

Arthur J. Judd

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Question: Now that's, you started to bring up one subject matter we hadn't touched on and that is your wife. Cause I heard one time you said something about your girlfriend from Minnesota or something coming out.

Answer: Yep.

Question: Now explain all this to me.

Answer: Well when I went down to California and Camp Callen, I stayed there for my eight weeks of training and they made me a Corporal, made me a Drill Instructor and there was another guy, we were in a squad room. They have a barracks you know and they have a squad room for the Corporals or the Drill Instructors. Well this other guy was there and he was from Washington too but originally he'd come from Minnesota and he had two sisters and he had their pictures hanging on the wall. So I started writing to one of them and she wrote back and we sent letters back and forth for about.. almost a year... it was a year. And she came out on her vacation to visit and well, that was it. And then two days after she got out to visit me the orders came through, immediately transfer into Airborne. So I had to leave her. She stayed there with her brother for a few days. It was in San Diego, right outside of La Jolla, do you know where La Jolla is?

Question: Uh huh.

Answer: And we had a pretty good time for two or three days we had together there and I proposed to her and then took off for Camp Callen and then in September I went up to Minnesota and we got married. And there's a picture out there of me on my honeymoon. My wife isn't in it... it's just when we were up at Duluth. And then of course she got pregnant right away.. first night I think. And I got a short furlough just before we went overseas and I got to go home, or go to Minnesota and see her before I went overseas and then I took off. And of course all of her friends were telling her she was already a widow because I was in an airborne outfit. But we were married on September 25, 1943 so next September we've been married sixty years.

Question: Wow. God, what a neat, again there's all these, there's tragedies but then there's these love stories within the, I mean.. So you wrote her about a year, you saw her for two days, proposed to her..

Answer: Yeah.

Question: Get back together and get married..

Answer: Yeah, and then she had the baby when I was in New Guinea, Jimmy, my oldest son. And of course I didn't see him till he was what eighteen or nineteen months old, something like that when, after the war ended and came home and then we loaded up stuff she had. She had a job set for me in Minneapolis or Hopkins, Minnesota and some guy in a newspaper hired her, or was gonna hire her and said he would hire me too. And then when I got back there I said well, I'm goin' home to Washington. Are you comin' or not and she says, decided to come and we've been together ever since. Well we had, we had two boys and a daughter and my youngest son got cancer when he was sixteen and he died when he was 46 from it. It just kept getting worse. Jimmy went to, my oldest son went to Vietnam and he came back and came down with Hepatitis C and it went into his liver and Hutchinson

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said it was probably caused by Agent Orange from Vietnam. And so they're both gone and my daughter lives here in Port Angeles and she has a grandson, I mean a son who's, I got one grandson. And something I didn't say was about in the rest of the family there was three brothers and I joined the same summer, two in the Navy and one in the Coast Guard and I was the Army and three first cousins, one in the Air Force, one Navy and one Army and they all came home. But almost all of us are wearing hearing aids. I haven't got mine on today. I probably should have but nobody got seriously injured although they sunk a ship under one of my brothers. The guy that joined the Coast Guard got in trouble in Seattle. He joined the Coast Guard to guard Seattle with those forty footers. Well he got in trouble with some officer's wife I think and they shipped him onto a attack transport and he spent a lot of time in the South Pacific in combat and taking guys ashore and the other brother was on an aircraft carrier and he got into a lot action too and George, he was on a cruiser and it was sunk in the Battle of Midway I think. I think it was a cruiser but I know he had one ship shot out from under him and the other boy was on an aircraft carrier but my family came here in 1634. And members of my family's fought in every war since the Revolution, the Civil War of 1812 and all of them, all the way down, especially on my Mother's side. We came from England and with a guy by the name of Hooker that was trying to get away from the Church of England and they came over here and settled up in Maine, in that area. But it's been a pretty good life except for losing my boys but that was real hard and I don't know how much more to talk about.

Question: Was it, cause your one son went to Vietnam, was he drafted, did he enlist?

Answer: No he enlisted in the Air Force.

Question: Did he come and talk to you when he did that or did he..?

Answer: Oh yeah, we talked about it but..

Question: What did you think about that at the time?

Answer: Oh I didn't think much of the Vietnam War but I was glad he was going in the Air Force. I figured it was better than being in a foxhole but he was electronic counter measures, the guys that was on the airplane when the, they shot a missile at you. You could turn it around and make it go back some way or other. That's the kind of stuff he was into, was electronic stuff. But then he was based at that Thompson Air Base in the islands. What's the main city, Hanoi? Sp.??

Question: Yeah.

Answer: And on the Tet Offensive nobody on the base could get their guns because that was when the North Vietnamese attacked all over South Vietnam you know in the Tet Offensive and he said he couldn't get his guns out of the rack because they were locked up and the Sergeant wasn't around to unlock it. So they hid out in a basement someplace all night and that sounded bad but.. He didn't have too much to talk about the war. Of course flying a B-52 was a little different than the jungle fighting.

Question: Now your daughter has grand..

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Answer: Yeah I have grandson that'll be nineteen in May.

Question: Oh nineteen. So he's of the age. So if he came to you and said Grandpa I'm thinking about enlisting in the service, what would you..?

Answer: No, he don't want to... I've already talked to him. He was in that ROTC, that Navy thing up at the high school and he dropped out of it. He didn't like the discipline so I don't think I have to worry about him joining up. But, no he didn't like it. He's decided he didn't want to do it. I went on one peace march but it was, it was, I saw a guy with a sign up saying that these peaceniks are all cowards. So I put on my jacket with the ribbons on it, went down, I was hoping I'd run into him but he wasn't there. But I carry a sign, Support our Troops, Bring Them Home. But I've went to several meetings about, up at the church and stuff with what's going on today. I really feel for the guys down there in those dust storms and everything. I saw a guy out training the other day and he was crawling up through the sand and I saw him and inadvertently dip his gun into that sand and then he was pouring the sand out of it. Oh God, you got any idea what that'd do an M-16 if you pulled the trigger... with that sand in the barrel?

Question: Yeah.

Answer: I don't know it's an M-16 or not but I guess they still use them.

Question: Well I was going to say, you worked with enough guns and tore them apart and put them back together to know what something like that would do to..

Answer: Well you might get away with it with a Girand but I don't think you would from what I've heard about M-16's. Their close tolerances, that dust must really be bad on everything. Imagine run a tractor through that stuff day after day. I really think that they shouldn't have sent anybody over, maybe send the aircraft carriers over with the guys on them and wait until they get all this diplomatic stuff out of the way. But some of those guys been on the ground for six months. That really bothered me to think that all those GI's in those dust storms and that dust and dirt.

Question: When you see that does that bring back recollections for you of your time crawling through the jungle and what you had to face and, or is it just a whole different view when you see that?

Answer: Well it brings back, but it also reminds me of how much better they have it than we do. Now they were saying they didn't want the full moon. See we got a full moon right now. They didn't want the full moon to go. But man we prayed for a full moon cause we didn't have any night vision goggles and all that stuff. I mean it, in that jungle a guy could get within three feet before you'd ever see him.

Question: That's the gentleman I interviewed this morning. He was a, operated the search lights and he said that they ended up using them, to bounce them off the clouds to create a moonlight night so they could see and move at 25 miles an hour.

Answer: Yeah, that's a, actually if I hadn't have married I'd probably would have stayed in for a while but I was married. I was offered a battlefield commission on Luzon after we went out of battle and, but they said I had to, I couldn't stay with my own outfit I had to transfer so I said to heck with it. But you know they called

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officers back for six years. I would have been wound up in Korea sure as heck. Cause there was one airborne outfit in Korea. I think it was the 188th Regiment but it would have been better pay but of course the war ended right away anyway so. But if you was an officer you can't say well I got the points, I'm going home. You do what the General says.

Question: Well, thank you very much.