

Dan Lynch

- *Interviewed by Kyle DeSantis, Eamon McEnaney, Matt Tuohy, Jack Duncan, Stan Haywood, Adam Payne*
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Branch: Navy

Rank: Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class

Years of Service: 1954-1959

Locations of Service: Korea

Medals: National Defense, Good Conduct, Korean Service, Korean Defense, Distinguished Marksman ribbon.

What do you remember about boot camp? “As old as I am, I still remember boot camp. It was a lot of discipline. Basically, that's what it was; discipline and learning to work with others.”

“We came in by bus. People who were on the base, everybody that we passed, was saying ‘you'll be sorry.’ Then when we were all together, they allowed us to smoke. We didn't understand naval terminology then. They would say the smoking lamp is lit and we'd look for the lamp. Then they'd say the smoker lamp is out. We didn't know what the heck they were talking about. They had said that if anybody wanted to leave (this was overnight), all they had to do was come up to the DI office and tell them that we wanted to go. But we all stayed.”

“I went to boot camp in Bainbridge, Maryland and my whole company was made up of New Yorkers. There were DI guys who were “rebels.” They would come in and wake us up at two or three in the morning, and have us running around the grinder and disrupt our sleep and everything. I don't remember anybody dropping out, people just disappeared and I don't remember how many. We would come back from drills or something and it'd be an empty bunk. We didn't know what happened to them.”

Staying in touch with family: “We were told to write a note when we got there that we had gotten there safe. It was strictly mail for us. There were no telephones.”

Did you do anything for luck: “No, not really, again, we just, we really stuck together because we're all from New York. We felt that the rest of the base was primarily southern and we just stuck together as a group.”

Coming Home: “My first enlistment ended on June 6, 1958 and then my second enlistment ended on December 29, 1959. On my last day, I was in California coming to New York, the planes were pretty well

closed. The gentleman behind the counter, who was also an ex-serviceman, told me to wait a minute. Then he went out and said to me as we're walking out to the plane, he said, 'Just don't look at anybody. Look down and look sorry.' I had no idea what that meant, but what they did was bump a passenger so that I could get on the plane and get home."

After Service: "Most of the guys from my neighborhood, we all went into the service at the same time. When we got out, we went down the Jersey Shore and we partied down there for the summer months. Then we went out looking for work after that. In fact, in those days, they had what they call mustered out pay and they gave us \$300. I think that the reason they gave us the 300 was so that we wouldn't look for work.

Reflection on the military and war in general: "Again, it's a discipline. You learn how to deal with other people and I just think it was the most important part of my whole life. When I went into service, I had quit high school. I went in at 17. While in the service, I got my GTCC, which equaled as a plumber. From that, I eventually ended up going to college and getting my Bachelor's of Science, which was also due to the GI Bill of Rights, which gave me my education. I was able to go to college."

Memorable Experience for someone listening to this recording that would help them to understand what experience in the military was in the 1950s: "It taught me that I was smarter than what I thought I was. It showed me when I went to hospital for classes, I didn't want to go there. I didn't want to be a medic, but I ended up on the upper end of the class. That's what also enticed me to go to college. Eventually I realized I wasn't dumb; put it that way. If it wasn't for the military, I don't know if I would have learned that."