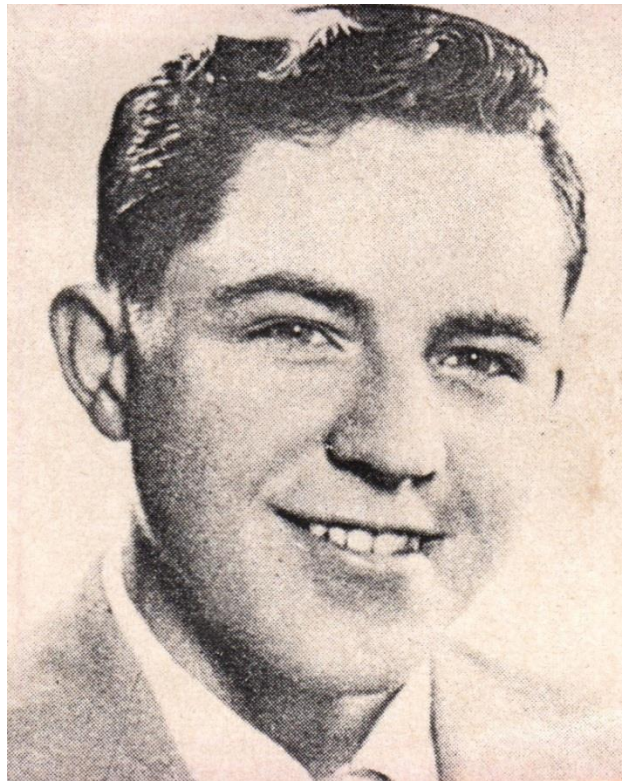


# Jack Arnold Hawks

Interviewed by Judy Hansen  
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I was born in Bell, California Aug 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1936 to George and Hazel May Hawks. My mother died when she was 46 and my father died when he was 68.

I left California in 1945 and went to Loma, Colorado which is West of Grand Junction. We had a dairy farm there. I went to high school in Fruita, Colorado for four years. I graduated from high school and left home when I was 20. I went to California and worked for my wife's dad. I was only there about a year or less when I got a draft notice. Eight years after I got out of the Army I married Nancy Lee Noel. She was the bosses daughter (Jack laughs).



Nancy and I dated in 1958 but when I got my draft notice I left. She was of the marrying kind but I was too young and marrying wasn't for me. So I took the draft notice and went back to Colorado because that is where the notice came from; I had never changed my address. I went to Denver and took my physical. I joined the Army. This was in 1958 and I was 22 years old. I joined the Army for three years because I wanted to get a specific trade. They told me if I signed up I could get into Diesel Mechanics which is what I wanted. When I got in there they put me in ammunition. I don't like guns and I don't like ammunition. I went for six weeks ammunition training after boot camp.

Boot camp was a miserable place. I went to Fort Carson, Colorado. If they made me do it again I'd say "No," they would have to fire me because it was so miserable. I agree with them when they say they teach discipline and how to react without having to think. They do that so if you are in wartime you can act without having to think. That is why they are; like I say, "mean and ornery." They treated you like you were a low life but I kind-of agree with them now. I liked the esprit corps where the marching was very formal. I was in Fort Carson and then I went to Fort Lewis Washington for my ammunition training. I was at Fort Lewis for six weeks.

I told my grandson that if you want to learn discipline and respect go into the Army. You learn respect for people. I don't think it is anything now like it was then. For instance, you'll have a Sergeant that will stand a foot from your face and he'll ask you a question. You answer, he'll say, "I can't hear you." Then you'll get a little louder and he'll say, "I can't hear you." When you shout he'll say, "Don't shout at me." They made you so you don't rebel or walk away.

I did enjoy the 27- mile march in the Army which is a grueling march. If you sit down you can't stand back up. A lot of the guys did drop out but I did all the things that were required. You

have to have an attitude “you’re not going to break me.” Boot camp was really hard. I don’t like the outdoors that well so when we would go bivouacking I didn’t like that either. I didn’t like killing animals let alone people (he laughs).

I was born LDS but from 1959 ‘till about eight years after I got out of the Army I was inactive. I never lost my testimony. I was older when I went into the Army; 22 and I would have non-LDS guys come to me and ask me questions about what they should do regarding this and that. I would always tell them the LDS church was true even though I was not an example at that time. That is how I felt. I went to church a little bit when I was in Fort Lewis.

Then I was sent to West Germany; Gräfenberg is where we did our maneuvers. Erlangen is the name of the town we were stationed which is close to Nuremberg. I was there for a little over a year and a half. I was in the motor pool helping to take care of the vehicles and all that. Six months in I got the chance to advance to Battalion Ammunition Sergeant which was a good job. It gave me a little more rank and more pay. I was in charge of all the ammunition for servicing the tanks. We were a tank battalion; the 35th Armored Battalion Headquarters Company. I was in charge of all the ammunition for the whole battalion. When we went on maneuvers I had to furnish ammunition for all the tanks. It was quite a hectic job. We would clean it, store it, and send it out to the guys that were firing it on the firing range. It was a big job to keep enough ammunition on those tanks to keep them firing out there on the range. There were 90 mm and 120 mm cannons on those tanks. It was a good job and it kept me going.

East and West Germany was feuding. In fact, when I got discharged we had our tanks running and we were supposed to get sent to the border. I was afraid they were going to extend my time but we didn’t go and I came home.

I did enjoy Europe. I bought a car while I was over there and I ended up traveling around. I got into East Germany for about two minutes when they told me I better turn around and get out of there. I toured Europe a little bit with my car and I didn’t realize I was getting in the wrong side of town. There was kind-of a little guard shack but it didn’t look restricted. They just told me to turn around and go back when I got to that shack.

I didn’t like the military much but my attitude was to do the best with what you got so I did all right. I served three years and was discharged in September 1961. I had gone over to Germany by air and came back by boat that had 1500 troops. I was what they called an Acting Jack; a Spec. 4 Acting Sergeant. That gave me more money plus they shipped the car home that I had bought over there free. If they hadn’t of shipped it I wouldn’t have brought it home. It’s an antique 1952 Mercedes. I restored it. They weren’t even imported then. They didn’t start importing Mercedes until 1955 so you won’t find any more of them. I only know of three. They are very rare. Cars are my thing so that was fun.

I guess I didn’t like the army too well because I can’t find any pictures of me in my uniform (he laughs). Personally, I would serve again if they needed help because I am a patriotic person regardless of if I liked it or not. That is why I have the flag flying in front of my home.

My wife had married while I was in the service and when I got home they were divorcing so we got together and married in 1969. I have been married 45 years. We became active in the church and went to the temple. We have been active ever since. We have four children; Julie (New Hampshire), Sherrie (California), Glenda (California), and Jack (Arizona). I was a brick mason in California for thirty-four years. I retired in 1998 and moved to Lehi, Utah.