

Jared W. Holly_May 11, 2006

Shannon Berndt: We are at the Nevada State Veterans Home in Boulder City, Nevada. Today's date is May 11, 2006. We are interviewing Jared W. Holly. My name is Shannon Berndt and our cameraman is Ed Feldman. Thank you so much for helping us with this.

Jared W. Holly: You are welcome.

Shannon Berndt: You were in the army?

Jared W. Holly: Uh-hmmm.

Shannon Berndt: Tell us a little bit what you were doing before you joined the army?

Jared W. Holly: I worked a lot as a busboy before I joined the army and I was also going to school.

Shannon Berndt: To college or were you still in high school?

Jared W. Holly: I was going to high school. I did not try college.

Shannon Berndt: Okay. What made you decide to enlist into the army?

Jared W. Holly: Well, I was going to be drafted.

Shannon Berndt: So you would rather enlist rather than be drafted?

Jared W. Holly: Uh-hmmm. And it turned out my lottery number was so high, it never would have been touched.

Shannon Berndt: [Laughter]

Jared W. Holly: I found that out the day I got my hair cut off.

Shannon Berndt: [Laughter]

Jared W. Holly: [Laughter]

Shannon Berndt: And where were you living at that time?

Jared W. Holly: I was living in Newport Beach, California.

Shannon Berndt: And that is where you enlisted?

Jared W. Holly: Uh-hmmm.

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Shannon Berndt: Why did you choose the army?

Jared W. Holly: I do not know. It was the thing to do at that time.

Shannon Berndt: No other branch of service interested you as much?

Jared W. Holly: Nope.

Shannon Berndt: No? What did your parents think about you enlisting?

Jared W. Holly: My dad thought it was fine.

Shannon Berndt: I am sure your mom was probably pretty worried.

Jared W. Holly: Hmmm.

Shannon Berndt: Did you think that you would be going to Vietnam?

Jared W. Holly: I did not know.

Shannon Berndt: Tell me about your first days in the service?

Jared W. Holly: Oh, they were pretty hectic, a lot of training. I was at Fort Irwin, California.

Shannon Berndt: Was it pretty grueling?

Jared W. Holly: Uh-hmmm. Whipped me into shape.

Shannon Berndt: What was your... what was your job that you did?

Jared W. Holly: I was the armored personnel carrier driver. That was my primary MOS.

Shannon Berndt: And who did you drive or what did you drive?

Jared W. Holly: I drove the armored personnel carrier.

Shannon Berndt: I am not sure I know what that is.

Jared W. Holly: It is a big tracked, a tracked vehicle that transports troops.

Shannon Berndt: Oh! Okay. So, after you were trained to do your job, then you were stationed in South Korea?

Jared W. Holly: Uh-hmmm. Yup.

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Shannon Berndt: And what did you do in South Korea?

Jared W. Holly: I did a lot. Well, full guard duty at the Freedom Bridge over there up by the demilitarized zone.

Shannon Berndt: Was it pretty calm or was there shooting?

Jared W. Holly: No. No shooting.

Shannon Berndt: Oh none.

Jared W. Holly: A lot of field exercises. It is very cold over there in the winter.

Shannon Berndt: Did you drive the...what you were trained to do? Did you do the job that you were trained to do over there?

Jared W. Holly: Uh-hmmm. Yes, I did.

Shannon Berndt: And where would you take these soldiers...that you....

Jared W. Holly: We would go out in the field and there was....

Shannon Berndt: Just continuously training and doing this.

Jared W. Holly: Uh-hmmm. Yup.

Shannon Berndt: Let us see. What was your most memorable experience?

Jared W. Holly: A lot of driving my armored personnel carrier back across the Freedom Bridge to the South Korean side where the sprockets became loose and the armored personnel carrier driver almost went off the bridge into the river.

Shannon Berndt: Oh.

Jared W. Holly: [Laughter]

Shannon Berndt: [Laughter] That would not be, that would not be too good.

Jared W. Holly: [Laughter]

Shannon Berndt: [Throat clearing] How did you pass the time? Did you have free time where you could go in to a town or anything like that?

Jared W. Holly: Uh-hmmm.

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Shannon Berndt: What was the closest town that you would go into?

Jared W. Holly: There was one outside the [##] 04:45 beach, the [##] 04:46.

Shannon Berndt: And, did you...what would you do?

Jared W. Holly: Oh, we just sit around drinking beer, eating the local food.

Shannon Berndt: What was the local food like?

Jared W. Holly: It was great.

Shannon Berndt: Was it?

Jared W. Holly: Uh-hmmm.

Shannon Berndt: Better than what they served you at your, on base?

Jared W. Holly: Uh-hmmm.

Shannon Berndt: [Laughter] It was? What kind of things did you eat?

Jared W. Holly: Oh, we just ate like there were all kinds of food.

Shannon Berndt: Did you make lots of friends?

Jared W. Holly: Had a fair amount.

Shannon Berndt: You keep in contact with them now?

Jared W. Holly: I do not even know where they are anymore.

Shannon Berndt: Umm.

Jared W. Holly: Unfortunately, one of them turned out to be the Son of Sam, David Berkowitz.

Shannon Berndt: Oh really?

Jared W. Holly: Uh-hmmm.

Shannon Berndt: You served with him, huh?

Jared W. Holly: Uh-hmmm. Same company.

Shannon Berndt: So did you know him? Was he kind of, I mean how was he?

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Jared W. Holly: He was a very calm guy.

Shannon Berndt: Oh. Hmmm, I guess you never can tell?

Jared W. Holly: No, you cannot.

Shannon Berndt: What did you do for recreation?

Jared W. Holly: Just walked around the village outside the compound, that kind of thing.

Shannon Berndt: Were the people friendly?

Jared W. Holly: Uh-hmmm. Yes.

Shannon Berndt: What about the language barrier?

Jared W. Holly: Oh, I learned to speak enough to get me along.

Shannon Berndt: How did you celebrate the holidays?

Jared W. Holly: Hmmm, we really did not.

Shannon Berndt: It was just another day.

Jared W. Holly: Uh-hmmm.

Shannon Berndt: Did you get lots of letters and packages from home?

Jared W. Holly: No.

Shannon Berndt: No. Did you send letters home? Your parents? I think your parents would want to know what you were doing.

Jared W. Holly: [Laughter]

Shannon Berndt: You recall the day that you left the service?

Jared W. Holly: Yes I do.

Shannon Berndt: When did you leave the service?

Jared W. Holly: Oh about December 20th, just a day or so before Christmas, 1972.

Shannon Berndt: And what did you do?

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Jared W. Holly: I came into Travis Air Force Base in Oakland and caught a plane back out to Newport Beach. Apparently, my dad and my stepmom got separated by then.

Shannon Berndt: How did you adjust from being in the structured army corps to a civilian life?

Jared W. Holly: I adjusted pretty well. I went out and found employment.

Shannon Berndt: What did you do?

Jared W. Holly: I did things like working on boats, been helping build them.

Shannon Berndt: Did your work and career help you in any way?

Jared W. Holly: No.

Shannon Berndt: How did your experiences contribute to your thinking about while in the military service? Did it change after you had served than it was before you enlisted?

Jared W. Holly: No.

Shannon Berndt: No. You were, it says here that you were born in New Jersey?

Jared W. Holly: Yes, I was.

Shannon Berndt: And then your parents moved to California.

Jared W. Holly: Uh-hmmm. I lived my whole life up in [##] 08:30 California back in 1968.

Shannon Berndt: How did you end up here now? At the Las Vegas Valley, Boulder City [##] 08:40.

Jared W. Holly: Oh back in 2003, I had a heart attack. Been living in California at that time and then later that year, I had a stroke then my wife and I sold our house in California. We moved to Kentucky for a year then came back here to buy a house.

Shannon Berndt: So your wife, where does she live?

Jared W. Holly: Over in Henderson.

Shannon Berndt: In Henderson.

Jared W. Holly: Uh-hmmm.

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Shannon Berndt: Nice area.

Jared W. Holly: Uh-hmmm.

Shannon Berndt: Nice place. We live far from Henderson. [Laughter] Let us see. I guess that is probably all that I have unless you have any other memories or experiences that you would like to share with us.

Jared W. Holly: No. I am all good.

Shannon Berndt: All right. Well, thank you so much for helping us with this.

Jared W. Holly: No problem. My pleasure.