

National Museum of the Pacific War

Nimitz Education and Research Center

Fredericksburg, Texas

Interview with

Mr. Art Goetz

Date of Interview: September 3, 2004

National Museum of the Pacific War

Fredericksburg, Texas

Interview with Mr. Art Goetz

Interview in progress.

Cork Morris: This is September 3, 2004 and I'm interviewing Mr. Art Goetz. This interview is taking place in San Antonio, [TX]. This interview is in support of the Center for the Pacific War; archives for the National Museum of the Pacific War, Texas Parks and Wildlife for the preservation of historical information. Well thanks for offering to do this for me, Art.

Mr. Goetz: Happy to do it, Steve.

Cork Morris: Alright, we usually like to start with where you're from; when you were born; who your folks were?

Mr. Goetz: Alright. Let's see, I was born May 29, 1928 in New York City; lived most of my life New York City till I was about thirteen; we moved to Philadelphia, and from there...after going to high school I joined the Marine Corps when I was seventeen and went to Parris Island for training. Then from there to Camp LeJeune for engineer basic training and I was shipped overseas to China at that time.

Cork Morris: What year...what year is this?

Mr. Goetz: This is 1946...about '45 we left Camp Pend...Camp...Camp LeJeune...sorry...1945 in December went out to Camp Pendleton had training. That was quite an exciting experience for a young kid...seven or

eight years old. On the way out we ran into a...in Texas we ran into a truckload of...of oranges...the train did. And they stopped the trains for I guess...half a day...about that...like that and told us we could get off and have all the oranges we wanted. Then we got to Pendleton and we went through some basic training there before we loaded...loaded the ships and went on; took about twenty-eight, twenty-nine days to get to China.

Cork Morris: Where'd you actually land in China?

Mr. Goetz: We landed at Tanku (sp?) which is very small village on the...on the coast and it's in the Yellow Sea and I was really surprised that that sea is really yellow!

Cork Morris: Really?!

Mr. Goetz: Yes, it is. Yeah, that surprised me. But I guess that's the reason they named it...so much mud and silt that it...(unintelligible)

Cork Morris: Oh, that falls into it?

Mr. Goetz: Turns it yellow, yeah. We went into Tanku; we...from there we went and loaded onto trucks I believe and they trucked us on to Tin-Tsin (sp?) which was...how...I was aiming to...or had attitude...become a member of the First Engineer Battalion Able Company and we wound up with them. Able Company was in the old Japanese girl's school...of course, from the...across the Sing-ho (sp?) River and in the Tin-Tsin area there; stayed there about two weeks only and they're opening the Peping area up at that time. And they knew the detachment of engineers up there to do such things as (unintelligible) stuff would be in place; provide bridging and all of that kind

of stuff. And we went to Peping...would have been probably mid-February when we got up there and...its...funny thing is I went through Engineer Basic School. One of the things they dropped out of the training classes was the Water Point Man. Guess what they made me when I got to Peping? Water Point Man. So me and another fellow by the name of Ted Elsinbaum (sp?) we ran a water point through the (unintelligible) which sets right at Tiananmen. Tiananmen is the gate...the main gate going into the (unintelligible) city of Peping.

Cork Morris: Right, Tiananmen Square that we all watched in TV, right. So Peking is what we call Beijing now, right?

Mr. Goetz: That's right. Then...in fact it was called Peking years before we got there, so it...depending on whether the Chinese didn't consider it their capitol now. They kept wanting be...between Peping and Nanking. So it was Peping when I was there. The interesting thing about being at...at the American Legation is we were falling behind the guys that were there in the '30s...such people as Chesty Puller who was a really renowned Marine...had the Horse Marines there...it was the only horse Marine detachment in the Marine Corps ever that I know of. And it actually had a...a group that were (unintelligible) mounted and Chesty Puller was the commanding officer of it...in the American Legation, so lot of history there. The wall, the Taller (sp?) Wall is a massive wall. It stands some fifty feet high and in places it's...probably thirty, forty feet wide...most of the places.

Cork Morris: This is what we all call the Great Wall of China, is this...?

Mr. Goetz: No, no...it was just a taller wall for the city of Peking.

Cork Morris: Oh okay, okay.

Mr. Goetz: We did get to see the Great Wall. That wall...the significance of that wall is that's where we fought the Boxer Rebellion...right up on that wall at the American Legation, and several Medals of Honor...resulted of that combat. So...the rest about the Great Wall; we made a trip to the Great Wall. Several of us loaded onto a...train right outside the...the tidal wall...the...the train stopped right below...below the Tiananmen Gate and rode the train; took us up north from...from the city...probably about thirty, forty miles, something like that, but the train was very slow getting there. When we got to the town right at the...it wasn't...it was just a village...right at the Great Wall...we off loaded there and there was a walk up a...up a mount to get to the...to the Wall itself, so they...they had Chinese there waiting for us. They would...you could rent a donkey and they would take you up there. I'm a tall guy...and sitting on the donkey was...was a panic because my feet were dragging on the ground! But this donkey got me up to the...to the Wall. And when we got up there...just looked around; walked up and down the Wall itself...it's a massive wall! That wall is probably sixty...where we were...sixty, seventy, eighty feet tall! And it's possibly about forty, fifty feet wide; it's wide enough to drive a truck there...through it. And then they have the security sections...I forget the name they call them, but they (unintelligible) up even higher, so they were eighty feet up...that's all. The idea of the Wall was to keep the Mongolians out of...the Peking area and going south through there.

Other experiences in China? Well I was in the American Legation...had...we had an incident at Anping (sp?) where our troops were ambushed. We had...we had a supply route that ran from Tin-Tsin up to Peping which was about a ninety-mile trip on a small boat. At that time they were running just jeeps and trucks, and got to Anping and the communists, the Qualut (sp?) (sp?)...the Qualugians (sp?) we called them...that was the Chinese name. The United States Army troops were there in this village, right at Anping...started firing on the...on the troops that had road blocked it and we lost, I think three dead in that fight and probably fifteen, sixteen wounded.

Cork Morris: Was the (unintelligible) just Marines or were there...were some Chinese also or just...just Marines?

Mr. Goetz: No, just Marines.

Cork Morris: Okay.

Mr. Goetz: Yeah, they...just the truck drivers and...and some guards were along with the...with the trucks and all because we had trouble with keeping the Chinese off of the trucks when we...when we were loaded with...with supplies. And the reason I mentioned that is I had the occasion to go to the German Legation...over to the German Legation with another guy that was going to be working on a refrigerator over there. And we went into the refrigerator and it had two of the dead hanging in the refrigerator, the two dead Marines from the (unintelligible) that they had...and that was quite a shock for a seventeen year old kid to see. (Unintelligible)...what else would you like to know?

Cork Morris: Well, what shape was China in after World War II? I mean the infrastructure and...?

Mr. Goetz: Very, very poor condition that (unintelligible). The people lived on what we would consider pennies I would think. You could buy most anything in town for what...is equivalent of a dollar...five cents, ten cents...used...there's an exchange rate for the Chinese money. And the funny thing was there was two different kinds of money that you could get your hands on. FRB which is Federal Reserve Bank money which they say was what the Japanese had set up when they were there, and CNC, Chinese National Currency. And when you would go in town with American money...if you would...probably exchange person there who would exchange it for you. They always gave you some of each and you never knew whether you got the right amount or not. And even if you bought anything in town that was a problem, too. You just hoped you got the right...right amount back, but I guess...they...they have a tendency in China...their...when you buy anything from a merchant there, you'd have to haggle for it...the price of it. And they have a tendency to...to take some...what they call (unintelligible), off of the top. So if you bought something for two hundred CNC, they would probably take two hundred and ten CNC out...for...for something like that. But you always paid a little extra on...on it...a purchase.

Cork Morris: (Unintelligible), I guess.

Mr. Goetz: The nice...one of the nice things that I did when I was there was I got to go visit a lot of places. I got into the Forbidden City...it was really

fabulous...city within the city. It...it had its own wall, too, the...probably prior campus for that...Forbidden City. Structures in that Forbidden City were fabulous...beautiful colors and just great architecture. The...as an example, the Emperor's walk up to one of the main rooms in that...in that building...one of the main buildings in that complex has a...had a...I guess it was some kind of granite or marble carved with (unintelligible)...its going all the way up into the...to...through the building, and it was carved wood with dragons all through it. And only the Emperor walked up that wall...is what they told us. There was actual stairs on either side, the troops and other people could go up to see...to meet with the Emperor. Inside these buildings are fabulous statues and jewels; it was just great. Of course it didn't last there very long. From the time it was...started to making a threat against taking Peking, they moved over...that over to Formosa, I guess.

Cork Morris: But the Japanese left all this alone? They left...?

Mr. Goetz: The Japanese...yeah, that was one of our tasks was to...was to...when we first got there was to...gather these Japanese soldiers and...and there were civilians there, too, with the...with the Japanese soldiers and trans...disarm them of course and transport them back to Japan for repatriation. And that was done...pretty well accomplished by, I would say, by July of 1946. So they were all out of there.

Cork Morris: Did you...did you have to go real far afield to round these fellows up or...?

Mr. Goetz: I didn't really do that personally myself since I was in Engineers, but the Infantry did. The (unintelligible) they did in shifts, they did. As

(unintelligible)...out at West Field...was one of the fields we used was the West Field and South Field and...in Peping area. And out at West Field I know that they...there was going to be a massive attack by the (unintelligible) and there...there weren't enough Marines out there to...to ward it off, but there were still lots of attachments of Japanese out there, so they...the commanding officer of the Marines... commanding the...officer, the colonel decided to make an offer to the Japanese to help us defend West Field, and they did. And...

Cork Morris: So gave their guns back and...?

Mr. Goetz: Yeah, gave their guns back and let them...do the defense. And when...when it was all over when they had defeated the...the Chinese communists, they gave them...they gave their guns back and then they repatriated them.

Cork Morris: (Unintelligible)...that!

Mr. Goetz: Yeah. I...I imagine a similar thing may have happened down...down at South Field. We had Marine units...air...air wing units in West Field and in South Field. Some of the other places I got to see was the Temple of Heaven (sp?); that really impressed me.

Cork Morris: Is that in Peping also or...?

Mr. Goetz: It's just south of the city; you have to actually go outside the (unintelligible) city to get to the...to get to the Temple of Heaven. But there's a...beautiful buildings there and...and its enclosed in...everything's (unintelligible) in China...even...even the homes within the city were walled...that they have to

keep the bad people out, I guess, and keep the bad spirits out, too, at the same time.

Cork Morris: Right.

Mr. Goetz: At the Temple of Heaven, I got to stand in what they called Whisper Walls...a circular wall around this one building in the complex that you could stand in one side...and it's quite wide. I'd say probably five, six hundred feet in diameter. And you'd stand on one side...another person stand on the other side and actually whisper and the other person could hear you. The acoustics was so fine in that wall. Besides that...

Cork Morris: Did they...designed that way or...?

Mr. Goetz: Yes it was; for what reason I don't recall now, but it was designed that way. And they actually have the (unintelligible) there at the Temple of Heaven which was another white marble or white (unintelligible) some kind of stone. And it was large; I would say probably, oh, a good hundred feet across and it...the Chinese according to their beliefs believe that that's the center of the earth. And we went up there on Easter Sunday morning we had a sunrise service on the Temple of Heaven which was pretty unique. We really, really enjoyed that. And I have pictures of myself up in these places. Besides that there was the...the Ming Tombs. I never got up to the Ming Tombs myself, but I'm sure if you talk to some of the other guys that were in Peking, they probably did. And just as an aside...

Cork Morris: Go ahead.

Mr. Goetz: One of our members, a nurse, we had nurses over there (unintelligible) had purchased an urn when she was there with about three American dollars total. And it turns out it was an urn from...from the Ming Dynasty, 1426 – 1465...something in there was...was the analysis on this urn. (Unintelligible) now for...a museum down there.

Cork Morris: (Unintelligible).

Mr. Goetz: But that was...that's the kind of purchase you could make when you were there. The only things that I brought back of any value was...I bought two blouses that were...cloisonné blouses and I probably paid like the equivalent of maybe fifty cents for the pair and they're worth in the neighborhood of three, four hundred dollars for the pair. Let's see...besides...the Temple of Heaven we hit the...Summer Palace and the Winter Palaces there, the Emperor's Palaces and they were...need to see. At the Summer Palace as an example the...the empress who was in charge of China at that time, I forget her name, didn't have any boat. There was a big lake right there by the Summer Palace and she didn't have a boat...where she could hold parties...gatherings...and she didn't like being on the regular boats because of the fact that it might, you know, roll a little bit, so she made a boat out of marble...actually a boat...it's a huge boat just like a regular boat made out of marble sitting there on the water so she could do those things. I guess that's about all (unintelligible). Is there anything else that I can help you with?

Cork Morris: You need to (unintelligible) or...?

Mr. Goetz: No.

Cork Morris: Okay. Did you feel...I understand there was a conflict between the Nationalist Chinese and the communists.

Mr. Goetz: Yeah.

Cork Morris: Was this an on-going thing? I mean were you constantly threatened by them or...?

Mr. Goetz: Oh yes, yes. It's quite a few...we knew of these things. I...I never personally got involved in them, but there was quite a few ambushes; quite a few raids they made on our ammo dumps. As an example, down at...at Sin-ho (sp?) ammo dump which is down near Tanku (sp?) in...would have been April, 1947...just as we were getting ready to leave China...(unintelligible) Red China, there was a massive raid by them. They were trying to get to our ammo that was in that dump. And that one we had five killed I believe and eighteen, twenty were wounded in the fight down there. That was A1-5, A Company, First Battalion, Fifth Marines that was (unintelligible). Outside of that one, there...there were other incidents all over. The...the troops that guarded the trains, the coal trains coming...that...that was one of our jobs there was to make sure that the coal got through from up in the coal fields up Lin-se (sp?) and...and some other places, and guard the bridges where these coal trains went across. They were always picking on those guys; always sniping at them; always shooting at them, you know. We had seven Marines...as a...as an example that were captured by the communists up in the Lin-se area. These guys were guarding a bridge and they had quarters there. A lot...lot of the cases, it was just tense, but some had an old mud hut

or something that they had built in the area that they'd live in. And they decided to go get some ice one morning to cool some beer and they went into town to an ice plant in town...their ice plant. They'd just cut blocks of ice out of the river, you know, in the wintertime. They went to get the ice, and while they were there...communists came into the area. One of the Marines hid in...in the ice plant under some...they hid him under some straw in the plant itself and the rest of them...seven of them got captured...taken by these communists, and they were held for almost thirty days before they finally got released. They didn't do anything drastic to them, but they...of course, our commanding officers and all were very upset by this and they sent out the entire...almost the entire battalion of the Seventh Marines to see if they could find out where they had gone. And they couldn't catch up with them, but there was a nego...negotiations went on between our senior officers and...and the communists to get them to freedom...and they finally did. But those guys had some explaining to do...(laughter) as you can imagine.

Cork Morris: Right.

Mr. Goetz: What the hell were you doing in town when you're supposed to be at the bridge?

Cork Morris: Asked for it I guess. Well what was the...what the Chinese people like? I mean...friendly...?

Mr. Goetz: Oh yes.

Cork Morris: Glad to see you?

Mr. Goetz: Yeah, when we first got there...I guess most of the time that I was there...I made two trips. On this first trip between when I got there in...in January of '46 till we left in April of '47 they were very nice. They...when we first pulled in, it was the conquering Americans were here, and they were waving American flags and all...when we would come into the town...the bigger towns like Tin-Tsin they'd line the streets and really have a nice party for us. And it...it stayed that way for probably three or four months and then it quieted down. But the people were...were nice people. They would invite you into their homes if you got to know them. And some of the guys that happened to. One of my friends met a doctor, a Chinese doctor, and...and was invited into his home and he used to go back and...and visit with him and have dinner with him on...on occasion. I was never that lucky to meet anybody that way. They would...(loud noise in room)...they...I've lost my train of thought after that break. Ask me another question.

Cork Morris: Uh, Chinese people, the Chinese people.

Mr. Goetz: Chinese people, right. My contact with the Chinese people was mostly in town. You know that...that I explained to you that they liked to haggle when you buy things. And of course I was...went into town and bought different things and we sent people in. There was a hotel there, the Waga-we (sp?) Hotel, that is a famous hotel that dates back...into probably the 1900s would be the Boxer Rebellion period...was...it was significant. We used to go over there to have a steak dinner; it was one of the best places to get a steak dinner...plus we didn't...we didn't make much money. You have to

understand I was a Private pfc; it was fifty dollars a month...fifty-four dollars a month plus a little bit of overseas pay. So what...with the exchange rate...the way it was...CNC ran about thirty-five hundred to one, and FRB was about twenty-eight hundred something to one. You...you could get a lot of Chinese money for a couple of bucks and you could go and eat in a place like the Waga-we Hotel. Besides the Wag-we...Little Jimmy's comes to mind. There was some Italians that were living there through the war...

Cork Morris: Really?!

Mr. Goetz: Yeah, and opened up this Italian restaurant. You could buy a nice spaghetti dinner with beer, a pitcher of beer and the whole thing probably about a quarter...that's about what it would cost for...in American money! Let's see...besides Little Jimmy's...

Cork Morris: I guess...(untelligible) is a fairly cosmopolitan place when...

Mr. Goetz: Oh yes, very cosmopolitan.

Cork Morris: ...all the...all the nationalities.

Mr. Goetz: Well there was lots of clubs, too. It was funny, you would think that they would have one enlisted men's club; no, they had Pfc's clubs, (untelligible) clubs, (untelligible) clubs...on up the ladder like that...(untelligible) clubs. And women could go there and drink or you could go there and...and get in...get in with a group that was going to one of the places to visit like the...the Temple of Heaven or whatever. Oh, another thing! When I...I was...after awhile I was taken out of the American Legation and our unit...we...which was originally a British Legation...moved over to the

Italian Legation. And right in back of the Italian Legation...there was a wall, of course, around our legation...on the other compounds back there was...was the American Red Cross, and this old mansion...a I mean it was a large mansion, too! And that was a pretty neat place. We...we used to...we had port and starboard liberty which means you go every other night on liberty...actually on liberty, but we...since we had ladders...we didn't have engineers...we would put a ladder up on a gate and go over the wall to the American Red Cross place; you could get food there very cheap...you know steaks and whatever you wanted really, and it was a nice recreational place to go, you know.

Cork Morris: Did, well as an engineer did...were you essentially just maintaining the legation or were you...did they do any rebuilding of the city or any of that stuff?

Mr. Goetz: No, no, it was maintaining the legations primarily and...and assisting the infantry units with whatever they needed and wherever they were located. Some of them were outside of legations.

Cork Morris: Right.

Mr. Goetz: So, it was just a maintenance...

Cork Morris: So did you have to...like when they fooled with these bridges, I mean, did you have to go out and fix the bridges or...?

Mr. Goetz: Sure, we had units that...members of the Engineers that were in the bridging company, as an example, that would...would...created a whole new bridge if it needed to be.

Cork Morris: So they brought their...all their own bridging equipment and all that stuff?

Mr. Goetz: Yes, yes. We had it all shipped in; we had a whole division over there, two divisions when we first got there which is...we...you're talking...some twenty thousand something men in a division.

Cork Morris: Right, well yeah. I guess you'd take all your stuff with you.

Mr. Goetz: Yes. But then in the summer of...let's see...it would have been the summer of '46 all the reserves were sent home. That was an interesting time. As an example, the detachment I was in...in the British Legation by this time, was probably a hundred, thirty men. We went down to like twenty-five men. We had a Sergeant for a First Sergeant; no officers at the time until they shipped some more in. But they shipped all the reserves out at once. It...it was an unusual occurrence.

Cork Morris: They didn't...did they just send them home? I mean this was just demobilization and stuff?

Mr. Goetz: Yes, that...that's what it was...was after World War II, you have to understand, yeah, and...and they were demobilizing them. It was time for the reserves to get out.

Cork Morris: Right. Well you said you...you made two trips there, two tours there.

Mr. Goetz: That's right. The second trip...uh, let's see...in 1947...April when we left Peping area we went to Guam and set up the First Marine Brigade there. And I was there, I guess, eight, nine, ten months. And we went back to the States. Golden Gate in '47The second trip...uh, let's see...in 1947...April when we left Peping area we went to Guam and set up the First Marine Brigade there.

And I was there, I guess, eight, nine, ten months. And we went back to the States. "Golden Gate in '48," we used to say that all the time, and we got (unintelligible) February...February or March of...of '48 I went...let's see...stationed in Philadelphia Navy Yard for awhile and then wound up down at Quantico. And at Quantico they...they...you have to understand, the Marine discipline was lax...not lax, but it was...things weren't totally controlled in China. You did a lot of things; you got away with a lot of things, but in the States things got tight. And we'd just come from a real nice uncontrolled situation and we said, "Hey, we don't like this here in the States; let's go back to China!" So a group of us shipped over; went back to China. That would have been the summer of '48 and we got back to Singtow, China. By the time we got back it was September, October, and it was getting cold. We put in...at the Singtow docks on the ship; it was a military cargo...military transport ship. I forget the name of it an...an APA or something. We put in just at the same time that they were evacuating all of the dependents and all from China. So they loaded all these dependents (unintelligible) by ship; we couldn't get off until they put the guys on...going home back on the ship because they needed the sentries on the...on the floor. We had so many women and children that they were actually on the...in the (unintelligible because of construction noises). And we had to stand guard duty there for, oh, I guess it was four or five days before the new Marines came on up...rotated back...to take over the guard. And we got off eventually

and then went into (unintelligible because of construction noises) which is the old university area where...where our compound was there in...

(end of tape 1, side 1)

Mr. Goetz: ...the staff NCOs and officers all had their wives there in China originally...after we got, you know, got it...everything under control with the Japanese and all like that and they started sending dependents over for these guys that were married and older. I...like I said, I was seventeen when I went there the first time.

Cork Morris: Right.

Mr. Goetz: The second trip I was a little older; by that time I was a Corporal and worked in the plumbing shop there in Singtow.

Cork Morris: Did...well when they were getting all the dependents out...was this the point at which...it was obvious that the communists were going to win this little civil war or...?

Mr. Goetz: Oh yes. It...things were getting pretty tight around Tin-Tsin. We had evacuated the people, you know, I guess...so the only units left were those there in the Singtow area. We had an air wing there just outside the city and the...Nationalists kept the communists at bay, but eventually it became a situation...we could hear the actual firing and all around the city, you know, when we were in our compound. And we left...we loaded out rather quickly. That's one of the things with Engineers...we had to load all their equipment and all...heavy equipment we had and all onto the ships before we left.

And...and we pulled out of there within...May...sometime in May of 1949 and they sent a detachment of...the infantry on down to Shanghai to help evacuate our interests down there, and that's where there were some incidents. In Shanghai...that the...the communists set up...almost sunk a British vessel down there...in a fight. Anyway they...they all evacuated down there and that was it...that was the last time I ever seen China until just recently. I guess in the last ten years or so that they have Embassy guards over there now again...in the different areas now.

Cork Morris: But...well its...it's actually when I was leaving you guys...and I never knew that...after World War II...I mean...we were there at all. I mean I just...I'm not sure I thought what was going on, but...

Mr. Goetz: Yeah, in fact we lost...by seeing the figures we lost about seventy-five casualties during the period of 1945 to '49 in the...little fights and things that we had...that casualties would include wounded...(unintelligible).

Cork Morris: Right. Did...were there other guys in your unit or units that you were stationed with that...that fought there...fought the Japanese there?

Mr. Goetz: When...when I first got to China there were guys off of the islands if that's what you (unintelligible). Yeah they...they were in all the battles on Iwo Jima and...and Okinawa. In fact they...in my company in the entire legation was Doug, oh I can't think of his last name right off hand, but he was a Medal of Honor winner on Iwo Jima. There were quite a few veterans...in fact they all had...when I first got there they were all talking about points. There was a point system and you could rotate home if you had over a hundred and eighty

points or something like that, and these guys were talking about having a hundred and sixty-five and that. And I was there with maybe fifty points.

Cork Morris: Do you understand the point system? I keep hearing about...when you...what do you get points for?

Mr. Goetz: You got...you got a certain number of points for overseas...like two points per month, I think, for overseas...something like that and one point per month for stateside duty. And I guess if you were wounded you got a certain number of points or if you made a certain landing, you know, on one of the islands there you got more points, so that's how those guys built up those points.

Cork Morris: So were you in the point system also or after the...(unintelligible)?

Mr. Goetz: Yeah, well...they...like I said had about fifty points.

Cork Morris: Okay.

Mr. Goetz: Mine came through mostly stateside stuff and...getting back into...getting into China. And we were looking at...we...we figured we'd be there forever (unintelligible).

Cork Morris: That's what I was thinking of...is...what...how do you get...how do you get more points? (Unintelligible).

Mr. Goetz: Yeah, well they...they stopped that point system...right after these guys were repatriated back to the States...not repatriated but sent back.

Cork Morris: Right.

Mr. Goetz: Yeah.

Cork Morris: What's the weather like in Peking?

Mr. Goetz: Well it was very cold in the wintertime...surprisingly cold. We did...it got zero and below frequently. The winds would come off of the Gobi Desert...and down from Manchuria. It was very cold; there were dust storms. And one interesting thing was to see the camel caravans coming down...

Cork Morris: Really?!

Mr. Goetz: ...from upper Manchuria and all and right on into the city loaded down with materials or whatever they were bringing to sell.

Cork Morris: (Unintelligible sentence)...somehow.

Mr. Goetz: Yeah, well see the Gobi Desert is just not...not far outside of the Ming Dynasty Tombs and all out that way...out where we went out to the Great Wall, too. Beyond that was pretty much was desert.

Cork Morris: Anything else? I mean how do you feel about the experience in general? I mean...

Mr. Goetz: Oh I wouldn't have traded it. A young man in a situation like that it...it was just fabulous! [I] got to see things in parts of the world that I would have never gotten to see...had I not been in the Marine Corps. So I'd like to (unintelligible) for twenty-two and a half years!

Cork Morris: Really?! Did you ever go back after that?

Mr. Goetz: No, haven't...haven't ever gotten back.

Cork Morris: Why?

Mr. Goetz: Haven't gotten back, no; they do have trips back there every now and then but I haven't had the occasion to make one. And they tell me...as an example, that if I went back to Peking they said that you wouldn't recognize it...that

they pretty well obliterated the legation area where they had all the legations. And Tiananmen Gates is still there and the Wall is still there but that's about it, you know. So what could I look at if I went back, you know?

Cork Morris: Yeah, that's true.

Mr. Goetz: Yeah.

Cork Morris: So you stayed in...where'd you retire and what rate were you?

Mr. Goetz: I was in (unintelligible)...

Cork Morris: Yeah.

Mr. Goetz: ...and from (unintelligible) to Chief Warrant Officer to (unintelligible) eventually...(unintelligible) a good rating, too, to have. You...you're an officer; you're considered an officer; you...you command platoons and all that kind of thing...you're kind of in a gray area there...you're (unintelligible) what we call a mustang and you...you...so you get along pretty well with the...with the enlisted men...the troops...or better than the officers that go through basic...officer basic training and that kind of thing.

Cork Morris: So no one was sure if they could give you an order or not?!

Mr. Goetz: Kind of like that (laughter). They...they kind of hesitated because they know you're an old trooper; been in the Corps a long time, so you get away with more than you would as a...as a young lieutenant...one just gone in.

Cork Morris: Well did you do Korea?

Mr. Goetz: Yes...(unintelligible).

Cork Morris: And Vietnam and then...?

Mr. Goetz: Korea. I missed Vietnam; I was on Okinawa for duty...in 1963 to '64 when the Tonkin Gulf hit and there was a situation where they were send...sending some troops down to Vietnam and I was due for rotation back and fortunately they sent me back and then I retired in '67.

Cork Morris: Well you had time to start a (unintelligible) career if I remember.

Mr. Goetz: In fact I did. I went back to school and finished my undergraduate degree; got a master's degree in library science and I was their Public Library Director for twenty-four years.

Cork Morris: Really?!

Mr. Goetz: Yes.

Cork Morris: (Unintelligible) job like that!

Mr. Goetz: Yeah. Everybody wonders why...the transition from Marine to a librarian. My last billet in Albany, Georgia at the supply center there was as Special Services Officer...in...in my office (unintelligible) library. It was a one-woman library and I used to help her type cards once in awhile when I had some time...and...and help her put books on the shelf...and...and I had some time. And she asked me what I was going to do when I got out and I said, "Well I was thinking about this, this and this." And she said, "Why don't you think about becoming a librarian?" She said, "You like this kind of work." "How do you do that?" And that's all it took!

Cork Morris: (Unintelligible). First you know the...there's a theory out there that a lot of guys that have been in the service for a long time...like engineering,

construction business and teaching...because...just...you have enough time doing military things (unintelligible).

Mr. Goetz: Well I was looking for something nice and quiet to do and, you know, being a public library director is just like running a business. You have personnel problems; you have money problems; budget problems; you have inventory problems...just like...and you got a business just like running a business.

Cork Morris: Probably just like the Marine Corps.

Mr. Goetz: Yeah! (laughter) Well not quite, because you're working with eighty percent women in that...in that field.

Cork Morris: Well that seems...good and bad. Well, unless you've got anything to add...

Mr. Goetz: No, I don't.

Cork Morris: Okay. Well thanks very much for the interview.

Mr. Goetz: You're quite welcome, Steve.

(end of interview)

FINAL copy
CD – #OH01204 – Mr. Art Goetz
Transcribed by: K. Matras
Houston, TX
June 21, 2015