

Interviewer: Alright there we go I don't know what it was doing before. For the tape could you state your name please?

Knight: Dalton R Knight.

Interviewer: And when and where were you born?

Knight: I was born April 14, 1926 in Hickory Kentucky.

Interviewer: And you served in the army correct? You served in the army?

Knight: I what? Yeah I served in the army.

Interviewer: And what was your primary unit in WWII you served in?

Knight: 16th armored division I was in a tank battalion in a tank company.

Interviewer: What were your parents' names and what did they do before the war?

Knight: My father's name was Milton Jewel Knight. My mother's name, ain't that awful, Willie Eason Knight. And my father was a government inspector in packing plants meat inspector for the Department of Agriculture.

Interviewer: Did you have any brothers or sisters?

Knight: I had five brothers and four sisters.

Interviewer: How long did y'all typically remain in school? How long did y'all remain in school?

Knight: How long did we remain in school?

Interviewer: Yeah

Knight: Pertaining to me?

Interviewer: Yes

Knight: I stayed through the 10th grade of high school and then I worked on a farm for two years before I was drafted into the army.

Interviewer: Do you have any memories of the great depression?

Knight: Many many many memories. I remember it was rough my father at that time we were living on a farm in Kentucky western Kentucky. And my father had to take a job with the WPA in order to have something for us to eat there was ten of us children and times was hard.

Interviewer: Did he lose the job as the inspector?

Knight: No he didn't get that job until later.

Interviewer: Oh okay

Knight: That was the job he had when he retired see.

Interviewer: Oh okay so he was

Knight: But we had we lived on a farm a hundred acre farm down in western Kentucky.

Interviewer: Alright I follow you now. Were there any particular hardships you remember? Did y'all have to go without shoes or?

Knight: I had to go to school with a sweet potato in my pocket for lunch. I walked two miles to grammar school and on a muddy road and this was not very I didn't think at that time that was very reasonable a person had to walk to school like that. Sometimes when the roads was real muddy or something we would get on a horse and ride the horse to school. And turn the old horse around and throw a rock at him and he'd run back home. He'd run back down the road where he come from and go right back to the barn.

Interviewer: Seriously wow. And you said you worked on the farm before you went in the service?

Knight: Yes

Interviewer: Okay before Pearl Harbor did you keep up with the news or did your family keep up with the news? Did they see war was coming or was it kind of completely out of the blue when Pearl Harbor happened?

Knight: We kept up with the news for the simple reason my oldest brother was in the navy and he died on December 7, 1941 at Pearl Harbor. He's buried in the Pearl Harbor cemetery and we kept up with the news. I was in fact when Roosevelt declared war we were in class I was in classroom of course then all we had was a radio see. And we listened to his declaration of war on our radio in the classroom. And that was in I December the 8th or 9th in 41 when he declared war.

Interviewer: And you remember hearing the Day of Infamy speech Roosevelt's speech?

Knight: Oh yeah

Interviewer: December 7th.

Knight: Yeah

Interviewer: What did you think when you heard it? Did you think that it was going to affect you personally and did you see yourself being sent overseas or?

Knight: No at that time I wasn't in service in 1941 when he declared war.

Interviewer: But did you think you would eventually end up there?

Knight: Yeah I if the war continued see and I eventually was drafted.

Interviewer: And when you were drafted at the induction center do you have any memories of them testing you for IQ or things such as that or?

Knight: Yes definitely.

Interviewer: Could you tell be about the induction process and basically as much as you can remember?

Knight: Well I was inducted through a local draft board in Mayfield Kentucky. And when I had to report they put us on a bus sent us to Louisville Kentucky. And I never will forget we stayed at a hotel that first night the Seabite Hotel in Louisville Kentucky. And then after we left there we left there and went to Fort Benjamin Harrison Indiana. That's where all of our induction really took place Fort Benjamin Harrison Indiana. And that's where all our testing and everything was done at that time it was insignificant at that time. All they wanted was bodies they didn't care what your IQ was all they was hunting for was bodies. They were drafting at that time from 18 to 38 years old and this was hard on a lot of those people that was up in their 30s because it was hard for them to keep up with the younger people.

Interviewer: And where did you go for basic training?

Knight: I went to Fort Riley Kansas. I took basic training in the mechanized calvary unit they said at that time when I went out there they wanted to put me in a horse calvary unit. And I said no I left that hay burner at home I don't want to see that hay burner no more give me something that's got a motor in it. So I wound up in the mechanized calvary I took basic training in the mechanized calvary unit in Fort Riley Kansas.

Interviewer: How was the mechanized calvary basic training different from say a normal basic training? Or was it pretty much the same?

Knight: Well basically the basics of your basic training was actually all the same up to the last two weeks. We didn't see nothing mechanized but the last two weeks we got to ride in then it was really a light tank with a 75 millimeter howitzer on it. And we got to ride and drive and operate those tanks out there on the reservation at Fort Riley.

Interviewer: And then did you go somewhere else for more specialized training after that?

Knight: No I went straight overseas.

Interviewer: So you had two weeks of training in a tank then they sent you overseas?

Knight: That's right went to a tank unit overseas.

Interviewer: Wow what was you impression of the other recruits that you met in basic?

Knight: The other what?

Interviewer: The other recruits there.

Knight: I'm sorry I didn't get it.

Interviewer: The other recruits the other people there the people going through basic with you.

Knight: Oh well we were all pretty well we all got along good. We were really of course we knew that war was going on and so on and so forth and we knew we had to hang together. And to help each other and help as far as our affiliation with each other it was good real good. And of course we had some older people in there we had people 38 years old in there taking basic training with us. And of course they were a little and I was only 18 at the time and of course they give us a little leadership too. Physically they couldn't keep up with us but mentally they had a little more knowledge than we did.

Interviewer: So was it your first time running into people from different parts of the country say the north east or something?

Knight: Well most of them came out of they had what they called the fifth service command then. And most of them come out of Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, and West Virginia. And that was made up that was the fifth service command at that time and that's where we were drafted from. A lot of good West Virginia friends I had in there.

Interviewer: And you didn't participate in any maneuvers stateside they shipped you straight overseas pretty much?

Knight: Yes

Interviewer: How good do you think your training was for the task that you had ahead of you?

Knight: Well it was a hurry up affair our basic training. All it was was a physical part of the training and rifle marksmanship. And of course the equipment the mechanized piece of equipment I knew I wouldn't see that no more. But I did wind up in a tank unit in Europe after that.

Interviewer: And they shipped you overseas what port did you depart from?

Knight: From New York.

Interviewer: From New York.

Knight: I went on the Queen Mary from New York to Glasgow Scotland. Then we went by train through Scotland and England to South Hampton England. And there we got on a Polish ship I'll never forget because one of the meals was raw fish and I didn't care too much for that raw fish. And but we went across the English Chanel on a polish boat.

Interviewer: The Queen Mary you said going across?

Knight: Yeah

Interviewer: How long was that voyage for?

Knight: Four days.

Interviewer: And how were the living conditions on the ship?

Knight: We had I think it was 12,700 people on that ship. And some of us we had to rotate sometimes we could sleep in the hole and sometimes we had to sleep on top deck. And of course as we went across it crisscrossed across the water and dropped what we called ash cans explosives off the rear of the ship while we were going across. That was to keep the submarines away from us.

Interviewer: Was it in a convoy?

Knight: No

Interviewer: It was not?

Knight: It was not in a convoy. There was only two ships that went across then at that time the Queen Mary and the Queen Elizabeth that didn't have an escort.

Interviewer: Huh wow. Once you got to Europe where did they send you?

Knight: Well after we got across the channel they had a replacement thing there and somehow or another they got mixed up there I don't know what happened. But they sent us that was right close to the end of the Battle of the Bulge and they sent us up to Belgium on a train. In the unit the we were supposed to be assigned well I say the other people I don't know exactly where they were going but the unit I was to be assigned to was back in France. And they sent us up to Belgium on a train and it was quite an experience riding a French train. It would go a hundred yards then back up a hundred yards. And it was a very slow process but then I came back they had to bring us all the way back to join our units which were at that time in France. They had been in the Battle of the Bulge but they had returned to France.

Interviewer: So you didn't see combat in the Battle of the Bulge?

Knight: Huh

Interviewer: Did you see you didn't see combat in the Battle of the Bulge?

Knight: Well I got up there on the end of it I actually wasn't our unit. I went up there to it but we had to turn around and come back because my unit was already down in France.

Interviewer: Oh and what was your unit one more time again I'm sorry?

Knight: 16th armored division.

Interviewer: What was your first experience with combat?

Knight: Really my first experience with combat was I was in a light tank company and of course we had good maneuverability with those light tanks we could cover a whole lot of ground. And actually my first and only combat training only combat was when we entered Pilsan Czechoslovakia. That's where we wound up we were the first troops in Pilsan Czechoslovakia. And we stayed there because of the Pots Damn Agreement that Churchill and Roosevelt and Stalin has made. We were only supposed to

take so much territory and the Russians were supposed to take the other territory. We had already assembled and was gonna go towards Prog Czechoslovakia one night. And then we got the order we couldn't go no further and we had to pull back. And we stayed there in Czechoslovakia right outside of Pilsan Czechoslovakia.

Interviewer: How long did y'all stay there?

Knight: I stayed there until June the war was over on I think it was the 8th of May with Europe the 8th of May. And then they wanted people to because the war with Japan wasn't over they wanted people to volunteer to come back to the states take a leave and join a unit here to go to Japan or to fight Japan. So they sent me back to Fort Campbell because I volunteered to come out of there they sent me to Fort Campbell in 1945 and I went on leave. And I was on leave in Kentucky down in Paducah Kentucky my family was living there at that time and the war with Japan was over while I was on leave.

Interviewer: Did y'all get a lot of free time once you got into Czechoslovakia?

Knight: Any what?

Interviewer: Once your unit got into Czechoslovakia did ya'll have a lot of free time once y'all couldn't go any further? Or what was a typical day once y'all were there?

Knight: Well every the part of Czechoslovakia I was in was called Sandakan Land that was occupied by the Germans. They had taken that and set up shop there in all the places there the farms and the villages. And I never will forget we used to we had nothing but them old powdered eggs and things like that for breakfast. And myself and the mess Sargent I always drove him and we'd go around the villages and take them some flour or sugar or something like that and trade it for eggs so we'd have some fresh eggs for breakfast. And then the Russians came and there's a highway from Pilsan to Prog and it was highway 66 at that time I don't know what the designation is now. But they were set up on one side of the highway and we were set up on the other side of the highway. It was a court martial offence at that time and Russia was supposed to be our allies it was a court martial offense if we got caught in a Russian zone or the Russians couldn't come in our zone. So we

Interviewer: So there was pretty much no contact what so ever?

Knight: No contact well we did I know the Russians they did invite us onetime over to a party they had. And they had a dance and so on and so forth and we went over there and went to that party and associated with the Russians. That's the only contact I had with the Russians at that time.

Interviewer: What was your impression of them? Were they as individuals and as a military unit?

Knight: I never will forget they had a woman Russian Major and she was in charge of a horse drawn artillery outfit. And I thought this is kind of peculiar because we had no women combat soldiers at that time. They had women infiltrated in their armed forces and everything and I guess they fought just like the men I don't know. But she was in charge of that artillery battalion I know that. We I stayed there until June and of course we didn't do much of anything. We just sat there more or less in this little village a little ole camp. At that time it was under German control and the town name was Hangingdorph. But I haven't been able because the Checks took back over that territory and of course they named it something else. Know I don't know where that thing it I've been to Europe a half a dozen

times since then and I always wanted to go back to that little town but I couldn't identify it. And I still can't identify it I'd have to get me a WWII map in order to identify that.

Interviewer: Were you promoted at all while you were in WWII?

Knight: No oh yeah I made PFC.

Interviewer: The people that you saw that were promoted did you feel like they deserved it or was it a good ole boy system or?

Knight: Well this unit that I joined there had come out of Arkansas Camp Shabby Arkansas. And they had all been together for quite a while you know of course me going in as a replacement in that I was kind of odd ball. But I was the only one that knew how to dismantle and assemble a 30 caliber machine gun because they hadn't had any training on those machine guns see. And I'd had training up in Fort Riley before I went over there see. And so I was able to instruct some of the people on how to assemble and disassemble the 30 caliber machine gun and 50 caliber machine gun. But they were all pretty close nit because they had all been together for quite a time. I was kind of I guess more or less an odd ball because they had all been together and I came in as a replacement see.

Interviewer: Were any of them or were most of them pre-war enlistees or were they post-war enlistees?

Knight: Most of them had been in that unit for quite some time. I don't know when they I don't know when it was organized that 16th I think it was close to the last one that was organized in WWII. The 16th and the 20th armor was the last two that was organized during WWII as far as ground forces was concerned.

Interviewer: I know you weren't involved in that much combat during WWII but what was your opinion and the people in the units opinion of the enemy as far as

Knight: My opinion of what?

Interviewer: The Germans.

Knight: The Germans?

Interviewer: The German soldiers yes.

Knight: Well we received most of we set up in Czechoslovakia and of course all the Germans when the Russians came they all came and surrendered to us. They didn't want to surrender to them Russians because the Russians would take them and put them in slave labor camps. And they came and surrendered to us rather and they were very cordial they knew it was all over. And they didn't take a defeat us attitude they were still a Russian is I mean a German is a strong minded person. And that was my opinion of them and I know they had a one of them came in with a violin player and he played in the German officers club. And we had him out there playing that violin for us and we had quite an experience with and of course they had all kinds of drinks. Their schnapps and their Koniak and stuff like that so this gave us a good access for something to drink then. And we had plenty to drink because we didn't have no access to something like that.

Interviewer: What about people in your unit what was their opinion of the German equipment compared to American equipment?

Knight: Well there was nothing wrong with German equipment it was good equipment. They just didn't have enough of it and didn't have enough men. That's the only their equipment I felt in some respect was superior to what we had. They had a 88 millimeter gun that was far superior mounted on their tanks that was far superior to ours. And but most of their equipment was good equipment of course their production had been the bombing and everything had stopped a lot of production and some of it had been used for a long time. And that way a lot of it was worn out because they couldn't get replacement for it because of all of the bombings of all of the factories and everything in Europe.

Interviewer: So do you remember hearing about the atomic bomb and where you were and what you thought about that when that happened?

Interviewer: Well I was back in the states when that was dropped. And of course no one knew what the atomic bomb was. Very few knew what it was at that time in fact we didn't know what a jet airplane was at that time. Right at the end of the war the Germans had made a rocket they didn't get it in production and they had this atomic knowledge before we ever had it because we captured one of the people that was responsible for it and put him in charge of our atomic weapons over here. The Germans had good equipment I thought it was real good equipment. Of course it was a little odd to us you know because it wasn't made exactly like ours. What's next?

Interviewer: Do you have anything else to add one WII any interesting stories or anything like that or you want me to go on?

Knight: It was very odd that when we went into Czechoslovakia the Germans was friendlier to us than the Czechs. I know I went to a dance hall and them ole Czech gals wouldn't dance with me but the Germans would you could associate with them. But you couldn't associate with them Czechs at that time because the war wasn't over for one thing that's what they used for an excuse. They wasn't gonna have nothing to do with anybody until the war was over so there was fraternization on the Americans part with the Czechs which is good. Maybe it was against the law to fraternize with the Germans but we did do it a little you know.

Interviewer: What did you do in you stayed in service correct?

Knight: Yeah

Interviewer: What did you do in the time between Korea and WWII? Were you occupation army or?

Knight: I went to Korea four times in my military career. I first went to Korea from Fort Campbell out here in 1946 I went to Korea. And I've seen Korea progress through the years from nothing I mean there was nothing there. No vehicles it had been occupied by the Japanese for 45 years and the Japanese had taken everything they could out of Korea. And I went back I stayed in Korea from 46 to 48 I worked in the military government in the department of transportation. And that was we were teaching the Koreans at that time with our equipment military equipment we were given because they had no transportation or nothing. But we was helping them set up the government in Korea and it was I guess I worked in a motor pool like atmosphere and we'd give these Koreans vehicles. Their government was being set up and they were using those vehicles to transport supplies and it's awful to say but at that

time you'd sent out ten vehicles and you might get six back they'd steal the other four and all the material on them. Of course I guess it was due to they were trying to get by any way they could it was just the poverty being so bad there and everything they hadn't had nothing. But they could take and disassemble a two and half ton truck in an hour and a half you wouldn't know what it was. They'd make something else out of it and a lot of times we lost a lot of vehicles like that not our vehicles in fact we were supervising the use of the equipment. But we were giving it to the Koreans and they was actually stealing from themselves. And of course times got better as years went by I went to I came back out of Korea in 48 and I went down to I can't even think of the military base now where all of the helicopters in Alabama Fort Rucker. It was Camp Rucker at that time it wasn't a fort it wasn't designated a fort. And I stayed there a year from 48 to 49 and then my enlistment was up and I re-enlisted and went to Japan.

Interviewer: Was there any particular reason you re-enlisted? Did you just enjoy it or was it

Knight: I re-enlisted oh I just I didn't want to go back to that farm. Some people asked me said how come how come you didn't get out or why aren't you getting out? I said my mule died so I said I'll just stay in the army. So I went down there and stayed a year in Rucker and re-enlisted and went to Japan. I had taken some R&R from Korea those two years I was there and went to Japan and I liked the country so I re-enlisted and asked to go to Japan. And so they sent me to Japan I got there just in time well I had been there a little time before the war with Korea started.

Interviewer: Since you had a little

Knight: Huh

Interviewer: You had a little previous experience with Korea did you ever see that happening or was it something that came as a surprise?

Knight: Oh I knew it would happen in fact they had pulled all the divisions out of Korea and put them back in Japan. And all but the 7th division but we had at that time we had the 1st calvary the 24th division 25th division in Japan. And they were all later sent I was in the 1st calvary but I had got an infection and I was in the hospital when that Korea War started. I come out of the hospital my unit had done left.

Interviewer: So what did they do with you did they ship you off?

Knight: No they sent me they sent me over to they had two sides where I was at in Japan was Camp Drake. They had north camp and south camp well there was no armor in any of those divisions. They had only one light tank company to the divisions didn't have no battalions. So they organized a tank battalion in north Camp Drake and I was sent there because of previous tank experience. And I went to there and they gave me tank crew that was at that time was five people to a tank crew. And they gave me a tank crew then sent me to Yokohama Japan. Drew a tank loaded it on an LST and they designated us 89th tank battalion. We was the first organized tank battalion in Korea we went across the water at that time the North Koreans had already pushed everybody back almost out one end of Korea by a little area down around Pusan Korea was all was left that hadn't been captured by the North Koreans. And we landed in a little town it wasn't a harbor or anything we just pulled up to the bank unloaded with those LSTs. The nearest little town was Masan Korea. And that's where we set up shop and then later on we joined the 25th division. At that time the 25th division didn't have a tank battalion so we were designated for the 25th infantry division. And that's more or less where I seen more combat than any other place.

Interviewer: What tanks were y'all operating?

Knight: Well at that time till we got them ole tanks out of Yokahama they were an M26 with a 90 millimeter gun on them. But the engine was no good in them and every time they'd backfire it would bust every belt on it and there you was. So and they wasn't too good as far as them rice patties was concerned in Korea. So they put us back in the old M4A3EA with a 76 millimeter gun on it. And they were they were the best equipment that we had at that time. They later come with M46 tanks but my battalion, and I left it in 51, never did have those M46s what they called the Patton tank. We still had the old M4E3EAs and you had to shift gears on it, it wasn't automatic. And it would take a good driver a good strong man to operate that there to drive it. I was well I'll tell you a little story about it you know I hate to go into things I lost five tanks in Korea by land mines and a tank mine. Nobody wanted to ride my tank because they said I found every mine there was. And I lost a tank and I took my crew and put them on the maintenance truck and I got on the medic jeep and I had no more got on that medic jeep and here we went down the road a bunch of the infantry had got hit with mortars and there was a lot of them wounded. So I went up and helped evacuate those wounded out of where they were out up there where there were being mortars dropped on them. And I we started back we had the jeep overloaded but the driver, I was riding the right front fender of that jeep, and I never will forget it somebody I don't know whether they were shooting at us somebody said it was a sniper I don't know. Shot and the driver he of the jeep he got all out of sink and run over the side of the road and of course I had to bail off that front fender because the jeep turned over and we had all them wounded on there. And my knee it rolled across my knee and my knee swelled up and I got evacuated out of there back to Puzon in a hospital ship that was anchored there in Puzon. I stayed overnight there and then went sent me to Japan Osaka Japan and I stayed in Osaka for about a month in the hospital and then they were gonna send me back to Korea but my knee hadn't and they sent me back and they examined me. And when they examined me he said you can't go back over there yet. So they assigned me to an amphibious tank outfit that was up at Camp Zon Japan. And I stayed up there for and then they I finally come out on orders to back to Korea I knew eventually I was going to. So I went back to Korea and joined my same tank unit back again same company and everything and I stayed there until I guess it was about September of 51.

Interviewer: This is back tracking a little bit but task force Smith what's your basic opinion on then and like their preparedness and the U.S. army's preparedness in general in Korea?

Knight: Task Force Smith?

Interviewer: Yes the first group to go up and basically try and counter the North Korean invasion about 400 people. If you don't that's alright I'll move on to the next one if you

Knight: Well I don't remember a task force.

Interviewer: Okay I'm sorry.

Knight: In fact I lead two task forces. Task Force Dobbin and Task Force I think he was the 24th division commander that was named after him. I'm not positive of that but I think that's true. And I don't know why they used me but they used me two times on task forces like that. I mean you know this just I don't know where we don't discuss really it's hard for anybody to discuss really what actually went on what happened when your especially when you be in making awards and things of this nature you know somebody gives you something. And it was I never will forget I went one time C Company of the 24th

infantry regiment this was an all black unit except the 24th infantry regiment was a whole black regiment. They had I went up there and every man in that company got killed but one including the officers. The one guy had hide in a culvert underneath the road and he come out from underneath there and jumped in the tank. And of course he was he was out of it and I don't know what ever happened we took him back and gave him to the medics and then but every at that time there was a man named, a black guy, by the name of Levi Jackson. He was the heavy weight champion of the armed forces and he was a medic in that company and he got killed. I don't know it was kind of stupid there was hills on both sides I never will forget hills on big hills. And they'd went up this road single file on each side of the road and of course the North Koreans came down and they killed every one of them.

Interviewer: Did they just not take prisoners or?

Knight: Huh

Interviewer: Did they not take prisoner or were they just over run so quickly?

Knight: They killed them all. North Koreans they didn't take no well some of them got captured because you know we had some up there. I was over there when they come when they released all of them when they released our prisoner of war because I was there when they come across the bridge.

Interviewer: So can you basically go over for me what was you're what places and what times were you in combat in Korea?

Knight: Well I went there I think I got over there it was about the 8th of July. And I stayed there until 17th of September when I got wounded and I was evacuated. And then I went back in June of 51 through September of 51. When I went back there we had more or less taken stationary positions because they had in other words we wasn't moving one direction or the other we were just stationary. You set up and what you would call it stationary positions they wasn't moving towards us and we wasn't moving towards them. We were observing their operations and they were observing our operations you know it was more or less a stall mate. I never will forget Coombe Valley is where we were at. They had a hill up there it wasn't but 1062 meters high but it was just flat on top and of course the North Koreans had set up positions on top of that. And we every now and then we'd throw a mortar or shoot a round off that tank I know I got sent up there one time. My company commander sent me up there with five tanks and they were all dug in on a ridge going up to that hill they planted trees by their foxholes and everything. They'd dig trenches and so on and so forth and I sat there with five tanks and used up all but five rounds of the basic load. And I thought I'd cut about six foot off that hill with them five tanks and 30 minutes after I got through they was out there planting trees again. They were pretty clever that was with the North Koreans and of course later on while I was in Japan that's when all them soldiers got frozen up there when the Chinese come across. I'm thankful I wasn't up there during that time in fact I was at the hospital in Osaka because they had sent me down to they had set up buses with livers on them. And they would transport those they'd fly into the airfield out there I don't know why they brought them in there. But they'd those people's hands and feet was the color of your shirt just as black where they'd been frozen. And they'd just keep them there overnight and they'd fly them back out to the states the next day and of course you know what happened when they got to the states amputation. And it was whole bunch of them people got caught up there. I seen the effects of it see but I wasn't there when it happened.

Interviewer: And you showed me your Silver Star there how did you receive that?

Knight: That was during the evacuation of those men up there.

Interviewer: When you the jeep rolled over you knee?

Knight: Huh?

Interviewer: With the jeep?

Knight: Yeah

Interviewer: Okay I just wanted to make sure I had that. Did you encounter any other U.N. troops like troops from Greece or Great Brittan or

Knight: Oh I just I got a laceration on my head that's when I hit a mine. The escape hatch come over and hit me in the head.

Interviewer: What was your impression of McArthur?

Knight: Of what?

Interviewer: McArthur Douglas McArthur

Knight: I thought he was a good man. In fact I thought that he wanted to bomb them Chinese when they come across. The president at that time was Truman and he said no and that's what got McArthur fired.

Interviewer: Did you agree with did you think we should have at the time? Did you agree with his assessment?

Knight: Well if you looked at them troops with them black hands and with them black feet what would you have thought? That's where I established my opinion.

Interviewer: So what was it were the troops with the black hands was that frost bite I'm assuming?

Knight: Frozen

Interviewer: Frozen?

Knight: They'd been frozen they didn't have equipment our equipment was very poor. And they didn't have proper equipment to start with and plus they got caught up there see and them Chinese swarmed across there across that Yellow River. And that's what McArthur wanted to do he wanted to go up there and bomb them Chinese and McArthur I mean Truman said no. And like I say that's where I seen them people with them black hands and with them black feet and that's where I formed my opinion.

Interviewer: What did you think about his replacement General Ridgeway?

Knight: Well really as far as I know he was a good man but I'll say this McArthur anybody can say what they want to about him but I established my own opinion. Not only form the Korean War but he was the supreme commander in Japan when I was there and the Orientals worshiped him. I mean I think that's

possible one of the reasons he might have got fired too. Because he you know he had been in the Philippines a long time he and his father. And of course he in WWII he had went back out of the Philippines and then they captured the Philippines he went to the Philippines you know. And all the Orientals over there for some reason they thought he was everything they just thought he was I guess it was some of the reason he might have got fired was because he was too powerful. Because the Koreans loved him the Japanese loved him and I don't know what about China but I know all the Orientals that I knew of worshiped him. I know we I never will forget we used to drive I had six motorcycles in my motor pool in Japan. We used an escort vehicle McArthur had an escort from his home in Japan to the Daiichi Building in Tokyo where his office was. And you'd go down that street every Jap every Japanese would be on that street would be bowing when he'd go down that street.

Interviewer: Wow

Knight: They thought he was everything. He was a very powerful man.

Interviewer: Is there anything else any more interesting stories or anything you'd like to add about Korea or your experiences there?

Knight: Not really I pulled my last tour in Korea was from 68 to 69. I first went there in 46

Tape ended