

Vietnamese American Oral History Project, UC Irvine

Narrator: Stephen Judy

Interviewer: Grant Dunn

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Transcript

Audio [Track 1]

Grant Dunn: Today is November the sixth, 2022. I am the interviewer, Grant Dunn, this is for the UCI archives of the Vietnam war and oral history. I am here with, what's your name?

Steve Judy: Steven Judy.

Dunn: What year were you born?

Judy: 1944, December the 24th.

Dunn: Where were you born?

Judy: West Virginia. Franklin, West Virginia.

Dunn: How many siblings do you have?

Judy: I have three boys, all grown, all moved out.

Dunn: Sorry how many brothers and sisters do you have?

Judy: I have four brothers and sisters.

Dunn: Are you the oldest or youngest?

Judy: I, now I am the oldest. My older brother passed. And I still have two brothers and a sister.

Dunn: Two brothers and a sister. What was it like growing up in Virginia?

Judy: It was pretty nasty cause I grew up on a farm. And I had to work all the time. My major job was feeding the livestock, milking the cows, before I even went to school. I went to school with cow poop on my shoes constantly. And we took a bath every Saturday, whether we needed it or not. In a number ten washtub in front of a wood burning stove. We had no bathroom; the bathroom was outside with a moon on the door. It was an outhouse. And for toilet paper, we didn't have. So, we used corn cobs or we used Series and Robutt catalogue and whatever else you could find.

Dunn: Tell me more about your childhood.

Judy: Childhood? Well, it wasn't that great. Cause, no, if we did something wrong, we always got our ass beat. You know? We got spanked a lot. And it just wasn't good. They fought; the parents fought a lot you know? And they would fight in front of the children. And I couldn't get them to quit, or they wouldn't quit, 'til I went in the Marine Corps at eighteen. And when I came back home, they were still fighting in front of the kids and I just blew up. I sat them on the couch and said "that's it, no more".

Dunn: What were your parents' names?

Judy: Biser Judy. B-i-s-e-r.

Dunn: And let's take one second just so there's no background noise.

[Garage closing]

Judy: [laughing]

Dunn: Alright, sorry to interrupt.

Judy: That's okay.

Dunn: So, what were your parents' names? Continue with that.

Judy: Biser Noah Judy.

Dunn: Okay and how was your relationship with your father?

Judy: In the beginning it wasn't great because if we didn't say something wrong, he would beat the ...**...out of us. But at the end, when I was older and he was older, we got to be a little closer but not, you know? Nothing real lovey dovey. Never heard I love you at all, never in my life.

Dunn: And what about with your mother?

Judy: Never heard I love you myself at all from her.

Dunn: Neither from either parent?

Judy: No. Hell no.

Dunn: Did you love your mother, were you close with her?

Judy: Yes, we were close until she almost killed us and then---one night I just left her. Oh, my brother and I did something stupid. We went to the store, on the way to the store we found the Coke bottle with five cents, enough to buy a box of snuff.

Dunn: What is snuff?

Judy: Huh?

Dunn: What is snuff?

Judy: Snuff is a square snuff, its in a round can, tin can. You put it down here, like Copenhagen and dip is what it was.

Dunn: Dip. Tobacco?

Judy: Dip. Back then we snorted it. They would put it on a little pine stem, it had to be a pine stem because the flavor. And the dip would be called a snuff dip. You would dip it in there and [snorting noises] snort it.

Dunn: Snuff dip?

Judy: Yes.

Dunn: And what happened in that story in the incident with your mother?

Judy: Oh! She caught us with that snuff, poured half down my mouth and half down my brother's mouth. Unknowingly she could have killed both of us.

Dunn: Really?

Judy: Yes, we couldn't breathe. We, both of us couldn't breathe. We lost it.

Dunn: Were you throwing up and---

Judy: We had to and finally she washed our face with the hose and got it out of our mouths. She hated that she did that but I did too. But I hated it worse than she did. I didn't trust her after that with nothing.

Dunn: That kind of ruined the relationship after?

Judy: Oh yeah, hell yeah.

Dunn: And how old were you when that happened?

Judy: Whoa, I was probably fourteen. Something like that.

Dunn: Yeah. Okay and what about your siblings were you close with your siblings?

Judy: Oh yeah, yes. Yes.

Dunn: Who were you closest with?

Judy: The closest one was my brother Scott.

Dunn: Was that your older or younger brother?

Judy: He is the middle. And I was close to Sue, my sister, and I was not close to my other two brothers. My older and younger. No, older and next to younger I was not, not friendly with them. I didn't talk to one of them for 30 years. I didn't talk to Joe for thirty years.

Dunn: Why?

Judy: He was just a smart... **... idiot and he was a ... **... very bad drunk. I, he didn't treat his wife right and I just never talked to him, didn't need to. And then my other brother, the one that just passed away, he molested his daughter and I never had anything to do with him from that day on. Until recently about a year ago or two years ago, he called, well they called, maybe more might be five years I don't know time flies. And Barb [his wife] and I went down there and visited them and all he did was drink and go to bed. There was nothing to do to visit him. So we left.

Dunn: Where did he live?

Judy: He lived in North Carolina.

Dunn: In North Carolina? And he never moved from North Carolina?

Judy: No.

Dunn: Did he do the military as well?

Judy: Pardon?

Dunn: Was he in the military as well?

Judy: No. God this new way they fixed my phone and I just hate it. Okay fine, I don't know what you are talking about [speaking about his phone]. So yes, he was in, a mechanic for the police corps in New York and he was in the fire station up there, volunteer.

Dunn: What was your life like in your teenage years? When you were a teenager.

Judy: Teenage years?

Dunn: Well, high school. How was high school?

Judy: Well high school was wonderful. School was great. I learned a little bit because I couldn't be there every day.

Dunn: And why couldn't you be there?

Judy: I had to do the—take care of the farm. I had to farm. I was a farmer. And my senior year I went one semester.

Dunn: You only went one semester?

Judy: Yeah, I did one semester and every other day and I graduated but I went every other day to school cause the farm had to be taken care of. And you know the kids, we had to raise food for the kids and everything. My brother and I we did all the work, we did it all.

Dunn: Did you do any sports or anything like that?

Judy: (Clears throat) I did.

Dunn: What sports?

Judy: I did track and field, I did shotput and discus.

Dunn: What is that, shotput?

Judy: Shotput is a sixteen-pound ball and you see how far you can throw it. [laughs] And discus I did that. I lettered in high school is discus.

Dunn: Did you have any close friends in high school?

Judy: Yeah. Couple of them.

Dunn: Remember their names at all?

Judy: Yeah, David and Roy Hyre. H-y-r-e, Hyre. And we went to California state judging, or West Virginia state judging contest.

Dunn: And what is that?

Judy: That is a judging of different kinds of seeds, milk judging, all kinds of good stuff. Milk judging is drinking a certain kind of milk that the cow's been eating garlic, onions; it tastes in the milk.

Dunn: Really?

Judy: Oh yes!

Dunn: Were David and Roy also farmers?

Judy: Pardon?

Dunn: Were David and Roy also farmers?

Judy: Yes.

Dunn: They both lived on a farm?

Judy: Yeah, yeah yeah, yeah. We were---they were brothers and we were close friends. And so we went to the state out of our school and the whole state of West Virginia and the guy got up in the front and he says "Number one in the state is Roy Hyre."

Dunn: Wow.

Judy: Number two in the state is David Hyre. From Petersburg High. Number three is Steve Judy from Petersburg High.

Dunn: That was pretty cool?

Judy: We came in first, second and third in the whole ...**... state in milk judging and seeds.

Dunn: That's pretty crazy. Were you pretty stoked on that?

Judy: Huh? Yes.

Dunn: Pretty excited about that?

Judy: Oh, ...**... yes, I liked that I thought that was pretty cool.

Dunn: That is pretty cool. When was the first time you had heard about the military?

Judy: Oh, they came to the school when I was in the senior year. They came to the school and they, the military guys all came, the military, army and the marine corps and they talked to me and my cousin. And my cousin and I said let's do it, so we did.

Dunn: And what was your cousin's name?

Judy: Richard Kyle, K-y-l-e.

Dunn: From your mother's or your father's side?

Judy: (Clears throat) just cousins from I don't know, a relative.

Dunn: A relative? Okay.

Judy: A fourth cousin or something I don't know (laughs)

Dunn: (laughs) So might have been some distance removed?

Judy: Yes.

Dunn: Alright so Richard Kyle---

Judy: So, we went in, we joined and they took us in and got us all in. We went on the 120-day delay plan so we could get our ...**... in order and then we'd go in.

Dunn: So, when you were in high school you saw those people and then right after you graduated you went straight into the military? Or was there time in between that you--

Judy: I left without totally graduating, graduating.

Dunn: Really?

Judy: My graduating graduation was--- I needed a semester of English and I graduated, my graduating certificate is from La Fuente High school, in La Puente California.

Dunn: Ah okay.

Judy: So yes, but I did graduate so, anyways. What else?

Dunn: One second, give me one second to write this down. Alright, so you and your cousin Richard Kyle, did you both join in together?

Judy: We went in together, went to bootcamp together, everything together. Yes.

Dunn: So tell me about bootcamp, I know you went to Camp LeJeune?

Judy: Uh nope, I went to Parris Island, South Carolina.

Dunn: Parris Island.

Judy: For bootcamp.

Dunn: And how was that experience?

Judy: That was the worst in the frickin world.

Dunn: It was the worst in the world?

Judy: Yeah. Once they brain wash you totally complete. Completely!

Dunn: Tell me more.

Judy: We got off that bus, well the guy got on the bus and he said “Without your cigarettes, put your feet flat on the floor, put your hands flat on your lap and shut your... **... mouth. and I give you the word to get off of this bus and when you get off this bus put your feet in those yellow feet prints out in the front. Do you understand? Move!” and boy your ... **... is so tight you do what that mother... **... *... said. I’m telling you, and you’re standing out there just shaking like 'what just happened' and then they introduce you in there and they put you in a seat and you sat there. Now we got there at like 8:30 at night, we did not go to bed, we sat in those chairs until morning.

Dunn: Did they purposely do that?

Judy: Yep. And if you fall asleep, they will come over and smack the ... **... out of you. Oh yeah that’s purpose. Brainwash you.

Dunn: And how did you do?

Judy: I did fine. I had no problem with it, my family beat the ... **... out of me anyways, I was used to it.

Dunn: And this was at Parris Island?

Judy: Yes.

Dunn: And how long were you there for?

Judy: I think---school back then was, well, I don’t know how long. God. It might have---six weeks I believe. Yeah, I am pretty sure it was six-week bootcamp.

Dunn: And while you were there did you make any friends?

Judy: Yes, I did. My cousin was with me.

Dunn: Oh, you were still with your cousin?

Judy: Hell yeah. Yes I was with my cousin.

Dunn: And how did your cousin do, was he also---

Judy: He was okay. Yes he was okay.

Dunn: Do you remember any of the instructors' names? Any sergeants or drill sergeants anything like that?

Judy: ...**... yeah let's see let's see. [clears throat]

Dunn: Were these the drill sergeants? [Sgt.]Tucker and [Sgt.]Jackson?

Judy: Yes.

Dunn: Sergeant Jackson and Sergeant Tucker?

Judy: Sgt. Tucker was a mother...**...

Dunn: Tell me more about Sgt. Tucker.

Judy: Sgt. Tucker was from West Virginia after we, after we graduated, he talked to us nice. We were Marines then so he talked to us nice. And tucker came up to me and Dick and talked to us about West Virginia, you know this and that and the other."

Dunn: But before during the training--

Judy: He was hard on me man, he was hard as ...**... on me. My name was Judy and, he was--- Tucker was a...**... Really. But he made me a man. I'm telling you.

Dunn: What was the experience like, what were the main uh memories you remember with him?

Judy: With him?

Dunn: Uh huh.

Judy: Well, he was just mean as ...**...and I didn't want to do nothing that was wrong I said okay fine whatever it takes.

Dunn: You listened to him and it was easy sailing?

Judy: Huh?

Dunn: How was it when you listened to him as opposed to when you didn't? What type of things did he make you do? What was your training like? What was your interactions with him?

Judy: Oh, he was on my...**... We had a pull up pole, he had me get up there and lay upside down and back—on that pull up pole and don't fall off. And they'd be singing the west Virginia hip [laughs] that's how...**...up he was.

Dunn: And how old were you when this happened?

Judy: I was like twenty, twenty-one, no. Nineteen, eighteen. I was nineteen or eighteen years old then. Well, '64 or '63. 1963 I went in, I am seventy, I will be 78 in December.

Dunn: So just to bring it back just a little so I can keep a timeline. What year did you graduate high school, 1963? Or 1962?

Judy: '63, I went in in '63.

Dunn: And where did you go after Parris?

Judy: Parris Island? I went to Camp LeJeune North Carolina.

Dunn: And how long were stationed at Camp LeJeune?

Judy: I was there for six months. Infantry training.

Dunn: And were you also there with your cousin?

Judy: Yes, yes. We were together all throughout.

Dunn: And what was your experience there?

Judy: My experience there?

Dunn: In Camp LeJeune. How was it? What do you remember about it?

Judy: Just good training. Just infantry training just ...**... you're going to have to know. We went underneath the gunfire, fire is over your ...**... head, all kinds of ...**...

Dunn: And what was your rank at the time?

Judy: I was PFC then.

Dunn: What is that?

Judy: Private first class.

Dunn: And you said you were there for six months, correct?

Judy: Mhmm.

Dunn: And in that time you did infantry training. Did you meet any other friends or anyone else in your life?

Judy: No nobody.

Dunn: So, after you were at Camp LeJeune you transferred to where?

Judy: From LeJeune, God, where did I go? Oh! I went to Okinawa.

Dunn: Did you go to Camp Pendleton before that?

Judy: I was at, oh yes. I was at LeJeune to Pendleton, and then Pendleton I was there for a while. And then I went to Okinawa. Some of this ...**...I'm telling you I don't remember.

Dunn: We'll go over all that no worries. So real quick lets go to Camp Pendleton. What year did you go to Camp Pendleton?

Judy: I haven't the foggiest idea.

Dunn: Would it have been 1964?

Judy: No.

Dunn: No?

Judy: No. Pendleton would have been '65 or '66 because '67 I went to Vietnam. No, okay. Yes, I was at Pendleton then that's when I got sent from there to Okinawa to Vietnam.

Dunn: Okay really quick let's back up. At Camp Pendleton how long were you there for do you remember?

Judy: Camp Pendleton I was there for two years I believe.

Dunn: And during your time at Pendleton were there any injuries you had sustained or anything like that?

Judy: No, but the thing is, was I have to back up further because--

Dunn: When did you hurt your knee?

Judy: We'll do that right now. When I went to Pendleton, that's when I hurt my knee. Now its coming back. We were on maneuvers. That's when I hurt my knee.

Dunn: And that was at Pendleton?

Judy: Yes.

Dunn: And what were maneuvers?

Judy: I was just night stalking maneuvers. Just night patrols.

Dunn: Just walking around patrolling?

Judy: Night patrols yes.

Dunn: And what happened exactly with your knee?

Judy: Well, we got attacked. I just jumped and fell down a hill.

Dunn: And you got attacked by?

Judy: Friendly fire [laughs] By the opposition yes. And I fell down the hill and slid into a bunch of rocks.

Dunn: And what were the injuries you sustained?

Judy: They Medevac'd me because I tore my meniscus.

Dunn: And where did they medevac you to?

Judy: Camp Pendleton main hospital.

Dunn: And how long were you in the hospital?

Judy: I was only there about three to four hours. They sucked five liters of five centimeters of liquid off my knee and bandaged it up and says you're free to go.

Dunn: Were you walking fine after that?

Judy: Oh ...**... no.

Dunn: How long did it take to heal?

Judy: It took a long time. Took me about three or four months. I was on causality platoon.

Dunn: What is causality platoon?

Judy: That's when you are on light duty, you can't do much. So, they put you in the post office or something like that.

Dunn: So, during your causality platoon, right?

Judy: Yes.

Dunn: What did you do at the post office exactly?

Judy: Just sorted mail that came in and send it to third marine division. first, second and third marine division you got to decide where it goes. USPFO, San Francisco, San Diego. And that's all I did was send out mail.

Dunn: Did you like the mail more than you did regular training?

Judy: I liked the mail alright, didn't matter to me.

Dunn: Would you rather have been doing regular training?

Judy: Oh yeah so that's what happened is, when the mail, my friend who was there and was going to get me out of the marine corps at that time and I said "no I don't want to" so they put me in motor transportation and gave me a tow truck and said there you go, you're now our tow truck driver. I had never driven a tow truck in my ...**... life, but I learnt real quick.

Dunn: And how long did you drive the tow truck for?

Judy: Tow truck? I did the tow truck for probably four months.

Dunn: Do you remember what year this was?

Judy: Oh God no.

Dunn: No? Don't worry about it.

Judy: I did the tow truck and then I did I was also moving furniture for officers that were leaving the base. They give you odd ...**...jobs you know when you're...**... up. So, then they sent me to a battalion, I was going to Vietnam.

Dunn: And when was the first time you heard about the Vietnam war? If we can back up a little bit. Had you heard about—had the Vietnam war previously been going on at this time?

Judy: Oh yeah, I heard about that when I went in.

Dunn: And you went in at 1964 correct? And you knew—

Judy: Oh yeah that war went on for years.

Dunn: And did you ever want to be involved in that war?

Judy: Not necessarily, no. No.

Dunn: So, what did you think, what were your feelings when they told you about going to Vietnam?

Judy: It's okay, I'll go. Fine.

Dunn: Didn't have any issues with it?

Judy: No, I just went that's fine. Yeah.

Dunn: So, after you did the tow truck driving they let you know you were going to Vietnam—

Judy: Yes.

Dunn: Were you then given, at this point what rank were you?

Judy: I was an E-5 Sgt.

Dunn: And were you in charge of anyone?

Judy: Yes, I was in charge of a platoon. They loved me because I could do 100 push ups in eight minutes. I could.

Dunn: [laughs] That's pretty impressive!

Judy: Eight... **... minutes I could do 100 and they loved me for that.

Dunn: How many people were in your platoon?

Judy: Lets see I had four ranks of 12.

Dunn: So how many is that?

Judy: Four of 12 is 36.

Dunn: 36 people?

Judy: Four twelves is 24, 36, 48. 48. 48 yeah. I had four ranks.

Dunn: And did you get to know any of them pretty well?

Judy: All of them.

Dunn: Do you remember any of their names?

Judy: I don't remember their names, no, no way. ... **... no.

Dunn: And what was your cousin doing at this time? Kyle?

Judy: He was already in Vietnam.

Dunn: And when was Kyle sent to Vietnam?

Judy: Pardon?

Dunn: When was Kyle shipped off?

Judy: He was shipped off before I went there. Yes, like that? [in reference to someone in the garage]

Dunn: Real quick. One second. [loud noise]

Judy: Quiet! [referring to people outside] Yeah, it's just some things I don't remember and probably don't want to remember you know what I mean?

Dunn: So, let's go back and continue with where we were. You, at this point, had been let know you were going to Vietnam. You were now in charge of four ranks of 12 people?

Judy: Right.

Dunn: And these ranks, these men, you were entirely in charge of them and they were going to be shipped out with you going to Vietnam?

Judy: Absolutely.

Dunn: But before you got shipped to Vietnam you were shipped to Okinawa.

Judy: We would all go too, no. We would all go from there to our different units. They didn't all go with me. We all were sent, they all had separate MOS.

Dunn: And what is a MOS?

Judy: MOS is a mechanical--MOS is there, mechanical statement of what they do or--you have truck drivers, you have mechanics, you have weaponry, you have gunners, you got paratroopers, you got it all together and I had to separate them?

Dunn: So, your job was finding them?

Judy: No. No my job was taking care of them right there. Subordinates sent down their orders, send them all away from me. I was just in charge for a while.

Dunn: So, you were in charge of them and then you got shipped off to Okinawa?

Judy: I got shipped off just like them.

Dunn: And what was your experience like in Japan, how long did it take you to get there? Did you go by boat or plane?

Judy: No, we went by plane we went thought Alaska and over that way. And uh, from Okinawa I went straight to Vietnam.

Dunn: Well, how long were you in Okinawa for?

Judy: Just fly through, boom, boom gone.

Dunn: Oh, it was just a touch down? You weren't there doing training or anything?

Judy: That's when I came back.

Dunn: Okay so, did you, with the people you were shipped off with, you were already on your way to Okinawa and to Japan then to Vietnam. Were you already with the people you were going to be serving with or had you not met your troops yet?

Judy: No everyone was different. Everybody was going to a different place.

Dunn: So where did you first touchdown in Vietnam?

Judy: Da Nang. [needs translation—0:00:00]

Dunn: And what was your experience like there?

Judy: We were held there for one week, in a tent.

Dunn: And why were you in those tents?

Judy: Getting climatized to the weather because it was hot and moist and raining. And you had to get climatized before they sent you out the bush or you'd die.

Dunn: And when you got there? What did you see when you first arrived? Was it raining, sunny--

Judy: Tents.

Dunn: Tents?

Judy: Tents, dust and--

Dunn: Was it pretty or ugly?

Judy: No! It was nasty! ...**... airstrips with tents all around it.

Dunn: Was there jungle outside of it or—

Judy: No, no jungle!

Dunn: What was the climate like?

Judy: Hot.

Dunn: Hot?

Judy: Hot and moist.

Dunn: Desert-y kind of?

Judy: No, it was more like back east, humid as ...**... and hot.

Dunn: Okay. And this was in Da Nang and you were there for a week, correct?

Judy: I was there for a week to get climatized and then I went from there to Quang Tri to where they sent me to second battalion fourth marines. And then I went with them up north, and rode around and that's when I was on the Ho Chi Minh trail when I was with them.

Dunn: Okay so let's slow down real quick. So, the first week you were there, right, what did you do when you were in the tents?

Judy: Nothing.

Dunn: Nothing at all?

Judy: They want you to do nothing.

Dunn: Did you play card games, talk, smoke?

Judy: You can play games, talk whatever you want. I just sat around.

Dunn: Did you make any friends?

Judy: No.

Dunn: Do you remember what year this was?

Judy: No idea.

Dunn: Okay. So, first week, you sat around and did nothing—

Judy: You can go through my paper work and we could probably find it.

Dunn: We'll go through all that I am not worried. So, after the first week, you're acclimated, and then what?

Judy: Then they tell you you're going to this unit and the truck is waiting.

Dunn: And when you got on the truck what happened?

Judy: We got on the truck; we were all in the back there were about 5 of us. And the truck driver saw a bunch of kids along the side of the road, like this [shows with hands] and he pulled over to the side and the truck flipped over with us in the back.

Dunn: Wow and were you okay?

Judy: Everything was fine and the gate was open so we all crawled out the back of the gate. But when you see kids, like this [uses hands to mimic an explosion] it's not the truck noise, it's a bomb in the middle of the road up ahead.

Dunn: Did the bomb go off?

Judy: ...**... no, he ran off of the road!

Dunn: Did they ever find the bomb?

Judy: Yeah, ...**...yeah. If you see kids like this [uses hand gesture to mimic explosion] isn't because a truck is noisy it's because something is going to happen.

Dunn: So, after that, you guys crawled out the back of the truck, did you wait for them to clear the road before you—

Judy: Oh yes, they cleared the road and then the truck came and took us up to our unit.

Dunn: And how long was the drive to get to your next unit?

Judy: Oh ...**... probably a half hour.

Dunn: And on that drive did you get to see the landscape at all and the terrain?

Judy: We saw everything, we saw an airstrike against a frickin mountain.

Dunn: Really?

Judy: Yeah, it was cool as ...**... man. There were Kong up there, they were going to shoot at us. A jet came in there and [makes gunfire noise] [explosion noise] beautiful ...**...

Dunn: Was it a lot of fire? Was it Napalm or?

Judy: No. Just fire [makes gunshot noises] 50 calibers.

Dunn: And that was in the thirty-minute drive just to get to—

Judy: Yep, to get to where I was going, Quang Tri.

Dunn: So, when you got to Quang Tri what was your impression of the place?

Judy: It was just tent city!

Dunn: More tents? Was it a military base?

Judy: Yes, Quang Tri is a military base but it's just a hospital base everything. We had a hospital there and whatever.

Dunn: And when you were there how long were you there for until you got your unit?

Judy: I was in Quang Tri for probably a week maybe and then finally we went out to the bush. And from there on I don't remember anything until we had an airstrike. We had what they call that ...**...? We had an arc light, which is a B-52 that flies up so high that you can't even see it and it drops bombs around you so you are cool and clear. We didn't know it but it scared the mother...**...hell out of us I swear to God! [laughs]

Dunn: Could you feel the bombs going off?

Judy: ...**... yeah! [laughs]

Dunn: How far away were they from you?

Judy: From here to the end of the street was the first hole we found. [referencing about 50 yards]

Dunn: Wow.

Judy: [laughs]

Dunn: And by this time were you in the bush or was it thick jungle or what was the terrain like?

Judy: I was in the bush with elephant grass as high as this ceiling. They had to chop the way through we just found a trail and there were little bags on the ground but you don't want to step on them too hard cause they'll explode and blow your feet off.

Dunn: Were they um some kind of mines?

Judy: Just little mines yes, you could see them but don't step on them.

Really?

Judy: Yes.

Dunn: And how many people were you with at this time? How big was your battalion?

Judy: No, I wasn't with a battalion I was with a company.

Dunn: How big as your company?

Judy: A company is three platoons. [starts counting in head and on hands] It was 36 in a platoon and we had one platoon.

Dunn: And what was your guys' job? What was your assignment? Or just patrolling, or?

Judy: My job?

Dunn: Yes, what were you guys doing in the bush? Hunting, search and destroy?

Judy: Search and destroy.

Dunn: So, I have a question for you. Tell me about Soldier Bray, the man who went crazy and you had to take his gun away from him.

Judy: Yes, what was his name?

Dunn: Bray or Brie maybe? Something like that.

Judy: No. I'll think of it. He was a crazy ...**...; he went crazy when he was on a night patrol.

Dunn: Can you tell me more about this specific night?

Judy: Yes, we were out and we were in a bunker type situation on a patrol and he just, I don't know. He just lost it. He just jumped over the fence and started shooting he said "they're out there, they're out there!" of course he ...**... up our whole patrol, gave us away. I had to get rid of him. He was not, not good to be with my platoon.

Dunn: What did you guys do how did you get rid of him?

Judy: I just called them and send the truck out to pick him up he will no longer be with me.

Dunn: What ended up happening to him?

Judy: They sent him back to a rifle unit somewhere.

Dunn: Did you ever have to go to court to confirm anything?

Judy: No.

Dunn: Never had to do anything?

Judy: No, no. Although that Bray, oh Bray, no that's a different one.

Dunn: What happened with Bray?

Judy: Bray, he got a case of the ...**... with the gunner sergeant in charge.

Dunn: Can you go over this real quick, so we can have a better timeline of this. So, was this early in your deployment or was this later?

Judy: Later, much later?

Dunn: Later?

Judy: Yes.

Dunn: Okay, so what happened with Bray?

Judy: Bray locked and loaded with a M-14 with the round cut off from the end. And he was holding the rifle right at him, and I was right there [signals to next to him] and he was right there [signals two feet away from him]. And Bray was black. He was high as a kite. And we talked him down. Alright, his friends came over and said "Bray put the thing down" so we finally got the weapons away from them. NPs were there, they cuffed him, locked him up and I had to go to court in Da Nang in Vietnam for him to witness that he was going to shoot the first sergeant.

Dunn: And what ended up happening to Bray?

Judy: Bray went to Fort Leppenthworth.

Dunn: Did he get jailed?

Judy: Port Leppenthworth Kansas, yes. That's the military prison.

Dunn: Do you know how long he was there for?

Judy: Nope. Assault with a deadly weapon and intent to kill. Nope, no idea.

Dunn: So, can you tell me about, he was high, what was he high on?

Judy: Marijuana.

Dunn: Did a lot of people smoke pot?

Judy: Oh yes.

Dunn: Is that where you were first introduced to pot?

Judy: No, I knew it before then but never smoked it.

Dunn: Never in Vietnam?

Judy: Never, no. No way! Ever!

Dunn: When was your first introduction to marijuana?

Judy: Oh, God I learned about it when I was at Camp Pendleton because all the black kids would be in the back smoking the... **... I knew all about it but I never smoked it until I got out.

Dunn: And what made you try it when you got out of the military?

Judy: I had tried it but I got out and I tried it again and said okay fine.

Dunn: Where did you try it first?

Judy: [mumbles incoherently] in a bar in Dana Point I think.

Dunn: That was your first time ever smoking?

Judy: [laughs] I only had one hitters so yeah, didn't like it.

Dunn: So, what made you continue to smoke pot?

Judy: Because I liked it when I got out and I tried, and I liked it.

Dunn: So, when you were in, you tried it at a bar?

Judy: Yes, no. When I was in the service yes.

Dunn: Okay.

Judy: But I didn't like it so I didn't do it.

Dunn: And were a lot of people doing drugs?

Judy: ...**...yeah, military was full of drugs.

Dunn: What kind of drugs were they doing?

Judy: Just pot, nothing else. They were not doing any hard drugs, no. Not at all.

Dunn: Let's get back to it real quick, sorry. Do you remember when you went to the Ho Chi Minh trail?

Judy: I went on the Ho Chi Minh trail. When I was assigned to the second battalions and fourth marines where we were just a Da Nang, or actually Quang Tri. I was assigned to them and after the arc light we went walking to the jungle weed and ...**...And we came up this hill and it was like; I could draw you a picture of this trail. It wasn't the Ho Chi Minh Trail; it was just our trail because we were just in a line like this up a hill [uses hands to show straight line] and we had [explosion noises] we got bombed.

Dunn: By the enemy?

Judy: By our own people!

Dunn: Oh, this was the arc light you were talking about?

Judy: No, this was a mortar battalion that was shooting mortars at us.

Dunn: Because they thought you were the enemy?

Judy: Yes. So, once they quit, couple of us was injured, a couple guys.

Dunn: Were you injured?

Judy: In that one no, I was later.

Dunn: Okay.

Judy: But we went up the hill and the scout shot a guy on the Ho Chi Minh trail and there was another one ran down the hill. The scout, like a dumb ...**... ran up there to find him and he blew his ...**... **... killed him.

And this was on the Ho Chi Minh?

Judy: Yes, right on the Ho Chi Minh trail. So, what we did then, the one dead body that was there I got his shoes on my ...**... feet right in there [references to a closet in the garage]

And was that, those are the shoes that you have?

Judy: Yes.

Dunn: Did you kill that person to get those shoes?

Judy: Yes, I did.

Dunn: You had shot him?

Judy: I got his feet and I got his shoes.

Dunn: And what was the circumstances, how did you come across the body? Was there a fight or battle?

Judy: No! Just, they were sitting on the bunkers.

Dunn: And you shot them?

Judy: They were just talking and didn't see us at all. The sniper, he's the one that shot one of them, I shot the other. Then another one down the hill shot him. Had I have run up there I would've been killed too.

Dunn: Really?

Judy: Oh yes. Oh yes.

Dunn: Alright, so how long did you wear those shoes for?

Judy: God, I wore them until I, ...**... until I wore them out. God, I loved those shoes they fit so good.

Dunn: Do you remember was it a couple years you were wearing the shoes for?

Judy: Oh yes, yes.

Dunn: So how long were you on the Ho Chi Minh trail for? A very long time?

Judy: Quite a while.

Dunn: Years? Months?

Judy: No, no, no. We had to go miles. Probably five miles. Cause we went through places where there were trees on one side and a cove on this side full of bunkers. Bunker, bunker, bunker.

Dunn: Wow.

Judy: And if anybody walked up that trail they were going to take your ...**...the ...**... out.

Dunn: How often were you running into enemy patrols?

Judy: We never saw but one on that trip, but the thing about the Ho Chi Minh trail that people don't know about is when you come to a hill, their steps cut into the hill. Because the mud there, when you get sweat you can't walk up a hill.

Dunn: So, they had actually made steps?

Judy: They cut steps into the hill.

Dunn: Wow.

Judy: And the clay is red and slick and muddy. And it rains all the time.

Dunn: So how long after you did the Ho Chi Minh, then where did you go?

Judy: After that is when I went to the CAP unit.

Dunn: And what is the CAP unit?

Judy: Combined action program.

Dunn: Where was that?

Judy: I lived with the people and I had Quang Shrin which was my last village that we protected. What they did was they give me 12 marines and 24 PFs which are popular forces to protect the villages.

Dunn: What are PF's?

Judy: Popular Forces.

Dunn: Okay I mean who are the popular forces?

Judy: The Vietnamese.

Dunn: They are the allied Vietnamese?

Judy: Yes.

Dunn: I have a question as well. For the Vietnamese people, were you close with them?

Judy: ...**... yes, I learned the language!

Dunn: Did you consider them 'gooks'?

Judy: No! ... ** ... no.

Dunn: What does 'gook' mean?

Judy: A gook is a ... ** ... Vietnamese, a North Vietnamese. Yeah, I didn't consider mine gooks, no [referencing the one's he was protecting] Cause the people in the village really liked us.

Dunn: Were you close with the people of the village?

Judy: Oh yes. I talked to them in their own language. I learnt a language fluently. Now I would have to be with someone for a while to get it back.

Dunn: So, let's try to go over this real quick.

Judy: [laughs]

Dunn: You, 1966, you were deployed there?

Judy: Yes.

Dunn: '67, 68 and half of 69. So in 67—

Judy: Yes 67, 68 and 69.

Dunn: What year were you on the Ho Chi Minh trail?"

Judy: I was on the Ho Chi Minh trail in '67.

Dunn: Where were you in 68?

Judy: I was in Quang Shrin

Dunn: And your last little bit in 69 where were you?

Judy: I was still in Quang Shrin in one of those houses.

Dunn: So how long were you in Quang Shrin for?

Judy: I was there for two years, two and a half years. That's why I learnt the language and how I knew the people.

Dunn: I had talked to you previously and you had said you had defended a bridge or a ramp over a river or stream?

Judy: Camni Ramp, its right outside of Hue City going to the island. There's an island that goes across there.

Dunn: And what happened at that ramp?

Judy: That, you just defended it to keep anyone from coming in or out. Yeah, yeah and you could also go there and get laid. See I had a badge, my people had a badge. Nobody but MPs and us could go into the villages.

Dunn: Really?

Judy: That's what made it good. We could go into any... **...house we want. We could do anything we want. MPs cannot stop us. We were over the MPs.

Dunn: Were there... **... houses a lot in a lot of places?

Judy: No that was my CAP unit, no. Only CAP unit could override the MPs. Which was cool as ... **... [laughs]

Dunn: Were there parts of Vietnam that you enjoyed or aspects you liked about it?

Judy: I enjoyed being in the village. I had pictures you know where, I enjoyed being in the village, eating with them. Me and the guy in charge in the village of the PFs, he was a trunsky too which was a sergeant. Me and him, we were closest—oh my god look at that raccoon. We were the closest friends in the village. Cause we were the people in charge; him and I were in charge of that village, period. Nobody can come in and say what the ... **... to do with us.

Dunn: And you had a good time there, I mean you enjoyed it?

Judy: Oh... **... yes, me and him were great. His wife was pregnant and yeah, I was there when they had their baby and everything, yes.

Dunn: Let's see, continuing. Sorry.

Judy: That was pretty cool, yes.

Dunn: What was the guy's name do you remember?

Judy: Tronksy Hen, Tronksy Hen Oh. He was my friend.

Dunn: Did you keep in contact with him after you returned?

Judy: Nope, couldn't, there's no way.

Dunn: Did you ever know if he made it back from—

Judy: Nope, no way.

Dunn: Never heard from him ever again?

Judy: [shaking head] No.

Dunn: So, I wanted to ask you, were there any times where you guys were attacked or anything like that or where you had to defend the village?

Judy: We were attacked one good time. And one small time, yes.

Dunn: What were those two incidents?

Judy: I know we got incoming rounds and we set off our claymores. [explosion sounds] We had loads and loads of claymores. And wiped out whatever was coming in, and we found, I think two

dead the next morning, we don't go out at night. And I think we found two dead ones and who knows how many got injured but, none of my people got injured.

Dunn: If you found enemies that were injured, what would you do with them?

Judy: Shoot them.

Dunn: Kill them right there?

Judy: ...**... yes, ...**... yeah I would. Yep."

Dunn: So, tell me about the incident. What happened first, your purple heart or your bronze star?

Judy: Oh, that purple heart I got that a long time ago.

Dunn: So, what is the story with that?

Judy: We just had shrapnel coming in, and I dove in the thing and I got shrapnel on my hand.

Dunn: And what happened? Was that? When did that happen? At the beginning?

Judy: The little attack we just had.

Dunn: Oh, the attack we were just talking about?

Judy: Yeah.

Dunn: So, during that attack, you—

Judy: I just dove in there like this [shows diving pose] and that was it.

Dunn: So, when you had the scrap metal in your hand what happened? Did you leave the village to go to the hospital?

Judy: I don't know! Pulled the ...**... out, wrapped it up. Wasn't that deep. Pulled it out, wrapped it out and I went in the next day.

Dunn: You went into the hospital the next day?

Judy: Yes.

Dunn: And did they treat your wounds?

Judy: I had blood poison from it.

Dunn: Ooh what happened with that?

Judy: They took care of it when I went to Quang Tri hospital.

Dunn: And how far was the village from Quang Tri?

Judy: Oh, do you have a map I can show you it's really close.

Dunn: Can you point to where that village was? *[shows map]

Judy: Yes. [leans over, laughs looking at map, takes a hit from his weed pipe] God dangit. Oh yeah. I can show you exactly where that mother...**... was. Alright you want to see my village? [points on map]

Dunn: Just below Hue?

Judy: Just below.

Dunn: And how long did it take for you to drive from your village to the Quang Tri hospital?

Judy: They didn't, they flew me. All the way up here to Quang Tri which is not far.

Dunn: How long did it take to fly there?

Judy: Oh fifteen minutes, it's not far at all. [takes sip of alcohol]

Dunn: How long were you in the hospital for?

Judy: I was there for four days I think, or four more cause I had a FUO.

Dunn: What is that?

Judy: Fever of unknown origin. And its in my medical records.

Dunn: And this was during the blood poisoning?

Judy: Yes. My fever was so high, they put an ice blanket under me, over me, ice packs on your nuts, arm pits...I was ...**... amping out.

Dunn: Do you remember that?

Judy: I was out, no. but then they put it in my medical records that I had a fever of unknown origin.

Dunn: So, at the same time you were battling blood poisoning you were also battling this fever?

Judy: Yes.

Dunn: And after the fever you were totally fine? Back to normal? And you returned right back to the village?

Judy: Totally fine. Back to my village.

Dunn: Had anything happened during the time you were gone?

Judy: Nope I put a man in charge.

Dunn: So, you were in the village for the majority of your tour in Vietnam, correct?

Judy: [nods]

Dunn: What ended up happening with the bronze star you earned?

Judy: We were out one night on patrol, actually you can just take a picture of it over on the wall. Actually, you can take a picture of it over on the wall. [lights pipe to smoke pot]

Dunn: I would like to hear.

Judy: We were on a patrol and uh one of the dogs sensed that there was something out there.

Dunn: What type of dog was it do you remember?

Judy: German shepherd, he sensed there was something and we just got up and charged that mother... **...

Dunn: So, the dog had alerted you guys?

Judy: Yes.

Dunn: Had it come up to you or barked?

Judy: No, no no.

Dunn: Sits next to you or something?

Judy: No, he nudges his handler. And sniffs the air and nudges his handler, he don't bark no!
[laughs]

Dunn: Sorry I'm just trying to figure this out.

Judy: I know [laughs] a dog would never bark.

Dunn: So as to not give away your position yeah that makes sense.

Judy: We just attacked the ... **... guy and killed him.

Dunn: There was only one guy?

Judy: Only one guy.

Dunn: Was he a scout or on patrol or?

Judy: He was just out roaming around I guess; in the wrong place and wrong time.

Dunn: And that had earned you the bronze star?

Judy: Yep, I went out there and got him. ... **... him.

Dunn: You had shot him?

Judy: Mhmm.

Dunn: I have a question for you Steve.

Judy: What?

Dunn: I've heard something about a box of ears. Is that true?

Judy: Oh yes, I got a string.

Dunn: You have a string of ears?

Judy: I have a string with fourteen ears. The last one was a lady. Confirmed kills.

Dunn: 14 confirmed kills?

Judy: 14.

Dunn: And what happened in the last incident with the lady?

Judy: They were hiding in a bunker underneath the bush or tree. Under the sand. And there were 3 of them, I just put a claymore mine overtop and blew it. Just one bullet right there [points to chest] one, [gun noise] that's all it took.

Dunn: So, what was the most intense battle that you had experienced?

Judy: Most intense was when we had we had people coming in and we had Pistol Pete was beside us on that river.

Dunn: And this was in the village?

Judy: Yeah, my village. Now, Pistol Pete controlled this whole Golf of Tankin and they would come up and if we needed them, they would fire 50 calibers. Oh man they would unload on that frickin tree line we had there. They killed one buffalo [laughs] and one old man was laying in his bunk and a bullet came right through there [laughs] and through the wall. They came and got me and showed me and said 'look what we did' [laughing] I could've killed that mother... **...

Pistol Pete was off, I put my strobe light out. Shoot to the right of the strobe light they said they shot everything they could [laughs] ...**...!"

Dunn: Who was Pistol Pete?

Judy: Pistol Pete was a river patrol boat. And I think they had 3 guys on there that are Navy and they just patrol that river. And if you're out there after 6 ...**.... times they shoot your ...**... a...**... up [laughs] we became pretty good friends. Oh yeah. Yeah, one night I uh, took one of the Hoynokes which is a boat, Vietnamese, they'll take me anywhere. They took me down to the Tamri ramp and I was down there drinking and ...**... I got too ...**... up and I started back late, me and two others of my guys so we got on the boat and everything. ...**... nick in there wasn't going to let us go so I said mother...**... you're going to let us go, we're gone. I took one of his weapons, took it apart and threw it in the river. Then I got behind the bell and I said we're going, lets go. We got down the river and I am ...**... up and here comes Pistol Pete [making boat noises] so they say 'alright what are you guys doing?' and I said alright I'll talk to this guy and I fell over the boat [splash noise] into the ...**... water.

Dunn: [laughs]

Judy: I was...**... up so we heard about that, but it was alright.

Dunn: Where were you during the Tet offensive?

Judy: I was in Quang Tri and Quan Shrin during the Tet offensive and I was in or near Hue. We got very little of the Tet offensive in our village.

Dunn: Nothing too crazy?

Judy: Nothing really weird in our village no.

Dunn: So, when it was coming near the end of the war were you looking forward to going home?

Judy: No, they had to come out and get me.

Dunn: What do you mean?

Judy: They sent a truck out to get me. I says no thank you. I'm not. Extend me for another 3 months, 6 months. So, I didn't go with them so here comes the captain and the first sergeant. They took my weapons, they got my ...**... they threw it in the truck and says let's go.

Dunn: And you didn't want to go?

Judy: They said you've been out here too long. No, I didn't want to go.

Dunn: Why did you want to stay?

Judy: I liked the village; I liked the duty I liked what I was doing. I was helping people, not doing weird ...**... you know?

Dunn: So, when they took your stuff and made you leave the village, what happened then?

Judy: We got back to the rear and I was really not happy. And one of the captains came over to me and he says 'you're now an honorary captain' he put his chevron on me, and we went into the officer's club.

Dunn: And were you happy about that?

Judy: Yeah, a little bit.

Dunn: Would you rather have stayed then become an honorary captain?

Judy: A little bit, yeah. Oh yeah. You don't know how. I was ...**... crazy.

Dunn: And they had said you were there for too long?

Judy: Yes.

Dunn: What did they tell you? Why could you not stay?

Judy: You're there too ...**... long dude. You got to go. Why I wouldn't get no mouth at home at this time either.

Dunn: What about your cousin at this time? Had you heard from him?

Judy: No, not a word, he got agent orange and lost part of his brain and everything.

Dunn: Is he alive still today?

Judy: Oh yeah. Yes, he got agent orange from drinking water out of a cactus. They ran out of water so they were sucking on cactus that had been sprayed with agent orange.

Dunn: Yes, that'll get you.

Judy: Yes! Yes! So anyways--

Dunn: So, when you were an honorary captain, what was it like in the captain's quarters or whatever?

Judy: It was okay, it was alright. I just had a few cocktails too many and I didn't care for it. I went and got sent away.

Dunn: Got sent back home? And when you got back home did you go to Virginia or California?

Judy: California.

Dunn: And you've been here ever since?

Judy: Yes.

Dunn: So, when you, at this point are still apart of the marine corps. When did you decide you wanted to join the army?

Judy: Oh no when I got out of the marine corps, I was in for ten years, okay?

Dunn: Were you still in the marine corps when you got home from Vietnam?

Judy: Yes.

Dunn: And how long were you in the marine corps for?

Judy: I got out right. Oh my God I was in for a while because I was a weapons instructor and a tactics instructor. I built some Vietnamese villages on Camp Pendleton. And then my time was up. Then I just uh, decided I want out of the Marine corps and I got out. A couple years later I decide, nah I'm going to retire ...**...this. So, I went into the army national guard.

Dunn: And before that what did you do in between the time of after you retired from the marines but before you joined the army?

Judy: Before I joined the army? [clears throat] I think I owned my own fire extinguisher company and I was working as a mortician at Saddleback chapel.

Dunn: How did you get into the fire extinguisher business?

Judy: My brother in law owned a company and he got me involved in it.

Dunn: Now tell me about your mortician work.

Judy: My neighbor was a mortician and he was pretty much a drunk and me and him would get drunk and embalm bodies at night.

Dunn: Tell me about that.

Judy: Oh, I had my own kit and everything I would just go in there and embalm if you needed me to do it. I went and embalmed one of my soldiers from the army's national guard. I embalmed him.

Dunn: And how was that experience? Was that traumatizing for you?

Judy: No. Seen too many dead people, don't bother me. I know how to embalm.

Dunn: So, what about your PTSD, when did that come back with you? Immediately or?

Judy: PTSD was always there and it had to be always there because of some of the ...**... that I seen that I hadn't told and the wives. I mean I had five ...**... wives, they couldn't put up with me.

Dunn: Were you having outbursts or depression?

Judy: Everything. Both yes. And then they give me pills and I am fine.

Dunn: What pills do they give you?

Judy: I don't know I take one a day, half of one a day. Its for depression and everything, I guess. It works fine.

Dunn: When did you start smoking marijuana to start coping with your PTSD?

Judy: Oh ...**... as soon as I got out of the ...**... marine corps.

Dunn: Did you have a doctor's note?

Judy: No.

Dunn: Not at first? But you did use that to self-medicate?

Judy: Yes.

Dunn: Did it help a lot?

Judy: ...**... yes, [clears throat] hell yeah [sips alcohol]

Dunn: Let's continue, so did you ever join the fire fighters? Was that before you were in the army?

Judy: I was in there when I was in the army guard.

Dunn: So, you joined the army guard and became a fire fighter in the army?

Judy: No, I became a fire fighter when I was in the national guard. I had my own cash truck and everything.

Dunn: And what was your duty in the national guard. What did you do? What was your day-to-day activity like?

Judy: In the national guard? I had several duties; the first time I was in the army national guard I was in crash rescue operator in my firetruck and my fire crew. And then I got out of the national guard army and went into the air guard in crash rescue. Now I was there probably five years. And the rest of the time, I went back and went back to the army guard again. That's when I got my letter to retire and that's when I retired. Period.

Dunn: So can you tell me then. You retired in 1990 something right?

Judy: I could look at my ID card and see. I retired--

Dunn: Because you had told me you were in the 1992 LA riots, yes, or no?

Judy: Yes, I was there.

Dunn: And what was your experience with the 1992 riots?

Judy: My experience?

Dunn: What happened with the riots?

Judy: I had a whole company under me. I don't have that. I had a whole company was under me. At the riot. And we had, we protected downtown LA [Los Angeles] sheriff, all the jail, the LA county jail.

Dunn: And were the riots pretty bad?

Judy: We protected it and they were and once we protected that, then, the riots, one of my guys shot a guy who was trying to run over a police officer and found out he was wanted as a felon.

Dunn: The guy that was trying to run over a police officer?

Judy: Yes, so my guy got off. Then uh, lets see. We had that, we had the riots and then we had the earth quake. We had the Northridge earth quake; I was on that. I was in charge of tents and Hyde Park. So I put tents up in Hyde Park. Two companies of men were there.

Dunn: And what happened? Was the earthquake very bad?

Judy: You don't remember it?

Dunn: I don't think I was alive.

Judy: It crushed the apartments below it [shows with hands] the ones above crushed the ones below it.

Dunn: Wow, did a lot of people die?

Judy: I don't know how many died but it just crushed everything. So the park was right there and we put tents up. They brought their mattresses out and put them in the tents and everything.

Somebody forgot to talk to the gardeners, they left the ...**... sprinklers on. They came on like

at three in the morning. Underneath the tents. ...**...yeah, yep. Were busy [referencing to someone outside] what do you got in your hand? [door closes] so that was about it for the national guard. I sent the girl roses to send me my paperwork real quick. And other than that, that's about life in the military.

Dunn: That is isn't it? Let's see, is there anything as we are concluding, is there anything that you think is important to mention about any memories you had that we didn't talk about or anything you want to be preserved?

Judy: No, the only memory is of stuff I wish I could remember. I swear to God there's things I have blank spaces. To where I don't remember nothing. I really don't remember diddly ...**... ..**...

Dunn: Did you ever have nightmares going back?

Judy: Oh god yeah. Boy you talking? Oh yeah.

Dunn: Pretty bad?

Judy: Oh yes bad.

Dunn: Would they be about the experiences you had?

Judy: Yes, but I don't take [them] I got the pills.

Dunn: Do you remember those experiences?

Judy: Those pills take--yes I do but those pills.

Dunn: Do you want to talk about any of those? Or no?

Judy: No. those pills take care of all that ...**...I you know I have tortured people. I was in torture and it wasn't cute it wasn't pretty and it wasn't nice but I had to be there.

Dunn: I am really sorry to hear that, Steve.

Judy: Because I was there. I mean. We tortured that lady so bad.

Dunn: Well, anything else you want to say before we conclude the interview?

Judy: No, I think we're done.

Dunn: Yes, I think so. Well, I would like to thank you for allowing us to interview Steve and it means a lot. This is going to be very important to the future and history and all that so thank you. Last couple of things...we did this interview at your house in your garage today in Anaheim Hills California. Just going over all this stuff. Yes. Thank you, Steve.

Judy: You're welcome have a great day. Oh God who are you going to give this to they're going to go crazy.

[BREAK]

Audio [Track 2]

Dunn: So tell me about, we just took a little break, tell me about your, what happened and this this story you were telling me.

Judy: We had a tree line which 400 and--

Dunn: And where, before you start where was this, this was in Quang---

Judy: Quang Shrin my village.

Dunn: And what year was this do you remember?

Judy: This was back in '68, and we had a tree line in front of a village which was 460 meters exactly because that's the range of a M49 Blooper, so we couldn't reach with a blooper so we called in air strikes and the ground just waved like a shockwave, they dropped 500 pound bombs out there which actually leveled the tree line.

Dunn: And who was out there?

Judy: There were a north Vietnamese out there in a bunker and they'd only come out at night and we couldn't get them, we tried, finally that did them in and the bulldozers took over and I walked out through there and I found a boot with a foot in it and parts of weapons, everything, and the bulldozers came in and leveled it back to a sand dune.

Dunn: And what about, had you run into any fox holes while in Vietnam or anything like that?

Judy: Fox holes, no.

Dunn: No, never?

Judy: Never.

Dunn: Had you ever found any spies in your village, anyone who was working for the VC?

Judy: Oh we found one, yeah.

Dunn: What's the story with that

Judy: The story with that, we were on patrol, I was taking a patrol out one day, and one of the guys the NIAQUIN, which was our friendly, tripped a booby trap and a grenade, he got frags on that and then we went in to another AO which is Area of Operations and there was a bunker, and a M14 or AR15 laying there, and we knew then that that guy was a NIAQUIN that was with the Vietnamese.

Dunn: What is a NIAQUIN?

Judy: A NIAQUIN is a friendly Vietnamese, it's what they call them, and a VC is a Vietcong.

Dunn: So, your friends were the NIA--how do you say it?

Judy: Niaquins.

Dunn: Niaquins.

Judy: Yes.

Dunn: So, the P, what were the, you said you had 24 in the village, you had 24.

Judy: Niaquins

Dunn: Niaquins, what was their exact title?

Judy: Their title?

Dunn: The soldiers, the type of soldiers they were?

Judy: They're Vietnamese, south Vietnamese.

Dunn: Okay.

Judy: South Vietnamese soldiers.

Dunn: And they were as compared to the 12 marines you called the PCs or something like that or MCs do you know what I'm talking about?

Judy: What? The 24 Niaquins and I had 12 marines.

Dunn: Okay, and those were under your command?

Judy: Right, all of them.

Dunn: Yes.

Judy: Yes.

Dunn: Okay.

Judy: And we actually found a weapon in a bunker area which belonged to another CAP unit, see I was CAP 3, and there were CAP 1, 2, and 3, but we ran to CAP 1's area, which he wasn't very smart because one of his guys was a... **... VC!

Dunn: Really?

Judy: Yes! Cause he left a weapon there and he set a booby trap out there for us.

Dunn: Did you end up catching the guy?

Judy: Don't know what ever happened, I turned it over to him, not my CAP not my job.

Dunn: Did you guys ever celebrate holidays with the people in the village?

Judy: Oh yes.

Dunn: And things like that?

Judy: All the time. Yes, became very acclimated with the villagers.

Dunn: And they didn't think you guys were foreigners or invaders?

Judy: Oh?

Dunn: They liked you?

Judy: Yes, I have a picture around here somewhere, I had long hair and everything.

Dunn: Really?

Judy: I didn't wear a uniform.

Dunn: You didn't, what did you wear?

Judy: We didn't wear a uniform we wear what you want to wear; you want to wear shorts wear shorts, want to wear nothing don't wear nothing, don't give a ... ** ... you work for me ain't no body coming out here.

Dunn: So, you were the highest in charge?

Judy: I was the highest in charge.

Dunn: And what was your exact rank?

Judy: I was an E6.

Dunn: E6?

Judy: I was in charge of everything.

Dunn: And how often did you see superiors?

Judy: Once every two months.

Dunn: Just to do checkups and check ins?

Judy: They would come out and get us take me and back to the CP way back wherever and have beer and sodas and everything send you back out to your post.

Dunn: How often were you drinking out in Vietnam?

Judy: Say what?

Dunn: How often were you drinking alcohol?

Judy: [laughing] every ... ** ... day.

Dunn: What did you guys end up drinking more of, the Vietnamese rice wines?

Judy: Rice wine, rice wine.

Dunn: Were they made in village or were they shipped?

Judy: Right there, Monday they made rice wine.

Dunn: Was it delicious?

Judy: It was alright, because if you go down to Hue and buy a bottle, say VO, you're getting half water.

Dunn: And what is VO?

Judy: VO is a whiskey, what kind of whiskey do you know of scotch, anything you buy a bottle they turn upside down, cut the bottom out of the bottle, take half of it out put water in it, put that back on their and somehow reseal it.

Dunn: Really?

Judy: To where it won't leak, yes, you could drink a whole bottle of anything and not get drunk.

Dunn: So, what about cigarettes and stuff like that how did you come by them?

Judy: I didn't smoke.

Dunn: Never smoked cigarettes?

Judy: No.

Dunn: So, you only drank in [meaning in camp]?

Judy: No, yes.

Dunn: Did you have any people in your platoon who were smoking pot or were you not okay with that?

Judy: No, no, that wouldn't happen.

Dunn: So, not okay with that?

Judy: Nope, the NIAQUINS did, I knew they did but I didn't.

Dunn: The who, oh NIAQUINS!

Judy: Yes.

Dunn: Was that popular in their culture?

Judy: Oh yeah, but my guys no.

Dunn: Did you have an issue with them doing it, the niaquins?

Judy: ...**... yes I had a, no not with them I care less about them it's just I put one of my guys behind them and he ...**... up shoot the mother...**...

Dunn: Had there any been incidents where they had done anything like that?

Judy: No, not one.

Dunn: No?

Judy: No.

Dunn: And what about you friend who you said you had watched the birth of his child or had been there for the birth of his child, who was this friend of yours, in the village?

Judy: Oh yes, it was Mike Trunkie.

Dunn: And how was he did you have a good relationship with him?

Judy: Oh yes, my god me and him were best friends.

Dunn: Where did you first meet him?

Judy: Right there in the village, when they sent me to the village.

Dunn: And what was his role in the village?

Judy: He was in charge, he was like the mayor, he was in charge nobody did anything in that village without him and knowing it or doing it.

Dunn: And he was a cool guy?

Judy: Oh yes.

Dunn: And what about his wife, was she nice?

Judy: Oh yes she's a pretty nice young lady, yes.

Dunn: And how many kids did they have?

Judy: Just one

Dunn: Just the one, boy or a girl?

Judy: Boy.

Dunn: Boy? Do you remember the name?

Judy: Don't.

Dunn: Do you remember the name, his wife's name?

Judy: God no, ...**...no. [laughing]

Dunn: What did you guys do when you hung out, eat food, drink alcohol?

Judy: Eat and drink that's all.

Dunn: Did you often travel around the village or get to see the outside, were you close to the beach, what was your day to day, what did you do for activities?

Judy: No activities

Dunn: No activities?

Judy: Now the village was as big as, [cough] God as that school up here with half the property.

Dunn: Really?

Judy: That's how big it was.

Dunn: Really?

Judy: And we backed up to the gulf of Tonkin, yeah it wasn't that big of a village but we protected it [laughs] our job.

Dunn: That pretty cool, let me make a note of it real quick, the size of the school so we can kind of have an idea of how big that building is.

Judy: It's tiny. Tiny village.

Dunn: And what about the people below you, were you friends with any of the, your marines?

Judy: Well, I had to be, we were in cahoots together yes.

Dunn: Were there any of them that you didn't like?

Judy: No.

Dunn: You liked them all, every single one?

Judy: Oh, oh my god all the other villages you see we had CAP 1, 2 and 3 and I was 3 and my buddy in CAP 2, we talk all the time, we were always in cahoots doing weird... **... all the time, that's were we tortured the lady that was in his CAP, CAP 2.

Dunn: And what's the story with that, this is the Vietnamese spy?

Judy: She just needed to be done and---

Dunn: Can you tell me what happened?

Judy: The NIAQUINS did it and I had to witness it and they tortured this lady big time.

Dunn: What happened, why?

Judy: Huh?

Dunn: Why, what was she accused of?

Judy: She was a VC. She was smuggling guns or helping smuggle. She was VC, yeah she was just a VC.

[neighbors talking in the background]

Dunn: Wait once second for this interruption, alright we'll take a quick break on this.

[BREAK]

Dunn: Alright continuing back talking about Trunkie.

Judy: Trunkie is a Sargent in the ah popular forces of Vietnam and he was a truckie in the city in the town he was like the mayor of the town nobody did nothing without his approval and when I went there that who I met up with and we became really good friends and he mostly taught me

the language so other than that his wife was really nice. I was there when they had their daughter or son yeah it was a daughter not a son, yeah a he had a daughter not a son, wow yes.

Dunn: What do you remember about the village, what was your favorite thing?

Judy: My favorite thing in that village was going out at night on a boat, we called them a hoynoke, a hoynoke.

Dunn: What is a hoynoke?

Judy: Hoy means stink, and a boat means hoy, we called them a stinking boat, a hoynoke, they were stinking boats.

Dunn: And what would you do on these?

Judy: We'd go on that boat at night and catch crabs and we'd cook and eat crabs on that frickin boat all night long.

Dunn: Really?

Judy: Oh yes.

Dunn: And were you out on the ocean or the river?

Judy: No, no we were on that river like that went through there.

Dunn: And did they have big crabs?

Judy: The south China sea eating crabs yes.

Dunn: And was it pretty good?

Judy: Oh, hell yeah!

Dunn: Did you guys use anything to season them or did you eat them straight up?

Judy: No, we ate them straight out of there, you don't know what the hell you you're eating.

Dunn: Did you cook them or did you just eat them raw?

Judy: Well , we cooked them.

Dunn: Cooked them?

Judy: Yeah, they cooked them, boiled them, they didn't boil the insides and we eat all that ...**...probably eating the ...**... and everything out of it, who knows what the hell we've eaten.

Dunn: But it tasted good huh?

Judy: Oh yeah, it was really good, absolutely.

Dunn: And that was your favorite thing to do.

Judy: Yeah, yeah, we'd go out at night.

Dunn: Would you guys' drink and drink and do would you cage them or what?

Judy: I had all my people taken care of everything.

Dunn: Would you like put a commander in charge while you did that?

Judy: Oh yes, I had everything under control, you do this, you do that, and you do that, and you do that, and that's the way its going to be, I'm going down and have crab.

[laughing]

Dunn: And who would you go with crabbing?

Judy: Oh, I'd take only one of my guys with me that's all.

Dunn: Who, who was it?

Judy: Doesn't matter which one wanted to go.

Dunn: You change it all the time or what?

Judy: Yeah, depends on which one wanted to go that's all, hell yeah, or I would go by myself. I didn't care.

Dunn: You'd go by yourself on the boat?

Judy: Yeah, I'd done that before a lot of times.

Dunn: Wow.

Judy: A lot of times went out by myself, oh yes.

Dunn: Anything scary ever happen?

Judy: Nope.

Dunn: See anything spooky?

Judy: No, nope. I did some things I shouldn't have done, but nothing happened.

Dunn: What type of things did you do?

Judy: I took a ...**....**... one night and we went out on the boat anchored out in the middle of the water, stayed out there; that's ...**... stupid as ...**... but in the middle of the night we'd jump out and jump in the water. [sigh] It was fun, I had some fun times, but I could have been killed at any...**...minute. [laughing]

Dunn: You think so?

Judy: Oh yeah, I know so.

Dunn: And the weather was it pretty nice throughout the year?

Judy: Pretty.

Dunn: Did you get monsoon season?

Judy: It rained all the time, ...**...yes it rained all the time, but what the hell!

Dunn: So, what did you hate most about it?

Judy: The one thing I hated most about it, I hated leaving.

Dunn: You hated leaving, you liked it that much?

Judy: Yes.

Dunn: Everything about it?

Judy: I hated leaving, they ain't give me time to say goodbye to nothing anybody.

Dunn: Just went right out?

Judy: The...**... just came and took me; said you've got to go you've had enough. And that was a pretty sad day. Yes, that was a sad day, that was a very sad day.

Dunn: Did you cry at all?

Judy: Yes, that was a sad day, to leave my friends yes.

Dunn: Did you ever go back to Vietnam after the war?

Judy: Nope! No, hell no.

Dunn: Would you ever go back?

Judy: No.

Dunn: No?

Judy: Nope, no, cause it's all industrialized now, have you seen the pictures of Da Nang Vietnam, look at them, looks like Florida coast.

Dunn: Really?

Judy: High rises, beaches.

Dunn: No interest in going there?

Judy: Nope, no I don't want to.

Dunn: What about that old village, would you?

Judy: Its probably gone, wiped out probably, who knows, there were no young kids there so,

Dunn: when the village dries up; the old people die off, the young move on, yeah it's probably dead yeah I'm pretty sure its history.

Dunn: What are some things about the war that stand out to you, what are your thoughts, like looking back upon it as opposed to then and now, do you look at it differently?

Judy: Looking back on it?

Dunn: Looking back at the war do you think, you wish you had done things differently, or do you understand why it happened or do you think it shouldn't have happened, have your thoughts or feeling changed?

Judy: Well, the thing I look at is we didn't gain a damn thing by it. We didn't gain nothing, we lost. They can't say we won that war, we did not, we lost. We pushed our helicopters off the ships and everything just to get the ...**...out of there. We lost that war period, totally.

Dunn: Did you think it was worth going there?

Judy: ...**... no. No! We lost too many friends there.

Dunn: At the time did you think there was a reason to go or--?

Judy: I never thought really much about it to be honest with you.

Dunn: You didn't?

Judy: I was told to be there and I was there.

Dunn: And when did you, how long after did you think about there was no point in being there?

Judy: When I left?

Dunn: After you left.

Judy: Yeah, why? Why the ...**... were we there? Don't know, don't know, don't know.

Dunn: During you time did you have of friends or people?

Judy: Oh yeah, I have friends that got killed oh yes.

Dunn: And how was that, was that tough to deal with?

Judy: Just take them away and go on to the next place.

Dunn: Did that happen in the village or?

Judy: No that was in the company, the other patrol.

Dunn: Through the Ho Chi Minh?

Judy: The Ho chi Minh patrol trail yes.

Dunn: That was in 60--

Judy: 67 yes.

Dunn: Do you remember what months it's from?

Judy: [laughing] God no.

Dunn: Raining all the time?

Judy: I don't ...**... no hell no.

Dunn: On the patrols there was like 40 something of you, correct?

Judy: Yes.

Dunn: And how many of you did you end up losing, do you know?

Judy: In one patrol we lost 5.

Dunn: And what happened in that time?

Judy: We were going up and that's when we got hit by our own people.

Dunn: And that was the friendly fire?

Judy: Yes, we lost 5 there, none of them got killed but there was scrap metal on us.

Dunn: Had to be shipped out?

Judy: Yeah, flew them out.

Dunn: And did you have casualties, were there any major casualties? You told me about the one.

Judy: The one yes, the scout beside me he got killed.

Dunn: And was that at the--

Judy: He was alive when they lifted him out but blood was dripping on the leaves and...**... you could hear it. So, he was bleeding out so he probably died, I don't know you, we don't hear about them once they're gone.

Dunn: And was that the only loss?

Judy: Yes, as far as I was with, when your gone your gone we don't hear about you period.

Dunn: Were there any major large scale operations that you remember hearing about or anything like that, or what about the Tet offensive happened, did you hear about what happened in other cities?

Judy: Oh yes.

Dunn: And were you worried about that?

Judy: No, we were on guard about it and we had another CAP unit between us and Hue so if we heard something coming it would be coming to them first and they'd let us know. So no we were pretty good during Tet pretty damn safe, i was there for two Tets too so--

Dunn: What was the second one or the first opposed to the second, what happened?

Judy: The second wasn't that much really, there the one that hit hue, the second, lets see, the other one hit Da Nang, but the Tet that I was closest too was the one in Hue. They wiped Hue out--I mean they wiped that...**...village apart.

Dunn: And what year was that do you remember was that in the later part, 68 or 69?

Judy: It was 68, late 68.

Dunn: Late 68?

Judy: I think, I'm not real sure, anyway, that's the way it is brother, [drinks out of cup with ice]

Dunn: Anything else you can remember?

Judy: No, not that I can remember. Nothing I can remember.

Dunn: Can you think if there's anything else?

Judy: [sparks lighter and smokes pipe]

Dunn: What other awards and stuff, you had the purple heart and the--

Judy: Bronze star. Bronze medal.

Dunn: And did you get anything else or were those the only two?

Judy: I have the Vietnamese accommodation.

Dunn: Can you tell me about that the Vietnamese accommodation?

Judy: It's a just a ribbon you get for serving there and being in the CAP unit. It's that thing you took a picture of the other day.

Dunn: The one that's in Vietnamese [writing]?

Judy: Yes, it came from them.

Dunn: Coming back from the war, right after war, you longing to be back in Vietnam or was it easy to get back into society?

Judy: No, it wasn't. It was hard; nobody wanted you. ...**... no, they didn't like you at all.

Dunn: Why not?

Judy: Because you were a baby killer! [sparks lighter and smokes pipe]

Dunn: But you'd never killed any babies?

Judy: No.

Dunn: So, you think it was just people were being--

Judy: They just didn't like us, so ...**... them.

Dunn: What do you think about that?

Judy: Well Jane Fonda was a ...**...who started that.

Dunn: Who's that?

Judy: Jane Fonda? She was a ...**...who went to annoy Vietnam. When we were fighting Vietnamese, she was there against us.

Dunn: Was she filming or--

Judy: She was against us being there, period.

Dunn: Really?

Judy: Period, that's why they say "nobody's fond-a Jane. And if you go to an American legion to go take a piss in the urinal, you'll see a picture of Jane Fonda in the urinal!

Dunn: Peeing on Jane Fonda?

Judy: Piss on her, seriously!

Dunn: You hated Jane Fonda?

Judy: ...**...Jane Fonda, that ...**...

Dunn: What did you consider the people like that generation? Would you have considered them hippies who believe in that kind of stuff or was that just the average everyday type of person or--

Judy: No, she was just a dumb ...**...who didn't know what the she...**... was talking about and thought she'd make a name for herself, I guess. I don't know [sparks pipe] nobody's fond of Jane. No military person would ever give her a penny, nope, she sold us out. All military ask anybody, any military person what do you think of Jane Fonda? [sparks pipe, starts coughing] Oh my Gosh.

Dunn: So how long, when you were back how recent, like when you were in Vietnam did you have PTSD?

Judy: Over there?

Dunn: Yes.

Judy: No [insinuating he did not].

Dunn: When you got back you did?

Judy: Yes.

Dunn: Was it right away?

Judy: Yes. [gets up goes to freezer]

Dunn: Or did it happen over time?

Judy: It happened, [grabs meat out of freezer] wow, no it happened over a period of time.

Dunn: How long did it take?

Judy: I don't know cause what I did was I when I got back I opened my company [puts meat in microwave and turns it on] I opened when I got out of service period, out of the guard and everything and I did pretty...**... good at that.

Dunn: And like it you didn't have PTSD at that time?

Judy: What?

Dunn: Did you have PTSD at that time?

Judy: Oh yes.

Dunn: Yes?

Judy: Yes.

Dunn: Full blown?

Judy: Yes, but I had pills.

Dunn: And the pills helped?

Judy: Oh ...**...yes I take a half a pill a day.

Dunn: Still today?

Judy: Yes, if I don't--who knows what's going to happen, because it says do not stop without contacting a physician.

Dunn: Have you ever gone a day without it?

Judy: No.

Dunn: Never?

Judy: I know what it would do, I would go back to the same ...**...

Dunn: How about today when you see--

Judy: You get nightmares like ...**... man.

Dunn: When you see Vietnamese people today do you have any quarrels with them or no?

Judy: No, I will talk to them.

Dunn: Totally cool?

Judy: I talk to them yes, I'd rather be around them than some whites, I'm dead serious. I have them cut my hair, by [someone] Vietnamese, they like me yes, I took them that letter I showed.

Dunn: Really?

Judy: Yes, they like me, yes indeed.

Dunn: So, is there anything else?

Judy: That's about it, I think.

Dunn: Alright well thank you again Steve, we'll call it a stop for now and if there's anything we can think of we will continue back up.

Judy: You got it

[BREAK]

Audio [Track 3]

Dunn: So, repeat that story.

Judy: We uh, had some incoming on hill 1150 and I was in the trench. I was a sergeant in charge of my company of my platoon then some wire people communications threw a grenade and landed just on the other side of the sandbag bunker that I was on. And that's something to do with my hearing. And it was on that hill there that one of my guys was in a bunker at night and the bunker from so much rain caved in and killed him. He was suffocated behind that bunker. So, then we moved from there over to hill 950 and at 950 it was raining constantly and the mud but nothing. And we just got in what little cover we could find, until that blew over and then the next morning, I had to lead a patrol down the hill to catch up with the other company. And we did that and it was really wet and rockets were just making a lot of noise in the bushes. There's a lot of rock apes and they will throw rocks at you.

Dunn: What is a rock ape?

Judy: A rock ape is a...**...monkey that throws rocks at you. Like a gorilla. Some rock apes over there. And you got the rock apes and you got the tigers—

Dunn: And you could see the rock apes?

Judy: I only saw one rock ape and it looked like a monkey. [laughs] That's it. Then you got the—

Dunn: Did they have a tail?

Judy: Yes just like a monkey. Just a big ape looking thing yeah. And then you got the tigers, tigers were on a couple of mountains there.

Dunn: And who were the taggers?

Judy: The tigers?

Dunn: Who are the taggers?

Judy: They were Benghal tigers.

Dunn: Tigers, sorry.

Judy: Tigers.

Dunn: Bengal tigers.

Judy: Bengal tigers yes. They were there.

Dunn: You saw a tiger?

Judy: No I never saw one. Nope. They--some guys got attacked by a tiger though.

Dunn: Never heard anything about that?

Judy: never heard much about it, but I tell you what though. We were actually starving to death when we were on Cayson airstrip. We were starving. We were hungry. We didn't have no food. I went without food for quite a few days over there.

Dunn: What would you eat when you did eat?

Judy: Sea rations.

Dunn: Canned stuff?

Judy: Yes. And we were on one place, I don't—it's just so funny I don't remember anything about most places I was but I remember being in a big opening in the top of a mountain and a C130 comes flying over; you couldn't see nothing in the fog and they were dropping pounds of sea rations to us. You could hear them coming but you couldn't see that pilot until it was right on top of you. Swear to ...**...God. That was the scariest part. You could get landed on by the power of the...**... sea rations [laughs] but they finally dropped them in and got them to us. That was one of the—

Dunn: What was your favorite things in the rations and your least favorite things in the rations?

Judy: My favorite? Ham and eggs. Oh!

Dunn: How did they come? Already cooked?

Judy: Oh, yes already cooked in the can. Oh yeah you could warm them up and everything. I still got my can opener.

Dunn: Really?

Judy: My can opener is in my pocket. [wrestles around in pants pockets]

Dunn: Let me see, when was this issued?

Judy: This is the one I carried it all through Vietnam. That is my--

Dunn: That's a can opener?

Judy: That is my can opener.

Dunn: Wow, I'm going to have to get a can some time so you can open it.

Judy: [laughs] that is my can opener!

Dunn: That's really cool! So, what was the worst thing that you got in the rations?

Judy: Excuse me?

Dunn: What was the worst thing you got in the rations?

Judy: I—

Dunn: There had to be something that everybody hated.

Judy: Actually no. Cause--beans and ...*... was pretty good even. Little sausages with beans in them.”

Dunn: Beans and ...**...?

Judy: Yeah little [laughs] beans and...**...[laughs] yes!

Dunn: That’s pretty funny.

Judy: Yes.

Dunn: I’m trying to think if you said anything else? Well, I’ll call it a break for now.

[BREAK]

Dunn: What would you do on birthdays and stuff like that, did you do anything special or?

Judy: No.

Dunn: No? what about the radio? Did you have a radio to listen to sports or anything like that?

Judy: No, no radios. I’ve lost track of all music from when I went over there in ’67 and I never heard any music from ’67 to ’69 when I came back here. We had no radios at all. And I missed all that bull...**... so now people ask me about music and I say I don’t know. I don’t. No idea. No idea what you’re talking about.

Dunn: Did you like the music when you came back?

Judy: Yes, I came back to country, that’s it. that other ...**... I didn’t even understand it.

[laughs]

Dunn: Which music are you talking about? [laughs]

Judy: Oh, all that other music, God I like that one black chick was into music when I was--Aretha Franklin.

Dunn: You liked her?

Judy: Yes, I liked her music, yeah. Yes I liked her music. [takes drink of alcohol]

Dunn: So, then what would you guys do on a day-to-day basis since the village is relatively safe and all that kind of stuff? Would you hang out?

Judy: I had my guards out. [heating food up in microwave] I had guards out. I had my guards and my guys under control.

Dunn: So, what would you do then on a day-to-day basis, say you woke up and it was an average Tuesday. Run me through the day”

Judy: Everybody knew what their job was and everybody would do their jobs.

Dunn: Well, what was your job? Specifically?

Judy: Watch over them and make sure they were doing their job and then talk to the Tronsky.

Dunn: What would you usually eat for lunch?

Judy: Whatever they want, they had their sea rations.

Dunn: Did you eat rations or did you eat the village food?

Judy: We had sea rations and we had other food that they bring us in once and while. Once a week we got a tow truck round and they'd bring us stuff.

Dunn: And the rations were pretty good?

Judy: Oh God yes.

Dunn: Never like when you were starving and—

Judy: Well, that's what we had too but we didn't have any of it, we were...**... hungry. A lot of times we were really hungry out there.

Dunn: Did you ever have a camera with you or anything to take any pictures?

Judy: No, never had a camera. Hell no. No! We had no room to carry a ...**... camera nor a phone.

Dunn: Where did you guys sleep at night, were all the marines in different spaces or were you intertwined with the village.

Judy: Where?

Dunn: When you were living in Quang Tri?

Judy: Well, the city people built me my own tent. I had my own hooch made out of metal and I put my guys in there, some of you guys over there and some of you over there and I'm over here. Oh yeah, we stayed inside on cots, yeah. Except when we were up North and we slept on the ground. And not very soft ground either.

Dunn: When you say north you mean the Ho Chi Minh?

Judy: Yes.

Dunn: And how long were you on the Ho Chi Minh for?

Judy: [coughs] we were on that for about two days. Walking. [long pause] But I forget all that ...**... really.

Dunn: Well, thank you again Steve I really appreciate it.

Judy: No problem, I hope you get it all figured out.

---End of interview---

