



Franklin Peck
Technical Sargeant, Medical Detachment
U.S. Army
December 1942 – February 1946

I was in the United States Army. I was inducted in San Antonio, and went to El Paso. That was in December 1942. When I got there, I was assigned to the medical detachment at William Beaumont Hospital. My career actually started right then. They asked me some questions and said they needed some assistance up at the post office at the hospital, so I went there and served at that capacity through the Christmas holidays. Then after that, I did a short bit of training in the mountains near El Paso, and after that, I was sent to work in the post exchange. At that time, it was under the supervision of the 8th Service Command, but anyway, I worked there for about a year.

I had a degree but started out as a private. I got up to Corporal and then, finally, to T-4 Sergeant. I was not in the capacity that I did technical work, so I was in the postage exchange. After that, I went to the hospital mess program where I spent the rest of my service years right in El Paso.

I'd been married for two years when I went into service. In El Paso, I started out living on base, but when my wife joined me, we moved into town. Our first child was born in the hospital where I was working. I was right there, and it was quite an experience.

I never left the country at all, but I did have the privilege and opportunity to help a lot of the fellows who started out with me but who went overseas. They were injured and came back to the hospital, and it was my privilege to be able to minister to them. God certainly was in the whole thing. I don't know why it happened that way, but that's just the way it was. You know, I have a favorite verse of scripture that says, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, lean not on your own understanding, but in all your ways acknowledge Him, He'll direct your path." I believe that. It's been that way all my life. I was finally discharged in 1946.

Because I worked at several different jobs, I met a lot of soldiers from different states. I remember a soldier named Sergeant Kellum. He came from a place just 16 miles from where I lived in Corpus Christi. He was a tough Army Sergeant and he was always threatening us with this that and the other. I was determined that if I ever got out, I was going to meet him down where he lived, and there was going to be a battle between us. You know, he was at the base all the time that I was, and we became good friends.

When I got out of service, I returned to Corpus Christi for just a few weeks. Then my wife and I, and our youngest child, thought that we would leave Texas and go to Colorado. We left in March 1946, and by October we were ready to come back to Texas.

I liked El Paso very well. Of course, with it being on the border, I enjoyed going over to Juarez, I liked the climate very much. It's very dry and sometimes extremely windy, but some of the best health that my wife and I enjoyed was during those years there.

I had been a steward in the Methodist Church prior to my Army service. I know that it was because of the Lord's leading, that I told my wife that we were not going to be able to return to the same church. I found an association of other believers that were a little bit more what I desired to have. The Baptist Church was just a block away from the Methodist Church, and we went there. I was baptized by immersion, and that was a highlight for me.

God has blessed me with three children, eight grandchildren, and twelve great grandchildren—with another one on the way. That was a real blessing in itself. As a young person, I really didn't think about those things, but there were a lot of times that we really experienced God's presence and encouragement. We still do today.

I'm the coordinator of the Green Acres ministry for Meals On Wheels volunteers. We have approximately 50 volunteers who assist with the deliveries. They're all great people. The Lord blesses the recipients as we go into their homes because some of them do not see another person all day. They're glad to see you whether you've brought any food or not. Being able to help a little is a blessing for those who volunteer.

I enjoy the choir for us older people. I haven't been able to participate in it very much because of my wife became ill and was in a nursing home before she passed away. I came back to the Gloryland Singers, and I've enjoyed it very much. I have not taken the trips with them because of some health reasons.

I think patriotism has changed a whole lot and not for the better. Of course, September 11th did cause some patriotism to come forth. I hoped that it would continue, but, a year later, I've seen the flags are not flying. My grandson, who is in the service, called me. He said that he just wanted to know if there was any comparison between September 11th and Pearl Harbor. I said, "Well, it was a great shock. This time it's a little closer to home, but my observation is that people are not as patriotic now as we were during WII."

Well, the Lord's been leading me. One day I was going to the ball game in El Paso. I was walking because there weren't too many automobiles around after the war. A man pulled up beside me, and asked me where I was going. I told him, and he said, "That's where I'm heading. Hop in." He inquired about what I was doing, and I told him that I was in the wholesale grocery business. He said, "Well, I'm the manager of the Sears Roebuck Store here in El Paso." I found out that he went to the same Baptist church that I did. He said, "Any time that you want to make a job change, come to see me."

In 1949 the wholesale company decided to sell out to a group that was going to have a retail business. I was not interested in retail, so I went to work for Sears. I worked in the sporting goods section, and in 1951, I got the notice that I was to move to Corpus Christi again. I retired from Sears in Corpus Christi in 1978. That was a long career which I enjoyed very much. I met a lot of good

people. I will say this, my walk with the Lord was enhanced greatly during that period of time.