Interview with Bernie Resnick

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Interviewer: Lee Patton

Patton: My name is Lee Patton. This is October 5, 2007. We are at the Signature Inn in Springfield, Illinois at a reunion of the 44th Engineering Battalion. Is that correct?

Resnick: Yes. Battalion Association, that's correct.

Patton: We are interviewing Bernie Resnick; this interview is part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library *Veterans Remember* Oral History project. Most of the specific questions will probably be focused on military life and your experiences in Korea. To get some background and to have a sense of who you are—how you live in New Hampshire, now, and you have an eastern accent—where were you born and where were you raised?

Resnick: Well, actually, I was born in the east. I was born in Portland, Maine in the year of 1930 on March sixteen. Portland is, as you know, a great seaport in the Atlantic Ocean. It's the northeast corner and part of New England. At the moment, since 1971, my corporate structure expanded our wholesale distributing company to the Manchester, New Hampshire market because that was becoming a central point in the New England business. The board of directors asked me if I would go to Manchester, New Hampshire, find a location, and get us operating down there, which I did. It was so successful there that we became bigger than our Portland, Maine headquarters; it's still there and going very well.

I live in Derry, New Hampshire, which is eight miles southeast of Manchester, about forty miles north of Boston. We've been there and love it and loved the town. My three daughters grew up there. It's a lovely, lovely area. New Hampshire is, of course, a beautiful state as it is *Live Free or Die*. [the motto of New Hampshire]

Patton: You're independent-minded, right?

Resnick: You got it.

Patton: You've lived, then, in New Hampshire for most of your adult life?

Resnick: Yeah, I'd say that it's got to a point, now, that I've been in New Hampshire longer than any place else. I was in Portland until I was eighteen years old and then I was in the military and then to school, which was in Boston. Then I come back for a couple years—well, I went into executive training at Jordan Marsh Company— then, I went for my dad. My dad had an oil company in Portland Maine, a family oil company. I fought going back because I loved being in Boston—the theatre and so forth—but, ultimately, there are a lot of reasons I went back. Went back and worked for my dad for a few years until they decided to sell the company. My mom and dad and I went with the company I'm with now. They came and I took a year off. Finally, I've been with the same company for forty-one years. Its home office is in Portland.

Patton: Are you still working?

Resnick: Still working, yes. I am. A lot of corporate real estate now is in marketing and running our operation in Manchester, New Hampshire. I wanted to retire in 1992 and they asked me if I would like… We had a lot of real estate that was accumulated and so forth over the years and we also have a laundry and dry clean division. They needed someone to design the stores that we do in the shopping centers all over New England. I love that I don't have to get dressed anymore; I can go to work in sneakers and it's just come-and-go as I want to. I run our real estate, and managers in most of the places design our stores that we build. It's a nice, relaxing, atmosphere. I don't think I'll ever retire. My dad never did and it's just not in the blood. I am very active and I enjoy working. I enjoy having this sense of responsibility. That's it. I enjoy this military organization and I work with militaries as much as I possibly can. I'm involved in lots of things. You'll find this difficult, but I'm in my fifty-first year of the Miss America Pageant. I'm a producer and a director and love it and have been directing for many, many years on live television.

Patton: How did you get into that?

Resnick: I was in summer stock way back. When I came back to Portland because my dad had an oil company; the summers were kind of slow. I was involved in the theatre and I just so happened to be doing summer stock in Tamworth, New Hampshire working for all the people. President Grover Cleveland's son who was a director—Francis Cleveland—owned that theatre. I did, I think, about three years with him and about four shows in the summer. Of all the things, one Saturday night, a couple came backstage; her name was Lenora Slotta, the founder and the president of the Miss America Pageant for Atlantic City. She and her husband, who was the Public Relations Director of Atlantic City, were up to

take a vacation and heading for the Skowhegan State Fair in Skowhegan, Maine, to take away the franchise for the Miss Maine Pageant, giving it to the Portland Junior Chamber of Commerce in Portland, Maine. The reason for it at the time was that the judges they used were the same judges—because, you know, a hog-calling contest, a cow-milking contest, and Miss Maine—and that infuriated her. So, she said she saw my name in the playbill that I lived in Portland, Maine and she saw the show and she said, "Would you like to be involved with the Miss America program?" And I said, "Yeah. It might be fun," I didn't know anything about it. She said, "I'll have them call you." Sure enough, I get back to Portland, they called me, and I joined the Junior Chamber of Commerce. The first year they did it I was the Stage Manager. Just being Stage Manager with all those pretty college chicks around was a thrill. Then one thing led to the other when the fellow was producing it, you know, and within two years retired. His business got pretty busy—he just couldn't stay with it—and I became the director. They asked me to direct it and I did. I just went on and on and ended up working on the Production Committee in Atlantic City for about six years, not on a permanent thing. I'd leave town about the middle of August, and three or four weeks before the pageant work with the committee, get things going. About a week after the pageant was over, I'd come home; I took a little over a month off all the time and I just loved it. I just became a part of the system. I produced and directed in Miss Maine for fifteen years. I did the Miss New Hampshire Pageant—worked down here for a couple years—always judging; I judged seventeen different states throughout the country. As a matter of fact, I judged somebody from here many years ago. She was Miss America from Sandusky. I just can't think of her name at the moment; maybe if when we're done it might come back. Whenever they'd get in trouble—they'd need someone in a hurry to go to a state—if I can go, I go. But I'm always judging locals for the local pageants and I teach judging and so forth. It's just something I get into and can't get out of. My wife used to help me with make-up and so forth; she'd be working the make-up kit.

Patton: So you're involved in the pageant a little?

Resnick: Oh, no. Although I know them all and I've served on their board, but, mostly the state and local level. You get to a certain point in life and it's pretty difficult to have—let's say college kids—nineteen, twenty, twenty-one years old—with a guy in his seventies telling them how to walk and how to direct. You have to know your limitations. Although, I get calls all the time and some of the local colleges wonder if I'll give them a lift on training the girls and everything. I do, but, you know, I don't if there's a girl—twenty-one, twenty-two years old—should be listening to me. Although, they use me a lot to help new directors, break them in. I know when you're wanted and when you're not wanted, so I'd rather judge to get a lot more respect that way. So, I've kind of gotten away from the directing, although, just this past year, they had the Plymouth State College in New Hampshire; the director was new and in a jam and they called and wondered if I would give them a lift. So I drove up and worked with them. But,

there are certain limitations in life you have to—it's hard to describe—but, you just have to know it here. You have to know it here.

Patton: Backing up a minute, tell me about your family.

Resnick: I have three daughters.

Patton: No, before that. When you were a child.

Resnick: Oh, when I was a child? Brought up in Portland, Maine. Brought up on the ocean. I had two sisters. I don't know, I guess I raised hell just like everybody else does.

Patton: You went to school in Portland?

Resnick: Pardon?

Patton: You went to school in Portland?

Resnick: I went to school all through Portland and was very active: I was Editor of the high school newspaper, I made the tennis team and the track team, and I was just a very active person. I always have been active. My mom was always very active. My dad was Commander in the state Legion in Maine and at one point he was very active. I saw all that all my life. Every Memorial Day it was a tradition at our home that when they had the regular services in the morning, the wreath laying and everything, all my dad's buddies in the Legion would come to our house and Mom had hors d'oeuvres and all sorts of things. They had—I was going to say Schnapps—they had some drinks and a little wine or something and coffee. But it was a tradition on Memorial Day that all the buddies… So, I grew up with that, you know, watching my father and the American Legion events.

Patton: He was, what, World War II?

Resnick: Pardon?

Patton: What war was he?

Resnick: Oh. World War I.

Patton: World War I.

Resnick: Oh, yeah. Yep.

Patton: So you grew up sort of connected to the military?

Resnick: Well it was a matter of respect, I think. One thing that stands out in my mind was sometime in the mid-thirties—when I was maybe six or seven years old I remember the postman ringing the front doorbell at our house and I remember he had a bonus check for my father. I remember my mom opened it up and she was shocked. That night they danced all around the house—it was seventy-five

dollars—and they danced and they danced and they were whooping it up. Seventy five dollars! I mean, at that time I think he was making eighteen to twenty dollars a week and we had a nice family, a nice car, and we were all healthy. But, I always remember that, how they danced around the house because they had a seventy five dollar bonus.

Patton: Did you have any thoughts at that time about getting into the military?

Resnick: No. I had no thoughts of the military at all. It was strange. I got out of high school in 1948—of course it was just three years after the war and guys were still coming home—there was a military draft. Let's see, I'm trying to think of the contents of the draft. You had to sign up and the draft was flowing. I sensed that any time between my eighteen years old and twenty-four years old I was going to be called in. My dad had said to me, "You know, maybe you ought to go—" because you could go there for one year and spend six years in the reserves. Dad explained to me the reserves were one weekend a month, you had to do active duty, and two weeks every summer. Dad said to me, "You know, you'd get out of school, you may have a career you want to go into, and that might hamper your style, doing that. Although it sounds very simple or like a lot of fun today—" at that time. "Go one weekend a month, but it could interfere with a future. Why don't you just go and get it over with," which a lot of guys in my graduating class were going to do, just go and get it over with. He also suggested I not go for one year because he felt that you go for two years and have no reserve commitment—you could always be a reservist on an emergency situation—then, beyond the two years, of course, you had no reserve commitment of any kind after that. So I took his advice, as a lot of my buddies did; we signed up for two years because you could go to the schools you wanted to go to if you signed up and that's exactly what I wanted: to go into the Engineering School. So I went and took my basic training at Fort Dix, New Jersey, and from there went to school in Atlanta, Georgia. The only organization I had to do in the service was the 44th Engineers at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and loved it.

Patton: What made you want to go into the Engineering Corps?

Resnick: Well, I certainly didn't want to go to the infantry if I didn't have to. I was not the kind that could run twenty five miles a day. No particular reason because in the engineering I learned drafting, learned how to operate—you had to go from the bottom to the top—I could operate bulldozers: D4s, D7s, D9s, heavy equipment. To me, at that particular age, eighteen years old, I loved equipment, the thought of mechanical things, and it was just a big thrill. So that's what I did and immediately was assigned to an engineering organization; it was just great.

Patton: So your initial training was at Fort Dix?

Resnick: My basic training. Yes. Sixteen weeks.

Patton: And then you went to Georgia, you said?

Resnick: Yeah, went to Atlanta, Georgia.

Patton: And what kind of training did you have there?

Resnick: Well, we learned first of all, drafting—how to lay out bridges and so forth. Just a general drafting type of a thing and stress on the bridge—how to figure stress and weight and so forth. Then, from there, we started how to operate the equipment. You know, getting the equipment started up is nothing. It's the drainage, the proper slope on the road, how to blow the side of a mountain or hill if you had to make a road to get through, how to make landing strips, and, all very simple stuff, but somebody had to know how to do it. You just can't take three months in doing a job; these things you have to do overnight. And emergencies—and removing mines and minefields—I mean, you can't have your troops going through a field full of mines, they've got be found and removed. We had to lay mines—put mines down, too—but you get a little smattering here and there and then when you get assigned to an organization, then it depends on what you do with your job. You're sort of master of what you're doing.

Patton: So, at first it's sort of the kind of things that you would learn if you were at a college engineering program, or is that...

Resnick: Well, certainly at a college program you are a lot more detailed. This was just enough to get us by. When you're in the army you don't have to go to planning boards and communities, you know, don't have to go to zoning boards. You don't have to get approval from the communities. You do what you got to do. I mean, if you have to pour gasoline and burn a hole in the ground, or something, you do it. It's war time, you know. You just do what you got to do to get you by. There were times even in Korea where we had built bridges and blew them afterwards. We built them, and loaded them at the same time –just get our guys out of there—and then we blew them. So, no, it's just general basic things you had to know. You had to know what the equipment was, what you had to do. Then as you get into your battalion, your permanent assignments, you'll learn from training and doing projects. That's what it's all about.

Patton: So it was applied learning, how to move fast, how to adapt to whatever the situation was. Is that accurate?

Resnick: Yes. Just general, basic stuff without the rules, the regulations, and the laws.

Patton: So I take it you enjoyed it?

Resnick: Oh, God, yes. I loved it, you know.

Patton: Have you been particularly interested in math or science or those kinds of things?

Resnick: No, I really didn't. I loved how, when I was in high school, I was the Editor of my high school newspaper. I loved writing; I loved producing a newspaper; I loved putting a paper together and seeing that eighteen, twenty page tabloid getting

printed and sent out to the kids and the students. I used to just sit and look at it and to me that was just a great accomplishment. I used to love doing stories—editorial something—and sounding off. It just came naturally.

Patton: Not lacking any opinions, right?

Resnick: No. (laughs) No, I just enjoyed the layout of the paper, how to make things exciting. We talked about Tuscola, Illinois a little while ago, and we had the association; I was one that did the headline. You know, right across the headline of the newspaper: *Where the Hell is Tuscola?* Of course, right off the bat, everybody started reading the story. It was an attraction, and I loved that. It's one of my old side kicks outside the glass there.

Patton: So was your father an engineer?

Resnick: Yes. Yes. Go ahead sorry. You didn't have that on all the time?

Patton: I thought I put it on. I must have forgotten.

Resnick: Well, it was laying right there.

Patton: Yeah. And the important thing is to catch you. Okay sorry about that.

Resnick: My dad was an engineer, yes.

Patton: Okay. So his influence was fairly strong in directing you to the army and to the—

Resnick: Yeah. But he didn't direct me to the engineers. You know something, when I went, if I even knew he was an engineer. I think I discovered he was an engineer by fumbling with his old World War One uniform. I saw the castle [the shoulder patch emblem of the Engineers] in his clothes. Interestingly enough, I knew he had been stationed in Nice, France at one point. I took a trip to Monte Carlo and we landed in Nice—and, of course, Monte Carlo is a part of Nice, sort of right at the edge of it—and I made it a point to go to the places where my dad was many, many years later in Nice, France. I didn't see some redheads running around so I assumed he wasn't that busy there.

Patton: So, excuse me, you were, what, eighteen, nineteen about that time?

Resnick: I went into the service at eighteen years old, yeah.

Patton: Were your trainers primarily World War II veterans?

Resnick: Yeah. In basic training, my platoon sergeant was a World War II vet. These people were sharp, young men that probably didn't have a real goal at that particular time in their lives. The war started out where they got involved in the war. They really developed a love for the military and they already had five or six years in. They had a college guarantee if they wanted to go, or any kind of

education they wanted, to go. They had a fairly decent income—it wasn't great, but for that particular time it was—and these guys just had to make careers out of it. You would be amazed how many people stayed because they really didn't know what they wanted to do in life, but because of the war, they gained their little quick rank and decided to stay. We had one or two, what they called acting corporals, that were real, tough, sons-of-a-gun in our age that were training to be trainers. I can't say the word that I'd like to say that they were because of this microphone, but one of them was so bad and, of all the things, he was from my hometown, too, Portland, Maine. He was the same age I was because he was an acting corporal and he was such a tough cookie he used to make us—we had to walk to breakfast every morning——he would make us duck-walk. Do you know what duck-walk is? Squatting—almost a half a mile to breakfast every day—dinner at night. We couldn't just march, you know, and had us squatting on the fields and make us do fifty pushups. I used to tell my buddies, "Keep quiet. It'll get worse if you start complaining about him," But I always said, "One of these days I'm getting even with this guy," and I got to tell you, ma'am, I got even.

Patton: How?

Resnick: How? When I came back from Korea, my first real assignment until I got out of the service was Camp Edwards, [later named Fort Edwards] Massachusetts on Cape Cod, a famous tourist place, and I thought, Oh, what a great summer I'm going to have on Cape Cod. I was the Sergeant Major of the post, I was single and I had just turned twenty-two—maybe it was just before my twenty-second birthday—and I walked into headquarters. Of course, when you decide to write to the post, you're the head of the post. Walked into headquarters and who was the company clerk—he didn't recognize my name on the orders coming in—was Ryan and he was a sergeant. Sergeant rank of the service in the barracks, and everything, you have your own private room; everybody else has like a dormitory. Usually when you're a Sergeant Major you're an older guy, you're married, you have a family so you have a home or apartment. Whatever you're going to do, it's a long-term deal. So I walked in; he just stared at me and I stared at him. We shook hands, "How you doing?" I said, "Where am I going to be living?" He said, "There's really nothing, I thought you'd be living off the post." I said, "Oh, no, no, I'm still a single man. I'm just waiting to get out. I'm going to be on the post. In the headquarter barracks, are there any rooms?" He said, "No, they're all taken." So I said, "May I see i." He took me over and showed me the two rooms and I said, "Who stays in this one?"—I saw his name on the door—and he said, "That's my room." I just looked at him, and I said, "It was your room."

Patton: Did he recognize you—

Resnick: His face got red as a beet—yeah, oh, he knew who I was at that—

Patton: He recognized retribution.

Resnick: I couldn't poke him in the nose, you know, do those things. But, it just was a stroke of luck that he said it was his room and I had just enough in me to say, "It was your room," and I threw him out. I had never forgot that. I said, I finally, in my way, got even. He had to live in the barracks with the rest of the troops. So I got even.

Patton: So his, quote, "leadership" was probably one of the worst parts of the whole training experience?

Resnick: Yeah. They use young kids that want to go into the leadership training that really never had any leadership capability, at that time, and whatever leadership bits they got they loved. I mean, they were total control and no one dared say anything about it because they could make your life really miserable. So when you're in basic training you take it, you take it, and you take it until you're out of it, and then your whole life changes; but in basic training if you want to survive you just say yes to everything.

Patton: But, then, when you got into specialized training you, quote, "loved it."

Resnick: Oh, yeah, it changes quick. You know, thank God for my dad. He told me, Look, you've had a hard head sometime, but, in basic training, no matter what they ask you to do you don't argue; you do it. If someone asks you to do fifty pushups you struggle to do it and you do it. That was it.

Patton: So you enlisted in '48?

Resnick: Yep. September of '48.

Patton: That was between wars. What did you anticipate you would be doing? I mean, did you think you would be assigned overseas? Did you have options?

Resnick: Well, when I first went in, during the interviews when I first enlisted, asked what I would like to do. We were almost guaranteed the school—the engineering—we had a chance to pick things out and almost guaranteed that—and we would say about going overseas. I'll tell you, I never thought I would ever see overseas. I thought I would strictly be state-side and that would be it, because the war was over. We were pulling out of Europe—not pulling completely out, obviously, always leaving somebody there—but I'm talking about the millions of troops that were scattered throughout the world were just fighting to come back. There would be token groups in various outposts in Germany and wherever we had assignments, because we were still the occupiers at that time.

Patton: So when you finished your training, is this something that you do finish and you are a graduate and all that?

Resnick: Well, I've been a basic training graduate from that and graduated from the school—that was sixteen weeks—and then you wait to see what your

assignments are just like you see the assignments on the board—everyone runs down the bulletin board—

Patton: And what was your assignment?

Resnick: My assignment was '44th Engineers, Fort Bragg, North Carolina. It's just like when you finish college and everybody says, well what company is taking me, where am I going? Or a doctor. What hospital am I assigned to? Everybody runs to the bulletin board.

Patton: So you went to North Carolina and did what?

Resnick: I went to North Carolina, yeah. I was in a line company and I was in the boat working with heavy equipment. Using it, using the projects we had going, training with it—

Patton: Such as—

Resnick: —and pushing dirt piles and learning how to smooth them out at the right pitch for water to flow, and graders—you'd climb on top of a grader and then make that thing—and, you know, I'd have more fun doing that at that age. To me, it was great. It was exciting. And that's what we did.

Patton: Is there a specific mission of the 44th Engineers?

Resnick: Our first big assignment was in Alabama. After we topped off full TO & E strength—TO & E means Table of Organization and Equipment: Battalion is usually at four companies—a headquarters company and three line companies, A, B, C. It's like you have so many different people do this, so many people do that, so many cooks, so many infantry men, so many guys that do surveying; you're made of that Table of Organization. So, we weren't even fifty percent. I mean, we were taking people that were just getting out of basic training, going to engineering school at Atlanta or Fort Belvoir, Virginia or Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri, and we need the graduates from those to fill up. So it took a little time, almost a year, to get us up to our full complement. Then we got our first real assignment and it was rebuilding Fort McClellan in Alabama for the Dixie Division—I think it's the 31st Infantry Division in Alabama—to do their summer training. Fort McClellan is a beautiful, beautiful place, but the place where the reservists had to go was out in the fields and the woods; we just cleared the whole area and put in cement forms and everything for the tents to go in because they trained there all summer long. The different parts of the division trained for two weeks—another segment of two weeks—and it was the two week summer training that reservists have to go through. That's what it was, and we had our first real assignment. So we're going down there; we're called TDY—that's temporary duty—from Fort Bragg and we went into Anniston and we were doing our job. We got there in March of 1950. Just as we were completing our assignment, the North Koreans invaded South Korea—June 25, 1950—andour entire world just changed. I mean, I was going to be getting out that year.

Discharges were just coming to an end. We took our orders just to pack our clothes—everything we had—and then our footlockers that we had at the foot at of our bed that they gave us locks and labels—for the express—put our names on them. Everything we owned went in there except for a couple pair of fatigues—you know the fatigue uniforms—and a couple sets of underwear, socks, two pair of boots, our toilet articles, and lock them and ship them home.

Patton: Now, did I understand you correctly, you were scheduled to be discharged?

Resnick: August, yeah—September of ’50.

Patton: Did you have any hints or gossip or any kind of concerns prior to the invasion of Korea?

Resnick: No, I mean, the world was fine. The world was fine. I never gave it a thought. Hey, when you're that age in the service and then a great town like Anniston, Alabama, you have one thing on your mind and that was chicks. I mean, you know, meeting all the gals you can. You have to understand, we went into Alabama—we convoyed in from Fort Bragg, down there—and I got to tell you that when we came in town, the old man—our commanding officer—had it well planned that we go in late in the afternoon; we slowed down on the road going in and the purpose of it was… The newspaper, the editors, this time made a big deal out of us coming in. The people were lining the streets. I got to tell you, the girls were cheering and everybody was hollering at us as we come in on our trucks; one would have thought we were liberating the city of Anniston from the State of Alabama. Right off, the first Saturday night, in one of their recreation centers they had a dance for us and on certain holidays they would have us over for dinner, I mean, groups, you know, parties. It was just everything going on and we just loved it. I got to tell you –I don't know the numbers –a big percentage of our people over the years got married there and they made quite an impact on us. You may be sorry you had me here. When we got in to Korea—if I'm jumping ahead of myself—with a little training in Japan before we went to the big invasion of Inchon, Korea, we had to get rid of our identity. On our trucks it said, 44th Engineers on the bumpers and everything; all of our equipment had to be erased because when our equipment went to the docks of Yokohama, Japan, ready to sail with us into Korea. They didn't want anybody—longshoremen, people hanging around the docks—to know what was going on, who the outfits were. They didn't want to know what was happening because it was a big secret move. So, the colonel was saying we had to have some identification; so our equipment would get off the ships and into the docks and into the beaches of Inchon, we had to identify our stuff. We didn't have time around there; we're looking for serial numbers and everything. We needed something to identify us, and the S3 officer said… Oh we just got the Anniston newspaper, the Anniston Star; right on the headline it said, "44th Engineers Left a lot of Broken Hearts," because of boyfriends, some of them married, and especially the girlfriends. I remember Fred Word saying, "My goodness.… __(??)

Resnick: …said, What's wrong with losing a heart—a broken heart. That's great. We can make a little stencil, just get a paintbrush and have spray cans and paint the broken heart. As it turned out, we became the famous Broken Heart Engineers of Korea. The highway to this day from Seoul, Korea, to Pusan—which is no longer Pusan, it's now called Busan, B-U-S-A-N—is known as the Broken Heart Highway.

Patton I saw that in the paper and I wondered what was the origin of that name.

Resnick: That was the Broken Hearts and no matter what we did it was the Broken Heart Engineers. It became very popular; everybody just talks about the broken heart. There isn't a place in Korea, I guess, I haven't been. I'd been all the way up to Manchuria and North Korea. You'll see our sign: **The Broken Heart Engineers were here.**

Patton: And it was because you really were breaking hearts back there, then.

Resnick: Yeah. So that's how it all came about; we had a lot of pride in our organization.

Patton: Okay, so, North Korea invades. Do you remember how you heard it?

Resnick: I guess radio. Radio and—

Patton: Did you realize that life was just about to turn?

Resnick: No. We had no idea. We just thought it was a skirmish that wouldn't last long, but then it got very serious. I mean, they really pushed; they took Seoul. They pushed a wall… If you could picture Korea in your mind… Well, let me make it easy for you so you don't have to look it up. Korea reminds me of Florida. It's a peninsula. If you could imagine the thirty-eighth parallel being just above—where's Mickey Mouse just above Orlando—so above that line would be North Florida and below that line would be South Florida. It was North Korea and South Korea; they had pushed them all the way back down to where Miami might be—you know, way down to the Miami, Fort Lauderdale area. Well they pushed it down to Taegu , and the UN forces—the Korean forces and what few Americans were there—were trapped down in that little corner. General MacArthur, being the great strategist, didn't want to lose Korea, because Korea meant that, if that went, Japan would have been next. What was it doing? It was spreading communism throughout the entire far-east and communism had to be checked. We had the biggest stand in Korea. I can tell you, if we didn't, goodness knows what the world would have been like today. We didn't understand that as soldiers, but certainly diplomats did. I mean, we were kids having a good time and, so, at all costs we could not get tossed off. General MacArthur, being the brilliant strategist that he is, decided to cut the whole thing off. We decided to make the invasion of Inchon. People that don't understand Korea, you know where Tampa, Florida is on the Gulf Coast—well we landed, like landing in Tampa. That was Inchon, except it wasn't from the bay of Mexico, it was from the rough yellow sea. Landing there, the tides were the highest and lowest in the

whole world. Every twelve hours the tides went up to thirty-two feet high and every twelve hours they went right down. The entire harbor was nothing but mud, a few little channels for boats to get in. So everything had to be well planned because at that particular time the North Koreans never ever gave any thought to the UN forces landing there. They thought they might be landing on the other side, on the eastern coast of Korea, to cut it off in the Sea of Japan. So, what happened was, when we landed there, everything had to be timed just right. We ran right across the peninsula and we cut off all those troops—North Koreans that were down south—we had felt that the war was over. We cut them off; we retook Seoul in two weeks. One would have thought that was the end of the war, but, there was still hell to be paid up in North Korea. The North Koreans were getting really involved with the… General MacArthur wanted to take all of Korea back and unify it to one country again; that was what he was all about. Once we retook Seoul and got a couple of quick bridges up across the Naktong River so supplies could flow, we cut off the whole supply line for the North Koreans that were way down near the Fort Lauderdale, Miami, area, so to speak—Buson [called Pusan during the war]—way down in the southeast corner. If you had a contemporary map there it would say Buson—B-U-S-O-N—

Patton: I think it says Buson but I'm not seeing Inchon.

Resnick: Inchon is right on the Yellow Sea, on the left side, on the west coast. Inchon is—well, where are we here—cut that off for a second—a lot of the names have changed. Here we go right up here. Here's Inchon right there. It says Inchon right there.

Patton: So you—

Resnick: We landed right there at Inchon.

Patton: You landed down here at Buson?

Resnick: No. Landed at Inchon.

Patton: Oh, you landed—okay—but your first—

Resnick: The troops are trapped down there. The balance of the South Koreans and UN forces were trapped in—a little bigger area than that—but as far as Taegu—you see Taegu on there—was up a little bit from the south. Right; almost dead center of Korea. The name may have changed. I don't know what the date is of the—

Patton: Okay. All right. Forgive me for asking for these backup details. Okay, so you sailed from the United States.

Resnick: Nope. I sailed from the United States to go to Japan. Yes, I'm sorry.

Patton: Yes. Okay. So you went to Japan. Do you remember when you left the United States?

Resnick: Yep. About the fifteenth of August, 1950.

Patton: So the war—a couple of months old and—

Resnick: Yep. It was on a commandeered America President Lines ship and we sailed directly to Yokahama and from Yokahama we went to a little town called Fuchinobe on the central isle. Japan is made up of three major islands—that's all Japan is—the three islands. Well, there's actually a fourth. The three major islands: up north is Hokkaido—you might remember the Olympics were there. The central island—where the cities of Tokyo and Yokohama are—is called the island of Honshu. The southern island—and the south of there—is called Kyushu. We landed on the island of Honshu in the docks of Yokohama and we boarded some of these little old wooden trains and went up into Yokohama. In fact, we get off at a place called Camp Zema—Z-E-M-A—which was their West Point, Japan's West Point—then from there, we went to Fuchinobe for training to acclimate ourselves to the atmosphere. A little training. You know, we never had any real combat-type training, and little things like climbing ropes—which I had really done a little bit in the basic training—little things like that were very important to us and—

Patton: And this was going badly, right? I mean, North Korea troops forward—

Resnick: Oh, at that particular time?

Patton: Yes.

Resnick: Oh, yeah. Well, we discovered that when we were first—it was just a matter of a couple of weeks—we weren't ready for this. And, yeah, it was getting sour. We sensed in the first couple weeks in July that they need help darn quick. Because we were downsizing, you know; the military was downsizing dramatically. And one of the reasons for the draft was to keep us alive. I mean, these guys from World War II want to go home, get back to school; they had a GI bill, their families; they wanted to get out. So you had to have some sort of occupation force. When I was in Japan at that time we were the occupiers; we weren't visitors, but we ran Japan. General MacArthur was the "Emperor" and they loved him. Their Congressional building, Dai Ichi building, is similar to our congress in Washington. When he come out of there every night around five or six o'clock, I tell you, they would line the sidewalks all bowing to him. I mean, he's this tall six foot guy come out with his—never wore a tie –shirt wide open, you know, his stature, walk into his car to take him where he was going. The Japanese loved and respected this guy even more so than their Emperor Hirohito. We changed the face of Japan pretty darn quick. Anyway, we were at Fuchinobe for training. We were supposed to have landed in early September—we were only supposed to be in Japan for a couple of weeks—but, it happens to be like just what we have here—the hurricane season. It was the typhoon season there and there were several, pretty rough typhoons, not where we were, but south of us. Those typhoons really churned up the ocean. Pretty rough to have crew ships

out there on the sea. I mean, the guys, physically, wouldn't be worth going in for a landing; you just couldn't do it to them. I was spending five or six days in that rough stuff; the guys would be landing holding on to their stomachs. You just couldn't do that. They had to be a ready, fighting force and not guys seasick. So it was postponed until about the middle of September and we went into that invasion. Just the thought of landing at Inchon when nobody expected us to be there was just a brilliant strategic move on General MacArthur's part. He planned the whole thing and it worked out real fine.

Patton: So you went from Alabama to Japan—

Resnick: Went from Alabama to Camp Stoneman in California, where they lined us all up and got our shots and physicals, and shots and physicals, and then we finally boarded the ship.

Patton: What was your rank at that time?

Resnick: At that particular time? I was a corporal.

Patton: Did you have a specific assignment or role?

Resnick: Well, I was in equipment in the A Company but the big assignment—my big opportunity of my life in the service –came from that ship.

Patton: What was that?

Resnick: The battalion commander on the ship was also the troop commander of the ship, not just our battalion of 800 men. He was a troop commander and there was about 3,000 men on the ship, you know, reservists being called back in. So he was commander of the whole ship and he told adjutant, Look, there's a war going on here and we've got to keep our guys informed of what's going on in the world. It'll be ten to twelve days on that ship crossing the ocean; they've got to know where we are in this world and what's happening. You can't just let them lie dormant. So, they went through our records and discovered that I was editor of my high school newspaper. I was told to report to the colonel's cabin. I was taken up there and he sat down with me and told me the stories. He said, I need somebody. Do you think you can handle this? And I said, Well, what kind of help can I have? I don't know all the parts of the ship and everything. So he talked and he took me up to the radio room on the ship and introduced me to the radio operators and everything. I saw how they had their little ticker tapes—you know, we didn't have computers and all that stuff at that time—but we had what they called "twix," little ticker tape coming out of the machine and so forth. He showed me how that worked. The guy had books and little magazines, little jokes and human interest stories for filler. We could get baseball scores and get news—what's happening in the world—and he said, "How many men do you think you'll need?" I said, "Well I got to figure out how I'm going to distribute on this ship." My God, there were five decks and I mean, how do you… He wanted something on every day. So, anyway, he said, "How many men do you think you

need?" He took me back into his cabin and I said, "I'll need a couple of runners and I'll need somebody to run the mimeograph machine and—maybe… Do you remember the mimeograph machine? [forerunner of xerography—it printed in purple ink]

Resnick: Oh yeah.

Patton: Well, and they weren't electric either, my friend; they were (clicks) like that. [cranked by hand] I said, "Can I have five people? I'd like to tackle this." He said, "You got it." Well, I got to tell you, we went right to work. They set up a desk for me; in fact they gave me a cabin on A deck and I had a Filipino house boy. How did that happen? Because we took over the ship—commandeered the ship to, you know, go overseas. It was a union operated place and so the union, these boys, and everybody in the ship, had work. So I had a cabin because he wanted me close to the radio room. I had a beautiful little cabin, and everybody else was down below sleeping. Anyway, I did it. I got the first paper out. We would cut [mimeograph] stencils and I was hunt-and-pecking [on a typewriter—even before word processors] and getting stories and writing stories and was getting the baseball scores—these guys loved the baseball scores at the time—and any kind of things that were going on. Football season was starting in the colleges. How did I distribute it? That was my big headache. How am I going to get it to all these troops so everybody gets it, officers, men, everybody? It dawned on me –food, chow lines—everybody goes into the galley. You start serving breakfast at 5:00 a.m. and you finish every breakfast about 9:00 a.m. and start serving lunch about 10:30, eleven o'clock, and finish serving lunch at about two or three and then start serving dinner at five and end at eight because it was just coming and going. We got the idea of putting these newspapers in every tray in the galley, you know, they're all stacked up and they take the tray. I had those two guys—we did for the dinner hour, not for the morning—we had all day to put the paper out. Every evening they went down there and every single tray we put a newspaper. Well, after three or four days I was called up to the old man's—the colonel's – cabin and he shook hands with me. He congratulated me. He says, What a great thought that was. He was so impressed he says, Darn you, you did the job, and I don't know how you figured it out, but you did the job and I didn't have to get involved. He was just so impressed. Of course, it went on to be a big thing for me, because after we landed—I went back to my A company for a while—he wanted me in headquarters; so he had me transferred. I didn't ask. I just one day was told to pack my stuff at Fuchinobe, where we were, and move in to the headquarters. I became his Message Center Chief, which was to communicate all the communications—they had me cleared, you know, for confidential stuff—and all his stuff that came in for him, the adjutant of the company commanders—of our movements, our secret movements. That all had to go through me and then I had to dissect them and give them to the proper people. See, sometimes I have to get in the jeep and go to one of the companies because nothing was to go over the radio or anything and, so, I was kind of his messenger—staying right in the headquarters, you know, all the time and all the confidential things. I used to see things that used to scare the hell out me: it told

us when we were landing, how we were going to do it, and so forth, but I used to see that stuff and gave it to him. Then, in North Korea, because I had been way up in the north around the Chosin Reservoir—our jeep Sergeant Major, just after we were getting ready to leave,had a little problem. The driver got hit on the soldier; the jeep—on the solid ice and everything—he kind of tipped over and, besides, he might have hurt his back real bad. He had to go back to the states. Immediately the old man made me the Sergeant Major and I was a Master Sergeant right up. But it was a temporary rank—you just can't—that was wartime, he could do whatever he wanted, and I became his Sergeant Major. To me, I mean, it was a case of being at the right place at the right time, and he was so impressed.

Patton: Yeah, with the right skills.

Resnick: Well, yeah, and with that paper—I had no idea where I would have ended up at that time—but it meant a lot to me, though.

Patton: Well, how long were you in that particular role: the communications role?

Resnick: Right through till November of ’51.

Patton: When you—

Resnick: This happened in December of ’50, and I was in that role until November, fifteenth of 1951. I may be a day or so off—might be the thirteenth, fourteenth, I can't remember the day.

Patton: I'm sorry, that's when you were shipped place someplace else, or...

Resnick: No I came back to the states. We were supposed to rotate; I would have actually been out of there in June or July, but rotation stopped because there were peace conferences going on. They thought they might settle the war at that particular summer of 1951, so for two or three months there was very little activity going on. I mean, we got our equipment back in shape again, got everything cleaned up. We were living in an old bombed-out schoolhouse in Seoul. So the rotation pretty much stopped because they thought the war was going to be over and that would be the end of it. But just around the beginning of September the stuff started up again real hard, real bad. The conferences just broke down and the skirmishes started again, so I didn't rotate. I stayed right there in Seoul. We had allied forces that would go in different areas with different projects that were going on. But this is after we get back from North Korea. Afterwards.

Patton: So actually, your time in Korea was not spent building bridges and roads; you were the communications officer.

Resnick: Yep.

Patton: That's fantastic—how it changed just en route.

Resnick: I had no idea and, of course, it changed everything. When I came back to the States, I landed on Christmas day, 1950. My family was picking me up at Fort Devens, Massachusetts. I had thirty days leave, then when I went back, I had no real assignment. I reported back to Fort Devens, so I was used to transport draftees—250 every Monday morning—to different training posts in the country. I used to have three or our four sergeants and a couple corporals with me; we'd take a train load down to Fort Dix, down to Fort Jackson in South Carolina, Chaffee in Arkansas, Camp Robbins in California. We'd take them on the train, Pullmans, in deployment; we'd tie on to trains. Sometimes it would take several days to get there, so all the time we're doing it we're training them: how to wear the uniform, how to salute, military courtesy. That was their indoctrination into the service until they got to their location taking their basic training. I liked that—it was a lot of fun—taking these guys. I had a particular program: I had 250 troops, most of them draftees. When we stopped in cities and towns all across the country. My first trip, the very first stop we made in Fort Devens was Worcester, Massachusetts. Most of these guys were from Massachusetts and all I could see was that train stop—jumping train—you know, and taking off. We have to have a morning report I was going to say; it's like an attendance record—everybody in the service. What happens is when the Fort Devens turned their troops over to me, they gave me the assignment—like a morning report—so I would know who's there. Every morning—it's official in the army even to this day—you make out a morning report: how many of the people there and so forth. So, I had to get up and make a little speech on the podium before we boarded the trains and the Pullman cars, "I'm Sergeant Resnick and this is what we're going to be doing: I think forty six or forty seven to a car— the beds are up on top—we sat underneath—you sleep on top. We're going to this place and we'll be having some various classes on the way down. Any questions with the headquarters would be the first car. If anybody—this shocked some of them—if anybody wants to jump the train at any time, up to you; we're not going to hold your hand. If you feel that when we stop at various locations—because all the trains were run like milk trains—they stopped every little town at that time; that was a primary source of transportation. I told them from the day I started, "Any time you want to jump the train, good luck, you can jump; we're not going to chase you. But, you have to understand: it's desertion, and you'll get caught someday. Maybe you might get caught next week, next month, maybe five years from now, but it will be desertion." I said that and I thought this guy was going to pass out. But seven of us watching 250 troops; I mean, they weren't reservists. If they wanted to skip we just thought it was… We had four or five troop-carrying cars; how many can you watch. So, I just told them, "If you want to go, go; it's your call, but if you're not on the morning report and on this car, it's desertion. First it's AWOL, [absent with out leave] then, I think after so many days it becomes desertion."—whatever the ruling was. I never had a problem. Never had a problem at all and nobody ever, ever left because they knew the deal before they—

Patton: You were a good communicator.

Resnick: No, I took the path of least resistance.

Patton: Going back to the ship on your way over, when you were in a uniquely pivotal position to have information and distribute it, did you have any restrictions on how honest you could be about what was going on in Korea or were you decided to be straightforward about what they could expect.

Resnick: Yeah, I did. I didn't know how thorough the army checked me out until after I got home. I know that when I first came home from leave from Korea—the superintendent of the schools I knew very well—he had told me how he got letters from the FBI. I don't know about the other ones but I remember him telling me—wanting to know about my background: who I was, what I was. My rabbi in Portland, Maine got one, some of my teachers, people that I knew, my doctor that had me referenced to as a kid. They all got letters wanting to know about my background, my family, and they were checking me out. I had no idea until I got home that they would check so thoroughly. Did I have any restrictions? No. You know, when you're in the service, you've got to understand what things you can talk about what you can't talk about. I suppose when things come in, a good radio operator looking at my face could probably read me there was something wrong, because at times it would scare me when I read some of the stuff. It was that we had to leave at 0500, you know, 300 men are to be landing here, where we were landing, and so forth. These were orders to my commanding officer and I had the restriction where I couldn't even tell the company commander. I knew there was different levels of top secret, secret, confidential, eyes only; I knew what I could tell the company commanders or the adjutant. The adjutant I could tell anything the same I could tell the old man; he was always acting on behalf of the colonel. So you had to be very cautious but I did realize how serious it was. You don't think until you get out. I had nobody to talk to anyway. You just don't go around blabbing that kind of stuff; you just don't. You just have to use your own judgment. Nobody told me not to talk to anybody.

Patton: From what I know about the war, there's a perception that there were a lot of miscalculations, misperceptions that things were going well when they weren't.

Resnick: In Korea? Not to my knowledge. Maybe you mean in subsequent skirmishes. I think the only bad thing we were accused of was killing a lot of civilians at one particular point.

Patton: Well, I'd been listening to the CD of David Halberstam's new book and that's essentially where I was getting that, especially at the beginning there were…

Resnick: Oh, there could have been.

Patton: I guess what I'm asking you is, though, as a communication officer you weren't deliberately withholding information from, let's say…

Resnick: Oh that kind of stuff. That was none of my business. No, no.

Patton: But you were afraid at times.

Resnick: Well, I was only afraid because I knew what was coming. Because I read ahead when we were supposed to land in North Korea. I knew the day we were going. I knew where we had to sit for two days while they cleared the harbor. I knew this and all my buddies that—you know—I just couldn't tell them. I mean, I knew it all the time and we would just go at the time and what LST we were going to be on and so forth.

Patton: OK. I'm backing up again. You get to Japan and you can't cross because of the typhoons, right? At that point MacArthur decided to go to Inchon, is that correct?

Resnick: Yep.

Patton: And you were aware where you were going, right?

Resnick: Just before we left I was aware, yeah. I wasn't aware during the whole planning stage. Nobody was.

Patton: Yeah. The assignment to your battalion was different from your personal assignment. I mean, your guys were out…

Resnick: No. Our assignments were to go along with the infantry, clear the minefields right off the bat, and get into Seoul. First we destroyed the bridges so that the North Koreans that were down south could not cross and go back north, where we destroyed them. We were there just a matter of days and it all happened so quick. Then we put up a couple of treadways, floating treads, so trucks could cross. We had to supply our people, too, go both ways; we had to go back and forth. So our mission, basically, was to destroy every bridge there. Most of the bridges were destroyed by the time we got there. Out on the Inchon harbor, the night before we made the landing and the day we made the landing—that night—the battleship Missouri and the cruiser Princeton were firing like you wouldn't believe. I don't know the size of the guns, but they were firing into Seoul; I mean, they were just battering down. When you do that, what you're doing is you're slowing down the process of any troops that are doing anything, because these bombs are just landing, destroying buildings, destroying bridges, destroying roads, and nothing can happen, nothing can move. So they were battering the hell out of Seoul—

Patton: Which was under—

Resnick: —before we got there. You know, anytime you have a big invasion, the bombarding starts first. That weakens and softens your objective—supposedly—and in Seoul it worked fine. It worked just fine. Just about every bridge was pretty much destroyed. Some vehicles got across them, but, pretty bad shape. I mean, they really hit them.

Patton: So, you took Seoul back from the North Koreans, correct?

Resnick: Yes. And how you do this is that you have Asiatics that are loyal to the UN sneak in and they form what they call OPs—observation posts. They get in the high frequencies of the radio. Sometimes they get caught. Today they get caught damn fast: in those days they didn't get caught as fast. Your observation posts would get up there and say, “Go twelve degrees to the left.” They saw the shells landing, and they'd say. “You're off by ten degrees.” So they moved it and by the time they're firing the third round, direct hit. The OPs were up there directing the fire as long as they did and stayed there. They were usually guys with beards that were loyal that we got up there. Called them OPs; had radios, they were radioing things. You can't stay too long because the enemy, sooner or later, picks up where you are. But that was a big help. They went in almost a week or two before the landing. They went into little small islands; they acted as fishermen, they got into the shore, they made their way into Seoul, and they got up on those hills and stayed there. Then, when the firing was starting, they were the observation posts. All these little things happened, you know.

Patton: So, this surprise landing was preceded by all this bombardment. Did people understand that something big was happening, that there was going to be a landing?

Resnick: Oh, yeah. Japan was loading up as fast as you could load up. I mean, troops were coming from everywhere. They were getting all set, the equipment. I would say that even the enemy knew forty-eight hours, seventy-two hours ahead because we were sailing up the Yellow Sea. I'm sure they didn't have any planes at that time, but, hell, they had people who could see off the shore. All kinds of American ships started to sail up there. But in seventy-two hours they can't do a hell of a lot. I mean, they didn't have much time to do anything. I'm sure they knew, they were well aware of it.

Patton: So the landing there was considered a success?

Resnick: It was very simple and a big success with very little activity. Very little activity. I mean, I tell you, battleship Missouri and the cruiser Princeton really did a job. The activity? Yes, there were a few people who got hurt, but it was all stray stuff; I mean, it was just panicking stuff and there wasn't a slaughter.

Patton: Your communications were all right?

Resnick: Yep. Yeah. Well, I went in the small boat with everybody. I went over the side to the ship—I never thought I'd get out of that rope net—and I happened to be in the bow. We went over and, of course, you know, the bow curves in and we're hanging on the net. You're up there; that's like being on top of a four story building. It's pretty high. You don't realize that you're there standing beside the ship; when you're up there you see this little thing bobbing down below and you get down and you stand. All the equipment, your three or four days ration, your basic load of ammunition and so forth, your grenades. Everything is tied to you

standing at the gate. The whistle blows and a guy will say, "Bresnick!" and you say, "Bernie, M!" and the two pick you right up—right over the—

Patton: Off you go.

Resnick: We couldn't really climb over ourselves; we had too much weight on. You start going down. As you're going down you look down and you want to stop, but the next guy is right on your fingers; you just keep going. The boat was so small—it's how we got packed in there—we couldn't fall anywhere and we're just all running into each other. Fortunately, I never even got wet. When we went in, a lot of them had to go in the beach; you know, the fronts would drop down, we'd go into the beach. But we were in so close to the dock and it was high tide, all we had to do was pull up beside the dock and step out. We just walked the length of the dock and went in and never even got wet.

Patton: So, you went to Seoul and stayed there?

Resnick: No. We stayed right on the beaches because we had to wait for equipment to come in behind us because the tide's up and down. You had to get the people in, then get your equipment in. We had our basic loads with us—what we needed—but it was very little activity. I'll tell you a little story about going in which really gave me a lot of respect for the army. When I was a kid I had asthma; there wasn't much you could do about it at that time with asthma; there hadn't really have any medication for it. I wanted to go in the service so bad. I didn't want to be left behind. I didn't want all my buddies going and me not going. So when I went in, of course the questions were asked.

My freshman year of high school my mom had to go to school—because it was a three story high school—and make arrangements for all my classes with the first floor because I could hardly walk to the second floor. I just get out of breath. By the time my sophomore year came around I was feeling pretty good—I mean, feeling damn good. We were a one-car family then and I just got my license. My father would take the trolley to work so I could take the car and drive to school and drive home. Of course, in the freshman year—it just kind of went away. I would try out for tennis; I made the tennis team. I made the track team, and the track team I did the short runs, but I did the shot put and so forth and I was really excited. I mean, I had a great summer between the freshman and sophomore year because I could breathe again. I just never had a sign of it ever again; it just went away; I guess I outgrew it. But I never checked it when I went into the service—you know, you're supposed to put down whatever you had—and I never put down asthma.

That night—that very first night in the dark—those ships shooting their guns into Seoul—I thought I couldn't breathe. I was laying there with my buddies; we were in a rice paddy just outside of Inchon and I couldn't breathe. I thought, Oh my god, I'm going to get caught, my asthma's coming back, I'm going to be shipped home, I'm going to be embarrassed and get a medical discharge or something. I was just frightened—scared to death this was going to happen to me—I could not breathe. I was suffering. My buddy beside me, I didn't know it,

suffered the same thing. I mean, I didn't know he was breathing hard. He couldn't understand why he was because he's never had asthma before. I knew what it was like. During the course of the dark evening we heard people crawling towards us and they immediately give what they call a password—you can shoot people if you don't have that password—and we give the countersign and he just crawled up to us and said, "Roll up your sleeves," and shot us with adrenaline. You know, within minutes we felt like a million dollars. We had no idea. We both confessed to each other.

We didn't know what it was all about until we were in the breakfast line the next day; they had steamed—they boiled—made us some food for us that are rations. We had coffee and biscuits and stuff for breakfast. Everyone was talking, "What the hell was that all about last night?" We were told it was anxiety neurosis: we were scared to death. The darn army understood kids would be scared to death. The guys from World War II didn't bother at all—but the kids—the army understood. They knew with those guns ripping through—I mean, you could hear the bangs of them ripping through the air and gunshots everywhere—they knew that the first few days until we get our bodies acclimated to it that we would be frightened and, son of a gun, that's what it was.

Patton: They were ready for you. Did it ever happen to you again?

Resnick: Never. Never. I mean, of course it was a combination of that happening plus knowing I had asthma that made it all the worse. My buddy was breathing hard, but nothing like I was.

Patton: But you never told him that you had asthma.

Resnick: Never told anybody. Never did. Because I would get out, I would be embarrassed—kicked out of the service. So, later dates I told him, but…

Patton: You said earlier that this was such a brilliant strategy by MacArthur. I take it you admired him as a leader?

Resnick: Oh, yeah. He wasn't admired as much as a leader as he was admired as a God. Even the Japanese people. I mean, this man was just a brilliant strategist. Matter of fact. I suppose it went to his head and that's why Truman had to fire him because he was frightened of MacArthur. Our government did not want to go any farther than Manchuria. He wanted to clean it—go right into China—and just clean up communism altogether. It just, politically, could not be done. The world wasn't ready for that. I don't really know, but I think he was afraid that MacArthur would do that. MacArthur was a five star general, MacArthur did what MacArthur wanted, and MacArthur felt that nobody was ever going to argue with MacArthur. Of course, Truman was not a powerful man, but you didn't play games with Harry Truman. I mean, Harry Truman was not going to listen to him when you fight him.

Patton: So you and your buddies respected him—

Resnick: I think the entire army did. It was a shock to the world. I think that Truman felt that it was in America's best interest to have MacArthur retire.

Patton: What was your reaction when that happened?

Resnick: We were shocked. It's like taking your father away from you. You know, it's hard in that age; he was our guardian, he was our father, and it was very, very difficult to take.

Patton: Who came in in his place? Was that Ridgway?

Resnick: That's correct, Ridgway.

Patton: What did you think of him?

Resnick: Oh. He was a real soldier, too. He was another MacArthur. He probably was not as brilliant, maybe didn't have the background that, certainly, MacArthur had, but very good. General Walker was there, too. General Walker was killed Christmas Day in 1950—Christmas Eve or Christmas Day—outside of Seoul. But Ridgway was a powerful man, too. Ridgway, of course, became Supreme Far East Commander. Ridgway was there all the time. When Walker got killed, Ridgeway came in and then when MacArthur got fired, Ridgway stepped up and took MacArthur's job and that was the sequence.

Patton: Okay, so, you've landed on Inchon, you eventually get into Seoul. Am I correct?

Resnick: Uh-huh.

Patton: This notes says, "re-embarking." What does that mean? Did you—

Resnick: Re-embarking? We went down to Pusan, which was 300 and something miles to the south. There was just one road, one dirt road going around a mountain pass and everything. It was a mop-up. We had to keep our supplies coming. Most of the supplies were coming in through the port of Inchon and so forth, so supplies had to go down that way; trucks had to go back and forth. We had to widen that road—get that road going—it was just gravel—it was nothing—just dirt and dust—dirt and gravel—but we had to get that road open so two vehicles could pass each other. So we started working our way south. It took about a few weeks—blowing sides of mountains down, taking ‘dozers and throwing the stuff over the side—because if trucks were trying to go south, people from the 24th or 25th Division wanting to come back up north had to sit for a couple days, waiting for all the supplies to go down through. Two vehicles couldn't go through those mountain passes.

Patton: When you say, "We have to do this..."

Resnick: Our battalion. Our engineering battalion. That's what we did all the way down.

Patton: Would you repeat for whom you were working.

Resnick: 44th Engin—

Patton: No, I mean, the commander with whom you were working as the communications person.

Resnick: Working for Lieutenant Colonel James Tetford; he was our battalion—

Patton: And he was in charge of the 44th Battalion?

Resnick: He was our commanding officer.

Patton: Okay, so you were still associated with the engineers?

Resnick: Always.

Patton: Okay. Got you. Resnick: Never left it. Never left them. My whole military career was…

Patton: So you get down to Pusan and what happens?

Resnick: Well, we get down to Pusan a couple weeks later. We were getting ourselves reorganized—our equipment and so forth—and we had a nice visit from Bob Hope [a long-time, very famous comedian] and Marilyn Maxwell [a glamorous blond actress] and Jerry Colonna [a slapstick comedian] to cheer us up. We boarded military LSTs [Landing Ship-Tank]—it's a landing craft—and we sailed north in the Sea of Japan, up to the port of Wonsan in North Korea. If you know Wonsan, it's just north of the thirty-eighth parallel on the east coast up north—up there—you look on the right side of the—

Patton: I see it.

Resnick: Yep. Wonsan. We sailed up there. You might remember: years after the war was over, we had a naval ship there called the Pueblo; the Pueblo was captured and they kept the ship. It's still there, and that's where it happened: the port of Wonsan. We said we're going to make an invasion up there, we're going to make a major landing, but there were so many mines in that harbor—it was completely mined by the North Koreans—that we had to sit outside the harbor. A whole mess of us—LSTs and so forth—were sitting out there. In some cases we used 50 caliber machine guns; we blew up some of the mines. But we had to wait for the Navy to get there with minesweepers because we couldn't take the chance. It's not worth losing the lives of guys and going in. Three of us—the headquarters service company, A Company, and B Company, our C Company went further north. If you look on that map, above Wonsan, they went in at a port called I-W-O-N—Iwon. I don't know if it's on there or not. Quite frankly it's just south of Uvanilastak in Russia. The very northeast corner of—is it on there?—the northeast corner—a little town called Iwon—I-W-O-N—way up in the corner

just before Russia and China—you can see it. I'm surprised it's not on there; it was a major—

Patton: It stops all the way into—

Resnick: Oh there's not too much on here, is there.

Patton: North Korea is not fully…

Resnick: Oh it doesn't have all of North Korea; that's why we can't see it.

Patton: I don't know what this is. And this is—it shows me this part—

Resnick: The thirty-eighth parallel. Oh that's not on there either. Nope. That's only South Korea.

Patton: Okay, well, so, you—

Resnick: Iwon was way up here.

Patton: Okay, and was all of this territory still in North Korean hands at that time?

Resnick: Yep. What was happening right here is the troops were starting to go up here. We would go up there to help them, get up ahead of them. Our mission going up here was to start up the road to clear the mines so these guys coming up could have some clean land.

Patton: When you finally landed was it a rough landing, I mean, did you—

Resnick: No. Again, the ships were hitting— But, I will tell you, it was a whole new life up there.

Patton: In what way?

Resnick: The communism—at that particular point—was kind of impressive. They had some beautiful apartments and communist railroad workers. The first couple of nights we stayed in an apartment house; It didn't have a roof on it or anything; I mean, it was beat up from the [artillery] pounding of the ships. But once you get into those apartments, you could see they were pretty nice material. I mean, they weren't like the straw and the stuff down south, which was purely agricultural; the north was industrial, and some of those apartment houses were manufactured quite well. At the time we were there, we pounded the hell out of them. We went in and it was a place of security that we could stay overnight or sleep or something.

Then they had some blacktop roads going up the highways—I mean, old blacktop and winding roads –but the fact is they had blacktop. We went into the port of Hamhung. We worked our way up; it took us about a week to get up there from the port of Hamhung. We had a lot of supplies came in from that port and

the ships—we needed our equipment real bad—couldn't get it into Wonsan. Then, from Hamhung, we moved inland up to their old, old capitol called Hung Nom which was a major city, and a very nice city, I'll tell you. We stayed there for a little while. We also made our command post there; we moved into an old beat up schoolhouse that was all bombed up. You could see from the town squares and some of the buildings—pretty nice place. I mean, the railroad workers and the communists ran everything.

Then, from there, one of our companies went up to Koto-ri, which was a little farther north. One of our allied companies did some projects in Hagaru-ri, which was in the southwestern corner of the Chosin Reservoir, and that was about it. We had assignments and projects all the time. Bridges, keeping supply lines open. We had a lot of problems because there's always snipers just on our backs all the time. You couldn't help that because that's what it was all about.

Patton: Had the infantry reached you yet? I mean, where you were…

Resnick: Oh, yes. They come right up with us and by us. We cleaned most of the stuff on the way up, but, in some sorts there were crazy things we found. We had found once an episode. Just before you get into the city of Hung Nom there was a lot of rocks—cliffs-like—and these guys were stringing across the dirt roads—cheese-wires—you know, little—you couldn't see it. They were stringing them across. Of course, we couldn't have our windshields up on jeeps or trucks or anything because you can't maneuver a weapon with the windshields there. You had to sit high with everything down. For a while, we were getting guys where the cheese-wires were hitting them right in the chest; it was some pretty bad damage. If it ever got your open neck it would have taken your head right off. Fortunately, with all the cold and the hoods they had on, they were getting caught here and in the chest—hurting them—cutting them pretty bad. You say, well how does one of those hurt anything? Well, usually the lead vehicle—the driver or his assistant get grabbed, they get ripped—they swing the wheel or something, the truck tips over, gets stuck there and it holds up the whole supply line. So that was the psychological effect that it had on the whole system. All you had to do was get a couple of vehicles and the whole supply system came to a halt—sometimes for a few hours, maybe a day—I mean, it just depends on the severity. It was all these little things that you have to run into. So we finally got some welding machines that we had a little angle [iron] on it. We welded them onto the bumpers on the front hood—a pipe or an angle straight up—and curved it up that way so when the wires came in we'd snap them before they hit the trucks. It was always one mind against the other minds. I probably forgot half the little details that we caught them doing or they'd catch us doing.

Patton: You said you sort of admired the architecture and construction, things up in the north. How did you feel about the North Korean soldiers?

Resnick: Well, the only contacts we ever had was with the prisoners we had. We took quite a few prisoners. The interesting part about them was, one time we had as much as 200 prisoners outside of Hamhung; we had them in an open field and it was

pretty cold and everything. You know how they sit down, they squat. The only time they could—they had to raise their hand—they wanted to go to the bathroom or something—we always had an interpreter. I will tell you, we had as many as 200, just two guards on them. And why? Because they never ate so good. As our prisoners, they never ate so good. They never had so much respect. I mean, we weren't whacking them and hitting them and shooting them and cutting them. They were our prisoners and they belonged to us and they ate very well. They had coffee if they wanted it, hot breaks. We didn't have much to offer them, but, I mean, whatever they had, our rations, compared to what they had, was very very good and we took care of them. A few probably got away, but we just didn't have the men; we had to wait for the MPs to come with their trucks to pick them up and take them wherever they took them. I can tell you that they weren't too sad about being prisoners because they knew damn right that America was not going to torture them. I think today is probably a little tougher because we get information from them. But, they probably had a better life with us. That doesn't mean they were surrendering in droves, but whenever we caught them, I don't think they were panicky.

Patton: Well, you were going up the road, and here's this Chosin Reservoir. Does that term refer to this whole large area?

Resnick: Yeah. Well, it's to the reservoir itself.

Patton: To the reservoir itself, okay.

Resnick: That area provided the electrical power for all of North Korea and, believe it or not, parts of South Korea right down into Seoul.

Patton: So, your engineering battalion was fairly important?

Resnick: Our final mission there was to go up and work with Japanese engineers that come over from Japan to help them reestablish the power plants—get the power going. Japanese engineers came over and our Baker Company—B Company—was working right there in the reservoir just slightly north of Hagaru-ri. Well here it is, right there—Hagaru-ri. They were working up there up until Thanksgiving. At Thanksgiving time that place was pretty solid; I mean, it was frozen. The Yalu river which separated Manchuria—which was China—and North Korea, was frozen solid. It wasn't just a river, it was the border line. We knew the Chinese soldiers were over there, but they had every right to be there. It was their country. Obviously, they were there to protect themselves in the event we wanted to invade.

I had previously told you that Truman was afraid MacArthur was going to go across the Yalu river once it froze over. On Thanksgiving Day, the Thanksgiving message we got form General MacArthur was that we'll all be home for Christmas. The war, for our practical purposes, was over once we re-took the Chosin Reservoir. For all practical purposes the war was over; we'd all be going home for Christmas and that was his goal. This was Thanksgiving, and we had a

meal that you wouldn't believe, all airdropped. I mean, we had turkeys, squash, mashed potatoes. We didn't have any booze but what we did do was, since the war was almost over, we did have—it was a WTCU, [probably WCTU – Women's Christian Temperance Union, said in jest] I guess—sent us a lot of cases of grapefruit juice. So we raided the medical tent, got the 100 percent alcohol, and we had ourselves one ball as cold as it was. We had no warm place to go, but nobody cared. We had a wonderful meal. We were pretty much in the bag that night because when the general says we're going home for Christmas, we're going home for Christmas—

Patton: So what happened with—

Resnick: At night. It all started.

Patton: That very night?

Resnick: And very dark. We hear a lot of boom boom in the background and it got quieter and quieter and whistles started blowing for us to stand by. Then the bugles started blowing. From the tops of the hills it was just a re-enactment of the Alamo—how the Indians would scream and holler. They used bugles and whistles and hollering, too, but it was usually bugles and whistles, and that was to intimidate the young troops who had never been through this stuff before. That's when they started in with their guns and just started raising—I mean, it was just a nightmare—I mean, they come in hordes—they were coming after us. We had to back off and get over towards the ocean.

Patton: Now, was that when China came in?

Resnick: That was when China came in.

Patton: Were you surprised that they actually came across?

Resnick: Never thought it would ever happen. We knew they were across the river, but, look, they were scared to death of MacArthur; they were just protecting themselves and nobody gave it a second thought. You could see them. Our colonel wanted—we took a ride in the jeep one day and went up, just right up here; and it was just on the reservoir. You get up in those high hills and you look in your field glasses and see them down there in the hills, having classes. You'd see a guy in a grandstand there standing and talking. They're all sitting on the side of the hill. They're having some kind of classes, probably getting lectures or maybe it was just a show of power. But never gave it a second thought that they might come across.

Patton: So it was a big shock.

Resnick: Sure was.

Patton: If I'm remembering correctly, it was quite a massacre. Is that correct?

Resnick: Oh, yeah. Especially the marines that were right in the heart of it. A lot of our Baker Company was taken prisoners. In fact, I was in school already in Boston and I took a day off one time because they were swapping prisoners when the war was over, and a lot of names I recognized. Television was just in its infancy, then.

Patton: So what did you do? Did you—

Resnick: Well, we had to fix ways for the 7th Marine Division to get the hell out of there. I mean, you can spend days going around hills trying to get out and get towards the shore. We rigged up an awful lot of rope-type bridges; they could walk from hill to hill and get out in a matter of a half-hour or an hour. Couldn't take equipment with them, but they'd have to… Those little things like that—

Patton: So your unit was very important to preserving…

Resnick: Oh yeah that's what engineers were all about. They did all that stuff for them. We did have a few bridges we rigged up; We rigged up several bridges. I think a book was written about [a bridge]—just north of Koto-ri right in between these two right here, Hagaru-ri and Koto-ri, that we put up. At the same time we installed it, we loaded it.

Patton: For destruction.

Resnick: Yeah. For destruction. Jeeps could go across it and three-quarter ton trucks. But, real large trucks, tanks—no. But it was enough to get the troops out because it just saved them, especially the wounded. I mean, we had an awful lot of men, and those were things we had to do to get them out. Then we made our way back to the Port of Hung Nam when they were coming up. The Port of Hung Nam is down here on this map—just about—look at—it's just above Wonsan. I can't read without my glasses on.

Patton: But you came out of North Korea and went down the coast to—

Resnick: Yes. Well, we'd get down to Hung Nam… Before we went—we couldn't just take off—we had to dig huge holes and throw everything we owned into them. I mean, we still get our bodies out of there, but we couldn't take a lot of our stuff—the heavy equipment—so we used our bulldozers and just drove huge holes. Threw all the equipment down there. We had gasoline in fifty-five gallon drums—the big drums—that was our supply of gasoline; we rolled in an awful lot in there, and we took the caps off a lot of them so the gas would all come out and go over everything and soak, you know, absorb and everything, waiting for the right moment. We threw a lot of barrels in there that didn't have the caps on. When the final order… We went out on a Japanese fishing boat. At the end of World War II, Japan's fishing fleet was pretty well gone. It was just beat up from the war and everything. When the war was over we had all kinds of LSTs and little boats here and there that we gave to their development—the fishing people—so that they could get back into the fishing business again. That was the

backbone of their life—fish, sea, crustaceans—and they returned the favor. They came back and came up and got us. I know. I went out on an LST that had been a fishing boat for almost three or four years.

Patton: Sort of Dunkirk-ish, is that the idea?

Resnick: Yeah, something like that. It wasn't quite as bad; we got out before they hit us. But the interesting part was like forty or fifty of us on an LST—we'd go down in the hold and, I'm going to tell you it wasn't a perfume factory down there.

Patton: I bet not.

Resnick: Oh! But, the fact is, we get on the ship. The worst part came when we were sailing south to Pusan. It was just after typhoon season again. We never really hit a typhoon—the weather was beautiful, bright blue skies and everything—but that ocean was just something else. We couldn't go on deck at all for the three and a half days we were on there. Being a flat-bottomed tub, when those things went up on the swells and slammed down, we were just watching for the whole bottom to split wide open and the thing just to sink. That never happened, but that's what it felt like.

Patton: That's how you felt.

Resnick: I got to tell you, in your personal life, trying to go a bathroom on a ship like that—you go up and down—and you learn how to live pretty damn fast. Well, we left there. We had tracer bullets—if you know what a tracer bullet is—it's a bullet that has flame so you can check. Today you have little lights that you can shine to see where your target is—that's how you tell where your bullet is going. It was high-windage; if you could see the bullet going off left or right you know what's happening to your ammunition. We took tracer bullets—it's a burning flame, it looks like an arrow that we shoot into the sky—just, the last thing we did was shoot those tracers into the barrels that were sealed. Of course it blew them up, then the fire started—I mean, it was sky-high—that burned everything that was ours, our equipment, so the enemy couldn't get hold of it. That was pretty commonplace at that particular time.

Patton: So the Chinese come across, attack at the Chosin Reservoir, you help people escape, and then everybody gets on the boats and try—

Resnick: Not there.

Patton: Not there?

Resnick: At the ocean.

Patton: At the ocean. Okay, here. And, then, you're ordered to go down to Pusan?

Resnick: Yep.

Patton: Why were you sent so far from where you had been when you were up here?

Resnick: I guess that was probably the easiest place with docks where we could land and get our act together.

Patton: Were people expecting that the hordes would just keep on coming and roll over everything?

Resnick: Yeah, it was an interesting time. We get down there; they had the docks and fields and everything down there. 44th Engineers meet here and—because it was several days of trying to get together, we were on anything we could get on—and this organization there and that organization. The Red Cross was there and I talked to my parents from there. I get emotional thinking about it because I hadn't seen them in years and we get a chance to—like, today, where you can just dial the damn phone—they'd give us, I think, about a minute and a half on the phone. So you get on—you hold the phone to your ear and the call goes to Hawaii, Hawaii to San Francisco—it's a radio—to New York, then to your home. My mother said, "Can you hear me?" And I said, "Can you hear me? Can you hear me?" That was the end of the conversation. I think of my mother all the time when that happens. But it was just one of those moments just to hear your mother talk.

Patton: Hear her voice as she heard yours, yes. Well, what was the reaction.

Resnick: Well, she read in the papers at home—Maine Sunday Telegram— that some, like, 50,000 GIs trapped in North Korea. Well, you can imagine how the parents felt. We didn't know that but they did. So, just to hear our voice meant a lot to them. My mother was crying on the phone.

Patton: Well, how did the the American troops—or, I guess they were UN troops—how did you react to this horrific turn of events when you'd been assured by God that it was pretty much over.

Resnick: Well it was pretty frustrating that we weren't going home for Christmas, that's for darn sure. But, you know, that's a damn good question. When you're with a bunch of guys that left the states together—you know, you can go overseas, what they call pipeline—you just get an assignment and you go in. You have no idea where you're going and who you're going to be with. You know the organization but you've never heard of them before. We were in Fort Bragg together. We were in Fort McClelland, Alabama together. We went to Japan together. We went to Korea together. We were a fraternity. We knew our families, we knew girlfriends, we knew mothers and dads, could've even visited them at one time or another; they came to visit us at the post. Sometimes they would go with them for a weekend if they lived in Georgia or North Carolina where we were close, so, we all knew each other pretty well. We were a gang that just needed each other—that was all—so it wasn't as bad as if we were individuals that had no real

belonging to the organization. We were an organization together and to this day we still are. That's for the guys that are here.

Patton: Okay.

Resnick: I get emotional.

Patton: I think that's fantastic, but, the question I asked was how people reacted to this—other than not going home.

Resnick: Well I gave you that kind of an answer because it didn't bother us that much—

Patton: Okay, so you were mutual support—

Resnick: We were disappointed—yes. As I try to say to you, if we were individuals that really didn't have any ties, I'd say, Whoa, sometimes can't take it mentally, could probably do some damage. But it didn't bother us that much.

Patton: So you're down there in Pusan, you get back together again—

Resnick: Yep.

Patton: —and you're there for another six or seven months.

Resnick: Whatever, yeah.

Patton: What happened? Where did you go?

Resnick: Well, from there we went up to a town called Uijongbu—

Patton: Oh, yes, I've heard of that.

Resnick: —just outside of Seoul. We got on some projects there. There were quite a few projects we got involved in.

Patton: Were you ever in any more imminent danger as you…

Resnick: Oh, yeah. Well, so they retook Seoul, you know. They come all the way down after we left the north. They took Seoul for the third time and come right down after us. Oh yeah. We dug all kinds of lines. We destroyed some of the roads we had built so that the enemy couldn't get across with their equipment. They can come across as men but they can't last long if you don't have equipment coming in, so we slowed them right down right there. That's what General Ridgway was heavily involved in, and through his strategy we held them off. They didn't go much further than that. So that's where we were in that.

Patton: So, during the rest of your time, it was a sort of back-and-forth and continuing battle?

Resnick: Yeah. Actually, I probably should have been rotating around June or July of that particular year, but there were peace conferences that were starting in, you know. They were starting to meet each other; the Panmunjom [meeting place] was formed and in that area. There were peace conferences getting started and the two sides were starting to get together and have meetings, but the last couple months that fell apart. So the rotation started again—everything stopped. I mean, we got our equipment in good shape. We started softball teams because we had to keep physically busy. We got our equipment in good shape and then, suddenly, it started. Just as quickly as it stopped, it started right up again.

Patton: Did your fraternity get to go at the same time?

Resnick: Yeah. I would say that. Well, it depends how the replacements come in. The guy with the outfit the longest started leaving first. I mean, you couldn't let them all go. You had to—

(Pause in recording)

Patton: Okay we'll get going again. So you were waiting for different kinds of replacements. Seeing him reminded me, you did not have an engineering background, but this guy we were talking about earlier, indicated that he had had two engineering degrees—

Resnick: Ted? Ted's an engineer. Oh, yeah.

Patton: So—

Resnick: But he was a commander of the battalion after I left.

Patton: Okay. But you did have people with all ranges of technical background from engineers to—

Resnick: Oh, gosh, yes. Oh yeah. Our colonel, our operations officer, we had several West Pointers that were engineering majors. Oh, gosh, yes. Our S3—our operations—was all graduate engineers of all types.

Patton: So, did you have any regret about being rotated out?

Resnick: No. Well, I had a couple nice offers. The Battalion Commander—Colonel Tedford—did not leave at the same time we did but a lot after. He said if I wanted to stay another year he could make me the adjutant—what they call a direct commission. Well, I thought a lot about it. We talked a bit, and I said, You know, I have a terrible fear that if I stay any longer I will not get out of the service. I loved it, I mean, it was just great. He said, Look, you've got to make up your mind what you want to do. If you want to stay we can work it out and you would become the adjutant in another year. I really didn't. I wanted to work, back to school—I wanted to go. Then, I guess I thought about going into the reserves.

Once you get back home, the first sentence you say to yourself? Oh to hell with it.

Patton: So, when you got back home you were given this other responsibility, transporting people—or supervising or transport?

Resnick: Yeah, well, I thought my time was short-lived. I had no idea, because I was in the service at that time, what they call I'm on a COG basis—Convenience of the Government. I had no idea, you know, How long am I going to be stuck here? When do I get out? I didn't care because I kind of enjoyed what I was doing besides that. I come home—it was around Christmas time—I got home Christmas Day, as a matter of fact, December twenty-fifth. 1950 was my year. I really couldn't start school then, so I went on this, taking troops all over the country. Then after I did that about six weeks, I went to Camp Edwards, Massachusetts, Cape Cod, and became my assignment of post: Sergeant Major.

Patton: Where you got even.

Resnick: Yeah. Very good. Where I got even. I was only post Sergeant Major a very short time there. In May an edict came out that all first three graders—which was Master Sergeant, Sergeant First Class, and Sergeant—that were returning from Korea that were beyond their point of enlistment could get out—at their option—on Armed Forces Day, which was May seventeenth at that time. That was the first time in my service that I went AWOL. You know what AWOL is? Absent with out leave. I had to make a decision that I was going to get out and I did, I went on Friday. Saturday I was supposed to report to the parade grounds; the guys that were getting out were having a big pass and review for the commanding general. That was the first time in the area: a big sendoff for the guys in Korea getting out and everything. All day Friday were my physicals. I drew all my money—my soldier's deposits. Money I never collected all the time I was in Korea they keep for you with interest and everything. I had my discharge papers, had all my medicals. I mean, at three o'clock on Friday afternoon, I had my cash, my discharge, my discharge papers, everything. I was out of the army. I was done. I was through. I was finished. My only assignment, now, was the next morning on the parade ground in class A uniform. I sat there. For the summer my dad helped me get a brand new Chevy convertible—it wasn't brand new, to me it was brand new, it was a used car—but it was a Chevy convertible because we figured as I'd be spending the summer there at Cape Cod and I'd have a ball there all summer with the convertible. If you know what Cape Cod is?

Patton: Oh, of course.

Resnick: Anyway, I was at three o'clock in the afternoon. I put my duffel bag and everything in the trunk of the car. Had the roof down and it was a gorgeous afternoon. I said to myself, I'm not in this goddamn army anymore. I went over to the headquarters, to the orderly room where the captain was and everything. I

walked in with a t-shirt on and a pair of shorts. I walked in and grabbed his hand and said, "Sir. I'm out of here." He never said a word, just roared. I gave him a big hug and just got in my car and went home. And never went back.

Patton: Never went back.

Resnick: So I had to tell somebody. I had to test it, that one time in my life going AWOL. I never really was AWOL because I was out of the service but that ended it. I never went back.

Patton: So you went home to Portland and then eventually got—

Resnick: Yeah. Played golf all summer. I was rich. I got out with about 4,400, 4,500 dollars, and that was a lot of money. I would say that was equal to many thousands of dollars. That Chevy I got was two years old, only cost 800 dollars—I mean, that beautiful Chevy convertible—only 800 bucks. My dad said, You want that, I'll make you a deal. I'll split it with you. He bought me that car; I paid four and he paid four. I had a great time with that thing. My parents didn't even want me to work; they wanted me to hang around in the summertime. Then I went to Boston University—I'm sure you've heard of that—and went back to school. I stayed year-round. Didn't go back—I went to school..

Patton: Did you eventually graduate from Boston?

Resnick: Yes. Oh yeah. Three years. I went year-round.

Patton: And what degree?

Resnick: Marketing.

Patton: B.A.? B.S.?

Resnick: Yep. B.S. I would have liked to go on, but I lost so much time. You know it's interesting: I went into a fraternity house, kind of looking forward to it—I thought it would be a lot of fun—and it didn't last. Didn't last a semester. Do you know why? Because I was just a couple years older than the other guys, but all they wanted to do was drink and drink and drink. You know, I probably had more beer in my stomach in the military than they'll probably ever see in their lives. I mean that's all we got because organizations from everywhere—beer and cigarettes. Beer and cigarettes. You name the woman's group, you name the clubs that was sending us everything. Cigarettes, cigarettes, cigarettes, and beer.

We had so much. I just couldn't handle—I was there to study. I mean, I had traveled the world and I had seen what I wanted to see. Just out of the clear blue sky, a real close friend of mine who had already graduated from the University of Maine and was going after his master's—he didn't know much about Boston—he called me on the phone and asked what I was doing. He said, "I'd love to get an apartment" I said, "You know something, Liam, I want to get the hell out of this fraternity house." We found an apartment and then we got a third partner who

was going to Northeastern [University]. We had a beautiful basement apartment right on Marlborough Street and we just had a wonderful, wonderful time. I got out of that—it was past my stage of life. I went year-round to school; I didn't take a break.

Patton: I know that Korea is often called the forgotten war and underappreciated. The fact that there hasn't been a museum up to now is probably indicative of that. Did you and your fellow engineers feel somehow neglected or…

Resnick: No. I know the guys of Vietnam did, but I had the opposite problem. I suppose it's how the individual takes it and how they feel. When I came home I had my favorite little coffee shop I used to go visit; you know, guys I knew. And the diners… I would go in and at one place, Harry's Diner—we used to always hang around there in high school and everything—I went in and had a cup of coffee and a bagel. We'd sit and talk with some of the guys and people still sitting up at the counter. I remember Harry Weisberg ran in when I went to pay at the register and Harry said, Bernie, You don't have to pay. Well, what the hell, that's how he was. But after the second or third time it started to bother me and no matter where I went—even if I was in the sandwich place, the Miss Portland Diner or something—I'd get the same stuff. It got to the point where I didn't go back to them. Once is okay. I mean, hey, if their heart feels they wanted to do this for you, but I was getting so much of these "thank you's" and "thank you's." It just got to a point where it was just the opposite from the guys, I guess, when they came home from Vietnam. But no, I felt it was overdone.

Patton: Interesting.

Resnick: Well, overdone. I think these guys lost friends. I was too embarrassed to go back. Of course, once I went to school and everything it was all over with, you know. But at that particular time I remember telling my dad, "Jeez, I don't want to go with you on a Sunday morning again. I'm going to listen to this and I don't want to hear it. It's embarrassing" I mean, I had calls to speak to this club and speak to that club and it was just going on constantly. I just couldn't wait to get back to school. I made the mistake, probably, with taking a summer off and playing a lot of golf and having fun with the guys—I wasn't a golfer, I was just learning—my buddies I hadn't seen for a while. It was just a leisurely summer. We had a place on a beach in Maine and I'd go up there and hang around, but it was only for a couple months; it wasn't that long. I got home in May and I went back to school in August, so it was no big deal.

Patton: At what point did you become involved with the—

Resnick: Miss America?

Patton: No, military and the reunions and your battalion and all that?

Resnick: Oh, many years later. I suppose—it's just like today—get into Rotary Clubs and so forth. How many guys do you see going out of college right into a Rotary

Club? When you get into the business world, they're married, their family's starting to grow up, so you're wife gets involved in the PTAs, you get involved ina couple service clubs. First thing I got into was a bowling event—which I never would have if they hadn't called me on the phone—and got involved with a pageant. I'm an avid Rotarian; I tell you I didn't get involved in the Rotary until I was forty-eight years old. It was 1978.

Patton: So is it fair to say that after you were discharged you went to school, got into the business world, and focused on a pretty—it sounds like—a very successful career and all that?

Resnick: Yeah, well, my first job was—I don't know if I told you or we talked about this—was Jordan Marsh Company which, today is Macy's. It was very interesting. I loved Boston. I loved working six days a week in Jordan Marsh. I went through the Executive Training Program, which was six months, and I became Assistant Buyer in sporting goods. My buyer, Joe Black, was, I would say, mid-forties and a very successful operator and—you'll laugh at this—he was making about twenty-five grand a year, which was probably equally equivalent to a buck and a quarter [125,000], buck and a half now. He had a beautiful home in Newton, Mass; if you know Newton at all, it's outside of Boston. He had two daughters in college; one was a senior, one was a freshman. I knew them well because he invited me a few times to his home for dinner.

I think I told you my father had an oil company in Portland. He contracted hepatitis and he—I would say –lost about a month of work. When he was out and he started to come back—he came back slowly but surely—a couple days a week. Then he wanted to come back in more of a full-time thing but he was still a little weak. I mean, that hepatitis, sometimes you'll be out for months and months and months. They put him out in Cambridge, Mass. in a warehouse in a token job in Cambridge. I used to go home every other weekend and listen to my mom talk—we'd talk about it—and my mom used to say, "You know, even if you're a garbage man, it's your own business: it's your business, it's your family business, it's yours. You do what you want, you control the income, you live off the fruit of it." See what happened to this man was, his career, is probably… You don't know what's going to happen. Was it destroyed or wasn't it destroyed? I thought about it and thought about it. You've got to remember, I was twenty-five years old and started thinking about him losing a job; had he not lost that I probably would have stayed there forever. So I thought a lot about it.

After a few months I decided I was going to go home with my dad in the oil business. At that particular time, when you left Jordan Marsh, you we're usually interviewed by the president. Of all the strange things, I had an apartment, you know—my buddies in Boston. He lived right across the street from us on Beacon street. which is a famous old—the Beacon Street theatre and the big beautiful mansions—and we were on the other side. I think he realized that he had lived right across the street in a big beautiful home, and it's a very busy avenue. He called me: I had to be interviewed by him when I was leaving. Well, I didn't have the guts to tell him it was probably because my father's going to make me clean oil burners when I was going home. He wanted to know what the problem was

and why I was leaving and I just said, "Look, I've always wanted to teach so I'm going to go home and teach."

Patton: That was a little devious, was it?

Resnick: Yeah. I would tell him, you know… How would he respond if I said, “Oh, my dad's going to give me a brush and say, ‘Go clean that oil burner.’”

Patton: But you also didn't take the chance to say, I think you're messing with my boss?

Resnick: No. I knew better than that. I wanted to leave with a nice recommendation, so I went with the possibility of a nice recommendation if I needed it. But, no, I left. We shook hands. But he was great and he left the door open for me. He said, Maybe you'll get it out of your system some day and we'd love to have you come back. That was very nice; we chatted probably for an hour and that was it. I left and we shook hands and the following week I was gone.

Patton: When did you get married?

Resnick: 1960, August fourth.

Patton: When you were back in Portland?

Resnick: Oh, yeah—it was back in Portland.

Patton: How did you meet your wife?

Resnick: Oh, I've known her for a long time. Met her in the theatre. I was working the Portland Players and she was painting sets. I had known her anyway but I had never really—it was just a, "Hello, "Hi," kind of thing. We started going out and parties after the shows. I don't know, after about three years we got married. And that was it.

Patton: How many children did you have?

Resnick: Three. Three girls.

Patton: Did they have anything to do with the military?

Resnick: They sure did. I was very, very involved as they were teenagers. One 1978 Miss New Hampshire pageant, when the producer—the union leader and the newspaper sponsored me—asked me if I would direct it. He knew I was living there in the Manchester area—wanted to know if I would direct it that year. He was fed up with his crew, I guess, or whatever it was. He heard I was living in town and asked if I would do it for him. So I made my oldest daughter, Lisa, was my stage manager. My next, my baby, Kari, was the curtain puller. And Jan was properties manager; you know, bring the stuff in off the stage. My wife taught the kids how to do make-up. So it became a family thing that time. That was a

thrill doing that because, you know, we'd all go to rehearsal and then after we'd sneak out and get hot dogs or hamburgers. At that particular time—and then for many years afterwards—the kids helped for a long time. Of course, one-by-one they left school and got married.

Patton: So did they ever ask you about your experiences in Korea?

Resnick: Oh, yeah, we had talked about it, yeah. We talked more about this: they saw that I knew I had some problems and they knew I had to go to the dermatologist from time to time and—

Patton: So you were never actually injured in combat or anything, is that correct?

Resnick: No. No.

Patton: But you were frostbitten?

Resnick: Yes.

Patton: When was that?

Resnick: In North Korea.

Patton: Okay, so, by the end—

Resnick: Oh, I got to tell you, in North Korea I went forty-two days with no shower. Forty-days without changing my clothes except for my shoe packs.[felt inserts] We were in the open all the time, you know. It wasn't like we were living in a hotel; we were out in the open all the time. You did the best you could. We had certain medications they gave us for armpits and crotches and so forth—otherwise you'd rot—but never had a shower or anything. If I wanted to shave—I didn't really shave——the beard felt good because of the cold wind blowing all the time—but if I wanted to get rid of some we used a bayonet and scraped it down. The couple times we did shave during that period of time we used to take a helmet—couldn't do it at night because of the fire. You can't have light or anything because you'd be amazed, when you're on a mountainside you can see light for miles and miles; you just couldn't have lights going at all. But sometimes during the day if we'd get a chance, we'd get a little fire going and melt snow in our helmets. We'd draw straws who could shave out of it first. Sometimes five or six guys would shave out of one helmet of water. I hated being number five or number six.

Patton: Well how badly were you frostbitten?

Resnick: I don't know. I mean, this is it so far. But my very dear friend just recently lost his toes because it just creeps up on you. You just never—and some may never…

Patton: You weren't treated for it particularly, I mean....

Resnick: There was nothing that you can do. We were told when we get out—I had my last physical, it's noted on my DD214, the discharge papers—there were two things. It was attached to a picture of my mouth and that mouth was all my teeth—thirty-two teeth—there were sixteen of them circled, Uncle Sam took the responsibility for, which I never really used—and also an army regulation, something about the skin—and the disability bill was zero. It means I got nothing for it, but the fact is, it's a matter of record. So if something should happen late in life…

I went to the VA [Veterans' Administration] a few times for my teeth because I never had a cavity until I got to North Korea. I've had a couple of drills up there. How do we do it? The medics, when they had time—it looked a little like a bicycle, you know, an exercise bike—you didn't have a back wheel on it. You had a strap or chain—and the medic, or I don't know, technician—pedaled it and it made it drill. Well, all they do is clean it out and they put in a, like a wax, and take it out. Yeah, I remember that guy pedaling away; either you're standing there or sitting on a snow bank. It just takes a few minutes and they'd clean out the part that hurt, you know.

Patton: So it was really pretty awful.

Resnick: So I went to the VA—I forgot my train of thought—and the first time I went they pulled a tooth, which miffed me because I thought you can save most teeth. Then the second time I went they started drilling and he wouldn't give me novocaine – they just didn't do it –and I bet you I was on the chair for three hours. He would drill and saw me flinching and moving. He'd stop, go off in the corner, light up a cigarette, look out the window for a while, smoke a cigarette, and then he'd come back in and start drilling again. Saw me flinching and moving and making lots of noises: go back out on the corner and light up a cigarette. I felt—he's a dentist who gets a weekly salary check from the VA—he can't be very ambitious in life at that particular time. After they did it to me a couple times like that and pulled two teeth from the rear—having did what my parents were sitting and talking about one night—my father got mad as hell. He got my family doctor and told them what was happening and I never went back to the VA again. I just never bothered. I suppose in this day and age they wouldn't dare try that.

Patton: No. Well, when did you just recently start having these symptoms of discoloration of your skin?

Resnick: Oh, no. I would say it's been almost ten years now. It was very light—here it was just a little spot—and I left it and didn't do much about it for a while. Then my general doctor—when I went to my annual physical—saw it and we talked about and he had me go to the dermatologist. He just wanted to be sure because he thought it might be malignant or something. On my leg, they took a sample of a piece of one; it came back and it was nothing. But he asked me about my history and—well, we talked about it before—and he said it's definitely frostbite.

Patton: Does it hurt?

Resnick: No. I never feel a thing. It just missed me, that's all. There's nothing you can do about it. You can take it off—peel it right off—it'll come right back. I mean, it's just damage to the skin. You don't feel anything. At the moment I don't feel anything and I don't think I ever will; I was told I never would. But some of the guys—I mean it—really some of them can't walk. I mean, it's just from degrees—I don't think I'll ever get it as bad as anybody had it, but there were just times that it got so damn cold and it was this way all the time. It was times where I don't think it ever really got above zero—where they had the wind. You live with it, you know.

Patton: Did you have sufficient coats and shoes and clothes and things?

Resnick: No. No, but there, again, that's where my respect for the service—we did have snow pack, because we weren't going to be there—it all happened so quick.

Patton: That's true.

Resnick: But we did have shoe packs. In the shoe packs was soap. It was felt, like light felt. You had two pair of those—four, you know, two in and two underneath your shirt on your chest [to dry them]—and it was suggested that whenever you get a chance, you take off your shoes and change the damn things. You'd be amazed how wet they were; they were damp and so forth. That's where the frostbite came in. At one particular time in Korea, troops got a Purple Heart for frostbite. A lot of the soldiers really started complaining about that because some guys purposefully got frostbite to go home. You know, you learn the tricks of the trade.

Patton: Was that an automatic ticket home, a purple heart?

Resnick: No. But if you've got frostbite in your feet and if you can't walk, what good are you? What are you going to do? Mow the lawn? So you go home. I mean, you go back to the States and immediately you got a medical discharge or, depending on the severity of whatever it might be. Of course, a lot of that went down, but that was pure callousness. I mean, whatever you were doing you found time to change your shoes. I don't care if you're really stuck in the hole for two or three days because somebody's got you spotted and you're stuck; so what? You'll still find time to get those things changed. It doesn't mean that if you don't do it for a couple of days you're going to get frostbite, but if you let it drag a long time they get wet and that's where the problem starts.

Patton: What—I don't want to say what percentage—but, how common was it for the troops to be looking for ways to get out?

Resnick: I saw very little of it. Very. You had a couple of jerks that… We even had a guy once try to get home; he stole an army truck from another organization. He went AWOL and started horsing all around Korea—things were quiet in the back area—and got a general court martial, which is the worst you can get in the army. Everybody thought for sure he'd be going to Fort Leavenworth in Kansas

and get a dishonorable discharge, spend a couple years or so in jail, and get out. He was charged as expected, but, I'll be darned, the Adjutant General in Washington cleared him of all charges and sent him back to his unit. Why? Because all of Korea was a military facility and he never got out. So they changed rules pretty quick.

Patton: I can see that it did.

Resnick: And the best part about it was this kid wanted to go home—to get out—so hefigured if he had to go to jail, he was going to get the hell out of there.

Patton: And he got sent right back.

Resnick: Yeah, well, you know. I suppose that he thought a lot about it too and this was the best thing that ever happened to him.

Patton: When did you start having reunions of your 44th Battalion?

Resnick: 1988

Patton: So you participate each year and keep in touch with everybody?

Resnick: Oh, we sure do. Oh, yeah. We've been to a lot of military bases. This is the first time we've broke away—well except Tuscola—we broke away from military bases. Wherever we went—Citadel; Fort Bragg; Fort Carson, Colorado; the 101st Division in Fort Campbell; Camp Chaffee, Arkansas—all these places we went to, we always were hosted by an engineering group. We had a chance to lecture and talk to the engineers. I remember at The Citadel one year, talking to these kids—they're all young officers, you know, going to be young officers there—and we were just scheduled to come over and see them for two periods, forty-five minutes each.

The Superintendent came in to listen to us at one of them. The kids were asking us so many questions, sitting on the edge of their chair, that we had the first two periods starting at 8:15 in the morning and we didn't get out of there until lunchtime. He was so impressed that they invited us back again. The kids sit on the edge of their chairs. They wanted to know about how planes land up there. It's very simple: we just quickly take a bulldozer, clear the ground; then we'd spill gasoline in a big ring around the corner and when the pilot radios us he's ready to come in with our supplies, we'd touch a match to it so he could see in the dark where to come in; then we just let it burn out. And the kids said, "My God. What did you do about the environment?" We'd look at each other and then answer them, "Who the hell cared?" They wanted to know how we had changed oil or something—we've got a truck or a problem—I'd pull the plug and I'd go.

Patton: Definitely generational differences there. Do you think?

Resnick: Yeah. We—

Patton: Who's in charge of putting this museum together? [proposed National Museum of the Korean War]

Resnick: The museum? Just a separate Board of Directors, all Illinois people.

Patton: For putting it together.

Resnick: You know what. It was going in Tuscola Wasn't it Governor Thompson?

Patton: Yes it was.

Resnick: I heard that name. The state owned some land right there on highway 57 at Tuscola right where the entrance/exit ramp, right on there.

Patton: Right. There was Chanute Air Force base up there.

Resnick: Well this was in Tuscola, part of it. The air base was up in Rantoul. I guess the State of Illinois gave it to us provided we put that thing up. It wasn't for us to take or sell or anything and, so, that's how it got started in Tuscola. Somehow or other—I guess he wasn't governor anymore—I don't understand the politics here—all of a sudden, because we didn't have it built, they reneged. There were certain stipulations that it be there that we ultimately lost it, I guess. I don't really know the whole thing, but we had to build it within four or five years and we started and it didn't happen. If Thompson was still there, probably nothing would have been said, but someone else—and probably—you were smiling, you probably know more about it than I do.

Patton: Well, I know how—

Resnick: Or the politics of the issue were.

Patton: Yeah. Politics is a very important thing in Illinois. Are you still—assuming that they get things rolling around here—are you pleased that it would be in Springfield?

Resnick: We are.

(Pause in recording)

Patton: New Hampshire where Dartmouth is?

Resnick: Yeah, Hanover.

Patton: Yeah. Her husband was…okay.

Resnick: A professor got killed there about two years ago—murdered.

Patton: Oh. That's right.

Resnick: Yeah. Well it was national news, I guess.

Patton: My son was offered a football—you know, when you're—what do you call it?

Resnick: A scholarship?

Patton: No. Not a scholarship but when you're an assistant to the coaches and stuff. I wanted him to go. When you come to these reunions, what do you do, I mean besides the kind of things you've described earlier?

Resnick: Well, we have a scholarship program as one of the things we established. The scholarship is based on the Korean War and usually it's children or grandchildren of members, you know. What do we do? Well, always go to military bases. A couple years ago, Fort Benning in particular, we went to all the parachute jumping schools and watched them jump. They taught us and the women how to fold parachutes, how they're folded, how they get pulled out quick. A couple times we've gone up in helicopters and watch them jump. And, then, we go to various parts of the post. We have breakfast with them a couple of mornings—with the troops, you know, in their dining halls—of course, that's a thrill. You have no idea what a great thrill that is to compare today to our day when you had a tray with a lot of dents in it, you got slop. Today you can order whatever you want—eggs benedict. I mean, you kind of order like you're in a restaurant and you sit there and there's beautiful plush chairs and watch CNN at one end of the room and if you don't like CNN, FOX is over this end of the room and really kind of enjoy the home life, you know.

Patton: So it's not just reminiscing?

Resnick: Right. I guess it's reminiscing. No, it's jealousy. We do that and we don't ask them to give it to us; we pay. It's only a buck, you know, for breakfast for everybody. Then we go to the training classes. They ask us to speak and that's what we do. We love it and we're together. That's the best part, that it's the same gang.

Patton: So this is your same gang?

Resnick: Same gang.

Patton: That is fantastic. The question here is, do you think your sacrifice during the war was justified? That may not be the way you would phrase it, but do you think that it was a good thing that you went over there and served?

Resnick: I think it was the greatest thing that my life—well, you know, you can't compare it to having children, things like that—but I think, as far as growing up in this world, I think it was the greatest thing that has ever happened, in particular at our situation. The first days into Korea, I felt I was entering a bible. It was fully agricultural. Never saw anything other than huts and how they heated the huts: a little path underneath with charcoal—charcoal protects—that's the central

heating system. All we saw were rice paddies. How did South Korea survive? They exported rice. That's all they ever did. Exported rice—and nothing else—just exported rice. And today they are such an industrial power—industrial might—thanks to us. Where do they get their rice from now? They import it. Everything is cars, electronics. I mean it's an industrial power.

Patton: I take it you've been back there?

Resnick: Yes I have. A long time ago. I was supposed to go back again in the year 2000; unfortunately I had a bypass. I still could have gone; I was only in the hospital twelve days because they had to put a little pacemaker in, so I had to stay a few extra days, but it never bothered me. I'm a big weightlifter and I'm in the gym five days a week, six days a week. I can bench [press] 200 pounds. I'm on the treadmill. It's never bothered—pacemaker was, I guess, a support backup—it's never bothered me a bit. But it so happened that it was in April of 2000; I was scheduled to go back June of 2000 again. I talked to my cardiologist and at first he said, "Fine Where are you going to be?" And I said, "We're going to be touring the grounds of Hamhung, the thirty-eighth parallel, outside of Panmunjom." He thought about it. He says, "You know something? You're fine. I can't believe that you were back driving your car within two weeks back to your office. Some people stay home for a year when they have that. You just went to it," It's all up here. But anyway, he thought about it and said, "You know, if you were going to Europe or something I'd say, 'Go. Have a good time,' and even though, as powerful as South Korea is, I just don't think that you should. If something should go wrong, you're going to really be working hard, visiting, doing this and that. I'd like to see you give it at least a few more months before you did. You can go and come at home just fine, but if there's an emergency around the States there's someplace to go. Over there—I'm not familiar with all the places—they're not familiar with you, the pacemakers and all that stuff. Just who do you go to? We don't know where to send you or who to talk to. But it's up to you. Probably will make a fool out of me because you'll probably be just fine." So we thought about it and I just—it's no big deal—I just didn't go. As a matter of fact, you know who took my place was Ken—I just got him to go—Ken Jobe.

Patton: So, when you were there, did it bring back unhappy memories?

Resnick: No, I couldn't recognize anything. I hadn't the faintest clue where I was. Even down in the docks of Inchon, I hadn't the faintest clue. I couldn't find a damn thing.

Patton: So being there, other than—let me see if I can—my impression is that it was fantastic leadership, management opportunities—

Resnick: When we were there?

Patton: Yeah.

Resnick: Yep.

Patton: For you and—

Resnick: It was one big adventure.

Patton: So, you don't really have any bad memories, nightmares, horrible feelings about that experience?

Resnick: No. There were incidents… I think my second or third day there I saw a body of a North Korean soldier. We'd seen a few before that, but, this particular one I saw—it was warm, you know, in September—and the body was just swollen; the shirt was still buttoned, it was pulled apart, and, you know, his skin protruding. His eyes were wide open and there were flies flying around his eyes and landing right on his pupils and all over his body—little flies. You look at that guy laying right there in the grass—just off a little dip in the road—he was laying flat on his back with the sun beating on him—and the only thing I could think of at the time was this might be some kid's father—some mother's son. And, you look at that and you just, you know, it's hard to take for a while. But after a while you get used to it. But that was probably the toughest time I ever had when I saw that first body with his eyes right open and the flies all over him and he was swollen. That was something that sticks in your memory for a long time. Other than that, though, we were a gang together. A group. And I tell you, that made the difference. It made all the difference in the world. It hurt however when somebody got hurt, but we were a gang on an adventure together. Well, we were a fraternity.

Patton: And here you are still together.

Resnick: Yeah. Still together.

Patton: That's fabulous.

Resnick: And I always thank God for the fellow that got us together again and got this organization going.

Patton: Is there anything that you would like to particularly comment on about your experiences in Korea, or just war in general, that you'd like to…

Resnick: You know. I repeat myself. I'd like to say it was the greatest adventure a young man can go through. I think it teaches a lot of respect for your country. I am annoyed today that—what's an all-volunteer army—I don't like that at all. I think every kid between eighteen and twenty four should have to do something for his government. Every kid in that age either in the military, the Peace Corps, or something—preferably the military—let them get a piece of it. Male and female—not just male. A female, no, should not be on any front line, but they can relieve the men to go to the front line: the administrative posts, the supply

posts, logistics posts. I think that is a major problem with our country today that kid's have too damn much and don't respect and appreciate what they have.

I'll just tell you another opinion—and the reason I say that, is, being from Maine—Maine is, as you're probably well aware, is a big potato state in the northern part—and, from as long as I can remember, school would start up in northern Maine August first and close Labor Day weekend for an entire month. What did the kids do? They all hit the fields and harvested potatoes. Never, ever, ever a problem doing that. Why is it it can't be done in places like California with the fruit? Why do we have to have these little illegal immigrants? Why is it that school can't start in July or August—or whatever the harvest season might be—and let the kids close the schools and let these kids go out on the fields and do the work for the farmers. I don't care if they do it for nothing or ten cents an hour—whatever it might be. Let them learn what it's like and if the kids can't do it then let's have Uncle Sam do it and a Peace Corps type of a thing.

I still feel that the kids should have the option between eighteen and twenty four, either go to college first and do the work or do the work first and go to college—whatever they feel their career might be of a benefit to them. But I think conscription should be—and I think that's going to be… See, I'm doubtful, but that bothers me so much because I learned so much in the military: friendships, how to work as teams, how to work with other people of all walks of life. I think today there are some kids here that have too much, don't know what it's like on the other side—so you learn to live with, you name it, man, they're in the service. You don't miss a trick. I mean, you see how kids were brought up. That is so important, I think, for our country, so I just think this country is missing out and I think it's all because of politics. It just stops this crap. I just can't see any reason why a kid can't get out and get his hands dirty and it bothers me these Californians say, we got to have these illegal immigrants to do this harvesting, when our kids can do it. And that's… You asked.

Patton: I asked.

Resnick: And that's what you get.

Patton: An eloquent answer. I probably could ask you about a thousand more questions but I don't think you're practically ready to go to the auction. What are you going to auction?

Resnick: Any garbage that everybody brought. They bring all kinds of toys and little things.

Patton: It's not like military souvenirs or something.

Resnick: No. Normally in our units—we have over 100 people, ninety-five to one hundred people—once they found out that that land wasn't ready, the building wasn't ready—and they just don't want to come here and just bang around going here or there.

Patton: Well, I thank you very very much. You've been so eloquent and it's been great.

Resnick: My pleasure.

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