

Interviewer: Where and when were you born?

Garrett: I was born 1929 September 19<sup>th</sup> in Hendersonville Tennessee.

Interviewer: What was your father's occupation?

Garrett: He worked for DuPont.

Interviewer: Okay how many siblings did you have?

Garrett: I have two brothers.

Interviewer: Did they service in the military at all?

Garrett: One brother was in the reserve not active.

Interviewer: Okay and you chose the navy as your branch of service. What was your MLS?

Garrett: Electronic technician.

Interviewer: Electronics where did they send you to do your basic training?

Garrett: For the electronics?

Interviewer: Uh huh

Garrett: San Francisco Treasure Island.

Interviewer: Did you go through any more advanced training after your electronics training?

Garrett: No not really.

Interviewer: What year did you enlist?

Garrett: 1947

Interviewer: 1947 when did they send you to Korea?

Garrett: Wait just a minute. In 1950 that's just information on there. I was in Korea in 50 1950.

Interviewer: Did you were you ever stationed in Japan?

Garrett: Not stationed there our ships docked there occasionally.

Interviewer: Okay

Garrett: But I was never stationed there. In fact all my service time basically was sea duty.

Interviewer: Sea duty?

Garrett: Yeah the destroyer.

Interviewer: Even through the later part of the 40s when you enlisted in 47?

Garrett: Well I went to school electronics school for a year.

Interviewer: Okay

Garrett: Out of boot training and then from then on it was sea duty.

Interviewer: All pacific?

Garrett: Yeah

Interviewer: When the Korean conflict broke out did they send you straight to Korea?

Garrett: Well yeah basically. We hit Japan first and then on around the Korean peninsula. Got involved in two or three invasions.

Interviewer: Which ones?

Garrett: Well we the main invasion would be Wonsan and Inchon.

Interviewer: Okay tell me a little about Wonsan.

Garrett: Wonsan was \_\_\_\_ led on shore. The landing portion moved faster than the other portion. Wonsan though is right critical because we had the waters heavily mined. Every time we made a trip into the Wonsan Harbor we had to go dockside put on our life jacket . There was several ships hit mines and sunk.

Interviewer: Was there any strategy at clearing the mines?

Garrett: Oh yeah if we spotted one we'd shoot it with the big 20 millimeter guns. Unless they hit that tip sticking out then it would go off but you could sink them and they wouldn't explode.

Interviewer: Okay and then you said you were part of the Inchon invasion.

Garrett: yes our ship was involved in that one too. There are usually five destroyers in a division and our division was mine was 782 that was our number. Four of our ships in our division actually went in to draw fire at Inchon with the shore. And they called them the sitting ducks of Inchon Bay because they were drawing fire.

Interviewer: Was that one of your ships?

Garrett: No it was one of our divisions. My ship did not go in sitting duck. But the other four did in fact I have a friend that went in the service with me his ship got hit by a shore line.

Interviewer: What was your ships role during that invasion?

Garrett: Screening for the larger ships the battleships and carriers.

Interviewer: Okay did you do any land firing at the land or anything like that?

Garrett: Yeah we did some of that. I don't know how effective it was but we did some. Most of our job was mainly screening and protecting the larger ships.

Interviewer: Okay

Garrett: That's basically what we were there was times when we would be out two or three weeks before we ever put in port for stores or anything.

Interviewer: What was a typical day like on the ship?

Garrett: Boring

Interviewer: Was it the same thing every day?

Garrett: Waiting for a South Korean boat to come out with the mail. The mail would put on a little ole Korean boat and they'd bring it out to sea wherever we were and get us the mail. And at Christmas time they even brought us our Christmas tree. It gets to be kind of comical at times.

Interviewer: As an electronics man what was your role on the ship?

Garrett: We had to keep our radar and sonar and fire control equipment that was the main thing we maintained.

Interviewer: Do you feel like you were prepared fairly well for your job?

Garrett: I had a year's school.

Interviewer: A year's worth of school?

Garrett: Yeah that's pretty.

Interviewer: That's pretty intensive school. Did you have any impressions on Douglas McArthur?

Garrett: We at one time were scheduled to go in and pick him up and off somewhere in Japan off the west coast of Japan. But we found out later that he'd been that was a decoy and somebody else had already picked him up and carried him out. He was on the Battleship Missouri and that's where if we would have picked him up that's where we would have carried him but we didn't get to pick him up.

Interviewer: What was your initial impression of the war?

Garrett: Well of course anytime somebody attacks you you don't like it. And we got to go ashore a time or two just for well the captain of our ship would let one third go ashore at a time and army would set up a little beer stand and something along the shore. And I remember we would go into there you would

see dead North Koreans still laying in the water. So it was traumatic to see that I never was involved like the marines and soldiers.

Interviewer: In hand to hand combat or anything.

Garrett: So this kind of brought it home to me.

Interviewer: Made it more real. Did you have any contact with Chinese soldiers at all?

Garrett: No

Interviewer: Were any of the ships in your division badly damaged?

Garrett: No now there were mine sweepers that well there was one destroyer that hit a mine and they put a temporary bawl on to get it back to port for repair. But we didn't have any in my division.

Interviewer: Did you encounter any major electrical malfunctions on your boat?

Garrett: No

Interviewer: So all and all your equipment was pretty sound for the war?

Garrett: Oh yeah

Interviewer: How did you deal with the boredom on the boat?

Garrett: Played a lot of cards and they did get us movies. That same Korean boat would bring out an old worn out movie once in a while.

Interviewer: Did you have much contact with the South Koreans?

Garrett: No

Interviewer: Just the mail guy.

Garrett: Bringing the mail and stuff out.

Interviewer: Did you get to take any leave when you were at port in Japan?

Garrett: No

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

Garrett: Well I think about the land forces had them whipped and President Truman called McArthur off I could never understand that we had them whipped. They called him back to the reservoir but Harry Truman wanted him for some reason or another he pulled McArthur off the job.

Interviewer: How did you guys then was that kind of the sentiment of everybody was kind of disbelief?

Garrett: I don't really know what anybody else thought about it.

Interviewer: Okay

Garrett: I think they probably felt like I did. We lost a lot of people and a lot of injuries for nothing you might say.

Interviewer: Because he backed off?

Garrett: And then turned around I had two buddies that lost toes because of that retreat. Part of their feet froze.

Interviewer: What did you do before you enlisted did you have any occupation through high school?

Garrett: I was in high school.

Interviewer: Do you remember anything of the great depression?

Garrett: Not my dad had a pretty good it was a working man's job but he had a pretty good job with DuPont. And my mother said she didn't really remember much of a hardship from the depression because he had at least part time work the whole time sometimes they had to cut back just to make room for everybody to get a little work.

Interviewer: Do you remember any of the rationing through World War II?

Garrett: Yeah I remember all the rationing how they passed out stamps and stuff.

Interviewer: Did that affect your family a whole lot?

Garrett: No

Interviewer: Did you participate in any of the scrap drives collecting iron or aluminum?

Garrett: No

Interviewer: Do you remember Pearl Harbor?

Garrett: Just what I've read and watched on TV.

Interviewer: Did you have a television when you were younger?

Garrett: No

Interviewer: Did you have a radio?

Garrett: On the ship?

Interviewer: At home before?

Garrett: Oh at home yeah we had a radio.

Interviewer: Was that pretty much how you guys got all your news was through the radio?

Garrett: Uh huh and newspaper.

Interviewer: Newspaper as well. Since you were still in school there in World War II do you remember the school discussing the war at all or going over it?

Garrett: Not I can't remember it well on that at all.

Interviewer: Okay

Garrett: I remember certain things like they held up a newspaper in front of class that said World War had ended or something like that. I can remember just little things like that.

Interviewer: Okay did World War II drive your ambition to join the navy?

Garrett: No

Interviewer: Okay well is there anything else you'd like to add about your time in the service through the Korean War?

Garrett: No I don't think so.

Interviewer: All righty well I appreciate your time tonight.

Garrett: Well I told Smithfield when he called me I said I don't what I can add because I didn't do much.

Tape ended.