

Transcriptions
Claud Petit
- Interviewed by: Don McLean -
January 24, 1989

Don: What the hell is the date today?

Claud: 23rd.

Don: 23rd I think, yes. January 24. We were close. I am talking to Claud Petit. Claud you, right now you are involved teaching the kids boxing aren't you?

Claud: Well yes, I am actually the Recreational Director for the Metis Society which I was hired or offered to do the boxing program. I started the boxing program for the Metis Society back about 15 years ago and I got to be, the Director left for another position so I took over as Director. I continued to do mainly the bigger activities like Batoche, our annual hockey tournament curling and we do have we are into soccer.

Don: So you are pretty heavily involved with kids in sports?

Claud: Not directly involved because we haven't got the funds to go right into the locals which I'd like too and the funding is very skimpy. I'd like to have some field workers, which we had when I first started in the program from the fitness and amateur sports and we were funded from there. Now we are only funded from Sask. Sport which is the lottery money.

Don: Oh I see.

Claud: And Dumont has a share of that also for the Cultural part. The Cultural part and the recreation part. And basically that's about all.

Don: You were a boxer yourself weren't you?

Claud: Oh yes I boxed in the

Don: That would be Bantam weight?

Claud: No I wasn't that lucky but I mean I was always a heavy weight from the time I started.

Don: Were you boxing in the Army?

Claud: Yes, I boxed, all my actual serious boxing was in the Army. I was the first Canadian Soldier who ever won the British Army over in England. Also I've won the golden gloves four times in Edmonton and I was the Canadian Champion about five times.

Don: What years would that be when you were the Canadian Champion?

Claud: Oh around '65 to about '68.

Don: Now that would be the Canadian Champ of the Canadian Core of the Army or what?

Claud: Army.

Don: Army Champ eh?

Claud: Yes and the British Army. That was

Don: You took them too eh?

Claud: Yes when I was over serving over continental Europe with the Armed Forces there.

Don: 27th Battalion?

Claud: No 27th Brigade. The thing is, it's quite hard to get through to the British Army because you got to fight British Army on the Rhine which consist of all the troops there. Like you got the British Army, the Irish and there is some other attachments like from Africa that are attached to the British Army which can participate like the Canadians into the British Army because we're part of the Common Wealth then you see same as in Korea but a little different.

Don: So you were the Common Wealth Champ then when you were with the Brits were you?

Claud: Well basically yes because they come from all over, Hong Kong. This is a big thing over there. And I was quite lucky, well not lucky I mean, I won all my fights up to that time and I fought this guy that was the British Army and also the British Amateur Boxing so he held the two titles. Like he held the amateur of Britain and also the Army when I was still in the air forces.

Don: Well Claud you have been heavily involved in AMNSIS and leadership roles over the past few years what's been your title with AMNSIS and what have you been doing there?

Claud: Well since I've started I've been a field worker on in boxing but at that time when I first started actually the Metis Society was just new, and I did a lot of work on housing. They were putting up new housing winter warmth and that and I was helping the people that way, and also recreation trying to get recreational committee within the locals. Which I did a lot of travelling. I pretty well know all the locals in the province and mostly all the people.

Don: Ok lets may be take army now for awhile. Where were you living before you joined up? Were you married?

Claud: No I was kind of young when I joined the army. All my cousins and relations were going in the army. My uncle was in the regiment that I served. So actually I, what happened I took off I was 15 years old, my parents were in Ontario and I was staying at my grandmothers so I took off.

Don: Was that here in Regina?

Claud: No in Duck Lake.

Don: Duck Lake.

Claud: I took off and I came to Regina and I enlisted and I passed, so I was in the Army.

Don: At 15?

Claud: At 15.

Don: Where did you join, the Pats right of the bat?

Claud: Yes I joined the Pats and then I went to Ipowash, Ontario

Don: What year would that be Claud?

Claud: In '51.

Don: '51.

Claud: December, '51.

Don: Korean war was in full swing.

Claud: Yes, it was one of our battalions the second battalion was over in Korea at that time which they won a citation over there.

Don: What made you join?

Claud: Well because like just what I said because all my friends were joining.

Don: That was the thing to do.

Claud: Oh yes.

Don: You come from an old Metis actually a military family don't you?

Claud: Yes right all the way back actually going back to the rebellion on my dad's side. The Framboise was one of the first ones killed their and he's well my dad's great, great uncle. Then all my grandfather, my dad, my uncles, my aunts, all served in the second world war. And then my other uncle the youngest one served in Korea also.

Don: Do you know what unit your dad was in?

Claud: Yes he was in the Saskatoon Esholosh.

Don: And he served in Europe?

Claud: Oh yes for seven years he was in Europe and he served with the PPCLI, attached. That was a machine gun battalion out of Saskatoon.

Don: 50 calibre, grun gun?

Claud: No, no vicors.

Don: Vicors, they had vicors back then eh?

Claud: Yes they only had the vicors it's a water cooled machine gun well. Anyways like I joined the Army and went to Ipowash and I, all our battalions were they were only spending about 12 months to a year over there. I think the second battalion which was put together from a return man of the second world war in which they call a special force which formed in Fort Lewis in Washington, and went over right away.

Don: You were in the second battalion?

Claud: No I was served with the first back to the second

Don: Which battalion did you over with?

Claud: I went over as reinforcement in the first.

Don: The first battalion.

Claud: I was in the third in Ipowash which was just forming when I joined.

Don: Where is Ipowash I've never heard of that base before?

Claud: It's by Sarnia, Ontario

Don: Sarnia?

Claud: It's about, I'd say it's about 50 miles from Sarnia.

Don: What were your feelings when you first hit the military there? You're 15 years old you just left Duck Lake you haven't been around too much. It must of

Claud: First off I got lost in the station in Toronto.

Don: That was a good start.

Claud: That was a good start.

Don: That was on your way to join?

Claud: Yes, I was in already I went home on leave from here and then they gave me tickets to Ipowash, actually to Tidford, Ontario in the military truck.

Don: Any other Natives from around Saskatchewan join up with you or did you run into any, or were you pretty well on your own there?

Claud: Oh well when I went up there was a few guys that joined up with me like we met on the train actually. Some were coming from Manitoba and one from Alberta there was three of us.

Don: What was their names do you remember? We are going back quite a ways here 30 some years.

Claud: Yes some of them didn't make it over there they stayed on like it's depending on where they went hey after the basic training. some of them didn't make it like they couldn't do the basic training.

Don: What did you think of the basic training? How did the discipline rub you?

Claud: Oh the first charge I had was not shaving.

Don: Yes right a little bit of peach fuzz sticking out there.

Claud: Yes and I got 14 days CB for that, that wasn't to healthy for me. And it was compared to when I got out it was kind of well when your young you know it don't bother you but it was kind of rough because of you know the conditions that were there like the barracks the heating the meals .

Don: Old world war II hots were and cold as hell.

Claud: Yes you know we were right by Lake Superior and it was really cold there. But the snow would go away it went on like that. Then we went on to Wainwright, Alberta here then thats when the drafts started leaving, so I was put on advance our battalion was ready to go but the exchange didn't happen till

Don: You'd be pretty well trained by the time you got to Wainwright eh?

Claud: Yes.

Don: You have taken all the basics all the bloody parade square

Claud: All we were doing there when we got to Wainwright was to get our needles and prepare our kit and everything else.

Don: Just sort of a holding spot until you were gone.

Claud: Yes shipping us out in drafts.

Don: So you went from Wainwright to Seattle?

Claud: Yes then we took the boat

Don: Fort Lewis?

Claud: Yes.

Don: Did you train Fort Lewis for awhile?

Claud: No, no we went right away because we jumped a boat right away like. The draft left Wainwright there was about 50 of us.

Don: So did you go what do you remember the ship you went over on?

Claud: The Marine Adder.

Don: Marine Adder mostly yanks?

Claud: Ah yes there was about 6,000 yanks on there.

Don: And how many Canadians about?

Claud: Not very many there was support staff like there was medics, remies and there must of been a couple three hundred maybe five hundred I don't know something like that.

Don: So how did you get along with the yanks?

Claud: Oh good, a lot of them didn't like going but they had too.

Don: Yes, well Canadians were all volunteers and a lot of the Americans were had to go eh.

Claud: Yes so it didn't bother

Don: What did you think when you saw the old shore line pulling away Claud?

Claud: Well I

Don: You'd be about 16, 17?

Claud: I was downstairs. I was 16 but I was downstairs and I didn't even notice it actually. Coming in we landed in Yokahama. I remember that because I was up I was working in the kitchen that morning on the ship. And we had actually docked when I came up to see lights.

Don: What were your impressions of Yokahama when you first looked out there?

Claud: Dirty and smell the smell well I guess it is like that we you land in the harbour like that. And we went from there to another holding, our, it was our holding wing before you went to, all the troops landed in Curry actually that was slated for the atomic bomb actually the second world war. It was one of the targets they flew across that they it was a Japanese military navy barracks that we occupied there. And we stayed there and prepared again and we had another flight to Korea, Seoul.

Don: Oh you flew to Korea from there eh?

Claud: No, no pardon me we didn't. We went to Curry that I came back that way but, we went to Curry then we got on a British ship then we went to Posan.

Don: Posan?

Claud: Yes from Yokahama.

Don: So your getting close to by the time you landed in Posan you were in Korea and your getting close to the war?

Claud: Yes then we went by train

Don: Nobody ever talks about how they felt when they first hit Korea. You know what were your thoughts did you have any memorable thoughts?

Claud: Well when you're young you know it don't bother you.

Don: It's just there.

Claud: Yes but the thing when we got on the train I guess there was some they did fire at the train. So we were put on alert and we were given ammunition and the ammunition that I that you use it's a hundred rounds. So you were given a hundred rounds right away no grenades, but that's what your given when you got on the train.

Don: What was your equipment you had three odd, three end field?

Claud: Y.es

Don: Brens, stens?

Claud: No we didn't have no unless they had them on they probably did have them on board, but they didn't take them out they just your personal equipment. Like you had your only like when you get back when your going to the line you carry two grenades also. But there we just got the first one ammunition with a hundred rounds and the bandoliers we got two bandoliers and we just tied them on and that was it till we got to our position where we got of the train and then, and our assembly oh what a hell of a surprise.

Don: Mr. Discipline himself.

Claud: Oh yes Mr. Gardener he told us he says you guys better get back on the truck and go back to Canada. He said your not needed here if you're going to act like this.

Don: How were they acting were acting up?

Claud: Oh no, no, no, he was you know how an RSN.

Don: Well he's got to give you shit for something.

Claud: Oh did he chew us out and we didn't know whether to shit or go blind there. And then they loaded us on some trucks and we went to Beshlon and then got all posted to our different companies. I went to Charlie Company. I stayed there overnight and went up to our company which were out on resterec then, so I got to know the guys the NCO and it went on from there.

Don: So where was your first action shortly after that?

Claud: Oh yes we made a, well it was just a 38 parallel you got to understand that it's a static trench right across the country.

Don: This would be '52 now wouldn't it?

Claud: Yes.

Don: Late in '52?

Claud: No '51.

Don: '51?

Claud: Yes late '51. Like the thing is your the trenches are right across the Americans were in there and I don't they were the trenches were over your head. So in spots were your going cover _____ and you also had big bunkers behind them.

Don: So you had the trenches that ran the length as opposed to slip trenches and stuff?

Claud: Yes but you had crawl trenches up to it but you see its you we say mountains but it isn't it's big hills. And that's the way like you know they call it no man's land is between these two big hills or hills like these little mountains, go right across like different position. Like Samitron Valley this big I recall that because the Van Doos was were across and they were firing at us you know.

Don: The Van Doos are famous for that they fired everything. Fire first then look after it.

Claud: Yes well anyways we I guess our Major MacPhail I had him out there. But anyways getting back to the next position we went up for one month and then we came back down and we're on a counter attack roll behind the Black Watch which is the Scottish, well you've heard of the Black Watch.

Don: What was it the Brits not the Canadian Black Watch eh.

Claud: Yes we were behind then as the counter attack roll and they got hit at that all. We did see it you know we were just about six miles behind them.

Don: Night attack?

Claud: Yes and well all night and until the morning. Well they lost something like 72 men. So we made a counter attack up the hill that was up the hook. We were in a heck of a position same with 355. Real deadly positions. We lost 16 men up there.

Don: In that one scrap?

Claud: Yes well just to well we took the hill back they more or less retreated, you know they did what they wanted and usually that's all it is. You know you just mostly all patrols and

Don: Did the North Koreans and Chinese did they have pretty good equipment heavy artillery, did they? Who had the superiority in terms of artillery and?

Claud: Oh we did

Don: Yes but then artillery was still there you got shelled?

Claud: Well I got hit on the hook afterwards after we did the position like we had to redo the trenches and

Don: When they attacked did they were the proceeded with an artillery bombardment?

Claud: Oh they shelled the hell out them first.

Don: Yes, mortars?

Claud: Yes the Black Watch itself brought down artillery on it's own position at the end, because that's why this the position was all just flatten.

Don: Yes were those attacks pretty massive in terms of man power?

Claud: Yes they had them in streams hey but bamboo blankets going over the wire and that was all mined in front of us. That's what we did for the next three months is do that position out like at nights but we were drawing a lot of fire also. They knew what we were doing because we had

Don: Where you on night patrol fairly often?

Claud: Well you hit one fighting patrol which I hit quite a few regiment patrols, you know in front of our position you know these guys were wiring. Like you changed around different platoons on the who was going to do the patrols and who was going to do the wiring. There was a lot of

Don: So it was a lot like World War I your stringing up wire and shit?

Claud: Oh yes well after that you know they just hammered that hill and then they the wire was all gone but the thing is was it was the Americans were there and there was a lot of mines that weren't recorded. It's just like a actually, when you go into a mine field it should be recorded and it's like you know a town so you know where these mines are.

Don: Yes that's right.

Claud: But we didn't have none of these. Some of our guys were getting killed with these bouncing bedding mines they just had that loaded with them things.

Don: Yes they'd come up

Claud: About four feet and then blow. But we got we had two guys get killed in our well between them that's what happened.

Don: With the mines?

Claud: Yes and we had the engineers of course as support come up and do the wiring for us like wiring parties and the _____ were out front. Silence you know, no wireless field homes stuff like that. And the 355 was deadly you know everybody talked about it.

Don: The 355?

Claud: Another bad hill paraded and the hook. Because the hook went out practically the enemy you know there's the hook and what happened there mountains came right in along here and then this is where you they'd hammer that thing every night.

Don: What month, that'd be in '52 when you were fighting on the hook and?

Claud: Yes.

Don: Can you remember what month that was?

Claud: That must of been around March .

Don: Yes March '52. That was the heaviest action?

Claud: Well right across the front of it.

Don: Yes but I mean during that period?

Claud: Yes oh yes because you know even well the third battalion that came in. This was done with the third battalion because I was reinforcement and they came in afterwards, right afterwards. And this, I was back with my company then already my company that I was with in Canada here. So you go back to your original company. Then what happened was I see we had the stars and strips also the newspaper that I read part of that we

want a well they had little shitty things out on our wire
welcome to Korea third battalion PPCLI.

Don: The Chinese, yeah I read about that. They wanted to let
you know they knew where you were at.

Claud: Yes or who you were what were you.

Don: Yes how do you think they had such good?

Claud: Oh we had a lot of, we called them pack rats you know.

Don: Yes and they were pretty loyal to the other side?

Claud: I would believe so, we didn't trust them either you
know. You had to watch. We brought like couple _____ you
know had said, like he wouldn't have them around us. When we
were up in the front they'd bring up the ammo and they'd make
sure that they were gone out of there. Like they were back in,
what happened they were back in Aeshalon our company stored, but
that's were they'd be and they'd take so many workers that they
were bringing up blankets or rations.

Don: Then they'd let the enemy know exactly where your going
when they got back.

Claud: Yes probably that's what they thought you know.

Don: In this book here they talk about the same thing with the
RCR's. They went across the river and they were expecting all
hell to brake loose and run across and there was a sign there
welcome second battalion RCR's.

Claud: Oh yes we had that.

Don: You had that too eh?

Claud: Like guys like in patrols. The RCR's they were on 355
they got a shit kicking.

Don: They lost in total 138 men and the Pats lost 128 and the
Van Doos 105. So there was pretty heavy casualties.

Claud: We, I'm quite sure that was 16 men they said on less it
was wounded or casualties, probably casualties. Because I know
I seen

Don: This is dead?

Claud: Yes 4 or 5 bodies out there you know in the stretchers a couple of my friends

Don: Can you remember what sort of feelings you had when you had during action, you're all hyped up but

Claud: One of my

Don: When you see the dead when your that young and that how did that affect you?

Claud: Well you know you have all kinds of thoughts and people are trying to help you get out of there. Because your too young to be here. I met my uncle he was coming home and I was going there and he says what the hell are you doing here.

Don: What was your uncle's name?

Claud: Murray.

Don: Was he in the infantry as well was he? In the Pats?

Claud: First Battalion. But he was in right after second world war.

Don: Well he'd be kind of surprised to see you there at that age?

Claud: Yes and he was, and then my brother came was there too. It was a Smith that was with the RCR from the Duck Lake area that got wounded up there too.

Don: Native guy?

Claud: Well Metis.

Don: Yes.

Claud: And there was quite a few guys Reo Puloewen got he got shot up, he's from Duck Lake. He still, he works and the post office.

Don: Puloewen?

Claud: Yes Reo. He got shot up with a he was on the fighting patrol and he got shot up in the leg. I think my uncle was on

that same patrol, you know like told him well you'd better go you know one patrol that's what they usually

Don: Patrol, a patrol that's usually leaves at night, does it, and it goes out to sort of check?

Claud: No fighting patrol.

Don: A fighting patrol what the purpose of it?

Claud: A fighting patrol is advance contact. You contact the enemy and you then you have a briefing afterwards and they try to figure out what their position is what they are doing.

Don: It's just a probe into this.

Claud: Yes but they've got to go until they contact. You've got all kinds of they usually about 20 - 21 people. You got get away men, radio men, an officer, even the sergeant, two corporals, two Lance corporals. So actually you've got a lot of knowledge plus you know you've got quite a bit of time to get yourself ready and you go out where your going you don't, well you know

Don: Well your just going into contact again.

Claud: You may go in front of another company you know what I mean you don't go in front of your own lines all the that's what I was talking about of these patrols. You may go in front of the you've got three platoons in your company, you might go in one platoon that you don't know of you don't say o.k. your going in front of these guys. Same with the fighting patrol, you go until you contact the enemy you shot it up a little bit then you come back. And you try to bring your casualties back and your going to get some casualties.

Don: Yes you are.

Claud: You can expect that and there is all kinds of tricks to that, like you were saying the RCR they let you in the wire and then they ambush you. You can't get back.

Don: They were pretty good troops weren't they the enemy? Pretty wily troops, pretty tough troops.

Claud: Yes well you look back at Vietnam it's basically the same thing. You know they knew what they were doing they were

dug in like, lets face it we were dropping napalm bombs strafing them every day and they were still coming out and we'd have our tanks our centurions firing at them, and they'd still come out and fire a couple mortars then hide the weapons, all underground. On the side of the mountain you know. I was on 50 calibers and at the end we had a 50 up in the Sanbich Valley that was next to 355 and Van doos and we could pick this Chinese guy or Korean. There was a blown up bridge and he had that position there we'd fire at him and he'd duck down and then he'd come back out we were watching him. You could carry you see the thing is he's there well we got him straight we couldn't get him he I guess he was in so far.

Don: So how long were you on the lines all together?

Claud: Well probably I was only there eight months because I got, my mother wired Ottawa got a hold of someone and they got me out of there. That's why I was under age. But I, they didn't say too much I much because I mean I wasn't the guy that squealed and beside that I was wounded and I didn't say too much. Actually it was their fault. But I came back and I came to Calgary and then I stayed in, I got out for a little while and went back in about a half a year then I was back in '57.

Don: You were old enough by this time?

Claud: Yes and then

Don: You went to Europe, eh?

Claud: Yes I went to Germany twice and

Don: How many years then all together then in the military?

Claud: About approximately 16, 15 years.

Don: So did you get any kind of a rank before you got out or?

Claud: Well I was a corporal off and on.

Don: Oh yes get busted once and a while.

Claud: Oh yes, always get that. But at that time I got out I was just it was just going over to try service which was we had all the same uniforms we were trying them out in Germany.

Don: What did you guys think of that, I suppose you wouldn't be too happy with that?

Claud: Oh I was.

Don: Were you?

Claud: Yes the army was but the navy wasn't and the air force didn't mind.

Don: They weren't as nearly as nicely looking uniform as the battle dress as far as looks, but the battle dress took a lot of work?

Claud: That's what I mean.

Don: Brass to shine.

Claud: How the heck are you going to wear that thing and actually they did in first world war they used it in combat but everything was getting _____ with there straight vest and the front. But when they came out it was better equipment for us. Like the Americans have there KD's and that was something like that and then we had warm winter guards like the parka so we had a liner and inner.

Don: Now when you were in Korea you still had the great coat they weighed about a ton and a half.

Claud: Oh yes but we didn't use that we had parkas.

Don: You had sheep skin?

Claud: No, no just parkas and we used the outers for when we were going in the lines cause they had the big pockets and we had wind pants.

Don: You had warm enough equipment in Korea?

Claud: Yes we wore pyjamas and

Don: Everything, well the winters are pretty cold there.

Claud: Yes we wore isolation boots which came from the Brits with the different type of mesh that kept your feet warm. And the thing is I was in some like I went to Alaska as a jumper also and some arctic gear that we wore, we wore the parka that

we used afterwards and I think they are still using them. O.k. we just used the shell used the wind pants pyjamas and a string vest which as your body made it's own heat and I didn't know that these pyjamas were about the warmest thing.

Don: Well back in Korea there during the winter what how did you stay warm, did you have a good sleeping bags did you sleep in the trenches?

Claud: Oh no, no we never carried sleeping bags up in the lines.

Don: Well the yanks did.

Claud: Well that's why.

Don: But they got caught in them too and got shot.

Claud: No we never had a sleeping bag and we had blankets. Like you know it was usually up to 50% stand to so you had 50% out and 50% sleeping resting and eating always a brew on in the bunker. The bunkers were about 10 feet on the top and you know big timbers but I guess if you got a direct hit on top with a big shell you would make an effect but not too much.

Don: No you are pretty safe there.

Claud: Yes so anyways this is the way it went on you know like you had 100% stand to unless they pulled you for patrols. Like they'd pull may be two three men that were listening patrol depending.

Don: Well what were your impressions when you came back from Korea well when you got out of the army what was your impressions of everything that went on over there? Do you think we should have been there and did you think, what your feeling about it now a lot of your friends that were left over there?

Claud: Yes the thing is I don't think it was worth it. You know we didn't you know maybe I don't think we accomplished anything. You know lost a lot of people and especially the Americans, you know like they said you know they knew there was some difference hey but the Americans would threaten that they could wipe them off the Chinese could push them in the water and they could in about 20 minutes we could wipe you off this map you know if they wanted to. And they had it and like they had the fire power in Seoul a guy went on R & R in Tokyo and he and

you see the fire power that's just on holding because that wasn't even on up in the lines.

Don: Well the yanks used as battle tactic they used an awful lot more fire power than the Canadians didn't they?

Claud: Oh yes well even our Canadian Artillery which can say and I heard from our crew that came up with us he was beside us one day drawing fire, the same Korean guy I was telling you about bridge there, he was telling us that they fired more ammunition up to that time then they did in the second world war. They fired a lot and they were doing a lot of night firing but they were trying out different things.

Don: Yes experimenting with different stuff.

Claud: Yes well like the napalm was just coming into

Don: That's the first time it was used wasn't it in Korea?

Claud: Yes.

Don: That was a hell of a sight, eh?

Claud: Yes.

Don: Have you seen it hit?

Claud: Oh yes they were we called it down quite a few times. Like we could draw

Don: You had American air support?

Claud: Oh yes we always had but they had these old one engine things you didn't think they'd get up in the air and you think you were getting in and the jets came in and jet were introduced there too.

Don: You had the old world war II planes to begin with eh?

Claud: Oh yes.

Don: Is that right.

Claud: The prop jobs and you know there going up after there dive in you know dumping of their load or they'd drop a couple bombs and then one at a time then they pulled out and you'd think oh for sure you'd see some of them get hit.

Don: Is that right, with small arms or ack ack?

Claud: Oh yes ack ack.

Don: The enemy had ack ack eh?

Claud: Oh yes, air bursts you could see it they were really plugging away at it.

Don: So the enemy was pretty well equipped hey they had

Claud: Oh yes.

Don: Ground troops had got automatic weapons.

Claud: Yes it didn't well they had the burb gun the Russian Burb Gun. It didn't fizz on me till after the Vietnam war on these underground you know, we tried to pick up on binoculars but were on stand too. Well they were even shooting at us the snipers were shooting at us, they say us they'd shoot us. So they were out there, there was no two ways about they were

Don: Yes but you didn't see them very often?

Claud: No but they saw us. And they had our positions down and I got hit.

Don: What got you a mortar, artillery?

Claud: Mortar.

Don: Mortar?

Claud: There was about five of us that got hit they dropped them like boom, boom, boom, boom and that was it.

Don: Yes they knew exactly what they were doing?

Claud: Yes, and right at that bunker too there was a first aid bunker for the whole company and

Don: Where'd you get hit?

Claud: I got hit in the shoulder. I got hit, I had a bullet proof vest on. Some guys didn't and we wore bullet proof vests. Some guys didn't, one guy got it in the back the same shell and

we got it pretty bad. One guy lost his leg he was having a crap and he hit him right on the leg. And his hands like he seen it or heard it coming in he put up his hands and protected his face all his arms were all it was he was a friend of mine.

Don: Full of chrapnel.

Claud: He was the old corporal actually Pawn was his name he played for the Ottawa Rough Riders. He tried out for Ottawa Rough Riders.

Don: Yes, after the war?

Claud: No before.

Don: Before the war. Well he got hurt pretty bad hey?

Claud: Yes I guess he's last I heard of him, well he was came true with me that's one guy I can remember because he got made up there and he was a good guy all around good guy.

Don: I've asked all the other guys and I am going to ask you too what was the relationship between the Native guys, Metis guys and non-Natives in the army was it pretty close?

Claud: Yes I believe so because of there was not too much discrimination.

Don: Yes.

Claud: It's the same as anything else as when your all together your doing one thing it's just like a football team there's no, your a team you know and that's drilled into you. It don't matter if your blue, black or green it's you've got to do your job and that's it.

Don: Well is that because that was drilled in you or was it cause your up front and your life depends on the next guy and his on you and that sort of thing?

Claud: Yes I think that was then the thinking that everybody was there you know.

Don: Buddy to buddy.

Claud: Yes you depend and also you could see it pretty close when you went out on R & R leave that you'd think you'd drift

away but you always seem to be together. You don't like say you go on holidays I want to get away from it all, you get into Tokyo and you're all back together again.

Don: Drinking in the bar together.

Claud: Yes really raising hell and having fun. And Tokyo was good time but now that I came back from there I came back by air to Holution Islands to Vancouver from Korea to Japan I spent some time in Japan.

Don: You stopped off in Holutions eh?

Claud: Yes we had a meal there it came with CP and from Tokyo to, I had a problem getting up of off there because we were having ice on our wings and well we got into Vancouver so it wasn't too bad.

Don: Where you glad to get back home?

Claud: Oh yes I was really glad and you know I got back in friends you know where some of the younger guys were getting back in so I thought I my as well go and because everybody was going to Europe and I was. So I got in and the jump course on a para course so I got into Edmonton I went with the second battalion into which was a mobile strike in force in the north and we did some exercises in Alaska. A couple they called it Big Bear and Small Bear. Small Bear was done, in oh what the heck was the name of that place it's up by Red Deer in the mountains in Alberta Rocky Mountain House. O.k. we did a couple of weeks exercise there before we went to Alaska we jumped in Alaska. The Americans took us out before we hit the ground I think. They had the equipment there you see it was really cold it was about 72 below with a wind chill.

Don: When you jumped?

Claud: Yes when we got in you know we got put up our tents and then we had exercises with the Americans. They had it worse, some of them guys were coming from Tennessee brought right in to about 55 below. Oh they couldn't even hang onto their rifles they were throwing their rifles away and everything else because of they are not use to this stuff you know. But I guess they were demonstrating and they had not only that they were trying this thing out to see if they could do it like we were prepared it was no problem with us.

Don: So the Canadians made out a lot better in the cold than the Americans?

Claud: Oh yes there was no problem.

Don: There was no surprise there I guess.

Claud: Oh no we had all our act together before we even got there. We did about four exercise we did a couple in Wainwright, a couple well one in Rocky Mountain House, that's a big one even checking out our vehicles. Keeping going all the time.

Don: Well are you married now Claud?

Claud: No.

Don: No family?

Claud: Not anymore.

Don: You are still a bachelor hey? And what are you feelings, you've served your country and got wounded, and what are your feelings now about Canada and about Native people? Do you think they are getting as good as deal as they should given there war efforts and what about the vets are they doing as good as, are they getting treated the same as other vets?

Claud: Well coming from the Duck Lake area I know my dad I'm getting a little pension 5%. My dad I don't know he didn't tell me but he is getting a good pension. He got shot up in the second world war. And in that area like I've got 1, 2, 3, 2 uncles there 3 uncles in Duck Lake that seem to be getting along pretty good. But you get the different areas I don't DVA is same with everybody. You know you go in front of a board for a pension you know if you can't talk you know you wont even get it.

Don: That's right.

Claud: Maybe there should

Don: But they've got one rules, it's a matter if you know the ropes.

Claud: Yes it's just like writing a proposal up I guess is how good you can write it, you know. Basically the same thing what I am looking at is that you go in there I know a my mother even talks about that she worked hard to get this pension for dad because you know he had it coming. And they owed it to him

because you know he his life was had it when. He use to work on the railroad when he joined the army and he got his job back when he came back because his time continued I guess, he got seniority on it. Then he came back and then he couldn't handle it that much.

Don: Used up.

Claud: Yes and then they applied for pension they finally got it. He got a DVA house and there doing well and I think all the other people. But I talked to many people even our young people should spend about 18 months in the army.

Don: That's what all the Vets say they figure it discipline stuff would be a good lesson.

Claud: I believe so, and that would be a way to, like there's a lot I know myself to go back and get education like I did some through the army.

Don: What grade did you have before you went in?

Claud: I had I was just into grade eight but I got upgraded they have classes there so I had to go to ten. And, you have to go to ten. Well that was the CO's doing that you know while we were doing nothing in the winter time.

Don: Might as well learn.

Claud: Go to school.

Don: That was a good CO I don't think that was general throughout the army.

Claud: No, no.

Don: That would just be the CO good guy eh.

Claud: Yes but he had, we had about four or five teachers that were officers so he used them.

Don: Smart move.

Claud: Yes.

Don: And everybody gained from it.

Claud: Yes so they pushed us through that while as soon as we could, and all the people were soon as we'd get enough it was just like running a machine gun driver or anything coarse soon as you got enough people you ran it.

Don: Yes.

Claud: Then you didn't have no duties that's why these guys went for it, well even myself. You didn't have no duties, you didn't have no weekend duties or anything so it's just like going to school.

Don: Damn good deal.

Claud: Yes it was a good deal and it wasn't hard or anything like that. So that's what happened my education. I took some night school in Edmonton. I lasted there about a year but it's a bugger you know when you

Don: When your working.

Claud: Yes and the thing is you weren't making that much money going downtown.

Don: What have you done in terms of, have you, what have you done since you got out of the army. Have you been involved in motor mechanics or any of that kind of work or?

Claud: Ah no I do my hobbies are wood work I had a house here I renovated the inside, but going back to the armed forces when I was in Germany I took the advance boxing course recreation that's while I come involved with

Don: That's how you got into it eh.

Claud: Yes like I've taken courses and that respect and that's why I got hired. Like my qualifications like I don't know they said that may be I'd get a one or two credits, I don't know university if I had too because of the course. I didn't, I know that the Boxing Association credit me for a level four, level five because of that course.

Don: Well I mean the fact that you were the Canadian Champ should have a little bit to do with it.

Claud: No, no it's a level four a level five course level four recreation. That means basic playground recreation and also the

boxing part. Then the theory and then right now I am the president of the Boxing Association of Saskatchewan. That happened a couple of weeks ago. So I'm still involved with the boxing scene, I have level four hockey. And officiating I can do hockey too I'm a level three in boxing official, I was head of official in Saskatchewan. You know but I mean that comes with the job actually you know you try to improve yourself on this sport like we've got about sixty to seventy five percent boxers are Native so actually it does help you know.

Don: It helps having the Native at the top there.

Claud: Yes so what I did was represent the boxing before as the president so it was no problem.

Don: Well o.k. I can't think of anything else to talk about Claud.

Claud: Make sure you do a good book.

Don: Yes things are looking pretty good actually.