

## **Babcock, Robert USA**

[00:00:17.39] ROBERT BABCOCK: I was born in Heavener, Oklahoma, on August 30, 1943.

[00:00:22.82] JOE GALLOWAY: And your hometown was?

[00:00:24.86] ROBERT BABCOCK: Heavener. H-E-A-V-E-N-E-R-- heaven with an E-R on it, Oklahoma.

[00:00:30.53] JOE GALLOWAY: Oklahoma.

[00:00:36.30] JOE GALLOWAY: What was your sense of the Vietnam War before you entered the military?

[00:00:41.50] ROBERT BABCOCK: Well, before I entered the military the Vietnam War had just barely begun because the Marines had just landed. I graduated with an ROTC commission on 6 June of '65, from what is now Pittsburg State University in Kansas. And we had some ROTC advisers-- or ROTC instructors who had been Vietnam advisers.

[00:01:07.74] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:01:08.10] ROBERT BABCOCK: And I didn't know a lot about it, quite honestly.

[00:01:17.22] ROBERT BABCOCK: Before deployment I went to Benning School for Boys. I went through infantry and airborne school. In fact, I'd finished that and was driving to Fort Lewis, Washington, to join the 4th Division. While you were in the Ia Drang having your fight-- all the way driving across Colorado and Utah and Idaho, I'm listening to the news clips on your battle.

[00:01:39.19] JOE GALLOWAY: Aye.

[00:01:39.50] ROBERT BABCOCK: I got to Fort Lewis and had eight men in my platoon.

[00:01:45.69] JOE GALLOWAY: Eight?

[00:01:46.29] ROBERT BABCOCK: Eight men. That was Thanksgiving of '65. We went over strength in January with troops fresh out of basic training. We gave them in-unit AIT, train and retain. We gave them basic unit training, advanced unit training, battalion, brigade, FTXs.

[00:02:07.62] Went on leave and then boarded the USNS Nelson Walker on 21 July of 1966.

[00:02:16.98] JOE GALLOWAY: Out of what port?

[00:02:18.00] ROBERT BABCOCK: Out of Port of Tacoma.

[00:02:25.43] I went there in 1966 and '67. Had no children, but was married. So I celebrated my second anniversary on my second day in Vietnam.

[00:02:37.82] JOE GALLOWAY: And your age when you went to Vietnam?

[00:02:41.15] ROBERT BABCOCK: I was 22. I turned 23 within a month after I got there.

[00:02:46.25] JOE GALLOWAY: What were your first impressions on arriving in Vietnam?

[00:02:51.20] ROBERT BABCOCK: It's hot.

[00:02:52.07] JOE GALLOWAY: It's hot. It stinks.

[00:02:54.29] ROBERT BABCOCK: It stinks. It's hot.

[00:02:56.08] [LAUGHTER]

[00:02:57.91] We pulled in. I thought about that, because it was 6 August. So it was just a few days ago, five days ago, 49 years ago--

[00:03:06.01] JOE GALLOWAY: 49 years ago.

[00:03:07.13] ROBERT BABCOCK: --that I landed in Vietnam. We landed at Qui Nhon. We had two battalions on our ship. The 1st of the 12th infantry and the 1st of the 22d. 1st the 12th got off first. We were standing back watching them to get off, and then we were waiting to go. We had no ammo. They had not issued us ammo. I could not believe they were doing that.

[00:03:32.26] [LAUGHTER]

[00:03:33.50] They took us to-- got off the landing craft. We got on to buses. First thing I noticed was the chicken wire over the windows. We went out to an air base, got on a C-130. And I remember my thought, well-- first off, they issued us ammo. They gave us two boxes of ammo each.

[00:03:55.35] So it was kind of a circle. We just had people going around in circles-- getting in the back of the line. The only time a Soldier ever wanted to be in line, [LAUGHS] was to get more ammo.

[00:04:09.17] My thought was-- in airborne school, we had jumped with 66 guys in an airplane, in a 130. I said we probably get 50 in here because we've got so much more equipment. 180-- the whole company was in that C-130, standing up. I was standing on the back ramp when they closed it.

[00:04:29.55] And I said, the rules of war are different than they are in Stateside peacetime.  
[CHUCKLE]

[00:04:36.05] JOE GALLOWAY: A whole company in that 130.

[00:04:37.43] ROBERT BABCOCK: A whole company. Yes, sir.

[00:04:38.81] JOE GALLOWAY: Wow.

[00:04:39.44] ROBERT BABCOCK: Well, they took us up to Pleiku Air Base, not far from Camp Holloway. We landed. They put us in engineer dump trucks. And we being green as grass, we had no vets with us. We had Korean War vets, but no vets from Vietnam. So we were totally green.

[00:05:01.28] We drove through the city of Pleiku and there were gus from-- there was a brigade of the 25th Division and chopper pilots and others walking around in soft caps, no weapons. And we're locked and loaded, ready to shoot anything that moved.

[00:05:20.74] JOE GALLOWAY: Had to fight them off.

[00:05:21.53] ROBERT BABCOCK: We said, my God, what's going on? I mean, here these guys were drinking and having a good time. And we thought we were going to get shot at all the time. So we moved down to Pleiku, south of Pleiku, to what became Camp Enari, the 4th Division base camp.

[00:05:38.39] When we got down there, there were two or three GP medium tents. We were assigned a portion of the perimeter. They said, the 1st Cav had a battalion working around the area. And they said they spotted a battalion of NVA beyond that hill. So naturally, the pucker factor went up quite a bit.

[00:06:05.15] JOE GALLOWAY: Boing.

[00:06:05.57] ROBERT BABCOCK: Boing. And we didn't get there until an hour and a half before dark. So we dug in. And if you remember what it was like in August of the year over there, monsoons. The rain started. It was a miserable night.

[00:06:25.81] JOE GALLOWAY: Filled up your foxhole.

[00:06:27.55] ROBERT BABCOCK: Filled up my bucket. We just had time to dig a slit trench. And very miserable. And the enemy's going to attack at first-- or just before first light, that's what we were taught.

[00:06:41.59] So I went checking my line and my guys were all up. Three to a foxhole. They were ready for anything. They were miserable, just like I was. We laughed. It was a comical.

[00:06:59.02] [LAUGHTER]

[00:07:01.00] JOE GALLOWAY: It was-- this Camp Enari didn't exist--

[00:07:05.30] ROBERT BABCOCK: Did not exist.

[00:07:06.04] JOE GALLOWAY: --until you arrived. So you were going to have to build the whole thing.

[00:07:08.12] ROBERT BABCOCK: We built it. We were out there. The engineers had gone through with a bulldozer and knocked down enough trees to make fields of fire, which were a couple of bulldozer blades wide.

[00:07:20.60] So over the next few days, we were knocking down trees. Chopping up bamboo. Bamboo vipers, we found, are in bamboo.

[00:07:29.60] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:07:30.53] ROBERT BABCOCK: The Montagnard villagers came in and were helping us. I assume somebody was paying them. A thing that was very interesting to me, one of these-- we cut down all these mahogany trees. One of these Montagnards would come down and lay down next to a tree that had been chopped down or knocked over by a bulldozer.

[00:07:53.09] And then they would cut it. And I think-- what I heard was they were going to go make coffins out of these. So he was being measured for--

[00:08:00.30] JOE GALLOWAY: Measured for a coffin.

[00:08:01.49] ROBERT BABCOCK: --the length of a coffin. And then they would drag these things, roll them back to the Montagnard village. And we'd get-- a bulldozer operator would be a good guy, and pick them up in his dozer blade and take them closer to the village.

[00:08:17.12] It just truly amazed me what was going on. And, of course, we had the monsoons hitting regularly. And those first few days were surreal almost.

[00:08:28.86] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:08:29.16] ROBERT BABCOCK: We got there on the sixth, on the eighth was my second wedding anniversary. Our XO who had gone over in the advanced party, somehow had gotten to a place and found a bottle of rum. So that morning I started off with a swig of rum and then that afternoon they had set up a shower point. So I went over and took a shower and had my picture taken. So I could send it home on my anniversary.

[00:09:04.91] ROBERT BABCOCK: In the beginning, the routine was to clear out more stuff. We were chopping down-- I don't know whether you've ever been to Camp Enari or not, but it's just a prairie. When we got there, there were a lot of forests. So we cleaned that out. So if somebody came six months later, they would have been shocked to have known what we were dealing with.

[00:09:28.91] But between the engineers with their bulldozers and us with our machetes, we did a good job. And then I had the first patrol of our battalion. They gave me a ride in a chopper, a little O-23. So I flew recon on the route we were going, came back and I said, oh, my God. Here I go.

[00:09:53.78] So my platoon took off. And they gave us to two or three combat photographers to go along with us. And we were moving along and the photographers are going outside our perimeter-- our moving-- you know, the formation. These guys are back they're taking pictures of us.

[00:10:19.20] And I said, this is so unlike what I expected. And I've never seen those pictures, but they took movie pictures and they took still photographs. So we were out for probably three hours. Didn't find a thing, came back. But you'd thought we were conquering heroes, 'cause we'd been out in bad man land and we survived it and got back.

[00:10:49.73] ROBERT BABCOCK: I had very little to do with the Vietnamese people. That first week, we were clearing trees and bamboo, and we got-- a madam came by with a bunch of prostitutes in a lambretta. And she came around and said, you know, I got boom-boom girls.

[00:11:14.92] [LAUGHS] And I said, oh my God. I said, you get out of here. We're not having anything to do with you. So she gave me a dirty look and moved on down to the next part of the perimeter. And I'm sure she found somebody that was not as bad ass as I was.

[00:11:29.26] But-- I mean, it was just-- for an old boy from small town, Oklahoma. This was--

[00:11:35.08] JOE GALLOWAY: Not good.

[00:11:35.62] ROBERT BABCOCK: --not what I thought it would be. Then we also got our interpreter. We had one interpreter for the company, Sergeant Quan. And the first sergeant assigned him to my platoon, and particularly to my platoon sergeant and me.

[00:11:54.90] And I think it was more devilment than anything because Frank Roath, my platoon sergeant, had been a Korean prisoner of war for 27 months. Captured when he was 17 years old. And he didn't have a great love for those of the Orient.

[00:12:15.24] JOE GALLOWAY: Oh my.

[00:12:16.44] ROBERT BABCOCK: But anyway--

[00:12:16.94] JOE GALLOWAY: So you get sent down the translator?

[00:12:20.79] ROBERT BABCOCK: Yeah. So we get the translator, Sergeant Quan, and he stayed with us as long as I was a platoon leader. He was OK. He didn't want to be there any more than we did. He was a sergeant E-5.

[00:12:39.90] ROBERT BABCOCK: We were very fortunate. As the officer corps, we became friends at Fort Lewis. So I got there in November of '65. We got to Vietnam in August of '66. So we had a lot of time together. Our wives got to know each other. We got to know each other.

[00:13:05.76] Colonel Len Morley, our battalion commander, trained us. And Chartley, his wife, trained our wives. So we had good camaraderie amongst the officers. We had four platoon leaders, an XO, and a company commander. And I was with-- I have been in touch with all of them within the last year. In fact, I was with one of the platoon leaders last week.

[00:13:35.19] JOE GALLOWAY: Wow. What about the NCOs and enlisted men?

[00:13:41.28] ROBERT BABCOCK: Same thing. We had trained the enlisted men. The NCOs, we didn't have that many because as you know, the Army was short of NCOs. Sergeant Roath and I became good friends. He told me the day I came in-- he said, Lieutenant, there's a reason they call me a senior NCO and you a junior officer.

[00:14:06.69] I'm a hell of a lot smarter than you are, and if you listen to me, I'll train you. And being a smart lieutenant, I listened to him. And he also told me-- he'd had the platoon for six months. He did not want me in there. He was enjoying being the boss.

[00:14:26.94] So we had a little conflict, but we got very good with each other. I've always said, I've slept more with Sergeant Roath than I have with anybody, except my wife. He and I were always in the CP out in the jungle, and we shared our responsibilities.

[00:14:46.27] First Sergeant McDonald, was another great guy. Sergeant Ben, Sergeant Burrell-- we all bonded with each other. And my draftees. When I went over there, every fire team leader was a draftee, or somebody-- they were short in the Army. I mean, they'd just finished AIT, whether they had enlisted or were drafted.

[00:15:11.61] JOE GALLOWAY: They were 90-day wonder--

[00:15:13.23] ROBERT BABCOCK: Yeah.

[00:15:13.65] JOE GALLOWAY: --NCOs.

[00:15:14.82] ROBERT BABCOCK: Well, no. That was before the 90-day wonder NCO. All of our fire team leaders were PFCs when they got on the boat to go to Vietnam. We promoted them on the boat to Spec-4. And then after we'd been there for a while, they finally made E-5. I had two squad leaders who were in E-6 slots as E-4s, but they were great people.

[00:15:38.13] JOE GALLOWAY: Did you form friendships with men from different racial and social backgrounds during your time in 'Nam that you might not have had in civilian life?

[00:15:48.06] ROBERT BABCOCK: Yeah, I did. And it's real interesting as you hear race relations. And you can appreciate this from being there at the same time. There was no race problems in the infantry when I was there. We were all one.

[00:16:03.87] And Willie Cheatham, one of my fire team leaders who moved up to become a squad leader-- great guy. He was from the inner city of Detroit. We all bled red. And when we take a break, along the movement through the jungle, I'd sit down with whoever.

[00:16:25.56] We had a number of Puerto Ricans and Mexicans that were in the Army, zero problem. I mean, I never once saw any race relation problem. One of our platoon leaders was Jewish. I'd never been around any Jewish people growing up in Southeast Oklahoma.

[00:16:46.71] But he was just another guy. The only thing was he got extra holidays that we didn't get. [LAUGHTER] I couldn't believe it in September when he got to go somewhere for-- I don't know, Rosh Hashanah or whatever it was, I said, why in the hell are you getting to go an extra time and you still get Christmas off with us?

[00:17:05.83] [LAUGHTER]

[00:17:06.12] JOE GALLOWAY: What did you guys do for recreation off-duty activities if you had any?

[00:17:12.24] ROBERT BABCOCK: Recreation, off duty. I do not understand those words.

[00:17:15.52] JOE GALLOWAY: [LAUGHTER]

[00:17:16.53] ROBERT BABCOCK: We were never off duty. For instance, when we were in Pleiku-- actually we were in Tuy Hoa they were building that Air Force base down there just off the beach.

[00:17:28.61] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:17:29.29] ROBERT BABCOCK: So we would have-- one platoon would get a night off and they would go in the South China Sea and swim. And they would drink beer and play grab ass, but that was about it. I remember one time, a few of us went into Tuy Hoa and got a meal in some restaurant, cafe, whatever.

[00:17:57.24] That was the only time I ate on the economy other than one time I made it to Saigon, the second half of my tour. So we had no time off. And then once we got out in the jungle, we were never off.

[00:18:21.13] JOE GALLOWAY: Your battalion's area of operations was Central Highlands, Pleiku area, Pleiku province?

[00:18:29.83] ROBERT BABCOCK: It was other than-- our battalion was chosen on the 28th of August, after we'd been there for 22 days. They flew us, again in C-130s, down to Tuy Hoa and attached us to Hank Emerson's brigade of the 101st Airborne. So we worked south of Tuy Hoa, down in Mosquito Valley from late August until middle of October.

[00:19:02.20] JOE GALLOWAY: That was just a TDY type assignment.

[00:19:04.30] ROBERT BABCOCK: Yeah. It was a TDY attach because at that time, there was only one brigade of the 101st was there. And then the 1st Brigade of the 4th Infantry Division landed somewhere in the Tuy Hoa area. And they showed up and took over from us. Plus the Korean White Horse Division came in.

[00:19:24.80] So we worked jointly with 101st, Korean White Horse, a little while they were training up. And then the 1st Brigade of the 4th came in and we went back to the Highlands.

[00:19:37.20] JOE GALLOWAY: Back to the Highlands.

[00:19:38.22] ROBERT BABCOCK: Yeah. It was there that we lost our first KIA. We had--

[00:19:43.60] JOE GALLOWAY: Down in Tuy Hoa?

[00:19:44.88] ROBERT BABCOCK: In Tuy Hoa. On the 3rd of September, got hit by a sniper. And an interesting story that needs to be recorded, his name was PFC Albert Collins. He's from Atlanta, Georgia-- black man. He's buried out at the Marietta National Cemetery.

[00:20:08.47] I put a wreath on his grave every year since I found it about 10 years ago. But the story about Albert Collins is the instructions for our brigade commander was that we're going to name the base camp after the first man killed in action in Vietnam. And Albert Collins was it. However, Arthur Collins was our division commander.

[00:20:36.38] JOE GALLOWAY: So he couldn't do it?

[00:20:37.83] ROBERT BABCOCK: So we couldn't do it. So Jed Miller, our brigade commander, sent a back-channel message back. Said, we can't do this. So what do you say? He said, name it after the first officer killed. November 3, the first officer killed was West Point class of '65 officer, Lieutenant Dick Collins.

[00:21:00.32] JOE GALLOWAY: Another Collins.

[00:21:01.19] ROBERT BABCOCK: Another Collins.

[00:21:02.09] JOE GALLOWAY: It's easier to change out your CG?

[00:21:04.61] ROBERT BABCOCK: That's right. It would have been. Exactly. [LAUGHTER] So what-- by then the CG was in country. And so they determined that OK, we will name it after the first Silver Star recipient, regardless of his name or his rank. And that's why it was named Camp Enari after Mark Enari, of the 1st of the 12th Infantry, who earned a Silver Star.

[00:21:30.41] Remember, we have no vets with us. We are a brand new unit, with no experience. Kind of like the Cav was when they went in. 3rd of November, we made a combat assault operation, Paul Revere IV. You were probably Paul Revere I.

[00:21:49.52] JOE GALLOWAY: Something like that.



[00:21:50.60] ROBERT BABCOCK: Yeah. We were IV. And we went out in the Nam Sathay River Valley, and our job was company size search and destroy. So we took off at-- one of the companies secured the fire base. Our company and the other company started out thrashing through the jungle. And we moved and-- looking for something. We didn't find much the first day.

[00:22:26.00] We built our triangular night defensive position. We fired in our defensive concentrations, the DEFCONs. We put out listening posts in front of each platoon. And then we were all sitting there, it gets dark early over there. You know, 6 o'clock- 6:30, it's dark.

[00:22:51.84] JOE GALLOWAY: 6 o'clock, sharp.

[00:22:52.93] ROBERT BABCOCK: Amen. And so we're sitting there, all of us probably on 100% alert because we're all scared. And then we hear, fuck you.

[00:23:06.64] JOE GALLOWAY: Oh-oh.

[00:23:08.35] ROBERT BABCOCK: And we looked around and the listening post calls in. Did you hear that? Yeah. Company commander called me and said, did you hear that? I said, yeah, fuck you.

[00:23:19.69] JOE GALLOWAY: [LAUGHTER]

[00:23:22.58] ROBERT BABCOCK: And remember, we have no vets out here.

[00:23:25.05] JOE GALLOWAY: Right.

[00:23:25.30] ROBERT BABCOCK: We're all rookies. So he said bring in the listening post. So we pulled in the listening post. He called back to battalion and said, I want you to fire the DEFCONs. They said, why? He said, we're surrounded. They said, what do you mean? He said they're out here saying fuck you.

[00:23:50.54] [LAUGHTER]

[00:23:52.94] So we fired the DEFCONs. We blew the hell out of that jungle around us.

[00:23:58.70] JOE GALLOWAY: [CHUCKLE]

[00:23:58.97] ROBERT BABCOCK: And--

[00:23:59.84] JOE GALLOWAY: Scared off the lizards.

[00:24:01.01] ROBERT BABCOCK: Scared off the lizards. That's right. Because the next day, I mean, we finally sent the listening post back out. We were on 50% alert all night long. The next day on a break, we heard that same thing. And there's a lizard on the side of a tree.

[00:24:16.52] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah,

[00:24:16.91] ROBERT BABCOCK: From then on out, it was never a problem. [LAUGHTER] But that first night, just scared the hell out of us. A typical day we would break our perimeter. And we would move till about 2 o'clock. We would start looking for a night defensive position.

[00:24:40.40] We would always set a triangular-- platoon, platoon, platoon, with the CP in the middle. Put out listening posts. We would chop down trees. We would build fields of fire, we'd put out Claymores in three layers.

[00:24:57.17] We'd put out listening posts and build overhead protection. We carried 15 sandbags each. So we filled sandbags to put over our bunkers. So--

[00:25:11.89] JOE GALLOWAY: Every night?

[00:25:12.50] ROBERT BABCOCK: Every night.

[00:25:13.40] JOE GALLOWAY: Wow.

[00:25:13.94] ROBERT BABCOCK: And then the next morning, we would dump those things out into the--

[00:25:19.21] JOE GALLOWAY: Into the holes.

[00:25:20.16] ROBERT BABCOCK: Into the hole. Bury all of our C-ration cans and stuff, roll up our sandbags, take off. And we had a dog working with us. And I was point, this was probably our second or three day out. And the dog kept alerting.

[00:25:43.32] And I'd stop and send a squad out to check it out. Never found anything. We'd move on, the dog would alert. And I'd check it out. And finally, the company commander who was two platoons back, moving in column through the-- really and file almost through the jungle-- as you know, you can't really spread out much.

[00:26:12.35] He said, 6-1, this is 6. What in the hell is the problem? Move. I said, the dog's alerting, and if you want to run this unit, come on up. But I'm checking it out. I thought, oh Lord, what did I just do? Over the radio. But I did. I checked it out.

[00:26:33.44] And finally, finally, he said, OK find a place to stop. So I found us a knoll that we could make a good defensive position. And I saw him after we were set up. He came over to see me. I said, OK, he's getting ready to relieve me. And he said, Bob, I'm sorry. I screwed up. I should not have gotten impatient. You did right, I did wrong.

[00:26:56.84] The second part of that story is two days later, the dog went over to Alpha Company and was working with Lieutenant Dick Collins, who did not listen to the dog. And he got killed along with the dog handler and the squad leader.

[00:27:19.13] JOE GALLOWAY: Wow.

[00:27:19.97] ROBERT BABCOCK: So it was one of those things that I said, damn.

[00:27:29.69] ROBERT BABCOCK: Probably my most vivid memory, I would say-- and I'd have to think about that for a while. But when you say it right now out of the blue, November 20, 1966. We are moving up to help a company from the 25th. We had the 3rd Brigade of the 25th up with the 4th Division.

[00:27:54.19] And our 3rd Brigade went down to the Cu Chi area, with the 25th Division. So at that time, we had outrun our artillery support and they had attached us to a battalion of the 25th, that we were in their artillery support.

[00:28:13.63] So we were called to come and help this company that was getting the crap kicked out of them. And we moved up during the afternoon and we were to put in a blocking position. And we were starting to put in a blocking position, and we hear rounds landing around us.

[00:28:34.95] And right then, the FO gets on the radio and calls back to their CP and says, cease fire. You're about to hit us. And it was four deuce rounds. And they said, get off the air. We're in a fire mission. And the next one landed over our 2nd Platoon.

[00:28:53.34] JOE GALLOWAY: Oh.

[00:28:58.04] ROBERT BABCOCK: I was here, the 2nd Platoon was over there. And it was just, you-- well, you've seen that stuff. I mean, all the leaves falling down, the branches. I mean, it was a tree burst and it was a mess.

[00:29:13.00] And I heard, medic. And I jumped up, grabbed my medic, who was scared just like I was. And we ran over to 2nd Platoon. And Walt Ferguson, the platoon leader was walking around--limping around, because he'd got hit in the knee.

[00:29:33.88] And he said, Mendez-- his radio operator-- Mendez, call in a Dust Off. And Mendez didn't do anything. I went over to Mendez and Mendez had a piece through the heart.

[00:29:48.01] JOE GALLOWAY: Wow.

[00:29:48.47] ROBERT BABCOCK: Never knew what hit him.

[00:29:49.90] JOE GALLOWAY: Wow.

[00:29:50.87] ROBERT BABCOCK: We had a sucking chest wound. We had--

[00:29:55.43] JOE GALLOWAY: How many dead?

[00:29:56.57] ROBERT BABCOCK: Just one. Just Mendez.

[00:29:57.85] JOE GALLOWAY: One?

[00:29:58.19] ROBERT BABCOCK: Just one. Mendez was killed. Never knew what hit him. And we pulled out-- our commo sergeant, Sergeant Roy Reynolds, had a sucking chest wound. So they brought a chopper in, a Huey in, and it dropped down a basket and they pulled him out.

[00:30:19.52] I don't think we winched out anybody else. But you know the way it is with triage. So we started chopping down-- they dropped us some chainsaws. And, of course, the chainsaws got broken. We had some engineers with us with detcord and C-4, so we blew down-- there was no-- we were nowhere near a landing zone.

[00:30:40.16] So we created a landing zone. It was getting dark and we were still blowing down trees. And they bring a chopper in and he's hitting the trees with his rotor as he's coming in. He's got his lights on.

[00:30:58.67] And remember, we're still thinking the NVA are out here. We hadn't heard anything from them. So being one of the tallest guys-- we had a litter case. I was out there helping to lift him up and get him into the chopper. The guy left, came back, took another guy out. He could only take one at a time.

[00:31:19.97] Then he said, you need more? I said, no. The rest of them are walking wounded. We can wait till morning. But the part that caught me, once again the reality of war, was Mendez. Nothing you can do for him. So he became baggage.

[00:31:39.10] I didn't want to leave him in the 2nd Platoon. So we carried him over and put him across the top of my bunker. And I'm there that night. And we got wrapped in a poncho. And David, being an RTO, and me being a platoon leader, I talked to him all the time. I knew him. There was a good tightness between the RTO and the platoon leaders.

[00:32:00.97] So I mean, it really hurt. But you say, OK, this is reality. This is the way it is. We can't do anything for him. And after we got all the other wounded out the next morning, he was the last one out.

[00:32:11.49] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:32:12.30] ROBERT BABCOCK: So that was probably the most memorable piece that really sticks with me.

[00:32:19.38] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:32:21.46] ROBERT BABCOCK: But thank God I didn't have any Ia Drang Valleys like you did, even though I was in the Ia Drang.

[00:32:32.71] ROBERT BABCOCK: I've never thought about that. I can't say there was a best day. I missed Bob Hope, which pissed me off. [CHUCKLE]

[00:32:43.29] JOE GALLOWAY: But you got a ride home, didn't you?

[00:32:45.72] ROBERT BABCOCK: I got a ride home. That's right.

[00:32:47.40] JOE GALLOWAY: A lot of folks call that the best day they had.

[00:32:49.86] ROBERT BABCOCK: It is, yeah. Well, it was. And you think about that because I was always very positive. I was glad to go home. I remember when they brought in a C-141 into Pleiku and all the new guys getting off in their khakis. And, of course, we're giving them raspberries about how we're short and they got forever.

[00:33:21.59] And we got on that 141 and it took off. And immediately climbed because they wouldn't bring any civilian planes out into Pleiku So we took off, went back to Cam Ranh, refueled, took off. And once we got feet wet over the South China Sea, there was a big cheer that went up.

[00:33:42.05] Flying home though, instead with round-eyed stewardesses and flying home with the damn Airman Fifth Class, and sling seats. But at least I was heading home. But that's a good question about-- there's some good-- I have some great memories of Vietnam. To say the best day would be hard to answer.

[00:34:10.61] ROBERT BABCOCK: I think I've described that there a little bit before. There were other things where we had casualties. David Hubbard was another RTO, worked for the company commander, and a short round 105 caught him.

[00:34:32.30] Amazingly, he was in space like this, with people around. And nobody else got hurt. He took the whole thing. And by then I was the XO. I had to identify him. I had to respond to a note, a letter from his aunt because it was naturally a closed casket. And that was during the time when they had misidentifications of some troops.

[00:34:59.36] And she said, how do we know that this is James? And I asked the chaplain. I said, how do I tell her he's blown to shit? And he said, say the body was badly damaged. And so I did. And it was tough to write that letter, but it was-- when you get into a firefight, it's scary.

[00:35:30.09] Fortunately, we never got hurt bad. Our company-- in our battalion, Alpha Company lost a lot of people, killed and wounded. Charlie Company lost a lesser number. Bravo Company lost two killed, one died of malaria, and we brought the rest of them home. Why?

[00:35:52.90] JOE GALLOWAY: Lucky.

[00:35:53.28] ROBERT BABCOCK: God only knows. Lucky, that's right.

[00:36:00.82] ROBERT BABCOCK: Never saw an Aussie or a New Zealander. Never saw a South Vietnamese. We saw them, hell, they were always back in the rear and we were out front. So they never came out front.

[00:36:10.54] JOE GALLOWAY: Filipinos?

[00:36:11.83] ROBERT BABCOCK: Nope.

[00:36:12.13] JOE GALLOWAY: Any of those?

[00:36:12.49] ROBERT BABCOCK: Nope. We did see the South Koreans, the White Horse Division down at Tuy Hoa, when they came in. And it amazed me-- their discipline was so strong. They'd come out there with camouflage-- trees and branches, and crap all over them.

[00:36:30.10] They looked like a walking Christmas tree farm or something. And, of course, you know how GIs were. We didn't put that crap on. We did that in training, but our unit never did it in Vietnam. I don't know how it was with the Cav, but I was amazed at that.

[00:36:48.28] We had a couple of NCOs in our battalion, our company. Not my platoon, thank God, that raped a South Vietnamese woman. They sent these guys down to the Long Binh jail. Koreans had a similar problem. They had a battalion formation and shot him.

[00:37:12.38] JOE GALLOWAY: Whoa.

[00:37:14.43] ROBERT BABCOCK: Their discipline is different than our discipline.

[00:37:16.41] JOE GALLOWAY: Hell of a lot.

[00:37:16.68]

[00:37:17.31] ROBERT BABCOCK: A hell of a lot different. I respected the South Koreans. And my platoon sergeant, who had zero respect for the South Koreans because of his experience with the Korean bug out when he got captured. Because they were protecting our flank and they bugged out back in 1951 or '2. But he was amazed at the improvement of those troops from the Korean War to 1966.

[00:37:49.14] JOE GALLOWAY: They were some bad ass dudes.

[00:37:50.91] ROBERT BABCOCK: They were. I heard nothing but good about them. But as far as any of the other allies, I was never around them.

[00:38:02.53] ROBERT BABCOCK: My mother wrote me every day. She was the most amazing person. There was never a day went by that she did not write me. And my wife wrote me most days. So I was--

[00:38:15.02] JOE GALLOWAY: Deluged with mail.

[00:38:15.67] ROBERT BABCOCK: I was deluged with mail. And my wife started using a colored envelope. So it showed out in the mail sack. And my platoon sergeant who did that, would toss it over to me when he was going through the mail.

[00:38:31.73] JOE GALLOWAY: [LAUGHTER]

[00:38:35.14] ROBERT BABCOCK: But I got-- probably my best letter I ever got was from my granddad. [SPEAKING MELANCHOLY] He had like a fourth grade education. He wrote me a letter in his scrawled handwriting. [SOBBING] Bob, I'm proud of you.

[00:39:03.59] JOE GALLOWAY: He was a World War II guy?

[00:39:04.57] ROBERT BABCOCK: Nope, he wasn't. He was never in the military.

[00:39:06.64] JOE GALLOWAY: Never in.

[00:39:07.12] ROBERT BABCOCK: Never in the military. He was a railroader during World War II. He was an engineer on the railroads.

[00:39:12.60] JOE GALLOWAY: They weren't that bad.

[00:39:13.06] ROBERT BABCOCK: He was born in 1898 or '96, something like that. Maybe '92. I mean he was an old timer, but he was proud of me. He just lived across the alley from me. So I grew up very close to him.

[00:39:25.60]

[00:39:26.65] JOE GALLOWAY: How much news did you receive about the war from home, if any?

[00:39:32.02] ROBERT BABCOCK: Not a lot from home. We got Stars and Stripes and the various newspapers. The 4th Division had Ivy Leaf Newspaper that came out every week. It wasn't initially, but it started coming out.

[00:39:48.01] So I read that. I've always read the newspaper ever since I was a little boy, and still do. But-- in fact, I used to read your articles when I was down at Benning, when you were writing on-- when you first got over there with the 1st Cav. That was the highlight of my--

[00:40:04.21] JOE GALLOWAY: Columbus, Georgia paper ran a lot of it.

[00:40:06.88] ROBERT BABCOCK: Amen, brother. They did. I thought you worked for them. But you were UPI, right?

[00:40:10.67] JOE GALLOWAY: I was UPI. Charlie Black was their guy.

[00:40:13.53] ROBERT BABCOCK: OK. But yeah, I read-- I knew you from 1965 in about September.

[00:40:18.57] [LAUGHING]

[00:40:19.27] But anyway, the news, I stayed on top of it.

[00:40:26.53] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:40:27.32] ROBERT BABCOCK: But it all had to be-- it was, of course, late by the time we got it. Because once again, all my platoon leader time, the six months, we were always out in the jungle.

[00:40:38.39] JOE GALLOWAY: Were you aware of any particular political or social events or antiwar movement back in the States at that point?

[00:40:47.25] ROBERT BABCOCK: No. And when I talk to groups, I talk about that, because it was later-- it was Tet when the war, when the country and Walter Cronkite turned against us. I was there before that.

[00:41:00.18] I was at an equally bad time. It was-- it was just, who cares? I mean, when I got home to my small town in Oklahoma, I would go downtown where I had lived all my life, and walk down the street. And somebody would say, hey, Bob, I haven't seen you in a while. Where you been? I was in Vietnam. Oh. Not, thanks. Not, kiss my foot. Not anything. Just, oh. It sure is hot today. You know. They didn't talk about it. JOE GALLOWAY: They didn't talk about it.

[00:41:37.19] ROBERT BABCOCK: It was a disappointment, because-- and my mother who had written me every day, I flew into Kansas City, and met my wife. We spent a few days. And during that time, the 4th Division had had a big fight. In fact, we had lost several-- and of course, those are my people.

[00:42:00.76] And I came-- when I got home, I went in the house and said, mother, what's happened with the 4th Division? And she said, I don't know. I said, what do you mean you don't know? You followed the 4th Division religiously. She said, Bob, the minute you hit-- you called us from San Francisco, I shut it out. And as a parent now, I can understand that. Yeah.

[00:42:32.96] ROBERT BABCOCK: I left the 21st of July of '66. I got home around the 7th of July of '67. I did not get a drop. Except, they just gave me-- I moved up by two weeks. All those who were going to different duty stations got from a 30 to a 45 to several days--

[00:42:56.96] because once again, I don't know whether the Cav did this or not, but with the 4th, since we had all gone over together, they were trying to not turn the whole unit over at once. They were trying to get new people in so they staggered it. Yeah. And we started getting guys in from the 9th Division for instance there the last few months.

[00:43:16.88] But I got home on the 7th. I flew into Oakland. I took-- I don't know how in the hell I got there. Bus probably to San Francisco Airport.

[00:43:29.86] JOE GALLOWAY: Any problems?



[00:43:31.33] ROBERT BABCOCK: No problems. They ignored me. Nobody cared. I mean, it was one of those things. It was, you know, OK, so what? You're in a uniform. It's not, hey, thanks for your service. It's not-- whatever it was. OK.

[00:43:45.43] JOE GALLOWAY: It wasn't at the point where they were telling you to take the uniform off.

[00:43:48.41] ROBERT BABCOCK: Right. Yeah, not at all. So I flew home on TWA. I don't know how. There weren't many of us in uniform. My wife was there waiting for me at the Kansas City Airport. Nobody said a word to us. We spent a few days up there. My wife and my mother had had some problems with each other, and I didn't know about it. So I did not have the homecoming that I had hoped to have had. But that's a different story.

[00:44:18.23] But anyway, and then like I say I got back to my hometown. And it was nobody-- everybody ignored it. And later, I'm at home. The Battle of Dak To was hitting, which the 4th Division is heavily in. Tet, all that stuff. In fact, I even considered going back into the active Army. I'd gotten out as soon as I got home.

[00:44:44.57] But I decided, hell, I'm just going to go back as a company commander doing what I did it as a platoon leader. So they'll probably kill me this time. So I ought to stay out--

[00:44:53.56] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah, they would have.

[00:44:53.94] ROBERT BABCOCK: Yeah.

[00:44:54.23] JOE GALLOWAY: They would have.

[00:44:55.51] ROBERT BABCOCK: Yeah.

[00:44:56.53] JOE GALLOWAY: How much contact have you had with your fellow veterans over the years?

[00:45:02.04] ROBERT BABCOCK: Beaucoup.

[00:45:03.67] JOE GALLOWAY: Bunch of it.

[00:45:04.81] ROBERT BABCOCK: Bunch of it. I am the president of the National 4th Infantry Division Association. I've been president for a two-year term back in '98 to 2000. I came back on in 2011. I was supposed to finish it this year, but I'm taking two more years to get us up to the 100th birthday of the 4th Division in 2017. Then, I'm going to check out.

[00:45:29.86] At the same time, for 10 years I was president of the 22nd Infantry Regiment Society from 1995 to 2005. I'm the historian of the 4th Division, covering all wars. I'm president of my church veterans group. When I leave here this evening, I'm going to go over to Tijuana Joe's and we're going to drink beer and tell lies.

[00:45:55.27] [LAUGHING]

[00:45:56.53] Vets from all branches of the service and all eras. So I'm very active.

[00:46:02.97] JOE GALLOWAY: Did you find it difficult readjusting to civilian life after the war?

[00:46:09.51] ROBERT BABCOCK: Not really. I've thought about that. No, I did not. I came back. I was one of those that-- fortunate ones that, if you weren't classified 1A, you've already been to Vietnam. If you didn't spit on the desk, they'd give you a job because they needed people, especially ones that they could hold onto.

[00:46:35.51] So I came back, and every job I applied for, I was offered. I've got a degree in accounting. I long since learned a long, long time ago, I hate accounting.

[00:46:47.08] But anyway, Hallmark Cards in Kansas City offered me a job. And I couldn't get my arms around it. It was kind of like, Bob, you've been leading men in the jungle, making the biggest decisions you'll ever make. And now, you're going to come back and account for greeting cards. Uh uh. I can't make that switch.

[00:47:10.27] So I did not take that job even though they offered me more money than Phillips Petroleum did. I said, OK, at least, working for an oil company that you get your hands dirty in something like that even though I was working in credit. And I hated that job.

[00:47:26.01] A year later, I wrote the Army and said, would I come back in as a captain? I've had malaria. Will you send me back to Vietnam? And I also applied with IBM and half a dozen other computer companies. Three days later, IBM called me. And 34 years later, I retired from IBM. IBM was very good to me.

[00:47:54.99] ROBERT BABCOCK: I was an IBM executive. I had a good life. I was very fortunate in my life. I've often said, I made more important decisions as a 23-year-old lieutenant than I ever made at IBM as an executive.

[00:48:17.40] If I screwed up in Vietnam, I'd get my-- I get my people killed or I get me killed. If I screwed up at IBM, I'd get my hand slapped. I might get fired. I might lose some money, but that's the worst thing. So oftentimes, when I'd see these IBMers who had never had combat experience get all hung up in their shorts over some, what to them was, oh my God, this is career-ending potential, it's kind of like, what are they going to do, send me to Vietnam?

[00:48:51.24] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah. What are they going to do?

[00:48:52.97] ROBERT BABCOCK: So it helped me throughout my career. And again, I grew up during a period of time when not many people in Vietnam-- or rather in IBM were Vietnam vets. There were some, like Dawin-- Pat Payne who was with you in the Ia Drang, I believe.

[00:49:13.53] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:49:14.45] ROBERT BABCOCK: He went on to vice president at IBM before he went to Waste Management. So anyway, I was-- Vietnam was very good to me. My experience, I wouldn't take anything for it. I have always been a leader. That made me even a better leader.

[00:49:29.40] JOE GALLOWAY: Is there any memory or experience from your time in Vietnam that stuck with you through the years and had a lasting influence on your life?

[00:49:39.12] ROBERT BABCOCK: The brotherhood. The brotherhood of vets. That is stronger and stronger all the time. Let me give you two examples.

[00:49:52.40] In December of 2012, I had open heart surgery. Four or five days before I went under the knife, I decided, OK, I've kept it to myself long enough, so I need to tell my friends. So I threw out an email. And within five minutes, the phone rings, Bill Bukovec.

[00:50:17.30] Bill Bukovec was one of my fireteam leaders. He and I had become good friends. And we are best friends and have been for 15 years now. He called me.

[00:50:28.91] While I am talking to him, my phone rings. I look at it. It's Mark Petrino, my best point man. He lives up in Connecticut. I said, Mark, I'm talking to Bill, I'll call you back. My two living brothers neither one ever called me. They cared. But you know, that brotherhood.

[00:50:51.32] And then another thing that we did, the day after I heard you at AVVBA last week, Jim Stapleton, Bill Sailing, Bob Babcock, and Lou Donetz, four 1st of the 22nd guys from '66-'67 drove down to Augusta to meet with Dick Donnelly who was our S2 and then S5, who is suffering with Alzheimer's.

[00:51:19.70] We saw him two or three years ago. And he seemed all right. But when we saw him that day, after I saw you last week-- and you know, we don't know what that meant to him. It meant a lot to the four of us to go see him. And his two daughters were there. And it meant something to them. It meant something to us. And maybe, it meant something--

[00:51:43.16] JOE GALLOWAY: Maybe it meant something to him.

[00:51:44.30] ROBERT BABCOCK: Yeah. To Dick. I mean, it's-- so the brotherhood of vets, the reason-- I moved to Athens, so I'm not over here like I used to be. But my church veterans group, I miss-- I missed church because of us vets who sit back and we kibbitz with each other. We got this brotherhood. I mean it's the brotherhood of veterans. And there's nothing better in my estimation than that.

[00:52:17.09] I'm going up Friday to see Ray Odierno retire. I met him when he took over the 4th Division. So I've known him for 13 years, he and his wife and Tony their son. So I am going to go see them.

[00:52:35.08] JOE GALLOWAY: How did your experience in Vietnam affect the way you think about veterans returning from combat today?

[00:52:45.31] ROBERT BABCOCK: I'll tell you what, we Vietnam vets will never allow our country to not support the vets. I have-- in 2003, when the 4th Division deployed to Iraq, I started spending about 18 hours a day supporting the families and the troops with a daily email letter that I sent out when people weren't getting any news.

[00:53:12.28] I did that for a year. That's how I became such good friends with Ray and Linda Odierno, Don Campbell. Later, I did it for J.D. Thurman when he took the 4th back over. I did it for Jeff Hammond. I did--

[00:53:26.23] JOE GALLOWAY: J.D.'s a piece of work.

[00:53:27.52] ROBERT BABCOCK: Isn't he though? He is truly a piece of work. I did it for Jeff Hammond. I did it for Dave Perkins. So I have-- I am doing my part. I will see a bunch of people that are generals and generals' wives and colonels and everybody else that I'm on a first name basis, because we Vietnam vets make damn sure that today's vets are treated right.

[00:53:53.80] JOE GALLOWAY: If you see J.D., tell him I said, howdy. I last saw him in Baghdad.

[00:54:00.31] ROBERT BABCOCK: OK. Were you over there when he was running Baghdad?

[00:54:04.24] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:54:04.50] ROBERT BABCOCK: Yeah, J.D. and I-- J.D. is a piece of work.

[00:54:07.72] JOE GALLOWAY: Oh, he is. He got a brother that's as crazy as he is.

[00:54:11.65] ROBERT BABCOCK: Yeah.

[00:54:11.86] [LAUGHING]

[00:54:12.76] I know it. He was 11th Armored Cav guy, his brother was, right?

[00:54:16.75] JOE GALLOWAY: Yes he was. How do you think the Vietnam conflict is remembered in our society today or is it?

[00:54:30.02] ROBERT BABCOCK: I think mostly it's not. It's almost like Korea. But what the people do is they are all-- not all, but there is much more they make a point to thank you for your service.

[00:54:43.94] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah

[00:54:44.39] ROBERT BABCOCK: Do they know what that means? No. But it's sort of a-- the in thing. It's a catchphrase, the in thing to do. But we are-- I got my hair cut before I came over here. Didn't want to look like a hippie. The lady that--

[00:55:01.73] [LAUGHING]

[00:55:03.11] All three of them I had cut. The lady who-- the lady who cut my hair, probably 28 or 30, she gave me the thank you for your service, because I said I was coming over to be interviewed by you. She didn't have a clue who you were.

[00:55:22.04] JOE GALLOWAY: Good.

[00:55:23.09] ROBERT BABCOCK: And she said, now, was Pearl Harbor, was that during your time?

[00:55:31.16] JOE GALLOWAY: No, ma'am. The Civil War is the one I fought. Yeah.

[00:55:35.48] ROBERT BABCOCK: I mean it was amazing. And I think, sadly, the young people, they don't have a clue. They don't have a clue about Iraq and Afghanistan.

[00:55:44.87] JOE GALLOWAY: Not much.

[00:55:46.10] ROBERT BABCOCK: They don't have a clue about Iran and how dangerous that is.

[00:55:49.22] JOE GALLOWAY: What lessons did you take from Vietnam that you would like to pass on to future generations of Americans?

[00:55:58.88] ROBERT BABCOCK: Never blame the Soldier. We did our job. You heard it, and I've said it. It's not for me to do or die, but for me to-- it's not for me to reason why. It's but for me to do or die.

[00:56:12.15] And-- so don't blame the Soldiers like we were blamed in Vietnam. I did my duty. I'm proud of my duty. I believed I was keeping communism away from the United States when I was fighting over there.

[00:56:28.40] I think our leaders need to be smarter. I think we have had-- we've had bad leadership more than we've had good leadership in this country for a long time. So that's-- if you're got to go start a war, win it.

[00:56:45.96] We should have been in Cambodia. We should have been in Laos. We should have been in North Vietnam, wiping people up. And we'd have won that damn war. We could have won it when you were over there, first time, if they'd let us do what we needed to do.

[00:57:05.16] ROBERT BABCOCK: First time I went was when the three man statue was dedicated. I went the nurses' statue was dedicated. I visited with you and Hal Moore one day with Panel 3E. I've been there a number of times.

[00:57:28.32] I have had some unbelievable experience there. I've never been to DC since 2000-- or 1984 when the three man statue was done without stopping by the Wall. I will stop by the Wall Friday morning when I'm there.

[00:57:45.77] One of my most striking experiences was meeting you and Hal there with a bunch of the 1st Cav Ia Drang guys. I was down there that first time in '84 at 2:00 AM and had my wife with me, my current wife who did not live through Vietnam with me. And she was just quiet, listening and learning.

[00:58:15.29] There was a guy running a hand over a section of the Wall. He had a 4th Division patch on. I went up and said, tell me, what's up. He said, that's me. He said, every man in my platoon, but me was killed. And I was wounded. And they thought I was dead or they had killed me, because they went through, as you know, like they did at--

[00:58:39.01] JOE GALLOWAY: Finishing them off.

[00:58:39.56] ROBERT BABCOCK: --like they did at Albany, LZ Albany. So I never will forget that. I was there in a February one night, about 11 o'clock. There wasn't a soul at the Wall but me. And there were some nurses from Canada came walking down there. And they didn't know what they were seeing. So I became a tour guide. I took them up to the nurses' statue, took them to the three man statue.

[00:59:06.95] I've been there on Veterans Day or Memorial Day. I've never been there Memorial Day. It's Veterans days when I always go. I've been there and there are schoolkids there playing grab ass with their buddy. So you know what I do. I grab one of them, and I say, hey, come over here and let me-- let's go over here to Panel 13W.

[00:59:26.75] See that name right there, Richard D. Ator. He was my company commander in Vietnam. He got killed on his second tour. When his son was born, I'm the one who radioed him after I got the Red Cross notice, hey, you're a daddy and your son Steven has been born. And Buck said, Bob, come on out here. And I went out and spent the night with him, because he wanted somebody to talk to.

[00:59:54.51] I said, that's the meaning. That's why we have the Wall. And for you guys to play grab ass down here, grow up. Never had anybody give me any lip back.

[01:00:09.98] JOE GALLOWAY: Show some respect.

[01:00:10.58] ROBERT BABCOCK: Show the respect. You're damn right. Yeah.

[01:00:20.88] ROBERT BABCOCK: I am one of the partners of the Commemoration project.

[01:00:23.76] JOE GALLOWAY: Outstanding.

[01:00:24.69] ROBERT BABCOCK: Through Deeds Publishing, my publishing company. I've got some things I want to show you here when we get through with this.

[01:00:31.71] JOE GALLOWAY: All right. Tell me what you think about the effort.

[01:00:34.98] ROBERT BABCOCK: I think it's great. I thought it was a great ceremony we had last Tuesday when I got my certificate. And I got my pins in my pocket here I think. It's a neat deal. And I think that's the first in Georgia. I don't know whether the whole country is doing that or just Georgia. You gave me that.

[01:00:56.01] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[01:00:56.37] ROBERT BABCOCK: And yeah. And I think that's neat. And I'd wear it, except I've got something more important to wear. I got my CIB and my 4th Division president's badge.

[01:01:05.48] JOE GALLOWAY: There you go. Very well, do it like me. Wear it on the other lapel.

[01:01:08.52] ROBERT BABCOCK: I might do that. I might do that. But it's a-- I think it's a great effort. I think it's-- I think it's fabulous what we're doing because it gives us a chance to educate people. Like your question-- your earlier question saying, what do people think? People don't know.

[01:01:26.61] We need to do it. We need to go out and we need to get people like you and me and those of us who are comfortable talking to get out and tell this story. I've been going out for 25 years to schools, churches, veteran groups, civic groups. I've got a PowerPoint presentation. It used to be a slide presentation before I got technology smart. And I've given that thing several hundred times. And I always have great attention from it and great questions. So I think this is a good time to do this.

[01:02:04.27] And I think what you're doing now, talking to Jim Lawrence before this. I mean, when I was introduced to him and found out about his experiences and his book, we turned his book out in six weeks. That's why there were some spelling errors.

[01:02:18.71] [LAUGHING]

[01:02:21.84] JOE GALLOWAY: Well, Bob, thank you.

[01:02:23.64] ROBERT BABCOCK: Yes, sir, Joe. Thank you.