

Frank Malora

Korea



When did you enter the military?

"I Enlisted in 1948"

How old were you?

"20"

What boot camp did you go to?

"Boot Camp in Great Lakes"

Great Lakes?

"Great Lakes. It's up in Chicago"

How long were you there?

"Well that was...for boot camp generally runs 3 months"

Did you go to a second boot camp?

“ Oh, when I was going in, it was during Christmas holidays so we broke for the holiday and we went home on leave for thirty days. Then I went back to Chicago finish our time on our tour.”

Did you join the military voluntarily?

“Yup”

What made you join the military?

“Well, I Just felt like it, like joining the navy”.

What branch did you join...What branch of the Military are you in?

“Navy, US Navy”

What equipment did you use on a daily basis?

“Well, when you are in boot camp you don’t use anything but a very warm jacket; because it is freezing up there. For boot camp they sent me up to Alaska.”

What rank were you?

“Engineman, Third Class”

What?

“Engineman, E-N-G-I-N-E. I worked around Engines. Ships Engines and small boat engines”

Was it steam engines?

“ Not my...mine was diesel, all diesel.”

“Yeah we worked... I worked for the times before I retired, and we had a lot of the guys working for us”

“In fact there was a guy called fisher he had a board like this made up and he was an engineer too. He was a good man.”

Where you wounded in the military?

“No”

Where you in any famous battles?

“No because we operated the whole ship the whole ship goes in and your all part of it.”

Did you receive any awards or medals for your service?

“Yeah, right there, they are mostly Korean medals”



Can you explain them to us?

“Korean medal, that’s a victory medal it started from ww1, each one they make a different design but the main design they hold. This was a Bergen county medal everyone gets that, it’s a good conduct medal it means you were good and you got caught. The single service, patch ... this is the amphibian- means water and

land. We went in and we had a picture of the ship with two big doors on the front they go to the beach they open the doors and let out tanks and trucks, foot soldiers. This is the Korean medal again and that's a bravery medal right here they don't have a medal they just gave out this. This is a amphibious patch. This is your dog tag. The dog tag changed they have a spot on the bottom now to put in the bottom now."

Like a dental record?

"No your dead, there is no record. There were so many people moving back and forth that sometimes you lose people."

Which one means the most to you?

"They are all different and important."

What about the picture where was it taken?

"I had another in the rifle range. I should have brought down my father's WWII purple heart, he was wounded."

Was the picture taken on us soil?

"Yeah, I could have put my sons on it too. We would have had a father son and grandson."

What about the ID?

That's important, if you lose that in order to replace it you had to see the man; and he chews you out and when he finishes chewing you out you had to spend some time in the Brig on board ship. They don't mess with you, they don't play with you."

Did the dog tag originally have rubber on the outside?

"No that's from WWII they did that"

What was a normal or average day while in the military?

My mate, machinist mate we worked. The ship had to go, the steam has to come up it has to be distributed to all the places it has to go you had to feed the galley .You feed the galley with a carburetors they had a pump feeding into that because they cooked there. The p umps were very imported because on a LST landing ship tank. We had to take ashore what the operations would need some times you had bull dozers and all sorts of heavy equipment. We didn't use the heavy equipment we transported it. We worked and did what the boss told you.

What was your routine while you were in the military?

“We got regular job the navy has a great system they call in other works they had a list fire watch where the fire was and which way to go up one ladder and up another ladder. When you were on an emergency call you didn't want to be running into some guys coming down. You had to make sure you were in the right ladder. If there was a fire on the ship you had to know what to bring with you. You would bring a fire extinguisher or you might be a hose man. Everyone has their job and you have to be there. Fire is the worst thing that could happen on a ship. Aboard the ship you are the gang. They send you to school for all your trades and teach you what you should do, what to prepare for, what to bring, why you need to bring it and the timing.”

What fire arms did you use?

“We have, everyone had an M1 because you never know. It's like a rifle. If you go over the side with a job to do you might need the gun.”

Did you use any heavy artillery?

“No”

While at war what helped you pass the time?

“I was in before they had T.V. on the ship now they have tv and that's very nice. But it was home for me I made twenty dollars which was a lot in those days and it was fun.”

While at war what helped you get through the hard times?

“Knowing that you were going home soon”

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

“Oh yeah it’s changed over the years. Some got married. I did an apprenticeship under the GI bill.”

Do you carry anything from the military with you after the war?

“No”

Is there anything you would like to add or say that I missed?

“Each day is a different deal; you are busy all day long. The first part they sent me up to Alaska, they didn’t send me to the big Island called Kodiak. They sent me out to this point. You have Alaska here and it’s got a tail going over here. You got Axel which by the way was captured by the Japanese during the WWII; but they found out it was too cold so they left it . I was on the next island over her ADAK I was the pearl of the ocean chain because we had flush toilets. It was cold. They guys use to hook onto the bus that was up there and slide down on sleds. You have to make the best of it. That could have been a real lousy situation but you have to go on so make things fun.”

Thank you sir for your time and your service.