

Loggins: I hope you don't ask me a lot of dates and things.

Interviewer: Oh no no if I could just say your name and birthday to start off.

Loggins: Robert Loggins born July 21, 1929.

Interviewer: And where were you born at Mr. Loggins?

Loggins: I was born in the northern part of Dickson County just below Charlotte.

Interviewer: And you lived there for how long?

Loggins: About a couple of years then I moved to this area for about a year then I moved back to Barton's Creek for three years then I moved back to this general area when I was about six years old. And I've been in except for my time in the service I've been back in this general area.

Interviewer: What was your family doing as you were growing up to make a living during the depression years?

Loggins: All of my family was farmers.

Interviewer: And do you have any recollection of growing up during the depression on the farm?

Loggins: Well I just know everything was that didn't have anything must just everybody would hard and there wasn't any convenience at all at that time and no one had any electricity and very few well nobody really had any running water. Most people got their water from a spring or a well and light from an oil lamp heat from wood and that was basically it.

Interviewer: Well do you remember ever going without a lot of stuff or?

Loggins: Never really did go hungry like everybody else we didn't nobody had anything much and we always had plenty to eat plenty of clothes and things of that nature. But money and things like people have today the conveniences and things we didn't have anything like that.

Interviewer: Well what do you remember about the start of WWII?

Loggins: Well I remember I think I was we had to walk a long way to school and at that time there was electricity and people had radios and I remember hearing over the radio about Hitler and Germany invading Poland I believe was the first I heard anything about WWII. I think it happened I believe about 38 or 9 something like that.

Interviewer: What about Pearl Harbor.

Loggins: Yeh I was 12 year sold then and we came in this happened on a Sunday and we'd been off somewhere and we came in on a Sunday afternoon kind of late and turned the radio on and heard Franklin D Roosevelt telling about the sneak attack on Pearl Harbor. Of course I didn't know a lot of

things about anything like that going on at that time but I remember the day very well the Sunday afternoon that we heard it.

Interviewer: Do you remember a lot about people from your surrounding area and Dickson going into the service?

Loggins: Yeh a lot of my friends I had one uncle that was drafted and went to the South Pacific and I had quite a few friends that was four or five maybe six years older than me that some of them volunteered and some of them was drafted. Of course the draft was in affect well it I'm not sure whether the draft actually started before Pearl Harbor or after but in the vicinity and there was a lot of people I knew real well that was drafted in WWII.

Interviewer: And you're going to school during this time and did you finish high school completely and graduate from high school?

Loggins: Yeh

Interviewer: And after WWII did you how old were you at the end of WWII?

Loggins: Well

Interviewer: Sixteen, Seventeen something like that?

Loggins: I guess 17 it was 45 I beehive.

Interviewer: So were you out of high school by then?

Loggins: No I didn't get out of high school until 47.

Interviewer: And when you got out of high school did you come back straight to the farm to start working or did you

Loggins: Well I got out of high school and I didn't have a public job and I was helping my dad on the farm and then I volunteered and went into the Air Force that summer but I only stayed 11 months. At that time you could sign up for a year but I actually did just sign up for a year but my dad got sick and and they let me come back home and help him. They called it a hardship discharge.

Interviewer: Okay so

Loggins: So that was in the Air Force and that was before the Korean War.

Interviewer: Did you serve in the Air Force during the Korean War too?

Loggins: No the Korean War wasn't going on at that time this was in 48.

Interviewer: I mean when you went

Loggins: No I came back home then I was drafted back in the service for the Korean War. I was drafted that time volunteered to go in the Air Force but was drafted.

Interviewer: What did you do during the 11 months in the Air Force? Were you pretty much around the United States?

Loggins: Yeh all over the United States I took my basic training in Blackman Air Force base at San Antonio, Texas and I was stationed in Miami Florida for a short period of time. And they sent me to welding school in Shian Wyoming then I came back and they permanently stationed me in it was in South Carolina it wasn't Fort Jackson but it was over to an air force base and that's where I was when my dad got sick. They let em come home and help support the family.

Interviewer: Did you have a reasoning for going in the Air Force at that time or were you just>

Loggins: Well I was just like a lot of other people I didn't really have anything any real job and a lot of people were going in so volunteering so I did.

Interviewer: Okay now what did you say you got drafted or did you enlist for the Korean War?

Loggins: I got drafted.

Interviewer: And what year was that?

Loggins: I think it was either 50 or 51 I'm not actually positive.

Interviewer: Okay and you got did you go infantry or?

Loggins: Yeh infantry.

Interviewer: Did you have to take another basic training and everything?

Loggins: Yeh I took basic training in Fort Jackson South Carolina cause in the infantry the training you got for the air force wasn't good enough you just couldn't go in combat with that type training.

Interviewer: What kind of things do you remember about your everyday life during that basic training time were there a lot of extremely difficult or was it really quick kind of overview kind of thing?

Loggins: We were just a bunch of late teens or early 20 year old boys. We done a lot of everything we had a lot of fun get together a lot of it was pretty rough but it wasn't anything all that difficult. It was hard very hard the training was but it wasn't anything unbearable at all. Like I said we had a lot of fun together.

Interviewer: Any specific events you remember from that basic training that were difficult or just stick out?

Loggins: The main thing I remember it was in the summer time oh like in at Fort Jackson it was a real sandy place and they had more nats than I'd ever seen anywhere and anytime in the military when you

have inspection formation and things you have to stand rigidly steal you cannot hardly even bad an eyelash. And them nats would get all around your eyes and in your face and maybe if you catch somebody not looking you maybe blow one out of your mouth trying to get them away. But I was talking to somebody the other day about that it was kindly humorous. But it was good training you learned a lot of discipline cause anytime you don't do what you are supposed to do you have to do extra work and a lot of times if you mess up bad enough it makes your whole platoon have to do the whole thing. SO if you get 40 something people against you for something your doing it make you kindly keep yourself in line because you don't want the whole bunch against you so you pretty well have to walk the line.

Interviewer: How did you get to basic training? Did you go by train did they give you a train ticket?

Loggins: I went to I reported to Nashville and took my physical and I was put on a train and taken by train to Fort Jackson.

Interviewer: And this was the first time you'd really been out no since you'd been in the air force.

Loggins: No I had been in the air force I rode a train to San Antonio also nearly everything was troop trains back in those days. Just about all the movement was either by convoy trucks after you got in there or trains one that's the way you traveled.

Interviewer: Were there any interesting people or any kinds of people that you hadn't really met before that you got to?

Loggins: No not really it was just a general run just like if you were going to college a lot people your age that come from different backgrounds and things, nothing unusual.

Interviewer: Did they give you any kind of specialty training or anything like that?

Loggins: Well when I finished my basic training I signed up for what they call Officers Training School OSC and that was 12 weeks or maybe it was 8 weeks special training to go in to be an officer. And I had that plus my regular basic training I believe that it was maybe 16 weeks basic training and another 8 weeks of

Interviewer: And what did it in tell that special officers training?

Loggins: More or less leadership a lot of book study and a lot of practical things that you do you basically took charge of a group of men and went through some various training efforts to see how you would react under certain different conditions. Like the have a simulated fire where explosions and they'd keep you up all night and harass you and then put you in a position where you had to make quick decision to see how you would act under certain circumstances. They pretty well prepared you for the real thing.

Interviewer: So it was more mental training really than?

Loggins: Well it was both yeh it was a combination cause like I said if your going to be a leader see I wound up being a platoon sargent which I had 42 men but if your going to be a leader you've got to know how your going to act under difficult situations. They don't want somebody that panics easy or

something so your graded on all of these things. They have people there at these various stations as you go through on these training events and when you react a certain way they just basically see if your capable of being a leader or not.

Interviewer: So what rank did you come out of the officers training with?

Loggins: Well actually I didn't really I completed that training and I was supposed to have been a Staff Sargent if I had went into officers training school. But we were waiting this is kind of a comical thing there was three or four of us that got kind of tired of waiting to enter this school so they had a list up there that if you'd volunteer for overseas duty they'd give you whatever you ask for. So me and about three of my friends we decided we wouldn't wait for the officer's training school we'd just go ahead and get ours over with so we volunteered for Germany. Then about two weeks we had orders to go to Korea so therefore they reduced my Staff Sargent back to a Corporal. So I went overseas as a Corporal.

Interviewer: Now after your basic training did you feel prepared for combat?

Loggins: It's kind of like preparing for a ballgame where you practice and practice and practice you actually get a little cocky sometimes.

Interviewer: Its hard not knowing exactly what your facing but you have all of this training after those both schools you left that you

Loggins: I felt prepared I didn't feel prepared when I actually got into that is some completely different stories. There's a lot of difference in being in something that simulated and something that's for real.

Interviewer: So when were you actually deployed to Korea?

Loggins: Early 52

Interviewer: 52 and you know where you went straight to?

Loggins: Well no they we were shipped to Japan to Yokahama I believe is the port that we went into. And then we were see this has done been going on for a year and we was going over there as replacements we didn't go as a unit. Especially these some people went with a unit that had trained together and been since these friends of mine we decided to forgo our basic training we didn't go as a unit we split up and went as individuals. So then we was assigned as you went through you was assigned you didn't have any idea what outfit who you might be assigned to it was just wherever the most casualties was and who needed manpower. So I didn't get my assignment of where I was going until actually I left my Yokahama going over to we left by ship going over to I forgot the name of the little port that we landed in but it was down south of Seoul it was down less than about half was up through South Korea.

Interviewer: What was the kind of the state of affairs when you got there? Like when you got assigned to your group what did they tell you about how things were going?

Loggins: Well really when I got there the main the big push that we had pushed up and they had just about over run us and we had come back up around the middle part of the combined career and from the time I got there on we didn't have any major drives. It was more or less just patrol attacks small units hitting one another back and forth as far as complete offensive drive that it had been in the past we didn't do that. We done most of our fighting was patrol units or company maybe battalion unit much not a major several army units that had combined.

Interviewer: Were you working with a lot of the Korean people?

Loggins: No we didn't we were in the area we was the only Korean people we saw in the actual combat area they assigned us a few people they had this career in the career we was in a whole lot of careers kindly like East Tennessee. And they assigned us some men to help carry ammunition and things of that nature. But as afar as the only time we saw people was when we pulled back. We'd be on the front for a period of time and they'd replace us with a unit and we'd come back kind of regroup and retrain and more or less move in people for people we had lost. Then we saw some people some of their people where I was we had very little contact with them people cause there so many rounds of artillery and mortars and things there wasn't hardly a living tree or anything it was just really it was kind of just a stagnant thing. We'd fire on them they'd fire on use and we'd send out patrol and make contact have a back and forth thing. So it wasn't any people in this area that didn't have to be there.

Interviewer: Speaking of your equipment what kind of equipment were you assigned to? There are a lot of stories about using some kind of left over things from WWII and a lot of people call them like antique things they weren't

Loggins: No well this particular time we had of course the standard weapon for the average infantry soldier was the M1rifle the 30 caliber gun I went on up and made Sargent First class so I wound up being a platoon Sargent which would consist of four squads of nine infantrymen and in each one of them is a squad leader. Anyway if we had we very seldom kept a full amount of men people had been killed off and wounded and things 42 or 43 counting myself was the most we ever had. We had a record infantry platoon was consist of three what you call rifle squads and one weapon squad and that weapon squad would have two machine guns. One of course these were 30 calibers one was air cooled and one was water cooled. And everybody else carried an M1 and we had a in the weapons squad there was one called a browning automatic or we called it a BAR it was a semi automatic weapon it had little tripods on the front you could lay it down like a machine gun. And then we had we had two or three I believe two 60 milometer mortars that were assigned to us I carried just a I carried a carbeam which was lighter and a 45 pistol was what I carried. But the average soldier just had an M1 riffle to carry. That was as modern as there at that time now they didn't the enemy they had a lot of antique stuff. We survived a lot of their ammunition come from Russia and other places and they fired a lot of what we call duds. See now I don't know if you're familiar with it or not but a mortar of a hand grenade thing they are made to where when they hit or explode that they send out shrapnel and the shrapnel killed a lot more people than actual bullets. And a lot of those would come over and after you'd been there for a little bit you could plainly tell where they were going to hit. You could hear one whistling you know and if it wasn't going to come close to you you wouldn't pay it no attention. With time you could just plainly tell

by the sound of it and I've had them hit pretty close to me and just not even blow just burry up in the ground. So we were fortunate that they didn't have better equipment than we had. While I was there we had very few of their enemy aircraft bother us we didn't have to worry about them but they had to really worry about ours. I know the first thing I remember about this is old stuff to you but sound the speed of air planes had broken the sound barrier and you could be dug in here and there could be a ridge over there firing at it and one of these airplanes would come through and you could see they would turn loose of the bomb and you could see it hit and explode before you heard the sound of the plane. Because they was done gone before you even heard the sound that was kind of amazing. But we didn't in my time over there we didn't have to worry about enemy aircraft very little we didn't really have to camouflage our stuff to keep them from seeing it but they did have to ours because we had superior air power.

Interviewer: So were you involved in you said you made contact were you the one were you part of the group that went out to search for the groups that were firing upon you?

Loggins: Yeh really this like this happened in the daytime like that but really all of our contact and approach was basically done at night. And we had what we called renaissance patrol that just went out kind of sneaky type thing we just tried to observe and see if there was any build up any movement or something. Try not to be seen or heard then we had what we called contact patrols that went out and really made contact to see what kind of reaction we'd get form them. That was the big part of the thing I did was lead patrols.

Interviewer: So how many like armed conflicts were you involved in?

Loggins: Well

Interviewer: Was it a regular occurrence to get involved?

Loggins: This was almost a day and night thing that was almost a continuous thing. Se we contrary to Mash which I watch sometimes now I got hit with a piece of shrapnel and they had to carry me back and they carried me back to a place similar to Mash. And they just had lines of cots we had people who had been captured would be on them line you know our medics would take care of them maybe not as good as us but they would take care of them. They thought that I might lose an eye so they flew me from there back to Seoul to a hospital for about two weeks until it cleared up. It was kind of a continuous thing there might be days where there was very little but see we were just dug in holes and we would kind of make us make shift bunkers since we weren't moving a lot. You've heard of fox holes actually we had more or less trenches from one place to the other and we put some wood or dirt or something over it. It was pretty cold we had some really cold weather there. We wasn't in no buildings or nothing we were just out there the biggest thing was peoples feet and they told us all in our training and all what you done you always had a you didn't carry a lot clothes with you or anything a lot of times you went a long long time without even rinsing off in a bath. The big thing on your feet was to keep enough socks that you kept a pair inside thing next to your body and that would keep them dry and then if your feet were moving about and got sweaty just change those things. A lot of people got toes frost bit pretty bad but if you would do what your supposed to keep them socks dry you were better off.

Interviewer: But you were able to keep yourself nice and your feel healthy?

Loggins: Yeh I didn't have any problem my hands and feet got awfully cold and they bother me now but I never did have any no blackened up or nothing like that a lot of them did but it was because really they didn't practice what they were taught to do.

Interviewer: Kind of take me through like an average day. Your getting up and then if you were just going to go through the day.

Loggins: You mean actually on the front line or

Interviewer: Yes sir when you were there in Korea.

Loggins: Well really and truly it wasn't a whole lot going on in the day except just maybe a firing on one another and that was from the artillery and that was farther back see your heavy artillery 106s and thing they weren't up on the front. They were back and then you'd have your what they called firing spotters frontline spotters with binoculars and things. When they fired at a position they could tell them to move it right or left or forward or backward you know. And they'd set them up as a concordance and you that type of stuff went on through the day but basically at night was when really all of the action and you just kind of slept a little bit when you could.

Interviewer: So was your most a lot of your sleep in kind of down time in the day for your platoons and things?

Loggins: For the what?

Interviewer: I said was most of your downtime in the day since you weren't involved in a lot of the artillery?

Loggins: Yeh well see the artillery there was more artillery and stuff like that going on during the day and these patrols and things basically went on at night.

Interviewer: Okay so was that when a lot of the armed conflicts actually happened was at night time?

Loggins: Right

Interviewer: So how did you earn time off the front lines some R&R time?

Loggins: Well they just kind of I couldn't really it's been so long I don't remember exactly a amount of time there they give us what we call and R&R time. But after we had been there oh six months or so up on the front line they give us an R&R to come back to Japan they flew us back and give us that week in Japan. I got one of those.

Interviewer: Was that to do whatever

Loggins: For us to rest just you know away from everything.

Interviewer: Did they have a place set up for you to go and stay?

Loggins: Yeh well no they flew us in and I know when we flew into Tokyo where I had my R&R you see all during this time the only thing you had to eat was C-rations and it was a little can about that big and about that high three times a day concentrated you know. It was enough to keep you alive but you didn't have to worry about no excess fat. When they flew us back and we got into Japan and give us a change of clothes and things to go out on the town with they had these steaks and French fries just go in there and sit and eat all you want. Boy I thought I could eat a half a dozen I couldn't even eat a whole one. See your stomach was so big that it drawled up to the point that I know I kind of laid down I though I was going to eat so much and as far so on the front line you didn't stay there all the time they rotated you back and forth. Maybe a month or something like that and then you'd go back I said earlier you regrouped and got in your replacements and went through a little training for them. Most people that lost lives or got wounded was people that had been there just a few days. After you'd been there a good long while you kindly got used to how to do and what to expect but the new ones was the ones that normally if they were going to get hit or something it was usually in the early part of their front line duty.

Interviewer: Well after spending all that time on the front line and looking back on your training did you feel at that time that you were very well prepared for what you faced?

Loggins: Yeh I had proper training there wasn't anything lacking in that. It was basic kind of like people that go to school it's there for you if you want to absorb it all you can do well and if you don't you face the consequences.

Interviewer: How did you feel about the leadership while you were there? Your own personal army leaders that were over you and the larger presidential and.

Loggins: Well I might have misled a little bit as a platoon Sargent I did have a lieutenant that was really in charge of the whole thing. Then we had a captain who was in charge of four platoons what you call a company commander he was the captain and had four lieutenants that was in charge of the four platoons in that. I had good relationships with them and liked them I don't think any of us as young people we give hardly a second thought to our what I think about now our president and things that gives the command for these things to happen. I don't think anybody every give it hardly a second thought as far as our generals we knew very little about them just you know when you go through a basic training I guess its still similar. The whole infancies in training to be a combat soldier is to react immediately without questioning. See when you're taking basic training if you don't react if you don't follow commands you receive some severe discipline I don't mean physical they make you do a lot of things and extra work and thing. And it gets you to a point and it has to be to be effective when you're told to do something your not like today's society you don't question it you had to do it immediately. And you're just trained for that.

Interviewer: So you weren't worried too much about the political aspects of the Korea War?

Loggins: I never give it a didn't even know where Korea was until

Interviewer: Until you went there?

Loggins: Until I got my notice.

Interviewer: And you were very proud to serve?

Loggins: Yes it was an honor in my time to pay you could get out and hitchhike home and whatever people would pick you up. It was an honor to be a service man.

Interviewer: So when did you get your orders that you were leaving Korea?

Loggins: Again it was through my father I had a when we went over there you had to accumulate 36 points I had 32 and my father go blew up severally they didn't think he would live. They didn't do anything to him for several days because they didn't think he would live so they let me come home about a month earlier than I would have come home.

Interviewer: Was it the same kind of hardship discharge?

Loggins: Yes

Interviewer: And what year was that?

Loggins: Beg you pardon?

Interviewer: What year was that sir?

Loggins: That was 53 I was discharged April 8, 53.

Interviewer: What was your final ranking?

Loggins: Sargent First Class.

Interviewer: And kind of looking back on your experience overall how would you describe your time that you spent training and then going to Korea?

Loggins: I think it was a good I think military would be good for most any young man. I have no regrets at all at that particular time I just thought it was the patriotic thing to do. I learned a lot it taught me a lot of things.

Interviewer: A good experience?

Loggins: I appreciate life a lot more it's not a pleasant thing. I've never even sat down and talked to any of my family like I'm talking to you. You come home you wake up at night a lot of times in a cold sweat. Rehearsing some things that's happened and that goes on for a year or two in your life it takes you a good while to get that out of your mind. That's the reason I don't even like to talk about it or I lost a lot of real close friends.

Interviewer: Well I appreciate you talking to me I think that's about all of the questions.