

T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History Collection

ABSTRACT

INTERVIEWEE NAME: Gregory G. Barnes

COLLECTION: 4700.0936

IDENTIFICATION: Vietnam veteran

INTERVIEWER: Dale Jenkins

SERIES: Americans in Vietnam

INTERVIEW DATES: December 6, 1975

FOCUS DATES: 1966 - 1968

ABSTRACT:

Tape 1362

Family and early education in Monroe and Baton Rouge, LA; getting drafted at age 19; basic and advanced training at Fort Polk; military courtesy; learning phone communications for use in field; simulated Vietnamese village at Fort Sill; inadequacy of training; arriving in Vietnam; normal day in headquarters; free time entertainment; liquor consumption and fighting in unit; relations with Vietnamese civilian workers; severe mortar attack; mounted artillery; language barrier between Americans and Vietnamese; anti-Vietnamese sentiment among American soldiers; working with Arvin division; casualties during Tet Offensive; hierarchy and poverty within Vietnamese society; proprietors of brothels; bar prostitutes; appearance of Vietnamese villages; prevalence of marijuana; obtaining drugs in Vietnam; cliques based on drug use; black market activity; combating boredom; American girls sent by Red Cross; relations and attitudes toward superior officers; widespread hatred of sergeant major; African Americans in Vietnam; racial altercation at Fort Polk; contempt for Vietnamese army; Vietnamese soldiers selling their weapons for a few dollars; Vietnamese unconcerned with communist threat; Vietnamese lack of ambition; critique of US war effort in Vietnam; nothing gained by US presence in Vietnam; infantry men brainwashed to be gung ho about war.

TAPES: 1 (T1362)

TOTAL PLAYING TIME: 55 minutes

PAGES TRANSCRIPT: 2 page index

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