

Interviewer: When and where were you born?

Moore: I was born in 1929 in Guthrie.

Interviewer: And your name?

Moore: Jack Lindar Moore

Interviewer: What was your father's occupation?

Moore: He was Frank Moore his occupation was a steel mill worker in Birmingham's. He was a corer and he ran one of run those sheets of steel in the seven ton rollers. Looked like a giant roll of toilet paper only they were steel. That was his job to catch them and roll them up. I worked there in school for a little while as an electrician helper.

Interviewer: Was that what you were doing before the war?

Moore: That's what I was doing when I got drafted. So when I got drafted well I kept the job a came back to it and spent two or three months there after I got back and then I went off to college. But I was drafted in January of 1951 went to Camp Chappy in Arkansas Western Arkansas took artillery basic. Went on to howitzer training and after that went to Korea by the way of Seattle. Was on a ship a couple of weeks and got in Japan and then in Japan we got our assignments. They sent me to an engineer company because I had been working in the steel mill. And you didn't always get to do what you trained for so then after I got to the engineer company I told them I really didn't want to be an engineer I thought I might do something else. So I had had a little medical background at the time and so I asked them if I could be a medic. They said we have a medical group here a medic attachment with the engineer battalion and said you can do that if you want. I said I will take it. It started out the whole time I was in Korea I was a medic. I was with I don't know how many months with the engineers but after a while I guess things calmed down over there and the medical detachment left the engineers and I became part of a group another group of medics that served the whole city of Seoul. When I first got to Seoul it was about June 1951 went through there when I was in the engineer company and there wasn't a sole in Seoul. It's a huge city but wasn't anybody there once in a while you'd see an American, the whole town was off limits. And we came back in about a month or two and the whole town was full of people. It was a ghost town for a while. When I was there with the medical detachment I think it was called the 122nd and we served all the soldiers in Seoul and other places nearby. And I found out that I could leave Korea if I went to a tank company. If you were an infantryman you served nine months with the infantry which was the worst kind of situation to be in. Then you could leave if you were noncombat you served twice that amount 18 months. So I wound up in total serving 14 months I went to I transferred to a tank battalion still as a medic and served with them for a few months I think maybe I don't know how many months maybe four or five I forget now. I didn't anticipate thinking about it. But after that I got on served that time I got on another ship went from Incheon to someplace Sasebo in Japan in process you're always in process. So I got processed there got on another ship spent two more weeks on that ship went to Seattle and came on home. That's about it unless you have some particular questions to ask.

Interviewer: When you were drafted you didn't have any choice of your branch of service?

Moore: No, no choice.

Interviewer: Did you have any opinion about how prepared the U.S. military was for Korea?

Moore: I can't say how prepared as far as the military was for Korea but some of the best training and probably the best training and schooling I ever got in my life was those four months in Camp Chappy. You got up at five in the morning and they kept you going until five or a little later usually at night and they kept you busy either doing something or learning something. They taught us how to use all their riffles the carbine, the M1, they taught us how to use a 30 caliber and 50 caliber machine guns. Taught us how to use bazookas and we fired all of those they even let us throw a hand grenade. That was kind of a unique situation. But the howitzer training was intensive at the time I knew all about cannons it was a real interesting thing to learn about. I thought when I went to Korea I would probably be in an artillery company but what's usually great about the howitzer that 105 that I learned how to use would shoot seven miles. And they had a larger one I think it was called a 155 I never fired it but it would go 15 miles. You could shoot from here over to Manchester over the interstate with that one. And the 105 wouldn't quite make it to Manchester but from here. But I thought I would do that I expected it but I got there and they put me in the engineers building bridges and I didn't know anything about that. But I did have some medical background a little bit and that wasn't unusual I found out later that you could get sent anywhere, have to do anything I guess. If you had typing in high school they'd make a clerk out of you and that was about it. Yeah I thought the military trained real well. Never said anything about anything negative about the enemy. Back in World War II everybody was a Jap or _____ or a _____ but never heard any talk like that. Some individual soldiers called the Koreans gooks but I never did. I didn't feel superior to people I guess. But I enjoyed the army it just seemed like that was a long time to go somewhere and be away from the comfort you got used to. I never went without a meal sometime we'd eat k-rations or c-rations I forget what they were called. You would have to eat those things sometimes had to eat them cold most of the time but I never went without a meal most of the time it was hot meals.

Interviewer: When North Korea invaded South Korea did you ever expect that you would be involved in a war in Korea?

Moore: Well that came on sort of sudden. I don't know I probably didn't give it a thought. When I got drafted I was surprised I didn't expect it. Korea wasn't like a big war it wasn't like a World War II. I forget how many soldiers were killed in Korea, a good number maybe 50,000 I forget now. It was a smaller adventure whatever you want to call it I didn't expect for it to last very long. I don't think anybody did and I didn't expect the United States to get involved it was just one of those things. I was working in the steel mill and learning about those kind of things and taking art at night in some local academy there in Birmingham I thought well that was it. The thing that came out about Korea I was in the military when I got drafted I was in the military 22 months then you had to serve after that period you had to serve in either the active or inactive army reserve. And some of that time I served as an active soldier and some of that time as inactive. But the nice thing about being in the military was you got the GI bill which came out of World War II. Roosevelt one of the Roosevelt administration's best things or one of the good things. But I got the GI bill so I went to school I don't know if that was the right thing to do but anyway I got the GI bill. But I don't know how many soldiers took advantage of it I've never known what percentage maybe you can look it up on your telephone find out what percentage of Koreans I mean those in Korea took advantage of the GI bill. I did.

Interviewer: I think that it probably I have a professor that argues that the GI bill changed the face of the south.

Moore: Oh my heaven oh I'm sure it affected a lot of places here some people pray that it surprises me. Well there was just a few people going to colleges well the GI bill gave housing allotments too. I forgot what that was called people bought houses there were several factors involved. Some politicians didn't want to spend the money but some did the right ones did. We got \$110 a month for nine months and I went to Alabama went to the university and I think tuition was \$55 I think I'm guessing. Room for the semester was about \$55 more or less so it was \$110 a month was more than enough. It didn't equal that but you got something out of it.

Interviewer: When you were in Korea did you have any contact at all with Chinese soldiers?

Moore: I only saw one I only saw two probably. They captured a colonel a Chinese Colonel and I was located we were located near a maw hospital so I'd go over and get supplies from them from maw group. And one day I was over there and there was a colonel that had been captured and he was laying on the floor on a cot and nobody was guarding him. And I didn't see any wounds and I asked the medic there in charge of supplies I said who is that guy? And he said that is a Chinese colonel he just got captured and we're treating him. And I looked down at him and he looked up at me and he looked real mean that little scowl on his face. I only saw one other on a ridge and he may not have been Chinese might have been North Korean I don't know. He didn't say.

Interviewer: Didn't say you know. Were you aware of the danger of being captured and?

Moore: I never thought about things like that. We got shot at a few times and when I was in _____ we tried to stand out as some kind of animal preserve up there. And one day the norths whoever they were the military from the north started firing something at us the big projectors. And the captain later said he thought it was a tank but whatever it was it didn't fire high didn't use a high trajectory it used a real low one the way the tank would fire. And it fired at us probably two or three hours I don't know why they didn't knock it out somebody. And we were at that time our tank company was located next to a group of soldiers that ran spotter lights the kind of spot lights you see at services that shine up in the air carnivals. They had these huge spotlights and at night time they would turn them on and you couldn't shine then directly into the face of anyone for about a mile and half I guess maybe two miles. If it was a cloudy night they would shine up at the clouds and the light would bounce off of the clouds and into their eyes and it would hinder them. They had certain advantages as far as I know they didn't have any artillery they had mortars and riflemen. That was about all I knew except for on occasion. But that one time this thing came out and shot projectiles out at a low angle and killed soldiers shining those lights. And that's what they were after. They fired at us a long time and after a while they figured out they weren't hitting us. They would fire and it would land all around us but it never any of us. But they finally knocked out one of the lights. There were either two or three lights I forget now they hit one of them knocked it out and killed the guy shining it. And we went over there to treat him and he was already in pretty bad shape he wasn't even bleeding no blood that's how quick it went.

Interviewer: Were you involved in any offensive actions against the North Koreans and Chinese while you were with the artillery company?

Moore: No I wasn't with the artillery company I was with the tank company.

Interviewer: Oh the tank company I'm sorry.

Moore: I would go out with them when they would shoot but we'd usually stay back a way or get off to one side or something. One time we were at this place near _____ and I don't know I never knew if it had a name some bridge with a number probably, But we the tanks went out usually about four or five of them they would go out on what some people called no man's land but they'd go somewhere and do their shooting. And they went out a long long way and they went behind this mountain where the North Koreans were. So they had telephones they could all I forget what they called those things. And they call in and say we need a medic out here so they put me on what they call a half track and sent me down this road to go behind this mountain. It was about, I later asked the guy that drove that half track, it was just me and him, I later asked him how far it was out there and he said three and a half miles. I don't know it might have been just some answer he gave but it was a long way and I got out there and they had already treated the guy. What happened I think when they fire those gun I think they were 90 millimeter guns on those tanks and if they don't get those shells out in time what happens is they burn their hands. So this guy burned his hand pretty good but they had some Vaseline or something, they went ahead and treated him. And so I said well you don't need me and they said no we don't need you so we turned around and went back. But that may have been the only time it probably was the only time I went behind enemy lines. But their lines weren't as well established as the American lines. Americans has strung barbed wire over the whole continent I mean the whole peninsula from one side to the other. But as far I know I never knew of the North Koreans or Chinese doing that. They dug a lot of holes in the ground and sometimes the airplanes would come even the propeller planes and jet planes and they would drop bombs on us that was kind of a regular occurrence. I don't know what those bombs were. I thought somebody said one of them was a P51 but I don't know. And the jet planes they weren't saber jets but each one of them carried a bomb or whatever. They were fighter planes they weren't bombers that carried bombs. And they would drop bombs where these they were apparently digging all the time. I dug one hole one fox hole the whole time I was there, I never used it but. They must have had some good shovels and picks that they used.

Interviewer: Well what kind of injuries were most common?

Moore: Well over the year I don't know one of the worst ones I saw, our tank company while I was there never lost a soldier. But before I got there they did. And one time this soldier was working I don't know what he was doing he was in a ditch he was working in a ditch and I have no idea what he was doing down there in that ditch. But there was this little road and he was in the ditch and he was doing something down there it didn't make sense I couldn't figure that out and while he was there he swung around his body around and his head went out on the road just his head and the tank track hit him in the head. And we picked him up and carried him back to the main headquarters we were kind of the front line group. I don't know he never said anything and when you carry them back they don't usually tell you what happens to them. Just took him back there he wasn't bleeding he had a little gash on his head but it wasn't bleeding. I think somebody gave him a morphine shot that's probably why he got so quiet I guess. But just things like that accidents. We had a soldier when I was with the group in Seoul the area dispensary we had a soldier there that got drunk and drove a jeep, there are a lot of walls in Korea in the big city, and he drove his jeep right into a wall. And there wasn't any he just flew out of it, it was an open vehicle and hit the wall. He lived a little while but not long, he had a big bump on his head a huge bump up there. And then the and it wasn't but that's because he was drinking. We had certain areas you never ran short of liquor. Now another tank company once a month the Budweiser a guy would come around with a case of Budweiser and give everybody one case of Budweiser. I forget how many are in there 24 maybe I forget. But cans and every time you'd open one it would spew out it would be hot but we were glad to have them. Some people didn't drink so we would bargain with those soldiers. I don't know I hadn't thought about that very much we had with the tank company we had one

shootout between two soldiers, one killed the other over gambling. One night they were gambling and one called the other one on something thought he was cheating or something and they just shot it out and one of them killed the other one. But that was another company it wasn't with my company but I knew both of them I knew both of the guys. I knew the shooter the one that won and I knew that guy that got killed. And for a while I knew their names but I've forgotten. I don't know lots of things you just treated for. Band-Aids carried a lot of peroxide and alcohol and I had morphine with me, I never used I think I used morphine one time. It was in a little tube like a toothpaste tube little bitty thing and I think I used it one time on somebody. But people would have hives and we'd give them shots with hives I don't know just the daily things. Or stomach aches never knew anybody that had the flu never knew that but a bad cold maybe. We were pretty healthy when you get out from around other people you don't run into diseases as much.

Interviewer: Did you notice over time you said you were fed well the whole time so you don't think that the supply chain got better and that things improved as you were there? Did you feel like conditions improved at all or they were already pretty good when you got there?

Moore: The times I remember we never got any fresh vegetables. One time when I was with the tank company they brought us they brought in some cucumbers they probable grew them in Japan. They brought in cucumbers and they soaked them in vinegar gave everybody three or four slices of cucumbers. I think that was the best food I ever ate in my life when you don't get it regular. There was always can stuff and the eggs were powdered and so were the potatoes were powdered a lot of stuff. I don't remember if we got any fresh meat I can't recall I'm sure we did at times but I don't remember much about the food or a lot of other things too. But I never was hungry.

Interviewer: When the peace talks started at Kilimanjaro you were aware of it you knew it was going on?

Moore: We were about if you at the cross lough we were about two miles of it we were straight south of Kilimanjaro. And every day while we were there this particular battalion tank battalion it was called the 73rd we were there the helicopters flew over from the American base. I can't remember how many helicopters but they flew over Kilimanjaro and they would fly back. But there was a whole bunch of military vehicles there must have been 20 or more and every day we'd go by this little road where we were stationed, positioned and go over to Kilimanjaro and then they'd come back and go over and come back. And I don't know how many months that went on but it was still going on when I came home so I don't know probably six months more or less. I don't know that's a quarter I never knew how long.

Interviewer: Did you think that when it started did you think that it would end or did you think it was going to be like perpetual?

Moore: Yeah I thought it would end and it did so to speak. Oh yeah most things end don't' they. It's the verge of the ending that matters.

Interviewer: Did you ever have any boredom?

Moore: Yeah I think about the thing I liked the army so that was some condensation for me but yeah you always get bored. You can't just go hop in the jeep and go there's nowhere to go anyway. The mountains or something torn up everywhere you go was torn up. We lived in this building for a while in _____ it was a three story building and there wasn't anything on the second and third story. When it

rained it leaked it wasn't as good as a tent but we stayed in it. I don't know why we had tents if you got orders to do something you just do it you don't wonder why.

Interviewer: So when you were in Korea you weren't really aware of what was going on so much even within the war you were pretty much just waiting?

Moore: There was some newspaper it might have been called Stars and Stripes I don't know what it was. But we would read it and there was always a radio someone always has a radio. And we always had electricity because of generators so there wasn't any problem with that. Just if you were up front like we were when we was at _____ and _____ and at some extent a Kilimanjaro you couldn't turn lights on at night I think we had candles. But that was discouraged if you went back four or five miles to headquarters they had generators running all the time. They were cooking meals back there and bringing them up to us. The American military was built on transportation. If you don't have that you don't have if you don't have something that runs on gasoline then you don't have an American army. I don't know about the North Koreans and the Chinese I don't know whether they had any vehicles or not. But yeah its American forces had certain advantages we had airplanes and they didn't. The there were dog fights between the American planes and the called Saber jets and the Russian airplanes called migs I think. And they would fight but they would fight way up in North Korea and I never saw but one Saber jet the whole time I was there. It just happened to be flying by one plane I think I don't know I think those saber jet battles originated in Japan. I think they took off from Japan maybe an aircraft carrier I don't know. But that was those guys that flew those planes probably that night when they came back just loaded like they did when they went in to war I imagine.

Interviewer: Did you have any contact with civilians in South Korea?

Moore: Yeah the American forces always had civilians working for them.

Interviewer: How did you feel about them what was your impression of them?

Moore: Well there's a language thing two different languages and we had interpreters and I would spend time talking with them I would talk to the interpreters. I don't remember what all we talked about but I was curious and would ask questions. Sometime I would help them with their speech I wasn't real good with speech but they would get their dictionary out so I helped them do that sometimes. I remember some names when I was with the engineer company the interpreters name was Hon Hung Sue and for some reason or another he was from North Korea and everybody knew it and we had two dentist Korean dentist that treated the dental treated the workers who needed dental. One of them was named Hon Hung Sue and one of them was Lee Sue Joe and I have no idea why I remember those names after all this time but I knew them pretty well. And Hon Hung Sue knew English some and we would talk and everything. Good dentist though.

Interviewer: So did you have any contact with South Korean forces other than like the dentist? No actual

Moore: We'd see them. We called them the ROK you know you would see them and I think they were a tougher bunch.

Interviewer: You do?

Moore: Yeah Koreans can be kind of hard on each other they were more militant than the American soldiers. The American soldiers wanted to shoot at them and then go home but the ROK was there for the duration it was a different mindset. I'd see these people and once or twice when I was in Seoul they had markets and I would go and bought some coins and things.

Interviewer: So your impression of the ROK forces is they were good soldiers?

Moore: Yeah they were made to be good soldiers. You know Korea was just a place farmers growing rice. I don't know if they had any industry I don't know never learned those kind of things. Wasn't interested everything where I was was just torn up anyway. You'd go into a town sometimes just pass through it and you might know the name of it but it would just be flat just rubble it was kind of common. And we went to this place that was a rather important location and for them and for the military it was called _____. There wasn't anything there didn't see anything it was just a city that was gone. I guess it was burned down or blown up I don't really know what happened to it. It had already happened whatever it was. That was a real quiet place too some things about being in Korea was in the daytime or night it was just really quiet there wouldn't be a sound. No guns going off or anything but then there were times it would be pretty noisy with shooting. You could see if the artillery was behind you positioned behind you they would shoot over you and I'm not sure why they arranged that kind of thing in such a way. But you would see the shells go by they were shooting these 105s and sometimes I guess they would beat the sound or get there about the same time. You'd look up and they'd be flying you could see them flying over your head making this noise kind of cracking noise or something cracking the wind. And that was at _____ they probably were shooting I bet you within a mile of any direction. I don't know just judging the direction those artillery shells were going they must have been a mile from _____. So it was just it didn't slow anything down everybody kept shooting at everybody.

Interviewer: Did you get any furloughs while you were there?

Moore: What

Interviewer: Furloughs did you get to go to Japan on furlough?

Moore: Well I went on two R&Rs what they called rest and recuperate. Went to Tokyo one time and ate good food for four or five days slept in clean beds that sort of stuff. Then I went on another one I can't remember the name of the town it was in Japan but I don't remember the name of the town. Same thing it was you know you're just glad to be you get to wear clean clothes, take showers, eat good food, and shop and look at pretty girls you know that sort of thing. When you haven't seen a female in months they look strange. And it wasn't like you seen Americans that were stationed you seen male and females. I learned a joke while I was in Japan I can't remember I think I was on R&R but I might have been being processed to come home I can't remember. The when you're counting in Japanese, _____ and the word for rice in Japanese is _____. So they say _____ and if you say _____ it's one, two, three, four, rice. That was really funny back then when you were running short of jokes you appreciated it. I don't know why I remember that either. I must have thought it was hilarious. When I was processed coming home I was in _____ the Japanese grew small watermelons about like that on base sold them on base. And I went and bought me a whole watermelon and cut it into and ate the whole thing. Of course it was a little small but you appreciated something fresh. I can't remember if we ever got apples or oranges I don't remember that in Korea but surely we didn't. I don't remember but we always had Koreans attached to us and they cooked their own food they did what they called kimchi and different things. It was kind of like cabbage or turnip greens. Good food I tried some onetime and I kind

of liked it. It had shrimp in it too. But there was a lot of separate things. With the tank company and I don't know why we had so many Koreans with us must have had 15 or 20. I probably didn't pay a whole lot of attention to what they did you know many of them were cleaning making it easier on us. They had brooms and we didn't. That was a word they knew too by the way all Koreans knew the word broom.

Interviewer: But you didn't have any bad any of them you just didn't have any?

Moore: A lot of soldiers thought they were stupid and some of them did call them Gooks. Mostly northerners who had a lot of different names for everybody. I don't know I don't think they were they might have been ignorant people but not stupid. They were farmers and they had to subject to the Japanese for 45 or 50 years a long time before the Korean War. And then World War II was over all of the Japanese had to go home that ended the occupation of Korea. And they were grateful for that part. I think it was one form or another some sort of dictatorship over there even when I was over there almost like now. They are making all kinds of automobiles they must be doing pretty good. But I never went back once it was over it was over for me. But I liked the Korean people.

Interviewer: When you look back on your time in Korea what's your what first comes to mind?

Moore: I don't have a first thing that comes to mind. I know that when we went into the ship went into Inchon we went over on a merchant marine ship. And I remember the merchant marine people the crew there were very nervous. And I guess they had been there before when it was rougher. But it wasn't rough when we went in and I remember going into the harbor there and it was really beautiful. You know the Chinese water colors you see so much it was just really like that. Islands out in the I think there is something like 400 islands off the coast of Korea. And there were a lot of those and it was really beautiful. Of course by the time we moved in there weren't any trees on the mountains. We hardly ever saw a big tree rarely ever saw one. They were all cut down for firewood. We never saw a dog they had done eat all the dogs we never was a chicken. They had one sacred bird I don't know what it was called it was white a big bird about crow size and you saw a lot of those. But you never saw a whole lot of little birds never saw a snake or lizard I guess that had eat everything or they weren't there to start with. Maybe bullets killed them. No cats nothing. Saw once in a great while you saw an ox and they used the oxen in the fields. And saw a lot of rice patties they were starting to crank those up when we got there and we saw thousands of rice patties. Women did that a lot women planted they had good jobs planting rice. But I only saw one time an apple orchard I did see that one place.

Interviewer: Thank you for your service and thank you for your interview and your time.

Moore: People always say that don't they, thank you for your service. Well I've got to tell you I got the GI bill so I have no complaints.