

Channel 49
The Word

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media should play
with Acrobat 9 +

The Wars One

When Gilhooley left the Coast Guard for the Army they first trained him for an Anti-Aircraft missile battery: --*Maybe they thought because I could use small-boat radar I was half-trained--*. He didn't care for the new line of work and figured he'd go back to the CG or try the Navy when his current enlistment was over. Once overseas, and no threat from enemy planes materialized, the unit made up for a shortage of infantry 'boots' by patrolling dismounted.

--*We was looking for booby-traps; wired-ordnance... Now they call these things 'EYE-EEE-DEEs' which is a stupid way to grunt out an even stupider acronym for 'improvised explosive device;' like anything that explodes people or vehicles could occur naturally without being improvised. Some young lieutenant just out of school got himself blowed-up. Not like we was trained or equipped for any of that--*. Finding the pseudo-infantry not to his liking: --*You were stuck riding or walking around waiting to be blown up--*. He began looking for other options. By chance he found a thirsty Lieutenant Colonel hankering for Scotch whiskey and produced a bottle of Johnnie Walker for him. Invited to share a drink across the commissioned divide, at a table once reserved for members of the former regime, the Lt. Col. revealed he had connections and a cushy job as liaison to the State Department for rebuilding infrastructure and security. --*So I became a bodyguard--*.

Cain, busy with some scribbled notes on napkins, used envelopes and a laundry receipt was more reticent to talk about his experiences. --*Oh, one time after 24 hours on duty and 12 on perimeter at night in a rain that was more like being under a fire-hose, thought I saw somebody doing jumping jacks on the road across a field. It was just an object and I was having a visual hallucination. ... Under fire? Yeah, I got my helmet on backwards and figured the next round might blow my face off. There wasn't no next round.--* He shrugged off further explanations, but eventually offered this: --*Maybe*

sometime I'll tell you about how I accidentally stopped what could have been a minor atrocity--. He grinned, -- War is many things; sometimes, it's a video game with endless bad guys; like the movies--.

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