



Allan Schaefer

**Vietnam War
U.S. Army**

**71st Artillery Battery D
6th Battalion
SP5 (E-5)**

Allan Schaefer

**Veterans
History
Project
Transcript**

**Interview conducted
October 4, 2017**

**Niles-Maine
District Library
Niles, Illinois**



Niles-Maine District Library District

Veterans History Project Transcript

Veteran: **Allan Schaefer** Rank: **SP5 (E-5)**

Branch of Service: **U.S. Army** Theater: **Vietnam**

Unit: **71st Artillery Battery D, 6th Battalion**

Interview Date: October 4, 2017

Place: Niles-Maine Public Library
Board Room

Equipment: Philips Digital Pocket Memo Recorder
Sony Camcorder

Interviewer: Neil O'Shea
Transcriber: Charles Menicocci

This Veteran's History Project interview is being conducted on October the 4th in the year- October the 4th in the year 2017 here at the Niles-Maine District Library. My name is Neil O'Shea and I am one of the reference staff here and I am speaking with Mr. Allan Schaefer. Mr. Schaefer was born on the 22nd of October in 1946 and he now lives in Morton Grove.
(Interviewer's words)

He was born in Chicago. Mr. Schafer learned of the Veteran's History Project through the veteran's group that meets-

at Dunkin' Donuts (Veterans words)

Here in Niles on-

On Dempster Street.

On Dempster Street, yes. It's usually on

Tuesday mornings.

Tuesday Mornings. And, Mr. Schaefer has kindly consented to be interviewed for the project and give us his story. Mr. Schaefer is it ok if I address you as Allan?

Of course.

Thank you, thank you. So, the first question, do you remember when you entered the service?

I do. I graduated from high school, knew I wasn't going to college, my neighbor was a 1st lieutenant in the Army and came home on leave. And I said, "I would like to enlist but I want to make sure when I do enlist that I get some kind of training, so that when I get out of the service I will have some kind of skill." And he says, "Well let me take you down to the recruiting office, so we both went down there and I enlisted for three years. And I asked to be a cook. My MOS (Military Occupational Specialty) was 94B20.

You graduated from high school. Did you attend high school in the area?

Yeah, Niles West.

Niles West.

Graduated in 1965.

1965. And, so your service dates are January the 28th 1965?

No, November.

November, I see. I missed the 11th. Yeah, so did you have the expectation that you might be drafted at that time?

You know, I wasn't really thinking about the draft, I was thinking more about what I'm going to do-

For the next few years, that makes sense.

Right.

One of the veteran's I interviewed here during this time period, it wasn't in Illinois. It might've been another state, but when he went down to enlist they told him there was no room in the three-year plan so he would have to go in the four-year plan.

He might not have been in the Army.

Yeah, he was in the Navy. So that was the difference. So, then you enlisted for the-

For the Army.

For the Army, for three years.

Right.

And then you, did you, so where was your basic training?

From there, I did basic training at Fort Knox, Kentucky. And after graduating from basic training I got shipped to Fort Lee, Virginia. And it was the quartermaster school, and it was about a 12-week class, all about sanitation, cooking in the field, cooking in the mess hall, baking, sanitation, storage of food.

So, it sounds like you were really learning something.

Yes, yeah.

So, did you take any courses in high school that were kind of in that direction?

Yes, I did take Home Ec in high school.

Ah, so there it is.

That's the one I enjoyed. They had me in mechanics and wood class, and I hated that.

Was that the first time you were away from home for any length of time?

Yes, that was my first time in the real world.

And was it a little bit of an adjustment being in the-

You know it was, but I managed it pretty well. I had my faith and I went to church every Sunday and-

You were able to continue to practice your faith?

Yes, in fact I was even an altar boy. On the base.

And as an altar boy is there a particular, is that a Catholic church thing?

Yes.

Yes. So, were you part of one of the parishes around here?

No, it was at basic training and at Fort Lee Virginia, and on the army base they would have services on Sunday and I would assist the priest with Mass.

I was wondering if you were part of any parishes in this area that you were associated with.

I, yes St. Peter's.

St. Peter's. So, when you-

That's St. Peter's Catholic Church.

Yes, So basic training was in Fort Knox and then they ship you to Camp-

Fort Lee, Virginia.

Fort Lee, Virginia for the three-months quartermaster school.

Yes, it was twelve weeks.

Twelve weeks. So after, do you get better food then if you're the quartermaster?

Oh, ho-ho, we got a lot of perks. A lot of perks.

Did you gain weight while you were in the Army?

No.

Where there any, how about in basic training were there any memorable drill instructors?

No.

Any types of people that you encountered that you just couldn't get along with?

No, not at all. We were all brothers in arms and we knew what was going on and we all got along fine.

So then from Virginia then, what's next?

Well, that was the big order I got. Vietnam.

How did that go over?

Well, they gave me a thirty-day leave, came home, got engaged to my high school sweetheart. She was going into her senior year and we've been married for 50 years now.

So, do you think the fact that you were going to Vietnam, was that a factor in the timing of your engagement?

Probably. For sure.

For sure. And was that lady in Niles West with you?

Yes, yes. Her name was Linda Friedman; she lived in Lincolnwood.

And how did your parents, were they worried about it at the time?

I'm sure, you know, but they didn't really come out and say it. But they were concerned like any good parent would be.

Were you the only son?

No, I had a younger brother, and he was graduating from Niles West also and then going to Northern Illinois when I was in Vietnam. Or in the service.

Was there a tradition of military service in your family?

Yes, definitely. All my mom's brothers, my father, they all served.

So, you grew up with an appreciation and familiarity with American military accomplishments.

Yes, in fact as a kid I always wanted to go to West Point, but I didn't have the...I was a slow learner. I had a learning disability.

Was that reading, left to right or?

It was a little bit of everything.

Then the cooking was a great, practical, useful skill that benefits yourself and human beings in a real basic way.

Yes, for sure, definitely.

So, you come back to Chicago then for a month-

A thirty-day leave.

Thirty days.

Get engaged.

So, your future wife saw you in your uniform?

Oh yes. And then when the day came I flew, that was the first time I was ever on a-- no was that the first time? My first time on a plane was from Fort Lee, Virginia, to home and then the second was all the way to California and we left on Continental Airlines out of San Francisco. Our first stop was in Hawaii, second stop was at Clark Air Force Base in the Philippines and the last stop was, of course, Tan Son Nhut in Saigon where we came in the country and processed in country.

Did you find it warm when you landed?

It was. Very warm.

It must've taken a little while to adjust to the climate.

It did, for sure. And then after processing through in Saigon, they put me on a C-130 plane and sent me to Cam Ranh Bay, which was our headquarters for the 71st Artillery.

And then Cam Ranh Bay, that must've been a pretty big installation because there would've been Navy there too?

Yes, it was a big port. A very big port.

So, you're attached to artillery, but you aren't going to be firing any guns, were you?

It wasn't the guns; it was a Hawk missile site. Ok? And we protected two ports, Cam Ranh Bay and Nha Trang from any air attacks. Ok? I was stationed at Nha Trang, at Camp McDermott in what we called Tent City. And then we would have to prepare food for the company that was on the ground that was off, ok? Beause they would rotate up the hill to the missile site, and we would have to get food up to them also. So, we took food up by truck to the missile site, plus feed the ones down at the base camp.

Right, so you would feed the people down below and then also up

Right, and then we would feed the people at the missile site.

They must've been glad to see you coming.

Oh, they were.

One veteran said the quartermasters the most important people, they're the most important people.

Quartermaster and the supply sergeant.

Yes, thank you. And was there plenty of food to work with?

There was. We even had Vietnamese help that would do all of the hard kitchen cleanup. Pots and pans and all that, so the soldiers wouldn't have to do any of that like at basic training, you know? There wasn't any KPs they called it.

So, they folks that you're working with there, the military people, they're not eating the C-Rations or anything?

No.

No, so this is good stuff?

Yes.

And then-

We had big Thanksgiving. We had turkeys, same thing with Christmas.

So, then these Hawk missile batteries, did they ever fire or were they just in case?

They were set up, ready to fire, if they had to, because Cam Ranh Bay was a huge port-
I would imagine.

where a lot of the supplies came and Nha Trang was not as big of a port, but it was where the special forces were at the air base, so we wanted to protect the 5th Special Forces from any air attacks.

Did you have any trouble sleeping out in?

We slept in a tent.

It wasn't too hot or?

You know what? You get used to it. We had mosquito nets, ok? - because the mosquitos were bad. We were on a beachhead and the back of us was the China Sea, and in front of us was a perimeter with hills and jungle.

You never came down with malaria then or anything?

No, but we took malaria pills and all that. We even had a PX on the base, we had an entertainment section on the base where you could watch movies, play slot machines, lose your paycheck.

Yes, in terms of gambling, was there smoking and drinking?

Drinking, I wasn't a smoker. And of course, a little gambling.

So, you never smoked before you went in the Army?

No, I was pretty involved in athletics at Niles West, football, basketball, baseball. So, I didn't really smoke.

But you wouldn't have minded a beer maybe?

No.

So, there was beer?

Yep.

Any particular kind of beer?

You know I knew you might ask me that-

Oh dear, I'm a beer man myself.

So am I. I don't drink pop at all. But I don't recall what kind of beer it was. Maybe it was, it was some kind of domestic beer.

So, it could've been-

Meister Brau or I think I want to say Meister Brau.

So, when you arrive in Vietnam, what rank are you at that time?

I was just an E-2.

An E-2?

Yeah.

So that's like a Private First Class?

Yeah, a little above that. Well, Private First Class or Corporal or something like that.

So, you got a promotion to E-5?

Yes.

How did that come about?

Well I think it was Captain Smith who was in charge of our company saw the work I was doing every day and it kept the morale of the men up, and that- he noticed. So, I managed to get E-5 fairly quickly. And the nice thing was that the Morton Grove Women's Club there were about six or seven Morton Grove boys in Vietnam when I was there and out of the six or seven they picked me to adopt, ok? And there's lots of articles about me in the local Morton Grove Champion newspaper.

Champion?

Yep. And I can bring them to you if you want to scan them.

Yeah, a couple of pages could work nice.

So, they adopted me and my whole platoon and I was the guy everybody wanted to hang out with because I got all the goodies.

Goodies would've been cookies or?

Cookies, soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrush. You know they sent everything. They were so wonderful.

So, you said, was that quartermaster school you attended?

Yes.

Quartermastering involves more than cooking, though right?

Yes, but for me it was cooking. Quartermaster could've been supplies, you know, different things.

So, was it easy enough to stay in touch with your family when you were in?

You know, I was very lucky with that also. Back then I could talk to my girlfriend or my parents through a ham radio operator. Somehow, the ham operator radios would help with us communicating back home. And you know, it was "Hi how are you doing, over."

Oh, yeah.

You know, it was the ham radio-

And there was no censorship or anybody?

No, no.

I wonder if the authorities knew that or something?

I don't know.

So, the ham radio person would've been some American soldier?

Or some American person, yeah.

So, at this base you're feeding just Army people?

Correct.

Because the Navy had their own crowd, didn't they?

Oh yeah.

I wonder how the Navy food was compared to the Army food.

I don't know.

So, did you get any R & R while you were there?

I did. I got an R & R, and I decided to go to Hong Kong. And I went to Hong Kong in February and that was their New Year's, so that was kind of interesting. But the reason I picked Hong Kong was because I was getting married when I came back from Vietnam and I wanted to get a tuxedo custom-made. So, I got a tuxedo custom-made and had it shipped back home and then when I came home my wife had graduated from Niles West and two weeks later she got married and then we honeymooned across the country because I was stationed in Fort Lewis in Washington state for a year.

So, when you were at the Cam Ranh Bay there, you said you were good at lifting the morale. Did you feel any pressure or stress there?

You know, I was only in Cam Ranh Bay for a few days, ok? And then they sent me to Nha Trang.

Nha Trang.

Yeah, to Camp McDermott, to our other missile site. And that's where I stayed for the rest of the year.

And did you feel any stress or?

Yeah, our base camp, ok, it was big. It was a big what they called Tent City, and that was on a beachhead, and our base camp did get hit a few times on the perimeter. Some sniper fire and things like that. But never, called a red alert or put up flares, or lit up the sky or-

Did you have to wear a helmet when you were taking the food up?

Oh yeah, sure. Even a flak jacket.

A flak.

Yeah, a flak jacket.

And did you carry a gun even when you were doing that?

I did not, no pistol no gun.

So, did any famous entertainers come anywhere near you?

Yeah, that was a disappointing thing, I was hoping Bob Hope would come by, but we did have some pretty good entertainers. I can remember four ladies from the Philippines that did a great job singing and keeping us entertained.

The morale of the people you served with, did it need boosting or lifting up?

You know there's always some of that going on, definitely. But overall, we had it pretty good.

Do you recall any particularly humorous or unusual events or something or something crazy?

Not in Vietnam, no. In Fort Lewis, yes.

That's what's coming up next, huh? Yeah. So, you under the terms of your service you had to spend a year in Vietnam then?

That's correct.

So, then you, do you have a choice where you're being shipped to?

No, not at all.

So, what was going on in, why did the Army want to put you in Fort Lewis?

Well, they just needed another cook there. And so, when I came back from Vietnam, I was on leave 30 days, like I, said my wife and I then drove out after our wedding drove out to Fort Lewis and they put me in a mess hall. I was the first cook. And we lived off base in an apartment, which was very nice since we just got married and I think it helped our marriage because we were on our own away from our parents, half-way across the country.

Yeah, good and bad.

Yeah, and my wife found a job working at Nally's. She was a secretary to an executive vice president, and it was really pretty good to the point where I almost thought I would reenlist.

That's one of the questions.

I really enjoyed the service. I liked the structure of it. But when it came to reenlisting, I gave it a lot of thought and in the end, I decided maybe I would go home and start a family and be stationed in one area.

Would that've been your wife's preference too?

Yes, for sure. For sure. But she would've done whatever, yeah.

So, you're in Fort Lewis then for a year?

Yes, for a year.

Nothing crazy happened there?

Oh yeah.

Oh, what was that?

Well, we're preparing Thanksgiving dinner and it takes about two to three days to prepare because you're feeding over 300 men. I don't remember how many women were with us in that company, but we were in the process of making pumpkin pie so we've got the big mixture, I'm sure you've seen the big bowls and you put...well the bowl wasn't secure enough and when you turn the mixer on, it flipped over on the floor. So, we got all this pumpkin on the floor. So, we took the squeez-ee and squeezed it up and put it back in the pot. Nobody knew the difference.

Best pumpkin pie ever.

Exactly. Otherwise, we wouldn't have had pumpkin pie!

That would've been terrible.

You can't do that.

But listen, the fact that it was going to be boiled or something, that would've killed the germs?

Oh yeah, yeah. It was going to be cooked.

So, your conscience was-

Clear, yeah.

So, the story did not get out? Nobody knew that right?

Nobody knew it, it did not get out at all.

So, when you plan the meals, is there like a book you follow, based on the quantities that are present?

To an extent, yeah you know. They issued x amount of food every meal, and that's what you had to work with.

And, so Fort Lewis and then there's this decision on whether to reenlist or not when you come back to Chicago. Did you have any difficulty adjusting to life in Chicago, getting a job or anything?

No, not at all. Not at all. When I came out of the service I ended up getting my first job was Golden Bear Pancake House as a night manager. They wanted me to start as the night manager. They knew I was a cook in the Army, and this was in River Forest on North Ave just a little west of Harlem. And they had owned maybe 12 Golden Bear Pancake Houses. And, so I learned how to be a night manager and I knew all about the food and sanitation and food cost and all that. And then worked my way up to a day manager and then a general manager.

As a general manager did you have more than one store to worry about?

No, they shipped me to the store in Des Plaines, it was on Route 83 in Mount Prospect between Oakton and Miner St. and that was my store.

And then you and your wife were living in?

Des Plaines.

Des Plaines, oh that's perfect wasn't it? And did you have to hire cooks and chefs and watch what they're doing?

Oh yes, all of that.

Watch what they're doing?

Yes. And if, one good thing about being a cook was the cook didn't show up because he was sick or something, I was able to go back into the kitchen and fill in.

And you didn't get any complaints from the customers?

No, not when I was back there.

So, did you stay in contact with any wartime buddies after the service or anything?

You know, I wish I did. But I had just got married, starting to raise a family and was concerned about making a living.

Amen.

And you know I did not stay in contact with anybody.

So, in your family do you ever do any cooking at home?

I do all of the cooking at home, I do all of the grocery shopping now that I'm retired for the last 7 or 8 years. I do all the grocery shopping and I do all of the cooking for my wife and I.

Wow, I bet she...do you allow her to cook anytime she wants to?

Sure, I don't mind taking a break. She's a good cook too.

And then did you stay in the food business for your life?

You know, from the Golden Bear Pancake House I then moved down to Fred Harvey. You remember the Fred Harvey?

Mmmm..

They ran two steak places, no three. It was called Shipwreck Kelly's. There was one at Midway Airport; there was one in Hinsdale called The Old Spinning Wheel, and then there was one in the city called The Old Kungsholm. So-

I heard of that one.

Ok. So, from Golden Bear I was working down in the city. The Old Kungsholm. I think it was called Shipwreck Kelly's. And it was like a steak, salad, bar type place.

The whatever, did they ever have miniature puppets?

Yes.. But that was before, ok? We were just in the building at the Kungsholm. And, across the street was Hanley Dawson Cadillac. And a lot of the salesmen would come in and spend three hours for lunch and drink their lunch. And I'm working 70 hours a week and the bartender's temperamental and the waitresses don't show up and no dishwasher and I'm saying to myself "Why am I in the restaurant business?" And Hanley Dawson used to come into the restaurant for lunch or dinner and I always used to take good care of him, not because I wanted a job, but hoping some day I could afford a Cadillac. Maybe I could get a good deal. Well, I got fed up, we got robbed one night at the restaurant.

Down in-

Down in the Old Kungsholm. Lucky nobody got injured or hurt, and at that point I says, you know I want to spend more time with my family, I'm going to go across the street and talk to Hanley Dawson and see if I can sell Cadillacs. And he hired me. And then I've been in the car business ever since, so I retired 8 years ago.

And you were in the Cadillacs?

Cadillacs, mostly Cadillacs for 13-14 years, and then a little bit with Mitsubishi which was owned by Hanley Dawson and then I went on my own as a used-car dealer.

May I ask what kind of a car you drive now?

Well, I finally bought a new car, because I'd driven used cars my whole life and people always asked me "What should I buy?" Well whatever you feel comfortable with, whatever you like. I ended up buying an Audi Q5.

You're satisfied?

Oh, it's a great car.

What do you think of the quality of the food these days? Is it as good as it used to be?

You know, I think it has improved because you see a lot at the farmers' markets now, you know? You can find, you can find fresher food I think at some of the better stores. Because you got organic now, you got grass-fed. you got a lot more choices.

More choices, yes.

Yes.

So, Al I sense we're coming to the end. And then when did you move to Morton Grove?

I lived in Morton Grove my whole life.

Even when you were in Des Plaines you were-

Well, except for the two years in Des Plaines. And then we moved. When I started working at, after working at Hanley Dawson for 6 months, my wife and I then bought a house in Morton Grove, but I grew up in Morton Grove on 8344 Grosse Pointe Rd which is Grosse Pointe and Main St. Went to Edison Junior School and then Lincoln Grammar School in Skokie and then Niles West. We were the first four-year graduating class of Niles West.

I sense we're coming to the end of the interview and there's a couple of questions I want to ask.

Yes, please do.

So, how do you think your military service and your experiences affected your life?

Oh, it sure gave me an appreciation of how lucky I was to go to Vietnam and come back, because a few of my classmates from Niles West didn't make it back and when I finally got to retire I finally went and looked them up and went to wherever they were buried and got to visit their graves.

And do you think, did your experience in the military, has it influenced your thinking about war or about the military in general?

I support it 100%. Duty, honor and country.

And I was just thinking that the training you received in home economics class and in cooking that carried you-

It sure did.

So, you leave, you go into the car sales business, was that about 1970?

That would be 1972.

1972.

Yes

Is there anything you would like to add that we haven't covered in the interview that I didn't- you have a lot of notes there, maybe we should touch on those. Let's see...

Just that the 71st Artillery was a Hawk missile site that occupied Hill 580 south from Nha Trang and an airfield where the 5th Special Forces were headquartered. In 1966 the 6th Battalion 71st Artillery relocated to Cam Ranh Bay and had its headquarters there. It departed Vietnam September 22nd, 1968 for Fort Bliss, Texas. Our slogan was "We Come from All Parts" and it was in Latin. I'm a member of the American Legion Post 14, I'm a member of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #311 here in Niles.

The American Legion, is that you meet monthly or?

It does meet monthly, correct. And that particular post, 14, is in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.

So, do you attend meetings in Puerto Vallarta?

Yes, I do, I spend the winter there.

Oh, how lovely.

And we do a lot of community work.

You're still active in your church?

Very.

And then the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 311, do they have a particular location or headquarters or?

It originally started here in Niles, and it was on Oakton St and...I forget what the name of the building was. But now we meet at Oakton Arms which is a retirement home on Oakton a little west of Mannheim Road.

So, you weren't able to because of the pace of life to stay in contact with any of your wartime buddies. But then you did join, veteran's organizations. When did you do that?

I didn't do that, Neil, until the welcome home parade in Chicago in 1986. That's when I finally got involved.

I talked to a couple of Vietnam veterans, mostly I've been interviewing WW2 veterans and Korean War, but both of them mentioned the significance, the importance of that welcome home.

Yes, right.

You would agree with that?

Oh 100%. 100%. because we didn't really talk much about anything until then.

And that was the parade in Downtown Chicago?

Right.

Was that in the Fall of '86 or Spring?

Yes, no it was in the Spring if I'm not mistaken.

Spring of '86. Well if there's anything you would like to add to the interview Allan, we can even do it at a later date.

No, I think I got it all.

Thanks for preparing your remarks, and we have the biographical data information sheet which will be part of the set that goes to Washington.

Ok.

Yes, this won't be for public-

Sure.

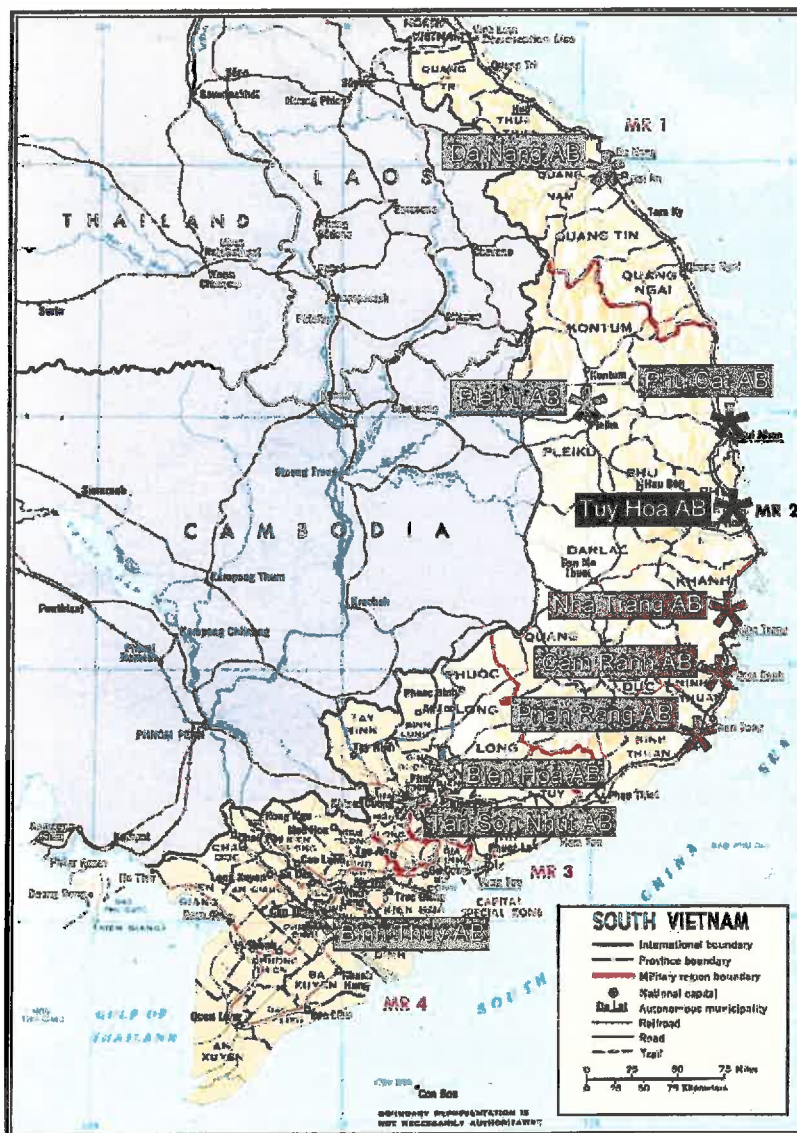
They won't have access to this. And so, we thank you for your service and we thank you for coming in for the interview.

Thank you for doing all of this.

And maybe in about, it's going to take about 6 weeks a couple of months to get this transcribed, but we'll stay in touch and you'll have a right to mark it up and improve it. And as I say, if we need to do anything over again we can do that. And thanks very much.

Thank you, Neil.

Reader's Note: The following three pages serve to illustrate Mr. Schaefer's remarks and include a scan of pertinent local newspaper article.



Saigon was renamed Ho Chi Minh City in 1976. Map shows location of Cam Ranh Bay and Nha Trang Bases where Mr. Schaefer was stationed. Cam Ranh Bay is located 186 miles northeast of Ho Chi Minh City, and Nha Trang is situated 22 miles north of Cam Ranh Bay.

Mr. Schaeffer provided this clipping from the December 8, 1968 issue of the *Morton Grove Champion*. He was the "adoptee" of the local Woman's Club who sent Care Packages and even a Christmas Tree. Captain Smith thanked the club and praised Allan.

Pickwick Newspapers—PAGE TWELVE—Thursday, December 8, 1968

MORTON GROVE CHAMPION

Thanks In Prayer And A Commander's Letter

Pfc. Allan F. Schaefer, new adoptee of the Morton Grove Woman's club, had a busy but happy Thanksgiving Day in Viet Nam, according to his report. The day began at 2 a.m. with various preparations for a turkey dinner - guest list totaled 166. He was very pleased with the results.

After the day's chores had been completed and just a little bit tired, Allan sat down and wrote the following prayer: "I give my thanks for all God has given me and the platoon, especially those involved in making our joys bountiful, our days happy with the knowledge that so many care, and for each and every day that brings us closer to home."

Mrs. Raymond Steinbeck, 7829 Linder, general chairman of Operation Viet Nam, contacted Allan's commanding officer after the Christmas packages were sent on Nov. 1, informing him that certain boxes, which included the Christmas tree and some special goodies, would be directed especially to him. In this way, possibly his headquarters could be the gathering place for the men at the coming holiday season.

His response was as follows: "Let me assure you the Christmas tree you are sending us really alleviated one of my problems. I was slightly perplexed last week over my dilemma of what to do about a Unit Christmas tree. No matter what you do or how hard you try, a banana tree just does not look like a Christmas tree and what a problem you solved by sending us one.

"It is remarkable that we receive your packages so quickly, but I cannot begin to tell you how much more quickly the morale of my men began to rise with the advent of our adopted soldier and the arrival of your 'Care Packages.' I do not think it is what the boxes contain that lifted the men's morale as much as the thought that they now know someone at home does care for their welfare and well being.

"This is really a wonderful project your club has adopted and speaking of Allan, you could not have selected a better soldier. He is truly one of the better men in my command and one whom I can count on daily to help maintain the morale of the entire unit through his contribution as an excellent cook.

"We will most certainly have a Christmas celebration with the refreshments you have provided, including the ones we found under a rock, and let me assure you that nothing is appreciated as much as something special from home for Christmas. Some of the men have Polaroid cameras and I intend to send you some pictures of the celebration.

"I sincerely appreciate what you have done for the men of my headquarters platoon and I am sure that they, like myself, consider the thoughtfulness of your gifts of more value than their physical content.

"I hope to visit Morton Grove soon after I return to the United States to personally extend my thanks and appreciation to you and each of your members for their efforts in this project."

Sincerely,

Tommy J. Smith
Captain, Artillery
Commanding

Because the Yuletide gifts arrived so early, thanks to the good postal service, the club decided to mail additional packages on Tuesday, Nov. 29, to assure the men of receiving something closer to Christmas. A total of 41 boxes, 450 pounds, were sent to all the men from Morton Grove and Allan's platoon, but this time the postage was paid for by American Legion Post 134.

The Morton Grove Woman's club, affiliated with the Tenth District of the Illinois Federation of Women's club, is grateful to the many people who quickly responded with cash donations and necessary items, said Mrs. Steinbeck. Allan's mom belongs to an organization, The Young Ladies of S. S. Larentana, who donated monies to be used to defray expenses for Operation Viet Nam.

Mrs. Steinbeck's father, Neil E. Stanholt, 1758 Hawthorne ter., Des Plaines, contributed 48 waterproof flashlights with 192 batteries. This was one of the items Allan had requested for often

Mr. Schaefer played on the football team at Niles West High School.



LAST ROW: M. Paulson, N. Anderson, K. Larson, W. Alanbough, B. Meyer, J. Miller, B. English, T. Kotlemeter, D. Zolezzi, A. Tropstein. *FOURTH ROW:* Coach Lain, L. Basauch, R. Barcaly, J. Lavin, J. Polen, R. Hohelsel, R. Normen, D. Reicherts. *THIRD ROW:* S. Pitzer, R. Aviano, P. Mikula, T. Agarankes, M. Hilbert, L. Corsey, J. Glantz, B. Goldstein, Coach Coyer. *SECOND ROW:* H. Gagne (Manager), B. Wurmsner, P. Snoply, A. Llano, A. Schaefer, D. Russel, E. Weinstein, W. Jung. *FIRST ROW:* D. Aernt, B. Demas, S. Solomon, C. Broden, T. Altschuler, T. Matzkin.

Mr. Schaefer's Niles West Senior

Yearbook Profile



ALAN F. SCHAEFER

SSM 2,3,4; IBY 1; Intermaths 3,4; N' Club 1; Football 1,2; Soph Shield; Minor N' 3; Major N' 4; Basketball 1,2; Music N' 3; Major N' 1; Baseball 1,2,3,4

Vallarta Vets

The Semi-Official Newsletter of Post 14

The American Legion



Februaury 2017

Mr. Schaefer attends meetings of the Puerto Vallarta post each winter.

MEET A VET – Al Schaefer



Al in Nha Trang – 1966



Al in PV - 2017