

James M. Kasbarian

Korean War



**When did you enter the military?**

“September twenty-seventh, nineteen fifty-one”

**How old were you when you entered and how long were you in the military?**

“Twenty-one”

**What boot camp did you go to?**

“Parris Island”

**How long was the boot camp?**

“Ten weeks”

**Did you go to a second Boot camp? If so then why?**

“No”

**Did you join the military voluntarily?**

“No, I was drafted.”

**What branch of military where you in?**

“United States Marine Corps”

**What equipment did you use on a daily basis?**

“Well, there were all kinds of things we used there, at the boot camp, uh; I went to California boot camp then. Then I learned how to use a tank, how to fire the tanks, and, uh, how to drive a tank.”

**What rank you did you achieve?**

“Corporal”

**Were you wounded while you were in the military? If you were in what way were you wounded?**

“No”

**Were you in any famous campaigns or battles?**

“No, not really”

**Did you receive any awards or medals for your service?**

“Oh I got these, these medals here. I got one from the Korean president, and one for being in the marine navy core units; Heroism in action, and extremely meritorious service.”

**What did you do on a “normal or average Day” while you were in the military?**

“Normal average day...? Well...we did a lot of things, we were taught how to fire tanks, how to drive tanks, taught how to load tanks. In boot camp we learned how to fire a machine gun and how to march and all that kind of stuff, I’d say. Got up about four o’clock in the morning, had to be in bed around, I’d say ten o’clock. But the G.I.s would sometimes wake me up earlier, at about three o’clock in the morning. Depends on how they felt that day.”

**What was your normal or most common routine while you were at war or battle?**

“Well the routine way, I guess, just to protect myself and, uh, my unit when we were overseas.”

**What type of firearm(s) did you use?**

“Well, I used a thirty caliber machine gun and one rifle, I think forty-five (caliber) that’s about it.”

**Did you use any heavy weapon Artillery?**

“No.”

**While at war, what helped you pass the time?**

“Well, thinking about coming home. You know, uh, getting outta there.”

**While at war, what helped you get through hard times?**

“Thinking about home, and listening to music on the radio.”

**After you came home from war, did your perspective on anything change?**

“No.”

**Did you carry anything from the military with you after the war?**

“No. You mean uniform? Yeah, I brought back my uniform, I was discharged in it and wore it home, and then I never wore it again.”

**What was your job after the war?**

“After I got discharged...? I worked in a sheet metal place.”

**I see you brought a hat could you tell us about it?**

“What the hat? I got that at this place here, from the VFW magazine.”

**I see you brought some pictures. Could you tell us about them?**

“That was taken in boot camp, Paris Island; it was only a jacket and a hat, half uniform.”

