Interview with Carl Greenwood

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Interviewer: Mark DePue

DePue: Today is Wednesday, July 11, 2007. My name is Mark DePue. I'm the Director of Oral History at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library. Today I have the honor to talk with Carl Greenwood, who is a Korean War veteran Marine, and from what I can tell, Carl, a Marine through and through. What I would like to start with is, just very briefly, if you can give me where you born and when you were born.

Greenwood: Havana, Illinois, on 27 June, 1931. Done a little fishing for a living down there when I was a kid.

DePue: What did your father do?

Greenwood: He done a little fishing too, sometimes legally, sometimes not.

DePue: You were born in hard times.

Greenwood: During the Depression, yeah.

DePue: And you grew up in hard times. So your father was a—would we call him a professional fisherman?

Greenwood: That's about all we did.

DePue: A commercial fisherman, I guess.

Greenwood: Well, semi-commercial. We only had a couple of flatboats, and in the winter we would take hunters out from Chicago that came down, and for fifty cents a day, we would row them out in the lake and post them in a blind. That was pretty good wages right then, fifty cents a day. If you could get a couple of customers,

that's a dollar a day, and that's probably the normal for a laborer back in those days. A dollar a day was not bad wages.

DePue: I take it that your mom didn't have a job.

Greenwood: Nope.

DePue: She was raising the family? Did she have a garden that she took care of as well?

Greenwood: Well, we tried to. She also chopped wood. And we didn't have an indoor pump. The pump was outside. We had to get water to prime the pump outside and bring the water inside.

DePue: It strikes me that this is a tough way to grow up, but perfect training for the military, isn't it?

Greenwood: Marine Corps Boot Camp was not all that hard.

DePue: (laughter) You learned how to shoot at an early age?

Greenwood: Yeah. Had my first rifle when I was three years old. I was not big enough to hold it up, so my dad let me rest it on a sawbuck. That's a little crisscross stabilization thing that you put a block of wood on or a log on so you can cut it with a saw.

DePue: Was this a .22?

Greenwood: .22 Hamilton. A little single shot .22 rifle. About ten steps away, he'd put up a quart tomato juice can and –I learned early on –he'd say, "Look through the back sight until you find the front sight", and then where you got the front sight, "I would say, "Right on that tomato." And he'd say, "Don't move, and squeeze that trigger."

DePue: I suspect that the salary he was earning, that you didn't waste ammunition.

Greenwood: No. Even though ammunition for a .22 long rifle was seventeen cents a box or two boxes for a quarter back then, you didn't waste any of it.

DePue: Did you have an interest in the military at an early age?

Greenwood: Yes, I did. My dad was in the Marine Corps, and he talked about it a lot. He was at Belleau Wood, Soissons and Chateau Thierry in World War One.He was a sniper.

DePue: So he was a Marine?

Greenwood: He was a Marine, and he was an excellent marksman. He did some things with a rifle that most people had never heard of and never did. He mentioned one time that over a four-day period he fired three hundred rounds out of a sniping rifle.

By today's standards, that doesn't sound like much, but a single shot out of a sniping rifle, three hundred rounds is a lot, considering the fact that most times that you squeezed that trigger, something happened. Now, you don't always have to shoot at an individual. You know, if you put an armor piercing round through an engine block, well, that disables that vehicle. So three hundred rounds from a sniping rifle is considerable.

DePue: I'm trying to recall, was that the First Marine Division or Second?

Greenwood: In World War I?

DePue: Yeah.

Greenwood: That would be the Fourth Brigade, Second Division, American Expeditionary Force, France.

DePue: Okay. I know the Marines saw some of the earliest action in World War I

Greenwood: Well, I'm in the process of reading a book right now called *Belleau Wood;* I just got it. And there was a vast amount of confusion as to what to do with the Marines because they'd never heard of them and didn't know what to do with them. They were under French Command; they shuffled them back and forth, and every time they'd get to where they thought they were going to get into the fight, they'd move them somewhere else. So finally, whenever they did get into position to fight, the Germans had overwhelmed the French Army. The French Army was in great retreat, and the French, as they ran by the Marines, said, "Get out of here, retreat, that's the only thing to do." The Marines come up with the first quote of retreat: "Retreat! Hell, we just got here." And that's that same battle that when Master Gunnery Sergeant Dan Daly got his second Medal of Honor, when he rallied the Marines at Belleau Wood with his famous quote, "Come on you SOBs, do you want to live forever? Follow me."

DePue: Your comments remind me, being a little bit of a student of the Marine Corps history, that they didn't have that reputation before this. This is really where they started to build a reputation.

Greenwood: Really. M and many administrations had tried to disband the Marine Corps and just put them with the Army because they really didn't know what to do with them. They were trained different and they stressed marksmanship a lot more with the Marines, whereas the Army taught mass firing. If you keep on firing, you're bound to solve the problem if you fire enough, whereas the Marines were taught extensive, more skilled training to make each shot count. And the training is entirely different. It's not all that different today. The Marines have got an extra two weeks in recruit training on rifle alone.

DePue: Did your dad ever consider making the Marines a career?

Greenwood: No, he didn't. When his hitch was up, he got out and he became a coalminer, and that didn't work—

DePue: In the Havana area?

Greenwood: Loami, I believe. Loami, Waverly, in that area. Then he decided he could make a better living fishing. There was an episode in a mine where the fuse was cut a little bit too short and he was almost left down in the mine. He said, "I don't need no more of this," so his mining days were cut short. But he went on to do what we described earlier, fishing and hunting. That's what he loved to do most: being outdoors.

DePue: You also were a very young teenager during the Second World War. Did you follow that war closely?

Greenwood: Yeah, very closely, because my dad was a Marine and I thought that I wanted to be a Marine. I made a little mistake in high school. I was a sophomore, tenth grade, and I tried to—or was it freshman? I don't know, freshman at the time –I was fourteen years old, anyway, I remember that. I went down to join the Marines. And the Marine recruiter promptly told me to go home and grow up a little bit.

DePue: (laughter) Not what you wanted to hear.

Greenwood: No, that was the wrong answer. I went to the Illinois Reserve Militia, who were not asking any questions. I couldn't have weighed much over one hundred pounds, and I signed up in the Illinois Reserve Militia in the last couple of months of World War II, and shortly after that, World War II ended. I always kiddingly said that, well, when Hirohito found out that I'd signed up, that he threw in the towel. But of course we dropped the A bomb on Hiroshima, and that probably had something to do with it, too.

DePue: It should be noted that, of course, the Illinois National Guard was called up in 1940. This is not the National Guard you joined, this was—

Greenwood: No, the Illinois Reserve Militia.

DePue: So there's no pay involved in this?

Greenwood: Yeah, I think we got paid. We got uniforms. We were paid, oh, it wasn't much. I think twenty bucks a month or something.

DePue: They trained you themselves?

Greenwood: Yes. We trained inside in the armory; they had an indoor parking lot that had dirt in it, and we trained in there. Also we went two weeks to Wisconsin for summer training. But right after World War II, the Illinois Reserve Militia was disbanded. They said, "If you want to stay in this building, or stay in the

military here, you have to transfer to the National Guard," which I did. Now, when I was in the Militia, it was an Infantry Battalion, and in the National Guard, it was a Medical Battalion, of all things!

DePue: Was this in Havana?

Greenwood: No, this was in Chicago.

DePue: Were you driving up to Chicago, then?

Greenwood: No, in between that, when I was nine years old, my dad decided that fishing and hunting wasn't enough salary, and he moved to Chicago. My parents were divorced. We tried to follow to see what was going on, and I ended up going to school in Chicago. Now, you talk about a transition from Havana, Illinois, where if two cars went by my house in a week, something was up. And in Chicago where, you know, the traffic, it was pretty hard to adapt.

DePue: Yeah. Well, of course the employment opportunities during the war were completely different as well. What did your dad do during the war?

Greenwood: Well, he managed a bowling alley at that time, when he went to Chicago.

DePue: Wow. Okay.

Greenwood: And by managing it, he also was the janitor and he kept the alleys clean and stuff like that. I learned to bowl at an early age. I didn't get to see him much, and then my mother was raising me. I decided that as soon as I got old enough, I was going to get out of Dodge, and that's what I did,.

DePue: She was up in Chicago area as well?

Greenwood: She was in Chicago. She supported my younger sister and I.

DePue: Okay, so you went from the Illinois Reserve Militia to the Illinois National Guard, but you didn't stay there very long, did you?

Greenwood: No, no, from there, when I finally got old enough, I signed up in the Marine Corps. They took me, although I was a bit underweight. I only missed two questions on the test, and the recruiter said, "Go ahead and ship him, he'll make it." The recruiters themselves dug into their pocket to buy ice cream and stuff to get a couple more pounds on me before the final weigh-in, but even though I was still a little under weight, they went ahead and shipped me anyway.

DePue: This was what year?

Greenwood: 1947.

DePue: And you were sixteen, seventeen?

Greenwood: Well, you're supposed to be seventeen, so we'll say seventeen.

DePue: (laughter) Carl, nobody's going to track you down now if they find out you enlisted a year early.

Greenwood: All right, all right. I was a year underage.

DePue: Did your mother sign the enlistment papers?

Greenwood: Yeah, she said I wasn't old enough, and I said, "Well, that's why you have to sign." I conned her into doing it and she didn't know any better. I went next door to the drug store and the guy notarized it because he knew my mom, and that was all there was to it.

DePue: Then you were off to where for training?

Greenwood: Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina.

DePue: Tell us a little bit about Basic Training, then, for you, from growing up tough in Illinois already.

Greenwood: My background in being out in the outdoors and in the woods and the wilderness and on the water and the lake, and tough times, it was a very good background for Marine Corps Boot Camp. Those that were raised in the city environment didn't fare as well, they didn't adapt as quickly, but it really never bothered me that much. You just do what you're told when you're told, and no harm will come to you.

DePue: Had your dad told you enough about the Marine Corps to know that much?

Greenwood: Yeah, I was well aware of what was going on, and I couldn’t wait to get there.

DePue: Looking forward to what had the reputation, I would suspect at that time, as some of the toughest training in the world.

Greenwood: Well, yes. Back then, they didn't have all the restrictions. It's always been said that the Marine Corps training is longer and it's a little tougher, but the Marine Corps does not apologize for that because they would be less than fair to the Marine himself or to the Marine's parents if they didn't provide the best training possible. When you get into combat, there's no such thing as *don't yell* or *don't do this* or *don't do that*. When you get into combat, all the rules and regulations are off the table. Whatever you can do to win is what's going to happen. As a leader—later on I became a career Marine and retired as a Gunnery Sergeant in the Infantry—and if I were to choose my own people, I would take a group of Tennessee, West Virginia, Texas guys that had been raised in the outdoors and learned how to shoot early. You could sprinkle in a couple of American Indians if you want just to brighten up the situation, but I would rather have those kind

of guys any time in combat, because they're used to sleeping on the ground and being outdoors.

DePue: And not complaining about it.

Greenwood: No, not complaining a bit. Hell, they even feed you. They give you three meals a day.

DePue: Right from the beginning were you looking towards the infantry?

Greenwood: Yeah, I was a rifleman. I loved to shoot the rifle, and later on became pretty good at it.

DePue: What was your first duty station?

Greenwood: Guard duty at the prestigious post of Patuxent River, Maryland. That's a Naval Air Test Training Center and Naval Air Station.

DePue: Guard duty. Now that doesn't sound very sexy.

Greenwood: Security. Well, we had several posts, and the elite people that could read, write, and function quickly with their mind are put on the main gate. We had other posts that were not so dramatic, like in the magazine area or the boat landing, or such things as that. But on the main gate, you had to juggle the telephone and fifteen or twenty different kinds of passes –individual passes and vehicle passes, trip sheets for government vehicles, and things like that. And you had to do it and keep the traffic moving. It's quite a prestigious post. So it was more dramatic than you might think.

DePue: You liked it?

Greenwood: Yeah, I liked security duty.

DePue: It's not exactly, though, the kind of thing that gets you ready for going to combat.

Greenwood: No, but Marines always train. We stand guard duty day on, day off, weekend on, weekend off. And during your off time when you're not standing security duty, you're always training out in the woods with the rifle.

DePue: As a company?

Greenwood: Well, as a platoon, squad, depends on what's on the training schedule. But you're always training, no matter whether you're oin a guard company or not. And you have to re-qualify every year. Marines qualify every year with the rifle, no matter what their duty station.

DePue: Sure. A lot of physical training, too, I'm sure.

Greenwood: Yes.

DePue: PT test? [physical training]

Greenwood: Yes.

DePue: What was the PT test like?

Greenwood: Well it wasn't on paper as it is today. It was a minimum of twenty-one pull-ups, palms forward, you know, and eighty sit-ups in two minutes. Then you've got to run three miles in thirty minutes. For anybody in condition, that's not a task at all.

DePue: You did that in boots?

Greenwood: No. You did that in every area no matter where you're at.

DePue: No, I mean in boots. You were wearing boots at the time.

Greenwood: Yeah, combat boots, sure.

DePue: Okay. You'd be shocked to know that they let them wear tennis shoes now.

Greenwood: Oh my God!

DePue: Unless, you know—you're not going to fight in tennis shoes—

Greenwood: Nope.

DePue: —but you can do the PT test in them.

Greenwood: I guess so.

DePue: Well, this is 1948, '49 time frame. What was your thought about the likelihood of going to war?

Greenwood: World War II was over, and that was the war to end all wars. Just like World War I was. And nobody ever thought of it. All of a sudden one day, we got the word that they attacked Korea. And I said, "Where is Korea?" I had to look at a map to see even where it was. I had never heard of the country. Of course, you know, I'm nineteen years old. In the process, I kind of started dating a Navy Chief's daughter. They were getting transferred to Memphis, and the Navy Chief said, "Well, what are you two going to do?" And I said, "Well, you ain't going to take her away." So I married her.

DePue: This was when?

Greenwood: 1948.

DePue: Okay. And your wife's name?

Greenwood: Barbara. Barbara Shawn from the state of Virginia. Virginia Beach, Virginia.

DePue: She was a Navy brat?

Greenwood: Navy brat. And coincidentally, when she was ten years old, she was at Pearl Harbor when it was attacked. Her stepfather, which was the same Navy chief, was stationed at Pearl Harbor when Pearl Harbor was attacked. She was only ten years old. She was way off from the action, but she was there.

DePue: Did you have opportunities to sit next to him and hear some of his war stories then?

Greenwood: Well, Pearl Harbor was his only war story. He was an aviation chief, and when he'd come through the gate, jokingly I'd say, "You got a pass, chief?" And when I'd come over to visit his daughter, before he'd open the door, sometimes he'd ask me for my ID card to get in the door to see my girlfriend. (laughter) Jokingly.

DePue: Well, you guys didn't take too long to start a family either, did you?

Greenwood: Nope. When Korea broke out on 25 June 1950, my daughter was three months old. Keep in mind, I'm only making seventy-two dollars a month, and five dollars extra for shooting expert, so we're talking seventy-seven bucks a month. And she was living outside the gate and I had to live on the base because I couldn't feed both of us. So the Marine Corps fed me and what was little was left was for the wife and baby.

DePue: Does that mean that the Marine Corps had the attitude that, "Hey, you're a private. You don't need a family?"

Greenwood: Yeah. If the Marine Corps wanted you to have a wife, they would have issued you one. That's what we were told. And it sounds like a joke nowadays, but that was normal back then. Because they knew you couldn't support a wife on that seventy-seven bucks a month. So when the war broke out, her grandparents—bless their heart—came and got her and the baby, and within twenty-four hours we had packed up, and in forty-eight hours we were on a train heading to Camp Pendleton, California.

DePue: What was your child's name?

Greenwood: Kathleen.

DePue: Kathleen. So a little girl.

Greenwood: Little girl, Kathleen. Three months old. She's mentioned in the book there later on.

DePue: And now June, late June, you're already headed to Pendleton. You headed there right away?

Greenwood: Right. In August, we completed training at Pendleton, and aboard ship, and on the way.

DePue: Were you there for only about a month?

Greenwood: Stopped at Kobe, Japan; boarded Japanese LSTs [Landing Ship, Tank] and on our way to make the Inchon landing.

DePue: A month at Camp Pendleton doesn't give you too much opportunity for training.

Greenwood: No, but I was very pleased and proud to be in the outfit I was in. I was in Second Battalion, First Marine Regiment, and I had the privilege of having Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller as our Regimental Commander. He can do in thirty days what it takes most people a lot longer to accomplish.

DePue: Tell us a little bit about the very short time that you had, the nature of the training. Was it focused on individual's skill levels?

Greenwood: Conditioning, primarily. Conditioning. Up the hill, down the hill. Up the hill, down the hill. Night marches. Water discipline. Today they give you a sack full of canteens and make you drink water. Back then, we had water discipline. We'd go on twenty-mile hikes with a full canteen, and then inspect to make sure your canteen was still full before they'd let you have a drink. It was discipline, march discipline, physical conditioning, and, of course, marksmanship. Now, being a semiprofessional rifleman that I had taken so much pride in, I got placed in a machine gun unit. Weapons Company, Heavy Machine Gun Platoon. That's the water-cooled .30, and that was to be my plans for quite a while in the future.

DePue: In the book you did a wonderful job of explaining how you actually deploy that thing in combat. It's not what most people would think, where you look at the target and you shoot directly at the target. It's an area weapon system from what I understand.

Greenwood: Well, the pattern that a machine gun makes is not like you see on television, not like the mafia movies. The pattern is what you call a beaten zone: the further away you get, the wider the pattern gets and the shorter it gets. A machine gunner's dream would be a column of troops at 500 yards crossing a footbridge where it's only a couple of yards wide, where you could sight in the middle, and then just grab the trigger and you could drink coffee and kill everybody on the bridge.

DePue: But even at 500 yards, the elevation on that machine gun is a lot more than we would think.

Greenwood: Yeah. From 500 to 700 yards, bullets will not rise over the height of the average man And the sights are graduated on a heavy .30, that's a .30-06 bullet. A lot of people, when you say heavy, they think it's .50 caliber. It's not. It's .30 caliber, .30-06.

DePue: That's because you don't carry a .50 caliber machine gun on foot into battle.

Greenwood: No, no. That's all transported by vehicle. The sights on the heavy .30 are graduated up to 2,600 yards. That's well over a mile. 1,760 yards is a mile, so 2,600 yards is way over a mile. And what they call a maximum ordinate takes place at two-thirds of the way to the target. For example, if the target is 2600 yards away the bullets would rise about fifty-five yards, or 160 to 170 feet in the air. That's how high that bullet would rise before it starts coming down on the target.

DePue: Most people don't even begin to imagine how tiny somebody can look at a mile and a half out or so.

Greenwood: Right, yeah. A guy once told me that he knew a guy that could hit a steel helmet with iron sights at 1,500 yards, and I told him that that's not true. And he said, "How do you know? You don't even know the guy." And I said, "Well, I know you can't see a helmet at 1,500 yards." So in order to hit anything, you've got to be able to see it.

DePue: You're there for a short time, and then I take it you board a ship to head over to Japan.

Greenwood: Board a ship to Kobe, Japan. We slept for a couple of weeks in old Japanese prisoner of war barracks at Kobe We boarded Japanese LSTs and they transported us to the Inchon area.

DePue: Did you have the opportunity to do any serious kind of training at Kobe?

Greenwood: The same thing that we were doing at Camp Pendleton.

DePue: Okay. By the time you get to Kobe, you get on the Japanese LST, you know you're going into combat. What's going on in your mind at that time?

Greenwood: Well, you're at Pendleton, you're up the hill—you're on the train—you're up the hill, you go down the hill, you're doing physical training, you're marching at night. You're at Kobe, Japan, you're doing the same thing. Will you hurry up and let's get this on? Let's go kill somebody. We want to get on the beach and get this war over with. We're trained for it, we're ready, let's do it and quit talking about it.

DePue: Okay, so great anticipation, some excitement, and I'm sure some—not reservations, maybe—but you know, you're thinking about the dangers of combat, certainly.

Greenwood: Well, of course, and when the first shell lands around you, then it gets even more serious. But we had the utmost confidence in our leaders. We were very fortunate to have some World War II guys there with us, and all that rubs off on you real quick.

DePue: Any thoughts at all about whether the war was the right thing to be doing?

Greenwood: Well, we don't question what's going on. We got higher powers that make those decisions for us; and not like today where you go out and grab a sign and start protesting. If they tell you we got an enemy of this country, well, you go kick their butt and get it over with.

DePue: You'd been in the Marines three years at this time?

Greenwood: About three years, yeah.

DePue: What was your rank?

Greenwood: Private First Class.

DePue: Now, maybe there's an explanation there. Why don't you go ahead and tell us why that was the case.

Greenwood: Well, first of all, not many people got promoted back then. Promotions come very, very hard, takes a long time. So a corporal in the Marine Corps then was pay grade E3. Private first class is pay grade E2. It was not uncommon to see an individual with a hash mark for four years of service but no stripe for rank—Navy and Marines Corps is four years, Army is three years for a hash mark—but a hash mark for four years, and one stripe up here or none up here. In my case, I had good marks, I'd done a good job, everybody was happy with my work, but there was an occasion where the First Sergeant came through my gate one evening—and that's mentioned in my book—and he had an unauthorized guest, the female type, and I told him she didn't have a pass and she wasn't allowed to go in. He said, "We're just going over to my quarters for a short time." And I said, "You can't do that. She don't have a pass." And he says, "I'm the First Sergeant, I'll take responsibility." And I said, "First Sergeant, my orders are to shoot your tires first and then you." He made a U-turn and went back out into the town, the town of Leonardtown.

But my life was pretty miserable from that point on. I was happy to go to Korea to get away from there. When I got back from Korea, my first duty station was Portsmouth, Virginia. Another guard company, another security job. The First Sergeant looked at my marks, my record, and he said, "Why are you not a corporal?" And I told him this story and he says, "Here's some corporal chevrons, sew them on, you're a corporal." And from then on, just a few months later, I was Sergeant. My enlistment was up and they extended me a year or so.

DePue: While you were in Korea?

Greenwood: While I was in Korea. And I said, "Well, I'm a fourth of the way there, so I might as well stay." So I reenlisted, and the rest is history.

DePue: We're quite a ways ahead of the place I wanted to go here. When did you know you were going to Inchon?

Greenwood: Well, strangely enough, there's an Army newspaper—called *Stars and Stripes*, and there was an article in there that said, "The Marines have left San Diego." We found this at Kobe, Japan, and we read the paper, and it said, "The Marines are on their way to Korea to make a landing, and they think it might be Inchon." It was actually in the *Stars and Stripes* paper. Well, of course we didn't know at the time where we were going to land because those were secret orders, but yet the newspaper had it in an article. Well, the enemy of course gets these communiqués, they get the paper, and they're thinking, "This must be just a ploy to make us think they're going to land at Inchon because anybody'd be crazy to land there anyway because of the thirty-two foot tide". So the enemy completely disregarded it, and I'm glad they did because that's where we landed.

DePue: I know that amphibious operations are one of the most challenging, complex operations you can go into. How much training did you and your organization have in doing that?

Greenwood: Amphibious landings we did not practice. We did not have the time or conditions to make amphibious landings. That's all left up to the Navy. We climb down a ladder, a rope ladder, we get in an amtrac [amphibious tractor], and the amtrac lands you on the beach. You get out, and transportation—

DePue: And you do what Marines do then.

Greenwood: Do what Marines do, yeah. Transportation's provided for us at no charge. It's nice to practice amphibious landings when time permits. And we did a lot of that at Camp LeJeune.

DePue: That was years later?

Greenwood: Yeah, but you do many things—while at LeJeune you do amphibious landings. You do helicopter landings. You train constantly.

DePue: Okay, so when you're heading towards the beach at Inchon, what specifically is your assignment at that time and who are you with?

Greenwood: I'm attached to Easy Company, Second Battalion, First Marines.

DePue: Okay, and you're the gunner for the heavy—

Greenwood: At that time I was first ammo carrier. I had not been yet promoted to gunner.

DePue: Why don't you explain very quickly what the makeup of that—

Greenwood: It's a fifteen-man section counting the section leader. You have a section leader, two squad leaders, then you have a gunner, assistant gunner, and four ammo carriers.

DePue: So there's one weapon and there are fifteen people?

Greenwood: Well, there's two. There's two machine gun and two squads to a section. To a squad, there is one heavy machine gun. Now this gun weighs ninety-four pounds complete. It's a two man load. Fifty-three pound tripod and a forty-one pound gun with seven pints of water.

DePue: You said your job at that time...

Greenwood: Was first ammo carrier. I was behind the assistant gunner. Of course, I had only been in machine guns a short time, you remember. But as time expired, as soon as we cleared the reservoir, I was promoted to gunner—after the reservoir. But during the reservoir, I was first ammo man. But everybody, when they stand watch on the gun, must fire the gun, or whoever is on the gun at the time the enemy attacks is the gunner.

DePue: When you say reservoir, exactly what do you mean?

Greenwood: The Chosin Reservoir.

DePue: Okay. Describe your experience of actually landing at Inchon.

Greenwood: Well, as mentioned in my book, one mortar round landed close, and we seen sparks from the side of the amtrac just before we got to the beach. We weren't sure where we were, and one asked the lieutenant, "Where exactly are we?" And he said, "Hell, I don't know. I don't come here on vacation, you know." Just then a bullet went over the head of my squad leader as the ramp lowered for us to get off the amtrac , and I said, "Emil, they're shooting at you." And he said, "Well, they ain't got their heart in it; come on, move out." Emil was a World War II guy, the squad leader, so we moved out.

DePue: He'd probably seen a lot worse than that.

Greenwood: He had seen worse. He had two Purple Hearts from Tarawa and Iwo Jima, so he wasn't too concerned about a couple of bullets going by.

DePue: So there was a little bit of resistance but not heavy resistance?

Greenwood: Not near what it could have been. Because as we bombed.- the softening up phase of Inchon –out of one hundred percent of bombs, we dropped 40 percent on Inchon, 30 percent to the left and 30 percent to the right at Kaesong and Taejon. They would more suspect that we would land at one of those places rather Inchon, once again on account of the tide.

DePue: These weren't immediately adjacent to Inchon; they're quite a ways a way?

Greenwood: Yes.

DePue: From what I can tell, you moved in pretty quickly and headed toward Seoul. Yong Dung Po I guess is the—

Greenwood: Yes, close to Han River. We headed to Yong Dung Po. by then the enemy knew we were at Inchon, and they brought forces up to Yong Dung Po, and there was a reason for that. They used the Han River as a barrier, thinking that if they could stop us there, that would be the best chance to keep us out of the city of Seoul.

DePue: Was Yong Dung Po on your side of the Han River?

Greenwood: Yes.

DePue: Okay. Did you encounter some resistance there?

Greenwood: Yes. And it was pretty stiff for a day or two—but once we got to the Han River, once again we used amtracs to quickly cross the Han River and once on the other side, it was on to Seoul posthaste.

DePue: Did you have a lot of opposition while you crossed the river?

Greenwood: No. No, we had removed that opposition at Yong Dung Po, and then the Corsairs came in and softened up the other side with strafing runs and such as that.

DePue: Corsairs are Marine pilots, are they not?

Greenwood: Navy and Marine Corps pilots. The finest trained pilots in the world. They're the only ones that are trained for close air.

DePue: At least at that time, I know that was the case.

Greenwood: Yes. The jet airplane is so fast that it doesn't—they do a good job on air strikes: for vehicles, roads, targets and emplacements, things like that. But for close air, you have to stick around slow, and the jets are much too fast for that. The Corsair plane was so slow that you'd think they were actually going down into the foxholes after them at times.

DePue: Did these Marine pilots have to be infantrymen first?

Greenwood: They are trained as pilots at Pensacola, Florida. but they get a lot of infantry training. You can't know what's going on on the ground from the air if you don't know what's going on <u>on</u> the ground.

DePue: Well, there's a big difference from the way the Air Force would approach it.

Greenwood: Yeah, precisely. When the occasion arose later on, when we did get Air Force air strikes, they were on time and done their job. But they don't know what close air is.

DePue: (laughter) You look like you were proud of the fact that your unit got to raise the flag in Seoul.

Greenwood: There were several small flags raised. Every time somebody took a position, they'd stick an American flag up—and rightfully so. There's nothing wrong with an American carrying a flag in his pack with the desire to put it up. But the council or the capitol at Seoul was officially raised by Easy Company, Second Battalion, First Marines, and that was the company I was attached to.

DePue: What was the extent of the damage in Seoul at that time?

Greenwood: Well, we had a lot of buildings burning. There was a little controversy with General MacArthur. He was running the war from Japan, from aboard ship, and he sent the word down to be careful about these buildings, try not to damage the buildings, because we were probably going to have to help rebuild them. And my boss, Colonel Chesty Puller at the time, said, "I'm not risking the life of one of my Marines for a building. If there's a sniper in a building, burn it." So Seoul was burning.

DePue: Was Seoul bombed pretty heavily even before you guys got there?

Greenwood: Pretty good. And there was street fighting, a lot of street fighting. They were in second floor buildings shooting out windows, and we remedied that. We'd put a ninety millimeter round from a tank through that window, and that'd take care of that. We had this little M79—we call it a shotgun—where you could shoot a grenade through a window, and that helped some.

DePue: What was your impression of the North Korean soldiers? Were they a determined enemy?

Greenwood: They were a determined enemy. They were a good enemy. They didn't last all that long, but while they were there in force, they put up pretty good resistance, and they were tough soldiers. When the Korean War broke out, we grabbed American troops from wherever we could: Japan, Okinawa, etc. They were army personnel, and they were not highly trained because they were used to the good life there in Japan and Okinawa as occupation troops. When they threw them in the front line, they were not the most highly trained. You know, they didn’t have the time and training as they should have or could have, and they were retreating slowly along with the South Korean Army down to the southern tip of Pusan. This was known as the Pusan perimeter. DePue:

When we were aboard ship, we got the word coming back from the Pusan perimeter fighters that the 3.5 rocket launcher and the 2.36 rocket launcher were not adequate. The 2.36 would not knock out these Russian T-34 tanks, so they

were immediately shipped the 3.5 rocket launcher, and they said, "These won't work either." And we're thinking, "What the hell have they got? What kind of tanks are these?" Because we know they'll penetrate eleven inches of concrete and four inches of homogenous steel. This is an eleven-pound bazooka round.

DePue: The 3.5 was?

Greenwood: Yeah. And we're wondering—now we're getting a little worried. We said, "Well, if this won't stop them, what will?" They were just simply not trained well enough with them; they were shooting them from a long distance, trying to shoot them like mortars, and they weren't hitting anything. Marines encountered fifty two T-34 Russian tanks from Inchon to Seoul, including Yong Dung Po; we knocked out forty eight of them and the other four were left abandoned.

DePue: Did the smaller bazooka do the job, or was it strictly the 3.5?

Greenwood: We never had the smaller one. They did in World War II, but we did not have the 2.36. We had the 3.5 only.

DePue: I don't recall exactly what the Army had as they were moving down to the Pusan perimeter. I think it might have been the smaller 2.36.

Greenwood: At first they did. That's what we were told.

DePue: Any other memories of combat in particular in the Seoul area? In the Inchon landing, that whole offensive?

Greenwood: Once we got them on the run, we moved to the other side of Seoul, we took up high ground there; we stayed there a day or two until the Army came and relieved us. Then we boarded ship and went around the southern tip to land at Wonsan. But one thing does stand out in my mind. Two things, really. One was how communism works. I witnessed, after we took Seoul, the villagers come out of the hills and the foothills, and they had baskets with them, and anything that they could carry something in; they were going to a warehouse and they were taking back their rice that the communists had taken from them. The communists have a way of doing things. They take everything you have, then they give back what they think you ought to have. The people were retrieving what was rightfully theirs in the first place, which was rice, food. You know, they were starving. And at the time, I didn't know exactly what they were doing. I didn't eat rice. (laughter) Why are they so crazy about rice? Well, that's all they had to eat. I'm nineteen years old; I'd never seen anything like this.

Another thing is we encountered a courtyard. Within that courtyard, I seen families—we were later told what they were and why they did it—they were families of soldiers of the South Korean army. The communists have a way of cleansing, ethnic cleansing. If you belong to the South Korean army, you've got to die, and so does all your family because they think that family might grow up to be an enemy of the communists, so you've got to die too. The Korean women

had a way then of taking their baby and putting it on their back, and flipping a little blanket around it and tying a knot, and that leaves both hands free to work in the garden or do chores. It's kind of like an Indian papoose. They were forced to kneel, and bayonets were run through the baby and then through the mother. We found several of these in the courtyard. I have never forgot that, and it has always stood out in my mind.

DePue: So to begin with, you were following orders; this was the thing to do and you don't question the orders that you receive. You're going to Korea. Now do you have a little bit more incentive, perhaps, since you've seen communism firsthand?

Greenwood: Precisely. These are bad guys and they've got to go.

DePue: Okay. Was there any question in your mind after that?

Greenwood: There was no question in my mind. Besides, they're trying to kill me. So if there's ever an incentive, that was it. You couldn't get much more motivated than that.

DePue: In your first experience in combat, what is your assessment of how you did?
Greenwood: Well, as we were leaving Seoul and boarding ship to go to Wonsan—of course, we didn't know we were going to Wonsan –all we know is that they said, "Get out of here. Get aboard ship. You're going somewhere else." One thing that stuck in my mind was, the section leader—he was from Oklahoma, Clifford Lucas, he's dead now – he said, "I think they found out they weren't fighting the same army." (laughter) So it was a compliment to the Marines that the North Koreans found out they were fighting somebody different.

DePue: So you were proud about your personal performance and about how the Marines showed themselves.

Greenwood: Yes. We got our feet wet, and we did well, and we were pretty proud of the job we did. And President Truman at the time… You know, there's many times that they've tried to disband the Marine Corps, clear back to Teddy Roosevelt when he was adamant about disbanding the Marine Corps. I didn't know that until this book I'm reading about Belleau Wood right now. At the time, Harry S. Truman, made the remark that the Marines are nothing but Navy policeman.

DePue: There's a mistake.

Greenwood: Yup. And he said, "That's all they ever were and that's all they ever will be." Well, he should have read the records at Belleau Wood; the only people that did hold at Belleau Wood was the Second Marine Division. That was the turning point of the war, and it kept them out of Paris. Well, he had evidently forgotten that. When we landed and hit the beach, as a little tongue in cheek thing we took white paint and painted on our barrels of our howitzers, "Harry's Police Force",

and on the water jackets of our machine guns, "Truman's MPs" and such things as that. President Truman later apologized.

DePue: Well, of course the entire war at that time wasn't referred to as a war; it was referred to as a police action.

Greenwood: Police action. Conflict.

DePue: Did that stick in the Marines' craw as well?

Greenwood: Yes, it did.

DePue: Did it seem more like a war than a police action?

Greenwood: I think so. Whenever you look at the statistics where the South Korean people, counting dead, wounded, and missing, numbered a little over two million, now you tell me that's a police action. American lives were 54,246 killed in action.

DePue: Right. Well, welcome to the Cold War and how we have to spin things, I guess. So you're shipping out to Wonsan but you don't know when you board ship—was it in Inchon where you boarded ships again?

Greenwood: Yes. Inchon Harbor.

DePue: So you don't know at that time where you're headed?

Greenwood: Well, maybe Pusan. Maybe Pusan Harbor. It was probably Pusan. Because why go through that tide again? Yeah, I'm sure it was Pusan.

DePue: Okay. So you were probably rail-headed south to Pusan area. When did you learn that Wonsan was the objective?

Greenwood: Well, after we were aboard ship, the Wonsan landing was delayed a day or two. We were going to land, then they said that there's mines there and they had to clear them. So we went back and forth a couple of days, went around in a circle; we called it Operation Yoyo because we were delayed a day or two. But outside of a few mines and a few minor skirmishes, Wonsan really didn't amount to much.

DePue: Were they landmines or naval mines?

Greenwood: Naval mines

DePue: They mined the harbor?

Greenwood: They mined the harbor.

DePue: Okay. That sounds like they might have gotten some support from the Russians.

Greenwood: They were Russian mines.

DePue: Anything remarkable about the landing at Wonsan? Was it unopposed?

Greenwood: No, it was relatively uneventful. Other than a few minor skirmishes and the Russian mines, it was pretty much uneventful.

DePue: Okay. Now, the thing that sticks in my mind is reading your story about Wonsan; it sounds like you were there for a few days, and you decided—or maybe a buddy of yours—took the initiative and got one of those rail handcarts?

Greenwood: That would be Lee Dronckowski, he's from New York. , We were gunner and assistant gunner and we spent a lot of time together; we later spent a total of fourteen months in the same foxhole together.

DePue: New York City?

Greenwood: Buffalo, New York. He's dead now. He died two years ago. We used to call each other, take turns every Christmas calling each other, or every time he got an urge he called me. He had heart trouble. He died on the operating table; it really hurt because we did spend a lot of time together. There was a railroad that went by where we were there at Wonsan. He found a little handcar, and he found that if you lift up and down on the handle you could go one way, or you could go the other. He got me on the thing, and he said we could go faster if we both pedal it. We were going up and down a short distance, then we finally got going real fast, and went past the perimeter, which we were not supposed to do. And coming the other way was another handcar, and it had North Koreans in it. Around the bend –we were back probably the better part of a half mile away from where we should have been. We thought there wasn't any enemy around.

DePue: Did you have your rifles?

Greenwood: Fortunately—or unfortunately, we didn't. And that's a no-no too. Well, why take a rifle when you're not supposed to be doing it in the first place, you know? All we're doing is riding in a little car.

DePue: Did you have your steel pot on? [helmet]

Greenwood: Probably not, no.

DePue: Okay. I'm sorry to interrupt you. (laughter)

Greenwood: Anything you weren't supposed to do, we were doing it during that time period. It only took about five, six minutes, you know. As we rounded this bend, here come this other little handcar with four or five North Koreans on it. And I said, "Jump." We both jumped, hit the ditch, and we ran back. Well, they didn't have time to recover either. Evidently, they were doing the same thing we were. They weren't supposed to be where they were, because our handcar ran into

theirs and crippled most of them. We ran back, got fire teams and captured them. So we were pretty proud of the fact that we were responsible for capturing a handful of North Korean soldiers.

DePue: A great intelligence source.

Greenwood: Yes, great intelligence source. But my section leader, Staff Sergeant Lucas, had a different idea. I think it was something like, "If you two idiots ever leave this area again without permission, I'm going to put you in brig till you die of old age," or some such thing as that.

DePue: I know you landed at Wonsan about October twenty-fifth, so this is late fall now. What's the weather like by this time?

Greenwood: It's starting to get a little nippy. Of course, we're still on low ground and it's not near as cold as it is up high. But it is starting to get a little nippy, and my squad leader, Emil Buff, had an extra old Army blanket they issued us. We'd sit there with our sewing kits and make little hoods. That's in the book too, there somewhere. We made these little hoods. We called them boos because you could put them on and say boo to each other. You know, it was kind of a stupid thing, but they were pretty handy. They came in pretty handy. They were actually functional.

DePue: Was it just you and Lee who had these?

Greenwood: No, me and Emil Buff. There was only two of them ever made. Ski didn't want to lower himself by sitting in a sewing circle with us. (laughter)

DePue: Well, you mentioned you took a little bit of guff over that.

Greenwood: Yes, we did.

DePue: Until it got colder.

Greenwood: Until it got colder, and then everybody else was wishing they had one.

DePue: So you were there in the Wonsan area for a while, and then you moved north towards Kojo? Is that straight north?

Greenwood: We traveled on train, and then we got off. I remember the actual ride into the reservoir itself when the rails ran out from Kojo. Then we boarded trucks; and trucks actually took us to the final destination.

DePue: And that was Koto-ri?

Greenwood: I was at Koto-ri. And elements of the Fifth Marine Regiment went to Haga-ru, and then Yudam-ni was the Seventh Marine Regiment.

DePue: So they went farther north, on the west side?

Greenwood: Eleven miles and fourteen miles further north.

DePue: Yeah. And had the Seventh ID, [Infantry Division] or elements of the Seventh ID, on the east side of the Chosin? Yeah, according to the stuff that I've read, that's the case.

Greenwood: By ID, you're talking about—

DePue: Infantry Division.

Greenwood: Oh. Army. Yes.

DePue: Those guys, the army guys. (laughter)

Greenwood: Those guys. Well, I thought we were still talking about the Seventh Regiment. The Seventh Marines were at Yudam-ni and the Seventh Army was on the other side.

DePue: Okay, yeah I'm sorry, I confused you there. My mistake. As I recall in the book, there was some action though at Kojo –the E Company. Were you assigned to E Company at that time?

Greenwood: Minor rifle fire skirmishes.

DePue: Okay. I know later on you ended up being attached to Delta Company. Dog Company.

Greenwood: No, Dog. It's Delta now, but it was Dog Company then. As soon as we got to the reservoir, I went from Easy Company to Dog Company. Same battalion.

DePue: Okay, and you were Assistant Gunner by that time?

Greenwood: Not yet.

DePue: Okay, so you're still the first ammo carrier?

Greenwood: Yes.

DePue: Okay. What was your mission, then, once you got to Koto-ri. We should mention here, that's a few miles south of the Chosin Reservoir area itself. Is that right?

Greenwood: About nine miles, I think. But it ended up being a real hot spot because when we withdrew, the Fifth and Seventh Regiments, the enemy wanted Koto-ri to stop us from getting off the mountain, so two places became very, very important. One was Toktong Pass in between Yudam-ni and Haga-ru, and also at Koto-ri. And they also blew the bridge behind us at Koto-ri.

DePue: So what's going on at this time? You've got the Marines that are pretty well stretched out along the north-south line.

Greenwood: We're stretched out too far. From Yudam-ni to Haga-ru is fourteen miles, and then another eleven to Koto-ri. So that's like twenty-five miles approximately, maybe even a little more, that we're spread out. Chesty Puller, my Regimental Commander, along with O.[Oliver] P. Smith, the Division Commander, said, "We're stretched out too far. If we ever get a significant amount of casualties, we're going to need a means of getting them out of there." So with small bulldozers they built a small airstrip at Haga-ru.

DePue: Haga-ru is right at the base of the Chosin Reservoir, the southern end.

Greenwood: It's between Yudam-ni and Koto-ri, about ten miles from Koto-ri and fourteen from Yudam-ni.

DePue: When you were pushing your way north, though, how much discussion was there about Chinese versus North Korean?

Greenwood: There was a bit of discussion, and that's what prompted the air strip by the Marines. We reported we were capturing Chinese prisoners. They said, "Don't worry about it."

DePue: They being?

Greenwood: Headquarters. General—this is one of the rare times that Marines were under Army jurisdiction—General Ned Almond, who commanded the Tenth Corps. And General Almond and company said, "Don't worry about the Chinese. They're only advisors. There's only one bridge crossing the Yalu River. We're watching the bridge. They cannot get any sizable force across that bridge without us knowing it."

DePue: Okay, now you're at the bottom of the food chain, so to speak. What's your reaction when you hear that kind of stuff, just hearing the other things and knowing the other things that you're experiencing?

Greenwood: Well, we have well learned not to pay any attention to anybody except our Marine commanders. We have the utmost confidence in them, and it doesn't matter whether you like it or not, you're going to do what they say anyway. They've proved time and time again to be efficient and correct, so we're not going to disregard that now. We built the airstrip anyway, in case of casualties.

DePue: So even down in your position, they didn't necessarily buy what General Almond was telling them?

Greenwood: No. Well, like your grandmother told you, "An ounce of prevention's worth a pound of cure." And why not prepare for it? They said, "The war's over. You're going to be home in three weeks." Now, there were two big screw ups at that

time in intelligence, and one of them that a lot of people don't know or realize was thermal boots. Remember the Mickey Mouse boots?

DePue: Yes, I know Mickey Mouse boots.

Greenwood: Okay. They were nicknamed Mickey Mouse boots because they were so big and cumbersome, and they looked so big on your feet. But they really did work and they're a fine thing. But did you know—very few people know this—that during the entire Chosin Reservoir campaign, those thermal boots were in a warehouse in Japan. We were going to be home in three weeks for Christmas. Why go to all the trouble of shipping boots to the frontlines when you're not going to need them anyway?

DePue: That's a decision that's made by somebody in MacArthur's staff sitting in Japan.

Greenwood: Yup. Or Ned Almond in the Tenth Corps. And that was one big screw up because we fought the entire Chosin campaign in what we call mountain boots. Now, the mountain boots are good for temperatures twenty degrees above zero. And that's about it. They're not much more than a boot you'd wear to work, the only difference being they have a felt innersole. Now, as you walk, your feet will sweat—they give you an extra set of innersoles—and at night you take the innersole out and you stick it down your drawers, and the heat from your body is supposed to dry it, and then the next day you switch. Well, after a week or two, they become pretty raunchy. Now, a lot of guys decided this was a pain in the neck to be changing these every day, and some people didn't change them. Now, when temperatures got way below zero, twenty-five below or forty below zero, and you've got wet feet, that's a recipe for disaster. And a lot of people lost toes, and some entire feet because of frostbite. There were 3,000 cases of frostbite in the First Marine Division –some minor, some severe.

DePue: The First Division, if I read correctly, was something in the neighborhood of 20 to 24,000 men?

Greenwood: Well—

DePue: I'm not sure they were all there.

Greenwood: That's reinforced, and all of them were not there. There was a couple of battalions didn't make it up there. And when you say 24,000 to a division, that is called reinforced. That is including artillery, et cetera; much of our artillery and motor transport wasn't there.

DePue: So you had considerably less than that.

Greenwood: The primary campaign, that two week battle, was fought with 15,000 Marines. Historians now label that battle as the most savage in military history in relation to casualties sustained for troops involved.

DePue: Just my own reading of it—and certainly you were there, you know—but my own reading of it is that it was just incredibly intense and savage fighting.
Greenwood: Twelve thousand casualties out of fifteen thousand.

DePue: You mentioned there were two intelligence mistakes. One of them was in reference to the shoes.

Greenwood: The thermal boots. And as I said, a lot of people don't know about those thermal boots being in Japan in a warehouse.

DePue: Well, it's tough for a civilian to even begin to comprehend how important a warm pair of boots would be.

Greenwood: It could have saved 3,000 people from frostbite.

DePue: Yeah, it ends up being life and death when you're in that situation.

Greenwood: Yes. And the other –as mentioned earlier–Ned Almond, the Commander of the Tenth Corps, said they were watching the bridge at the Yalu River; the Chinese could not get any sizable force across without them knowing it. Well, at forty below zero you don't need a bridge. Not only did they walk across, but they drove trucks and jeeps across with ammunition, supplies, and equipment, and all of a sudden, we're surrounded. The situation's hopeless. So the same commander that said we were going to be home in three weeks now says, "The situation's hopeless. Everybody take off on foot. I'm sure a lot of you are going to get through."

DePue: From my reading, this happened both in your sector and even more so in the case over in the Eighth Army Sector on the western side of Korea. My understanding is that the Chinese tactics were that all the Americans are going to be road bound, they're going to stay primarily on the road. From what I can tell, you guys were strung out generally along this road for about thirty miles or so, and the Chinese then just kind of picked their places—walked on the mountaintops and then found places where they could slice through.

Greenwood: They pretty well had the advantage, could take their time and pick us apart. Now, they brought such overwhelming force, and they thought that if they gave each Chinese soldier a three or four day supply of food and ammunition, that they could overwhelm us by then and just end the thing in three or four days. But the Marines were a little more stubborn. Now, the Army, bless their heart, these were just kids like we were. They were following orders. “Take off on foot. I’m sure a lot of you will get through.” Now this is where a lot of those casualties from the Korean War came from.

DePue: You're talking about the Eighth Army?

Greenwood: Eighth, Twenty-fourth. They were all following orders to take off on foot. Well, they were on both sides of us. The First Marine Division was down the

middle spearheading the drive. When they took off on foot and left us; they left the First Marine Division hung out to dry. Now, we've got a lot of dead and wounded. We can't leave them. We don't leave them. Whether you're dead or not, we try our best to bring you back home to mama. And we have to move slow, and we have to stick to the road because we've got equipment, we've got trucks, and we keep our dead and wounded on these vehicles. So the only way to get out of there is to fight your way out. Matter of fact, General Smith's statement was, when he was told to do the same thing, just take off on foot, they would have to leave the dead, the equipment, and the wounded. And he said, "I don't accept that at all. We're going to fight our way down the road. We're going to blow hell out of anything that gets in our way. We're coming out like Marines or we're not coming out at all."

DePue: Is he saying that at a time when he knows there are lots of places where the Chinese have gotten in between them and the road?

Greenwood: Precisely. And so we just take it a day at a time. The first step is to move from Yudam-ni down to Haga-ru, to that airstrip.

DePue: Is Yudam-ni on the northwest side of the Chosin Reservoir?

Greenwood: Well, follow the road. We're going to follow the road. Now, sometimes it curves, but it's still the road. And to the left or to the east would be high mountains. To the right would be ravines or cliffs. So you've got to stick to the road.

DePue: As you're going south?

Greenwood: As you're going south. Well, the east would be on your left coming out. And you go down this road, they're up on top of the hill shooting down at you. You go up and kick them off the hill; they just move to the next hill and do the same thing. Well, it took a few days to get to Haga-ru where that airstrip is. Now, we have between four and six thousand dead and wounded, and we've got them on trucks. We didn't have enough trucks to put them on there, but in their haste to get out of there, the Army troops left trucks, six-by-six big trucks, tanks full of gas, keys in the ignition, and we put them to good use. We put our equipment, our dead and wounded on them. Dead and wounded were riding on the hoods of the trucks and on the running boards. The only way you could get on a vehicle is if you were dead or wounded from the waist down where you couldn't walk, and that's how critical truck space or vehicle space was. So we finally made it. Now, there's high ground called Toktong Pass. Toktong Pass is a story within itself.

DePue: Okay, it's here on the map; I see it.

Greenwood: It's between Haga-ru and Yudam-ni. We dispatched a company, Fox Company, Second Battalion, Seventh Marines, to occupy that Pass and hold it, to hold the high ground, till the dead, wounded, and vehicles could get by that pass on their

way to Haga-ru. Well, the Chinese wanted that high ground pretty bad, just like they wanted Koto-ri pretty bad. If they get the high ground there and Koto-ri—we couldn't get past them. But anyway, Fox Company, the first night, suffered 50 percent casualties. They had 220 Marines, 110 casualties. The first night.

DePue: Was there a heavy machine gun section attached to them as well?

Greenwood: Every line Company has two heavy machine guns attached to it. Every company also has six light machine guns.

DePue: Did you know some of those people, then?

Greenwood: I knew one of them, a BAR [Browning Automatic Rifle] rifleman, Hector Cafferata. He later was awarded the Medal of Honor. He was with the Seventh Marines. He was a reserve put on active duty. He was from New Jersey. —I have a picture of him here somewhere. But anyway, the company commander's name was Captain Barber of Fox Company. He called back on the radio and said, "I need ammunition, I need medical supplies." The radio message came back, "It's snowing, the cloud cover is bad. We don't think we can make a successful airdrop. If conditions are that bad, just get off the damn hill." Captain Barber radioed back, "I've got a hundred dead and wounded Marines up here. I cannot leave them. I'm not going to leave them." There was a pause, and the message came back, "You will get your airdrop." And they did.

DePue: He was calling back to the—

Greenwood: Division Headquarters.

DePue: Where was the Division Headquarters? Were they at Haga-ru?

Greenwood: No, back down below the reservoir. With airplanes, they can get there in a hurry for an airdrop.

DePue: Okay, and during this time, you're at Koto-ri?

Greenwood: I'm still at Koto-ri.

DePue: So they held at Toktong Pass long enough—

Greenwood: They held at Toktong Pass long enough. I think three days and three nights they held that pass, and whenever the rest of the Seventh Marine Regiment got there, then they took those dead and wounded from Toktong Pass, from Fox Company, put them back down the road on the vehicles, and moved on down to Haga-ru. Now, without that company's valiant effort, the rest of that Seventh Marine Regiment would have been ambushed by the Chinese from that high ground.

DePue: Was the Seventh the tail end of it? The Fifth got out before Seventh?

Greenwood: Well, the Fifth is still down at Haga-ru.

DePue: Okay.

Greenwood: We ain't got there yet. Now the Seventh moves on down to Haga-ru. Now for C-54 airplanes, the runway was really too short for them to land on, and after you load them, it was too short to takeoff. but they did, time and time again. They hauled out between four and six thousand dead and wounded Marines.

DePue: Are these Air Force pilots?

Greenwood: Air Force pilots. Some of them are enlisted, some of them are Army pilots. I don't think there were any Marine pilots flying C54s. But they were Air Force pilots. One time, at that point Headquarters said, "If you want, all of you get on there and we'll fly everybody out." But we'd have to leave the dead and wounded and equipment, and General Smith said that's unacceptable. So now that we've got to Haga-ru and lightened our load considerably, you can imagine getting 4,000 to 6,000 bodies out of there. You've got a lot more vehicle space, because you know you're going to get more dead and wounded from Haga-ru to Koto-ri, and then beyond Koto-ri. They're still shooting at you past Koto-ri. There's still high ground past there.

DePue: Let me ask you a question just to interject here real quickly –this might be an unfair question –but what do you think is more distasteful to General Smith, to a Marine: leaving your dead behind or leaving that equipment behind?

Greenwood: I think they're pretty much equivalent. Without the equipment, you're lost. There's a rifleman's creed that every Marine is supposed to learn in Boot Camp, and it's called *My Rifle*. "There are many like it, but this one is mine. This one is mine. My rifle is my best friend. It is my life. I must master it as I must master my own life." Without that rifle, you're useless. You might as well throw in the towel without that weapon.

DePue: And as far as you're concerned, without that machine gun.

Greenwood: Correct. You don't leave your equipment behind.

DePue: Okay, okay. So we've got them now to Haga-ru, and they've flown out a considerable number of the casualties. I'm sure they've flown in some ammunition and some other critical supplies.

Greenwood: We have flown in more ammunition, more medical supplies, and we even flew in a few replacements.

DePue: Are these Marines that have been flown in?

Greenwood: Yes.

DePue: Are these brand new replacements, or are they—

Greenwood: Brand new replacements and a lot of them were in the Marine Corps Reserve Units. One of them ended up being my squad leader later on, because my squad leader left after the reservoir. They put out a communiqué: if anybody got two Purple Hearts, they could go home. My squad leader had two Purple Hearts from World War II and he qualified. So I got a new squad leader.

DePue: I can't imagine what's going on in the minds of these guys, being flown in to the middle of this—

Greenwood: War? Where did this come from? Yeah.

DePue: Disaster written all over it. Okay. What happens then after the airlift? Does the whole column start moving south?

Greenwood: Of course I'm just relaying what happened to you. I'm not involved personally with this so far. I'm down there at Koto-ri beating off these attacks every night. Fortunately, we were set up in a perimeter that was just almost impenetrable.

DePue: Were you sitting on a hilltop, then?

Greenwood: No. My gun was on a roadblock, the road coming out of the reservoir; my machine gun was about fifteen steps off that road. Our job was to cover that road. We had flat ground for nearly a mile, all the way to the first mountain to our front and right front.

DePue: Is your machine gun pointing north?

Greenwood: Yes, pointing north. And any enemy vehicle was ours, any enemy troops down that road or to the right of that road for three hundred, four hundred yards belonged to me, they were mine—to our gun, our squad.

DePue: During this entire time that the Seventh and the Fifth are withdrawing from the Chosin Reservoir area, is your position under attack several times?

Greenwood: Yes. The Chinese would like very much to have Koto-ri because then they could stop the advance of those troops coming out. They would have that nice open area to defend where we are, and they would like very much to have that.

DePue: Can you describe what a typical attack would be at that time?

Greenwood: The first night, November 27—and this is in my book, too—we had a cup of cocoa out of the C rations. That cocoa tasted pretty good. You're not allowed to build a fire at night, nor did you have anything to build it with at these temperatures, but if you could get a little stick and make some shavings, get down to the bottom of your hole, you could heat a canteen cup of water and then take this cocoa and put it in there, mix it up, and it tasted pretty darn good,

especially in that cold temperature. Just before dark, before we settled in—we stood watch 100 percent at night, we slept in the day. 50 percent asleep during the day and 100 percent awake at night –we're just finishing off this little cup of cocoa and Lucas said, "I thought I heard a bugle." And I said, "Well, I know darn well I did. I thought it was some Marine screwing around up there."

DePue: This is the first time you heard bugles?

Greenwood: The first time I heard a bugle. This was on November the twenty-seventh. That's when the Chinese first came into the war, on November twenty-seventh. Now, all this other stuff we previously described at Yudam-ni, Haga-ru, happened after the twenty-seventh. But my first encounter was on the twenty-seventh, and all units were attacked at the same time exactly. The Fifth, Seventh, and First Marines were all attacked at the same time. It was a very well-organized and planned attack. The bugle blew and here they come, screaming, hollering. Well, they walked into a pair of heavy machine guns down on that flat ground. There was a tank on the left side of the road and they had a light machine gun, and as you go further to the east, there was two more heavy machine guns plus another tank plus a section of light machine guns. So we raked that plateau, that ground, with machine gun fire and in a one hour battle we left about three hundred dead bodies in that short period of time, all Chinese.

DePue: Were you under attack by mortar or artillery at the same time?

Greenwood: Yes. That's the way the Orientals like to do it. They like to lob their mortars in on you, and then they follow the mortars in and they come in right behind it. That way they feel like most of the guys got their heads down in their foxhole. But we were well prepared and we knew exactly what was going on. We had good leadership, and you could hear the officers running back and forth shouting words of encouragement and keeping their guns firing and directing fire.

DePue: What are you personally doing, since the machine gun's not being moved so you don't have to carry the ammunition.

Greenwood: No, we're in a defense now. You come and get us.

DePue: Were you firing your rifle?

Greenwood: I'm shooting my carbine, and Dronckowski and Fletcher are pumping away with *Beulah,* our water cooled machine gun.

DePue: *Beulah*?

Greenwood: She had a name. *Beulah* had a name.

DePue: Yeah, that came across real strong in the book. That's how important this machine gun is.

Greenwood: Yep, we gave her a name, *Belching Beulah*.

DePue: Okay. Was your position dug-in?

Greenwood: Yes, which was a trick in itself, digging a foxhole in that cold ground. There was a knocked out tank up the road, and before November 27 when all the shooting got serious, Dronckowski and I went up and got a few metal parts off this knocked out enemy tank, and we came back and used that metal to help dig our machine gun emplacement.

DePue: Were you in the same foxhole, same position, as the machine gun itself?

Greenwood: Yes.

DePue: Okay. Any casualties that night?

Greenwood: We suffered—I can't remember exactly, there was very few. I think about eighteen casualties, as opposed to three or four hundred dead Chinese.

DePue: Nobody that was really close to your position or that you knew personally?

Greenwood: No. The following day, Finnegan got killed when we sent a patrol out to that first mountain. We had no clue that there were any Chinese on that hill, but now that the Chinese were into this thing, we sent a patrol out. That's when Finnegan was killed. And from then on, nobody could leave that area without getting attacked from that mountain. Of course, these Chinese are very good soldiers. They can dig a foxhole with a teaspoon and they don't need much equipment, and they're very dedicated.

DePue: Was Finnegan in your machine gun heavy section?

Greenwood: Yeah. Finnegan was one of our guys in our squad, and he got killed that day.

DePue: They brought him back, I'm sure.

Greenwood: Yup.

DePue: Okay. Were most of the attacks you were getting at night?

Greenwood: Yes. They had the utmost respect for Marine marksmanship, and they figured their chances were better at night for surprise and confusion. Most of the attacks were at night.

DePue: In the positions, did you folks push listening posts, observation posts, out in front of the perimeter?

Greenwood: Exactly. As a matter of fact, Hector Caffareta – mentioned earlier at Toktong Pass – was on a listening post with his BAR, Browning Automatic Rifle, and although severely wounded, he held off a platoon-size attack with that automatic rifle until the rest of the company could be alerted. He was severely wounded but survived and later on was awarded the Medal of Honor for his achievements. I might add, before I forget, there were seventeen Medals of Honor issued during that two-week battle And seventy Navy Crosses, the most ever for a single battle in history.

DePue: Are the Marines eligible for the Navy Cross?

Greenwood: Navy and Marine Corps are the only ones who are issued the Navy Cross.

DePue: I know that you had Navy Corpsmen with you who received medals as well.

Greenwood: Exactly. Yeah. The Army and Air Force has medics, and the Navy are called Corpsmen. The Marines did not have doctors or medics. That's supplied by the U.S. Navy.

DePue: So you're sitting on this blocking position. Koto-ri: is that a small village or what is Koto-ri?

Greenwood: No, it's a town, I guess. I don't know what else you'd call it. A small town, a small village.

DePue: How close were you actually to the built-up area?

Greenwood: A couple hundred yards.

DePue: So wouldn't amount to anything in most maps, then.

Greenwood: No. No, it's probably not on a map.

DePue: Okay. So you're sitting on this blocking position, waiting for the Fifth and the Seventh to be driving south. What was it like when those units passed through your position?

Greenwood: Well, they were beat to hell. You could tell it. In the Marine Corps, small unit leadership is stressed day in and day out. If a lieutenant gets hit, the platoon sergeant takes over. If he gets hit, the senior squad leader takes over. You've still got a platoon leader. On one occasion, the new squad leader that eventually ended up being mine, was a sergeant named Morse. We called him Father Morse because he was a few years older than most of us. He had a brother that was at Haga-ru and he was quite concerned about his younger brother. He found out later he was killed. As the Fifth and Seventh were pulling through, he was out there trying to find out where his brother was or what happened to him. One guy asked, a young corporal, he says, "Where's your company commander?"

And he replied, "You're talking to him." This corporal ended up being a company commander.

DePue: What's your feeling, your reaction, when you see these guys coming through?

Greenwood: Well, they're beat up badly. We were in pretty good condition because we were in the defense and we didn't have to walk all those miles, but we still had fifty-six miles to go. The fact that we were in best condition, (we are now going to get into it real good because we're the rear guard for the rest of the division.

DePue: Yeah. And that's a sobering thought, I'm sure.

Greenwood: That's a sobering thought. Plus there's a hundred thousand—well, I don't know how many there are, but it seemed like a hundred thousand—civilians that had accumulated after the Fifth and Seventh went through us. Now these people want to go south, too. They want to get out of there away from the communists too, and we can't let them.

DePue: Now these are people who have been living under the North Korean government for five years or more.

Greenwood: Yes. And they want to get out of there. They want to get down south to safety and get away from communism, and we can't let them. We told them, “As soon as our battalion pulls out, you can come behind us. But we can't let you mingle in amongst us.” As a matter of fact, they'd already had a few Chinese mingle in there with them and they were afraid to say or do anything. One evening during this fray, a woman, probably North Korean, had a baby, of all things, at twenty-five degrees below zero. Talk about natural childbirth! We promptly went out there with C rations, with food, with warm blankets, anything we could find to help out, and we gave it to them. We had an interpreter with us that explained everything to them: “As soon as we pull out, you can come behind us, but you cannot mingle in with us.” It was for safety purposes and they'd screw everything up militarily. They appreciated it so much that they beat hell out of two or three Chinese, took their weapons away then ganged up on them and delivered them to us.

DePue: That sends a pretty powerful message of the way they felt about things. Now, I know that, during all of this, you weren't in the best condition yourself.

Greenwood: No. I had come up with what later turned into pneumonia, and we had so many people dead and wounded that a guy with something as minor as pneumonia wasn’t too important. First of all, they didn't have enough doctors to go around, and if you could find one, he was too busy with people who had legs missing and feet cut off and severe wounds, belly wounds, head wounds, that they didn't have time to really mess around with a guy with pneumonia. And they didn't have the proper medicine for it anyway. So I made the rest of that remaining fifty-six miles carrying a heavy load and climbing mountains. Of course, we had to take the hills the remainder of that trip. There were times where, you

know, especially when you start climbing hills with that heavy load, that I couldn't breathe. My lungs felt like they were on fire.

Didn't get any proper treatment until we got aboard ship and got out of there. They gave me some penicillin and things got better. Of course, I was in top condition; nineteen years old, you're indestructible at that age. But it was pretty severe later. My lungs got scarred pretty bad from that. I don't think anybody in that reservoir area, in that temperature, sleeping on the ground all that time, didn't get some kind of cold weather injuries. In my case, it damaged my lungs. And as years went by, it got gradually worse. I was going to stay in a little longer than twenty years. I tried to re-enlist after my twenty years but was denied. They did let me stay long enough to get my retirement. They would not let me re-enlist.

DePue: How many days did it take you to get from Koto-ri all the way out to the harbor?

Greenwood: I think about four more days.

DePue: Okay, so fifty-six miles in four days—

Greenwood: Four or five days.

DePue: —and there's an awful lot of fighting in those fifty-six miles.

Greenwood: At first there was. Of course now, things are a bit easier because we have got the Chinese where they had us. We have them stretched out. Their supply route is slow. Their medical supplies and food is slow. We've got them in a predicament. Plus, we have Corsair airplanes, those beautiful blue Corsairs.

DePue: In daylight, at least.

Greenwood: In daylight. And when we have a problem, we call them guys in and they help us out. They were able to do a lot better job; the closer we got to the ocean, the easier it was. And the last few miles, like the last ten or fifteen miles –piece of cake. So we only really had problems for the first twenty-five miles, I would say.

DePue: How many specific firefights do you think you personally would have been involved with during those first twenty-five miles?

Greenwood: Every day for minor fights. Some were major, some were minor. You get behind the trucks, you send a platoon up on the hill to kick them off. But when you kick them off the hill, the guys that are shooting down at you move to the next hill. And it's slow moving. We did commandeer a jeep that the Army was kind enough to leave us, and at one point—

DePue: That's one way of saying it.

Greenwood: (laughter) We asked could we switch from the heavy tripod which weighed fifty three pounds to an eighteen pound tripod, and the forty-one pound gun to a thirty two pound light machine gun, and we wouldn't have to carry so much. Well, the fact that we had the jeep there and we had the heavy on the jeep within arm's length of us, Lucas, our section leader, said, "Okay. But if we need to go put it in action, you put that one down and you grab *Beulah*."

DePue: What was the nomenclature of the light machine gun?

Greenwood: It's the exact same machine gun—

DePue: The water-cooled?

Greenwood: —as the water-cooled. Except it's air-cooled.

DePue: Okay. So it's still got the same punch.

Greenwood: The same .30-06 bullet, the same functioning, the same everything, except it's much lighter and it's air-cooled. Most people don't realize it, but the light machine gun has a heavy barrel, and the heavy machine gun has a light barrel. The theory is that the air-cooled barrel weighing nine pounds takes a lot longer to heat up. The theory of the heavy machine gun is the three pound barrel is cooled by water, and the water cools it off faster, and it functions and recoils faster. The recoiling system on the heavy .30 is probably one hundred or hundred fifty rounds a minute faster than the light machine gun, because of the lighter barrel.

DePue: Being water-cooled when you're consistently below zero is a problem, I'm sure.

Greenwood: The first thing we learned is you pour the water out and you put antifreeze in it.

DePue: Pure antifreeze?

Greenwood: Pure antifreeze. And even then, when you grab that trigger—picture starting your car on a cold morning outside, where it goes chug - chug – chug, chugchugchug, and as it turns over, it gets a little faster –when those pistons start to fire, well, the same thing—

DePue: That's about the same time the heart's going a little faster.

Greenwood: Yeah. The same way with the water-cooled .30 –that barrel, even in antifreeze – it's a little slushy in there until it gets moving.

DePue: During all of this, what was the worst, heaviest combat you experienced?

Greenwood: The attacks at Koto-ri were sometimes severe at night. I've got confidence. I've been a rifleman all my life, ever since I was a kid, and if I can see what I want to shoot at, I've got confidence that I'm better and I'm faster than he is. I've got a

lot more confidence. But at night, you can't see anything, and that makes it tougher.

DePue: Do you know whether you're hitting the enemy or not?

Greenwood: You don't know. Especially the machine guns. You know that a fair percentage hits are yours. For example, in that first attack we ran that night, I think we ran seven or eight boxes, 250 rounds to a box, across that plateau. The ground is frozen, and a bullet, even if you hit the ground, it comes up tumbling and the bullet don't stop until it hits a Chinaman, you know? It just keeps on until—

DePue: You hit something.

Greenwood: Till you hit something, you know. It's hard to stop it. The machine gunner is known as the unsung hero because you never know who you did hit or how many.

DePue: Well, that's also the first target the enemy's going to look at.

Greenwood: Precisely. They want those machine guns. In that first attack, they also came in behind their mortars wearing white gear. That's the first time we had seen white gear. We did not wear white gear; we wore regular dungaree, utility, Marine Corps uniforms with camouflaged helmet covers. We didn't disguise ourselves.

DePue: It wasn't white camouflage, it was the standard?

Greenwood: Standard. Yes

DePue: What were the Chinese armed with as far as their handguns?

Greenwood: The Chinese had their burp guns and rifles, primarily.

DePue: Okay, so not a long range on them but they can put out a lot of volume.

Greenwood: A lot of volume. Yes.

DePue: Most of this action sounds like it was at night unless you were marching out in the daytime and had to push the enemy off.

Greenwood: They were shooting at us both day and night.

DePue: So often times you had a platoon that was sent to push the enemy off the hilltop. Would your machine gun be sitting down at the bottom, putting in fire right on top of that position?

Greenwood: Overhead fire, correct.

DePue: Overhead fire?

Greenwood: We call it overhead fire.

DePue: Were the Marines able to maneuver underneath that fire?

Greenwood: You bet.

DePue: And were you able to call in the Corsairs as well?

Greenwood: That's right. We work as a team and it works out pretty well –surprisingly few casualties when you do it like you're supposed to.

DePue: A pretty convincing combination: you've got the Corsairs and the machine guns and the infantry moving underneath and all.

Greenwood: There was a time early on when we were going through Yong Dung Po, before we got to Seoul, where you could hear the radios saying—you know, this is how close our air support gets, Corsairs, the Marine pilots would radio down, "Empty casings will be falling in your positions. I say again, empty casings will be falling in your positions. They will not be bullets." So you know they're right over you when they're shooting. (laughter)

DePue: I'm sure by the time you got to this action at the Chosin Reservoir, there was nothing that made you feel better than those empty casings, huh?

Greenwood: That's right. There's a poem in our dedication book for the Korean Memorial, and it's on the wall over here somewhere.

DePue: I've read it.

Greenwood: About the blue Corsairs?

DePue: Yeah. Which was more challenging: the Chinese, or trying to stay warm and survive in these incredibly tough conditions?

Greenwood: Well, it was a combination of hell. It's bad enough just trying to survive during that condition. But you know, the primary age or the basic age is people nineteen to twenty-four years old. There was a few older than that from World War II, but you're in top condition. Myself, I played basketball, baseball, all that, and I was in great shape. But when I got to the bottom of that hill, I did not have a muscle that didn't ache, even in the condition I was in. So that cold weather just plays on you. You're sleeping on the ground, and it's just a gradual deterioration of your body. I don't care what else is involved. And then when the people are shooting at you at the same time, it's a nightmare. But when you look around you, you see your other guys doing the same thing, and if they can do it, you know, by God, you can do it.

DePue: Certainly in what you've told me already and what I picked up in the book, you had an incredible respect for the leadership you had.

Greenwood: Precisely.

DePue: That starts from the squad leader all the way up through the chain of command?

Greenwood: Exactly. When you're in actual combat, you don't know the big picture. You don't know what the generals are talking about. You don't know what General MacArthur, Ned Almond, or General Smith are talking about. All you know is what's going on right around you. That's all you know. And you depend on that leadership, and it's proven time and time again to be correct and reliable. How can you go wrong if you listen to these guys? Because they'll get us out of here. And that's what you rely on.

DePue: Of course the First Marine Regiment was commanded by one of the most legendary Marines ever. Did you have occasion to see him?

Greenwood: At the time, I didn't know of his reputation because I was like, you know, a nineteen-year-old kid. But no sooner did I get in his Regiment that the word got out, my God, this is Chesty Puller.

DePue: What was his reputation before Korea?

Greenwood: Chesty Puller is the only Marine that ever won, and lived to wear, five Navy Crosses. From World War I on up, and even when there was no war, he would volunteer. He fought the Caico Bahama rebels in the Bahamas, in the Philippines; in any place that had a war or a skirmish going on, he would volunteer to be there. In World War II, Guadalcanal, Peleliu etc. He was pretty outspoken, as you might imagine. And he earned his reputation. He didn't think anymore about talking to the President of the United States or to the Commandant of the Marine Corps than you would to the janitor or the elevator operator in some building that you work in. He said, "My enlisted men do my fighting for me, and this is the people that I drink my beer with." He would stop by the staff club, and he mingled with his troops. He had the utmost respect. To be in a regiment with a guy with his reputation, you just know that if you get into trouble, this guy's going to do the right thing and get you out of there.

DePue: When you were on that gun position in Koto-ri, did you have an opportunity to see him there?

Greenwood: One evening, I had gun watch, and Colonel Puller walked up behind me. I didn't know who it was; he had all this cold weather gear on. I could hear the footsteps crunching the snow, as I turned around, he said, "You see anything, son?" I didn't know who it was at the time, and I said, "Ain't seen nothing yet." And he said, "Well, keep looking lad; they're out there." (laughter) And I didn't know at the time that that was Chesty Puller.

DePue: How'd you find out?

Greenwood: Well, the next morning, everybody said, "Hey, Puller was around checking the area last night." So I said, “Yeah, he stopped by to say hello.”

DePue: How about Almond? Not Almond. Smith.

Greenwood: I never talked to O.P. Smith personally, but we knew he had pretty much the same reputation as Colonel Puller. He was a one-star general; he was the Division Commander.

DePue: Isn't that normally a two-star?

Greenwood: No. Brigadier –he’s a brigadier general, one star.

DePue: Now, if I recall, isn't it Smith who says, "Hell, we're just fighting in a different direction. We're not retreating."

Greenwood: That's correct. He was quite a gentleman, and he did make that statement. Whenever the planes landed at Haga-ru to take those wounded out, there was a handful of reporters managed to get on a plane to assess the situation. They asked General Smith, "What do you think about the first time in history, the Marines retreating?" And being as there's more Chinese behind us than there is in front of us, he just simply said, "Retreat Hell, we're fighting in a different direction." That's the second time that phrase "retreat hell" was used ; once at Belleau Wood and once again at the Chosin Reservoir.

DePue: When did you find out about that statement being made? I would suspect that—

Greenwood: Not until after. But the word spread quickly.

DePue: When you hear it, do you say, ”There's my general”?

Greenwood: ”That's my guy.” Well, like I mentioned before, you only know what's going on right in your immediate area because you're the guy that fires the rifle and the machine gun. That's your job. You cover this area, and we'll tell you later how you did. But you don't know the big plan or the game plan. You're never involved in that.

DePue: Yup. Did you have any ROK [Republic of Korea] soldiers attached to your units, or have any experience with Republic of Korea soldiers at this time?

Greenwood: During Seoul we had a few. The only ones we had at the reservoir were interpreters. We had a very fine interpreter there at the reservoir, and I'm sure glad we did because he kept us well informed.

DePue: Well, especially with all the civilians that were flooding back.

Greenwood: He was worth his weight in gold during that. That was a very crucial time. What are you going to do with these civilians? Well, we were told to keep them out. Don't let them cross this line, don't let them in.

DePue: That had to be tugging at your heart, though, to see these people in such desperate straits, and yet you knew you couldn't let them get in.

Greenwood: And after seeing what we witnessed at Seoul in that courtyard, that was even more dramatic. I asked the section leader, "What do you do?" He says, "Keep them out." I said, "How?" He said, "Keep them out."

DePue: How do you keep them out?

Greenwood: (laughter) He didn't say.

DePue: (laughter) Maybe the machine gun.

Greenwood: Shoot over their head or something, I don't know. But it worked out okay; they listened. And especially when we took clothing out there to them, we told them, "It won't be long and you can get out of here, but you can't leave until we say you can leave."

DePue: Was it their hope to be evacuated along with the Americans once you got to the harbor?

Greenwood: It was my understanding that there were ships there for civilians, and a lot of them did get evacuated there at Hungnam Harbor.

DePue: Again, that speaks volumes of where they were in the war.

Greenwood: I think the expression was,"They voted with their feet."

DePue: Yeah. How about the Chinese themselves, your impression of them?

Greenwood: Good soldiers. Very disciplined, very dedicated. They were confronted with the same situation we were, and their boots weren't as good as ours. They had those, kind of like sneakers. They were well padded and kind of like a good basketball shoe. They were thicker, padded better. And they had the quilted uniforms, cotton quilted, and they're insulated. And they're quite warm. And they had layers of clothing. Wear your clothing loose and in layers. Matter of fact, when you're taught about cold weather they give you the secret, they say, to keeping warm in cold, is the key word cold itself, c-o-l-d. C is keep clothing clean. O, don't get overheated. L, wear your clothing loose and in layers. D, keep them dry.

DePue: In other words, if you're doing something, working hard, digging a hole, you take those layers off.

Greenwood: Precisely.

DePue: To avoid from sweating.

Greenwood: Don't get overheated, yeah. C-O-L-D, that's the key word.

DePue: And the people who violated those rules?

Greenwood: Get frostbite.

DePue: I think I read that there were several occasions where you captured Chinese. What was your impression after they were captured?

Greenwood: Well, I don't get in on the interpretation. I only know what was told to us later and what you read afterward. But immediately those captured were willing to talk. They were given a cigarette and something to eat and a cup of coffee or whatever, and they were quite willing to talk. We told them, "We're going to treat you right. Just tell us what outfit you're in and what your mission is." And each one, no matter if they interviewed an officer or a private, the message was the same in each one they interviewed. The mission was to annihilate the First Marine Division. They thought that was America's elite, and if they annihilate the First Marine Division, the rest of the American Army will crumble. thinkin that we were the elite and if they just killed every one of us, things would go easier from then on.

DePue: And as far as you could tell, they were completely, totally dedicated to that?

Greenwood: That was their mission. Matter of fact, I have that video that I want you to take with you that mentions this. The Chinese were ordered to “Kill the Marines like snakes in your back yard.”

DePue: Okay, I'd like to do that.

Greenwood: It's only twenty minutes but it's pretty good.

DePue: Again, this might be an unfair question, but do you think, from what you could tell or what you were hearing other people say about the prisoners that they captured, were they dedicated communists as well?

Greenwood: Oh yes. Yes.

DePue: Did they believe heart and soul in communism as a way of life?

Greenwood: Well, it's the way they were born and bred. They don't know anything else. They don't know there is anything else. When you don't have a television or radio giving you a different opinion, if you only hear one thing all your life in school and your parents, from your military, it's the only thing that you've ever

heard all your life ever since youwere born, why you don't know there is anything else.

DePue: Yeah. Well, from what I understand about the Chinese that you guys faced, these were hardened veterans of the Chinese Civil War. They'd been fighting the Nationalists for years and years.

Greenwood: They'd been fighting for years. And now they had Russian equipment and Russian weapons, and they were supported by Russia.

DePue: Okay. Talk a little bit about the embarkation from Hungnam. Do you recall anything particular about that?

Greenwood: Yes Hungnam. We board ship, and as you might imagine, space is very valuable. The people that had gotten there first had gotten down below and actually got bunks to sleep in. Others were sleeping in the hallway. When I got there, my outfit had to sleep in the wide open outdoors. But it's warmer; it's like thirty-five degrees above zero. We're talking seventy degrees warmer. We don't care if it is outdoors now, you know? And we just spread out our sleeping bags and got in it and covered up with ponchos.

I don't guess we got ten or twelve hours sleep during the entire two weeks at the reservoir. It's just an hour here, a catnap here and there. For the guys from Yudam-ni and Haga-ru it was even worse. So you're just dead on your feet, and to get a place to lay down where nobody's shooting at you, you don't care. I recall it started drizzling, and at that point there was a couple of Red Cross gals that were on the upper deck aboard the ship that I was on. I don't even remember the name of it at the time. And they were looking down at us, and one of them remarked, "Those poor devils." And I thought to myself, “Hell, this is like the Waldorf. Don't worry about us, lady.”

DePue: Was the First Regiment one of the last out of Haga-ru?

Greenwood: Yeah, as we fought rear guard for the division, the Fifth and Seventh pulled through us at Koto-ri, and then we were the last, the tail end.

DePue: Was there a real push by the Chinese into the harbor then? Were you really fighting at the very end, fighting to keep them off?

Greenwood: At first. As I mentioned earlier, the further down we got, the less problems there were, and the last several miles were non-combat.

DePue: So there weren't Chinese—

Greenwood: No. Just…

DePue: —at the harbor firing at the ships or anything?

Greenwood: No. They were strung out so far. Keep in mind, they're strung out fifty miles.

DePue: AS you said, they're suffering from the cold, too.

Greenwood: Not only are they suffering from the cold, we killed 38,000 of them. Plus, when you get 38,000 dead, you can just about double that amount in wounded. So we put a hurting on them pretty good, too. So there was no desire to follow us any further.

DePue: So the shipping out at Hungnam was basically unopposed in that respect. But there had to be lots of civilians you left in town. At Hungnam.

Greenwood: Hungnam? Yes. But a lot of them were put aboard ship too, and they took them out of there. I was not involved in that. We've got other people that do the loading of the equipment and everything. We did our job. We got out of there.

DePue: Were the Navy guys supervising loading equipment?

Greenwood: Yes, Navy and Marine logistics.

DePue: Were there engineers destroying much of Hungnam on the way out?

Greenwood: Yes. Our engineers placed explosives in the harbor and blew up any and all useable equipment. We left nothing for the enemy. As all the equipment that we could carry was loaded, when all the troops and civilians were loaded and the ships moved out, the last elements touched off an explosion that was heard for miles.We didn't leave them anything but a pile of dust. That's in that video you're going to see.

DePue: Okay. I think this is probably a good place to stop. I wanted to get through the Chosin Reservoir. There's still lots more even in Korea, then we can talk a little bit more about Vietnam for the next session as well. Do you have any final comments about your experience at Chosin Reservoir?

Greenwood: No. The only thing that I would comment is that I was asked a question when I was talking to high school students. One girl asked me, "What did you learn from the Chosin Reservoir?" That was a good question. I said, "I think that what I learned was, no matter what you set out to do in life, set out to do it. And there's no sense becoming involved if you don't become involved. Don't quit. Don't ever quit. Because no matter how bad things look, if you keep at it, keep chipping away at the foundation, you're going to get the job done." So I think I learned not to quit. And I think that was my lesson that I learned.

DePue: You had some of the best examples in American history to follow on there.

Greenwood: Yes.

DePue: Okay. Thank you very much, Carl. (end of interview one)

Interview with Carl Greenwood

VRK-A-L-2007-008

Interview # 2: July 16, 2007
Interviewer: Mark DePue

DePue: Today is Monday, July 16, 2007. My name is Mark DePue, I'm the Director of Oral History at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library. I'm here for my second session with Carl Greenwood of Springfield, Illinois. We're in his basement, surrounded by his carvings and his artwork; it's a wonderful place for inspiration for me. Carl, thank you very much for talking with me again.

Greenwood: My pleasure.

DePue: The last time, Carl, we talked a lot about your experiences primarily in the Korean War, and we got to the point where you were one of those who survived the Chosin Reservoir, the Frozen Chosin, if you will. We got you on shipboard as you departed the harbor there, just as the harbor was being blown up. So why don't you tell us what you did after that?

Greenwood: Well, the ship landed at Masan; that's down near the southern tip, near Pusan, and our ranks were pretty much depleted from people being wounded, killed, and frostbite. So we had three to four weeks of well-earned rest, and our ranks were put back together with replacements.

DePue: As I understand, Masan is just a few miles north of Pusan.

Greenwood: Yes. It's not far from Pusan at all.

DePue: Okay. I have a lot of questions this time. This is the first opportunity you have had to really reflect on what you just went through: Inchon to Seoul, and then especially the Chosin Reservoir. As you are reflecting back, was there anything that really struck you at that time on what you'd just experienced?

Greenwood: Well, it all happened so fast. You know, you don't really have time to think. But after it's over and you're resting, then you can reminisce a little bit. We thought we did a good job. And it was getting near Christmas now, and we spent Christmas there at Masan. Our regimental commander called the First Marine Regiment together, what was left of us. there—

DePue: This was before replacements got there?

Greenwood: Before replacements got there. They were coming in, but slow. But we hadn't been completely replenished yet. He spoke to us and told us how proud we

should be of the job we did and always remember that we were the First Marine Regiment.

DePue: This is Chesty Puller, right?

Greenwood: Yes, Chesty Puller talking. And when he got done telling us what a good job we did, he asked, "Do you have any questions?" One young man stood up and said, "Yeah, Chesty. When are we going home?" Without hesitating, Chesty said, "We're going home when we can say we're Americans, and we can't say we're Americans until we kill every communist SOB in this hemisphere. That's when we can go home. That's when there will be peace in the world." And another young man stood up and said, "I got a package from home today and it had a pint of Jack Daniels in it. Would the Colonel have a drink with me, sir?" And Chesty said, "You bet I will, Marine, step up here," and they had a toast to the First Marine Regiment and there was a thousand cheers.

DePue: I was asking about the timing of the replacements. I'm sure it wouldn't have meant the same to the replacements as it did to those of you who had suffered through the Chosin Reservoir.

Greenwood: Well, we were glad to have replacements. A lot of them were Marine Corps Reservists; they come from anywhere and everywhere. It's what you call on the job training, so you've got to watch these guys close. I was pretty much the same way. I was an expert rifleman, but I'd never seen a machine gun before. But I learned pretty quick from these World War II guys. It rubbed off pretty quick.

DePue: Was there a special bond for the Chosin Reservoir survivors, though, that there wasn't for the replacements?

Greenwood: I think so, because we'd been there and done that, and these other guys still had—even though they were Marines—to get their feet wet. We put them under our wing and watch them a little closer, because we're the veterans now and these guys will learn from us.

DePue: So there was a real sense of responsibility for these new guys to get them incorporated as quickly as possible?

Greenwood: Indeed.

DePue: And you'd lost your squad leaders?

Greenwood: The squad leader? Yeah, Emil Buff, Squad Leader. He was a World War II veteran with two Purple Hearts. He got one Purple Heart at Tarawa and another one at Peleliu, I do believe. Emil –we missed him. He knew machine guns inside out. But we still had Staff Sergeant Lucas, and if anybody knew more about machine guns than Buff, it was Lucas. So we were still in good hands.

DePue: Buff was just rotated on?

Greenwood: Just rotated because he took advantage of the two Purple Heart rule.

DePue: Okay. Didn't you get out of Chosin Reservoir with a bad case of pneumonia?

Greenwood: Yes. When we got aboard ship—and I think we might have mentioned that in the last interview— our Corpsman, his name was Wiley, Doc Wiley, hunted me down because he knew I was ailing, and he gave me a king-size shot of penicillin. That's when we were sleeping aboard, up topside; we had sleeping bags covered up with ponchos

DePue: Yeah, we did talk about that, I think. Were you able to kick the pneumonia pretty quickly?

Greenwood: Well, I was nineteen years old and I'm indestructible, so you know, at that age you heal up pretty quick. Now, the scars never did heal. They're still there.

DePue: Replacements came in. I assume that you had a lot of equipment to replace as well?

Greenwood: Indeed we did. Spare parts, primarily. We took pretty good care of everything we had: our individual weapons and the spare parts is what we were really short of. *Beulah* had been hit three times. She had three Purple Hearts herself; one in the pistol grip, one in the trail leg, nothing serious, but she kept on percolating just like a Bunn-O-Matic coffee maker [Carl lives in the home town of Bunn coffeemakers].

DePue: Great. And you take care of *Beulah* just like you take care of your—

Greenwood: Without *Beulah*, we are nothing. Our life rotates around *Beulah*_.

DePue: Well, here's the other thing I'm really curious about. You guys had a very tough go out at the Chosin Reservoir. You retreated from the Chosin Reservoir, obviously following orders, and you retreated, but what was—

Greenwood: We call that an organized withdrawal, because there are more enemy behind us than there is in front of us, and a retreat would pre-suppose defeat. If anyone was defeated, we'd like to say it was the 120,000 Chinese that tried to stop us.

DePue: Well, what would you call the movement that the Eighth Army did?

Greenwood: That was called a retreat. That was called a retreat.

DePue: That's what I thought. Now, here's what I was getting at: How did you guys feel about that scenario, about what the Eighth Army had experienced?

Greenwood: Well, at the time we didn't know they were following orders. All we knew was that we were going to do something different. And we knew that the army was on our left and right flank, on both sides of us, and all of a sudden they weren't there and they were replaced by Chinese divisions instead of United States Army divisions. That's all we knew, and then all of a sudden we're surrounded. But they were just following orders, and it was unfortunate because whenever General Almond told his troops to, "Take off on foot, I'm sure a lot of you will get through." That was unfortunate because that's when most of those kids got captured. Few. You still hear about Vietnam being talked about as prisoners of war and missing in action, but few people know that in three short years in Korea we had two and a half times more missing in action and three times more prisoners of war.

DePue: Weren't the vast majority of those in that first year?

Greenwood: Most of it took place right around that Chosin Reservoir area.

DePue: Did the Marines have a certain disdain for the Army guys?

Greenwood: Well, they didn't operate the same way we do. Matter of fact, there was one small incident at Koto-ri when one of this handful of Army troops came through us, they didn't know where they were. They were just taking off on foot like they were told. They had a lieutenant and he had a squad with him; they were quite happy to find us. We put them in a warming tent and gave them something to eat—I mention that in my book. The Army has a manual called *Retrograde Movements;* the Marines don't have such a manual. What it means is how to retreat, and they've got a manual on how to do it. There's certain –you know, shoot and fall back, shoot and fall back –or whatever you want to call it. But the first thing, when Colonel Puller put this lieutenant and his men in a certain area, the first thing the lieutenant asked him was, "Where is my line of retreat?" And that was the wrong fellow to ask because Puller explained to him in no uncertain terms that if he retreated one foot, our own artillery would be shooting at him. So they stayed there and they came out with us; everything worked out well.

DePue: Well, the reason I mention this and dwell so much on it is because of my own reading of this period of time. I know what the soldiers in the Army were calling this. These were the folks who were on the western side of that spine that runs through Korea, in the Eighth Army Sector. They called it "The Big Bugout". Does that ring a bell to you?

Greenwood: It does.

DePue: There is no pride in what the Army did in withdrawing, but there is intense pride with what the Marine Corps did.

Greenwood: Well, precisely. We suffered dearly, but we brought our dead, our wounded, and our equipment. I read a book—I can't think of the name of it now—but it was

about Korea, and when the Marines were nearing Hungnam, they had tents put up for us there to stay the night before we boarded ship. And some of the Army personnel had bugged out once again. They were following orders. I'm not blaming the troops; I'm not blaming the kids at all. They were following orders. But one of the guys said, "Hey, the Marines are coming out here now," and they stopped what they were doing to watch. And we were pretty ragged, but we were coming out down the road. And the other fellow remarked, "Yeah, and they're bringing their dead and wounded and we didn't. I'm sure, of any of those people that are still alive, if anything that they remember the most, I would say that they would remember leaving their buddies that were wounded and helpless.

DePue: Yeah. Now let's bring you back to Masan again. This is a pretty dark period for the United States Military. What was your prognosis, what was the feeling of the Marines you were with about the immediate future in Korea?

Greenwood: Well, this was still December and our ranks had been replenished and we were bringing in more Army troops. General MacArthur went out of the picture and General Ridgway took over, and he had a different philosophy. He wanted more troops and he got them, and his idea was to use more of the Marine philosophy, to get in there and start an offense and stick with it and don't retreat. And that was also mentioned in my book, that he said that this was a new beginning. We're here to stay and we're going to start doing the job we're supposed to do.

DePue: Was there ever any doubt in your mind or your fellow Marines' minds that maybe you weren't going to be successful, that they might have to withdraw everybody or pull back to the original Pusan Perimeter?

Greenwood: We never heard anything like that.

DePue: So from your perspective—

Greenwood: No, matter of fact, we were replenishing our ranks, getting up to snuff so we could go back onto the offense.

DePue: Okay. You did allude to it. One of the reasons General Ridgway was there, of course, is that General Walker, who was the commander of the Eighth Army, died, I think just two days before Christmas itself. Do you recall that announcement?

Greenwood: Yeah, we heard a rumor of it. I think he was killed in a jeep accident.

DePue: Yes. Any reaction to that?

Greenwood: No. General Ned Almond was not one of our favorites, and Walker was, I think, probably the second most un-favorite. We pretty much stick to Marine philosophy and do what we're told, and we don't worry about anybody else.

There's no sense worrying about it because there's nothing you can do about it anyway.

DePue: But you did suggest you had some a better opinion about Ridgway.

Greenwood: I think so. I think it was for the better. The other regime was the one that told us we were going to be home at Christmas and that we didn't need thermal boots. (laughter)

DePue: Of course during this time MacArthur is still in the picture, although he kind of relinquished a lot of direct control over operations to Ridgway once Ridgway arrived there. Do you recall when Seoul fell?

Greenwood: I think the fourth time.

DePue: The third time. The South Korean capitol of Seoul changed hands four times during the war. The city was occupied by North Korean forces on June 29, 1950, just days after their initial invasion of the South. The Americans liberated the city days following the Inchon landing in September of 1950. The Chinese forced the city's evacuation on January 3, 1951, and the UN forces retook the city on March 18th, and retained control for the rest of the war.

Greenwood: Yes. We finally ended up capturing Seoul four times before they finally held it.

DePue: What was your reaction or the reaction of your fellow Marines when you heard that the Chinese once again captured Seoul? It's about the same time period.

Greenwood: Yeah. We had taken it three times, and we said, "Well, here we go again. We're going to take it back, and we hope they can hold it this time."

DePue: So there was never any question in your mind or your fellow Marines' minds that you guys were going to triumph in the end?

Greenwood: There was never a doubt in our mind. If our boss says we're going to do it and we will. He wouldn't ask us to do it if it weren't possible.

DePue: When you say your boss, your boss was…?

Greenwood: Chesty Puller and General Oliver P. Smith.

DePue: At this time Puller wasn't long for the regiment, though, was he?

Greenwood: No. He had been promoted to Brigadier General and he was assistant to General Smith.

DePue: Who became the Regimental Commander then?

Greenwood: It was Colonel Sutter.

DePue: So this brings us to the beginning of the New Year. The Chinese start the New Year with a major offensive again, the resumption of the offensive.

Greenwood: The Communist China Spring Offensive, it was called. They came in force again. They had replenished their ranks, and now they joined the North Koreans, and they've got somewhere in the neighborhood of a quarter of a million troops, counting the Chinese and North Koreans combined: sixty thousand North Koreans and the rest made up of Chinese.

DePue: So you've had hardly an opportunity to lick your wounds, get some reinforcements, replace some of your equipment, then you're sent back up to combat. Was it to take care of some guerillas in the Andong area?

Greenwood: Well, that was the first thing we did; that was more like a patrol, and on we went on a march to this high ground. It was more like guerilla action. They call it the Black Diamond Gang. I don't know how many there were –maybe a hundred of them.

DePue: From what I read, it was a remnant of one of the North Korean divisions that had gotten passed by on the drive north.

Greenwood: They were stealing from the villagers, and the villagers were frightened. What little food they had was being stolen by this communist guerilla gang. So they called on us. We weren't quite ready for full-scale combat yet, but they sent us out to "take care of this thing". So we took care of the Black Diamond Gang. It took us one day.

DePue: Was there any sense that the local villagers had any support at all for this group?

Greenwood: Not to my knowledge.

DePue: Didn't this prove to be a very good way to break in your replacements?

Greenwood: Indeed. That was not a full-scale thing, but the replacements got their feet wet. We put some hot phosphorous in the huts that they were staying in and they all ran out. When they did, we cut them down like grass and it was all over. We had one Marine seriously wounded and it was getting toward dark. We were prepared to stay there for the night for this one Marine and set up a defense, because we couldn't move him and we're not going to leave him. But about thirty, forty minutes later his heartbeat got a lot better, and the Corpsman said, "I think we can move him now if we go easy." So we did; we had him on a stretcher, took him out of there. There was one North Korean prisoner and he was wounded badly. We told him, "You have to hurry up, you have to keep up," and he said he couldn't keep up. The interpreter told him, "You have to keep up or you're going to die. We're going to have to shoot you. We can't leave you here, we're not going to leave you here. You either come with us or we're going to shoot you." He says, "Please shoot me." So the interpreter obliged him and shot the prisoner and we went on our way.

DePue: That's the brutal side of warfare.

Greenwood: Yes. It is.

DePue: In your opinion, was he capable of staying with you?

Greenwood: No. He had lost too much blood.

DePue: So it was just a matter of time anyway.

Greenwood: He begged to be killed. We could have left him there, but he'd have just suffered.

DePue: That's certainly a rude awakening for the new replacements, isn't it?

Greenwood: Yes, You might say so. I should have left that out.

DePue: You mentioned that in the book, too, and I was struck that you had left that in. I It shows some moral courage to do that, I think. This was in the dead of winter.

Greenwood: But we're down in the lower ground. This is the only place in Korea they've got a wooded area. In the southern part, it's all crops. If there was a tree, they took it out to plant rice. And up north, it's too cold. The temperatures are too severe, both hot and cold, to grow anything. If you see a tree over two inches in diameter up north, well, that's a big tree. But now we're in the central section, this is the only place in Korea that there is a wooded area.

DePue: Did you have the Mickey Mouse boots by that time?

Greenwood: Well, we didn't need them. The time I was there, we never did get them. The next winter, the following winter, troops were given Mickey Mouse boots. But the time I was there we never did get them.

DePue: Okay, so there was that much difference in climate when you were at Masan.

Greenwood: Yeah, it's 70 degrees difference.

DePue: That brings us up to Operation Killer. I'm sure General Ridgeway decided they needed the First Marines in Operation Killer.

Greenwood: Yes. Operation Killer. It was supposed to be four phases: Operation Killer, Ripper, Pusher, and Crusher. Killer was to inflict as many casualties as we could on the enemy and disrupt them. Then Ripper was to rip their lines and their main line of supplies apart. Then Pusher, push the enemy back, and then Crusher, crush them. There were just four phases.

DePue: And this is during a time when the Chinese have a concerted offensive going on themselves.

Greenwood: Indeed. It was called the Communist China Spring Offensive.

DePue: This is, again, the initial phases of it; it's kind of one continuous offensive if you want to look at it that way. Did it seem like the Communists were running out of gas, so to speak?

Greenwood: Well, we were winning, we were pushing them, but they were fighting a delaying action. They'd shoot and pull back, shoot and pull back. But all this time we were eating up real estate and we're capturing prisoners and we're killing them. We're killing Chinese and North Koreans fifteen or twenty to one, but they never seemed to run out. They have an endless supply of Chinese and North Koreans. They had plenty of replacements.

DePue: What did you think of their tactics, then?

Greenwood: Pound for pound, they're a good soldier. They're hard fighters and they don't need much to live on. They can sleep on the ground. We always said they could dig a foxhole with a teaspoon. They had poor equipment, but still there they are; every morning and every night, there they are.

DePue: Didn't it seem very counterproductive that they just kept throwing people at you without the right kind of tactics to back it up?

Greenwood: Well, they do have tactics. For example, they like to attack at night, and we like to utilize all the daylight possible because we can utilize artillery, planes for close air support, mortars, and then our ground attack. Then when we holed up for the night we set up a hasty defense, and then here they come back at us. They like to fire mortars into our positions and then come in right behind the mortar attack. Because they feel that with mortars landing in your position, that your heads are down in your foxhole and they've got a better chance of getting close to you before you can know that they're there.

DePue: Can you recall any of the specific things that you told your replacements? "Okay, here's how you survive, here's how you're successful."

Greenwood: Each one's got a squad leader and they get instructions, but it rubs off on you pretty quick. I mean, you only have to have a mortar land next to you one time before you figure out that you need to get your head down.

DePue: Which means you need to be digging that foxhole deep enough.

Greenwood: That's right, yeah.

DePue: Something that soldiers don't like to do otherwise.

Greenwood: Well, there was a time during Operation Killer, when we set up when Fox Company was next to us. That was Dronckowski and I, because we're both on *Beulah* now, gunner and assistant gunner, and Fox Company was on higher

ground than us. We set up in the defense, and Fox Company was on higher ground than us to our left. There was a knoll about eighty or a hundred yards long that was in between Fox Company and us. Well, it wasn't occupied by either of us. and Nobody in their right mind would go out on that thing, I mean the enemy, because they're right in between the two companies. We had got the word just before dark, the division had baked some bread. Well, that don't sound like a big deal, but all we'd been eating was John Wayne crackers out of the C rations. So I had a real neat breakfast plan: I was going to have that homemade bread, and some chicken and vegetables from a can of C rations, and lots of jelly on the bread. When we were digging in the machine gun Ski and I hit rock –almost solid. And we said, "Well, we're deep enough because we're on high ground. Nobody can get to us." But we never considered that little knoll that was higher than us. And out of the clear, blue, dark night, a squad of Chinese with two Nambu machine guns—that's Japanese machine guns –

DePue: What kind of machine guns?

Greenwood: Nambu. Those are Japanese machine guns, and I don't whether they got them from Japanese or left over from the Chinese insurrection or what. But they started firing down on us, and they evidently had seen us putting *Beulah* in, and they like to knock those machine guns out if they can. They started firing down on us with emphasis on *Beulah.*. I told Ski, I said, "I'm on the left side of the gun. I'm going to unclamp, I'm going to swing the gun over to you. Knock them off that hill." Ski says, "No, I think that's Fox Company." Well, his name's Dronckowski, so he said, "That's Fox Company." And I said, "Ski, I don't care who it is. Get them off of there." So he says, "Nope. It's Fox Company."

DePue: And during this time, are the two of you lying flat in the bottom of this hole you've got?

Greenwood: The bullets are four, six inches over our noses. Rocks are flying in our face. *Beulah* had got hit a couple times in the trail leg and the pistol grip. And he still said, "It's Fox Company." Well, ironically, Fox Company thought it was us. We thought it was Fox Company. And nobody shot back at them. Well, they must have thought that we had pulled out and they quit shooting at us because nobody fired back. So they stood up, and Ski says, "See, they're standing up on the skylines. Only Marines do that. The Chinese wouldn't be stupid enough to stand up on the skyline." So they started walking down the hill. Now they're down below us and they started talking, and they weren't talking Fox Company, they were talking Chinese. I told Ski, I said, "Fox Company my butt," you know, or words to that effect. And I pulled the pins on two grenades and threw them high, another two right after them, and I rolled a couple more down there to be sure. And it seemed that the grenades got all of them but one, and the rifleman got him.

DePue: Was this is in the early morning daylight?

Greenwood: No, this is still night. This is middle of the night. So in the morning we checked that ridge out and there was all kinds of empty brass up there. The Chinese were down at the bottom of the hill. One Marine got hit in the leg because everybody was down in their hole, didn't have their heads up and they weren't firing back. And it was kind of weird. My loaf of bread was more like bread crumbs.

DePue: You obviously had no communication with Fox Company during that whole time.

Greenwood: No. They simply thought it was us and we thought it was Fox Company.

DePue: What I'd like to have you explain in a little bit more detail is your fighting position. What I'm envisioning in my mind is, you've got a U-shape foxhole with the machine gun right in the center of it.

Greenwood: That's correct. One guy's on the left side and he sleeps there. The other guy sleeps on the right side. Well, the U, the bottom of the U, you can sit up behind it. So if you have a target that's on the right side, you'll unclamp and swing the gun to the left, and the guy on the left shoots it. If the target's on the left, then you swing the gun to the right and the guy on the right shoots it. That U position, you can work right around it, and it works great.

DePue: So a successful night, but...

Greenwood: Well, Ski and I had words about that the next day.

DePue: I imagine so. During this whole time, and reading some of the stuff I've read about Killer, I get the impression that the Marines, everybody, were fighting the mud as much as they were fighting the enemy.

Greenwood: Well yeah, it's the spring thaw, it's the spring offensive. And it rained a lot and it snowed lightly. A lot of rain with the mud made the roads were so bad that you could hardly move trucks. Walking is about the only way you could get anywhere.

DePue: Well, I know enough about being out in the weather that dry cold is one thing; wet cold is another altogether.

Greenwood: It's pretty miserable. There was one time where it rained all day from the time we took off in the morning till dark, and our supplies never got up to us that night and we spent the whole night soaking wet. And it was about forty degrees above, but when you're wet at forty above... I'd rather be back in the reservoir.

DePue: What direction were the lines going at this time?

Greenwood: Well, we're in the central sector and we're headed back east, northeast.

DePue: Okay, so you're on the offensive?

Greenwood: We're on the offensive, and Operation Ripper followed Operation Killer.

DePue: Did you have the feeling that the Chinese resistance was increasing or decreasing over time?

Greenwood: I think that they had earned a lot of respect for us, and any time we'd get in a face-to-face confrontation, they would like to withdraw. We never, not one time, did we ever get pushed back.

DePue: Did you capture any Chinese during this time period?

Greenwood: A lot of prisoners.

DePue: What was your impression of them when you saw them?

Greenwood: They were pretty scrawny. They were fed, they were alive and well, but their ranks had been depleted too, and they were pretty weary.

DePue: Did you have the impression that they were happy to be captured, or hated the idea? Did you have any reaction?

Greenwood: They learned that they were treated well when captured, and they had no problems about being captured. As a matter of fact, there was one time when we captured one North Korean, and he said there was a lot of other guys who would like to surrender, and we said, "Well, you want to go get them?" We took a chance, sent him out, and he came back with a dozen more guys that wanted to surrender.

DePue: Were they simply surrendering or still resisting.

Greenwood: No, these weren't resisting.

DePue: There was a very short period of time, a week or two from what I can ascertain here, between the end of Operation Killer and the beginning of Operation Ripper. I have 7 March as the beginning of Operation Ripper.

Greenwood: 7 March is when Operation Ripper began.

DePue: What was the Marines' mission for Operation Ripper?

(Short pause by participants)

DePue: We just paused briefly, and now we're back at it, talking about going into Operation Ripper and the Marines' mission. From what I've been reading, at least, you're part of the Ninth Corps at this time, Carl, and you're first moving towards the important road intersection of Hongch'on and eventually north towards Ch'unch'on, I believe.

Greenwood: I believe that's correct.

DePue: Okay.

Greenwood: There was a time when we first entered Hoengsong village.

DePue: Yes, I see that here.

Greenwood: Yeah. Hoengsong. The point was up in front of us, and the head of the column got hit by heavy small arms and machine gun fire. Word came back, "Heavies up forward. We've got a fire mission." So we start out on the double up forward. We didn't go fifty steps when we came to a bend in the road. Lucas says, "This where we want to be. We can hit it very well from right here." We set up right at the bend in the road. I mention in my book there that it was like a perfect L-shape, like we were ambushing them instead of them ambushing us. There was a long line of troops in foxholes and ditches and trenches, and we were right in line with them. When *Beulah* opened up it didn't take them but about 30 seconds to figure out they had a problem. There was about thirty or forty of them in a line, a platoon of them or so, and *Beulah* ate them up pretty good. They started jumping out of the ditches, and the riflemen finished them off. We went on into the village. The Chinese had been using it as a prisoner of war camp; there was a lot of Army prisoners in there and most of them were wounded. Our corpsmen and some of the riflemen started carrying them out. One, I remember, was carried out and set down next to me on a stretcher. He was a black guy from the Midwest as I recall. The communists had taken his boots, and—although this guy was black—his feet was like yellow tinted. You could tell right off that he was going to probably lose his feet. And *Beulah* was there. I was kneeling down holding *Beulah,* and her water jacket was still sizzling from the water boiling inside. I covered him up with a blanket that a corpsmen gave him, and asked him if he wanted a cigarette and he said he sure would like one. He seen *Beulah* and he said, "I heard that machine gun, and I couldn't stand up because of my feet, and one of the other prisoners said that there was Marines coming." And he said, "I knew we was going to be safe." I mention in the book that I had a tear in my eye and so did *Beulah.*. You know, you're over there in the cold and the mud, and you say, "Why the hell am I here?" Then something like this happens and then you kind of know why you're there.

DePue: From what you have talked about, there were a couple of memorable incidents – like when Puller was addressing the Marines at that Christmas celebration, and this one –that those might be just about your proudest moments as Marines?

Greenwood: I think so. It was mentioned—not in my book but another book that I read—when we come down to Humnong and we knew that there was no longer going to be anybody shooting at us, nobody said, "Fall in and get in step and start marching." Nobody even thought about saying that. Just walk. But all of a sudden, they started picking up cadence. Nobody gave a command, nobody told

them to do it, and they started digging their heels in and making their own cadence, and even guys that were on a truck that were wounded that could walk got out and fell in and started marching.

DePue: That, I think, would send a tingle up your spine.

Greenwood: It surely does.

DePue: Humnong. Was that up in the Chosin Reservoir, at the tail end of it?

Greenwood: Well, yeah, it was when we come out, that was before we got to Operation Killer.

DePue: That's incredible. During this whole time during the Ripper operations, it sounds like the Chinese now are the ones who are doing the very deliberate retrograde operations. Can you explain a little bit about their tactics at this time?

Greenwood: Right after Operation Killer, a jeep drove up. People that were married with dependents were rotated. The driver asked for three people by name. I was one of them. So right after Operation Killer, my existence in Korea ceased.

DePue: So you got to the beginning of Operation Ripper but not too far into it, then?

Greenwood: I left in April, so I believe I finished Operation Ripper.

DePue: Yeah, sounds like it, because it ended on the thirty-first.

Greenwood: Yeah, I ended just as Operation Ripper was over, then I went back to the States.

DePue: Did the Marines have a point system at this time?

Greenwood: I don't think so. Not any time there did I ever hear of a point system. But two Purple Hearts was one, and then people with dependents, and then after you were there so many months, they rotated you.

DePue: You'd had some serious health problems while you were there. Had you earned a Purple Heart?

Greenwood: I earned a Purple Heart the third day ashore, but it was from our own artillery. I had on a watch with a metal band. It cut the band, cut a chunk out of my wrist and several places on my hands and one place on my shin. But they patched me up pretty well and said, "You can live to fight another day."

DePue: Did you get taken out of the line?

Greenwood: No. I never missed a day. But the one on my wrist was pretty severe. You could look down in, right inside straight down to the bone. Years later, I seen an article in a magazine about James Garner, the guy that played Rockford

Files. He got a Purple Heart by getting hit in the backside, in the butt, by our own airplanes' friendly fire. So I wrote the facts up and sent it in, and they said, "You need witnesses." And I got two witnesses—Dronckowski was one and I forget who the other was. Emil Buff I think was the other one—and I was awarded a Purple Heart years later.

DePue: So you didn't get awarded the Purple Heart while you were there?

Greenwood: No. I was told at the time friendly fire ones weren't eligible.

DePue: That's interesting. During the entire time you were there –but especially during Operations Killer and Ripper, when you're moving north, the communists are falling back –did you have plenty of opportunities to see casualties from both sides?

Greenwood: True.

DePue: What was your reaction to seeing all those dead Chinese and civilians?

Greenwood: You never like to see civilians. Especially I don't like to see Marines because that's a part of you. But Chinese, North Koreans, I know they're human beings, but it's a job and if you don't kill them, they're going to kill you. The more of them you can climb over, the more chance you have of coming out alive and your troops have got of coming out alive. So it's a job. That's the way it works.

DePue: So you try to turn off the emotions as you're doing this?

Greenwood: Matter of fact, there's so many - you see so many bodies every day, day in and day out, you see one hundred at a time. In the reservoir, it was not uncommon to see two or three hundred at a time.

DePue: After you got back did you have problems dealing with some of that?

Greenwood: There were some dreams and nightmares for several years after that, but nothing serious. Nowadays they would call it post traumatic stress, but we just said, you know, "Suck it up, it's been a long time ago, don't worry about it."

DePue: Okay. At the time your name was called out and you were told you were going back home because you had a baby back home, what percentage of your unit that you landed with at Inchon was still with you?

Greenwood: We lost a lot at the reservoir. Out of the 15,000 that were there—the entire division was not in the reservoir—out of the entire 15,000, there was probably only 4,000 of the original left.

DePue: Four thousand that made it to Masan?

Greenwood: Yeah. Of the original.

DePue: And you were probably not brought up to 100 percent strength at Masan.

Greenwood: Probably not.

DePue: Then you sustained casualties in both Killer and Ripper too, I would think.

Greenwood: Yes. Now, right in the middle of that Operation Ripper, the First Marine Regiment got hit pretty hard. We had over one hundred casualties. DePue: In the regiment itself?

Greenwood: Yeah, the entire regiment.

DePue: How about medals that either you or your unit received while you were there?

Greenwood: The First Marine Division unit that I was in received, I think, seven Battle Stars and I was there for five of the seven.

DePue: That would have been Inchon, Seoul—

Greenwood: Inchon, Seoul, Wonsan, Chosin Reservoir, Operation Killer…

DePue: And Operation Ripper.

Greenwood: Ripper, yeah.

DePue: Okay. Well, that's enough for one lifetime, I would think. What was your thought then, getting on that ship and heading back home after this?

Greenwood: Well, pretty good. I was kind of anxious to get home, see what was going on.

DePue: Did you have any sense of guilt that you were leaving some of your buddies behind?

Greenwood: I did. I was glad to get out of there, but after I left, I wondered, you know, "How can Dronckowski get along without me?" you know. (laughter)

DePue: He might be thinking the same thing.

Greenwood: Yeah, he's probably glad to see me go. But no, we were pretty close. As a matter of fact, we used to call each other often; he'd call me one month and I'd call him the next month. After I ran into him again at Parris Island. We were drill instructors together.

DePue: Okay. Let's kind of back up and get you out of Korea, then. Did you go to Pusan to sail?

Greenwood: Yes, it was Pusan.

DePue: Surrounded by all your artwork here, your carvings especially, I assume that you took it up at this point in time.

Greenwood: Aboard ship, I kept waking up thinking there was something I ought to be doing, so I got a pocketknife and I went down to a boiler room and met a sailor there. He was from the Midwest. We got to talking, and I bummed some wood from him: a piece of an orange crate and a mop handle. We call it a swab; in the Navy and Marine Corps we don't have any mops. But anyway, it was a mop handle. From that mop handle and the orange crate, I fashioned a little machine gun about five inches long and four inches high. It even had the little bullets on the belt and everything.

DePue: And of course, this model of machine gun that you carved was –?

Greenwood: *Beulah.*

DePue: Did *Beulah* have any war injuries in it the way you carved her?

Greenwood: No, I didn't put the injuries in *Beulah* but I did carve it and I still have it today. Matter of fact, it's in my book, the picture in my book on page thirty-two is a picture not of an actual machine gun but of the carving.

DePue: What was it like, landing in the United States?

Greenwood: The first thing that happened, they had what they call an anchor pool. If you don't know what that is, it's kind of like gambling, you might say. They had a sheet of paper with a bunch of squares on it. They knew they were going to drop the anchor between nine and eleven a.m. on a certain day, and they put a bunch of squares with every minute of the day and they tried to sell all those squares at a dollar a chance. The one who picked the square, , the closest to that time to drop the anchor—that's why they call it an anchor pool. They kept trying to sell them and we didn't want to buy them. We were playing Pinochle. And finally, I said, "Will you get out of here if I buy a chance?" And he said yeah; so I bought a chance. The square was so small I had trouble writing my name in it, because my last name has nine letters in it. But anyway, they dropped the anchor, and I had forgotten about it. They called me up to the quarterdeck and said, "Is that your name?" I said yeah. They said, "Here" and gave me an envelopethat had about four hundred and thirty dollars. That was more money than I'd ever seen in my life at one time.

DePue: Well, I would suspect that during the whole time that you're over in Korea, your paycheck's going to your wife isn't it?

Greenwood: Yes. All seventy-two dollars of it. Seventy-two dollars a month.

DePue: But you certainly didn't need a lot of money in Korea.

Greenwood: No. There wasn't a place to spend it anyway.

DePue: Let's go back just a little bit. While you were in Korea, how did you manage to keep up with your wife, or did you?

Greenwood: Well, it took two, three months for a letter to get anywhere. Mail was very slow.

DePue: Did you get anything, any kind of mail, while you were in the Chosin Reservoir area?

Greenwood: I did get a couple letters at the Chosin, but they were written like two months before that.

DePue: Okay. Did you catch up on a lot of mail once you went into Masan?

Greenwood: Everything that was coming to us was delivered at Masan.

DePue: And I'm sure one of the things that you were most curious about was how that little girl was doing.

Greenwood: Indeed. She would be a year old now, yeah. Three months old when I left, so she'd be a little over a year old now.

DePue: So that was one of the constant themes in the letters?

Greenwood: Yup. How's Kathy doing?

DePue: Okay. No chance to call home then, obviously.

Greenwood: There was no such thing.

DePue: Okay. We got you to the United States. What's it like when finally you actually get a chance to see the wife and the daughter?

Greenwood: Well, quite a reunion. Fortunately, she had a grandmother that took her in. There was no way that on seventy two bucks a month, she and this baby could survive. But some good things happened after that. The allotments that were not allowed for persons of a lesser rank were now allowed, and quarters allowance, so my pay went up about three times what it was.

DePue: Whoa.

Greenwood: So I could actually afford to pay rent and even feed my wife.

DePue: Did you take a train from the West Coast over to the East Coast then, over to the Norfolk area?

Greenwood: I don't remember how I did get to Norfolk. I think I flew into Norfolk from Camp Pendleton.

DePue: Okay. Navy flight, I would assume.

Greenwood: No, I had to pay for it.

DePue: Oh, it was a commercial flight?

Greenwood: Yes.

DePue: Really? Okay. Do you remember at all the scene when you first met your wife and your daughter?

Greenwood: Well as I said, they were staying with her grandmother and they were up on the second floor. Without warning I walked in. And she was pretty happy to see me. And I grabbed the little one and I didn't put her down for about two days, I don't think.

DePue: Okay, great. What was your first duty once you got back to the States, then?

Greenwood: Then my home of record was listed as Norfolk, that's where my wife was staying with her grandmother. They stationed me close by: Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, Virginia. And because I had a guard company background, I walked in, the first sergeant took one look at me. He looked at my record book and he said, "Why is it you're not a corporal? I'm looking at your record book. You've got the highest marks you can get." And I told him the episode with the first sergeant that swore I'd never get promoted, and he says, "Well, don't worry about that here." And I was promoted on the spot. Six months later, I was promoted to sergeant and I was put in charge of the security office at Norfolk Naval Shipyard. I ran the security office.

DePue: How long were you at Norfolk?

Greenwood: I was at Norfolk a little over a year. They needed drill instructors and I qualified. They asked if I'd like to go to Drill Instructor School. I said yes, and there I went.

DePue: What surprised me in reading the book is, this was one of the first drill instructor classes they had.

Greenwood: Yes. Before, every Marine when he's promoted to corporal, a noncommissioned officer, is supposed to know how to drill and handle troops. That doesn't always work out well, as they found out. Some of them weren't as qualified as they had hoped. They thought they needed some fine-tuning, you might say, so they started the Drill Instructor School. I was in the second class at Drill Instructor School that was ever created at Parris Island.

DePue: Okay. I was just going to ask where it was. Did you do well in Drill Instructor School?

Greenwood: I graduated first in my class of seventy-eight.

DePue: Another very proud moment for you. Did you get that because you'd had both all that experience in guard duty and you knew how to survive in combat?

Greenwood: That, and I had some very good leadership on the way. I had those World War II guys that were my teachers, and I had an outstanding teacher at Drill Instructor School. I still remember him to this day and I still use some of the quotes and the philosophy that I was taught in Drill Instructor School. It came in mighty handy later on –because I went on recruiting duty –for public speaking and for—we had to write our own TV spot announcements and our own radio announcements –and a Marine recruiter does all of that himself. And most of that I learned right at Drill Instructor School.

DePue: What is the assignment the top guy in the drill instructor class gets coming out of there?

Greenwood: I got a certificate and an "atta boy." You don't get anything for it other than, well, you get high marks in your record book.

DePue: But you get a choice assignment afterwards, right?

Greenwood: Not always. I had thought that I might get my pick. When I went to boot camp myself, I was in the Second Recruit Training Battalion for men, and I thought if I were given a choice, that's what I would pick. But they said, "We got a deal for you." And I said,"You know, you're always skeptical when you hear that, 'I've got a deal for you'." They told me of their dilemma, and that was that the women's training battalion, over in the Third Battalion, all women, had male drill instructors. They're all women except the drill instructor. The drill instructor teaches close order drill, parades, reviews, ceremonies, formal guard, and Marine Corps history. The male drill instructor teaches all those subjects. And the last two they sent over there were totally unsatisfactory according to the female commanding officer. They said, We would like to send you over there. The qualifications are that you're married. You have to be married. And qualified. And since you're our number one graduate, if we send you over there, they've got no complaints. We can't do no better than that, so hopefully they'll accept you. And if they don't, it's just tough. And I said, "Do I have any say in this?"

DePue: (laughter) Not quite what you had in mind, huh?

Greenwood: No. I think I mention in my book, I'd rather go skinny dipping with a piranha. But now I lost a little prestige there, you might say, when the number one graduate has got to go over there and train girls. One good thing, you don't have to stay overnight. Matter of fact, they won't let you stay overnight at the women's battalion, so other than pulling duty once in a while over at the school's Instruction Company –that's where we work out of—you don't have any night duty, so that part was good. And I was very surprised that they learn

and they pick up marching faster than the guys. You know, the guys are always out playing cowboys and Indians while the girls are dancing, and I think they've got more rhythm, and they pick it up faster. And my girls could flat march; they could march and follow instruction.

DePue: Looking back at it, was this a good experience for you?

Greenwood: Well, it included a variety, you might say, because shortly after that, they needed drill instructors over in the male battalion, and I had enough at the women's battalion. Even though the girls marched good, it was still not as Marine Corps as I would like, and I asked if I could go back to where the male troops are, and they granted permission and I spent the rest of my tour with the male battalion—Second Battalion, incidentally, the one I wanted in the first place.

DePue: Well, it worked out in the end. You had some run-ins with a lieutenant while you were at the women's battalion, though?

Greenwood: Yeah. That was another reason I decided I wanted to leave there. She thought that men should empty trashcans and that wasn't women's work, that that was men's work. I did it, and then I explained to her that staff sergeants don't empty trashcans.

DePue: It's privates' work, not sergeants' work.

Greenwood: That's right. And she included on my fitness report excellent marks—because I did a good job. There was no ifs, ands, or buts. I always did a good job. There's four boxes to check on a fitness report: there's desire to have, be willing to have, would rather not have, or particularly desire to have. Although she gave me outstanding marks, she put "desire not to have". Well, that makes it unsatisfactory, and she didn't know that. So I got the only unsatisfactory fitness report I ever got in my life because she checked that box. Then my major called me over and asked me what was going on, and I told him. So then the major called her over and explained the facts of life to her and she changed it. But my life would be miserable from then on, so I decided to go on to greener pastures.

DePue: You explain one other thing in your book, another problem that the women's battalion had.

Greenwood: I think we shouldn't elaborate on that.

DePue: Okay, okay. Let's go on to the next assignment with the men, then.

Greenwood: As a drill instructor?

DePue: Yeah.

Greenwood: Well, I did well there. Drill instructors are always striving to be the best platoon and get to be an Honor Platoon. Only one out of five platoons that graduate can be the Honor Platoon, only one. And these guys are always trying to find new methods of achieving that. One of the things that they did was they managed to get a hold of the test prior to the examination. And things got so bad, they would ask a question like for example, "What's the muzzle velocity of the M1 Rifle?" Well, instead of saying 2700 feet per second, they'd say, "B." You know? Like B or C was the correct answer on the test. That was uncalled for. I would never stoop to anything like that.

There was one thing however:—we were out at the rifle range, and I had four guys that couldn't qualify, they couldn't shoot the rifle. Everybody else was doing well. I know the rifle range carries double weight, double marks, so I was still quite young, and I put on a shooting jacket and I fired a couple strings of rapid fire for my recruits. Shouldn't have done it, but I did—just to offset the B and C answers that these other guys were doing. So this is the only time I ever did it, and I got caught. I fired for these four guys that couldn't shoot. Just rapid fire is all I fired for them, and it got them up over the hump where they would qualify. This warrant officer, the range officer seen me do it; he seen me come off of one target, move over to another target, and fire again. So he grabbed me by the arm and he said—he still didn't know that I was a drill instructor. He thought I was a recruit because I still looked fairly young—he says, "Who's your drill instructor?" And I'm trying to get away from him because I know if I can, I'll mingle back and get my uniform on with the stripes on, and he'll never find me again, you know? But it didn't work out. So he found me and he reported me. He said, "Who's your drill instructor?" And finally I said, "I am."So the cat was out of the bag, and when I got back, the Captain asked me if anything different had happened out at the rifle range today, and I said, "Nothing unusual." He said, "What about firing for your recruits?" I said, "Oh, well yeah, I did that." So he says, "Well, we got some orders in here. They're needing machine gunners, people with 0335 MOS's" [Military Occupational Specialties]—that's machine gun unit leader back in Korea—and he says, "And being as you shoot so well, you pick up a set of orders down at battalion and you're on your way back to Korea."

DePue: Well, as punishment goes, that was probably a better punishment than some of the alternatives, perhaps.

Greenwood: I got no bad marks. I did a good job on the drill field; they knew I did. And when I got back and I explained to the colonel what was going on and why I did it, he did nothing. But I still went back to Korea.

DePue: Okay. You ran into some other old friends while you were at Parris Island as a drill instructor, too, I take it?

Greenwood: The squad leader, Emil Buff, and Lee Dronckowski, my foxhole buddy.

DePue: And you guys were good company but maybe sometimes got yourself in trouble?

Greenwood: We had been known to do things like that.

DePue: I want to hear the story about Thanksgiving dinner.

Greenwood: Thanksgiving dinner? Is that when we were sent out for whipped cream?

DePue: Yes.

Greenwood: I vaguely remember something like that. Our wives had never met each other. We were all married by then; I was married early on, and Ski and Buff got married right after that. We all got back together there and the wives had never seen each other, and we were going to get together and have Thanksgiving dinner. They should have known better, but they sent the three of us out for some whipped cream, and they said, "Be back in an hour or so." Well, we decided that was plenty of time to get whipped cream, so we went to the Island Inn—that was a Marine hangout that served beer, it was commonly known as a tavern—and we had a beer or two, but they didn't have any whipped cream there. So we said, "Well, maybe they've got some over at the Staff Club," so we went over there and we started fighting the war again, and talking about what we did and things like that. I guess it was pretty well after dark, and we never did get any whipped cream, but we did do a lot of reminiscing. They should have known better than to let the three of us out together like that. They learned that, and I don't think that they...

DePue: Is this to say that you arrived back rather late for Thanksgiving dinner?

Greenwood: Rather late, and what words were said to us by our spouses are not repeatable.

DePue: But remembered—

Greenwood: But remembered.

DePue: —nonetheless. Okay. So you talked now about how you ended up getting sent back to Korea. About what time frame was this?

Greenwood: 1953.

DePue: So after the talks between the North and the Chinese and the Americans and the—

Greenwood: Yeah, they finally signed a cease-fire.

DePue: That was July twenty seventh.

Greenwood: July 27, 1953 the cease-fire was signed.

DePue: So you arrived after that time?

Greenwood: Right after that, yes.

DePue: Okay. What I want in a couple of minutes, is your opinion about the way that whole thing ended, or maybe didn't end.

Greenwood: Well, theoretically it never did end. We're still on the DMZ, that's the De-Militarized Zone. When we were there in 1953, it was nothing but a line of barbed wire. We had a few tents set up, a six-hole outhouse, and foxholes dug on the frontline. We stood watch in the foxholes, but we did get to go back over the hill and sleep in tents at night. If they blew the whistle and said, "Man your holes," everybody would jump up and go jump in the foxholes. But now, you know, since we've been there over fifty years, they've got elaborate buildings and indoor plumbing and the whole fancy bit. But we're still there at the DMZ.

DePue: Is that to say that you don't think it ended the right way?

Greenwood: Well, if we have to keep troops on the DMZ for fifty years, I'm saying it didn't end the right way. We should have had a winner.

DePue: At the time, back in 1953, what were you thinking?

Greenwood: Why are we here? We're on this side looking at them. They can come across there any time they want to. Why didn't we finish it when we were here last time?

DePue: What would your definition of finishing it be?

Greenwood: I think we can go back to what Chesty Puller said. "We can't say go home until we can say we're Americans, and we can't say we're Americans until we defeat the communists."

DePue: Okay, so would that mean go on all the way up to the Yalu River and occupy all of North Korea?

Greenwood: Until they surrender and sign a peace treaty.

DePue: Okay, okay. What was your assignment when you went back then? What was your unit of assignment? Let me put it that way.

Greenwood: Same as before. I was a machine gun unit leader, and I had machine guns on the front line on the DMZ.

DePue: In the First Marine Division?

Greenwood: Yes.

DePue: And in the Second Battalion, or the First Regiment of the First Marines?

Greenwood: No, I was in the Fifth Marine Regiment then. DePue: Anything else you remember?

Greenwood: Of course you've got to remember, we were not on the offense then. We were on the defense on the DMZ.

DePue: So a completely different kind of experience this time?

Greenwood: Right. Completely defense. Nothing else. We were in foxholes on the DMZ.

DePue: Did it still feel like war to you?

Greenwood: Every once in a while you'd see a skirmish down the line, a couple of shots. But you actually heard more shots in Chicago or Los Angeles than we did on the DMZ.

DePue: Okay. This makes for some long days and some cold nights, I would think.

Greenwood: Yes, yes.

DePue: Eventually the unit gets sent back, but you don't.

Greenwood: Well, occupation is not the Marines' job because we don't have the manpower. We don't have that many troops. Our job is primarily offense, and once that was established and the cease fire had been signed and we established this position on the DMZ, we were relieved by Army units and sent back. The troops were put aboard ship, and I—I don't know how or where or what—but I got some kind of a virus. I don't even know if it was a virus. But I had a 104 fever, and they put me in an Army hospital and I was there maybe two weeks before that fever subsided.

Well, meantime, they took me off the embarkation roster and left me in Korea duty with what they call force troops. Now, these are not front line Marines. They're loading the division's equipment: loading boxcars, loading anything and everything, all the equipment that the First Marine Division had. They're responsible for loading it and getting it aboard ship and out of Korea and back to Camp Pendleton, California to the First Marine Division. And they put me in that unit. Well, I did not have a truck driver MOS [Military Occupational Specialty] or a loading MOS or a bulldozer MOS, I had an infantry MOS and they didn't really know what to do with me, only that I belonged to them. So they made me the Police Sergeant of Ascom City.

DePue: And Ascom City is what?

Greenwood: Well, that's the name of it. Ascom City, Korea.

DePue: That was the Korean name?

Greenwood: Yes

DePue: Okay. And when you were the police, the MP, if you will—

Greenwood: Police Sergeant means not military police, it means cleaning up the area, policing up the area.

DePue: I got you.

Greenwood: Daily, they would give me like a hundred troops, most of which were Korean ROK [Republic of Korea], and you can't communicate with them because I don't speak their language, and if they understood they'd pretend not to, because they ain't really wanting to go pick up papers and trash, and cut weeds, and do this, and help load this, and load that. So I separated my Marines. I would take about ten or twelve, depending upon what was done the night before –I'd write out everything I had to do and that needed to be done –and I would grab one Marine and about ten Koreans. And I'd put the Marine in charge of them and say, "Go do this." Then I'd grab another Marine and say, "Take these twenty guys and go do that, take them twenty and go do that." And it worked out pretty well. They gave me a jeep to ride around in, and I'd go around and check, make sure everything was done. So that worked out real well for me. They wanted to keep me, but I said, "No, this ain't my bag of worms. I'm going back to Camp Pendleton and going to bigger and better things."

DePue: It sounds like you were driving around quite a bit. Were you close to the DMZ during this whole time? On the DMZ?

Greenwood: No. Matter of fact, it's quite a distance from the DMZ.

DePue: What was your impression of what was going on in South Korea at that time – the pace of recovery and how the South Koreans were coping with things?

Greenwood: Well, they for one appreciate what the United States did for them. The South Korean people were enslaved clear back to past Genghis Khan, and then the Chinese had them for centuries as prisoners and slaves. So when we freed Seoul finally and turned South Korea back over to the people of South Korea, that is probably the first time they'd had freedom since any of them could remember.

DePue: Of course, the Japanese had been there since the beginning of the twentieth century.

Greenwood: Precisely. So they were enslaved for centuries, so to have freedom—and you can see what they've done with it now, fifty years later they've got hotels and tourist sites, and they've got factories and they're making their own automobiles. You know, the Hyundai and so forth.

DePue: How would you describe the personality or the character traits of the Korean people, when you were there at least?

Greenwood: Great. They love us. And once again, I have the utmost respect for Oriental people, both friend and enemy. The enemy, you've got to respect them because they're good fighting troops and they do their job. They know their mission and they try to carry it out, so you've got to respect them. You try to kill them, but you also have respect. You never underestimate them, we'll put it that way. And the South Korean people, they appreciate what we did, what we do. While we were stationed there at Ascom City—I don't know if you've seen this or not—but we come across an orphanage called Love Orphanage. Sergeant Revis and I went there one time and we visited Love Orphanage. That's in my book. And we kind of adopted, semi-adopted, some of the kids there.

DePue: That little girl there, yeah.

Greenwood: That was my little girl. She was about the same age as my daughter, and so I kind of fell in love with her. She was a treat. We started taking treats down there to them, and then we discovered that they had seventy-seven orphans, I believe it was. And they had one outhouse, a two-hole outhouse. They had a kitchen that wasn't big enough to feed a family, let alone that many people. So we talked to them and asked if they would mind if we assisted them, and they were gracious. So we started getting supplies. We went to the Navy docked at the harbor. Bummed stuff from the Navy. We even got an organ from the Navy that they weren't using. They got a new one and they donated that one to us. The Army was reluctant to give us much, so we did some requisitioning at midnight. That's what Marines do best. And we requisitioned some stuff from the Army. Well, they've got more than they can use and we're always very short of supplies. And we "found" cement and wood. And the Koreans provided the labor. So they ended up with a nice, big kitchen, and a 24 hole outhouse, and classrooms for the kids. They were just so appreciative of what we did for them. Whenever they found out we were leaving they held a little banquet for us and they had some fried chicken. They even had a can of beer. I don't know where they got it, but it was American beer

DePue: Are these Koreans who are running the orphanage?

Greenwood: Yes. The Korean people that were running the orphanage.

DePue: Now, I've got to imagine that the Marines during this time –this is after the cease-fire is signed—didn't want to say peace.

Greenwood: No, they never did sign a peace treaty.

DePue: Would you say that the conditions that the Marines are living in is primitive by American standards, but would it be luxurious by the standards of the Koreans at the time?

Greenwood: Probably so, yeah. They had like Quonset huts where the Marines were staying.

DePue: And the conditions that the Koreans were living in? Are they an impoverished country?

Greenwood: Straw huts. Most lived in straw huts at the time.

DePue: Yeah. Could you see some of the industriousness that was going to pull them up out of the poverty eventually?

Greenwood: They had started a shoe factory down by the harbor. They asked if we would want to go down and see, because they were so proud that they had a factory, they were doing something, they were manufacturing something. And if you could see today what they have going on, you can look at any book now, it's a tourist attraction. People fly over there by the gazillion as tourists.

DePue: So in that respect, were you very proud of what the Marines and what the United States did in Korea?

Greenwood: I am, and I think that we did it exactly right. The only regret that I have is that we still have to have troops there on the DMZ. I think we should have gotten a more honorable ending. Of course, communists did not like to cooperate in any respect. Whenever they first started holding the talks, for example, they had a rectangular table, and they objected to the rectangular table because the Americans might be sitting at the head of the table and they didn't want to sit at that table. So they had to take the table out and put a round table in so that nobody was senior to anybody else. I mean, just petty stuff like that. They just wanted to stall. They are professionals at things like this, at mimicking and not cooperating.

DePue: What was your duty assignment coming back from Korea this second time?

Greenwood: They decided they needed drill instructors at Parris Island, South Carolina, so again I went to Parris Island, South Carolina. I walked into the operations building, and a warrant officer was in charge there. I said, "I do not want to go back on the drill field." And he said, "You've got orders to go back on the drill field." I said, "You have two duty stations in the Marine Corps, is that right?" He said, "You know that's not right." I said, "Well, try to prove it to me. I've been to Korea, to Parris Island, to Korea, back to Parris Island as a drill instructor. Now you tell me you got another duty station. If you have, I want it." He looked at my record book and he says, "You are in kind of a rut, aren't you?" And I said, "I almost got put in jail the last time I was on a drill field. I don't want to do it again. I did well while I was here and let's leave it at that." "Where do you want to go?" I said, "I don't care, anywhere but here." He says, "How about Recruiter School? We got an opening at Recruiter School." I said, "That's where I want to go, send me. Recruiter. Anywhere. Anywhere but here." And Recruiter School is right there at Parris Island.

DePue: By this time you certainly had satisfied your first tour; you could have decided somewhere along the line that you were ready to go back to being a civilian. What made you decide that you wanted to stay a Marine?

Greenwood: By now, my initial enlistment of four years was up, and then they extended me a year at the convenience of the government, so I had five years in now. So I re-enlisted back at Portsmouth, Virginia for six years. Got $360 for it.

DePue: No hesitation at all? That was the thing to do?

Greenwood: Nope. I'm a fourth of the way there.

DePue: You were a career man by this time.

Greenwood: By then I am.

DePue: Okay. How did you spend the rest of your career?

Greenwood: From Recruiter School at Parris Island, South Carolina, done pretty well there. Graduated I think four out of eighty eight. Recruiting duty: I went to Evansville, Indiana, where I had a very successful tour of recruiting duty. Lead the state of Indiana percentage-wise in recruiting for three years. Then I went to Camp LeJeune, North Carolina, back teaching machine guns again. They needed recruiters once again, and I had a good record at that, so I went back to recruiting duty at Clinton, Iowa. Then back to Camp LeJeune. From there, I went to Okinawa. The Vietnam War was still going on and I acted in an advisory capacity. From there, back to headquarters, Ninth Marine Corps Reserve and Recruitment District. That's in Kansas City, Missouri, where I was a training NCO for nine states. And from there I was the company gunnery sergeant, the infantry training NCO, and what they call inspector instructor staff at Danville, Illinois for the United States Marine Corps Reserve.

DePue: You retired with an honorable discharge, in 1968, then?

Greenwood: Nineteen sixty eight.

DePue: About the time you got your twenty years?

Greenwood: Counting the National Guard Army Reserve time, it totaled twenty-two years. But my twenty years in the Marine Corps was up, and I was going to stay in a couple more years, but you had to take a physical. And by then the tale of the scars on my lungs, I wasn't breathing up to snuff and I couldn't pass the breathing test, so on the back of my discharge, it says, "Discharged by reason of physical disability."

DePue: So the Chosin Reservoir caught up to you at the end of your career?

Greenwood: Caught up with me at the end, yes.

DePue: Were you in Vietnam for only a very short time, then?

Greenwood: I think six weeks. I didn't realize it at the time, but it was supposed to be top secret, that nobody knew we were there. When I got there I find out that we've had Marines there as advisors since 1959.

DePue: Were you advising South Vietnamese Marines?

Greenwood: Yes. South Vietnamese Marines on machine gun emplacements.

DePue: Something you knew very well.

Greenwood: But it's difficult to communicate through an interpreter.

DePue: And again, was that in '65?

Greenwood: Sixty-five.

DePue: Okay. Right at the very beginning when the American presence really started to escalate.

Greenwood: They had been there for some time doing the same thing that I was supposed to be doing, so I never really got to do anything.

DePue: How did you end up in central Illinois after you retired?

Greenwood: They needed somebody in that MOS, and this is the area where I'm from, so they figured I'd be more comfortable here, so that's where I ended up –strictly by accident.

DePue: So your last assignment was in Danville, which is very close to here.

Greenwood: Yes. It's right on the Indiana borderline, about a hundred miles from here.

DePue: And what brought you to the Springfield area, then?

Greenwood: Well, I was from Havana originally, but all the time that I'd been gone, the twenty years that I'd been gone roaming around the world, my family had settled around this area so I just came back to where my family was.

DePue: Did you have a job after your retirement from the Marines?

Greenwood: I'd seen an ad in the paper; they needed an investigator for General Electric Credit Corporation. I did very well and they wanted to promote me and give me my own branch as a branch manager. I said, "No, one year of this is enough." It ends up you're being more of a bill collector than you are an investigator. I seen an ad in the paper for Truant Officer. Kids were getting out of hand in major high schools. So I assumed the job for five years as Truant Officer at Springfield High School, 2,500 students.

DePue: A little bit of irony there since you finish high school, did you?

Greenwood: No, but I knew what high school was. No, I didn't make it through high school. I quit. I thought I'd learned enough, so I went in the Marine Corps. But I got the job as Attendance Officer, Truant Officer. Five years, and five years of that is like twenty anywhere else. So then, all the time while I was in the Marine Corps, archery was my hobby and weapons was my business. So now that I got out, I decided to make archery my business and do firearms as my hobby. So I continued shooting competitively with rifle, pistol, and shotgun, also precision air pistol, ISU English Prone Rifle and high power rifle, and center fire and rim fire pistol, as a hobby. I opened my own archery shop as a business. Well, nobody had ever opened a shop in this area before.

DePue: Was that in Springfield?

Greenwood: In Springfield. And at that time, there was no such thing as compound bows and nothing like fancy equipment, and people laughed at me at first. I did that for twenty years and did quite well. And the people that laughed at me were coming into my place to shoot.

DePue: Did you made a comfortable living doing that?

Greenwood: Yes, I did.

DePue: You and your wife raised how many children?

Greenwood: Four.

DePue: All of them finished high school, didn't they?

Greenwood: All of them finished high school.

DePue: Dad would have nothing but that.

Greenwood: You bet they did. And their grades were very good, I seen to that. I checked their report cards, and if we didn't have a satisfactory report card, we had to explain why. Two of the four, one has two masters degrees and is a psychologist for the State of Illinois. One is a retired deputy sheriff and now does private detective work. The next one is a full-fledged professor at Baylor University. And the last one, the youngest one, followed in my footsteps kind of sort of. He was in the Marine Corps for twelve years and then got out with family problems, but then he went back in the Army Reserve. That's where he's at now. He's in Iraq right now. He just about has his twenty years in, and he's in Iraq for his third tour.

DePue: Wow. But he's in the Army Reserve?

Greenwood: Army Reserve.

DePue: Third tour in the Army Reserves. What's his specialty?

Greenwood: Third tour in Iraq. Well, right now he's in a chemical defense unit. Army Reserve unit out of Champaign, Illinois.

DePue: Now, I know also that's not the extent of what kept you busy here. The last few years you also kept busy working on the Korean War Memorial. What brought you to that?

Greenwood: Well, the Vietnam Memorial went up at Oakridge Cemetery that everybody was talking about, "Well, why don't we have one?" And I said, "Well, you can't get one by sitting in a VFW with your foot on a barstool talking about it. You've got to get out and do it. If you're going to do it, do it." They said, "Well, we want to do it." So I had several meetings at the VFW's in local places, and I figured there was enough interest so I said, "All right, I'll try to head this thing up." So we organized a unit, and—

DePue: Do you know about what year you started this?

Greenwood: Along about 1989. Just before I closed my shop. About 1989 when I started. I had probably 150 people that were interested in helping. Now, when they found out they weren't going to be paid—it was strictly voluntary work and every penny's going to go to this thing and we're going to devote our time to it or otherwise there's no sense doing it if we're not going to get in there with both feet and do it right—so we dropped down to about twenty people. But they were pretty dedicated. Some of them died on the way because of their age. Two of them proved unsatisfactory and I had to fire them. But I think about ten of us ended the project and we built a memorial.

The total cost would have been $1.6 million, and we took nearly seven years to raise that. Not one penny has ever been paid to one of the employees or any of the workers. We are a not-for-profit organization. We sold T-shirts, we sold bricks, we sold anything and everything we could. We went all over the state. I put 100,000 miles on one vehicle, had to get rid of it. I had already sold enough of my books to get my money back, so all the proceeds from the books from when I started this went to gas money and to pay my hotel bill whenever I went out of town, up near Chicago and DuPage County and those places. I was fortunate to have, at that time, Senator Pate Phillip as the Speaker of the House. And he's a former Marine. We hit it off pretty well, and I could walk into his office at any time.

DePue: Was he a Korean War vet?

Greenwood: Yes, he was. I don't know if he was in Korea, but he served during that time, I know. And George Ryan was governor then, and he served right after that. George Ryan went in about 1954, right after the war, but he was in during that era. So we had the governor's support and we had –

DePue: Pate Phillip's support.

Greenwood: Yes, Pate Phillip's support as well as Governor Ryan's, and we went on from there. Seven years later we built it. I was fortunate to run into Professor Robert Youngman from the University of Illinois, strictly by accident. A young lady came into my archery shop and wanted to get something for her boyfriend or her fiancé in the archery line. At that time, I was making a model myself out in the workshop, and I said, "I want to get one figure of a soldier with a rifle. Do you have anybody up there that is a sculptor that could make me this little model?" She said, "I could take it to my professor. I'm an art student." Just by sheer coincidence. And she said, "I can take it to my professor." Well, the professor was Robert Youngman. He heads up the Art and Design Division at University of Illinois—he's retired now. But he was quite intrigued by what we were trying to do, and he came down here and met with us. He sketched on a napkin at the old Fleetwood Restaurant what he thought it might look like. I wish I still had that napkin. And we went from there, made improvements, and we met many times after that. He made that centerpiece out of a four-foot model, four-foot maquettes, and he made a trip to New Jersey to transpose those four-foot models into nine and a half foot figures. They bronzed them. He made two more trips to New Jersey. We paid for his hotel and his food. He never charged us one penny for all that labor and that skill; that would be $300,000 minimum.

DePue: That's an incredible investment in that.

Greenwood: I ran across Crawford Murphy and Tilly engineers. The guy at Crawford Murphy and Tilly engineers donated his time. Bruce Ratterree is his name. He gave us two and a half years of his skill, labor, the use of his engineering office, at no charge.

DePue: So you would have had to raise a lot more than $1.6 million if those two things hadn't come through.

Greenwood: Well, we built that memorial for one million dollars, and it's valued at $1.6 if you were to count that labor. So I think we did very well. And not one of us ever got a penny. My secretary is a Korean vet. He's a retired Army Sergeant Major. My treasurer is a hard-headed German by the name of Rocky Schoenrock that I had the pleasure of meeting. He's a professional, retired artist. He was the staff artist at the Journal Register newspaper [Springfield's State Journal-Register] for thirty years. We had a lady at the bank that was interested in what we were doing. I hate paperwork and she loves it, and being in the banking business with all that money on hand, she took us through the proper channels to get a not-for-profit corporation status and how to take care of the money, and how to set up the account so that no money could ever be missing. Three signatures are required to get any money out, and in seven years, not one penny was ever out of line—not like most not-for-profit organizations.

DePue: When was it actually unveiled?

Greenwood: We dedicated it in June, 1996.

DePue: Do you have any thoughts about Americans' understanding—or maybe total lack of understanding—about the Korean War, and America's view towards Vietnam versus how our society has dealt with Korea?,

Greenwood: Well, you've had outsiders clear back to World War II, for example Seoul City Sue, but the troops thought she was a joke and they enjoyed listening to her because it was kind of humorous, more like a comedian.

DePue: Like Tokyo Rose?

Greenwood: Yeah, Tokyo Rose. We had Seoul City Sue in Korea. She'd try to imitate Tokyo Rose. But Vietnam took on an entirely different view. The Jane Fonda bunch and John Kerry, they, I think, are the two biggest characters or actors in the Vietnam War. And then later, John Kerry becoming United States Senator, I think was even more embarrassing. But Jane Fonda and the Hollywood set had much more influence in Vietnam, and I think that's when we really started to have anti-American protesters...during the sixties. But of course, the sixties was the worst turmoil the United States had, period.

DePue: Does it bother you, though, that the Korean War has been forgotten? It's the forgotten war?

Greenwood: It took a long time, but I think it's coming around more now than it ever has. You're seeing more on the A&E Network, you're seeing more books about it, you're seeing more statistics. It followed so closely on the heels of World War II, then Vietnam followed right after that, and it was overshadowed by almost ten years of Vietnam, and it just fell in the cracks.

DePue: So can you understand, though, why it ended up being forgotten?

Greenwood: Well, theoretically yes. But we'd like to point out that Vietnam went on almost ten years and they had some 58,000 troops killed. Korea had almost that many in three years: 54,246. Then the prisoner of war aspect: three times more in Korea, and two and a half times more MIA's.[Missing In Action] But yet to this day, you hear MIAs in Vietnam, POW's [Prisoners Of War] in Vietnam. It's preached almost on a daily basis still, and yet they only had a third of what we had.

DePue: The kind of tragic conditions, the MIAs that occurred in Korea, you know—

Greenwood: Fifty-one percent of POW's in Korea died in prisoner of war camps.

DePue: And that's a story in and of itself, a very tragic one. So in your mind, do you think this many years after the event—I think I know what the answer is—the war was justified, that what we were doing there was justified?

Greenwood: Without a doubt. I think you can take one look at what South Korea's doing now. As I mentioned earlier, the only regret that I have, that it would have finished, ended a little differently like with an actual peace treaty. But you can't have everything, I guess.

DePue: How do you think your experiences in Korea changed you, changed your outlook on life?

Greenwood: Well, I think that when you look back on it, the Chosin Reservoir especially—Robert E. Lee said, "It is well that war is terrible. We shouldn't grow too fond of it." – no matter where you're at fighting a war. But I think the Chosin Reservoir instilled in me that no matter how the odds are against you, either in combat or in life, don't ever give up. There's always a light at the end of the tunnel if you keep plugging away. Keep chipping away at the foundation of whatever you're after, and pretty soon you're going to get there.

DePue: Did it change your outlook of being an American?

Greenwood: No.

DePue: It certainly made you proud to be a Marine.

Greenwood: Yes. If it weren't for America, I would have never been a Marine. So I'm an American through and through. I fly my flag. I'm back out here in the woods where nobody can see it, but I still fly my flag, and I will always be a Marine!

DePue: What advice would you give to today's generation of young people?

Greenwood: Stay in school, graduate. Report to your local Marine recruiter.

DePue: You're a Marine through and through, aren't you Carl? What are your thoughts about what's going on in the world today, because it seems we are in the same kind of dire straits as the early years of the Cold War?

Greenwood: This thing that we're fighting now is not entirely new—terrorism is nothing new. It's new to Americans. Europe has been putting up with terrorism for a long time. Israel, for example, has been putting up with it for many years. It's hard to fight an enemy that wants to blow their self up. They won't put on a uniform and face you. They're untrained. They're a joke as far as a fighting army is concerned. The only thing they can do is blow their self up or plant charges and blow up innocent people. But it's harassment, and it's very mind-boggling as to how to end it. If I were there, I would start dropping leaflets telling the people to turn these people over or I'm going to drop pig fat over your entire area. I would get their attention. If you don't start helping yourself,

there's not much we can do for you. We got rid of Saddam Hussein, we got rid of your leaders, the leaders that are causing this problem. You know where these enemies are, you know where these people are. Let us know so we can get rid of them; otherwise, you're never going to be free. They've got to help their self.

DePue: What do you think of the way the war is portrayed in the news media?

Greenwood: Well, the liberals unfortunately—and by liberals, in my opinion you can include the word socialists –years ago, they started placing themselves in position in the media as owning newspapers, owning the TV stations, electing politicians with their philosophy. You read *The New York Times* in the morning, that's the marching orders for the liberal media. At evening six o'clock news, what you've seen in *The New York Times* is the same thing word for word that you'll see on NBC, CBS, ABC. That's where the marching orders come from because they own the papers, they own the media, they own the TV stations. There's an old—what's his name?

DePue: Sun Tzu

Greenwood: Sun Tzu, the Chinese philosopher. Read their typings. Tell a lie, make it a big one and keep repeating it, and the people will believe you. And that's what they do. Now, 50 percent of our population work, get home, and the only news they get is right there on the six o'clock news. Pretty soon they start believing it. And I might say that our people in Washington are not helping this war by following the media's actions.

DePue: By following public opinion?

Greenwood: By following the media's opinion.

DePue: How do you think the contemporary Marines are doing?

Greenwood: Well, the Marines still have the finest training, and they always have. They stress marksmanship more than any other service. They stress discipline more than any other service. Their boot camp is longer, their recruit training is longer, and after that they have four weeks of advanced combat training, which is longer than any other service. They train with men alone. The other armed forces, all Army, Navy, Air Force, now have incorporated women in their training. Now, there is a place for women. I'm not saying women shouldn't be in the military; I'm not saying that at all. I want to point that out and make it very clear. There are jobs in the military that women do better than men. Sitting at long hours behind computers and their typing. They're meticulous in this. But women should not be in the frontlines. Women are not suited for frontline combat. Now, the Army, the Navy, and Air Force are—since we stopped the draft—are so desperate for personnel, for bodies, that they've incorporated, made it co-ed. There is no distinction in the Army, for example, for training, between men and women.

DePue: Well, especially in the service branch. I know in the infantry, the armor, the artillery, the army still does not allow women to join those branches, so they train separately. They're training is a little different.

Greenwood: Well, you don't sign up at the recruiter and go grab a 155 Howitzer. You first have to go through basic training. You have to become a soldier, then you get a job, whether it's artillery or truck driver or whatever it is. But first you have to go through basic training, and women and men train together in basic training. I'm told they even have a stress card, that if conditions get too hectic, they can pull out their stress card – kind of like a timeout like you do in preschool – you have a timeout and you regroup and start over. I can't imagine that happening in the military.

DePue: Okay. You have strong opinions about these things, and I'm asking the questions to get to those opinions, so please bear with me on this. I think you're very well-spoken on this. We're getting to the point where we need to close things up. So Carl, after close to four hours of this, do you have anything that you'd like to have on record as kind of a closing comment – reflections on this whole experience of being in the military, or on the experience of doing the interview?

Greenwood: No. I'm very happy, and I'd like to compliment you. I think you do an excellent job in getting this out. But my job has been, ever since 1990, is to promote the Korean War and the Korean Memorial, as you know, and to get the word out to the public, and that's my mission. I'm not a hero; I didn't do anything that anybody else didn't do. I always prided myself in trying to do my job as good or better than anybody else, but as long as I did my job the way I was supposed to, then I'm happy with that. But my primary reason for this interview is to promote the Korean War and let people know that we actually did have a war in Korea.

DePue: And looking back at it after fifty years, are you proud about what the United States accomplished there?

Greenwood: I think so. In war you never get everything that you want, but I think we did as good as we possibly could under the circumstances. Just talk to the Korean people, the South Korean people. Go back there and visit, and I think you can see our results.

DePue: Thank you very much, Carl. It's been a pleasure and an honor for me.

(end of interview)

[Carl refers to his book *Once Upon a Lifetime* on several occasions during the interview. The book can be obtained through Tomahawk Publishing, 159 Gabriel Road, Springfield, Illinois. One hundred percent of the profits from this book will go toward the printing of a 60 page booklet entitled, *History of the Korean War*, which, upon publication will be distributed free of charge to schools and libraries.]