

Interviewer: I'm talking to Mr. Paul Shea veteran of the 11<sup>th</sup> air borne army of occupation in Japan. Let's start when did you go in the army?

Shea: Went in the army in October 1947 to get in on the GI bill and a lot of us were college students with one year of college. And this would be a way to earn almost three years of GI bill. I went in went in to Fort Lewis got five weeks of basic training and then we were shipped out of Seattle on the USS Sea Devil. The ship made in hell and it took us 19 days to get to Seattle or from Seattle to Yokahama I have not been able to eat cheese and split pea soup since. Our rations were very

Interviewer: Is that all they fed you for 19 days?

Shea: Well it seemed like it. And when you ate the split pea soup you stopped eating it when you saw the table looking at you. They were it was served in cardboard boats. They guys a lot of them very very sea sick but I volunteered to be an MP on the ship so that helped. So then I got eat once in a while but it was a starved bunch of people. The day of going through our hold or whatever you want to call it was a stream of officers and they bought all of the cigarettes out of the PX there and they were hauling them out some of them with ten cartons under their arms. So we knew right away that we were going to a different world. And we had a man on one of my watches go crazy and I was an MP standing and he got up and they had huge tables it took about 8 or 10 guys to lift us big plank tables. And it was 2 o'clock in the morning he was mumbling to himself all at once he picked up the end of that table and threw it. And that thing flew into this line of bunks and three guys were knocked right out their bunks. And I took one look at him and I called the sergeant and he called the officer and he called two medics with straight jacket and they came down and grabbed that ole boy. And when we got off the ship ten days later he was still in that straight jacket and still screaming.

Interviewer: That's interesting.

Shea: So once in a while we'd have a movie up on deck. One day this was a C3 cargo ship that had been converted to a troop carrier and the sailor's had their galley up on the deck a little house there. And one day there was a port hole and there was a turkey cooling in the window and one of our guys grabbed that turkey and stole it and took off running. Well really where are you going to go on a ship? So every time he'd go past that galley another cook would come out and pretty soon here's this guy carrying this piping hot turkey with four or five cooks after him waving meat cleavers and screaming at him. So finally he drops the turkey and it goes skating across the deck and skimmed pumps a couple of times and it lays there. So they grabbed him and they brought him back and they arrested him and they had a court marshaled and they found him guilty of stealing public property. And as a punishment they confined him to the ship until he reached Yokahama.

Interviewer: There's a punishment for you like he was fixing to go anywhere.

So we were just about we were pulling into Tokyo Bay when a gust of wind came down off of Mount Fuji and it heaved that C3 over. And it broke 2,000 cups in the galley and those tables broke loose from the floor and they had 14 men with broken legs. That ship heeled over once and then it straightened out. We got into Tokyo Bay and there were about I suppose 40 or 50 sunken ships. And waded our was in through it we were the last guys off of the ship it was about 1:30 in the morning and we rode in 15 minutes before we saw anything. Everything was just as black black black as far as the eye could see in every direction. We got out through the repo depot and we're standing there shivering now we've been 19 days with poor food and everything. And this sergeant is screaming at us to shut up and so on. And

the tents were eight man tents or whatever they were with oil stoves and the man says now these oil stoves are touchy. On such and such a number you won't be warm but if you turn them up were going to shut them off entirely says their dangerous. And a few seconds after he said that there was an explosion about 150 feet away and here's 8 GIs in their skimmies standing there and their tent is going up in flames. And about a year ago I was talking to a guy and he said yeah I was one of them. So we were there for a couple of days and then Captain Robert Allerd from the 511<sup>th</sup> parachute infantry come down the most splendid creature you ever saw. Tailored uniform white laces on the boots and he come twinkling through this bunch that has just finished five weeks of basic and we now call him the piped piper of the 511<sup>th</sup> cause he blew the pipe and the rest of us followed him out of town. Boys he says if you join the 11<sup>th</sup> air borne you will be the pride of MacArthur's eye. You will live in new steam heated barracks and the Japs will do all of the KP. Lies lies lies so we got up to Hatchimo and I was on company B the same one that made the jump in Las Begoas and we found that they were located right next to the chapel. Because the regimental commander said those bastards need to be closer to the chapel than anybody else in that regiment and that's why B Company was there. We were there about 15 minutes and I mean we're in terrible shape the first thing they did was take us out on a three mile run in the snow pretty near killed us. And that was our introduction to the rest camp known as Camp Howler.

Interviewer: So how about air borne school.

Shea: Okay we were in training about two months I suppose because we only had five weeks of basic. Then we went down to jump school.

Interviewer: So I'm sorry to interrupt for two months before you went to air borne from the time you were assigned to the 11<sup>th</sup> they continued your training?

Shea: Yeah basically we were finishing our basic training and taking a lot of fly ins. So we learned to do the runs we learned to do the pushups and so on. By the time we got down there to jump school we could do our hundred pushups we could do our seven mile runs. We could do a thousand side striatal hops in spite of the fact we were living on horrible food Austrian mutton and wormy fish. And we were allowed a ration of six candy bars and a carton of cigarettes once a week. And as soon as you got the candy bars you ate them all because otherwise somebody might steel them. You had chocolate bar acne then for the rest of the week. And then ten cent to a quarter Japanese beer that's pretty well what we lived on there. But the barracks and the camp was still under construction. We moved rocks we made ourselves useful in many many ways. So that went on for about two months two and a half months somewhere I lost track. Then we went down to jump school and it was really kind of interesting we got in there and I was a squad leader because I had been in ROTC for one year so. And we got down to jump school and we were there approximately I think 15 minutes and there was already a corporal and a guard. So they gave us M1s for various guard post but no ammunition. So one of the posts I was responsible for was the fuel dump or the gasoline supply whatever they called it and I had a little Mexican by the name of Carlos Martinez. And about 9 o'clock that night corporal the guard corporal the guard and I go running over there and there is a Japanese there lying screaming in the ground. And I says Carlos what is it well he had brought a five gallon pen and he said captain so and so had run out of gas down the road and he was supposed to get some gas for captain so and so. My man asked him for the chip the Japanese swore at him and walked by him and he shouldn't have done that. So my man broke his collar bone and put him down. And the same thing happened from the 2 to 4 o'clock in the morning thing and he put him down in the same way. And he said don't give me no boots corporal I do the best I can. Come to find out they were motor pool employees that were stealing gas from anybody that would let them in there.

Interviewer: So there was some pilfering going on?

Shea: Oh there was pilfering going on. We were in jump school we made our five jumps and I got home I made it. But I would say that approximately 40 percent of our company went down ended up injured one way shape or form or another so they had to finish another class. We had very high casualties I come home with a twisted kneecap and a sprained ankle. So I don't know why we had so much high casualties but we did.

Interviewer: Well if I've got my timeline right it would have been winter of 48 right?

Shea: No this was the summer of 47.

Interviewer: Summer of 47 okay the weather shouldn't have been too bad. A lot of winds maybe? (Someone knocked on the door so they shut off the tape for a moment) Jump school you had a lot of casualties.

Shea: Okay so we came home from jump school and the rest of them came filtering in a week two weeks three weeks later and so on. But we were jumpers by that time and the same as with Dr. Windrum it was a week of calisthenics which didn't bother us at all by that time because we could laugh at that. And then two and a half days of jumping and get loaded up and go out and make the drop and come back well I believe it was on a little train or something. And draw another shoot and go back out again so it was very concentrated jump training.

Interviewer: How did you feel about jumping? Did you like it?

Shea: I'm not nuts but.

Interviewer: Just checking.

Shea: I think I was maybe a little well one of the guys in my squad and I believe my second jump hooked his fingers under my backpack when we went out together. And my shoot opened and I reached up to clear it and here he was caught in it with those combat boots with the buckles on them and he was tangled in the corner of my parachute. And we were coming down quite rapidly I'm screaming at him to get his jack knife out and cut his way out. And he finally broke loose but when we landed we were touching when we landed we were that close together. I explained my displeasure quite strongly on that and we made it.

Interviewer: Being that close together I'm surprised you didn't steel his air coming down.

Shea: Yeah so we had guys walking in each other's shoots and there was a mad house but we went out the door, most of them anyway.

Interviewer: So once you finished jump school what type of duties were you assigned to?

Shea: Well I was in 511<sup>th</sup> B Company and I was a mortar squad leader. And I started out with 14 men but between the quitters and the so on within a matter of four months I was down to 6 or 7. And I had three Mexicans in my squad all named Martinez. Perfillio had been a jockey in PT and he was short and fat. Carlos was the one that did the guarding at jump school and then there was Manual and Manual was

very quiet very polite very good soldier but then he started a boxing team. And Manual went out to the boxing team. Then one day I asked what did Manual do with the boxing team? Oh he's the team trainer oh I said that's interesting what does the team trainer do? Oh he puts the gloves on beats the hell out of everybody once a day. Well I said oh yeah he's a pro fighter from LA he's got 27 knock outs to his credit.

Interviewer: No wonder he was so full of it he could afford to be.

Shea: Right and then for a while the guy next to me was a light heavy champion of the regiment. And he had a really high pitched girlish voice and he never shaved and he looked like a girl. And one day a stranger came in and he was headquarters platoon whatever their supposed to be. Anyway he was with headquarters platoon and he told this stranger now when you're here you always have to set up when your smoking and this kid nodded and as soon as Murphy walked off the kid laid down again. And I said I don't think I would do that if I were you and he said why well I said Sergeant Murphy might not like it. Oh Sergeant Murphy I said he's the light weight champ of this regiment and he will beat the holly hell out of you and I said he's got no scares on his face. I've never seen two feet hit the floor so fast in all my life. He saw the wisdom of sitting up while you were smoking.

Interviewer: Routine duties what did they do to keep you occupied?

Shea: Training after a while trained in the morning and drank from 1 o'clock until 10 o'clock at night.

Interviewer: That's normal for the infantry men.

Shea: So that was pretty rough.

Interviewer: Training for?

Shea: Four hours and then we had a maneuver one time that might be interesting. We were supposed to go out and attack a pill box and it was a large group might have been a company I don't know maybe a battalion. And of course in the service you never know what you're doing they just tell you where to go. So we went out marching out in the woods and we were going to sleep in the weeds and then they come through Sergeant had a hold of his muzzle of his M1 swinging it in the weeds and that's the way they wake you up when you're in the dark you get whacked in the head your awake. So we were wide awake and we were supposed to attack this pill box up on the hill. Well I had a mortar squad and anyway we got ready for that attack and everything was blanks except the mortar rounds. And I looked up there and there was the regimental commander Colonel Hogan standing out there and there were some other officers and they crawled in this pill box. Well the water was belly deep in there but nobody had the courage to tell Hogan what was or Conner it was Colonel Conner. Nobody had the courage to tell him what was going to happen. So exactly when we launched the attack well one of the men in my squad was trooper John Hash who just died two years ago. And he had been out to Los Vengos and he was with the boys of Company B all the way through and he had re-enlisted and come back in. And I told my platoon sergeant I said there's an officer up there he said screw him let him go in he ought to know better. So Hash had 17 rounds in the air before the first one hit and all at once the whole top of that hill run in that pill box these are combat rounds not practice rounds. And this whole hill is covered with mortar rounds coming down and Conner is running for his life down in the pill box and gets in there. And the highlight of that was when it was over with he come down and he had spotted where that mortar fire was coming from. He said I want to talk to the mortar man. He walked up and he shook his head and he said congratulations you're the best god dammed mortar man in the regiment.

Interviewer: He had a sense of humor.

Shea: Yeah

Interviewer: I'm curious you went into one of the more highly decorated units in the 11<sup>th</sup> air borne as a replacement private. How were you treated by the old timers?

Shea: Oh with amusement.

Interviewer: Okay that's fair that's fair.

Shea: But we in spite of the fact that B Company have been at Los Venus it was never mentioned we had Lieutenant Swoop our company commander had been there John Has, Al Kruger I think for or five of the Los Venus veterans still in the company. But I was the information education noncom. I had never heard of Los Venus it was never talked about it was never of interest it was just a job. And we came in not knowing about it and we went out not knowing about it. Which I think now that I'm working on this video tape of the memories of Los Venus I think what a shame. But Jim Holes can tell you more about it I guess it was of non interest to anybody it was a job you signed it was a job done and that was it.

Interviewer: But you were fairly well treated by the old timers that had been around?

Shea: Well they ran the hell out of us for a while but

Interviewer: Hazing?

Shea: Oh you had a few rate races. We had one where I led my people out and there was a major walking across in front and I made the stupid mistake of slowing down a little bit which was sure dumb instead of running over him. And I skinned up a knee quite badly and I spent three weeks in the hospital with it. And I got back and because I didn't have a light duty slip they took me right out on a run and tore all of that meat back off of there again. Another thing I was kind of impressed with was the dentist that we had there. He was a navy dentist in a navy uniform wearing jump boots. And apparently they had no Novocain or anything at that time. They would put two men in chairs and he would work on one until that guy was sliding out of his chair then he would just drop those tools and step over to the other table. Now it's rumor that he was the one that got the Red Cross gal knocked up but I'm not sure of that. But I know that she left a disgrace. To show you what a small world it is we had a noncom party one time at the Red Cross Club and everybody brought whatever booze they could find and that was pretty bad stuff they just poured it in a wash tub. Then you dip into the wash tub then the drinking was going on. And we were all seated in that Red Cross room and it had plywood with half rounds cut out of it for the seats. Anyway there was guy beside of me the red started coming up and I thought oh and he tried to stand up and he couldn't. And he carefully picked up the side of that GI quilt and he barfed about three times and laid that quilt back down and he patted it down so nicely I thought it was very nice of him to be that nice about it. And this was in November and a few minutes later I was standing up watching the Red Cross gal jitter bug with somebody and all at once I passed out went right out through the window took the window and everything with me down into the ditch in the snow. And I'm lying there looking up through my feet and the guy that's with me throws my parka out the window for me. So I put the parka on and I try to find my way across the parade ground that was very large parade ground I was lost out there. Finally somebody came out and towed me in and I ran into met that Red Cross gal and she was supposed to be here today she's now the Mayor of Belfast Maine. But she's still remembers me

going out the window she said it sure got cold in that room after I went out the window and took it with me.

Interviewer: I imagine it did.

Shea: But he talks about the Provost job Sergeant Albert Ponce was the stock aid sergeant and he came out of B Company I believe and he was about as mean we thought of a character there ever was. One of my guards was guarding the liquor one night and an old hanger that later burned and here come Sergeant Ponce about 11 o'clock that night roaring drunk. He was there to pick up another case of booze for the wheels club. My guard properly asked for the chip and Ponce said that he didn't have time for the chip and he brushed by my guard. Not smart and my guard slammed around in the chamber and he was aiming Ponce looked back and he said what are you going to do? And he said I'm going to kill you. And Ponce stopped walking then and he said why would you want to do that? He says look at me I just finished six weeks over at your palace of pushup and pleasure. He says one more step Ponce and your dead. Ponce very very carefully backed up one step at a time and kept watching his eyes on him. He got out of there and got in his jeep decided he didn't need the booze and this private says to me corporal I'll never again make that mistake. And I said what mistake he said if I'd have had a round in the chamber I could have killed him. So there were some hostilities there. Ponce eventually and this will give interest to Dr. Windrum gave Coronel Reynolds wife some kind of a traffic ticket and so the upshot of it was Ponce eventually got railroaded off to Suporal. And I thought it was for giving the traffic ticket and somebody said no he was also running a whore house on the side. So I don't which of the sins is the greater.

Interviewer: Now how about community relations U.S. Japanese relations.

Shea: Okay we had a guy there that liked to kill Japanese civilians for the fun of it because he thought his brother had been killed in the Philippines. But come to find out the brother was a poor letter writer. When this guy got home there was the brother standing there smiling at him. There was plenty of business down in Sindh right up from the RTO. The girls were thick the prices were right. Down there in the Sindh by the RTO the price was right and her tits you know there was a whole song about it. But there was none in Honshu because I don't think there were any girls within 30 miles of that place.

Interviewer: No girls there.

Shea: The ultimate in bachelor hood was at Camp Halbeck. But there seemed to be no enemy we had a komokozies pilot in our kitchen and he was tickled the war was over because he said another week and he'd have been dead. Kasha Kota Bookie was our battalion interpreter and he's at this you probably saw him yesterday.

Interviewer: He's the Japanese gentleman.

Shea: Yeah he's the Japanese gentleman and I knew him well enough to go we had our nephew over to Tokyo and he started up at Hana Moki Anson and working in the library and studies English. And from there after they moved down to Hana Moki colonel Mottie wanted to get all of these scatter guys that were living the good lives in these little towns get them all together at Camp Holder and start soldiering. There were some very unhappy guys when that had to happen. Well so Kasha followed down there and he was proficient enough in English by that time to be a battalion interpreter. So when the 11<sup>th</sup> left he stayed on and then went to the university and became quite a high executive with S.O. Oil Company

Japan. And now works as a trainer for Japanese executives that are working overseas. So I hope that while you're here that you'll have a chance to interview him. He is a very strong booster. He told about when he was the interpreter he had to eat with the other Japanese and they had very poor food. So they made arrangement so he could eat in the pantry at B Company and it wasn't very long before he started growing a nice round belly on him. But then one of the paratroopers gave him a leather jacket and I have a picture of him in the office with that leather jacket. So people have showed him kindness that was unknown to him because he had spent four months in the Japanese navy when I think he was like 15 years old. And he said it was the most horrible four months of his life. And to leave that kind of discipline and then to come to help with B Company and with the first battalion and so on. There's nothing in his experience that he would be treated that well.

Interviewer: Did you experience any animosity from the Japanese?

Shea: No

Interviewer: The American's?

Shea: No

Interviewer: Other than you mentioned that attempts at pilfering.

Shea: Let's put it this way nothing we didn't highly deserve. Because come of the guys there was several of them that would drink beer on occasion and some of them would go downtown on occasion. And we had an interpreter by the name of Jim Wilson and for instance one time he drew a shot gun to go duck hunting but the ducks weren't doing very well so he walked on to the main shooting hatch and started shooting plate glass windows out and the plate glass windows were like gold I think at that time. Anyway he was always in all sorts of trouble and he bunked right next to me. One day he said well he was going to get court marshaled I had no idea he said oh it will be insufficient evidence and I'll be back for lunch. I said hell they'll have you making license plates in Leavenworth. Anyway this was at about 10:30 and 12 o'clock he's back changing into fatigues and I said how and he said insufficient evidence. The one time we were drinking and I said what's this insufficient evidence? Well he says Lieutenant Colonel so and so had his private jeep over there and he blew the engine out of it. Well Wilson had connections in the motor pool so he and three Japs stayed up all night and scraped the engine out of a wrecked army jeep and switched. And he said now the colonel always finds that it's insufficient evidence. I don't know if the powers that be would have appreciated that particular one.

Interviewer: Probably not. What were your educational opportunities recreational opportunities for the soldiers in the army of occupation?

Shea: Pardon me?

Interviewer: What did they have for you guys to do in your spare time?

Shea: Drink

Interviewer: Other than drink? Did you play ball did they have an education center a library?



Shea: oh yeah we had boxing team but I didn't want to get my face beat in so I didn't go out for that. I don't think I ever saw a ball they did have a little midget golf course behind first battalion but I suppose somebody used it. But no there was played poker and drink and try to stay out of trouble. And watch somebody else have a fight once in a while and I had a few fights and lost every one of them.

Interviewer: That would be enough evidence for you to stay off the boxing team.

Shea: Well I had a big mouth and poor fists.

Interviewer: So there really wasn't a whole lot for you to do except drink?

Shea: No no we had some movies we could go to. One of my fondest memories he mentions the VD we had guys' fortunate enough to get VD and I never did figure out how they did it. But the Chaplin had us all down in the movie theatre one day and he's showing this picture well here's Joe Smow getting ready to go home on pass and he was down to get his train tickets and he meets Susan Hayward or somebody who looked like her and they get it in the sack well then about ten days later when his pass came he's got the drip. And he can't go and he goes over seas why they would send a man overseas with the drip I never did quite think that was very true. So when this movie is all over with and we're all convinced that this roly polly Chaplin comes back out on the platform and he says are there any questions? And there was a loud voice in the back of the room said I'd like her name and phone number please. They took the whole works out and ran us around the air strip.

Interviewer: Well that will teach you.

Shea: Yeah

Interviewer: Did you move with the division from Japan?

Shea: No we were there for one year.

Interviewer: You were there one year.

Shea: So they were there when we came and they were there when we left.

Interviewer: Where did you go after a year?

Shea: Pardon?

Interviewer: After a year were you discharged?

Shea: We were 18 months in

Interviewer: Aw so you were

Shea: I was in the Army 15 months.

Interviewer: Fifteen



Shea: Fifteen months in and out.

Interviewer: So you tell me you owe us three months or what?

Shea: Well I had furlough coming you know and this and that and so because we didn't get any pass or anything.

Interviewer: You sure you don't owe the army three months?

Shea: No never somehow or another

Interviewer: They could probably find a place for you.

Shea: Well one story that was kind of interesting I was applying to go to West Point and I was down at Cyndi at the hospital and they were having a pay jump back at the hatch and that was a wicked little small DZ. And I'm walking down the hallway and here's Major Lawson Caskie our battalion commander lying on a stretcher. He says Shea is that you and I say yes sir. He says I'm badly hurt and I've been lying here on a stretcher for two and a half hours and they've forgotten me. He says would you find the commanding officer of this god dammed butcher shop and tell him your battalion commander is lying out here and mad. Then he says go hide with the tree. I said yes sir that's exactly what I did I marched in to this Lieutenant colonel or whoever it was ran the hospital there and I told my story. Then I went back and hid in the latrine and doors came open I had never seen so many people come popping out of doors in all my life. But we never saw the major again after 130 jumps he crushed his back racing another guy to the ground and that happened.

Interviewer: One hundred and thirty jumps that's a lot of jumps. How many jumps did you have?

Shea: I had eight jumps.

Interviewer: Eight

Shea: Now did I tell you about the malfunction?

Interviewer: No

Shea: Okay on when we went through glider school down at Aborn and we learned how to do gliders. And I walked up and I poked my finger at that glider my finger went right through the side of it. And I got to thinking I don't think my mother would approve of me being on this thing. Somehow or another I became a qualified glider man without getting on that contraption. Anyway as the finale as what was going was an equipment drop. It had been raining for nine days they lined us up full equipment jump machine guns mortars and the whole works. And we go out there and the rain stops enough so they can get the planes out there and they get the planes out they load us up and we're getting into position. There was going to be P51s flying strafing the artillery was there and the whole ball of wax. And this oh George O'Hara I guess was a former Jap training ground with those shell holes. Well we're lined up and this plane has no seats in it so here we our full equipment load is sitting on the floor. Well the only way you can get up is put your hands on the head of the other two guys and so heads are going up and down like this. And finally the they get us up shoot check comes and I'm number 13 man left hand stick and I don't get a knee in the end. Jump ration is back there sound off out the door I go tripping over the

mortars machine and I fall and I fall. I suppose I went out at 800 hundred feet somewhere in there and I'm just reaching for the reserve and finally I hit the ground the main opens it cracks one crack bam and I hit the ground. I'm maybe 50 feet off the ground hit very hard splinter the shin bone everybody else as still 450 feet up there. And I'm lying there watching the car beams and this kit bag and the cameras and the steel helmets and all of this crap falling out of the sky. And pretty soon the guy behind me finds me and he comes up and he says Shea how is your shoot working and I said it almost didn't. Well he says those four cords that are supposed to be attached to the backpack there to pull the shoot out mine only had one. And he showed it to the jump man and the jump man said screw him he should have noticed it let him go. So I was then I say a second and a half from being dead. So when I talk to anyone from jump school I say I only wish that I had been smart enough to get that little book that packer's book out and maybe he could have taken my place up there in the light infantry. And then just right in front of me a guy landed stiff legged and he went head first into this shovel and his belly on and his legs are showing but everything else is gone. And he's down in there well one leg goes one way and the other goes the other way and I'm lying there about 15 feet. It was really quite fascinating to watch you know and I can't help him. Finally a couple of guys come by and I said you better pull him out of there he's not doing very good. They pull him out and they lay him he's face down on his reserve and his pack and he puking up a load of blood. And some sergeant comes along come on you lazy bastard this ain't no rest camp. And kicks him in the gut a couple of times and the kid stands up and pukes up a load of mud and takes his M1 and his pack and away he goes. Some of our training was maybe a little bit basic.

Interviewer: So you now you got out.

Shea: Pardon

Interviewer: You say you got out after 15 months.

Shea: Yeah

Interviewer: And went where did you go?

Shea: Then I went back to the farm.

Interviewer: Back to the farm.

Shea: Then I went back to college basically back to school.

Interviewer: Back to school.

Shea: Right qualified for my GI bill and my daddy he told me now WWII is over get in get it over with go for the shortest possible time and don't sign any reserve papers. And six of the guys that I knew that had stayed in and signed reserve papers died in Korea. So I guess maybe daddy wasn't so dumb. For once daddy knew what he was talking about.

Interviewer: Sometimes fathers know best.

Shea: Yes fathers knew best in that. All of his uncles had gone through WWI and he could see no particular glory in being shot at.

Interviewer: Few of us do.

Shea: So we got home and I didn't do anything with the 11<sup>th</sup> association until three years ago I was a member got the paper but three years ago I became active. We had a Thanksgiving Day menu with names of all of the there was a roster attached. So out of 150 guys they've located 100 but of the 100 50 are now dead. So we are a maturing breed.

Interviewer: And that is a big part of the urgency why the university and the museam are working on this project that we are here talking about today. The stories and the reflections you gentlemen have to share are being lost every day.

Shea: So I've still got knee damage and so on. I had heard that when we were in there that a leg broken below the knee didn't even go on your records. I don't know if that was true or not.

Interviewer: Well I thank you.

Shea: You bet.

Interviewer: Thank you very much.