

T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History Collection

ABSTRACT

INTERVIEWEE NAME: Patrick G. Hayes

COLLECTION: 4700.0955

IDENTIFICATION: Vietnam veteran

INTERVIEWER: Paul K. Moore

SERIES: Americans in Vietnam

INTERVIEW DATES: 4/5/74

FOCUS DATES: May 19, 1964-May 19, 1968, Aug. 1965-Oct. 1966

ABSTRACT:

Tape 1392, Side A

Born in Haverhill, Massachusetts; shoemaking in Haverhill; father was affluent electrician; many electricians in family; mother is a shoe worker; from big, fun loving Italian family; siblings, one sister in Navy; parents divorced early; love triangle between mother, father and father's best friend who became stepfather; early education; deciding to join Marines; recruiters using buddy program to meet quota; training at Paris Island, worst experience of his life; ways boot camp tries to psychologically break recruits; extreme amounts of exercise; getting beat up; investigation into abusive commanding officer; learned discipline while in boot camp; taking IQ test to determine job in Marines; assigned to do intelligence work; first duty station at Jacksonville, NC; Hayes was only intelligence person at Jacksonville; promoted to Private first class; getting people secret clearance; sent to Vietnam; learning intelligence game; finding mentors; psyched up for war; fun shooting from helicopter; mess duty in Dominican Republic; getting to know Navy lifer cook; overseas training; boarded troop transport ship in San Diego; went to Danang via Japan; Vietnam war was a farce; duty maintaining giant map; all the intelligence people went through Danang; duty burning top secret documents; China Beach; working at Danang; got bored on base; wanted to see more action, requested a transfer; transferred to Ky Ha; going on Medevac missions; sickened by pile of bodies; size and staffing of helicopters; helicopters were easy to shoot down; first time getting shot down; how to land if you're shot down; a day where many helicopters got shot down; heliocaps; not being able to determine how many people you kill from helicopter; shooting down helicopters; wounds sustained by Hayes and other pilots in his unit.

Tape 1392, Side B

Feelings about anti-war protestors; still has shrapnel in head; treatment for his wound; put in charge of confidential material; Hayes had lots of power and authority; intelligence training at Fort Halliburton, California; monitoring Vietnamese air traffic from Central Communications Center in Danang; sorry about so many villagers being killed; receiving secret order to kill

elephants, but refused to act on it; selectively ignoring messages from Saigon; need for quick reactions in guerilla war; fan falling over and sounding like machine gun fire, people hitting the floor; briefing and debriefing pilots; saving downed helicopters; people getting killed while trying to save helicopters; protesting leaving guys to die while salvaging helicopter parts; enlisted men's club; relations with ARVN interpreter; American attitudes toward ARVNs; respect for Korean Marines; Army tried to persuade soldiers to return for another tour; Americans ruined the countryside; Vietnam was a beautiful country; went to school to become an aerial photograph interpreter after stint in Vietnam; learned about intelligence work at school; difficult final examination of identifying aerial views on different scales; examined photo finishes of Vietnam after he was back in US; photographic interpreter who discovered missiles during WWII; disgusting customs of Vietnamese people; prostitution; Vietnamese interested in making a buck; friend who was a bar girl; couldn't trust Vietnamese; Vietnamese barbers; carrying weapon everywhere, including barber shop; cheap price of hair cut; black market.

TAPES: 1 (T1392)

TOTAL PLAYING TIME: 1 hour, 30 minutes

PAGES TRANSCRIPT: 32 pages

RESTRICTIONS: None