

**Fred A. Randall
Veteran**

**Mike Russert
Wayne Clarke
Interviewers**

**Interviewed on 27, June 2007
Home Interview
Schenectady, NY**

Q: Could you give me your full name, date of birth, and place of birth please

FR: Fredrick Allison Randall, and uh, my date of birth is February 1st 1916

Q: Where were you born?

FR: On Heron street In Schenectady, New York

Q: And what was your educational background prior to going into service?

FR: I graduated from high school, in south Glens Falls

Q: Now you told me earlier that before you went into the military you joined something called the army – junior brigade?

FR: The junior brigade.

Q: Could you tell us about that please?

FR: Well when I was twelve I had my choice between joining the boy scouts or the junior brigade, now, the junior brigade was sponsored by the company k of the 105th infantry of the old 27th division that was New York's' guard, well national guard and uh they had an armory in glens falls on warren street and I joined it, I was part of a youth organization and we would go to a meeting and would spend an hour doing drills and having talks about how the military maneuvers were done, and then we would have an hour of boy scout work, of- well the kind that boy scouts would do first aid, how to build flyers and I can't remember all of them it was a long time ago, and well I was with it, we used to go on hikes on weekends and learned how to, as I said build fires, how to cook, how to be sanitary out in the woods, we learned how to make a lean-to with just our scout knives, and learn how to use a compass, so not to get lost in the woods, it was just a great affair, we went out in the winter and we learned how to fix ourselves so we can sleep in the snow and believe me in the Bulge I needed that kind of experience, cause [laughs] it was cold and uh

Q: How long were you in the junior brigade?

FR: I joined, I was in it until I was 17 then I joined the National Guard and I was in it for 7 years then I moved here, to Schenectady and I went into the General Electric Company to work as an apprentice in their apprentice school for tool making.... That was quite an experience, because I was only in it for 2 years when they decided, when Uncle Sam decided he wanted me to take the tour in world war 2, now I was, I had a brother who was in the islands, I had a widowed mother, I lost my father when I was 7, and I had a wife and a 2 year old boy, I was 27 years old and I was still drafted, I was a tool maker at

general electric and I was still drafted, I was working on the anodes for the tubes for all this radar equipment they were putting into submarines, so uh- I was drafted, and-uh do you want the story of it?

Q: Sure

FR: Okay, so I got up in May one morning, and I went out into 9 inches of snow here in Schenectady and I got the bus to Albany and while I was in Albany and they were rounding up the fellas that were supposed to go to fort dicks, they came over and handed me the paper work, and I was [laughs] I was their leader, I took them to fort dicks, at fort dicks we met a sergeant who took us maybe a couple miles across fort dicks to a barracks area, and said "hey now is there anyone here that knows how to march men?" so I stuck my hand up, and three guys in back of me "Hey I'm on the ground", and the sergeant comes rushing over and says "Hey what's going on?" and I said " just want to tell you I was part of the national guard, I can march men." He says "oh, come on up here, see that light down that road there" this is 3 o'clock in the morning now, and " see that light down there, that's the 24 hour mess, march these men down there and turn them over to sergeant Circhowski (?) or somebody else, I don't remember those names, " then come report back to me" and so I came back and reported and he said " well now go over and get a couple hours sleep" so he woke me up about 6 o'clock, and we went down and had breakfast we came back and he took me over to the quarter master and instead of having everything thrown at me like they normally do, they just kind of toss these things over, and weather the boots fit or not didn't make any difference you just had them, anyway, I had the shall we say privacy of trying on 3 pairs of boots before I got the right boots that fit right and I tried on two shirts before I got the right size and I made sure the underwear fit, and the socks, and all the rest. Well then I went over and I took all the tags off and I got into a fatigue uniform, and came back over and talked to the sergeant and he put an armband on me as corporal and sent me over to the train station to bring in a new group. And I brought them over and I went and we did the same thing, and we changed at the, I took them down to that mess hall, I brought the old fellas back and we went directly to the quartermaster where they went through and like, probably it didn't take any longer to do them, the whole company than it did just for me [laughs] but anyway I thought that was kind of privileged and I look back on it now and think "hey how lucky can I get" and I was their leader, from that time to they loaded us on a train, and uh, have you ever been in an old train coach where (gestures) the back of the seats go one way so that the seat could be this way...was back over here so the seat could be this way, well anyway we had, we would turn the seat this way so there would be two seats and we were three men and three duffel bags piled in the center so that we were sitting like (raises arms and legs at 90 degree angle) look like me with our feet on them like this and we were on that train for five days, and uh the only time we got a chance to walk was when they took us down to the meal car where they did all the cooking and fed us, we do that 3 meals a day, and by the time we go into, oh we went clear to Chicago before we finally ended up in Fort McClellan Alabama, Alabama was hot, we got there in may and

Q: Have you ever been at McClellan with the National Guard?

FR: No, no this was army now

Q: I was just wondering because the guard went to McClellan for maneuvers a couple times too

FR: Yes I know because the 27th been down there, yeah I'll get to that in a minute

Q: Okay

FR: I tried to keep it that I played drums, and of course id been playing since I was nine and lucky me I was able to get a few dollars in when I was 10, 11, and 12 playing in different places where, so I could give mother a couple, three, four dollars once in a while, that fed us because without dad she was trying to do Washing in a house that had no electric, no running water, just a water pump in the sink, a hand pump and a little something on back of the big house that was no fun at five below zero, but anyway lets get out of Fort McClellan, were there about six weeks and then we are out on a ten mile force march and we had had chow and we were on a force march back, 100 miles and its 110 degrees and when we got into the barracks area first sergeant days Randall fall out here and the captain wants to see you, what had happened was, as I said, I tried to keep it a secret that I played and I had a pair of drumsticks which I would, when I could get away by myself id do it just to keep my wrists going

keep them limbered up, so I went into the captains office and the colonel was standing there with my drumsticks in his hand, and he says "are you Randall?" and I said yes sir and he said "what are these?" I said colonel they are not knitting needles, they are drumsticks, and he said, "Well what do you have them for?" I said that was my job before I came into the service, I was a drummer "why DI?-" "well I won't say the word "why didn't you tell me that before? Get yourself out there in my jeep" and believe me if you've ever been in 110 degrees on a forced march for 20 miles, which is 10 out 10 back you would be as rancid as I was, I mean I was not only soaked but I stunk and; but he got right in and drove over to the officers club where the band was rehearsing and they had no drummer so I had to get up into the back of the drums and play, and of course there was no problem they accepted me right away. So I come out of there and over to the band room where the marching band was getting ready to do the evening parade, they snapped a snare drum onto me and off I went no rehearsal, they didn't even tell me what march they were going to play. But anyway after that I was able to play, oh by the way first thing, my first pay from Fort McClellan was \$8.40 that was for that first month, could you imagine \$8.40? but anyway I was, they had hired me to play in the officers club and the EM club I had 3 nights of playing and I got \$5 for each one and but then 3 nights a week that jeep would be waiting for me whenever I came back from whatever I was doing that day and take me over to the band room to do the evening parade, well this was all fine this was great I was making a little money I could send home and I was, I figured I was fortunate, so now we get along toward the end of tour and were getting ready for graduation and the general of the full division, the colonel from the company, not the company, the general, the colonel, the major, my company commander all took me to the common end of the post to try to get me off of this training bit, I had finished my training of course, to go with the band, and that was the old 27th band their snare drummer and they had no snare drummer and of course there wasn't a snare drummer in any of the clubs and I've been filling in with that and no matter what the persuasion was the commandant says no absolutely not, he's got to go, so I came home. ten day delay; I went back after ten days I had to report back to Fort Mead so I, wait a minute I missed one thing, after graduation the company commander

was out there, and he said 1st and 2nd platoon face forward march and they went about 10-15 steps then he halted them, then left facing then at ease. "Now 1st and 2nd platoons were destined to ger- I mean japan, the islands. That's what we were trained for and third and fourth platoons were to go to Germany, I was the first man in the third platoon (laughs) and so I went to Germany, but I had to report to Fort Meade, they issued us new equipment, new clothes, warm clothes for over there, and then we had about two or three days where we had nothing to do, so I was wandering the uh the campus so we say of the camp and I'm in back of one of the warehouses when I heard music, and when I hear music I'm very curious so I opened the door and walked in and I walked in on the rehearsal of the army field band, now that army field band is the president's choice you know, that was, that's where they were stationed at Fort Meade so I climbed onto a chair there you know back in the corner and I just listened to them, and they're just beautiful music and when they took a break I wandered over and I started talking to the drummer about music and this and that and he goes "do you play?" and I said oh yeah sure I play he says "play this next march" I said oh I got to go and he says, so I stepped over there and they started in a march and I played it and then the director he came down in the mean time and the drummer came back and said I just asked him to play so that I could go to the latrine so he, the leader says "so where'd you come from?" and I said well I'm en-route to Germany and I said I guess I'm just passing through but heard the music and came into listen and the drummer here asked me to play on so I did, he says "so how can I get you in the band?" and I said I'm afraid that's a big job because they already tried for the 27th band down in Fort McClellan and I'm destined to go I guess, so we got on a train and we ended up in New York City where they put us on a bus and took us up to camp shanks, have you ever heard of that?

Q: Yes

FR: Down in the Bronx, it's where the subway comes out of the ground, it's the first station there. And, so I'm in company A so I am issued our barracks and a bunk, I threw my duffel bag on that and I was back out watching the other soldiers come marching in. so I saw this little guy and he was all, he had a (inaudible) bag over his back, he was carrying a rifle and in this hand (raises right hand) a sax (saxophone) so I went to the, I followed him right around till he got to his barracks and I got talking to him, his name was Don Stick and I said you got any other friends that have played and he says oh yeah, he says he got a bass man but he's in another barracks so I said lets go talk to him and he knew a piano player so the next morning we went to Sergeant who's in charge of activities and said hey you got instruments here? He said "why?" I said I got a for piece band here "oh you have oh you have?" now these guys had been with big bands big bands and so I, we got instruments and they took us down to the officers club and that was my duty while I was there, we played for the officers two three times a week and from then on we had all that time to ourselves so I was young and I had a cousin in the, who played in New York and we'd go down on gigs with him just to listen it was just great, well we got ready, the ship came in and we got ready to sail and they asked me, well they issued me or issued us the instruments we procured from the warehouse to put on the ship, so they issued me a truck and I put all the instruments in there and the music and stuff that we had got together and I took it down to the ship and I got the purser to give me a safe room. I locked it up and he gave me the key now I had from about ten o'clock that morning until six o'clock the next morning and so I got a hold of

Bobby and we went out to get lunch and that night he had a gig to play and we went to this place where there was 14 strippers and he and another drummer were playing it so they did the first show, I'm sitting in booth there I had a beer, sit there listen and watched and then he came down and we talked for about 10-15 minutes and he said well I got to go do this second show then we'll go out and hear some really good music, I said okay so he took off and about five minutes later he's back he's got me by the arm " my brother took off with some babies just come on you got to play for me", so I did the show for em, well anyway the next morning I got on that ship and I got the boys together and got a hold of the activities officer on the ship and he gave him permission to do a little jam session on a fan tale of course we were up but this is before we hit the convoy and then we went out there and we started to play and we played for about an hour and I got a little tired and wanted to stretch my legs a bit and while I was playing there I noticed this colored fella was sitting down on the stairs by me and he says "well can I play while you're gone?" and I said well yeah sure go ahead, you play? Oh he did got in there and he played he was a drummer, he was in a band in New York but he was, he turned out to be the chef for the crew on the board ship now really the way that everything was set up on the ship, there was thirty three hundred men and they put one, they started a line at six in the morning and they'd go through the chow hall and then they would come back and form that line again and go back through the mess hall again, and that was their daily routine it took all that time to go through the line to feed all those people. well I'm in the line the first morning and the little colored fella grabs me and takes me down to the hole, under the deck there where the kitchens were and he says "you go in that state room ill bring you your breakfast", and he brought me a tray, don't believe it be brought me a whole pot of coffee, quart of milk, a whole box of cereal, I bet there was five or six eggs all sunny side, must've been half a loaf of bread toasted, sausage, ham you name it, orange juice and so I, he says "Now don't forget just come back here at noon when you get hungry, so that's what I did, that's the way I ate all the way but anyway I, they got, they made a call for music and entertainers, and of course the four of us went, during that day with the people that came they enlarged our band to twelve pieces they had entertainers there some of them name people out of shows in New York and other places, out of the thirty three hundred men you may know there would be other musicians and other entertainers there and so we did eleven shows in eleven days before we hit liar we were in a convoy of course and it was just a thrilling experience, we unloaded into lucky strike and we were there for about four days and in knee high mud you had to take your boots off before you could get into your, and we were living in tents and to get to your bunk you had to take your boots off first before you get into the tents because there was so much mud, but anyway they loaded us onto boxcars and as usual the men looked to me, I am the oldest I was called "pop" down the train, and in training and on the boxcar there was 40 men, now these were forty or eights they called em, for forty men or eight horses its all, I came evening and somebody said "well how are we going to sleep?" so I lined them up head to toe head to toe head to toe and when I got finished there was four of us standing so I reached into my duffel bag and pulled out my uh half tent part and some ropes and I made a swing, a hammock in between the two walls and I started to climb in it and I looked around and there was four of them, so five days later, 1 k ration per man per day, one, a five gallon can of water for 40 men per day, five days later with breads like this (places hand Infront of chin) everyone was rancid,

no showers no wash, and we landed in Vilsack, Vilsack was the place where they sent you out to the lines

Q: So, you went as a replacement then?

FR: Oh yes I was a replacement, the first thing I did was go to the activities officer and said look I've got a four piece band here and we've played in the officers club at a couple places, do you have any instruments here? "oh yeah we got instruments" so we went down to the warehouse and we got a bass, they had a piano in the club they got drums and they got another sax and a clarinet for Don and we went down to the officers club and we started to play there and of course that was our duty then, and about six weeks later the colonel calls me into the office and he says "I don't want to do this" sides or private or you know whatever Fred I guess he called me cause id known him in the club and so he says "though I hid your paperwork in the bottom of my drawer here" he says "I'm going to have to get them out and send you to the lines" so I said well if that has to happen that has to happen of course the people in the club they didn't care much about that, I missed one little story that I think is very....very cute, in training I had to do one duty of guard duty one time of guard duty and where did they put me? Right Infront of the officers club, and of course I'm playing there now everybody knows me, I did the first tour that was one hour, back to the barracks for two hours and I took the second tour about eight o'clock about eight thirty I'm walking past the door and there's bushes here and bushes here and I get over here when an arm reaches and grabs me from around back of the bush and lieutenant says give me your helmet and your shammy brown belt and my rifle and he says, he put them on and started doing the choices and "by the way" he says "there's a traitor" I had a big sub sandwich a schooner of beer and chips and hey I sit there and in my little lunch and he's walking my post, but we left Camille second and I joined the first division and in Remagen bridge now I'm not and I don't talk about the war I came out of it and I came out of it as a sergeant and I just didn't, I just can't talk about it if you know what I mean but the day that the Versailles was signed I marched my, I had thirty men left out of a three hundred group I was first sergeant I pulled them into this field and we set up our tents and I got them shaved in officers, I got them shaved and I got them cleaned up got em somewhere to wash their clothes and we made a company street and two days later a second lieutenant came in from, right from West Point first thing I asked him was the time I hear I want to transfer, "you cant transfer, ah you run this company you do this you do that" he went on, so finally I dismissed myself and walked away and at the end of the week a colonel came down from regiment and he, he said, now they're talking the first lieutenant, lieutenant and the colonel, they had the company streets, so I walked up and saluted smartly and I said sir did my transfer come through yet? And the colonel (inaudible) after me and he up and down you know "you can't do this you can't do that" I said sir I'm a drummer I said I played all my life and he says "you are?" he says "how long would it take to get your stuff in my jeep" they had a band back (laughs) they didn't have any drummers, and after inspection I'm in his jeep were back, we went to Shinefelt Castle (?). Shinefelt Castle was about half way between Garber and Wurzburg in Germany and I was there for three days and the colonel had decided that there was no use for a marching band or a concert band so he would, he said he would like to like me to take 5 men and go to Wurzburg and set up a club and so that's what I did, now (reaches into box) let's see if I can find it here (holds picture of band towards camera) now this is the

band I had at a club in Wurzburg Germany I was there about a year and a half, this was the kind of write ups we got in the paper (holds a news paper clip towards the camera) you want a copy of it?

Q: Sure

FR: Here's write ups we had in doughboy

Q: You did vocals also?

FR: Oh yes

Q: You didn't tell us that

FR: Well I haven't had a chance to tell you everything, you got to think about these things you know, lets see what other things I've got here. This is Zooskitch (?), this is the mountain where Hitler had his Olympics, Garmisch-Partenkirchen is like lake placid is here Olympic, and I skated on Zooskitch I skated in the Olympic stadium there and that, those were my sports, there's a picture of me skiing (holds picture towards the camera)

Q: Now that was at the end of the war?

FR: Oh yes shortly after the war was over, here's one of the original pictures as you see its yellow, you want those?

Q: Oh sure we'll put them in, your older there is that right?

FR: I'm very proud of that I've got a big one in there takes up... then I came home two years of going back to work and now I'm a, from a kid I was an amateur photographer and I used to do weddings , I would do a wedding and take the pictures and do the book at the same time, put a couple, I was doing some pictures for a gentleman in Albany and he said, well he said "are you a veteran?" yes sir "what strikes did you have?" okay I told him and he said "I have a vacancy in the photo section of Signal Company I'm the commander" and he said " I was captain Donovan" and he said I need, I don't have anybody there I need somebody that is interested in photography and will help me get a few men there to operate because we have to go to camp this is April you have to go to camp in the summer, that was old pine camp number, remember pine camp that's where drums is so

Q: Now were you still in the army or were you in

FR: No, I was discharged, this was '48

Q: Discharged oh okay

FR: So in the mean time I had been subpoenaed by the VFW and in 1954 I was part of the 86 92 in Colony where I had built my home and time goes on, I'm in that company I am working in GE I'm playing nights and supporting my family and everything is working out real fine and so my life goes on until I'm; oh I retired from GE and I retired from the guard

Q: Now how long were you in the guard?

FR: Thirty years of twenty-eight in the guard and two in Germany

Q: So you went back into the guard then in what '46?

FR: '48

Q: 48' until when?

FR: 76' by that time it was fort drum

Q: What rank were you when you retired?

FR: I retired as an e7 sergeant first class, so then I started playing here in Andy Schaefer was a very thriving senior center we would play there for dancing on Monday nights we'd start at 7 and at 8 o'clock you couldn't get in the floor there was so many people there dancing and it was just a thrill to be a part of it, so then they decided to build this building and that was in 1993 and 1995 it was completed and Marian and I had already chosen our apartment we sold our home and moved in here and I started then to do a flag day celebration. Now this is, these are our pictures that were taken at this latest celebration, see me playing? I'm in uniform and ill show you that uniform before you leave

Q: Okay

FR: I had an admiral who was part of my ceremony, this is my color guard and of course there's my flight and for every year since...oh this here is very important this is my grandson who just came back from Iraq, he had flown that flag during combat during shelling over in Iraq and brought it back and we flew it here for a year then we presented it to him and incidentally he is now out in Camp Edwards with his unit he's got the national guard in Massachusetts and they are training now to go back to Iraq for the second time

Q: Now before we go too, what was it you wanted to tell us about that photograph?

FR: Oh wow

Q: Can you get it down? Alright let me see if I can spin the camera around

FR: Well maybe the lights

Q: No its alright the lights fine, what about the photograph tell us about that

FR: That is a 155 Hauser and its mounted on a tank and it was firing, what the photographer sergeant ugly in the photograph there was trying to do was get a picture of the mushroom with the pedestal in the center and it was raining and I'm sitting in a jeep waiting for him and I noticed that I had one picture left in my film in my camera so I just swing it around and took his picture and that is what came up and ended up in a charging strike it has projectile, that's the word, now as you see I'm also a life member of the first division (puts on first division hat) and I wondered if you

Q: You got another hat there

FR: This one here is just a VFW hat that has a lot of buttons on it but this is my main one here with my name here and uh what was I going to say here oh yes, while I'm right here let me get this out of the way, would you like to have this for the museum? (hands interviewer)

Q: Sure yes, yes thank you very much

FR: can you explain that to the

Q: Well this is the book from world war one and the lost battalion it was called rhymes of the lost battalion I believe. It's a beautiful copy now that belonged to your father?

FR: Yes

Q: And he bought that after or brought it home from world war one

FR: (laughs) ah my father is a veteran of world war one

Q: What?-

FR: Five days

Q: Oh really?

FR: When my father was a youngster nine or ten years old we were living in South Glens Falls they were, and that's the Randall homestead up there and father they took father to the circus and at the circus they gave them each a yardsticks and this is still the 1800s late 1800s and of course there no street lights when they're coming home at midnight and little nine year old running you know how they are, and we all were and he's running up the street with a yard stick and he hit the fence and digs his eye out and then at that time there was no doctors at that hour no hospitals no emergency so they had to leave him all night and finally first thing in the morning his father got him up to the doctor but that time the eye was dead so he had eventually ended up with a glass eye alright now he's drafted to go into world war one and he's going to know about it he wanted to go so he gets sound before Hamilton and he goes through the physical, this bastard, he went through the fitting all his uniforms and all his gear and duffel because it was only, they only had kept him two weeks and then they started to ship them over they didn't have basic training and my father was a hunter so he knew how to fire and know how to take care of a rifle as he lived up in the Adirondacks you know and so what he did was he was out on the range and he was firing expert and sergeant came along and he says "I want to commend you" he says "stand up here I'm going to commend you on your firing this is, how'd you get to do all that?" he says "we/I live been a hunter all my life, always had rifles and guns" he said that "and I'm ready to go" well he says "well there's just one question I want to ask you, why is it that you cock your rifle just a little bit off center to fire and you fire expert?" he says father said "you don't want to know" and he says "oh yes I do it's my job I got to find out" and he said "well okay" and he reaches up and takes the eye and hands it to him (laughs) and the next day he was home so that's my fathers words in world war one

Q: What was you fathers name?

FR: Charles...Charles Isaac they called him Ike I got a picture of him here someplace driving a national biscuit wagon with a horse and its in the middle of winter snow it's a sled national biscuit company NBC long before the

Q: (inaudible)

FR: Had done, not only that but I was born as I said down on heron street my mother woke my father up about four in the morning and she said "you know Charles I think it's about time to go to the doctor" and he said "well alright" so he gets up and he gets his boots on, this is New Year's he gets his boots on heavy coat big hat, gloves and goes down into five feet of snow drifts and had to break trail, go from here on heron street which is down by the way the Laura truss up beyond Brandywine to get he doctor and then bring him back and break trail for him and they sat around the table and I kept them waiting till three in the afternoon (laughs)

Q: (laughs) you weren't in a hurry huh?

FR: Everybody likes to hear me tell their stories I've got, I went by a whole dozen of things that in training, when I was young of course Saturdays and Sundays I had to work and one jobs was in (inaudible) up there in South Glens Falls I got a job on the sandwich board and on Sunday morning they would come into their coffee and donuts and eggs and whatever they wanted for breakfast or in a hurry on their way to church and I got to a point where I could take two eggs and crack them like this (puts hands together) and have them in cups ahead of time so I could just throw them on the grill, so I'm down in McClellan and of course one time I had to KP I walked in a little early and the chef was doing you know one at a time and I started next to him and reached over and got two and he stood there with a mouth wide open and it was so surprising to have somebody come in and do something like that he says "oh you've done that before" and I said yes I have and he said "why well okay so ill just go here and see about getting this bacon out" he said "you just do the eggs" I said okay so we got the bacon out got it on the grill and got it cooked and got sausage out and in other words in other times he had coffee made and everything was all set for breakfast, the board troops came in and all the other KPs came in and they're cleaning the stoves and peeling potatoes and onions and you that kind of thing so he had me doing the eggs, how do you want em? Sunnyside you want them turned over? Or over easy or scrambled and that's the first time that he ever had a chance to do that and saw that the troops were very happy and so they had what they wanted and after the breakfast was done and I got things sort of cleaned up around the grill and things and he says "well now go over and take it easy" so I come back about eleven we can start getting dinner ready, I mean lunch ready so I did that and I come back and got lunch and he had me cutting the roast or basting the roast first then getting it out of the oven and cutting it and serving it and doing serving jobs like a cook would you know and sent me back about two o'clock till about four when I came back for supper I mean I, when supper was over he dismissed me and those other guys never got back until like eleven o'clock so anyways I've had some good things happen, I've had some good times In the service and I'm still doing the things that I love to do, music and I love my flag and that flag out there I have produced ever since I've lived here I get them from different congressmen and different senators, this one here came from congressman Mike McGill that just happened here the twelfth of June now I'm going to put this here, now if I don't give these pictures and things to you I don't know where these things will go and id like to show you my (uniform)

I had to put in every drill I made and every camp I did from 46'... from 48' to 56' now in 56' the united states government said we are changing your army serial numbers to your social security number so my thought my (inaudible) 422196522 that used to be my serial number

Q: So now what was that medal again?

FR: That's for twenty-five years on the National Guard

Q: Okay let me focus in on that

FR: I'm very proud when I go to (inaudible) travel all over I wear a white shirt a bow tie and this under it, and there's only a half a dozen others like this everywhere but anyway I'm very happy, oh this is a Belgique for de guerre you know that

Q: Okay all right thank you

FR: Well if there's anything else I can pop your way

Q: no that's fine, excellent interview.