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Deborah Owens, interviewed by Jessica Mayhan, Part 1

Deborah Lynn Owens

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NA 3244 Interviewee Deborah Owens

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CD# 2367

Mayhan: This is Tuesday October 30th, 2001. I'm interviewing S~~S~~argent Owens in Newport, Maine at her home. We will be discussing her experiences as an army recruiter within the military. My name is Jessica Mayhan and this is tape 10/30/01 #1 side A. Okay, so I've already done our introduction so I've already told them you know the kind of core information so can you just tell them your name for me please.

Owens: Sargent First Class Deborah Owens.

Mayhan: Okay and just on we're going to start with some general information about you. When were you born?

Owens: I was born in Clemens Georgia in 1966 in September.

Mayhan: Okay and what are your parents' names?

Owens: Judy and Bobby Owens.

Mayhan: And, and what do they do?

Owens: My mother was an RN, my father was the music director in the church.

Mayhan: Oh, okay and what what is their educational background if you want to discuss that at all.

Owens: Mother was in school to be a nurse.

Mayhan: Yes.

Owens: And my father went to music school.

Mayhan: Did they go right in Georgia?

Owens: No, in Alabama

Mayhan: Oh, in Alabama, but you were, did you say you were born in Georgia?

Owens: yes

Mayhan: Okay and so that was (?) background information. So, what branch of the military are you in?

Owens: Army

Mayhan: in the Army. Okay and what is your rank?

Owens: Sargent First Class.

Mayhan: Can you explain to, I don't, just pretend I'm stupid and I don't know any of that stuff so can you explain that to me?

Owens: Okay, as an E7 I started out as a private in the army and I worked my way up to a (?) rank and non commissioned officer rank. And i've... Sargent is an E5 so I'm two ranks higher than a sargent.

Mayhan: Okay, two ranks higher than a Sargent?

Owens: Correct

Mayhan: Okay. How long have you been in this particular, particular how long have you been in the army?

Owens: July 24 so it's been 16 years.

Mayhan: So, what was the age that you entered?

Owens: 18.

Mayhan: 18 and you have been in the army

Owens: Ever since

Mayhan: Ever since, okay. Do you, can you explain to me why you decided to join the military? The army?

Owens: Okay, I went to college for a year after high school and played ball and then I kind of got bored of it, you know going to school playing ball doing the same thing.

Mayhan: Yep.

Owens: Didn't know what I wanted to major in and so I went and talked to a recruiter and joined the army.

Mayhan: Okay and where did you go to school.

Owens: Clemens college in Clemens, Georgia.

Mayhan: Okay, and so you just got tired of that whole scene and you okay. So what's the recruiter have to... was it a he or a she.

Owens: It was a he.

Mayhan: It was a he, what did he say to you?

Owens: Actually I didn't know what I even wanted to do in the army.

Mayhan: yep,

Owens: So, my options were really open I just needed to get away so I could grow up, so I could figure out what I wanted to do. And when I went... first you gotta take an aptitude test and then a physical and after I did that I chose my job which was a truck driver.

Mayhan: oh, okay

Owens: so that's what I actually did. And the only reason it caught my eye is because I didn't know what I wanted to do and they showed a jeep. And so I fell in love with the jeep and then that's why I joined to be a truck driver.

Mayhan: So, when you, did you join, you were recruited and you said you did an aptitude test and a physical test?

Owens: Right.

Mayhan: So, can you explain to me what the aptitude test was like?

Owens: On the, all it is was like you took your sats and your acts?

Mayhan: Yep

Owens: They just look at the area, mark down the area of the jobs that you could follow.

Mayhan: Okay, so it breaks down the areas of the jobs. What about the physical, how did that correlate into it.

Owens: All that is was a doctor looks you over he checks you from head to toe, makes sure you're not color blind. Red-green colorblind. Certain jobs prevent, you can't go into the jobs if you're red-green colorblind. And, and they just look you over pretty much. See if you're physically fit enough for the military.

Mayhan: And you had no problems with any of that?

Owens: no.

Mayhan: okay. So, you didn't have any jobs before you (?) because you obviously well you might have had like odds and end jobs.

Owens: Yeah.

Mayhan: as a teenager. Yeah, I'm there right now. So, you didn't know anything or did you know anything about the military?

Owens: Nothing.

Mayhan: You hadn't, that, it just nothing at all, right. I want to go back to the physical training thing because we've, i've, we've discussed a lot about women and physical training and how the army I believe it was the army has been so reluctant to alter the physical training for men and women. Can you explain to me what it is you have had to do for those type of tests being a woman or did you actually just go through the physical evaluation that you...

[track two]

Owens: Just for initial enlistment it was a physical evaluation.

Mayhan: Okay

Owens: but, once you get in it you have a about every six months you do physical training. Which kind of makes sure you're up to standards. And the standards are altered

for females.

Mayhan: Okay, what are those like what what what alterations are there?

Owens: Well, like for the men they have to do more pushups. Women don't have to do as many to pass.(?) situps are about the same women can do more situps anyway. Of course the way the body is built that does vary for each person.

Mayhan: okay

Owens: The run the men have to do it faster it's a 2 mile run in a certain amount of time. The women don't have to do it as fast. So they do alter it for the females but at the same time they do keep standards you should be able to pass.

Mayhan: Okay, so as you were saying about the physical training, you didn't, did you by having differences between males and females did that ever create a problem for anybody did you ever say like to yourself well I could do this just as easily or did you just pretty much do whatever they had just set up for you.

Owens: I've never had a problem personally, no.

Mayhan: No, okay alright so when you were doing your basic training did they integrate both men and female into the basic training.

Owens: No, when I went through back in 85 it was women were one and men were another. Beforehand they did have them together and they separated it out and now they're back together again except for like in combat or training. They're separated there.

Mayhan: Okay do you know why that is?

Owens: because combat (?) don't have females.

Mayhan: Oh

Owens: So

Mayhan: Yes, I knew that I mean but okay. So you had, you had to obviously have training to go into the army. And where did you receive your training?

Owens: Well, what they do is whatever job you pick whenever you enlist in the army they send you from basic training to a job training school.

Mayhan: Okay

Owens: so your job training, you have to have the aptitude course to get that job and once you get the job you go there and you pass the interview for some reason you don't have, it's a little bit harder than what you thought they do give you a chance to look for another job.

Mayhan: Okay, alright. Do you think that your particular training prepared you for the job you had.

Owens: Oh heck yeah,

Mayhan: Yeah, okay and you said it was becoming a truck driver right

Owens: Yep

Mayhan: Okay. Okay so explain what that was like because I don't know anything about truck drivers. I mean I I know that they you know I haven't I I'm actually my boyfriend works at dysart's so hes constantly running in and out of truckers and I've never run into a single truck driver.

Owens: Normally you feel like that.

Mayhan: Do you really?

Owens: Yep

Mayhan: So is it any particular are you like carrying army equipment or just like a particular truck driver, like what is it?

Owens: All, we support all army.

Mayhan: Okay.

Owens: When we are here in the states like I am we tend to support stuff that gets forwarded like overseas to the army so we don't really carry anything for civilians.

Mayhan: Okay

Owens: We may do some (?) plates but mostly it's all the army. We carry anything from water fuel, fuel to ammo to everything.

Mayhan: So that means you must have to be specially certified to carry that stuff.

Owens: Right. You have to be qualified.

Mayhan: Okay and you do cross country all over the country or do you

Owens: according to what type of unit you get in. If you get in line hog unit then you would go from wherever to wherever, different posts. In a task force unit your vehicles are made mainly for the woodline(?) type stuff those kind of operations. your line hog when you set up you have when you deploy you have like your stuff from the rear maybe it's too complicated for you here

Mayhan: No, no no no

Owens: But, you have your stuff from the rear (?) and from the airline not the airline the aircraft come in on to the aircraft that come in and bring it to one point and that was during your line hog. You get to your task force portion which actually (?)

Mayhan: Okay so you have it coming in like whatever material's coming in and it arrives via airport?

Owens: Airstrip

Mayhan: okay and then you pick it up there

Owens: Or port

Mayhan: or port, and that's called your line home?

Owens: Could be, it's wherever, according to where we're at.

Mayhan: Okay, so typically

Owens: Yes

Mayhan: And then you depart from there with the truck and then wherever you wherever

your destination is is called

Owens: Brigade (?)

Mayhan: Okay so it's just so typically I guess what I'm trying to say to clarify in my own mind is you just arrive at a port or an airstrip you pick up the material you need and then your orders are to to divert to any type of destination that

Owens: Right.

Mayhan: you are ordered.

Owens: Think of our civilians, you've seen your boyfriend how he picks up if you make it to the port or the airline up the road up in Bangor

Mayhan: Okay

Owens: picks up something there and he takes it to a certain port now (?) all those people in the military then stuff happens. Same stuff

Mayhan: Same kind of stuff just obviously different materials all together

Owens: Right

[track three]

Mayhan: okay. So, there must be male truckdrivers

Owens: Yes

Mayhan: Okay, so are there different is anything different between like what's included within your jobs like as far as you know female truck drivers.

Owens: Nothing

Mayhan: Nope, it's all the same, okay. When you talk to your recruitees what's a how did he get you to go into the military. I'm just interested in particular from a female perspective. Did he just say this would be great for you

Owens: Actually, when I first came in (?) first came in

Mayhan: Yep

Owens: Okay when I first came in I just didn't know. I knew I needed something because I wasn't going to stay there, I knew I needed something more. I wasn't ready for college I just I didn't want it cause I was doing the routine and that was it. He did have some (?reasons). But I am a recruiter now.

Mayhan: Okay, okay so

Owens: It's totally different.

Mayhan: Now when you recruit are you recruiting females

Owens: and males

Mayhan: Okay do you use any different techniques for it.

Owens: Nope I mean mainly people we look for is people like yourself who are in college.

Mayhan: Yep

Owens: We've got a lot of opportunities for people in college to get out and we have people trying to get to college that don't have the money.

Mayhan: Right

Owens: We have reserves that are active duty which I'm active duty and I'm a reserve recruiter. We basically try to fit the individual's needs and show them how to get to where they want to be.

Mayhan: Regardless of gender

Owens: Correct

Mayhan: alright so how do you, how do you go about recruiting tell me like how is it you would recruit somebody typically.

Owens: We mainly go into the high schools the area I'm out of is Dexter and I cover 8 high schools out that way.

Mayhan: Okay

Owens: To the border of Jackman and the high schools is where I actually make my money per se and make my money is the people I put in the army. You gotta like I said you gotta find their needs, gotta find out where they're trying to go in life. And you know use (?) as a stepping stone.

Mayhan: okay so do what type how what year was it that you actually became a recruiter?

Owens: This past January.

Mayhan: Okay I was just wondering if you had been that way at all during the gulf war?

Owens: No. I was in Saudi then.

Mayhan: Okay, okay you were in Saudi during the Gulf War? I didn't know that could you explain that to me what was that like?

Owens: I had a good time.

Mayhan: Really?

Owens: It was a lot of long hours, it's real tedious, we trained during peace time we trained more war time and the peace time training is... when we're at garrison that's when we're actually stationed you're like hanging out getting trucks ready, getting soldiers ready you have a just like an everyday routine you have physical training in the morning and then in the... you start your work clock at nine, we usually worked 9-5. You may have a few missions that overflow that time. When we go to the (fill?) that's when we're training for war time. And our fill houses are actually supposed to put your soldiers to the limit and your non commissioned officers and your officers to the limit to see what they can actually do. When we were in Saudi that's pretty much what kept the (?) on the road we were getting like three hours to thirty minutes sleep a night.

Mayhan: oh my goodness.

Owens: And you're totally right, but it was fun.

Mayhan: Really?

Owens: Cause you gotta look at like what's your purpose of being there and you know you gotta pick your (?) well these guys are here they can't survive without us so I don't care I gotta push this up forward and you gotta get your soldiers to think like that too.

Mayhan: Yeah, okay. So, how did you know you were going to be deployed to Saudi Arabia?

Owens: My unit, I was in a transportation unit transit to (?) which goes just about everywhere.

Mayhan: Oh, okay so then you like went wherever you would you found out you were gonna go

Owens: Fort (?), Massachusetts.

Mayhan: Okay, and then when you got there what did you... primarily transport goods within inside of Saudi Arabia?

Owens: Yes. And also in Iraq.

Mayhan: Oh, really, so what, I know like that culture is very we all know that it's different how it treats women and things like that what did you see with... what... did you see

Owens: I didn't care

Mayhan: You didn't care

Owens: I am a regular red blooded american. I mean, I, they were like at first saying we were going to have to put veils over our heads I was like, but anyway we had to keep on police cover so of course I took my shirt off and just wore my t-shirt

Mayhan: There you go

Owens: And then I got just a little cocky.

Mayhan: Just a little rebellious.

Owens: Oh yeah

Mayhan: But, did you find like I'm not following those I mean did you just feel like why should I have to do that because I'm not part of that culture.

Owens: Yeah, I did yeah of course.

Mayhan: Yeah

Owens: But, I didn't care I was like here's my job my job is to do this and that's what I did.

Mayhan: yeah. Did you get any flack about it?

Owens: No.

Mayhan: No

Owens: No, I had a good I had a good platoon, had a good... Squad leader I I was a team leader at the time I was E5, So I don't know I was too rambunctious and was having too much fun

Mayhan: To even notice or care

Owens: Yeah.

Mayhan: Hey, I don't blame you.

Owens: I do have pictures if you'd like to see some pictures from Saudi.

Mayhan: I would love to see some pictures.

Owens: want me to go get them?

Mayhan: Yes. Absolutely.

Long pause

Owens: I want you to see these first

Mayhan: Do you want me to shut this off?

Owens: yeah.

[track four]

Mayhan: Okay, so you were talking about Saudi Arabia and you were over there, how

long were you over there for?

Owens: Seven months.

Mayhan: Seven months and they were a really good seven months for you?

Owens: I had a good time.

Mayhan: Okay.

Owens: I mean it was hard, but it was good. You know you definitely when you leave you're like oh yeaah.

Mayhan: What was it like when you came home?

Owens: Found a beer real quick, spent the money I had saved and I saved quite a bit but I actually got myself a vehicle cause of all the money I had saved.

Mayhan: Really?

Owens: yes. And and I went down home to my mom.

Mayhan: yeah, really

Owens: Yeah, so

Mayhan: Speaking of your mother what was it like when you told her that, how did she react or how did your family react like they knew that are you... first of all what's your family do you have any siblings?

Owens: I have two brothers.

Mayhan: Two brothers, so you're the only girl. So, how did your family react when they knew that you were going to go over to Saudi Arabia?

Owens: My mom kind of didn't like it of course but she was proud.

Mayhan: Was she?

Owens: Yeah, and my brothers were proud. I mean that was of course no one liked it, but they were proud. They're never against anything I do. (?)

Mayhan: Really? Are any of them in the military?

Owens: Nope.

Mayhan: Wow, awesome. Do they are they interested in anything like that

Owens: Nope.

Mayhan: Nope, really? Well, that's how it is. Are you the youngest?

Owens: No, I'm the oldest.

Mayhan: Oh, you're the oldest. I'm the oldest too so I can, you're always the trendsetter.

Owens: Yep.

Mayhan: So did how did any of your friends or neighbors react? Were they concerned or were they just like or was it typical because I can like sense that you're really like gung-ho like you know you're just very independent. You know, it just seems like to me like I don't really know I could be, I don't really know you that well but were they just like oh that's something typical

Owens: Yep.

Mayhan: ...or was it totally outrageous for you?

Owens: No, it was typical.

Mayhan: Really.

Owens: Yep

Mayhan: okay.

Owens: My mother when I started to leave Saudi they asked for volunteers to stay and I called mom and said, "Mom they said we can stay"

(?) Exchange between two speakers unclear.

Mayhan: Oh, so you knew it was serious then.

Owens: Yep

Mayhan: Awesome. So you said you were in Saudi Arabia and you were there for seven months, were there any other females over there with you?

Owens: Oh yeah.

Mayhan: Okay, and did you have, was there a comrader... I don't even know was there like a relationship among all females or was it just like you just chummed around with whoever you wanted.

Owens: Well, you kind of get close to your squad.

Mayhan: Yes.

Owens: Gender a lot of times doesn't really matter.

Mayhan: Okay, so it doesn't matter not just because your a female that you're going to you know, right...

Owens: You may like you may have somebody you talk to a little more, but I didn't, I didn't really do that much. In fact my best buddy was a dude.

Mayhan: Was he, what was that relationship like... just?

Owens: He was a really good (?) person and we, he knew friendship and that was it he (?)

Mayhan: Oh, awesome. And do you stay in contact with him?

Owens: yep. In fact I haven't seen him since '92, but he still is my best friend.

Mayhan: Oh, that's great. What's he up to now?

Owens: He's retired, I think he retired after he went to Hawaii. He retired (?) from Rhode Island. He lives in Rhode Island still and I haven't talked to him in about six months. He is now working for the post office.

Mayhan: Oh really? So, you talked about other women and just out of curiosity what was that, what were other women like within either your platoon, were there other women in your platoon?

Owens: I was the only woman in my squad, but other squads had 2 of them I don't really have (?)

Mayhan: Okay

Owens: My squad was pretty tight, we rolled all the time.

Mayhan: Okay, okay so that's pretty much, is that how it runs pretty much, like you guys pretty much stick together.

Owens: Usually, yeah. Platoons do, platoons as a whole because platoons have like two to three squads, but a squad is like, you know, 13 of you usually get a little tighter together.

Mayhan: and that makes sense I would, you pretty much wouldn't want to roam outside of them.

Owens: No.

Mayhan: I don't blame you. So, you had people above you. How would you describe your officers?

Owens: They were good.

Mayhan: They were?

Owens: They were

Mayhan: Like you mean why, why do you feel that way?

Owens: Actually it was really cool because we had a female captain.

Mayhan: Oh really?

Owens: yep and they was talking about taking her out of command because the commander at that time had never gone through a war time situation. They were talking about putting her out of command just because of that but they ended up saying no because the females who worked in the same place, the female commanders were in the same place and she, she held her own.

Mayhan: awesome

Owens: so she, she's at west point prior so she she's pretty tough.

Mayhan: She had to be we had a, a lady come in and speak to us who graduated from West Point. She was awesome.

Owens: Yes.

Mayhan: She was very like she didn't take no crap from anybody.

Owens: Yep.

Mayhan: So, so you're... I, I was just interested like have you heard about, we've read about like other women officers trying to prohibit other women cadets or whatever from progressing because

[track 5]

Mayhan: because they had thought like they didn't get any handouts so nobody else is going to get any handouts. Did you ever experience that?

Owens: I didn't, no.

Mayhan: You didn't, okay.

Owens: Most of the time when I came in not as many women were in competition and there's lots more competition between women now but I can't, I can't see being in a competition because there's so many there that it's not even a competition. It's a competition like with officers so even when they get to the board they want to look at their physical training records, their counseling, you know everything that they've done and they can look at both sides it's not a woman or a man. (?)

Mayhan: Okay. And I know that women are never allowed in combat and it interests me about your officer. I knew that in the Persian Gulf War people were saying that women weren't in combat but from what i've read they really were. You can't really draw a line about where combat exists did you ever run into experiences in places or situations that you kind of thought maybe the army would not have... the, the rules would not permit it or anything like that? Do you know what, do you understand what I mean?

Owens: Yes.

Mayhan: (?)

Owens: Actually, for me no because of where my job was. Now hauling up into the Iraqi (?) anytime something could have happened, but there were helicopter pilots that did a lot of work, more than what we've done and there were MI, military intelligence, went (?)

Mayhan: Okay, but and you said but did you ever feel at risk when you were hauling?

Like any type of because when it, couldn't you be a moving target?

Owens: yes.

Mayhan: And were you ever like scared to death? Or were you just like I'm doing my job

Owens: No

Mayhan: Really, like god I just, I must be really weak because I would never, I couldn't picture myself ever doing that. So, so but you always knew that it was a possible threat to become

Owens: yes

Mayhan: I mean, possibly killed

Owens: correct. There's more to it. If you were there you did your job and get it over with and do the right thing.

Mayhan: And just stuck it out.

Owens: right. I have a strong family

Mayhan: You have a strong family?

Owens: Yes.

Mayhan: Really, so you've had those kind of values instilled your whole life?

Owens: Right. As far as my mom when she'd write be she'd be like oh, she told me what was going on with CNN before I knew.

Mayhan: Oh, oh see.

Owens: But she obviously felt good about, you know, (?) strong, survive

Mayhan: yeah. You're like... yeah. Did, when you, okay so you started out within the army and then you progressed into, you progressed, you actually were sent within the army to Saudi Arabia.

Owens: yes

Mayhan: And then when you came home you said, was it a real welcoming that you were experiencing when you came home?

Owens: Yes

Mayhan: From the whole united states in general?

Owens: (?) I mean we got to the unit and we did our counseling we did our thing and they had (?) set up for us and people started making airline plane plans to go back home.

Mayhan: really, like you felt like you were like you really did a service for you country.

Owens: Yes

Mayhan: That's awesome. While you were in the, while you were stationed, while you were part of the army and, still are did you, have you experienced any types of stereotypes that typically, do typically come along with being a female in the military? We all know what I'm referring to.

Owens: Yes. Yeah, you do it's one of the things like you just hang out and they'll see at the end.

Mayhan: Did you have any like experiences that you can recall or is it just, I mean, we all know that women in the military can be (?) being a whore. Did you ever, I mean it's sad that's sad but that's what people worry about. Did you ever have anybody come up like say something to you or

Owens: No, not really

Mayhan: No

Owens: Not so much like that. I didn't cause I don't know I didn't do much get much into the social (?) even (?)

Mayhan: Okay, okay. When you enlisted within the military what was your perception of women in the military?

Owens: I, I don't know. It took me a while before I really even met anyone. See I went to basic training then I did my job training and then I went to Germany as soon as I signed so the first couple people I met were all guys, but then I finally met a couple females and I met one that was pretty good.

Mayhan: Yeah

Owens: She was actually one of my mentors

Mayhan: Really?

Owens: Yeah. She was a (?) a1(?), she was a ? star major, it was really wild

Mayhan: That is really wild.

Owens: Yeah

Mayhan: Excellent. I wouldn't normally ask this question but we all know what's going on in the world today our problems within Afghanistan and what not. Do you perceive, you're a recruiter now so does that mean that you're not, can never go back into the center of the military like you were with Saudi Arabia. Does that mean you're primarily a recruiter and you stay out of

[track 6]

Owens: Yes. While you're on recruiting duty if anything they'll do a stop loss and whoever (?) out here, my job is recruiting now. I, cause I was a recruiter before

Mayhan: Yes

Owens: After Saudi

Mayhan: Okay

Owens: This will be my second time, so now I'm out here recruiting this is my primary job. You have, when I was out recruiting the first time I was a detailed recruiter. And detailed is just you come out here for three years you do your time it's extra duty then you go back to the mainstream army.

Mayhan: Okay.

Owens: And then, but now even the people who are detail recruiters they do what is called stop loss which means we can't move anywhere (?) permanent change of station and they will stay out here until all of us get that figured out. And as far as myself I the guys who were the (?) recruiters out her we'll stay out here forever. Because even if they were to bring the draft back we have to process it.

Mayhan: Okay, what do you mean process it?

Owens: You still gotta process (?) still gotta have recruiters to process people joining the military.

Mayhan: okay, so do you feel like you'll be recruiting for quite some time, will you remain in this job for quite some time?

Owens: 3 Years, 9 months.

Mayhan: 3 years and nine months?

Owens: Then I retire

Mayhan: Then you retire!

Owens: yep

Mayhan: really, so what, what are your plans after that what are you going to do once you retire?

Owens: I want a (beer?) shop

Mayhan: In the south or up here? Well, I think that's awesome. Oh, hey I know a few

guys who would probably think that's really cool, too. So, getting on the lighter side, what are some of your best experiences that you have like that you can recall from the military or the army whatever.

Owens: Well, Germany, seeing all the different places. Korea, seeing all the different places. I've been to Korea twice too.

Mayhan: Oh really

Owens: Yeah. And when I was in fort (evans?) we went all up in Canada, all in New England states actually the east coast. I can't see any better than others because I've always been to a certain place that has good (?) Whether, you know it was good soldier, bad soldier.

Mayhan: Right so, so explain to me where you have been I guess I didn't have, really haven't covered that could you keep saying different places that

Owens: I was in, when I left job training I went to Germany for three and a half years. And I was in fort (davens?) for right around three years. And then I was in Nashville, Tennessee for like three years on recruiting. And then I went back to the mainstream army which I went to Korea for a year. That's the second ID and then I was in Fort Stewart, Georgia for three years then back to Korea for a year and then I was at Fort Campbell for like actually about four months.

Mayhan: Really

Owens: Then, I got picked up out here again. And I was up here.

Mayhan: So, you've been all over, then. Where, did you like any place better than the other as far as like did you really enjoy Korea or

Owens: Yeah

Mayhan: Yeah you did

Owens: I liked Germany, too it's different.

Mayhan: Okay

Owens: You gotta have an open mind when you go places like that.

Mayhan: yeah. Especially here I'm sure

Owens: Well, no I mean Korea. I mean but it's it's like it's like everybody especially my new soldiers I call them and say these people have been here a lot longer than us, you know, they're going to be here after us. You know accept who they are they still use old fashioned ways to raise stuff, you know, go in the economy, eat their food, it's good food.

Mayhan: Oh really. You had no problems with that.

Owens: And then that's you kind of understand their culture and then leave.

Mayhan: Yeah

Owens: But, you're only there a year.

Mayhan: And yet that is a long time when you think about it to absorb everything that's around that's so different. I just want to stop and flip this tape over real quick.

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NA 3244



Sergeant First Class Deborah Lynn Owens (second from left) pictured in Saudi Arabia during the Persian Gulf War along with members of her platoon.

P9142

NA 52448

A young Kuwaiti man killed by an air-raid launched by the Americans during the Persian Gulf War.





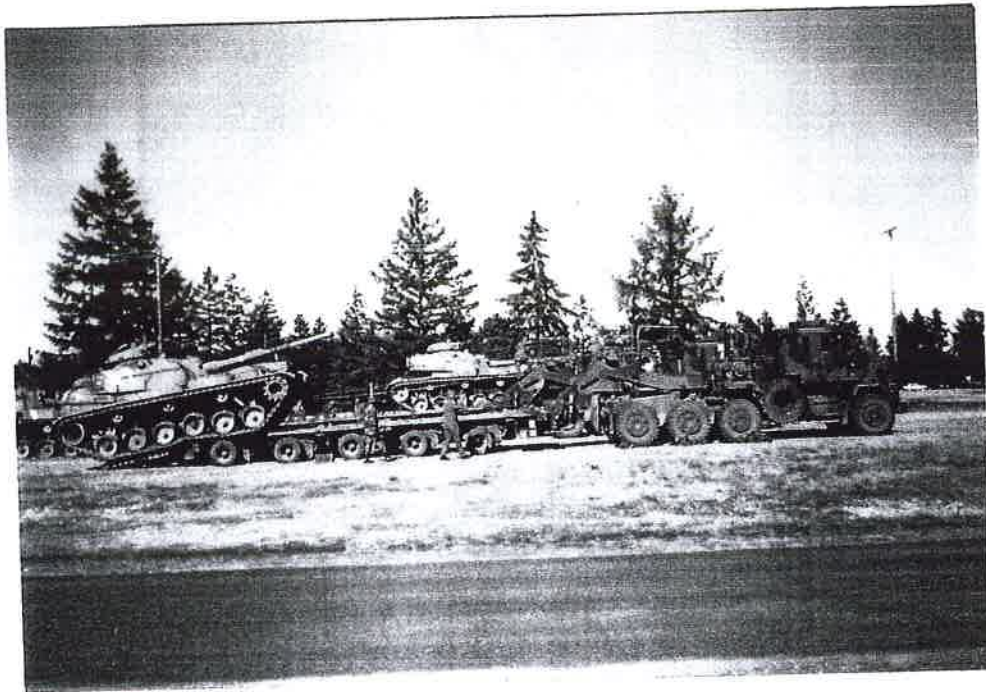
Sergeant First Class Deborah Lynn Owens engaging in target practice.

NA3244

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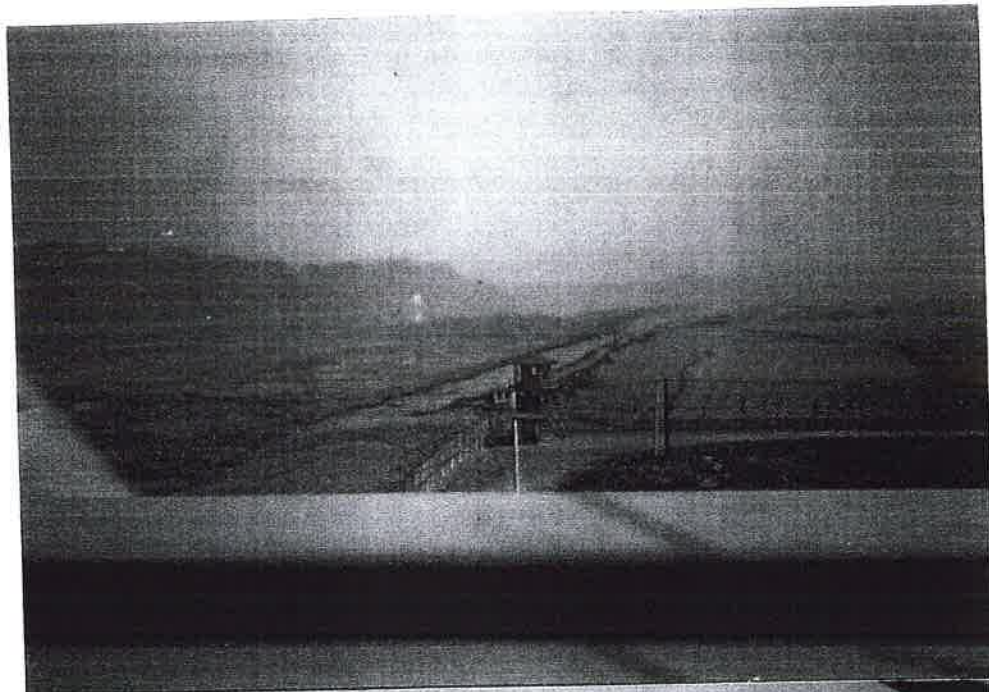
P9145

Top: Sergeant First Class Deborah Lynn Owens in Saudi Arabia during the Persian Gulf War.
Bottom: Sergeant First Class Deborah Lynn Owens job within the Army was a truck driver, hauling military material to different destinations. This picture displays the vehicle that she drove in Saudi Arabia during the Persian Gulf War.

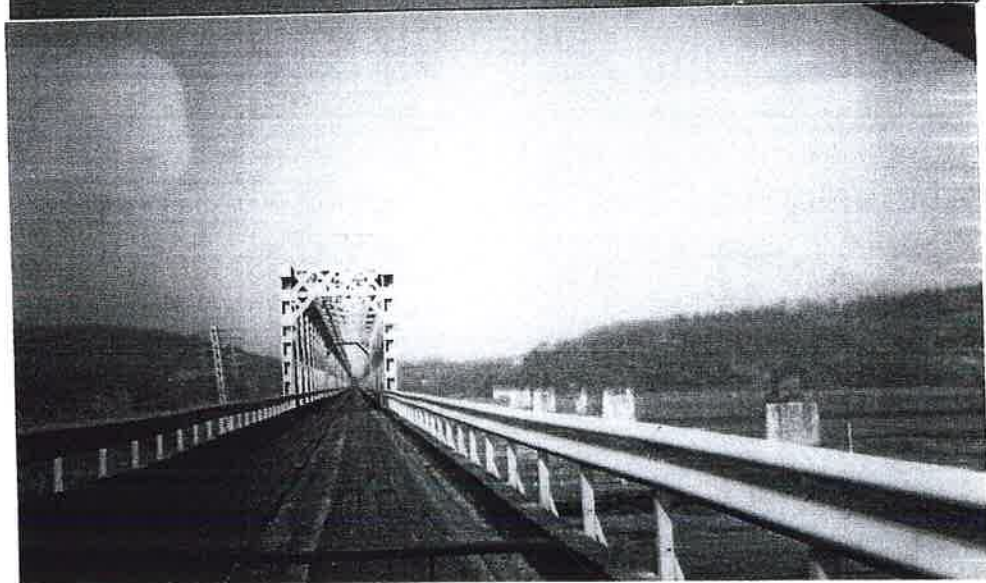
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Above: Look-out tower housing North Korean guards pictured as traveling across the bridge leading to North Korea
Below: Bridge leading to North Korea



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