



**Spencer Miller**  
Sergeant, U.S. Army  
60th Infantry Division  
Korean Conflict  
1954 - 1955

I went into the service right out of high school. My best friend Lewis Sims and I actually volunteered together for the draft in 1954. Though I thought I might have a little time to start college, we both were drafted less than three weeks later. We thought we would stay together, but that only lasted as far as our basic training in El Paso, Texas. Having volunteered for the Airborne, we expected to go to Hawaii after that for more training. About four hours before we were to ship out, several people were pulled off the roster for Hawaii and redirected to Germany. I was one of them. So Lewis spent his time in Hawaii while I was in the snow.

From El Paso, I went to Fort Ord, California. Then I spent the next two years in Heidelberg, Germany, at the edge of the Black Forest near the Yugoslavian border. During our snow training there, we wore white overlay snow uniforms and slept in white tents most of the time. A perimeter was set up on that side of Germany.

As a training sergeant in the 60<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, I taught hand-to-hand combat and hand weapons. The first alert of the 9th Division, 60<sup>th</sup> Infantry, we were called the "Go Devils". That emblem appeared on our equipment, helmets, everything. Because we were so close to Yugoslavia, we were trained to go on Red Alert at any time and stayed in the field nine to ten months out of the year. There was a breakout at the Yugoslavian border while we were there. Each time we went to the field, we really didn't know whether it was a Red Alert or just practice.

I was able to see quite a lot of Germany while I was there. In Berchtesgarden, I toured Hitler's SS camp. It was called the Eagle's Nest and sat on top of a mountain overlooking five countries. That was something to see because the main headquarters were there. To get to the Eagle's Nest, you had to go through a mile-long tunnel at the base of the mountain and then drive up one mile to the top. It still was well guarded by Americans but had become a tourist attraction at that time.

Though I never had been away from home before, my experience in Germany was a good

one. On the whole, it was a peaceful time. But I was ready to come home when the time came.

Now I live in Tyler and am married to Colleen Miller. We have two lovely daughters, D'Ann and Connie, and two grandchildren, Spencer Jody and Dawn Smith.