

The Herd (173d) History Project

Hello and welcome to the Herd History Project, a project preserving the war-time experiences and military history of 173d Airborne personnel. I'm Paul Reed and today we'll be interviewing Mr. _____ who has agreed to an oral history interview for The Herd History Project. Today's date is _____ 2015 at [_____ hours]. Sir, before we talk about your experiences in Vietnam, Iraq or Afghanistan with the 173d Airborne, I'd like to get your permission to record this interview and place it with your voice on the 173d.com web site? Do I have that permission, sir?

Now for a little biographical information about yourself.

Sir, please tell me:

- 1) when you were born,
- 2) your age when you went to the military,
- 3) your age now,
- 4) your hometown when you went in the army,
- 5) your rank and unit, i.e., 2/503d, etc. etc, and
- 6) the dates "from and to" that you were with the 173d.

BEFORE THE MILITARY

- Who was in your family?
- Where did you live at that time?
- What did you know about the war before you decided to go into the military?
- Were you officer or enlisted?
- If enlisted, were you drafted or did you volunteer?
- If officer, did you command any units, companies, battalions?
- If drafted, what were your thoughts about the drafting process?
- Did your thoughts about getting drafted change after entering the service?
- If you volunteered, why did you do that?
- If you were an officer, what was your source of commissioning?

ARRIVAL IN VIETNAM, IRAQ or AFGHANISTAN

- What training did you receive before going to Vietnam, Iraq or Afghanistan?
- Were there any sights, sounds or smells that come to mind?
- What were your initial duties?
- Earlier you gave your age when you went to the military but how old were you when you went to Vietnam, Iraq or Afghanistan?
- What were your impressions of the Vietnamese (Iraqi, Afghan) people at first, and then at the end of your tour?

WARTIME SERVICE

- Did you initially train with the 173d in Okinawa?
- You knew you were going to Vietnam, yes, no?
- If you were a replacement, when did you first find out you'd be going to Vietnam, Iraq or Afghanistan?
- Did you train with the 173d in Italy?
- What had you heard about the 173d Airborne before you got assigned to them?
- What was your MOS?
- What were your daily duties?
- Did you get mail from home?
- Did you write home?
- What was the food like?
- What were your living conditions like?

EXPERIENCE OF WAR

- Were you a Squad Leader, Platoon Sergeant or First Sergeant?
- Earlier you mentioned your unit. If you remember, could you describe for me some of the operations you were in?
- Did you have a worst day with the 173d Airborne, if so, what was that like?
- Does a day with the 173d come to mind?
- Did you make any friends?
- Did you lose any friends?

COMING HOME

- When did you DEROS?
- What reception did you get from family and friends?
- How was your readjustment to civilian life after coming home?
- How did Vietnam affect your life after coming home?
- How did your war time experience affect what you think about returning combat veterans today?
- What lessons did you take away from war that you would like to pass on to future generations?
- What did the war you fought in mean to you and your generation?
- How much contact have you had with fellow 173d Airborne paratroopers in your unit?
- In the end, if you had it to do all over, would you do it again?

