

Interviewer: My name is Sarah Spencer and today is May 12, 2005. What is your name and your date of birth?

Gossett: Dennis Henry Gossett date of birth is 1933.

Interviewer: And where were you born?

Gossett: I was born in Chattanooga, Tennessee Hamilton County.

Interviewer: What did your father do what was his occupation?

Gossett: He was a brick layer brick and stone layer building chimneys and laying bricks and that's about all.

Interviewer: Were you enlisted into the service did you enlist or were you drafted into the service?

Gossett: I reenlisted in the service in 1948 I was down in Miami, Florida at the time.

Interviewer: What brought you to Miami?

Gossett: I was down there visiting my cousin at the time down there for about three months or so and decided to go into the service.

Interviewer: What made you want to go into the service?

Gossett: Really what made me want to go into the service I was running around and might have got running with the wrong group of kids and might have winded up in jail or something worse. I stayed along with them until I had to get ride of them so I decided the service was the best thing to go.

Interviewer: You went into the Army or the Navy?

Gossett: I went into the Army and wound up in Florida and they sent me to Fort Jackson South Carolina for basic training.

Interviewer: How long did your training last for?

Gossett: We had seven weeks of training on the eighth week we was on a train and they sent us down to New York Harbor. Then from there it took us seven days to go to Burma, Germany.

Interviewer: What was your training like?

Gossett: Huh

Interviewer: What was your training like what did you do as part of your training?

Gossett: What did I do as part of training? Well it was basic training we was studying how to put weapons together and the code of conduct and military laws and such to go through and learn tactics and such rifle range and maneuvers and stuff that was about all at that place. Just so happened we had

some down there what caused our basic training to be cut short the company in front of us hit a dud and killed about half of them. That was on Tank Hill in Fort Jackson South Carolina. So they cut our basic training short at that time we didn't get it all complete but we did have map courses and stuff like that. Whatever we could cram in our heads there was so much of it you couldn't I can't remember all of it.

Interviewer: What was your job in the military?

Gossett: In the military?

Interviewer: Well when you first entered what was your first job that you did?

Gossett: After I was in the service after I passed through basic training I went to Germany. I went as an infantry man Then I went to Bamberg, Germany in 1948 the first thing when we got over there we learned how to they give us classes on how to tie down stuff in airplanes the old flying box cars. They were still flying stuff over to Berlin at that time and we had the one that tied it down had to fly with the load. Then let's see I was a rifleman heavy weapon in a rifle platoon and it was you carry a 57 millimeter rifle sort of like light artillery bits that you fire up weighted about 44 pounds and you carry that around.

Interviewer: So what were you doing while you were in Germany after they trained you for the flying box cars?

Gossett: We trained all the time we was out in the fields walking up and down borders. Out in the field we was on maneuvers nine months out of the year we'd finally come back in for a few days and get our clothes clean, clean up and then we'd go right back. Then they had a big training area called Grafing and that's where we did a lot of our most of our training it was live fire training we was doing firing live ammunition up and down the hills over there. Then the Russians were doing the same thing on one side over there.

Interviewer: Did you guys feel like you might one day have to fight the Russians or what did you feel like you were training for?

Gossett: Well regular Army I mean we trained for anything, anything that happened anywhere. And it was just like we didn't carry live ammunition there when we was around in our own area up until time they knew something was going to go on at the time. And so they made us load up each vehicle with ammunition when we were going out every time on maneuvers. Everywhere you so you'd have a truck load of ammunition a load of ammunition set in front of us and we load it on the trucks wherever we go. And we were out there and had maneuvers that time like I said we were out there nine months out of a year over there. So the night the Korean War broke out we were out there on the line at the Rhine Rivers heard it on the radio. They said it started over a pushing somebody's brother a Korean pushed over one of the vehicles over there. So that's what the war got started about the way we understood it one of the vehicles

Interviewer: So when you found out that the Korean War had broken out did you guys want to go over there?

Gossett: Yeh every one of us the whole company wanted to go. Some of the guys had put in for it when we got back and so they put restrictions on what we could put in for. Anybody that had any bad conduct time or article 15s and stuff like that or wasn't no good they wouldn't let them go.

Interviewer: What company were you with?

Gossett: I was with the 1st infantry division 26th infantry division which was Company A at that time.

Interviewer: So how long did it take from the time the Korean War started until you guys actually got there, got to Korea?

Gossett: It was almost four months, three or four months. It wasn't all of us it was just one here and there you could leave the company and I was just one of the first ones. Then I come back and they shipped me through Seattle Washington Fort Walton they just got the ship up there. We got on I think the General Black at the time we had about 7,000 people on that ship. And it took us 30 days to get over there the ship broke down seven times going across.

Interviewer: Did you get seas sick at all?

Gossett: Huh

Interviewer: Did you get sea sick?

Gossett: No I went to Germany on one of them ships and I didn't get sick at all on that.

Interviewer: Now did anyone you were friends with from your unit in Germany get to go with you to Korea?

Gossett: Huh?

Interviewer: Did anyone that you were friends with in Germany

Gossett: No

Interviewer: No so you were basically by yourself you didn't really know anyone?

Gossett: When I went in, had to learn everybody all over again.

Interviewer: Were you excited to get to go to Korea?

Gossett: Well yes in a way I was young single and I was kicking up my heels all the time. No I wasn't doing that I was just getting tired of training all the time it was getting boring. And I think everybody else was feeling the same way cause of all the stuff going on at the end of the war there end of WWII. Our Company had quite a few people in the Second World War that was still with us in the Company the 1st division was all in there. They took us over there like I said it took us 30 days and we landed in Pusan, Pusan I think that's what it was. No Sasebo Japan

Interviewer: Oh you were in Japan?

Gossett: We stopped off at Sasebo and we got out weapons and ammunition and all that stuff and we stayed there about four days five days. And they put us back on the same ship and sent us on over to Korea at the time they had four submarines escorting us over when we went over there.

Interviewer: Now were you with a different unit now that you were going to Korea.

Gossett: When I was going to Korea they assigned me to the 40th division in infantry 223 Company G I was in that in the 40th division. Now the 40th division came from California National Guards they turned it in to regular Army when they come to Korea.

Interviewer: So you actually were gone with like a National Guard Unit?

Gossett: Huh?

Interviewer: So was your unit actually a National Guard Unit normally?

Gossett: No they turned it into regular Army at the time. It was a National Guard until they got over there. And I guess they still called it a 4th infantry division it was still a National Guard Unit until they started filling it up with regular GIs.

Interviewer: So did most of the men already know each other?

Gossett: Huh

Interviewer: Did most of the men in your unit already know each other?

Gossett: Yeh back there they were brothers and cousins and all of that I was the black sheep of the family at the time.

Interviewer: Did you feel sort of blocked out or did you get to know them quickly?

Gossett: Well it didn't bother me that bad when I got to knowing them it was just a squad until you got to knowing them pretty good. Boys throughout the company I didn't know them all.

Interviewer: Right

Gossett: Just the platoon and squad and then they went on out over there with them and they was coming out of Sasebo at the time I mean not Sasebo I'm sorry.

Interviewer: That's okay.

Gossett: They was coming out of Cumore Valley at the time coming back at the rest area and I we had there at the rest area where we got showers and cleaned up and everything. And they loaded us on trucks again and sent us up to that you call Punch Bowl up there it's on the other side of Lorchop Hill. And they called and Roy called an who we could leave up there on the line the outfit was already up there digging trenches and everything. They took us up and we went down into the valley when you started going down there you could smell all the gun powder and stuff it was a sort of deadly smell

actually that's what I felt like. Way down into the Punch Bowl around they was trying to hit us as we come down with mortars and stuff. We was lucky nobody got hit going down in there.

Interviewer: Now you had been training for so long when you actually got into combat did you feel like you were well prepared or did you feel like it was different than you had really imagined it to be?

Gossett: That's a question that's going to be hard to answer. The reason I say that at night is different from day over there. In other words at night you feel like a little ant the day breaks you feel like a giant. So I didn't realize it was going to be that way actually be scared actually in a ways and so.

Interviewer: Now why did you feel like an ant at night? What made you was it scary was there more unexpected surprises?

Gossett: Because they was so sneaky you couldn't figure them out they would get up on you before you knew it. In North Korea the Chinese and stuff they would get up there before you know it and you couldn't see anything for a while. In fact they used to get up there sneak up early and sneak into the trenches up there and they got a few of them down below us there dug them trenches they had gloves with razor blades in the ends of them. Snuck in there and just tore them all up with razor blades in their gloves. We had barbed wire fences down there and we had different things and how they got through it we don't know.

Interviewer: So once you got into the Punch Bowl what did you do from there?

Gossett: We stayed up there on the line all through there we was actually the only outfit across the 38th Parallel at the time. And we got mounted up there quite often we stayed up there 77 days without a break.

Interviewer: So what month did you actually step foot in Korea do you remember?

Gossett: No I don't know exactly the month.

Interviewer: Was it spring or fall, summer?

Gossett: It was getting I'd say around November or something.

Interviewer: Okay so November of 50?

Gossett: Yeh somewhere in there. And like I say on days I can't remember nothing. But I completely know that cause I walked straight out on the line when we got there. And we stayed up there for 77 days without a break taking care of a 57 millimeter up there riffle and we also had a 50 caliber in my little bunker all fixed up and I had a switch board up there fixed up because they had mate bombs set all long the fence down there. And all had to do was turn around and make my little switch board set them off if it got too bad double as a barbed wire fence down there.

Interviewer: So while you would stay on the line where would you sleep?

Gossett: We tried to sleep we had a little bunker made up under the dirt. And logs and stuff we tried sand bags when we could get them.

Interviewer: What did you eat c-rations or?

Gossett: C-rations called c-rations and water when we could get it. They give us rationious beer up there cause the water was frozen you couldn't keep it beer wouldn't freeze as fast as water. It was cold up there and they gave us some little charcoal once in a while you know charcoal won't put out much smoke and heat c-rations on them other wise you'd eat cold rations.

Interviewer: So were you guys just basically holding the line basically you were staying in one spot?

Gossett: Yeh we couldn't go forward on the count of we were already across the 38th parallel at that port up there. But they was you could hear them all over the line going up and they sent out patrols every night out in the field sometimes we'd capture them and we'd send them over there in a hole somewhere on their side stick them up on a pole set down in a hole themselves jab him and make him holler all the time. Slow torture you'd hear them all over the valley everything that goes on in the valley. But we still had lights we had big bright lights back in the rear shining up on the clouds if its cloudy they would shine the lights on the cloud and the cloud would light up the valley down there for us and that would help a lot. An then there every so often every night or so you would hear them buglers going and what they do is attack in one end of the line up there somewhere. What they do is send sometimes they send pregnant women, small kids and old men in first wave after they dope them up. The first wave they would dope up heavy and the second wave they would dope and the third wave comes through is not doped up that's the hard core and that's when they'd make most of their attacks over there.

Interviewer: Was there ever a time when they broke through your line?

Gossett: No the only time they broke through our line was right after we pulled off they got up pretty close to us. We had a lot of fighting going on between down in the valley and stuff and getting up in the trenches and stuff like that. And the only time that they come on our lines was we just got relieved and we just got back down the hill back there to rest and they come up and over flowed took over our position the people that relieved us they took over their positions. They took off they couldn't stand it and like the 50 caliber I had only turned the 50 caliber in firing but our own 50 caliber our own people bet them. So we was lucky I don't know how many people got wounded on that one but they finally got back up and retook over again.

Interviewer: So after you guys you said you held the line for about 77 days what did you do after that?

Gossett: After 77 days we come back off the line got good chow and cleaned up good showers. Then they sent us I don't remember the name of the town sent two of us up there to guard toxin and minds at that time on there south of the line keep people from getting a hold of them they was running cable cars getting toxins out of there. Then they kept messing around I wounded up we was supposed to rotate home on 36 points I had 77 points they wouldn't let me stay any longer.

Interviewer: So when did you go home do you remember?

Gossett: It was 66 when I got back. I come in 66 out there in California then they sent me down here to Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

Interviewer: So when did you actually leave Korea?

Gossett: Huh

Interviewer: When did you actually leave Korea?

Gossett: Well it had to be December I think December I left there because it was cold.

Interviewer: So how long had you actually been in Korea?

Gossett: I'd been in Korea for a year.

Interviewer: For a year okay.

Gossett: And the ground over there was you couldn't dig a hole it was frozen so bad.

Interviewer: Now when you were in Korea did you have any friends or were you yourself ever wounded in combat?

Gossett: Oh I got a piece of shrap metal in my foot that's about all.

Interviewer: Did you what was the medical care like?

Gossett: Huh

Interviewer: What was the medical treatment like?

Gossett: well we had one platoon medic out there so they fixed it all if it was real bad they finally got you off and back. I couldn't tell you how it went after that the people that get killed out there on patrols and stuff when they come back in they was frozen I mean that's how cold it was. Bring them back on stretchers I mean they were stiff as a board.

Interviewer: Now how did you get the shrap metal in your foot what was going on?

Gossett: Well about 1000 of rounds of mortar come in on top of us it was Christmas time over there around December at that time just a lot of them all of them down the line like that. Now another thing I was going back I'll tell you you feel like an ant at night and a giant during the day time well number one the lights was shinning on the sky. You couldn't see anybody to know where they was at but the day time you could see. But every so often we would have what they call a mad mad minute actually a mad ten minutes. Everybody on the front line with everything they've got plus the log tongs way back in the back everybody would open up for ten minutes all at one time. They'd clear out anything down there would be gone. Then see most of them they lived under ground they had one mountain over there in fact they even had their hospital down under ground over there the North Koreans they lived underground. You didn't hardly ever see them they tunneled everywhere they go and when they get

ready for them they'd all get together. And like I say again they come up on the line their so sneaky they come up on our barbed wire fence go away from the fence and get candy bars over there you couldn't see them do it you wouldn't know it until the next morning that's how sneaky they were even with the lights up.

Interviewer: Right

Gossett: Had one guy I was out there and they had a lot of minds and no one knew where they was at out there so I was clearing out a place where minds cleared mind field out. We using bacillary torpedoes and they come in about six foot sections got down slide them together and put them down, down there where we thought they was before I got back up the line they had already got in there and cut the cord on them. You couldn't ever know where they was at you've got everybody watching everybody

Interviewer: And they still

Gossett: And that's the reason a lot of them get scared at night. In the day they could see at least what was going on. So actually for myself I really didn't mind it like I said I was young I wasn't married I didn't have nothing but myself to worry about.

Interviewer: Now what rank were you while you were in Korea?

Gossett: Oh in Korea I was only a PFC at that time.

Interviewer: Were you how did you feel about you NCOs did you have a good Sargent did you feel like you could trust him?

Gossett: Yeh when we seen him we didn't see him that often.

Interviewer: Oh really

Gossett: They come around onced in awhile your platoon leader they were scared some were scared to get out in the hole walk the trenches to see especially at night if you come up a trench at night and didn't anybody know they was coming they'd get shot.

Interviewer: So did you spend most of the time in one little bunker with one other guy or by yourself?

Gossett: Yeh one at a time, try to get a good night a half way decent sleep we had a couple of bunks made out of cotton over there.

Interviewer: So did you become pretty close to the guys that were in your bunker with you?

Gossett: Oh yeh

Interviewer: How many guys were with you?

Gossett: There were four of us all together.

Interviewer: Okay

Gossett: And we were always scared whoever comes in that door always had to say something because if you stuck your head in that door without saying anything you'd get your head blown off.

Interviewer: How big of an area was your bunker when you were inside of it?

Gossett: Well I think it was about 8 foot by 9. We didn't have we had to be out on the line all of the time somebody we couldn't all get in there at one time. We couldn't leave the line our position where we was at cause they was always trying to knock our position out because I had a 50 caliber up there and I had a flat jacket. You could hear when the rounds go off when they fire their 76s over there you can hear them when they fire them. You'd hear them all the way to the target I'd sit down and duck down because I knew about where they were going to hit. I used to ripe up my flap jacket a lot just tare the material off of that strap metal coming through the window.

Interviewer: But the flap jacket worked?

Gossett: Oh yeh they worked. Onetime I was coming around the corner there we got a new lieutenant there and they told him not to go out and move around let somebody know where he was at. He got shot three times in the chest by a carbine and all it done was knocked him down and got back up so they do work. But it's just like up there I asked we had one guy you get playing with them sometimes when its quiet every morning I used to try and tare down the machine gun clean them up and do some stuff. And this one guy North Korean way back over there around the hill he did fire at me but he would get four feet in front of me four feet down was as far as he go. For awhile I was scared until I found out he couldn't come any hire and I was firing back at him and I guess I was doing the same thing to him. So at night time I filled half the gun with tracers up and that's the ones with fire a stream of fire going and so every morning so after I had done that a couple of times he done it. And every morning you'd see two streams of fire going back and forth we put the weapons down. Little stuff like that kindly get you wakened up a little bit like I said in the morning you could see what was going on we were doing it at the same time.

Interviewer: Did you ever have any free time while you were there?

Gossett: No.

Interviewer: No

Gossett: No you had I'll say that once they gave me time to get down the hill and get a shower and get back up get us a change of clothes very seldom did we do that.

Interviewer: Did you receive any letters from your family or friends? Did you write anybody while you were there?

Gossett: Oh yeh I wrote my mother and when they was going over there they shipped me so fast going to Germany going through there they lost my duffle bag with all of my clothes in it. So when I got to Fort Dalton they had to issue me all new clothing. Here I'm sitting on the front line up there and here they bring my duffle bag up to me to night up there. What good was a duffle bag with clothes in it?

Interviewer: Now you've got two sets of clothes right?

Gossett: We didn't have that many we didn't many clothes the only clothes up there was what was on your back a couple of pairs of socks you carried under your arms to keep them dried out and warm. You'd take like I say you take the weather over there the ground was so frozen it was pitiful. When I came off of the line they put us up in tent back there we had 55 barrel drums of diesel there over there make a little heater furnish our heater. It was frozen solid the diesel was that's how cold it was. Take a 2 pound block of TNT you'd blow a hole in the ground about like that without having to dig you could pick it out in the middle with a pick.

Interviewer: Did they give you special winter suits to wear or how did they keep you warm?

Gossett: Oh yeh winter clothes I wore we always carried parkas with us parkas winter and summer too they give us just to have peek us going that's the only clothes that we had. As far as the other stuff you could see the snow a mile away. I used to say with the Koreans coming up to you on these nights you'd smell them before you'd see them. They like a lot of garlic and stuff eat a lot of that. Now this is just in my case now there's a lot of case where people didn't like it at all some of them they come up there and threw hand grenades in the trenches up there and hit a few of them once in a while. We had an old maid down there pulling them out of their rear end pulling shrap metal out of their rear end they'd holler so bad. And like I say the dead men comes up somebody's killed our there he was frozen stiff before got out. But they lived on dope most of the time one guy said he knows he hit that one guy at least 50 times and he kept coming he was doped out so bad. It was that way down the line the ammunition you put in them they would just keep coming.

Interviewer: Now when you were guarding the Tungsten Mine that was what you did after you held the line what was that like did you have to just stay outside were you under attack?

Gossett: Well we was up on a big hill it took us two hours to climb up there on the point I was at and you was up there all day by yourself.

Interviewer: Oh by yourself?

Gossett: Yeh the next day they say trade you over one at night one in the day and night. So you could get some sleep but they were trying to sneak in there and get them blow them up. It took me two hours to climb the mountain.

Interviewer: How long did you for like for how many months did you guys have to guard that mine?

Gossett: Well we was I guess it was about three months on that guarding that.

Interviewer: Was that a little bit safer place to be than on the front line?

Gossett: No I don't know the front lines up there because you were up there by yourself and you don't know whose coming.

Interviewer: Now they wouldn't even send another person up to stand with you?

Gossett: No he didn't come up he'd come up in the morning time and late in the evening and I'd go back down. You'd go up you'd take a case of c-rations with you and that's where you stayed. Pretty lonesome up there.

Interviewer: Now after you guarded the mine what did you do after that?

Gossett: Well after I got that I just moved back to an old compound and just stayed there. This is all in a platoon now so we are not with a company the company is 50 miles on down the road. This little place there guarding it I can't think of this little village and we had a what we call a been check Charlie come by every night he'd come by and throw dynamite down. Come by in a putt putt plane you could hear the ole thing way off and he'd come by and drop them on the road hoping to get somebody. He never did he'd do it every night about midnight and that was about the funniest thing to see. Even had it on something like Mash, Mash had one time something on similar to that betting on where he was going to hit at next.

Interviewer: So when you guys were done guarding the mine where did they put your platoon after that?

Gossett: They took us back down to a compound at Pusan I think it was right out side of there. We stayed there a little while then they shipped me home sent me home.

Interviewer: Now how did you did you feel like while you were there that you had any idea of what the big picture was about what was going on about how what you were doing fit into the larger whole?

Gossett: Yeh this there and that just like you it was just like a line if you break that line people can get through. We knew that that's the reason everybody had to stay close together. And the rest of them all around there we knew we could go we couldn't go no further. Then when Patton took over was it Patton that went all the way through and they throwed him out of the Army for not listening basically?

Interviewer: MacArthur

Gossett: MacArthur throwed him out because he went all the way through he wanted to go all the way through and get it over with. He went all the way through and they throwed him out.

Interviewer: Now did you guys know that was going on the struggle between Truman and MacArthur?

Gossett: Yeh we got the Army Times over there the Stars and Stripes was what we called it the Army paper. The Stars and Stripes they'd get it out to us ever so often let us know what was going on all over.

Interviewer: Now how did you feel about what MacArthur was trying to do?

Gossett: Everybody wanted to go right ahead with it.

Interviewer: Did you?

Gossett: Because if we finished it up faster it wouldn't be like it is right now. The people back the Korean people of course we had some Korean soldiers with us they brought some of them up and mixed them

in with us when we was on the line. They was trying to train them to take care of their own country. We stayed down there well actually we was still training them after we giving them classes and stuff and before I came home.

Interviewer: What were the Korean soldiers like the ones that you were training? Did they seem to catch on quickly were they excited?

Gossett: They was anxious to do it because they'd rather do that than be out in the rice fields. Just like Vietnam the people were out over in Vietnam there people didn't know what money was they just dealt in rice all the time. That's I don't know they was all glad to see us over there though all glad to get it over with. We lost guys pulled out we didn't actually lose we won.

Interviewer: In Korea?

Gossett: Huh

Interviewer: Are you talking about Korea?

Gossett: Yeh everybody was happy to get out of there.

Interviewer: So did they send you back to Germany after you were done in Korea?

Gossett: No when I left there I come back to the states and they sent me to Seattle Washington up there and all the way back to Georgia down here Fort Gordon Georgia. First they sent me to over to Fort Benning then they kept me there a couple of days then they sent me to Fort Gordon to learn they were going to send me to MP school I guess at that time.

Interviewer: Were you excited to leave Korea or did you feel kind of sad to leave all of your you know?

Gossett: Huh

Interviewer: Were you sad to leave Korea did you want to stay or did you want to leave?

Gossett: I sort of wanted to leave I mean stay over there. Like I said it wasn't nobody but me and sometimes I enjoyed myself over there after I got used to it what was going on you know it takes a while to get it but you never know when a bullets going to come in and get you either.

Interviewer: Right.

Gossett: So I know one time over there its hard to say it but they got up there the battalion called me down and showed me what they couldnt get to a North Korean over there got a machine gun trying to blow them down and they couldnt get to him. They asked me could I take him out with a 57 so I went up there with the 57 on top because I knew I could only get one or two rounds off that because the back blast you could see where its coming from. On the first round I got him didn't have no problems with him but I just got out of there just in time because in a few seconds they laid mortar right in on top of where I was at. If I hadn't of got out of there? So its hard to explain you know everybody's different you've got different views an everything I guess I was crazy but I enjoyed it sometimes. In fact I enjoyed

the whole Army of Korea actually I sort of hated to get out of there. But they said I had too many points so I couldn't stay so they sent me back out. That's how I wound up at Fort Campbell they sent me up there to go to MP school.

Interviewer: Did you want to be an MP or did they need MPs? How did you end up in MP school?

Gossett: They just they needed me they needed MPs. I didn't go to school I just went up there and first thing I know I stayed up there about a month all we done was get up eat go to town. They never did send me to school but they sent me after that they sent me to Fort Alton not Fort Alton but Fort well I can't even think of names any more. Anyway the Pentagon I'll say that, that was right across the street. And they called me in there I stayed up there about two weeks and they called me over to the Pentagon and I had to fill out papers duty papers and all of this stuff a lot of crap. Then they sent me out to what they called radio receiving station down in Plato Maryland and it was confident and everything come in from all over the world out there then we would ship it to the White House or the Pentagon. I stayed there for about 18 months it was pretty quiet I was gate guard, fire chief you name it there wasn't but 35 out there at the station.

Interviewer: Now after being in a combat zone like Korea where your under a lot of pressure then you go to something that's you know a little more dull did you feel bored with it or were you content to be safe?

Gossett: It was in between actually sometimes you would and sometimes you wouldn't it was just in between. Cause see everyday we had to make a trip to the Pentagon to take messages up there too and there just wasn't nothing to do that's the main thing just bored. Had one great big building out there where I was at they had two buildings on post one was our barracks and our mess hall like I said wasn't but 35 of us there. You couldn't even carry a piece of paper out of that one building that's how top secret that was. So I got so fed up with it I volunteered to go to Germany.

Interviewer: Was Germany a lot different the second time you went from what it had been like in 48?

Gossett: Oh yeh you could see the difference in the people in the dressing.

Interviewer: What year did you return?

Gossett: Huh

Interviewer: What year did you return to Germany?

Gossett: I don't know that.

Interviewer: The mid 50s late 50s maybe?

Gossett: Yeh it was in the 50s.

Interviewer: So maybe about 10 years?

Gossett: I think about maybe 51, 52 about that. And I stayed over there then at time to come home they asked well where do you want to go name three places where you want to go. And I says well I put in for the third Army area first Army area and the sixth Army they didn't give me neither one they sent me to the Panama Canal that time. Then back to Panama I put in to go to Vietnam.

Interviewer: Oh you actually wanted to go to Vietnam?

Gossett: Yeh I went into Vietnam I put in for Vietnam over there.

Interviewer: Now were you infantry or were you an MP in Vietnam?

Gossett: I was a security officer over there we had a lot of top secret places we had to guard and stuff the same thing as an MP the first time I went over there.

Interviewer: Now were you in a where in Vietnam did they send you the first time?

Gossett: I stayed in Saigon most of the time all around out Tonsiley out in them places where the scarier places were. Then they sent me home from Nam then I'll tell you flight that's the funny part I was getting ready to come home at least to Fort Camp B actually and that night they mortared us mortared all through that area and so the next morning got the Stars and Stripes they had me listed as dead.

Interviewer: Really

Gossett: I ain't kidding you. I guess because they had listed all that were supposed to be in there.

Interviewer: Oh where were you when it was word?

Gossett: I was there in a tent close by where it hit it hit right in front of the tent. There were quite a few mortars around blew up one of the fuel tanks over there on Tonsiley air base over there. A medical unit over there got hit pretty good. So then we made it through that got on a plane and come home. The second time I went over there well I come back to the states and I wound up here at Fort Campbell Kentucky as a drill Sargent and they just started drill (tape ended).