

**Albert DeLuca
Veteran**

**Phillip Leonard
Interviewer**

**Interviewed at the
Hoosick Falls Historical Society
Hoosick Falls, New York**

Phillip Leonard PH
Albert DeLuca AD

PL: Name?

AD: My name's Albert DeLuca

PL: And where do you live, Al?

AD: I live at 3 Saratoga Street, Hoosick Falls.

PL: Have you lived in Hoosick Falls long?

AD: I lived there all my life, I was born here.

PL: Okay, you were born here. Now, can you tell us a little bit about your life before you went into the service?

AD: Well, I went to school at St. Mary's Academy, graduated out of St. Mary's, and-

PL: And what year was that?

AD: 1950, and then I went to work at Hoosick Falls Undergarment, and I left there to work at the Specialty Inn, Specialty Company, and from there I was drafted in 1952 in the Army. From there I was inducted into Fort Evans, I was shipped to Aberdeen, Maryland and went into the ordnance, went to school there, then January of 1953, I got my orders to ship overseas and ended up in Korea, we landed in [unclear] and there we went by train up through the peninsula and by truck and I ended up in Seoul, Korea, and then we were shipped to Wonju which is one of the main ammunition dumps for Korea, and I was there approximately eleven months.

PL: What was your job in ordnance?

AD: Well, I was an ammunition supply specialist, and after that I was put into the permanent guard and became corporal of the guard, until I was shipped back to the United States.

PL: I see, alright, so you were in Seoul, and your job was to get the ammunition out to the troops-

AD: Right, convoys would come in and trucks would be loaded, we had Korean laborers that did all the work, we supervised, and their job was to load the trucks and the trucks would take the ammunition to the front.

PL: Alright, what can you tell us about the Korean War?, that you know, your experience with it.

AD: Well, of course the country was in shambles, you know, most of the cities had been leveled, I guess, the people were friendly that we knew, very cold, very cold, and of course the summers were hot and humid.

PL: Right, I got that from other people; did you find that there was a, I interviewed [unclear], they talked about infiltration of the enemy, you didn't know where the enemy was.

AD: You never knew, like all of the compounds of the service meant, had had high barbed-wire fences, probably 10-12 feet high, and course always guarded because of infiltrators, and actually anytime you were out you always had to watch yourself because you didn't know if they were infiltrators or not.

PL: Yeah, I got that from other people, it was worse in the Vietnam War, that kind of thing. And so you state there you worked in ordinance, did you travel around at all there?-

AD: No, I really didn't have time to travel-

PL: Yeah, I see, going every minute, and I know you brought some pictures and they were pictures of Seoul and so forth and some of the troops. We'll try and get those pictures and scan them into the computer so we'll have them. Alright, so you spent eleven months there-

AD: I spent eleven, well, should have been twelve months but my orders came through a month early, which I was happy about and headed home.

PL: Alright, so then you came home, you were discharged right away when you came home?

AD: Yes, yes, I think we were shipped into Kilmer and we were discharged from there.

PL: Alright, then what happened?

AD: Then, I come home and I went back to work in the Specialty where you make plastics, and got married, and a month after that we bought a house and

a month after that I got laid off, so I says well, I gotta do something so decided I'd go into barbering, and I've been a barber ever since.

PL: I see, and how many children did you have?

AD: We had five of our own children, and then we ended up adopting three more of my brothers. He had died and then his wife died two years later.

PL: And so you really brought up eight kids, which is wonderful. And is there anything else you can tell us about Hoosick Falls or your life or anything you want to put on the tape, this is a permanent tape for the museum here-

AD: Well, when I got to the point where I wanted to open up my own shop in Hoosick Falls, Hoosick Falls was a thriving community. I remember looking for a place to open up my shop and the only place I could find 'cause every place was filled, there was more buildings and hotels, and I found a small place on Elm Street, O'dells owned it, and I was in there for a year, [bells on door jingling open] and then I moved down the street and finally bought the building on the corner, which used to be the Old Ideal Restaurant and I completely rehabilitated the building and I'm there today.

PL: I see, okay, is there anything else you'd like to say to us?

AD: Well, it was an experience, I guess, you can't forget everything, 'course you do forget things, and I suppose I enjoyed it in some sort but-

PL: Yeah, well, it was part of it, it was an experience, it was a part of life-

AD: Yeah, it was an experience

PL: Well, we thank you very much for your time, and we thank you for your interview.