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4 ORAL HISTORY OF ELLSWORTH JONES

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May 14, 2004

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2 MR. CLARK: This is an interview
3 with New York State Military Museum, Saratoga
4 Springs, New York, the 14th of May, 2004,
5 approximately three-thirty p.m. Interviewers are
6 Wayne Clark and Mike Russert.

7 INTERVIEW

8 BY MR. CLARK:

9 Q. Could you give me your full name,
10 date of birth, place of birth, please?

11 A. Ellsworth Joseph Jones. Date of
12 birth?

13 Q. Yes, sir.

14 A. January 6th, 1918 I believe.
15 1918. I remember that all right.

16 Q. And where were you were born?

17 A. In Albany, New York.

18 Q. Okay. What was your education
19 prior to entering military service?

20 A. I attended St. Mary's Academy in
21 Glens Falls, New York. I graduated from there in
22 1946 I believe.

23 Q. Very good.

24 A. 1936 I guess.

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2 Q. Uh-huh.

3 A. I didn't continue any other
4 education. Let's see, when I did I enlist?

5 Q. You said 1940. Did you join --
6 did you join the guard unit?

7 A. Yeah. I was -- 1940. I had the
8 distinction of being the first one. I was living
9 in Corinth at the time and they brought down quite
10 a few fellows came down looking after that. And it
11 was Company Alpha.

12 Q. So do you work here in this
13 Armory or in Saratoga?

14 A. Absolutely. Yeah.

15 Q. Uh-huh.

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. What was the armory like when you
18 were here?

19 A. It hasn't changed much. The
20 faces have changed a little and possibly
21 downstairs, but not much.

22 Q. Uh-huh.

23 A. It's -- it's been kept up I think
24 and that they've done well with it. And we were

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2 novices of course and we jumped when they said
3 jump. We did. But it was a great experience and I
4 made a lot of friends, people that I hadn't known
5 before. And we -- we did well.

6 Q. Now where did you go for your
7 training?

8 A. Well, I don't know how familiar
9 you are, but we lived -- the station used to be up
10 where the Grand Union is now.

11 Q. Uh-huh.

12 A. And the train ran in there and
13 the girl got killed. You remember any of this?

14 Q. No, I did --

15 A. Oh, well --.

16 Q. -- Well I --.

17 A. Well, and anyway they pulled
18 the -- they pulled the train on down the siding and
19 it was -- it was a disaster really.

20 Q. So a young girl was --

21 A. A young girl got killed --.

22 Q. -- killed by a train that came in
23 for the troops?

24 A. Yes, they had left they

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2 didn't --.

3 MR. RUSSERT: When was this?

4 MR. JONES: When?

5 MR. RUSSERT: When?

6 MR. JONES: 1940.

7 BY MR. CLARK: (Cont'g.)

8 Q. 1940. And that was the day you
9 were all assembled and were ready to board?

10 A. We were all assembled. The --
11 the company came from Glens Falls. The -- the --
12 yeah, White Hall, they stopped at first I believe.

13 Q. Uh-huh.

14 A. And picked up the unit there and
15 I don't know what number -- and then Company K was
16 in Glens Falls, Company L was here.

17 Q. Uh-huh.

18 A. And the train came on down and
19 you probably don't remember, but it came around the
20 old bend there where the station was and that girl
21 somehow got out and it dragged her. We didn't see
22 any of it. We knew there was a lot of commotion
23 and so on. And they hustled us onto the train.

24 Q. There were a number of other

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2 Saratogians who went away with you, Joe Armstrong
3 and people --?

4 A. Oh man, yeah, they were -- it was
5 I would say better than fifty percent. Yeah, the
6 Armstrongs and the -- we all met down here and then
7 we slept down here, stayed right here for a few
8 days --

9 Q. Uh-huh.

10 A. -- and then they put us on the
11 train and we went down to Fort McClellan, Alabama.

12 Q. Okay. So you were in the
13 maneuvers and so on down in --?

14 A. I sure was.

15 Q. This was with the Twenty-seventh
16 Division?

17 A. Twenty-seventh and Company L.
18 Twenty-seventh Infantry Division, yeah.

19 Q. How long were you there for
20 maneuvers?

21 A. Well, I was there until I -- I
22 was accepted as a candidate or accepted as a -- for
23 Officer's Candidate School. And I think there were
24 three of us that were accepted under -- under that.

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2 We got a tremendous send off, thousands of people
3 literally and we went down to the old -- to what
4 they call The Armory, not this Center, I want to
5 say the Armory next to the -- there. They gave us
6 a big party and a couple thousand dollars and had a
7 real good time.

8 Q. Uh-huh.

9 A. Of course the tragic accident
10 after that. We didn't know it. They didn't advise
11 us of the accident, so they took us down and put us
12 on the siding and then somebody got in --.

13 Q. Where did you train at Officer's
14 Candidate School?

15 A. Fort Benning, Georgia.

16 Q. Fort Benning, Georgia?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. Where were you when you heard
19 about Pearl Harbor?

20 A. Where was I? Jeez. I was in the
21 service at --.

22 Q. Well, I guess I assumed that. Do
23 you remember were you in Officer Candidate School
24 at that time?

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2 A. No. No.

3 Q. Where --?

4 A. I was the sergeant in Company L.

5 The local National Guard company was federalized

6 and we all went down to Alabama.

7 Q. Okay. So you probably were at

8 Fort McClellan?

9 A. I'm --.

10 Q. Do you remember the beginning how

11 you heard about it and your reaction?

12 A. Yeah, I remember it. They --

13 there was panic for a little while. Everybody was

14 running everywhere. Nobody knew what was

15 happening. They just said get back, that people

16 were in Anniston, Alabama and they get -- get back

17 off leave and so on. And at first it was -- it

18 looked like it was just a lot of excitement.

19 Nobody really knew which way to go. But that soon

20 ended because they got the officers back and the --

21 the they said this is it fellows, you know, they're

22 not fooling now and here's what's going to happen.

23 We're going to get our orders and we're going to

24 move out of here and we'll find out about it and

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2 know about it soon enough. So just keep cool. And
3 unfortunately before we got on the train and little
4 girl got killed.

5 Q. Uh-huh.

6 MR. RUSSERT: Okay. Now, you
7 went to Fort Benning for Officer Candidate School?

8 MR. JONES: Yes.

9 MR. RUSSERT: How long were you
10 there?

11 MR. JONES: Well, they used to
12 call us ninety-day wonders, but I don't know I was
13 any wonder, but I was there ninety days.

14 MR. CLARK: Uh-huh.

15 MR. JONES: And while there I met
16 a gentleman who later got killed in the service,
17 but he wanted to go join paratroopers. He was all
18 set for it. He, I guess, had made some jumps out
19 of private planes or something up here and he
20 prevailed on me. He said come on, let's go up and
21 see what's going on. And I said no, I'm crazy
22 enough, but I haven't -- but anyway, you got
23 special pay. We got a hundred dollars a month and
24 we wore special hats and uniforms and so on. And

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2 we were in a class by ourselves.

3 We were the best trained troops
4 in the world, bar none. You know, it wasn't at our
5 behest, it was the people that they had training
6 us. And you got in shape and you obeyed the rules
7 and so on and it turned out to be I was assigned to
8 the 101st Airborne training the troops.

9 BY MR. CLARK: (Cont'g.)

10 Q. Where did you need to serve in
11 order to get into the paratroopers school?

12 A. You had to go through tests, a
13 series of tests that we went through, endurance
14 practice, but mostly, you know, run till you fall
15 down or run up and down those stairs till we thought
16 we were wearing them out or whatever. And we had
17 good non-coms, no fooling around. You know, if you
18 don't -- if it's too much just walk out the door
19 and go on and go back to your -- you know, the
20 Company L or whatever you're going to do. But we
21 don't have time to just --you know, to baby you, so
22 get in or get out. And that was a great attitude
23 because we knew where we stood and --.

24 Q. How many jumps did you make all

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2 total?

3 A. All total? Well, that's a good
4 question. Well, we had -- I had to make five to
5 qualify, five day jumps, two night jumps. That's
6 seven. I jumped -- I then became a -- much later I
7 became an instructor. That's a tough job. That is
8 a tough job. You get a guy in the door and he
9 balks and I never believed in throwing -- throwing
10 a guy out the door.

11 Q. Uh-huh.

12 A. You know, he got killed or
13 something I would feel responsible. So I had
14 the -- let me talk to you come on, sit down here.
15 I'd say to them well, tell them to go around again,
16 will you. Tell them to go around this thing again.
17 I said look, don't -- if you don't want to -- if
18 you don't want to be a paratrooper that's no
19 problem, but go out the door and quit down there,
20 not up here.

21 Q. Uh-huh.

22 A. Because if you quit up here
23 that's a mark on your -- you know, on all the forms
24 and everything else, you're a quitter and so on and

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2 in combat they won't trust you and so on. I'll go
3 with you. Hang on to me, I'll go with you, but
4 let's get out and get down there and say I don't
5 know. Nothing will happen it will just -- and we
6 had three guys do that.

7 Q. Where did you train for the
8 101st?

9 A. We trained at -- right down in
10 Alabama is where the -- the parachute school was.

11 Q. And were you an officer when you
12 went in as a paratrooper?

13 A. No. I went to O.C.S. after and I
14 guess I'm -- I'm probably reflecting on it so --.

15 Q. And then leading up to the D-Day,
16 you were a second lieutenant?

17 A. I was a second and I got promoted
18 to first lieutenant before and then --.

19 Q. Well, what was your regimental
20 assignment?

21 A. Regimental? Oh, I was in Company
22 K or Company --.

23 Q. No, no, when you're at the 101st.

24 A. Oh, I was a platoon major.

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2 Q. With what company or what
3 regiment?

4 A. What regiment? Oh --

5 Q. What --?

6 A. -- five o two.

7 Q. Five o two?

8 A. Five o two, yeah.

9 Q. Company G?

10 A. No, Company F.

11 Q. Company F?

12 A. And I -- I roamed around. I had
13 the experience and so they kind of loaned me a
14 little and officers had just came in and so I'm
15 trying to get them oriented, making them feel --
16 feel at ease. And we-- anybody that refused to
17 jump, I'd get somebody that refused to jump, I was
18 a good psychiatrist I guess. I'd say come on, sit
19 down and I'd say tell the pilot to go around a
20 couple times. Look, you want to quit, I don't
21 blame you, but quit down there, don't quit up here.

22 MR. RUSSERT: Did you convince
23 anybody --?

24 MR. JONES: I said I'll go --

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2 I'll go with you, hang on to me. Just hang on
3 there or I'll get somebody -- one of the other
4 offices, I'll get somebody to go first.

5 MR. CLARK: Uh-huh.

6 MR. JONES: And you know, I never
7 wanted to push anybody out, I'd feel if something
8 happened and it did happen a guy get hurt real bad,
9 you know, you'd feel that it was your fault. So
10 you -- through persuasion, I was a salesman of sort
11 in my own business and instead of threatening them
12 with court martial, all this and losing their
13 stripes or whatever, I'd just say sit down, let's
14 talk this over.

15 BY MR. CLARK: (Cont'g.)

16 Q. When did you go to England?

17 A. Oh man.

18 Q. You trained several months before
19 D-Day in the England area?

20 A. We -- oh yeah, we trained British
21 troops. I jumped with British troops. I never
22 done anything really. We had a -- an exchange idea
23 to see what we had best in -- in the parachute and
24 they had some good ideas and we had some good

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2 **ideas.**

3 Q. Did you all jump with the same
4 type of chute or did they have a --?

5 A. No, they had a -- they had a
6 **different type chute and --.**

7 Q. Now, did you ever use the British
8 bag system where they had the bag that hung on --?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. Did you like that or --?

11 A. Well, it was kind of a novelty.
12 **We didn't -- really you're -- you're so**
13 **indoctrinated that you knew that the chute was**
14 **going to open. There's -- no, you packed it**
15 **yourself.**

16 Q. Uh-huh.

17 A. Have you ever tried to pack nylon
18 you know how that is, it's like greased eel, and --
19 but you had so -- so much confidence in what was
20 happening. You knew the pilot up there and he was
21 going to do everything he could. He was going to
22 cut down the engine, cut it a little more if he had
23 to and if he missed -- if there was a fence or
24 something he saw that we didn't know, he'd say I'm

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2 going around again, Jonesy, just hang on. And you
3 had a crew change who was standing right there and
4 there was a red light and a green light right here
5 and he didn't want you to go he'd push -- he'd push
6 the red light, say stay back, get back, go sit
7 down.

8 Q. Was the platoon that you had the
9 same group of guys who were with you in -- in the
10 states as you went over to England --?

11 A. We did up to -- up to a point and
12 then our experience -- now -- now we're experienced
13 paratroopers, we have made the five day jumps and
14 two night jumps and we've been on the maneuvers and
15 so on and so they used us as not the guinea pigs,
16 but -- and I had -- I was a salesman. I had a
17 power of persuasion to a lot of the guys and I
18 would say look, no, don't quit up here.

19 Q. Uh-huh.

20 A. You know --.

21 Q. Now when you were getting ready
22 for D-Day what kind of specialized training --?

23 A. Oh, boy. You name it we had it.
24 We had pictures, we had sand tables, we had

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2 everything that could get us. We had -- I only had
3 to -- exactly where the sand table said I should.

4 Q. Really?

5 A. Yeah. Right there. I could
6 recognize every tree and every -- and it was highly
7 successful. We had casualties, no question. I
8 lost some good men there. Everybody did. But I
9 still had sharp from my diaphragm and --.

10 Q. How big was your platoon?

11 A. Thirty men.

12 Q. And --?

13 A. Two officers.

14 Q. Two officers? Yourself and
15 another --?

16 A. Yeah, another officer. I was a
17 first lieutenant and I had a second lieutenant.

18 Q. You had them with you over here?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. Okay. You had your own C-47 and
21 your platoon's going on a C-47?

22 A. Well, you didn't have your own.
23 I mean they might have brought in some
24 photographers or somebody, I don't know who they --

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2 they put in actually.

3 Q. That's very difficult too; right,
4 the C-47?

5 A. Yeah, mostly it carries a
6 third --.

7 Q. Now when you left for France --

8 A. Uh-huh.

9 Q. -- do you recall your feelings
10 and did you -- were you able to look below and see
11 the -- the -- and the channel at all?

12 A. Oh yeah, it was an amazing sight,
13 but you were -- they indoctrinated you like an
14 eagle almost and said you're the -- the best troops
15 in the world, there's nobody any better. Now, you
16 know, this is -- and here's what's going to happen
17 and here's the way it's going to happen. I don't
18 know the exact dates and I don't know the exact
19 assignments, but you have got to be the leaders in
20 it. There's no question, you're going first.

21 Q. Now what kind of weapons did you
22 carry going into a --?

23 A. A folding Carbine about this big.
24 It was this big the folding Carbine.

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2 Q. Did you have a pistol as well?

3 A. I cut that out because it was on
4 here, we had other things. I had map cases and
5 stuff and you don't want to get too heavy.

6 Q. Grenades?

7 A. I had two grenades.

8 Q. Now did your men -- getting back,
9 did they use that free bag system, there was a bag
10 where they put their weapons and so on --?

11 A. Yeah, that was arbitrary. I mean
12 that was arbitrary in the sense --.

13 Q. Because I know that was something
14 new at the time.

15 A. I didn't believe in it.

16 Q. Okay. So your men didn't use
17 those bags?

18 A. I suggested they don't.

19 Q. Uh-huh.

20 A. You -- the force of the -- the
21 impact when you're coming down just before you get
22 twenty-five feet or so, you have some control. If
23 you could pull that parachute down towards you it's
24 slowing you down because the air gets -- it's full

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2 of air, but you're pulling it down and it's trying
3 to -- and trying to -- you can steer them a little
4 bit. You can pull down on the side and steer it a
5 little bit.

6 Q. Where -- whereabouts did you
7 land? Was it St. Mere-eglise?

8 A. I -- I sure did. Yeah, I landed
9 at St. Mere-eglise. We could see -- we could see
10 the German trucks and -- and soldiers running to
11 their positions on the way down and I finally said
12 to -- to the -- give me -- to the crew chief, give
13 me that thing, I said -- Kelly, and I said Kelly,
14 what the hell are you trying to throw us all -- you
15 got us down, right, now step out or get me -- get
16 me two hundred fifty feet at least, will you. He
17 said Jonesy, shut up and get back here, I'm running
18 the plane, I'll give all you want. So he did.

19 MR. RUSSERT: Now how severe was
20 the fire when your plane went in?

21 MR. JONES: Well, it was mostly
22 ground -- ground troops.

23 MR. RUSSERT: Uh-huh.

24 MR. JONES: And because we were

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2 up front fortunately. They did have some planes
3 they said --.

4 BY MR. CLARK: (Cont'g.)

5 Q. So you were one of the earlier
6 planes?

7 A. We were one of the early planes,
8 yeah.

9 MR. RUSSERT: By any chance did
10 you know the fellow that landed in the church
11 tower?

12 MR. JONES: No, I didn't happen
13 to know him. No, they sir, but we had what I
14 thought was the best indoctrination that was
15 possible. We had sand tables and the little houses
16 and the -- the streets and it was like, you know, a
17 mirage, here we are. And --.

18 BY MR. CLARK: (Cont'g.)

19 Q. Well, when you went in how long
20 did it take your men to assemble and was it the
21 entire --?

22 A. We didn't get -- we didn't get
23 off. Some of the men enter too far.

24 Q. Uh-huh.

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2 A. So it took us probably eight
3 minutes.

4 Q. Uh-huh.

5 A. That's all. But we're -- and we
6 had a cricket.

7 MR. RUSSERT: Yes, I was going to
8 ask you about that.

9 MR. JONES: Two, three inches.

10 BY MR. CLARK: (Cont'g.)

11 Q. And you hit the coast in -- in --
12 in a plane you're -- you're alone at that point.
13 You -- you could -- did you know what you were
14 looking at when you were training on the sand
15 tables and so forth?

16 A. Yeah, it was way zone.

17 Q. Could you see the roads?

18 A. You could see the German soldiers
19 running to their position. I could see the --.

20 Q. As -- as you got ready to jump
21 what procedure did you use, what commands did you
22 give to your soldiers and so forth?

23 A. Well, in the C 47 there are five
24 seats on both sides and then there's -- there is a

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2 cable that runs down and right back to the door,
3 the exit door. And so these guys were all -- you
4 know, you weren't teaching them too much. We'd
5 been through it so many times, so the -- there's
6 two lights right down here by where I sat, a red
7 one and a green one. The red light go on we're
8 approaching, you know, now you've got three minutes
9 or four minutes, whatever you had decided. And
10 so -- and the crew chief was there. So you'd get
11 up and say stand up and hook up. Everybody gets up
12 and they'd hook up.

13 Now some place way back in
14 history somebody was nervous and didn't hook up and
15 jumped out, now that -- so the command was then
16 stand up and hook up and sound off for equipment
17 check, twenty, okay, nineteen, seventeen, sixteen,
18 and so on and get back. And I'd always say give me
19 that again, I didn't hear it. I wanted to make
20 sure and they'd come back and give it to us. And
21 then you say stand up and now I can see and it's
22 just as plain as -- as this thing is here to me
23 now. I can see every farmhouse, I can see every
24 road and I saw the -- the river. Well, it wasn't

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2 much of a river there, and I've got it counted and
3 I've got a crew chief there and I'm saying to him
4 what's he saying up there. So that's -- that's so
5 and so, give me -- keep me posted. And you don't
6 do it too quick. And when you get probably five
7 minutes, four minutes from it you say close up and
8 stand in the door. Now the guys on the other side
9 of the plane, not the -- the exit, they got to go
10 way down and come back.

11 Q. So they're making a big U?

12 A. Yeah, a big U. So we'd say --
13 no, I just see -- we saw the river. And so you'd
14 say stand up and close on the door. So they're
15 just as tight as they can and I'd say I want this
16 plane emptied in, you know, two minutes or
17 something like that, which was impossible. And
18 they'd close up, be right on your back. And the
19 guy's name was Kelly who was my pilot, or the pilot
20 for the plane. Now flack started get a little
21 heavier and the more -- I think it was more ground
22 fire than it was flack because I think flack goes
23 up too high. I don't know, but we started -- it
24 looked like we were starting to take some. So I

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2 just got out and give me that thing. I said come
3 on, Kelly, get me down there and let me walk in
4 there anyway, will you, give me a shot. He
5 said --.

6 Q. Do you know if the plane made it
7 out?

8 A. Yeah. Oh yeah. Yeah. Oh yeah.
9 So he -- he said to me, he kept saying Jonesy,
10 you're a worry wart, shut up and get back there,
11 I'll take care of you.

12 MR. RUSSERT: And you were the
13 last man out the door; right?

14 MR. JONES: I -- well, I had to
15 get them out.

16 MR. RUSSERT: Right.

17 MR. JONES: I had to see that
18 everybody got out, so I'm the last guy. And I
19 figure we're going across the channel and I don't
20 want to jump in the channel because with this stuff
21 on I ain't going to make it. He just laughed and
22 they -- the boys were up and standing and they knew
23 what they were doing.

24 BY MR. CLARK: (Cont'g.)

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2 Q. You're in the door --

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. -- looking down and you're about
5 ready to jump, you're in one of the first planes,
6 so this is the first -- the first that Americans
7 are going in --?

8 A. No, we had the path finders in
9 there.

10 Q. Okay. But you're -- so that's --
11 you don't know what to expect when you're going to
12 get on the ground in terms of German troops and so
13 forth?

14 A. Well, we -- no, it was pretty
15 well documented. I mean they took pictures and
16 they had everything that you wanted and you know,
17 before we went. They were there, you could go look
18 it over and you knew what your -- what your -- we
19 knew what the -- our objective was, my platoon, and
20 I knew what the objective was.

21 Q. What was your objective?

22 A. There were two I guess you would
23 call them anti-aircraft guns. We -- I thought they
24 were machine guns, but they said they were

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2 anti-aircraft guns, but they're tough. I mean, you
3 know, the -- the C 47's don't go too fast and
4 you've got -- the -- the pilots were great. They'd
5 slow you because the faster they're going the more
6 that propeller's going the greater the shock. You
7 get up there it's (clap) like that and you know, if
8 he can cut that engine a little bit and so -- but
9 they gave us -- they gave us every detail -- every
10 detail.

11 There's a -- there's a -- you go over, you see
12 the beach, now you -- now you know you're three
13 minutes off your jump. Stand up and hook up, close
14 up, stand in the door, sound off for a equipment
15 check and so on, close up and stand in the door,
16 come on, get up there. And the crew chief, what's
17 he say, get on there, get that pilot on there.

18 Q. How long did it take you to get
19 to your objective --

20 A. Well --.

21 Q. -- and indicate your objective.

22 A. When you say to indicate your
23 objective --.

24 Q. You said anti-aircraft weapons

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2 were your objective?

3 A. Well, you don't know who got them
4 really. I mean you have -- we had hand grenades
5 and we threw hand grenades and somebody else was.
6 And you coordinate it -- coordinate it and it
7 was -- it was the best mixed match that I ever saw
8 because we had guys I never saw those guys. Now
9 where you from or so on and it was -- it was a
10 daring take boy, I'll tell you that for the
11 American Army.

12 Q. You got them both, though, both
13 of those guns, the anti-aircraft guns, you got them
14 both?

15 A. Somebody got them. Yeah, we
16 got -- we got in there.

17 Q. Did you sustain any casualties in
18 that?

19 A. Yeah. Yeah. And they took a lot
20 of them.

21 Q. Yeah. Yeah.

22 A. And they finally --.

23 Q. I mean how many --?

24 A. Oh yeah. Two. Two. They -- and

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2 we could see the -- we could see their trucks going
3 back. They were retreating, going back, and right
4 down the road. And it was a beautiful moonlight
5 night, beautiful night. You could see, but they --
6 I was disappointed -- or not disappointed, I was
7 unhappy, but the resistance wasn't what I had
8 anticipated.

9 Q. More or less?

10 A. Less. It was much less. Because
11 when we got the -- when they gave us the -- the
12 photos and stuff of all -- there was a machine gun
13 nest here, and there was an anti-aircraft gun here,
14 and there was a line of soldiers here, this is
15 where this was.

16 Now in the confusion we were
17 confused, but they were more confused than we were
18 because they started running around. They -- some
19 of them didn't know where they were going I guess,
20 and --.

21 Q. Did you take any prisoners at
22 all?

23 A. Prisoners I didn't want.

24 Q. Okay.

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2 A. I didn't want to go to the back
3 by putting -- frisk them and stuff. You go to the
4 back. You make one mistake it will go right
5 through your head, you understand that. I had a
6 guy that could speak fluent German as my assistant.
7 I had two of them. I'd say tell him he makes one
8 mistake, if his -- if his shoe would get dirty, all
9 right, he's dead. And don't -- and the guy would
10 say comrade all right, take him to the back.

11 Q. Combat ended for you on D plus
12 five when you got a hit that you gleaned a landing
13 in D plus five what -- what were your -- do you
14 remember any of your objectives or your missions?

15 A. We accomplished -- yeah, we got
16 the other -- the infantry walked right off the
17 thing.

18 Q. How -- how long was it before the
19 infantry from the beach got in?

20 A. A matter of twelve, thirteen
21 hours or something in that vicinity. I wasn't even
22 timed, but I know that -- that the carrier -- I'd
23 have my platoon leader -- I had an assistant
24 platoon leader and I'd say find out what you can.

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2 Because again you're -- you're -- it's mass
3 confusion. I don't know really who's on the --.

4 Q. Did you have a radio with you?

5 A. I had a radio operator, but
6 that -- you've got to be careful on that because
7 everybody's on the radio, where are you, what's --
8 what's your position, what's -- what's the
9 situation. So I'd rather had -- I had an
10 assistant.

11 Q. So you had runners?

12 A. That's what I had, I had a guy
13 there and I didn't have to write it down, say tell
14 them here's where we are, here's what we're doing,
15 we're getting low on ammunition, get something up
16 here and we need some relief or something. He'd go
17 back by the beaches and he was a pretty good
18 salesman in -- in civil life because he -- we'd get
19 stuck on the rec.

20 Q. Who were the cricket -- or
21 clickers?

22 A. Well, that was a signal. It
23 was -- you know, it was kind of a psychological
24 effect. We probably -- I guess I still have mine?

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2 **I thought I brought mine, but maybe I didn't. I**
3 **still have mine.**

4 Q. You do?

5 A. **Yeah. I thought I brought it.**

6 MR. RUSSERT: Do you still have
7 your jump knife too?

8 MR. JONES: No. They wouldn't
9 let -- no, I didn't have my jump suit or my boots.
10 No, I got -- I got hurt. I have shrapnel. I've
11 got it right now and I --

12 MR. RUSSERT: And how --?

13 MR. JONES: -- I can -- right up
14 for you in a minute if you want me to.

15 BY MR. CLARK: (Cont'g.)

16 Q. Did you do a lot of hedge row
17 fighting for the five days?

18 A. **You bet your life.**

19 Q. What was it like fighting the
20 hedge rows?

21 A. **It's murder.**

22 Q. Were -- were you -- do you think
23 you were trained to --

24 A. **We were trained --.**

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2 Q. -- fight in them?

3 A. We were -- we -- psychologically
4 we were the best troops in the world. There was
5 nobody -- we're a paratrooper, you got paid a -- I
6 got paid a hundred dollars a month more than any
7 other body and I got all the training that -- that
8 they could give me.

9 Q. Do you think fighting the hedge
10 rows is more difficult than you anticipated or --?

11 A. No.

12 Q. No?

13 A. You were -- you were prepared
14 really psychologically. That was the best -- we
15 were prepared no matter what happened. You know,
16 you've seen the -- in my platoon the assistant
17 platoon leader for the platoon got shot right
18 through the head, right through the helmet, dead
19 right there. That affects you, you know?

20 Q. Yes.

21 A. But --.

22 Q. Who was your colonel?

23 A. Robert A. Cole, Congressional
24 Medal of Honor winner.

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2 Q. He's a pretty gung ho kind of
3 colonel?

4 A. He had no fear, no nothing. We
5 used to say he has no fear, no nothing, and he
6 don't know nothing, you know. He was -- oh, he
7 was -- he was --.

8 Q. He had some -- missions for his
9 troops?

10 A. No. He -- he wanted to win the
11 war -- us to win the war. And we weren't going to
12 win it backing up or sitting down in the foxholes.
13 You're going to win it by getting to Berlin or
14 wherever we were supposed to go. He got killed.

15 Q. Could you --?

16 A. And he's a Medal of Honor winner.

17 Q. Could you describe where and when
18 you were wounded and how you were wounded?

19 A. I still have the shrapnel in
20 there. It was -- well, I don't know the time --.

21 Q. The D plus five?

22 A. Yeah. D plus five I got hurt I
23 guess. The -- the enemy came out in an all out
24 effort, air -- or bombers and everything. They

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2 either had to get us back in the ocean or else they
3 were going to -- it was all done for them. And
4 they finally started surrendering in groups in
5 groves.

6 So after we got in and got past
7 the first stages of it and into the second stage of
8 our advance, then we started to see -- I always
9 called them deserters, the guys that they were
10 going to get killed if they didn't because it was
11 take no prisoners, do nothing -- you know --.

12 Q. Now Carentan, which is -- which
13 is on the map here probably four or five miles in
14 there's a canal that leads out to it and if -- if
15 you --?

16 A. Right over here there's a
17 college.

18 Q. College, yeah. You weren't
19 looking -- you were trying to take Carentan when
20 you got hit?

21 A. We were attempting to, if you
22 will, the -- the beaches were backing up. There
23 were soldiers that -- that nobody -- nobody knew
24 what was going -- it's, you know, you're supposed

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2 to be -- you're supposed to be there and that
3 wasn't the way we were trained. And so get a
4 meeting of the -- the officers and say look what
5 the hell are you doing here, you know. You -- we
6 know we're supposed to be here, you're way over
7 there, get back where you belong. And I could see
8 the German trucks go, the loads of guys and it was
9 chaos. And they didn't know it. They were about
10 as worse -- worse off --.

11 Q. Why was Carentan important then?

12 A. Well, there was a beach -- a
13 beautiful beach there. The guy -- the first
14 infantry walked right up there like it was, you
15 know --.

16 Q. Do you remember how you got hit?

17 A. Oh yeah, I remember how I got
18 hit.

19 Q. What happened?

20 A. Well, we got by the college
21 over -- there was a college and we went over that
22 area and we were -- I was concerned with my platoon
23 that they would have air bombs -- bursts if they
24 had something and man, in -- in the woods. Now it

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2 isn't so bad if there's no -- they're not hitting
3 those trees and stuff and busting, but you're in
4 there trying to duck. So I didn't want to get too
5 far in there and so we used every -- and I had a
6 guy that was my scout and he was -- he --
7 blindfolded he could take me anyplace I wanted to
8 go. And he can -- I'd say where -- where -- how
9 are we doing. You're okay, but he'd say keep them
10 over here. And then he finally -- I got him the --
11 didn't get him the Congressional Medal, but I got
12 him a good medal.

13 Q. Did you get attacked by the
14 Messerschmits, is that -- coming over and --?

15 A. Not so much.

16 Q. No?

17 A. Not so much. We didn't see much
18 air. We did see bombardment by apparently -- I
19 don't know what size ships those were. They
20 were -- but anyway they did that for a while and
21 they throw it in they had to get them pissed off.

22 Q. How did you get hit, from gunfire
23 or from airplane fire or --?

24 A. Bombs.

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2 Q. Bombs?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. What happened?

5 A. While we were at the college --
6 near the college they had it was beautiful there
7 and it was hedge rows and everything and one of my
8 scouts got hurt. And he came back and he said,
9 "Lieutenant, they've gotten -- there's -- there's
10 something back over in there. And these guys are
11 going to beat on us. They know right where we
12 are." So I said all right, let's see what we can
13 do. So I went back and got the guys on the radio
14 and said get me some air -- get me some air support
15 or get me some -- some guns on the -- on the plane
16 or the Navy because they're -- they're in there.
17 And so they bombarded the place and raised heck
18 with it. And we also had the guy --.

19 Q. Where were you? Were you trying
20 to take -- take Carentan or take a bridge?

21 A. No, no, we were trying to expand
22 the beach and let the guys -- and finally --.

23 Q. Oh, really?

24 A. There was -- finally the guys

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2 could get off those L.S.T.'s where they drop the
3 front and they get off and they walk right up.

4 Q. Do you remember getting hit?

5 A. Oh yeah.

6 Q. What happened after you got hit?

7 A. Well, I -- I had an orderly -- I
8 had an orderly, a nice guy, and he -- he told me,
9 he said how close -- they had a mound like this and
10 there was a college across there and there was fire
11 coming from that, they're firing at us. And I said
12 we've got to get up and see where it is. He said
13 all right. Well, I went too far and the
14 Luftwafer's came over and bombed the heck out of us
15 an I caught one of the -- the --.

16 Q. Where did you get hit --

17 A. It's still there. It's still in
18 there.

19 Q. -- where did you get hit, in the
20 back?

21 A. Yeah, right back here, laying
22 down and --.

23 Q. What happened?

24 A. Well, I lost two good men there

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2 that were killed. Both of them were killed and I
3 got hurt.

4 Q. Where did -- how did they get you
5 to -- to safety?

6 A. The guy that -- that dragged me
7 around there deserted, but I got him a medal. He
8 dragged me out of there at the risk of his own life
9 and then once he got back to the hedge row a little
10 bit I managed to get up.

11 Q. Was there an aid station nearby?

12 A. Oh yeah.

13 Q. There was?

14 A. There -- there were a lot of --
15 of, you know, guys that -- what do you call
16 them --?

17 Q. Medics?

18 A. Medics -- medics I guess they
19 are, and they were -- they risked -- well, they had
20 no corpsman.

21 Q. Were you able to breathe with --?

22 A. Well, yeah, but it made a very
23 peculiar sound. It made -- you know, the blood was
24 rushing out and you're kind of and they -- and then

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2 that's where that Kelly got up and --.

3 Q. Now you spent the night in the
4 aid station, did you?

5 A. Oh yes. Yes. I spent more than
6 a night. And then the next day they -- probably by
7 one o'clock or something they had a ship and they
8 were just -- well, they took us into a house.

9 Q. How did you -- how were you taken
10 to the beach head?

11 A. To the beach head?

12 Q. Where -- isn't that where you
13 were put in a hospital ship?

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. How did you get to the beach?

16 A. Well, the medics. Medics come
17 there --.

18 Q. Did they have a Jeep or were you
19 carried?

20 A. No, there was -- there was no
21 Jeeps there. No, they were carrying the four of
22 them, trying to carry and that's hard, but they got
23 this gurney there and --.

24 Q. So you got to the beach?

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2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. And you were -- they've got to
4 take your clothes and they gave you some morphine?
5 What happened?

6 A. Well, I had from World War I --
7 my uncle was a sergeant in World War I, he brought
8 back -- I still have it -- a corruption of buttons,
9 things off you know you're an American, and I
10 had -- they had in -- in the World War I what they
11 call a Brown -- a Brown. It's a belt that went
12 around here and Ruckfeld and he was -- had
13 foresight enough that he grabbed these things that
14 you like this. He grabbed one from the front,
15 grabbed another and he had all kinds of them. Now
16 I was his favorite nephew, so when he got real
17 sick, well, he's going to die and he gave -- I
18 still have it. And so I was collecting them too
19 and -- but anyway --.

20 Q. Do you have them -- do you have
21 them in your pants when -- when you're on the
22 beach?

23 A. I had two -- two hand grenades
24 and they -- the L.S.T.'s went and crashed the tank

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2 and that could run right up right almost on dry
3 land when they let that thing down. The nurses
4 were there and the doctors were there. This one
5 goes here, this one goes there, give them a blood
6 transfusion or what. So the nurses were real nice
7 and she said to me, "Lieutenant, have you got
8 anything that you want to keep." Before we went in
9 they gave us a nylon map, beautiful map -- map,
10 because if you had this kind to get wet they were
11 no good to you. So the -- the officers had nylon
12 maps and it was beautiful. So I had taken it and I
13 had picked up some of these things that I was going
14 to take back and tied a knot in it and had -- and
15 you're a paratrooper, your -- your pants were cut
16 this way, not this way (indicating).

17 Q. So --.

18 A. So I don't know, they got me by
19 the beach and I'm half -- you know, not -- I guess
20 I got a half of the thing going and the nurse
21 comes, she said, "Oh, Lieutenant, you're going to
22 be fine, I've got a blood run." And I said okay,
23 good. She said you got anything you want. I said
24 yeah, right in this pocket here, I said -- and see,

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2 paratroopers, they're cut this way. They're not
3 cut this way. And I said in there I said there's a
4 handkerchief like and I said it's got some stuff
5 that I'd like to keep. She said, "No problem, I'll
6 get it for you." And I had two hand grenades in
7 there. Now she's in there and she's saying well --
8 and I'm saying oh gee. I'm trying to tell her if
9 she pulls a pin out of that, you know, it's goodbye
10 daddy. And she said oh, where -- where -- where
11 are they.

12 Q. Pull out the pin of the hand
13 grenade?

14 A. I said no, no, don't -- don't do
15 it. I never did get that.

16 Q. You had the pins over though,
17 didn't you?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. She would have had to --?

20 A. Yeah, I know, but I wasn't
21 trusting her, so --.

22 Q. When they got you back to England
23 you had to make a decision about surgery?

24 A. Well, yeah, the -- the doctor

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2 that came in, they -- well, they rushed you in
3 there and they gave you the nom transfusion -- the
4 transfusions and stuff. I was an officer, I had a
5 private room, you know. Big deal. So the guy
6 comes in -- the doctor comes in, he said, well,
7 let's see. They've got the x-rays and stuff. He
8 said you've got a pretty large size piece of
9 shrapnel in there. He said we're going to give you
10 three or four days and we're going to take that
11 right out. Okay.

12 So the nurse is in there and he
13 goes out. So she says would you mind if I had a
14 friend of mine come in and talk to you. No. So
15 the guy came in. He was a doctor. He said I
16 understand they're going to operate on you and take
17 that out. I said that's what they said. He said
18 don't tell them I said so, if it was mine I
19 wouldn't let them touch me. I would just say no, I
20 want to leave it there. You know, what it was he
21 said you have that right. You tell -- and they'll
22 bring in and say -- okay, sign this. I said okay,
23 sign on the right, that's fine.

24 He said you've already had -- you

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2 know, they go in through your ribs, they'll go
3 through the other side, a rib resection. They're
4 not -- no guarantee they'll take it either when
5 they get in there where it is, where it's located.
6 Why don't you let it ride. It's always there.
7 When you want to you can go to the V.A. or you can
8 go back to the Army Hospital and have them take it
9 out. No problem. But I don't think you're
10 physically fit now either. You know, you've just
11 went through the shock. And I said what will I --
12 well, he says I don't care what he says. You just
13 tell him no way. So he's a major, he came in,
14 well, tomorrow morning at ten o'clock. I said
15 well, hold up. Well, what do you mean and I said
16 you're not going to operate on me, Major. He said
17 what -- what -- I'm the doctor. I said yeah, and
18 I'm the patient. And he said well -- so I had to
19 sign the thing, release the government or federal
20 government, I don't care, of all responsibility.

21 Q. You still have a piece of
22 shrapnel there today?

23 A. Oh yes, it's still there.

24 Q. Its not near the Aorta?

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2 A. Every once in a while I have it
3 happen, but not often. I think it's been months
4 since I've had one. If I sneeze the -- it -- well,
5 it expands and then pushes it up there. It wasn't
6 very big.

7 Q. You came to a day room after --
8 after you got out of the hospital?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. In England?

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. How long --

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. -- how long were you recuperating
15 from this wound?

16 A. Well, they gave me -- out of the
17 hospital now from this type of wound it don't take
18 you long to recuperate. I mean you've already had
19 the transfusions. Psychologically you've been --
20 and they give you a calisthenics or they give you
21 some type of treatment to walk and do exercises.
22 And then they leave it up to you. I had two
23 doctors come in, say how you feel. Great. What do
24 you -- what do you want to do. Well, go back.

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2 Well, no, you can't. I ain't going to let -- I'm
3 not going to sign it to go back to a paratrooper, I
4 don't think you should jump again at this time.

5 Q. Uh-huh.

6 A. What could I do? I go back to
7 the infantry, that's where I -- my home. But I can
8 train soldiers, I can show them what I did wrong or
9 what not to do. And I, you know, I'm an asset, I'm
10 not a liability anymore. No problem. So they did.
11 We were right next to a college and everybody
12 had -- man, living like a king. The dorm --.

13 Q. Where were you in England, do you
14 remember?

15 A. Oh jeez, yes. You name it all
16 over. Yeah, and they -- for I assume secrecy they
17 transferred us around like we were cake at a
18 wedding.

19 Q. Uh-huh.

20 A. You know, they gave us -- and the
21 only thing we could tell them, we jumped for
22 Eisenhower and we jumped for Churchill and we
23 jumped for anybody that they wanted us to. And we
24 got a hundred dollars a month as an officer extra

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2 pay.

3 Q. Now you ended up with -- with a
4 P.O.W. camp as a commander of the P.O.W. camp?

5 A. I did. Not long, but I did -- I
6 did and then I wanted a transfer. I wanted no part
7 of that.

8 Q. Uh-huh. What happened?

9 A. I was prejudice. I was
10 prejudice. I really was. I lost some -- let's
11 skip that one.

12 Q. Okay. So after the -- you left
13 the camp where did you go?

14 A. Well, then I had several
15 assignments. I got assignments to -- for
16 indoctrination for troops that were just coming in.
17 I got assignments of the general headquarters
18 information, suggestions, not by the general
19 himself, but by his aides, what did you think of
20 this or what do you think of that. And I wasn't
21 the only one. There were three of us. And we
22 would -- sometimes we didn't agree, but we would
23 come to a consensus and what was the best way to do
24 it, was it the best way the -- the invasion. By --

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2 by sea was nothing, paratroopers is the best way.
3 We were scattered all over and they didn't know
4 where the hell we were or what we were doing. And
5 we were pretty tough troops I'll tell you that.
6 You were iron clad when you came out of that
7 training. You could run three miles and not hurt.

8 Q. And it sounds like you were an
9 advisor? Were you connected with the operation
10 Market Garden at all?

11 A. No. No. Just mostly what I was
12 was a small unit.

13 Q. Uh-huh.

14 A. The -- there would be a K company
15 like this company here and they had the platoon and
16 they're new. They're just getting off the -- the
17 boat and so on, so they'd have a meeting of the
18 officers and they'd have like two or three of us
19 and saying look, here's what we found, keep out of
20 the -- the wooded areas because they're -- they're
21 bombarding them. They're -- you know, they're
22 getting your crashed there, try to circumvent them.
23 And --.

24 Q. And --?

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2 A. Oh, I'm sorry. Go ahead.

3 Q. Did you have much contact with
4 the English people?

5 A. Oh, if I did I -- I guess so. I
6 lived with royalty there for a while after I give
7 that all back when I get back whole. I still have
8 friends over there. Yeah, they -- they -- they
9 were great. They were great, these people, and to
10 us.

11 Q. After you were discharged they
12 liked you so much they invited you back for Korea?

13 A. Right.

14 Q. And -- and you were happy -- you
15 were happy about that?

16 A. Oh, yeah, I was rooting my
17 congressman.

18 Q. When did you come back to the
19 States?

20 A. Oh boy, now we're getting dates.
21 Jeez, I don't know.

22 Q. Were you in England for the end
23 of the war? Were you gone home?

24 A. No, I was called back. They had

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2 me for Korea. I guess they were -- they were going
3 to get -- some of us they wanted to re-train or
4 something so that they put me in charge of a
5 prisoner of war camp.

6 Q. When you came back to the States
7 were you discharged right away?

8 A. No, they went through a process
9 which was great. They went -- psychologically was
10 the big thing. They had, you know, psychiatrists
11 and they --

12 Q. Right.

13 A. -- how do you feel, how do you
14 feel about the war. And I lost a brother and I'm
15 bitter and a lot smarter than I was and younger and
16 shouldn't have been called.

17 Q. Was he in the European or
18 Pacific?

19 A. No, he would have been Pacific.
20 There -- his plane -- he was -- his plane got shot
21 down. He shouldn't have been there.

22 Q. How old was he?

23 A. Six years younger than me. He
24 was --.

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2 Q. He was eighteen then?

3 A. Yeah. I'm the sole surviving
4 son, you know --.

5 Q. Uh-huh.

6 A. I got -- there's two boys in the
7 family. I'm gone and now they put him in and I
8 called my congressman and you know, well, we'll see
9 what we can do. The next thing you know my mother
10 gets a telegram.

11 Q. Now when you returned home you
12 were called back up for Korea?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. Were you sent overseas for Korea?

15 A. No.

16 Q. The States?

17 A. The -- at that time I got a break
18 there in a sense. The -- the units that I was sent
19 to, the Colonel, he was a Lieutenant Colonel, and
20 he was one that understood what the -- the ground
21 troops go through. He -- he wasn't -- you know,
22 my -- my son or my brother was a fly-by, he was a
23 big deal, but he got lost too. But we didn't have
24 much time to go to the mess hall and we didn't have

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2 much time to do these other things and he was a
3 hundred percent for anything you could get for the
4 G.I., the guy on the ground, the guy that was --
5 that was going to do the fighting, as he said. And
6 it gets to you after you start losing men in your
7 platoon.

8 Q. Uh-huh.

9 A. It starts to get to you. You say
10 where's Harris, you know, or Harry so and so. I
11 don't know. But anyway, it was -- and littlt
12 deference to everybody. They were tough.

13 You weren't -- we got up against
14 a unit that had been in -- they had been in Africa
15 and they knew every trick of the trade and they
16 knew every -- all the -- but fortunately we had air
17 superiority. And I called for air every chance I
18 got, send over a couple of them guys. And I got
19 hurt and Randy took great care of me, why did he go
20 over and get me, pull me back. Put a plug in
21 the -- in the -- where the wound was, I was
22 bleeding so bad, a transfusion and back to the
23 beach and back on L.S.T. and back on an airplane,
24 back to a hospital. Doctors coming in, you know,

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2 and nurses and reassuring me, you're all right.
3 You've got a piece of shrapnel in your diaphragm,
4 but -- and one doctor wanted to take it out.

5 Q. Now you said you -- you left the
6 service in '52? What was your rank when you left?

7 A. First lieutenant.

8 Q. Okay. Did you ever make use of
9 the G.I. bill, do you recall?

10 A. I don't -- I don't know as I ever
11 did. Well, I had a business. I was prosperous and
12 I -- I had -- my wife was taking care of it.

13 Q. Oh, when you were married? You
14 were married before you went into the service in
15 '47? No, that's in between the two wars. Did you
16 ever make use of the fifty-two twenty club?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Did you use that? I notice you
19 have your hat. You joined the veteran's
20 organizations?

21 A. I'm a hundred percent for any of
22 them.

23 Q. What organizations did you join?

24 A. Well, I joined the Veterans of

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2 Foreign Wars, the --

3 Q. Did you --

4 A. -- the Sons of the -- what am I
5 trying to say, but I belong to all of them that --.

6 Q. -- did you ever keep in contact
7 with anyone that served with you?

8 A. Oh yeah. Yeah, I have a guy, in
9 fact he got hurt after I did and he's been over
10 here to see me. Unfortunately now that he's had --
11 his wife died of cancer and he was -- yeah, but
12 he -- he came and -- and visited and I've had
13 several meetings or --.

14 Q. Have you gone -- gone to any
15 reunions?

16 A. Two. Yeah, but it -- it's a
17 different -- see, because the -- the -- I suppose
18 it sounds sort of silly, but the group that I was
19 with, most of them either got hit or is dead or --
20 or not interested or incapacitated or what. I am
21 one of the fortunate ones really. I got shrapnel
22 in my --.

23 Q. You went to the 50th reunion
24 in -- in 1994 and -- and --.

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2 A. We had one down here too. I tell
3 you we came up here, a bunch of us.

4 Q. And you received the Bronze Star?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. And the Purple Heart?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. Among other unit citations?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. Vic Clomone (phonetic spelling)
11 wrote a story about you about ten years ago in
12 which he -- he quoted you as saying that we can say
13 we won the war, that the victory was ours, but we
14 paid -- paid a terrible price. The real cost of
15 war was human suffering and sacrifice. Jones says
16 while we spread our world wars for everlasting
17 peace.

18 This -- this is the war that was
19 supposed to end all the wars. That -- but that
20 didn't happen.

21 A. No, but there's -- see, there's a
22 screaming eagle right there. See that little --
23 that little maybe there.

24 Q. Yeah.

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2 A. We got a hundred dollars a month
3 jump pay whether we earned it or not extra.

4 Q. How do you think your time in
5 military service changed or affected your life?

6 A. Oh, it changed the whole
7 psychology. War is not an answer to anything, I
8 don't care which side you're on. It's never -- you
9 know, they hate us, we hate them.

10 Q. Uh-huh.

11 A. They're -- they're jealous
12 because we have such a prosperous and they don't.
13 And I don't know -- what the solution is. I'm not
14 about -- I was mayor here in the city and never
15 raised taxes in ten years. Never was done before.
16 Take a look at it. But I had a business that we
17 worked the -- almost incontestable in the amount of
18 profit you made.

19 Q. Uh-huh.

20 A. And so you learn how to do those
21 things, how to balance budgets and how to do those
22 things. That's what I tried to -- you know, we
23 applied to the -- the American soldier was the
24 best. The English, I sometimes really sympathized

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2 with them. They didn't have, I didn't think, as
3 good equipment. Their -- I didn't think their
4 chutes -- I jumped a couple of them, but I was -- I
5 said to the guy. I'll jump out without one. I
6 ain't going to load them again.

7 Q. Uh-huh.

8 A. But --.

9 MR. CLARK: We only have about
10 three minutes left. Do you have any questions for
11 him?

12 MR. RUSSERT: Do you have
13 questions?

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I have
15 one.

16 MR. RUSSERT: Okay.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: What
18 happened to the two others who were injured?

19 MR. JONES: Well, they -- they
20 were last or casualties. I didn't know the number,
21 but you were scattered, hospitals all over England
22 like. I mean I had a chest injury, I went to one
23 hospital where practically all chest. Somebody
24 else might have had a head injury, there was

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2 another one and several of the people have come --
3 we've come back together after all these years.
4 I've had several meetings with some of them and
5 we -- we re-fight the war again, so --.

6 MR. CLARK: Do you have any
7 questions?

8 MR. RUSSERT: Mayor, in looking
9 back at your time in office over the years, you
10 know, ten years has made --

11 MR. JONES: Yes, I attended.

12 MR. RUSSERT: -- at that time
13 construction of the city center, stabilized
14 property taxes.

15 MR. JONES: Never raised taxes in
16 ten years. Take a look.

17 MR. RUSSERT: And you tried to do
18 everything -- vision?

19 MR. JONES: Yeah, I was
20 instrumental in that.

21 MR. RUSSERT: So this was a turn
22 around I see in the city '76 and '70 I see in the
23 city turn it around. He did -- you know, there's
24 from the city council here your colleague,

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2 Congressman Hyde.

3 MR. JONES: Oh yeah, Tommy, my
4 good friend. We argue a lot, but we're good
5 friends.

6 MR. CLARK: Yes, they do the --.

7 MR. JONES: Oh boy.

8 MR. RUSSERT: What do you think
9 of today's -- this is just for my information, the
10 things that are going on today, the Iraqi war, some
11 of these, you know, like the my cousin going
12 against my philosophy?

13 MR. JONES: What are my -- of
14 course it goes against my philosophy. War is no
15 solution for anything. It's just a -- I say it's
16 just a brief respite between wars and peace.
17 That's all it is now. In some way -- some way
18 we've got to find out a way to be able to sit down
19 and at a conference table and express our positions
20 and then come to a -- and I was in business and
21 that's what you had to do. I couldn't have my way
22 every -- every time. I had salesmen, the guy would
23 say no, I -- I can't call on that guy because he --
24 you know -- okay. Let's see what we can do about

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2 it. Try to -- try to, you know, live your life and
3 be as generous as you can. And this is a
4 beautiful -- the city's beautiful. I've been the
5 world over and the people are friendly. We have so
6 much and we have to be careful that we don't get
7 too soft.

8 MR. CLARK: How about the Iraqi
9 war, how about -- you know, the things that are
10 going on now, the war on terror, what do you -- you
11 know --?

12 MR. JONES: War on -- you know, I
13 can't -- I can't condone it. They know what the
14 situation is and what our liabilities are and what
15 the -- what could happen. I don't. But I just
16 hate to see these young guys having to go to war
17 and -- and you know, they ring the bell and the
18 telegram.

19 MR. CLARK: Peace is just a brief
20 respite between wars is the way you state it?

21 MR. JONES: Yeah, that's -- and
22 what fools we mortals be, I mean really for --
23 for -- I was in business and if I went to sell you
24 something and I couldn't even I -- I couldn't -- I

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2 had to try to get your -- your friendship. That's
3 what I'd try to do to see what a good fellow you
4 are. And we don't -- we seem to believe that might
5 is and it isn't. And you're -- you lose good men
6 and women and you -- I don't know. I -- I am
7 fortunate. I've got a piece of shrapnel in my
8 diaphragm now. I can sneeze and start bleeding.
9 You know, so what? But I lost a brother. My
10 brother's plane went down. They never found it.

11 MR. CLARK: Okay. Well, thank
12 you very much for your interview.

13 MR. JONES: Well, I --.

14 MR. CLARK: Thank you.

15 MR. JONES: The check will be in
16 the mail.

17 (The interview concluded)

18 pwss

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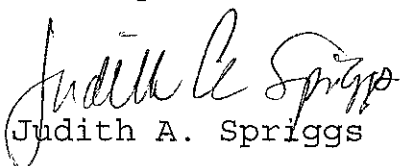
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I hereby certify the foregoing,
consisting of pages 1 to 63, inclusive, to be a
true and accurate transcription from the audio
provided to us, to the best of our skill and
ability.


Judith A. Spriggs

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