

Dannenmaier: You develop a tension now you're not frightened. I never knew people who were scared at least not that I was aware of. Now I was scared silly on my first patrol up until I touched the barbed wire going out and then I was in business you know it was all over.

Interviewer: Well what did you surely you've heard somebody in the official \_\_\_\_ refer to Korea as a police action. When you heard that what was your reaction?

Dannenmaier: Well dam bloody exactly. We lost the U.S. Military lost 52,000 men in three and a half years less than three and a half years three years and a month I guess because it started in June and ended in July. The now that's not counting the number of British who died the number of Canadians who died.

Interviewer: Oh so those were American figures?

Dannenmaier: Those were American figures American soldiers. Now they've revised you know when you think that only 56,000 died in Vietnam in what six years.

Interviewer: That's pretty high.

Dannenmaier: Very high now they've revised it downward and they said well actually only something like you've got to subtract 17,000 from 52,000 and it comes out about 30 something. Only about 30 something were combat casualties. The U.S. Army does not lose 5,000 men a year by accident.

Interviewer: By accident well you've seen the TV show Mash right?

Dannenmaier: Yeah

Interviewer: Well some of those were comical but occasionally they'd have a serious show creep in. Is there a particular episode that you've ever seen that kind of

Dannenmaier: The one that hit me the hardest is the one where they asked what the hardest thing and they said monotony boredom.

Interviewer: Okay I remember seeing that in the book.

Dannenmaier: And that really that was upsetting because people don't understand you're not fighting all the time. God we'd all be dead if we were fighting all the time. You spend you know days sometimes weeks doing absolutely nothing. You're setting in an outpost watching an enemy who wants to kill you and is trying every so often.

Interviewer: Sure

Dannenmaier: And so the tension is there but you have no books I mean all you have is what you're carrying. Now when you figure that we also wore a vest the steel pot was three pounds the vest was about nine ten pounds my carbeneam was about seven or eight pounds my radio was 20 pounds. You don't carry a lot of extra there.

Interviewer: Sure

Dannenmaier: And you don't you've got nothing to do.

Interviewer: Right now when you entered the army you entered for OCS is that right?

Dannenmaier: Right initially.

Interviewer: What happened with that?

Dannenmaier: I decided I didn't want to be an officer. I thought

Interviewer: Was it because of your I remember in your book you said when you got out of OCS you wrote a letter saying something along the lines of you know from what I can tell the army's a place for immature people who need to be told what to do.

Dannenmaier: Right and I think I can live on that was before when I was graduating from basic training. I was slated for OCS and

Interviewer: Oh so you never actually made it?

Dannenmaier: Never went to OCS.

Interviewer: Was that an opinion that you kept throughout your time in the service or did that change as you gained more experience and went to Korea?

Dannenmaier: There I have known some good officer some men I think would be good there's the guy who wrote behind the lines in the Philippines has what he was he was captured on Batan. Escaped because he figured he was going to die anyway and lived and worked as a Gorilla. And it's a real book because it's the same experience I most of his time was spent hiding or dodging and moving and you know surviving.

Interviewer: Sure

Dannenmaier: But he said in his book that he was convinced that good Garretson soldiers did not make good fighting men.

Interviewer: That's interesting.

Dannenmaier: Now another person who said that same thing was General McArthur.

Interviewer: What was your opinion of General McArthur?

Dannenmaier: Generally a low opinion.

Interviewer: Was that one that your peers shared?

Dannenmaier: Well we didn't know him I mean he was past. But just reading the history the troops were unprepared for combat which he was in charge of in the Philippines. The troops in Japan were

unprepared for combat I mean completely unprepared. You read the books their radios didn't work they didn't have he sent in artillery and I think the one book said they only had seven anti-tank shells.

Interviewer: This was before they got

Dannenmaier: At the very start

Interviewer: Into Korea

Dannenmaier: Into Korea

Interviewer: Okay had you received after basic training did you receive any specialized training? I know you went to radio operator school.

Dannenmaier: Yeah I was sent when I arrived in Korea I was sent to radio school for a month. And that's when I became a radio operator.

Interviewer: Right and you arrived in Korea in December of 52 is that right?

Dannenmaier Right

Interviewer: Okay what were your impressions upon arriving in Korea?

Dannenmaier: Nothing really I mean it was just another step down from humanity.

Interviewer: Sure

Dannenmaier: We went there was an air raid they must have known that our troop ship was unloaded. And we sat in a cold train with all the windows blasted out and before for about an hour or two until the plane left.

Interviewer: Sure do you remember you said you mentioned that you went to radio school. Once you got out of radio school and got to your unit up on the line what was the typical day for a radio operator?

Dannenmaier: Twenty-one hours of doing nothing and three hours on duty.

Interviewer: Now one of the things you talked about during that was Chinese radio jamming of radio transmission how often did that occur?

Dannenmaier: Periodically

Interviewer: So it wasn't constant?

Dannenmaier: Well when action went on it was constant.

Interviewer: Okay

Dannenmaier: I was with the Greeks see we used to supply radio operators to the Greeks. And I was with the Greeks during one fight and we were jammed we worked all night to get a message through. And it was one of these hand pump generators and one guy pumping and one guy sending and one guy resting there were three of us there.

Interviewer: I remember you said it took all three just to keep somebody to maintain that for 24 hours.

Dannenmaier: And it wasn't until the action was over in the morning that we were able to get the message out. But that now the Greeks we enjoyed going to the Greeks it was a little more action. And but it was horribly boring.

Interviewer: What was your opinion of the Greek battalion as soldiers?

Dannenmaier: They were first class fighting men first class. I as scouts and radio whenever we were with the Greeks we were relaxed.

Interviewer: They had the beer ration too didn't they?

Dannenmaier: They had a beer ration they also sold Koniak. But it they these guys I had always thought of Greeks as you know short guys making candy or what have you. These men were all six footers and I can still see them when they were come moving up the line. They would have their rifles slung over one shoulder a long handle shovel or pick over the other shoulder a bottle sticking out of one pocket and a loaf of bread out of another. They got fresh bread every day and.

Interviewer: So that was a real treat to be assigned to their battalion.

Dannenmaier: Oh yeah we got fresh bread never got bread otherwise.

Interviewer: Sure the you mentioned something about that the boredom in combat of being on the line or being a radio operator I gather from reading the book that mail was just absolutely everything to a soldier on the line.

Dannenmaier: It's the only thing we got the only thing we had. You know it's you're up there now after I joined the Scotch you're up there you're on the front line you're on an outpost nobody comes up to bother you you're assigned jobs. And we would do you know I don't remember most of them I was thinking this morning of we had most of our patrols were three man patrols.

Interviewer: And what men did those patrols consist of? I figure

Dannenmaier: On Sam O'Connor who was out squad leader he always went he always picked Barker and I was the radio man so I always went.

Interviewer: Okay so you were the radio operator what were the other two? One was a patrol leader

Dannenmaier: One was a patrol leader and Barker followed me he was the gunner.

Interviewer: Okay yeah

Dannenmaier: And it I enjoyed those, those were very to me up until Harry combat was a lot it was not only exciting it was a lot of fun which may sound stupid. But you know we did stupid things sometimes but the but Harry was bloody. And the fun went out of it the excitement was still there but you yeah that was messy and I don't have clear memory of it. I think I was awake 40 I've forgotten 40 hours something like that. And then we kept going of course so you kind of lose track of everything.

Interviewer: Sure now before outpost Harry what was the experience on the line did the Chinese was it Chinese or North Koreans in?

Dannenmaier: We always faced the Chinese.

Interviewer: Okay were they just probing until that point or were they constant attack?

Dannenmaier: Oh no probing little patrol actions.

Interviewer: But that all changed at outpost Harry is that right?

Dannenmaier: Just for that one period.

Interviewer: But then it went back to the normal routine of just probes?

Dannenmaier: Probe and

Interviewer: What about artillery fire was it sporadic?

Dannenmaier: Sporadic and mortars were you learned to listen you learned to listen a mortar is set off by what a 12 gauge shell. And you heard that little pop you knew it was time to duck.

Interviewer: Sure do you remember now at outpost Harry mortars and artillery were almost constant.

Dannenmaier: Constant we fired they've got a historian I belong to survivors association and they've got a historian we fired more high explosive artillery now that's over 81 mortar during outpost Harry than was fired in the Battle of the Bulge in the Second World War.

Interviewer: Goodness gracious

Dannenmaier: Now the guy who now the first three nights the Chinese as a matter of fact the Chinese got fired more than we did the first couple of nights until we got our artillery into the action. But they matched us.

Interviewer: Okay now when we brought our artillery in the U.S. artillery was it counter battery fire or was it.

Dannenmaier: No everything like I talk about Paul in the book catching the battalion.

Interviewer: With the spotlights?

Dannenmaier: Yeah

Interviewer: He intercepted radio messages.

Dannenmaier: Message why weren't you attacking and it was because the moonlight the moon beam was off and only the one spotlight was on. And that's probably why I'm alive because they were coming around my way at the time I was about 150 yards in front of the front line along with O'Connor and barker.

Interviewer: Now he was he was a Korean attached to U.S. troops?

Dannenmaier: Poi?

Interviewer: Poi

Dannenmaier: No Chinese American born in the United States.

Interviewer: Okay

Dannenmaier: A fascinating like he'd be the person to be during the depression he went broke like a lot of families my family did. And they sent him back to China so he would have food to eat. His family had had a small store in Detroit. In China he ran into the Chinese war with the Japanese and was inducted into the Chinese army. Served in that got out of that and then went back in fighting the communist retreated with the nationalist somehow got to Hong Kong was able to prove his American citizenship came home to Detroit. He said he was almost 26 which was the maximum draft age and he could have avoided the draft but he didn't think he should so he voluntarily joined the U.S. army.

Interviewer: That's quite a story.

Dannenmaier: Went to basic training and from basic training was put on the front line and spent the next two years the rest of his two years on the front line.

Interviewer: What was your opinion of the Chinese soldier or did you have any just your opinion of them as soldiers?

Dannenmaier: We thought they were much like us guys who were sent there by the government to fight with no personal animosity. It they did things like they burned one of our guys once now they said he was dead when they burned him. Our guys said what they burned was a dead man but we tried to pay them back whenever they did something like that. And the Greeks were really good at this pay back and so you know you can be as tough as mean as they can be so that kind of solved the problem.

Interviewer: Sure the can you describe the cold weather conditions in Korea and how you coped with them?

Dannenmaier: The night I unloaded was the captain of the ship they brought us up on deck at six o'clock in the morning and we didn't unload until six o'clock that night. But he came over the announcement and said gentlemen it's 20 below zero at the present time. And that was down in the low lands by the sea and it you had to keep wiggling your toes. They issued us what we call Mickey Mouse boots but they were awkward you wouldn't have worn them on a patrol. Your feet sweated which made it even colder

but you know we were long underwear on top of that. We wore a wool uniform on top of that you wore your other and that's how you slept and that's how you woke and that's.

Interviewer: Was shaving ever a problem or did you just not do it on the line?

Dannenmaier: You didn't do it you didn't do it. We looked like a bunch of bums. Looking back but you know we were proud of that you know like you've got one uniform now in theory when you took a shower you could turn in that uniform and get another uniform. But we never got showers plus the fact you were really stupid if you turned in your uniform because if you had one that fit they we used to joke one size fits all and the uniform you got might not even come close to fitting. And so you we were dirty our uniforms were dirty. One of the difficult things for us was getting water and we were allocated five gallons of water a day officially for nine men up front. The trouble was the water truck didn't come every day they always had an excuse. Looking back on it now I think a lot of times the excuse was they didn't want to come up where we were with that water truck.

Interviewer: Sure did you have to go out and get it?

Dannenmaier: Walk down the mountain and carry it back up.

Interviewer: Was that something you blamed on your officers?

Dannenmaier: No you just accepted it that was part of life.

Interviewer: Okay well I noticed you seem to have a lower opinion of some of the junior officers that you whom you had experiences with.

Dannenmaier: Yeah well we had let's see I was a radio operator for about two months I guess before I left. We were on top of a mountain back at regimental headquarters and had one visit by an officer at that time. They assigned a new officer to us and he was a West Pointer and he was smart and he had a sense of humor. Now the tent we were in it was officially a nine man tent but they hadn't put it up all the way at the start of winter and so half of it was frozen to the ground. So the other nine of us the nine of us were living in basically half a tent and we had an argument going as to who was going to clean house.

Interviewer: Inside the tent?

Dannenmaier: Inside the tent. Now cleaning house meant throwing the cans out and of course we were buying beer from the Greeks and we were living mostly on sea rations because it was a mile walk down the mountain to eat and a mile walk back up and so you didn't go very often. And better sea rations and walk for bad food. And you empty a can and see had one tent pole see with our half tent and you'd throw it over by the tent pole. Well I'm know I'm right on this our top can we had a mirror there one of these little mirrors and we could shave back there and the top can on the pile had reached the bottom of the mirror. And the door opened and an officer stuck his head in and I've forgotten who was in charge but the sergeant in charge spoke up and he said are you lost lieutenant. And the lieutenant said no I'm your new lieutenant I thought I'd come up and meet you guys. I said well I guess you want to meet the men and because of all the cans and the small size we all had to stay in our bunks. Well so they did kind of a side step around this mountain of empty cans and I remember I was in the bunk on the right and he came over and he introduced me to the lieutenant and I nodded up from my bunk there wasn't room for

three of us to stand. And some guys were playing cards back in the back of it three of them were sitting on a bunk playing cards and they nodded to them and he got around he got up to the door and he said I've heard good things about you men you keeping the radios going and what have you. He said I'm glad I met y'all and he took one foot out the door and he stopped he looked back in and he said oh by the way sergeant it seems a little messy in here why don't you have a couple of the guys clean it up. And he walked out and we just all burst out laughing and it broke the argument you know and we all threw the cans out the door.

Interviewer: What kind of officer did he turn out to be?

Dannenmaier: Unfortunately he was good so he was immediately transferred away from our job and was given a job working with the colonel. And the other

Interviewer: Was that a typical procedure for the good officers?

Dannenmaier: I don't know. We had an officer who in the Scots the first officer a lieutenant never ever came up and visited any of us online. And one time I was on the radio and I said they are shooting at us with 75s artillery and he said Dannenmaier they don't have 75s. He was wrong they did they also had tanks he thought they didn't have tanks and we saw the damn thing. And I said well lieutenant he said go out and measure the diameter of the holes. Now I'm going out artillery fire and measure the holes I don't know with what. And I said lieutenant I'm not going out there now they are shooting at us. And he said Dannenmaier you're disobeying a direct order and I said I know lieutenant come up here and give it to me.

Interviewer: Were there ever any repercussions of that?

Dannenmaier: No and he never ever visited any of us online and he had three squads. See the theory of the military is you have it's a the army in those days was a two in one kind of thing.

Interviewer: Two online one in reserve.

Dannenmaier: Two online one in reserve two regiments online one in reserve. The 65<sup>th</sup> was always in reserve because they ran so the 7<sup>th</sup> and the 15<sup>th</sup> were always online.

Interviewer: The 65<sup>th</sup> being the \_\_\_\_\_

Dannenmaier: Right and we had four battalions and we were holding the four battalion sector which meant no battalion was ever in reserve.

Interviewer: Sure didn't that seem

Dannenmaier: And the scouts were always online.

Interviewer: Coming from that lieutenant didn't that seem a little \_\_\_\_\_ to you?

Dannenmaier: Well I wasn't going to do it.

Interviewer: It's you know that's how it strikes me you know it's easy for him to say that.



Dannenmaier: It was stupid. I wouldn't say \_\_\_\_ I would say stupid. I had to when he left we were all called back off line for a day to watch him get a medal. We were standing in the damn rain without rifles slung upside down under out ponchos to keep them dry and he got a Bronze Star for bravery. And that was when I decided if you were an absolute coward and you were an officer you'd get a Bronze Medal for bravery.

Interviewer: When did you transfer to the scouts?

Dannenmaier: You know I don't know.

Interviewer: Do you have a ballpark figure?

Dannenmaier: April

Interviewer: Okay

Dannenmaier: I think it must have been early April because I held off telling them I would transfer until I felt I had to. And I got a letter around which was towards the end of April which said by the way I should mention that I transferred to the scouts.

Interviewer: Okay was that something you did out of boredom? Did you have a choice about it or did you ask to do it?

Dannenmaier: No they asked for volunteers and I volunteered. And it was boredom.

Interviewer: That made you volunteer for it?

Dannenmaier: Yeah I wanted a little more excitement.

Interviewer: Did you get it?

Dannenmaier: Yep

Interviewer: Can you describe the typical I'd say maybe the typical daily routine being a scout?

Dannenmaier: We my memory is that we patrolled two or three times a week. And usually the little three man stuff occasionally squad patrols and occasionally we'd lead out a fighting outfit to start a fight somewhere. I never liked those.

Interviewer: Well if you did your job and correct me if I'm wrong I seem to remember reading this in the book that if your group as scouts did things correctly nobody knew you were there.

Dannenmaier: That's right

Interviewer: You reported the intell

Dannenmaier: Our job was to stay alive.

Interviewer: Is that what the job mainly consisted of was reporting intelligence?

Dannenmaier: Uh huh

Interviewer: Okay

Dannenmaier: Yeah we weren't fighters we weren't supposed if we got in a fight you were right we weren't doing as good a job as we should have done.

Interviewer: Okay do you have one memorable experience as a scout that sticks out above all others?

Dannenmaier: Oh I've got two or three. My first patrol scared God I wanted to urinate but my heart was pounding so fast that I was afraid that O'Connor or Barker would hear it and know I was afraid. And then of course we had to go past the front line and out through the barbed wire. And we got up to the barbed wire and O'Connor said okay take your rifles off safety. And we took them off safety and the minute I touched the barbed wire I wasn't afraid anymore I was home free.

Interviewer: Was that an experience that you that kept you going?

Dannenmaier: Never again I had a couple of time I got in trouble one time. The agreement was if we were on my position as radio man was the first man behind the squad leader whoever that was. If it was fight patrol I was behind the lieutenant who was in charge of it usually right behind O'Connor. The difference was if we hit exceptionally dangerous territory I was the last because O'Connor said you know if you get killed I don't want the guys falling over your body. We hit we were out on one and there was really a dangerous track I guess to go through it was under almost constant under constant enemy observation and almost constant fire so I was the last. Well there was a shell hole there and bunch of frogs trapped on the bottom I thought hell we're getting killed but there's no reason for the frogs to have so I was down there catching the frogs see and turning them lose. And O'Connor went first he always did and the guys were going I was waiting my turn and I looked up and there was O'Connor there glaring down at me furious. I had forgotten to watch and they had all gotten across and they were waiting for me and I wasn't coming. He came back and saw me catching frogs.

Interviewer: That was probably wasn't too happy with you.

Dannenmaier: That was one of the two times he really was angry. The other time was when Renklemire went out with us and O'Connor had this return orders home in his pocket. And Renklemire was out and we were out in the valley and artillery fire started coming in and the lieutenant said run, he followed the textbook, run forward to the slop of the hill in front of you they won't. And we yelled no lieutenant that's not the Chinese shooting at us that's the Americans. If we get up on the slop of the hill we're dead meat. And then the other one the only other one I really remember we were taken on a fight patrol and after the fight the scouts got separated from the infantry somehow. We got lost and we worked out way back to where we thought we belonged we were going up a mountain I was tired. I had reached the point at one time I was ready to quit. I had reached the point where I thought I'm going to sit down here on the side and get some rest and then try and work my way back in the morning. And the guy behind me George pushed me out of the way and I was so damn mad I didn't think of shooting him I wanted to strangle him. And I literally ran trying to catch him and low and behold we were moving into safe territory. So we were about almost up the darn thing and a grenade went off and we yelled and there

was a tanker a tank there a guard tank. And they told us when we got up there a good thing you guys yelled we had you in the machine gun sights.

Interviewer: Yeah I remember reading that now.

Dannenmaier: But we were so thirsty and because we had and water was hard to come by for us. And we asked if we could get some water from them and they pulled out a five gallon can and we call took a drink and somebody must have said don't use up all their water one of the guys spoke up and said oh we can get all the water we want take all you want. We drank the damn thing dry.

Interviewer: Was how did things change for you after the battle at outpost Harry? Just generally speaking how did things change for you personally?

Dannenmaier: Not much the like I say the fun was gone it was business but the excitement was still there. And it's you know it's very exciting you're out there hunting somebody who's out there hunting you.

Interviewer: What were the casualties like from outpost Harry?

Dannenmaier: We lost the regiment our guess the survivors association figures we lost 2300 men.

Interviewer: Now was that from your regiment the 15<sup>th</sup>?

Dannenmaier: The 15<sup>th</sup>.

Interviewer: Okay they were 3<sup>rd</sup> infantry right?

Dannenmaier: Yeah 3<sup>rd</sup> infantry and now the rumor at the time was they were bringing up armatures cooks and stuff as far back as division. One of the guys I met told me that K Company was online the first night of the attack. And seven men walked off the hill from K Company and I met one of them later

Interviewer: Seven men form the entire company?

Dannenmaier: Yeah and there were three companies I don't know what happened to the other companies that were up there. They needed help the second one needed help too and the third one was sent up about five in the morning. And that was the first night of fighting.

Interviewer: Do you remember the date?

Dannenmaier: March 10<sup>th</sup> the shooting started at 10 o'clock at night and they were still going about 10 o'clock in the morning.

Interviewer: Was it artillery fire mass at first?

Dannenmaier: Mass artillery fire and mass attack. They figure we killed 7,000 Chinese. One of the guys said he had read about stacking bodies and fighting behind them. He never thought he would have to do it.

Interviewer: Was that did that prove to be a typical experience?

Dannenmaier: It was in the trenches knife to knife hand to hand fighting.

Interviewer: Right

Dannenmaier: Now not all the battle officially lasted eight nights I only remember five of them. I remember the five of the mass attacks.

Interviewer: Well you talk about it in the book where you were almost constantly through that time.

Dannenmaier: Oh yeah well see we were on patrol that morning. We had a daytime patrol that afternoon I guess. See if you went on patrol we worked at night and the morning you didn't do anything maybe test fire your weapons if you felt like it. And then you'd get your orders and you would prepare for the afternoon then you would slack off until dark and then you'd go out. And that time we went out in the afternoon and got back and the one thing I remember was I took off my boots that night to sleep and I remember thinking thank God.

Interviewer: Was that unusual to take off your boots?

Dannenmaier: Yeah and I remember that vividly because I woke up must have gone to bed about nine by ten o'clock the artillery came in. And worked all night stocking and but we were up all night and the fighting kept going into the morning and died off must have been close to noon about ten or so. Then O'Connor was ordered out and he and I and Barker were went out there was an abandoned bunker about 150 yards in front of the front line and about 100 yards off Harry west of Harry. And we went out there and we were advanced scouts for that area then we were up all night that night and

Interviewer: Did you have anything to report there?

Dannenmaier: Not much just O'Connor decided we couldn't see well enough so what he did he went up on top and Barker stayed at the \_\_\_\_ and O'Connor would call down to me and I would radio in what needed to be radioed. I got criticized for that the bastards they criticized I was criticized for broadcasting in the clear.

Interviewer: With no encryptions on your communications right?

Dannenmaier: Right now nobody read the rules you're not permitted code books on the front line much less they think somebodies going to carry codes books.

Interviewer: Well that's quite a process to encrypt too anyway right?

Dannenmaier: Yeah

Interviewer: I don't imagine you're going to be taking the time when you're under artillery fire trying to encrypt a message that's pretty obvious to anybody who would get it anyway.

Dannenmaier: But Barker and I were always in trouble we joked too much. They guys used to get mad at us for joking. And I blew it onetime because we had a boring stretch so I called back and I said hey we've

got a bunch of communist out in the open. There are communist probes they landed down there oh gee this didn't go over well back in headquarters. And we were on duty one time watching and a tank came out between a gap in the mountains and went through a clearing across the other side.

Interviewer: Chinese tank

Dannenmaier: Chinese tank see then another one comes after him and we counted and there were seven tanks out there. And I radioed back and I said the Chinese we've seven Chinese tanks spotted and they said Dannenmaier we're tired of your God damn joking. And never did convince them that there were seven tanks out there.

Interviewer: But you were as serious as you could be.

Dannenmaier: Right but yeah that's what happened the last time O'Connor got mad at us. He was out there with papers in his pocket and we were as close to the ground as you could get I mean really lousy work on the part of the artillery because they should have gotten us. They were using those Victor \_\_\_\_ artillery which explodes above ground on proximity fuse and drops down.

Interviewer: Sure anti-personnel stuff.

Dannenmaier: And the first one was off target and they fired the second one too fast and it was set off by the first one. And it was we could watch it walk back across the sky where it should have been hitting us before somebody with some sense said those are Americans out there. And so none of us got hurt but we were really flat and O'Connor was supposed to be going home so I yelled over at him said hey Stan how does it feel to be out with the boys for one last time. He yelled back someone's going to kill you one of these days for joking at the wrong time.

Interviewer: Well did form your observations did the American artillery save the men on outpost Harry?

Dannenmaier: Oh yeah

Interviewer: Could they have ever held outpost Harry without the artillery?

Dannenmaier: No they called in the artillery on themselves. American artillery came in right on top of outpost Harry. The one lieutenant I read an article or I guess he was a captain said he said he made a deal with an artillery that he had a line sent to them and he said look if at any time I get off this line drop the artillery on top of us because it means the Chinese are on top of us.

Interviewer: When you describe one thing in the book you were talking to somebody who was actually on outpost Harry and you heard a break in his transmission and what you were worried about him and what did he say?

Dannenmaier: Well he came back on and he said sorry for the interruption I had to kill a couple of guys.

Interviewer: So you remember where you were and maybe what you were doing when you heard word of the truce?

Dannenmaier: Oh yeah we were in the \_\_\_\_\_ on Cumshaw the Chinese smashed the capital of \_\_\_\_\_ and were headed south to the mountains. And as it so happened we were on our way into reserve on the road.

Interviewer: So you got stopped on the way.

Dannenmaier: Well I had already gotten back there and had unloaded all my shells to clean my magazines when we were sent back up. I later learned that I was reported missing in action during that time. The Colonel O'Connor, Barker and I down in he thought he was giving us a half day job and it took us three days to do it.

Interviewer: You were reported MIA?

Dannenmaier: Yeah right but only back to division thank God it never got home. But it we crossed country I don't know who we crossed. I mean we saw all kinds we didn't know if they were Chinese or Korean or what have you. They didn't bother us and we didn't bother them but it took us a long time to get through to find a functioning Korean fighting unit. And then jut to be on the safe side we parked our jeep in front of their command.

Interviewer: So they couldn't go away.

Dannenmaier: They couldn't go without.

Interviewer: Telling you

Dannenmaier: But when the truce time I was up front somewhere in there and I was in a spot where I could see the highway behind and so I wasn't I couldn't have been online at the time but I was on top of a mountain I know that. And all of us decided we'd just as soon not be the last casualty so we were in our holes. And the U.S. artillery stopped ten o'clock was the official time I think I could be wrong on that. But our artillery stopped early and you could hear the guns going off you know ending. And I think the Chinese were trying to use up all of their artillery before because they kept right up to the minute. Ten o'clock came and everything was quiet then all of a sudden down below some trucker turned on his lights and then somebody else did. Then all of a sudden you were aware that there was a whole bunch of traffic down there that you hadn't known was.

Interviewer: That you would have never known was there before.

Dannenmaier: Right

Interviewer: After the truce I imagine you went back into a Garretson routine.

Dannenmaier: No we stayed online.

Interviewer: Okay

Dannenmaier: And we were on the mountain that's when I met I don't know if he was lieutenant colonel then or major Eisenhower.

Interviewer: Really

Dannenmaier: But we were up once again on top of a mountain. There was an artillery observer with us and I never saw so many Chinese. God they had horses they had wagons we could watch them I always laid up there and wondered how many I could shoot before they got under cover. And we had a guy Hank Talbot and he was transferred to us after he tried to kill his sergeant. I don't think he really tried to kill him Hank was a good shot. I think he was just trying the sergeant didn't like him and put him out on a listening post three nights in a row.

Interviewer: By himself?

Dannenmaier: By himself well the listening post man usually went out by himself. And he the third night he came in and he emptied his rifle inside the sergeant's bunker and got transferred over.

Interviewer: That was a clear message.

Dannenmaier: Yeah he sent the message but he was a good man and I really liked him but he was a worker. And all of the rest of us we were tired we were really tired. And we were told to dig in and we had dug in so God damn much and what we did we just scooped shallow spots. Then we took our ponchos and spread them and put rocks on the edges and what you'd do you'd creep in backwards at night and you'd lay with your face facing out and your rifle facing out. And we were on salt rations not on sea rations. That's when I learned to like cheese and ham there's a little can of cheese and ham that's delicious. Then there were two things they called sausages and I still I wonder what they were still.

Interviewer: We call those the five fingers of death.

Dannenmaier: But anyway we but we were told to dig in and we measured off a twelve foot hole and Hank by himself had dug and I mean literally by himself had dug that thing about three feet down in the sand. And we saw some I think lieutenant colonel coming up the path we watched him and he got to the top of the path and as usual I was talking and Hank was digging. And this guy called men your sergeant is down below and your beer ration had caught up with you you've got nine cases of beer down there. And boy like a shot seven men jumped up and headed down see. And we I went on talking and Hank went on digging and he got close to us and he said I guess you men didn't hear what I said your sergeant's down there with your beer. And Hank spoke up he said I've been digging this God damn hole all by myself and if you think I'm going to go down that mountain and carry beer up for these sons of bitches to drink you're crazy. And that lieutenant colonel just walked past us didn't say a word we weren't his boys walked over to the other place another little bunker where the artillery spotter was and talked to him. And then he left and the artillery lieutenant came over and he said don't you know who that was? Lieutenant Colonel Eisenhower and Hank told him what he thought but I decided at that point that Eisenhower was one smart officer.

Interviewer: Just to turn and walk.

Dannenmaier: You know when a persons reached his limit and you don't interfere. But that artillery observer he gave us trouble he had red pajamas now why in God's name he would have red pajamas online. But he strung up a line and he would wash them and hang them on the line and that irritated us. And the night we got the beer he irritated us because we drank the beer that night and built a big bonfire with the boxes, that upset him. And he so we decided we needed helping getting down in that

hole. Hank had actually bent the end of the pick on the rock. So we called up the an tank and mine to blow out the hole for us see. And he came up in pajamas hanging and we sighted our grievances he said don't worry I'll take care of him. He came back and he said this is going to be one hell of a blast he said now I'm ordering that lieutenant off the mountain which is my right and he's going to have to walk down. And he said there's some old bunkers over on the side if you guys want to hang out he said don't stay around this. One hell of a blast there was a pine tree behind where we were digging blew that down blew the pajamas off the line I mean completely filled Hanks hole with loose he used a combination of the plastic explosive with dynamite. But you know what I want to do is now you've got military time I don't know combat time or not. And but I never knew how tense I was during that time until I was working on working on my doctorate at Washington University in St. Louis there's a there was kind of a faculty eating area that had bay windows. And I was at a table at a bay window and I had gone there for a late breakfast I was sitting there at the bay window I opened the newspaper and it said Kennedy has ordered troops into Vietnam. And boy all of a sudden all of the old tension came back.

Interviewer: It's kind of like a reminiscent feeling.

Dannenmaier: My whole body changed and I was back.

Interviewer: Well that was similar to how you got the news of the so called police action in Korea.

Dannenmaier: Well when I first heard about police action I didn't think anything about it nobody did police action is nothing important.

Interviewer: Right but after your experiences it was all of that came back.

Dannenmaier: But when you get the guys it's a necessary tension and the important it's not fear it's you just got to be alert and you've damn well got to be alert 24 hours a day. And with us it was seven days a week and I've had one guy call and criticize about the book. And he had been he was postman back in the rear in Korea he said you guys make it sound like we weren't doing our job. He said I'll have you to know there were sometimes I worked 12 hours a day and he said that I thought to myself you silly son of a bitch I worked 24 hours a day seven days a week.

Interviewer: Sure

Dannenmaier: And but no it that tension is there and you don't know it's there because you're so accustom to it. Life is so different I remember laughing onetime when I first got there one of the guys was going home and he said thank God I'll get home where they have real candle holders and I won't use an empty beer can to hold my candle. And we laughed and said oh they had electric lights. Well it wasn't four months later that I used to worry that something was going wrong with my nervous system because I fell down so much. You're carrying a rifle you're carrying a pack and a radio you're walking in the mountains at night. You think falling would be a normal state of affairs but I thought I never used to fall down when I walked around at home. And I must have worried for a week before I realized we had sidewalks. And we had oh we had sidewalks and we had streetlights and but it's now the British did an interesting study several years ago. They found that men in combat compared to their equals who had never seen combat died younger and came up with physical illnesses earlier than others. And I would like to try and get on a campaign I think that in the long haul we pay for those months of tension. And what I call silent moons of loss of hearing and everybody everybody's got some sort of organic weakness. I mean for one it's one thing a kidney for another it's a liver for someone else.



Interviewer: Well you went through several years of tension headaches too didn't you?

Dannenmaier: Oh I had the last of them when I was in my 40s.

Interviewer: Well after Korea though.

Dannenmaier: They started after I moved into reserve in Korea and I would have these I now know they were migraines. But not during the day but at night when I started when I laid down and started to relax. And they were nightly and they didn't they wore off slowly and you know I haven't had one in years now. But I was still having them when I was 40 years old.

Interviewer: Right well when did you arrive

Tape ended