

My Vietnam War: Oral History Project

Narrator: Richard Hauser

Interviewers: Charlie Joseph and Nnamdi Oji

Date: November 10, 2021

Location: Irvine, California

Sub-collection: My Vietnam War: Oral History Project

Length of Interview: 01:33:20

FIELD NOTES

The two of us who interviewed Richard met up with him at the UCI campus, outside of the Langson Library. The narrator had difficulty finding the location, so we began the recording much later than we had planned. The two of us gave Richard the forms he needed to sign, and explained what they were to him. We also provided him with a map of South Vietnam to aid him in telling us about his experience during his tour of duty.

We briefly described what topics we would be covering, and then we started the recording. Richard answered our questions very well. He gave long answers and told us relevant stories. He spoke clearly and loud enough to be heard on the recording. The recording device had trouble picking up Nnamdi Oji's voice. Oji's voice was more quiet compared to Richard and Charlie, but it was still audible. Richard did have some memories that he was unable to recollect, though. When asked about his specific combat actions, he did not give too much information. He alluded to the fact that during very intense, or stressful situations, his mind would blank and he would go off of "muscle memory." In his bio that he provided to us before we met, he also mentioned how his mind has suppressed some of the memories. We spoke for about an hour and a half, with a short pause halfway during the recording for one of us to use the restroom.

As our time ran out, another person had to kick us out of the room we were using because they had it reserved for that time (due to the fact that we started late). That caused our interview to be cut short, so we were unable to ask Richard any specifics about his later life. Certain details had to be clarified later over the phone; mostly specific dates and locations, or the proper spelling for people's names.

After the recording had ended, Richard showed us his personal photo album that he had brought. This was a collection of photos that he had taken while he was deployed. He let us take some cellphone pictures of the photos in the album. Because the photos were taken spontaneously, the quality was not great. The original pictures were small, and we didn't have the resources to scan the images to properly digitize them. We did, however, appreciate him showing us some images from his personal experience in Vietnam.