I can understand why you are glad we don't have it." But, by the same token, we wouldn't be running into the problems we run into today if we had

the draft. We wouldn't worry about where we were getting, the government, where these guys, where these soldiers are coming from we are so quick to send overseas to some unknown place." You know what I'm saying? And it, just, I took it as part of my life.

I knew when I was a kid that maybe-- I mean, it didn't happen to everybody. A lot of people didn't go into the Service for various reasons.

I have a twin brother-- I had a twin brother, he's dead now. He and I got drafted at the same time. My brother had gone out and had a little problem with the law. And he and a couple of other guys took a car. They thought it was abandoned. It turned out it was not abandoned. So they went off and stole a car. He was put on probation for a year. It was no big deal. And when the year was up, it was supposed to be expunged. Well, it wasn't expunged. But during that year was when I got drafted in the Army. Well, because he was on, you know, because he had this problem, they didn't take him. It didn't mean he was off the hook. It just meant so when all this other stuff was done they took him. So, he decided he wanted to go in, and he was going to get what he wanted out of the Army, rather than have them draft him. So, he joined. And I told him he was a fool. And he said, "No. No." He said, "I'm going to get what I want." He said, "I want to be a truck driver in the Army, and that's what I'm going to do. I'm going to volunteer to be a truck driver." I said, "Well, good for you. If they have a truck driving job available when you sign up, you'll probably get it. But if they don't, you won't. And they'll tell you, "Hey, Dave, we'll give you whatever you want"." And I was right. And he was wrong. But having said that, I don't know what made me go off on that tangent.

But the Army, no, I really believe that, in my heart of hearts, I think if we always had the draft--

Was the draft a good experience for your brother, do you think then, or?

No. He had a bad attitude. I mean, he did it, and it was okay, you know, but he didn't get what he wanted.

Mr. Morris, perhaps we could discuss this. You mentioned that your son drove you today.

Yes.

And that you have a walking stick.

Yeah.

553 – value of VA care

And you referenced emphysema, how do you, how-- would you care to comment on the VA and if it helps you in your present situation, or?

Well, it does, because I get my medication, you know, my meds, from the VA. And I had, for a while, when I was first diagnosed with Parkinson's, there was one medication that I couldn't get from them. That medication cost more than all my other meds put together. And I had to get it from Walgreen's, or someplace. Finally, I went to the VA and I gave my tale of woe, and one of the doctors there put together two medications to make one medication. So, now, I'm taking two pills instead of one. And it's costing me one-third of what it would cost me. But, yeah, I have nothing but

the utmost regard for the VA. It worked for me. And I'm not saying I'm taking advantage of it. I'm getting something that's offered to me. And I haven't had any problem at all getting these medications. And, you know, I go to them and I ask them for what I need, and they give them to me right there. So, I'm very happy with the VA. And I've talked with different people and suggested they do the same thing. And they don't. Well, I can't force anybody to do it. But I knew at least three people that were eligible to get the same things. And they never did it. And it doesn't matter anymore, because they're not around. Yes, absolutely.

So, at this point then, unless there's something you'd like to add, maybe we'll think about concluding the interview. If there's something you think of later that you want to add

I'll write it down.

I've had some vets where they've even taken the tape home and played it for their family and then somebody says, "Dad, but you didn't include that one story!" So, they come back and do a postscript.

I can do that. Yeah, I can do that.

But I think you've had few anecdotes that are illustrative of the Army. And we appreciate that.

598 –Army anecdotes: the Chief, seasickness, Boondocks, smorgasbords, Robinson's insight, and Medals

I think the anecdotes, I think everybody who's been in the army has probably got a million of them. I mean, you think about them, and you think about some of the people you met.

Yes

I always had a good sense of humor, and I always liked people that did. And I think that came out more than anything. I can talk about one of the guys. I don't know if you are aware of it, but Indians have, American Indians, have a bad reputation of being mean when they drink.

Yes.

Well, I saw the exception. We called him Chief. What would you call an Indian, Chief! He thought it was funny. It didn't bother him any. So that was his nickname all through the Service. And the first time he ever went into town, he got drunk. And he came back and he fell asleep. We had to get him up the next day. He had to go to work, you know, for want of a better word, had to go out and stand reveille. And he wasn't in any shape to do it. But he wasn't mean. He was smiling, had a good old time. It took about three hours to wear off before he could finally work. We covered for him.

Well, on that pleasant note, Mr. Morris, I think we'll turn off the tape recorder, and I thank you for coming in and sharing your experience.

Well, thank you very much, my pleasure.

We're continuing with our Veterans History Project interview of Mr. Morris which we conducted last August, the 8th of August in this year 2007, and now we're meeting again today (Wednesday, November 28, 2007) to add an interesting anecdote to Mr. Morris's interview

Okay, I'll go from there. I left out a few things, I believe, last time we talked. And I wanted to mention about, when I did go overseas, how I got there. I think I mentioned that we left out of Seattle and took a ship over there to Whittier, Alaska. The name of the ship, I believe, was the USS Thomas Jefferson. On the way over there, we ran into a hurricane, too, which was --

Yes.

That far north.

Yes.

Yes, it was that time of year. And we ran into some real bad weather while we were over there, also. But we ran into a hurricane. And I was walking from the back of the ship to the front of the ship, which was from the aft to the fore. I believe that's what they call it. I was by myself, and I had to go across the top of the ship in order to get there, and I was on the outside of the ship, and I got hit in the face with a wave. And it was like somebody smacked me open-handed as hard as they could. And the first reaction is to fight back. And there is nobody to fight, because it is Mother Nature.

Anyway, so when I first got aboard the ship, I was put on KP. And we were pulling out of Seattle Harbor, and I got sicker than a dog!

Oh, dear.

Seasick. And I didn't eat for three days going overseas, because I couldn't, and then, finally, the last day, I was feeling better. And I went up, and I was going through the chow line, and I had my tray there, and everything. The Navy eats good. They eat real good. I had Swiss steak, and I had, oh, mashed potatoes and gravy, and lima beans on the side. And they give you dessert. It was a shortcake with strawberries on it. I still had strawberries with all that syrup. And I was right back to where I was before. And there went--my meal and me and everything else!

Anyway, so when we got over to Alaska coming back from after we'd gone through maneuvers and "got killed, got destroyed," we were in this tent city which was part of Fort Richardson. And we were awaiting orders to come back. And we had an outfit right next to us in this tent city, and they were awaiting the same thing we were. But they had a mascot that took a liking to us. He was a husky dog which, you know, are cold weather dogs. This dog decided he'd like to come into our tent and become warm. So we took a liking to him. We were a bunch of guys, and 99 percent of men are dog nuts, anyway. So, we decided he was our dog. He decided he wanted to be with us. So we'd make sure we got him back to the States. What we did, everything was in alphabetical order, so me and a guy named Mears, and another guy with the letter M in his initials, we'd taken our rucksacks, which were great big backpacks, and we took one of the guys, the one who was in the middle, I think his name was Mears, he was-- his father was Rick Mears, the race car driver in later years, anyway,

he-- we took all his personal belongings, put them between us, and put the dog in there. And, so, we walked up the gangplank. As long as we kept moving, the dog was fine. If we stopped, the dog would start whining and moving around. We got back up, in the walking up the gangplank, and the dog started acting up. We thought, "Ah, there we go! We're going to get caught. We're going to get in trouble! We'll probably get court-martialed. The dog will be thrown overboard, and that will be the end of that." Well, to make-- we did get the dog aboard.

And it became known all over the ship that we had the dog, except by the sailors. We couldn't let the Navy know about it, because we were afraid of what they would do. And so we would take it for walks, and everybody brought back a little piece of leftovers from their dinner, their chow, so the dog had plenty to eat. And, of course, the problem was getting rid of the waste. Well, we figured that one out, too. We threw it overboard. And we got-- and we found out that our company executive officer, who was the second commanding officer, he found out about it. And he came and threatened us, if we didn't give that dog back, we were going to be court-martialed. The company commander didn't know about it. It would be a surprise for him. Well, we did, and the company commander, he took over the dog. From that time, it's his dog.

And so we built a doghouse for him, and took him to the sick hall, to the, what do they call it, anyway, we took him in. The doctors looked at him, and they weren't vets, but they knew-- they gave him many shots. And the dog was well taken care of, cleaned him up, swept him down, and, like I say, we had a doghouse for him. And the cooks always made sure he had plenty to eat. And he really got to be a spoiled dog. Now, huskies get to be a pretty good size. And he grew fast.

We had him for about two weeks, and then he disappeared. And the way we can figure it, is he had no real master. You know, he was-- everybody was his boss, you know. And he'd go out every morning to go out for physical training, you know, go out there and march, and do a double time for a half mile or something. He was always right next to the company commander. But then, you know, all of a sudden - bam, we lost the dog. Well, somebody stole it. And we-- somebody, we had found his leash. It was cut. And we just figured he took off, and we just never saw him again. We figured somebody, you know, liked him better than we did. And so that was the-- and we named him "Boondocks." We found him in the boondocks, and that's what we named him. He was a beautiful dog. He was all black, with white paws, and a white spot on his face. He was gorgeous, friendly.

And then the one thing I remember about the Service was always being hungry. We were always hungry. There was never enough food. It wasn't that there wasn't enough food. It was just we were just used to civilian life, and eating what you want. But, once a month, this is when we were up in Fort Lewis, Washington, smorgasbords were a big deal back in those days. So about six of us every month. Every month we would get together, we'd go in to the smorgasbord, and we'd sit there and just eat ourselves to death, and all the beer we wanted to drink, and this was a monthly thing, until I got out of the Army, out of the military.

And there was another guy, a buddy of mine, he was from Southern Illinois, and his name was Reynolds, John Reynolds, and he and I, a couple of times a month, would go into Seattle. And he introduced me to a thing I never thought of before. When you're in the Service, you know, there is always a G.I. street. Like in Chicago, it used to be South State Street, where all the strip joints are, and the tattoo parlors, and the B-movie houses, and looking for the prostitutes and stuff. That's just

the military way of life. He said, "That's not the way to do it." He said, "The best way to do it is go downtown to the big places." He said, "It'll cost you a couple of bucks more, but people'll treat you nice." And they did. So we'd go downtown, and we'd walk into a bar and sit down. And pretty soon everybody's buying us drinks and talking nice to us, they figured we were classier than the guys hanging around down the South State Street, even though we'd done many of them.

And I guess that's, oh, did I mention I'd been trained in the Mojave Desert? I'm not sure if I mentioned that in the first interview we had. I thought that was ironic. This was typical military logic! I was trained in the Mojave Desert. So, and I had go to Alaska. That's military logic, military logic.

And, also, my son wanted me to mention about my medals.

Yes. Yes, that's important.

Well, you know, when you're in the Service, you know, enlisted, like I never went overseas, to-- Alaska is considered overseas duty, even though-- it was also before statehood,

Exactly.

only a territory. Even today, it's considered overseas duty.

Anyway, one day, we were out on maneuvers, and I came, or out doing something, playing some Army game, and I came in at the end of the day, and I saw there was a set of orders cut for a Good Conduct Medal. Well, it's a medal. It's not just a ribbon you put on your jacket. It's a real honest-to-god medal. And you had to meet certain qualifications in order to get it. And I was really shocked that I even got it! I mean, not that I was a bad guy, or anything, or I was giving trouble, but it just never occurred to me that somebody would put me in for it. And they kept changing the rules on how you went and got it. You had to be in like a certain amount of time. I was only in two years, and I got it in about twelve months, or sixteen months. And I thought that's awful strange. But then I guess they changed the rules. But I got it. And then I got the National Defense Service Medal, which is a little ribbon that they give out. Everybody gets it, no matter what branch of service you're in, everybody gets it. Well, that was started when I was in-- we got the first National Defense Service Medal and since then-- I have gotten, I have acquired a catalog that shows you what ribbons and medals belong together. And I guess you probably have it here in the library, probably a copy of it, some kind of book that would show you that gives you that information. Well, since I've been out, and it's fifty years, you know, a lot of people don't live fifty years. In fifty years since I've been out, they've had three new medals that I'm authorized to wear. I didn't even know I had. And there's a couple from World War II that also people that were World War II veterans can wear. And probably, you know, they weren't even-- they died years ago. And they were losing, like you said, I think you told us, a thousand a day.

That's the low estimate.

Why would they come out with medals or ribbons some guy can wear when so many years, like sixty years ago, my God!

Yes.

I just thought it was strange. And here I got two more medals. I can walk around like a Christmas tree, and I never even did anything. All I did was serve two years in the Service.

Well, you trained people, and you were willing to go.

Well, yes. Not willing to go. I mean, if I had my option, I probably would have said no. I wasn't asked, you know. You took it for what it was worth. I enjoyed it. I'm not sorry I did it. Go back and think about it over the years, it's been kind of fun. But not at the time.

I think your family is possessed of the same good judgment as you are in encouraging you to come back in and add those anecdotes.

They did.

That's good.

They did. My son, you know, he said "Dad, I'm proud of you. Go and tell everybody." I said, "It's a little late for doing that." "No. No. I think you should do it."

Yes.

That's it.

So, in that case, Son knows best. Thank you.

Thank you.

Reader's Note:

Three pages follow:

a scanned photograph of the Leadership Training Course Class;

a scanned copy of a photocopy sheet provided by Mr. Morris which displays his Discharge form the U.S. Army Reserves, his Certificate of Service Card, and a reduced in size copy of his DD 214 Discharge Record,

and a scanned copy of his actual DD 214.

Corporal Robert J. Morris is in the upper left-hand corner in this group photograph of soldiers in the Leadership Training Course at Fort Lewis Washington, 1954.



Scanned copy of Mr. Morris's Discharge from U.S. Army Reserves with
Certificate of Service Card and reduced-in-size copy of DD214.

HEADQUARTERS
XI UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS
12th and Spruce Streets
St. Louis 2, Missouri

DISCHARGE LO NR 6594-4

29 APRIL 1961

SUBJECT: Discharge From the United States Army Reserve

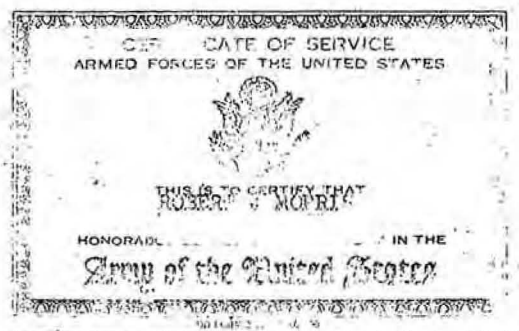
TO: CPL MORRIS ROBERT J
7656 N ROGERS
CHICAGO 26 ILL
SEL SVC NR

Under the provisions of AR 140-178, by reason of Expiration Term
of Service, you are removed from the Standby Reserve, XI U.S. Army
Corps and honorably discharged from the U.S. Army Reserve.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

Glenn A. Hawes
GLENN A. HAWES
Colonel, AGC
Adjutant General

DISTRIBUTION:
1 Selective Service
1 201 file
1 Admin Svc Div
1 Addressee



DD FORM 214 (Rev. 5-1964)
Certificate of Discharge

1. NAME (Last, first, middle initial)
MORRIS, ROBERT J.

2. SERVICE NUMBER OR IDENTIFICATION NUMBER
3656 N ROGERS

3. GRADE OR RATE
CPL

4. DATE OF DISCHARGE
29 APR 1961

5. PLACE OF DISCHARGE
ST. LOUIS 2, MISSOURI

6. CHARACTER OF DISCHARGE
EXPIRATION TERM

7. DUTY STATION
ST. LOUIS 2, MISSOURI

8. ORGANIZATION
XI UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS

9. DATE OF ENTRY INTO SERVICE
1 OCT 1958

10. DATE OF LAST PAY
29 APR 1961

11. PAY GRADE
E-5

12. PAY BASIC
\$1,100.00

13. PAY ALLOWANCE
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73. PAY ADJUSTMENT
\$0.00

74. PAY TOTAL
\$2,200.00

75. PAY ADJUSTMENT
\$0.00

76. PAY TOTAL
\$2,200.00

77. PAY ADJUSTMENT
\$0.00

78. PAY TOTAL
\$2,200.00

79. PAY ADJUSTMENT
\$0.00

80. PAY TOTAL
\$2,200.00

81. PAY ADJUSTMENT
\$0.00

82. PAY TOTAL
\$2,200.00

83. PAY ADJUSTMENT
\$0.00

84. PAY TOTAL
\$2,200.00

85. PAY ADJUSTMENT
\$0.00

86. PAY TOTAL
\$2,200.00

87. PAY ADJUSTMENT
\$0.00

88. PAY TOTAL
\$2,200.00

89. PAY ADJUSTMENT
\$0.00

90. PAY TOTAL
\$2,200.00

91. PAY ADJUSTMENT
\$0.00

92. PAY TOTAL
\$2,200.00

93. PAY ADJUSTMENT
\$0.00

94. PAY TOTAL
\$2,200.00

95. PAY ADJUSTMENT
\$0.00

96. PAY TOTAL
\$2,200.00

97. PAY ADJUSTMENT
\$0.00

98. PAY TOTAL
\$2,200.00

99. PAY ADJUSTMENT
\$0.00

100. PAY TOTAL
\$2,200.00

Scan of Mr. Morris's DD214
his "Report Of Separation From The Armed Forces of the United States"

EPR AN NA (NOT APPLICABLE) P		REPORT OF SEPARATION FROM THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES		DEPARTMENT ARMY	
CHARACTER OF SEPARATION HONORABLE		1. LAST NAME - FIRST NAME - MIDDLE NAME MORRIS ROBERT JOHN		2. SERVICE NUMBER US	
3. GRADE - RATE - RANK AND DATE OF APPOINTMENT CPL(T) 11 May 54		4. COMPONENT AND BRANCH OR CLASS AUS		5. QUALIFICATIONS NA	
6. EFFECTIVE DATE OF SEPARATION Nov 54		7. TYPE OF SEPARATION Rel from act mil svc		8. REASON AND AUTHORITY FOR SEPARATION Released to Army Res AR 615-360 & SR 615-363-5 (See 38)	
9. PLACE OF SEPARATION Transfer Station Fort Lewis Washington		10. DATE OF BIRTH 3 Aug 32		11. PLACE OF BIRTH (City and State) Evanston Illinois	
12. DESCRIPTION Male		13. RACE Cmi		14. COLOR HAIR Brown	
15. COLOR EYES Hazel		16. HEIGHT 5'11 1/2"		17. WEIGHT 160	
18. REGISTERED YES		19. SELECTIVE SERVICE LOCAL BOARD NUMBER (City, County, State) #30 Chicago Cook Illinois		20. INDUCED Nov 52	
21. ENLISTED IN OR TRANSFERRED TO A RESERVE COMPONENT YES		22. COMPONENT AND BRANCH OR CLASS USAR Inf		23. COGNIZANT DISTRICT OR AREA COMMAND Trans to Army Res Illinois Mil Dist	
24. MEANS OF ENTRY OTHER THAN BY INDUCTION <input type="checkbox"/> ENLISTED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REENLISTED <input type="checkbox"/> COMMISSIONED <input type="checkbox"/> CALLED FROM INACTIVE DUTY		25. DATE AND PLACE OF ENTRY INTO ACTIVE SERVICE Nov 52 Chicago Illinois		26. HOME ADDRESS AT TIME OF ENTRY INTO ACTIVE SERVICE (St., R.F.D., City, County and State) Farwell Ave Chicago Cook Illinois	
27. STATEMENT OF SERVICE FOR PAY PURPOSES		28. ENLISTMENT ALLOWANCE PAID OR EXTENSION OF ENLISTMENT, IF ANY		29. FOREIGN AND/OR SEA SERVICE	
29. NET () SERVICE COMPLETED FOR PAY PURPOSES EXCLUDING THIS PERIOD		30. NET SERVICE COMPLETED FOR PAY PURPOSES THIS PERIOD		31. TOTAL NET SERVICE COMPLETED FOR PAY PURPOSES	
32. OTHER SERVICE (Act of 16 June 1942 as amended) COMPLETED FOR PAY PURPOSES		33. DECORATIONS, MEDALS, BADGES, COMMENDATIONS, CITATIONS AND CAMPAIGN RIBBONS AWARDED OR AUTHORIZED		34. MOST SIGNIFICANT DUTY ASSIGNMENT	
35. NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL		36. HONORS RECEIVED AS A RESULT OF ACTION WITH ENEMY FORCES (Place and date, if known)		37. SERVICE SCHOOLS OR COLLEGES, COLLEGE TRAINING COURSES AND/OR POST-GRAD. COURSES SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED	
38. DATES (From-To)		39. MAJOR COURSES		40. SERVICE TRAINING COURSES SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED	
41. GOVERNMENT INSURANCE INFORMATION: (A) Permanent plan premium must continue to be paid when due, or within 31 days thereafter, or insurance will lapse. (B) Term insurance not under waiver same as (A) above. (C) Term insurance under waiver - premium payment must be resumed within 120 days after separation. Forward premiums on NSLI to Veterans Administration District Office having jurisdiction over the area shown in Item 47. Forward premiums on USGLI to Veterans Administration, Washington 25, D. C. (See VA Pamphlet 9-3). When paying premiums give full name, address, Service Number, Policy Number(s), Branch of Service, date of separation. Contact nearest VA office for information concerning Government Life Insurance.		42. KIND & AMT. OF INSURANCE & MTHLY. PREMIUM None-Indemnity		43. ACTIVE SERVICE PRIOR TO 26 APRIL 1951 <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> UNKNOWN	
44. MONTH ALLOTMENT DISCONTINUED NA		45. MONTH NEXT PREMIUM DUE NA		46. TOTAL PAYMENT UPON SEPARATION NA	
47. TRAVEL OR MILEAGE ALLOWANCE INCLUDED IN TOTAL PAYMENT NA		48. DISBURSING OFFICER'S NAME AND SYMBOL NUMBER NA		49. REMARKS (Continue on reverse) Item 8 - Released from active military service and transferred to Army Reserve to complete 8 years' service under Universal Military Training and Service Act No days lost under Sec 6(a) App 2b MCM 1951 Blood Group "A"	
50. SIGNATURE OF OFFICER AUTHORIZED TO SIGN Howard E Kroeger		51. NAME, GRADE AND TITLE (Typed) HOWARD E KROEGER 1ST LT INF ASST ADJUTANT		52. V. A. BENEFITS PREVIOUSLY APPLIED FOR (Specify type) NA	
53. COMPENSATION, PENSION, INSURANCE BENEFITS, ETC.		54. CLAIM NUMBER NA		55. DATES OF LAST CIVILIAN EMPLOYMENT 51	
56. MAIN CIVILIAN OCCUPATION Producer Mar 1 70 100 National Tea Co Evanston Illinois		57. NAME AND ADDRESS OF LAST CIVILIAN EMPLOYER		58. UNITED STATES CITIZEN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
59. MARITAL STATUS Single		60. GRADE, MAR, HIGH SCHOOL, COLLEGE, DEGREE(S) None		61. MAJOR COURSE OR FIELD Isidonic (GED Test)	
62. PERMANENT ADDRESS FOR MAILING PURPOSES AFTER SEPARATION (St., R.F.D., City, County and State) See #20		63. SIGNATURE OF PERSON DETACHED FROM SERVICE		64. DATE OF SEPARATION	

DD FORM 214
1 JUL 52

EDITION OF 1 JAN 50 IS OBSOLETE.

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION REGIONAL OFFICE COPY (ALL SERVICES: TO VETERANS ADMINISTRATION REGIONAL OFFICE HAVING JURISDICTION OVER ADDRESS SHOWN IN ITEM 47. IF INDIVIDUAL IS TRANSFERRED TO A VETERANS ADMINISTRATION HOSPITAL, FORWARD TO THAT HOSPITAL.)