



“I was drafted in ‘51, and went to Camp Chaffee Arkansas for 14 weeks. I went through Infantry Basic, was put on an airplane, and went to Korea. That was pretty hasty, from being a kid running around doing nothing, to ending up in Korea on the front line in a matter of about three weeks. I spent 105 days on the front line in one stretch. Our regimental command, the marines had been up there and spent 100 days, so we had to go up there and spend 105 to beat their record. That was a long stinkin’ time up there. I remember, we got one change of clothes in that 105 days.”

KEN BARTMAN, U.S. Army 1951- 1952

Korean War Era



“I got hurt in a massive jump. Somebody got on top of my chute and I didn’t know it until he was clear down on my chute folding me up. I knew I was falling fast, but there’s so many chutes. I could have went down on his risers if I’d have just checked my folds. But I didn’t do it. After I missed his risers, then I looked up and saw what the deal was. Man, I’m going down by the treetops. My reserve, that’s out. The only good thing you can think about is make a good parachute landing fall. I did all right until my butt hit, and I busted my back. It split my vertebrae.”

LEROY SPARKE, U.S. Army 1951-1953



“I went into the Navy. Four years in the Navy and I was never on board ship...I was in Communications. We were checking the Russian’s radio. We were spying on their communications, which they were doing to us at the same time. They didn’t tell us anything they’d find; it was all in Russian. But they trained a bunch of people, and my brother was one of them that they trained. They could type the Russian signal, whatever it was. I remember that the typewriters had Russian characters on them. After they typed them, they were sent someplace and deciphered. I don’t know if we ever found out any good information or not, but I’ll tell you, we sure had a lot of antennas all over that island. We never missed a message, I don’t think.”

JACK KERSTING, U.S. Navy 1951-1953



“A bunch of them were going into the service. They went to Dodge City to get their paperwork, and I went over there with them. I hadn’t planned on joining nothing. I sat down next to the air force recruiter, and the next thing I knew, I was signed up! And off I went! I had to go take that test, electronics was my high score. The only thing I knew was how to turn a radio on and how to turn it off, and to plug a light in. When we went to Denver, I was a radar technician.”

ELWOOD AGNEW, U.S. AIR FORCE 195 - 195

“Right after the Korean War, I went down to Greensburg and put my name at the top of the list. It took 20 some days, and I was in as a tank mechanic. I was stationed in Germany, and on weekends you’d get a three or four day pass and you’d go all over. Two of us went to see a lot of it. We took a two week deal, and we just went where we wanted to go. It was cheap. I was to the Berlin Wall. Then I went to Switzerland, Paris, France, England, Holland. I was in Austria and Belgium.”

ROBERT KALLAUS, U. S. Army 195 - 195



“I signed up for automotive mechanic. And they sent me to cooks’ school....I never could figure that....I ran a good mess hall. The floor was clean.... I can remember we had an inspection one day and of course they come in and just looked at ours ‘cause it was clean. Then they went next door.... I never seen guys get chewed out so bad. Their floor was as black as the ace of spades....The trouble of it was we cooked on cook stoves...and you’d get it lit, and you’d want to be real careful with the coals so you wouldn’t drop any coal or anything. If it hit that cement it would splatter and if you walked on it, it would make a black mark. But our pots and pans, of course we were real strict about that, if they were greasy when they washed it, it was washed again. Some of those guys just couldn’t get that through their heads. So they had to go over it again. Some of them had to stay all night and get it right.”

BILL OLSEN U.S. Army 1951-1953