

Cantigny First Division Oral Histories II

Ohio University Libraries

Interview with Larry Parsons

Video at <http://media.library.ohiou.edu/u/?/cantigny,43>

GOODWIN: Hello, my name is Gerald F. Goodwin. The date is August 7th [2009] and I'm here in Dearborn, Michigan interviewing Larry Parsons. For the record, Mr. Parsons could you please spell your last name?

PARSONS: P-a-r-s-o-n-s

GOODWIN: What unit or units of the Big Red One did you serve with?

PARSONS: The 1st Administration Company at Headquarters Division.

GOODWIN: When did you serve with the 1st Division?

PARSONS: December 1st, 1968 to December 1st, 1969.

GOODWIN: Just to back up a little bit, why don't you tell us a little bit about your life before entering the military.

PARSONS: Sure. I was uh, born in St. Paul, Minnesota, moved to Montgomery, Minnesota at age one. Uh, my parents were in the plumbing and hardware and heating business. Went to grade school, in uh, Holy Redeemer Catholic School near Montgomery. And in 1960, we moved to Amery, Wisconsin, where I went to high school. From there I went to college at River Falls, Wisconsin for three years. Uh, after that lost my deferment. Was looking at working at Montgomery Wards and was invited to take a physical. And uh...from there I ended up enlisting three years in the service, three years and three months.

GOODWIN: So what level of education did you say you reached?

PARSONS: Uh, three years of college.

GOODWIN: Ok. What was your major?

PARSONS: Math.

GOODWIN: Ok.

PARSONS: Business Administration minor.

GOODWIN: Ok. Um...did, did you say that you just stopped going or how did that end?

PARSONS: Well, when you didn't have a 2.0 Grade point to enter your senior year, they invited you to sit out a quarter. And at the point in time, um, I had a 1.99, so I was invited to sit out. Was called in for my physical, um...well, I guess I don't mind sharing this story. But we, at the time we went to The Andrew's Hotel in Minneapolis, Minnesota and the day that I was invited to take the physical there was about um, two-thirds of the people also there being inducted into the service. And they lined them, the people up that were being inducted. Had them count off, one-two-three, one-two-three. They told number 1 to take uh, three steps forward and after they did so, two's and three's were invited to sit down. And they told them, congratulations you are now Marines. Well, this made an impression on me. I must have known that I wanted to be in the Big Red One because at noon I went over and enlisted in the Army, 'cause I didn't want to be a Marine, so (Laughs).

GOODWIN: So what would you say was your motivation in joining the Army then?

PARSONS: That I didn't want to be a Marine (Laughs).

GOODWIN: Had you heard something bad about the Marines?

PARSONS: Well, I guess there was a little more to do it that if you enlisted at that time you could choose your, your MOS that you wanted to be. And so I, I choose to be a clerk. Uh, so I had a six-month delayed entry uh, program which gave me another six months to pursue my lovely bride-to-be. And uh, I guess it was the way it was meant to be.

GOODWIN: Ok. Where you concerned about being, if you didn't enlist were you concerned about being drafted?

PARSONS: Oh, there was no doubt. I would have been drafted if I hadn't.

GOODWIN: Ok. Would you say that was a motivating factor then in...?

PARSONS: Oh surely, yes.

GOODWIN: Ok. Um, and in such you chose an MOS.

PARSONS: In such, I choose to be an MOS, and a delayed entry. And then be in the Army rather than in the Marine Core, yes.

GOODWIN: Ok, ok. Um, what was your family's reaction to you joining the military?

PARSONS: Well, I think it was well accepted.

GOODWIN: Ok.

PARSONS: I had two brothers that were in the Navy. Uh, dad wasn't in the service but he was too old for WWI and too young for WWII, so.

GOODWIN: What about your mother, what was her reaction?

PARSONS: Uh, I think she accepted it. I'm sure no mother's real happy at war time when you join the army but yeah, proud.

GOODWIN: What was your opinion about the Vietnam War before arriving in country?

PARSONS: Um, you know I guess I thought it was my patriotic duty to do what was expected of ya. What our President said we do, that's what you do.

GOODWIN: Did your friends have any strong opinions about the war?

PARSONS: I don't think so. Um... [short pause] you know perhaps because I was involved in it but I can't say I had people protesting at me until after we got back. You know that type of thing.

GOODWIN: Good we'll get to that. Um, did any of your peers go through a similar situation in which they were fearful that they would be drafted so they enlisted?

PARSONS: [Sigh] I...not that I know of no.

GOODWIN: Now let's get to the training. Where did you complete Basic Training?

PARSONS: Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

GOODWIN: Ok.

PARSONS: Now on the last day of Basic Training, I fell on the confidence course, must have lost my confidence, broke my arm, spent three months in the hospital.

GOODWIN: Hmm.

PARSONS: And the, well if you understand the military life the reason I spent three months in the hospital is the time your, as a trainee your just in the barracks and they won't allow you to come back to the barracks and be sick. So you had to stay in the hospital until you were 100% recuperated so the bones had to totally mend, that type of thing.

GOODWIN: So once they mended then where did you go?

PARSONS: AIT was to Fort Knox, as a training for a 71 Bravo, which is a Court Typist.

GOODWIN: What, what sort of training did you undergo just in Basic Training at Fort Campbell?

PARSONS: Well, normal Basic Training I would, would guess. You know we fired our weapons and cleaned them and marched and a lot of physically training. A lot of running. Uh, I went from 190 pounds to 143 pounds, and I guess I was in good shape until I spent three months in the hospital (laughs).

GOODWIN: (Laughs). Where you surprised by any the training you endured?

PARSONS: Was I surprised? Um... I guess one of things that probably surprised me about the training, if it was anything, it was that the language of the Drill Sergeants, that type of thing. I don't know just not, not what I grew up with, you know.

GOODWIN: What sort of language do they use?

PARSONS: Well, mother fucker get up and, that type of thing and uh, that's just not my background I guess.

GOODWIN: So you came from a family where that kind of language wasn't used?

PARSONS: Correct.

GOODWIN: What other impressions did you have of your Drill Sergeants?

PARSONS: Um, you know I had respect for the Drill Sergeants. When you think about it, perhaps some of it comes from perspective afterwards but even at the time I think I had respect for them. Um, they had a tremendous duty. Their preparing people to go to war and, and I think truly that the Drill Sergeants that I had took that to heart and felt that it was their responsibility to make these people be the best soldiers they could be.

GOODWIN: Did everyone get along fairly well in your training company?

PARSONS: Pretty much. I guess there's always one person that was thought of as being a rebel or whatever and uh, they were not treated very well.

GOODWIN: What were some of the most important lessons that your learned during Basic Training?

PARSONS: Don't lean up against a post (Laughs).

GOODWIN: (Laughs)

PARSONS: You like that post trainee, hump that post (Laughs).

GOODWIN: Is that what they made you do?

PARSONS: Ya. I learned don't to lean up against a post but uh, outside of that I'm sure it's obedience. Uh, one of the things I take to this day is learning that when you march some place versus just walking you can cover a lot more distance a lot quicker and not mind doing it.

GOODWIN: Now once um, once you finished Basic Training you went to Fort Knox.

PARSONS: Right.

GOODWIN: What were some of your experiences there? What was the training like there?

PARSONS: Ok. Well first off, what went... after I uh, got out the pro... hospital they gave me a profile, which is like a disability statement, more or less. It said no overhead work, no push ups; no pull ups, uh, no KP duty, and no physical training. So from then on my military career was probably different than a lot people because of the simple fact that when everybody else filed out for PT they'd tell me go sit under that tree over there and be quiet. And I could take a nap or (Laughs) you know, whatever and I never, never pulled KP.

GOODWIN: Were any of the other soldiers a little bit of resentful of you for that?

PARSONS: I, nobody ever said so if they were. I got to believe they were because that's human nature but you know, nobody ever mentioned it, no.

GOODWIN: What sort of things did they teach you in either Basic Training or your training?

PARSONS: My Basic Training was actually just how to...you know I knew how to type, taken typing in school. So it was what the military expected of you. How, how to do a letter head, what, you know, if your had a document that you were typing for a uh, Officer or Colonel level or higher you couldn't have any mistakes you had to start over. Anybody else you could have two mistakes, if you made that you'd have to start over. Now this is before computers, you didn't have whiteout or that type of thing. I was....If you made a mistake at the bottom of the page this long,(sigh) oh no, start over.

GOODWIN: I realize you weren't trained in Infantry but...

PARSONS: No.

GOODWIN: ...did they tell you anything about the Vietnam War or the Vietnamese in general before you went to Vietnam?

PARSONS: No. It's unusual because uh, many of the people that went to Vietnam were required to go to another school in that type of thing. I was not, probably because of profile and probably because of my MOS.

GOODWIN: When did you learn that you were actually going to Vietnam?

PARSONS: You know, I think about two months before uh, departure date. And I was, at that time I was working in an office as a typist at Fort Knox. And uh...the Officer in charged called me in and said I was headed for S, OSC, he says overseas candidate for shipment (Laughs). And um, set it up took 30 days leave and you know, about 60 days after I was on the way. After AIT before, shortly I was assigned immediately to uh...uh Fort Knox, they kept me right there. Um, about a month into that then I went home and married my fiancée. And uh, we moved back to Kentucky and we lived there about six months when I got the uh ... notice to go to Vietnam.

GOODWIN: What was your initial reaction?

PARSONS: Well, uh, I guess I probably knew that that you know from the era that was going to happen. My wife was very upset 'cause she was um, three months pregnant at the time, or four months pregnant. So you know, she knew that I wouldn't be there when she wanted me to. But uh, I, you accept it, you know, you're a soldier, you know, you do what you're told to do.

GOODWIN: What sort of expectations did you have about what it would be like in Vietnam?

PARSONS: You know, you learn as you go through life biggest problem people have is the fear of the unknown. And that probably was just what you're saying, the expectations was probably worse than the actuality. I can recall the day that I left was a January; I was going into the service, January 15th, 1967. It was 42 degrees below zero when I left home I remember that. Uh, when I left for Vietnam I had went deer hunting the day before and shot a deer and um, the next day we went in, at the airport I must have been very nervous. I don't think I was but I developed a bloody nose and just couldn't stop it. It just kept coming and coming about two, three hankies full. My dad went and got a security guard 'cause he was really concerned that I was going to pass out or something like that. They took me to first aid and they, I don't remember just what they did, they put ice on it or something. But we were gone and we got off ok. Went to uh, San Francisco. I spent the night in a motel out on Fisherman's Wharf in Gatinmore and walked out and watched the catch some funny looking green fish in ocean and ended up over at Oakland Air Force Base for shipment.

GOODWIN: Now you get on the plane?

PARSONS: Yes, we, I got on a plane, it was a commercial airline but it wasn't a commercial flight of course. But I believe, excuse me, it was a TWA plane or something like that. I remember that um, there were stewardesses and such but they weren't, they didn't have the amenities like you would on a normal plane. They showed movies but they wouldn't give you no earphones, (laughs) so you kind of lip read or whatever. And it was a long flight. Like we had a stop in Hawaii and they let us get off the plane but kept us in a certain area. I think they were afraid that somebody might want to just go AWOL or something you know. We also had stops at uh, Wake Island I believe it was and Manila. It was at least three stops. I'm not sure if I have them right but it was a long flight.

GOODWIN: Now you get to Vietnam, where do you land?

PARSONS: I believe it was Long Binh, you know it was a long time ago. But I remember when the plane banked to come in uh, right then it was like 4th of July started 'cause rockets had hit and it was uh, lit up like you know and I don't even know what it was. But...and there's big flashes and uh, and landed in the air raid sirens are going off and they ran us down in the bunkers. And so I thought oh this is a, you know, interesting start if nothing else. And, but uh, I don't know, I can't... I'm sure someone's scared but you really don't have time you just do what you've gotta do.

GOODWIN: Ok. So after that first experience um, where are you stationed?

PARSONS: Uh, we came in there and right away, right there from the replacement depot, they came and picked me up and took me to the 1st Infantry Division Headquarters in Dian. And 1st Infantry Division had some kind of training center where you went through for about a week or ten days when you come in country. But they said because I was going into Headquarters Company and they had new position and they needed help now, I didn't have go there they took me right into the Company in Dian.

GOODWIN: So that's where you were stationed...

PARSONS: Right.

GOODWIN: ...for the majority of the time?

PARSONS: So from the first night I spent in county I spent in the 1st Infantry Division.

GOODWIN: What were your duties?

PARSONS: As a Clerk in our Administration Company, the Company that I was or the office that I was in uh, was in charge of putting the right people in the right place. If there was a injury or if somebody was taken out of certain unit, we had to make sure that we had uh, a cook replace to him or another medic or whatever. That's what the people that I worked with did. Myself, personally uh, mail, mail would come in with all the different requests and different things and you'd have to make sure it was sorted out and given to the right people. And then a typist for the two Officers that were in our building. We had a Chief Warrant Officer and a Captain. And uh, clerical duties of that nature.

GOODWIN: Ok. Um, what sort of letters, you mention letters were going back and forth, were those?

PARSONS: Uh, military correspondence mostly what came in. Might have been a note from uh, people in the field. I remember all the different uh,... casualty reports coming through because it was important that people in our people knew daily what they had to replace. And so it would say, you know, 1E4 shot in the arm or something like that. Usually, uh, little bit of story about what happened or whatever yeah.

GOODWIN: Would you read these stories?

PARSONS: To some extent, yes. It wasn't marked confidential, come across my desk. You had to in order to determine what departments and went to who.

GOODWIN: Did you have any strong feelings when you would read these accounts?

PARSONS: [Pause and sigh] Yes uh, one of the feelings or one of things that, that stuck with me is the realization in war, I don't think it was just Vietnam but uh, is... we hurt as many of our own people as the enemy does just by human error. That's...that's a bother, you know. Certainly not something you want to do but there are mistakes made.

GOODWIN: Now you were obviously in a city, Dian um...

PARSONS: Dian was a, there a town of Dian but I don't think that I ever really saw it. The military base was outside of Dian and the 1st Infantry Division Headquarters there was a large secure area with a barb wire fence, not barb wire, concertina wire all around it. Um, large and I was there for a year.

GOODWIN: And you never went to the town, you said?

PARSONS: I think one... you know, the way it was, the way what you worked and the way things were. You got up in the morning; you stand formation, and went to breakfast. You had to be to work, if I recall right it was seven you're at work 'til noon. Got an hour off, took for lunch. You worked 'til six. You got an hour off for supper and you worked 'til ten at night. And you did that seven days a week and I remember we got a half a day off for Christmas. So there wasn't (laughs) a lot of going anywhere. A lot of the guys that worked in the field and stuff deservedly would come back in and they'd have a few days off to rest up 'cause it was required. In the support area, we were more of less um, we drew guard duty I'm thinking it was about like every three weeks. And that was kind of a... a good thing because it simplified and gave you something different. You got off earlier in the afternoon to...to get ready to stand guard and then the next day you could, didn't have to be at work 'til noon. So if it wasn't a Yellow Alert guard or something like that where you had to stay up more of the night, you could be rested in the morning and you might have three, four hours and there was a USO building on the base and there was a USO bus that a building in the town of Dian that you could go to. But I don't recall ever making it there once.

GOODWIN: Could you explain some of your duties when you were, had to do guard duty?

PARSONS: Sure. Uh, first off you had to almost like stateside, in that you did stand guard and there was an inspection and if you...if you(pause) were chosen as the most prepared as on spit-shine shoes or whatever, you could get off guard duty and they'd give you a day off, which was unheard of. So a lot of people spent a lot of time trying to look good and uh, shinning shoes and so forth and look good for inspection. After that um, there was three three-hour shifts that you would had to stand...stand guard. Nine to midnight, midnight to three, and three 'til six in the morning. There was, looked... the way it was laid out, there was a concertina wire, foo gas,

um... mines in the ground, concertina wire, and then we would put out claymores. And there was, you'd come back and there was a bunkers, and there were two M60s in the bunker, and three people at the station. And that was all the way around the whole Base Camp. Our Company would have a certain area uh probably, I don't know five or six bunkers in a row that we were responsible for. And uh, most of the time when you stood guard you would have a three hour shift you were on and then six hours off. You would probably draw straws or something to determine which of the three guys did which. If we were on a Yellow Alert Status, which meant enemy in the area, then you had to have two people awake at all times and uh... you could only sleep one three-hour shift.

GOODWIN: Was the base ever attack when you were there?

PARSONS: It's kind of funny but about two, three days before I got there, was towards the end of the Tet Offensive of '68 and they did had taken a ground attack. The year that I was there uh, we had one foray that hit the one side of the base camp supposedly. Um, it didn't turn out to be (laughs)... the sirens go off if you had incoming rounds. It was an uh... intermediate if it was incoming rounds and solid is it was a ground attack. So the ground attack hit and the siren went off sometime in the middle of the night and I jumped up. I was sleeping in my shorts and uh, skivvies whatever you want to say, white skivvies white underwear, big boxers. And I grabbed my bandolier, you know like poncho villa, grabbed my gun and my hardhat and I runs out to my designated spot. We all had designated spots incase of spontaneous gun attack, you're supposed protect your area. And mine was up by the office building that we were scheduled to be. So I'm up there in combat boots and underwear (laughs) and an Officer pulled up with a noose and a half and he hollered, "Get in the back we're going to the gate where the attack is coming." And I jumped up and run at it and he said, "Hey you white whale with the big white shorts, go roll in the mud and stay up against the building." That was the extent of my fight.

GOODWIN: (Laughs)

PARSONS: So I rolled in mud and went backup against the building and I guess actually nothing really did happen after that. Or not enough that there was fatalities that night or anything.

GOODWIN: Would, did you have any other experiences in which the base was being attacked, that you recall?

PARSONS: Uh, we took sniper fire fairly common. If you walked around the perimeter you know, you would hear (makes bullet sound) and you'd see bullets snapping outside and you'd take cover. But uh, never heard of them hitting anybody but the tried to harass. You know it really was weird because sometimes um...you'd go out in the morning after standing guard and watching all night you know and the claymores would be turned around. They'd come through all that mines and the concertina wire and turn the claymores around, so that if they could get you to set it off it they'd go your way. They'd crawl back out and you'd never, never you know didn't even know they were there. One morning we went out to pick up the claymores (coughs) and there was a coffee can like in the ground with three sticks of dynamite it in and a bunch of wires going back out and uh, we backed off and called the Captain of the guard and they called

us off and brought in the armored people or whatever and never heard no more about that. But never had anything set off.

GOODWIN: So you mention now you're, you're in the rear echelon but at the same time there's at least a, there must be some sort of fear that you'll might be attacked?

PARSONS: Oh certainly. It's there all the time you know that, but it's not something that um, it's not prominent. I mean it's not something you get up each day and worry about what's going to happen, that type of thing. You know.

GOODWIN: So the attacks never brought any fatalities?

PARSONS: As far as I know in the base camp the year that I saw there, there was one person shot at the Replacement Company. Sleeping in his hooch and stray bullet came in and a killed him. That's the only fatality that I heard about at the actual.... site.

GOODWIN: Ok. Now you mentioned soldiers, combat soldiers coming back you know to take a couple days rest and so forth. Did you have any interaction with combat soldiers?

PARSONS: Um, not too much. One time the Company next to us, I'm not sure if they were 1st or 2nd or whatever, they had one Company that came in, and did some um...would have a few days off. And they did a pass the hat and was having a little show one night and invited anybody that could come to come over to uh.. the show. Of course we were working 'til ten but the um, the facilities there were two-holers, well actually there's six-holers 'cause there's a lot of guys you know. They've got a 55-gallon drum that's emptied out ever night. So they trouble trying to really keep you in the office if you wanted to go somewhere for a few minutes because you could always say you're going to the bathroom and it was like a block and a half away. So uh, the one night um, when they had this show....the door next door with some young ladies they brought in, you know so. And I looked up about eight-thirty and there was just the two Officers left, so I said I gotta go to the bathroom. Took off on a dead run and there wasn't a moon or a star in the sky that night and there was a 55-gallon drum laying across the path. That somehow got there I don't know but they made paths with crushed rock, when I hit that thing I had road rash. I though I was going to get a purple heart for awhile. But I couldn't explain why I was doing it, so I didn't. But uh, you asked for contact with the guys, for the most part no. Most of it was mostly our own people.

GOODWIN: Did you um, did you ever get to that party?

PARSONS: For about five minutes. It was just about over when I finally made it (Laughs).

GOODWIN: (Laughs) Um, now there you know, people have talked about tensions between combat soldiers and soldiers who are stationed in the rear, um, did you...did you ever experience any of that?

PARSONS: No.

GOODWIN: Ok. Now what sort of interaction did you have with the Vietnamese, if any?

PARSONS: There was a lady that was uh, cleaned our hooch and our office area. I would say, to me she was like an old lady; she was probably 45, you know I was 20. And I tried to visit with her to learn about their life and that type of thing. She seemed like a nice person, just more or less an ordinary worker. I know that her meals most days consisted of a white rice with oranges or some other fruit in it. She brought it in like a thermos bottle and she ate it with chop sticks and such. There was a um... a few ladies in the area that worked encoding something or other, I don't even know I just say they were much uh... these were working ladies. Ladies that cleaned the hooches, these other ones were dressed up more like they were office workers or you know had nice clothes in the Vietnamese style, the silk garments, looked very nice.

GOODWIN: So did you have any strong opinion about um, the Vietnamese or you know the American mission in Vietnam?

PARSONS: No. You know you just really didn't have, in the job I was at you didn't have contact with anybody enough to have an con.... draw an opinion.

GOODWIN: You also mention going on R&R. Where did you go to R&R?

PARSONS: Uh, I met my wife in Hawaii and we had a very nice vacation.

GOODWIN: Good. Now...

PARSONS: Uh, one funny thing you know they did have Army Forces TV. And the one show that I can remember being on almost constantly was Combat. I can even remember somebody waking up from guard duty you know 'cause they were hollering something about incoming on the TV or whatever and he took off and ran offside. You know everybody kind of laughed at him.

GOODWIN: What, um what do you remember about your last week, last day in Vietnam?

PARSONS: Um, well first off Thanksgiving Day 'cause I was scheduled to go home like uh, the 30th of November. And Thanksgiving Day they asked for volunteers if they wanted to uh ride door gunner, so that they could give a break to the troops. To some of the people that had been running door gunner all the time and were taking turkey dinners out to the field. And I thought about that. I really would've enjoyed the experience of something different and then I thought you know in three days I get to go home, I wouldn't be too smart maybe to do this right now. And then I still kind of though well you know what's gonna happen. And I guess the final thing that I thought was it fair for me to do it. What if they did run into some kind of enemy activity and I'm not trained to be a door gunner like that and I might cause someone else a problem, so I didn't. So that was on of the things that was towards the end. The next thing was is as just at the time when we started withdrawing troops form Vietnam and so I got to uh, I think it was long replacement they called it or repo-depot or something like that. And the day that I was suppose to go there was too many going, they couldn't take them all and I ended up staying their an extra

two or two to three days before we left country. It wasn't a big deal but those were longer days because there was absolutely nothing to do. Just...report every couple of hours and they called your name then you got to go get on a plane otherwise you went back and sat in the bunk another four hours or.

GOODWIN: Now your tour ends, you go back to the United States what do you do?

PARSONS: Uh, when I got back to the United States I still had a year service left to do. And I was assigned to uh 1st Army Headquarters in Fort George E. Meade, near Laurel, Maryland. And at Fort Meade I was a uh Clerk and Personnel and by this time I had been uh promoted. When I went to Vietnam I was a E2 and now I was a uh E5, a specialist in Personnel Field instead of just a Clerk Typist. And what at I did at Fort George E. Meade was oversees levy clerk. In other words I didn't determine who went overseas but I did help them get their orders cut, get the leave, get transportation, where they report, what time they report, or that type of thing.

GOODWIN: Once that was over, what did you do afterwards?

PARSONS: Oh, when I get out of the service? Ok, first off I was in the service three years, three months; I extended three months to see if I wanted to re-enlist kind of. Actually, my wife was pregnant and due in two weeks and they were kind enough to uh, consider my opportunity to re-enlist and let me extend. So when I got back out I went back to my civilian job, which at that point in time was a stockroom clerk working for Montgomery Wards Company. I went back there and I worked there for a oh I think it was another two or three years. I got an opportunity to become, work in my hometown for Green Giant Canning Company. I started out in the stockroom and uh, ended up as a buyer, and I worked 25 years with the Green Giant Canning Company as a buyer.

GOODWIN: Good. Now what, I guess would you say you'd like you know the people watching this to remember about your service in Vietnam?

PARSONS: Well, I think you know a lot of people don't uh, when we think of war we always think of the Infantry person and I have the greatest respect for these people that are out there. There's awful lot of people that are Support. You know there are probably more Support people then there are Infantry and uh, we're not all heroes but we all do our part. Um, the one thing bothered me about Vietnam was some of the protesters and that type of thing. Um, Jane Fonda, I still have no time for somebody that would go talk to the enemy, no way. The people in general didn't seem um... you know, I don't know, we welcomed our heroes from WWII with parades and such, you know and we didn't have one yet. Some of the states gave back a cash donation or something like that. I was in Wisconsin when I went in, they did it, but I moved to Minnesota, so I didn't get that. Minnesota they didn't give it because I went in from Wisconsin.

GOODWIN: Hmm.

PARSONS: No big deal but I mean it's just the type of thing that if anyone did give a darn they would've done, looked at it a little differently somehow.

GOODWIN: Anything left to add?

PARSONS: Pardon me?

GOODWIN: Anything left to add?

PARSONS: Anything left to add. I guess I'm proud to have been a member of The 1st Infantry Division. Proud that I did go in service, did my duty and uh, I think I'm better for it.

GOODWIN: Thank you for the interview and for your service to the country.

PARSONS: Good, thank you.