

Gift and Release Agreement

We Steve Reaves and Valerie Frames
Interviewee (print) Interviewer (print)

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Steve's home (Wedowee, Alabama)

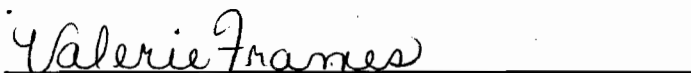
on the date(s) of February 11, 1995

for the oral history collection being compiled by Dr. Marshall.


Interviewee's signature

Address Route 1 Box 229
Wedowee, AL 36278
Phone (205) 303-

Date February 11, 1995


Interviewer's signature

Address Route 1 Box 108
Delta, AL 36258
Phone (205) 253-2272

Date 11 February 1995

INTERVIEWEE BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Name: Steve W. Reaves M/F M

Address: Route 1 Box 229 Wedowee, AL 36278

Phone number(s): (205) 363-2922

Approximate age or date of birth: June 19, 1949

Mother's Name: Ruby

Father's Name: John

Places lived and when: Anniston 1953-1972

Education: 12th

Religion: Baptist

Business, political and social memberships (past and present) VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars); NFIB

Present occupation: Self-employed

Former occupations: Equipment Operator

Special Skills: Hydraulics

Major Accomplishments: Raising his family

National Events in which interviewee has participated: _____

Local Events in which interviewee has participated: _____

National born U.S. citizen? Yes No

Naturalized Citizen: Yes/No Date: _____

Country from which he/she emigrated: _____

Documents, photographs, and artifacts which are in the possession of the interviewee: photographs

Individuals recommended by the interviewee who might be candidates for an oral history interview: _____

Additional information: _____

Interviewee: Steve Reaves
Interviewer: Valerie Frames
Date of Interview: 11 February 1995
Place of Interview: Steve's home
Route 1 Box 229
Wedowee, AL 36278
Subject of Interview: Vietnam War

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. Birth

- A. Greenville, South Carolina
- B. 19 June 1949

II. Parents

- A. John Reaves
- B. Ruby Reaves

III. Siblings

- A. Three brothers -- John, Kenneth, and Byron
- B. Three sisters -- Janice, Debbie, and Lisa

IV. Residences

- A. Alabama since 1953
- B. All of family in Alabama

V. Wife and Children

- A. Joan Turner Reaves
- B. Daughter -- Lisa in Anniston, AL
- C. Son -- Adam in Marine Core stationed in North Carolina

VI. School

- A. Saks High School
- B. No college

VII. Jobs

- A. First with self-employed father
- B. Textile industry

VIII. Involvement in Vietnam

- A. Joined Army in 1966
- B. 18 years old

X. Thoughts and Feelings

- A. Feared a lot
- B. Did not know what to expect

XI. Vietnam

- A. Went March 1968
- B. Stayed 18 months
- C. Left October 1969

XII. Duties and Responsibilities

- A. Combat engineer
- B. Keep supply routes open
- C. Mine sweeping
- D. Protect locals

XIII. Spare Time

- A. Not much of it
- B. Talk to buddies
- C. Write letters home
- D. Go nowhere
- E. Basically up with sun and guard duty at night

XIV. Impressions of Vietnam

- A. Country
 - 1. Pretty
 - 2. Mountains
 - 3. Near South China Sea
 - 4. Beaches with white sand
- B. People
 - 1. Wanted to be left alone
 - 2. Did not get to know
 - 3. Language barrier
 - 4. Did not know who to trust

XV. Return to States

- A. From Vietnam to States in 24 hours
- B. No time of winding down
- C. Not prepared to return to normal situations

XVI. U.S. Pullout

- A. Glad to be out
- B. Wanted to just do time and come home
- C. Vietnam collapses afterwards
 - 1. North takes South
 - 2. Nothing to it
- D. A lot dead
- E. "What was it all for?"
- F. More sad now than then
- G. Too young then for reality

XVII. Reunions

- A.** Present at one
- B.** Last July in Missouri
- C.** 35 people
- D.** Recognized some
- E.** Not much talk on Vietnam
- F.** Good time
- G.** Talk about present -- family and work
- H.** Planning on attending another year after next

XVIII. Final Thoughts of War

- A.** Hope children never experience
- B.** Do not understand reasons of occurrence and involvement
 - 1. Basically money
 - 2. Basically economic matters
- C.** No accomplishment in helping people
- D.** No benefit in war
 - 1. Many killed
 - 2. Poor country
 - 3. No gold or oil
 - 4. Plenty of rice
- E.** Good and bad memories
- F.** No rest and recuperation
- G.** A lot of things to say but cannot
- H.** Upset at times -- friends die
- I.** No TV deaths -- literally blown-up and burned
- J.** Smell
 - 1. Enters at arrival
 - 2. Never leaves
 - 3. Still present today

XIV. After War

- A.** Get out of service in October
- B.** Marry in December
- C.** Obtain variety of employment
 - 1. Coca-Cola Company
 - 2. Hospital
 - 3. Cotton mill
 - 4. Work with father
 - 5. Father retires -- runs father's business
- D.** Struggle in business
 - 1. Told of Veteran's Benefits
 - 2. No help
 - 3. A lot of red tape
- E.** No parades
- F.** Looked down on

XV. Personal Thoughts

- A.** Welcome home years later -- "too little too late"
- B.** Never at Washington
- C.** Never marched
- D.** "As long as doing for country, fine. Do not depend on country always to do for you."
- E.** Vietnam -- bummer
- F.** Biggest accomplishments
 - 1. Getting married
 - 2. Having children
 - 3. Growing up
- H.** "Things have to actually happen before you know what you will really do."

QUESTIONS

1. When were you born?
2. Where were you born?
3. Who were your parents?
4. Do you have any siblings?
5. If so, what are their names?
6. How long have you lived in Alabama?
7. Is any of your family living in Alabama?
8. Are you married?
9. To whom?
10. Do you have any children?
11. If so, who are they?
12. Do they live in Alabama?
13. Where did you go to school?
14. Did you go to college?
15. What was your first job? At what age?
16. How did you get involved in Vietnam?
17. What were your first thoughts?
18. What were your feelings concerning Pres. Johnson and his motives and actions?
19. When did you go?
20. How long did you stay?
21. What were your duties and responsibilities?
22. What did you do during your spare time?
23. Were you married during this time?
24. What were your impressions of Vietnam -- the country, the people, other soldiers?
25. What was your return to the states like?
26. How did you feel about the end of the war -- U.S pullout?
27. Have you been present at any reunions since?
28. Did you preview the tape you mentioned having? If so, do you want to discuss anything?
29. What are your final thoughts?
30. Were you involved in anything else besides Vietnam?