

**Narrator: Dr. Harold Sandhaus
Veteran**

**Mike Russert, Wayne Clarke
Interviewers**

**Interviewed on March 8, 2004
at his home, in Hewlett, NY**

Q: This is a home interview. Hewlett, New York, March 8th, 2004, 1:30PM. The interviewers are Mike Russert and Wayne Clarke. Could you give me your full name, date of birth and place of birth please?

A: Harold A. S. Sandhaus. Date of birth 4/29/16. Place of birth is in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Q: What was your educational background prior to entering service?

A: Educational program was that I went to Franklin Marshall College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania and was then admitted to Johns Hopkins Medical School where I remained there until 1941 when I graduated.

Q: Do you remember where you were and your reaction when you heard about Pearl Harbor?

A: At the time of Pearl Harbor, I was in medical school and also probably was serving my internship at one of the hospitals.

Q: Do you remember how you heard about it and what your reaction was?

A: My reaction at that time was that we were leading into something that was going to be a very important war and that was something that to me was, let me say, not a happy situation.

Q: You mentioned on your form that you signed up in 1940. Why did you sign up that early for the military?

A: 1940 I was still a student at Hopkins and they came to me and asked whether I would be willing to eventually be in the service and they would sign me up while I was still a student there. I went along with what they were doing at that time many of the students not only at Hopkins but other places as well. They were actually looking for medical personnel.

Q: Did you enlist or were you drafted into the Army?

A: Well, I was a member of this thing so I was called into service.

Q: You selected the Army then.

A: Yes.

Q: Why did you select the Army as a branch?

A: Primarily, I knew that eventually things were going to...eventually we would be going into war and I had no objections to joining the Army. I thought that for me as a medical man it would be best for me to offer my service.

Q: So, when you went in you were a doctor. Did you get any kind of basic training, officer candidate school? What did they do with you?

A: Oh yes. They sent us to Carlisle, Pennsylvania. There was a course up there for training of medical personnel was usually six to eight months but they cut it down so that in one month we graduated with the same experiences that the people who used to go there for six months. So, they had a very rapid course.

Q: So, you became a 2nd Lieutenant?

A: I became 1st Lieutenant.

Q: 1st Lieutenant. OK. Did you receive any military, extra military training or was that given to you in this program at Carlisle?

A: At Carlisle, Pennsylvania, they put us through a strict military indoctrination which was done very well by very, very competent people.

Q: Did you receive any specific training having to do with wounds and so on or did they feel that you had that experience.

A: At Carlisle, this is primarily to give us an indoctrination on how to be a soldier. They depended on the fact that I graduated from medical school and spent a whole year in training at Lancaster General hospital. So, there was no specific training as far as what we would need during wartime medicine.

Q: Where did you go after Carlisle?

A: Carlisle. After we graduated from there, they had a full graduation process. I was sent to what was then Camp Campbell, Kentucky which is now Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

Q: What did you do there?

A: There, we were assigned to various medical units. We were indoctrinated into the full army then.

Q: How long were you at Campbell?

A: At Camp Campbell now Fort Campbell we were there, I would say, for at least three months. As the war progressed, more and more were being sent out to active service.

Q: When were you sent overseas?

A: I was sent overseas...I guess I was sent overseas in about 19...the later part of 1942. I think that's about right. '42.

Q: Were you assigned to a unit before you went overseas or did you join a unit over there.

A: At that time, I was assigned to a very interesting unit. It was a gas treatment unit where there was always going to be the possibility that gas would be used and we were told at that time when we were going through our training with this gas treatment that they had been informed that gas was going to be used if we invaded.

Q: What specific training were you given against the use of gas? Is this specific training in England?

A: We were in England at time because we were a specialized unit with 52 physicians with all the special equipment that they had for the treatment of gas casualties. A unit for formed where we were sent out to the various units in England at the time to train them in the treatment and the care of gas casualties.

Q: Was there a fear that they would use mustard gas like they used in World War One?

A: One fear was – and I'm glad you mentioned that – they had told us that they would pour mustard (gas) on any landing point because mustard floats and the whole landing area where we would get out would be filled with mustard. You must remember, when they landed, we had a walk in the water.

Q: What specific treatment was there for mustard gas?

A: Well, probably, mustard gas was a very difficult wound. Our special unit that we had consisted of a tremendous water system where we would treat gas casualties. The first thing that had to be done was to try to get rid of the mustard off of them.

We had a row of various types of showering equipment in the big tent where we have to find a stream. We would find a stream where you would have to put in this tremendous rubber hose that had a filter on it. You had to take the water out of that and it had a tremendous motor on this thing to pump the water out, bring it to the various shower heads where you would put a lot of people in and you would try your best way to first of all decontaminate them first with warm water. This thing heated the water and tried to get as much of the mustard off of them as they possibly can.

This is our one fear. We had anti (unclear) injections that things like that that we could use against various other types of gas.

Q: What actually would the mustard do? Would it actually burn the skin?

A: I'll give you one example. We went around to try to train these people about these things –our unit. One of the things we would tell them about is the things to use what would be used. As a demonstration, I had taken mustard gas in the container. I showed them. I just squirted in a little mustard gas in a quart bottle and I filled it up with water and I asked for volunteers. This is a class that I am teaching in the treatment of mustard.

I would usually get at least a dozen volunteers. These classes ranged from about maybe twenty to about fifty people. I'd get a half a dozen, dozen of them come in. I'd say, "I'm going to give you this diluted stuff, diluted mustard gas here and I will put it on your forearm. Just a drop." They all come up and I put a drop on them. Then the shouting began because the blister from that one diluted mustard formed a blister one every one of those that we tested.

So it was a treatment, a unit that we taught them how to take care of themselves in case of any kind of attack and also some of the nasty things that would happen.

Q: Who were you training? Medics?

A: No, no. These were primarily the medics of any unit that was going to go in. We would always have a group of medics for a company. You may have at least twenty medics for a company. When it came to a division unit, then you had a lot of medical...these were not doctors. These were medical soldiers who would take care of the people who were hurt and also people who were engaged with gas and so on.

Q: Did your unit have a designation? What was it called?

A: Our unit was called the 103rd Gas Treatment Battalion.

Q: How many members were in this?

A: Like I said, I had 52 doctor and all of the rest. It was a complete battalion. Most of these were people who had been trained, the soldiers who were aid soldiers.

Q: Did you have nurses with your unit?

A: No nurses were assigned to our unit. No.

Q: So, basically it was doctors and medics.

A: Doctors and medics –and with our special equipment – the treatment of gas casualties.

Q: Where were you stationed in England?

A: In England, we were stationed in a place called – as way they said – "Wolverton" but it was Wolverhampton. Not "Wolverton" but Wolverhampton.

Q: How long were you there?

A: Well, we were there and traveled around, did everything and so on. The most important thing was we were going to be the one of the first units to land because of that fear of coating the whole waterway in France with mustard gas which would float on top of it.

As soon as they declared that we were getting ready to invade, we were immediately transferred to the staging areas.

Q: With you going ashore within the first wave did you receive an amphibious training at all?

A: There was no definite amphibious trainings for us. The only thing they told us was that we would be in one of the small boats where we would go directly up to the shore and we would be let out just to walk across there and setup our units and all our units were to travel with us – this special equipment that we had.

Q: Did you carry any weapons of any kind? Side arms?

A: No.

Q: Did you wear an armband?

A: I only wore an armband and we had a big red cross on our helmets.

Q: Was it Utah Beach or Omaha Beach that you went in?

A: We were in Omaha Beach.

Q: Before you went in, you were in England for quite a while. What was your reaction and your interrelationships with the English people? Did you have much communication with the English people?

A: We had many, many, many friends in our Wolverhampton area that we were with and all our feelings was that these were fine people who were going through a very nasty time and they were very generous to us in the little bit that they had. At no time did I ever feel that these people....were delightful and people that would do anything for you. We were so well taken care of with the little bit that they had. They would invite us over – a few of us – to one of the homes and they would probably give us the last bit of food that they had.

We were always very cognizant of this that when we visited people over there, we usually took some of our food with us. But, that didn't make any difference to them. It wasn't that the English were ever looking for our food. They were very, very fine people in Wolverhampton where we were located.

Q: Now, you were with the first wave?

A: We were with the first wave at...

Q: Could you describe it the landings?

A: What happened was first of all is that we were down waiting to take off. The weather was bad. They said we hate to delay it but if we delay it too long it will get worse. So, we were delayed at least as far as I can recall once or twice.

But then they decide. I think it's on the 6th they decided. (June) 6th, we were going to go regardless of what the weather was. But fortunately right before we went on our way we got information...we had a new I guess it was in the form of dispensing into the air...a new substance that if we dispense it in the air it would cause immediate paralysis of all

of the people around there. This is what we would use if they used any of what they had planned on using say with the mustard.

Q: So, it was retaliatory?

A: We told them this would be a form that they didn't know anything about. It was brand new that we had that would completely incapacitate people and we got a note from the Germans – you don't use yours and we will not use our mustard. They were so frightened of this new material which was a deadly material. In fact, they just destroyed some of this – I was a reading in the paper – about six months ago that they had stored some place. So, it was very nice that the Germans will use no mustard, will use no gas – don't use this new gas that you had formulated. Apparently, they were scared enough that they didn't use mustard or any of the gas. We landed.

Q: Can you tell us about your experiences on D-Day?

A: On D-Day..

Q: You're unit went in anyhow?

A: Oh Yes. We were all set to go. We had to go there. On D-Day, it was a matter of our group staying primarily on the beach but the rest of the outfits were all trying to get past that beach. There were still a lot of shells coming in. We were there and the only thing we were doing were taking care of casualties on the beach but no sign of any mustard gas.

Q: You must have received an overwhelming amount of casualties, didn't you?

A: Initially there were a lot but we were not the only remember, there were only 52 of us but there were other groups that came over to take care of casualties. As soon as we were able to move a little bit, one of the big evacuation hospitals got setup. We used to help out at the evacuation hospital.

Q: On early D-Day and the days after, could you describe what kind of medical center you set up on the beach? Where did you set these up? How were they setup?

A: As far as medical centers, there was nothing on the beach that we had set up. It wasn't until we got into a little bit closer in that we were able to setup an "evac" hospital. On the beach, all we did was take care of the casualties, try and stop the bleeding, try to bandage and give them their morphine. We were all equipped with morphine to give shots of morphine.

Q: With your 52 doctors and medics in your unit, did you all go in in the same proximity (unclear)

A: We kept together. We had regular medical equipment in addition to what we had the special equipment for the treatment of gas casualties.

Q: Did your unit take many casualties in the landing itself?

A: In my unit we may have had just had one or two – of my specific unit that had gotten into some trouble but had been evacuated out.

Q: Did all of your equipment make it to shore or did you lose a lot of it?

A: When we found out that we didn't need all this gas treatment equipment material, when they found out about that they we left it over. That was a lot of heavy, heavy equipment that we had to set up these units to wash down these people and wash down maybe as many as a thousand every hour to get some of the mustard off of them.

Q: When you eventually setup these evacuation hospitals, how close were they to the front and did you setup large tents?

A: I was never in the “evac” but the “evac” hospitals that were setup were tremendous things that got setup once they got off the beach to get to a flat piece of land, they setup their units there and they were very busy.

Q: What did your unit do then?

A: Our unit, here we are without our equipment so we always were assigned to the “evac” hospitals to help out.

Q: So, you basically stayed behind the front?

A: They worked very hard to get through....they wanted to get off the beach. There were a lot of guns that were trained in that area of the beach. They wanted to get off to some flat land. We worked very hard to get to a flat land.

Q: How long did you stay in combat at the front?

A: First of all because we were gas casualty but we were doctors we were assigned to every unit that went into action. They broke us down. We had 52 doctors. They had to do something for them, so they sent us into units who needed doctors. We would go in and then we'd come back to our regular unit, we'd go out again. This kept going on all the time. We were going back and forth all of the time. The doctors were getting to various units that were going into real action. That's what we did.

All of the sudden, an order comes down that you people who are -we were assigned to that 103rd Gas Treatment Battalion – a note comes down to our unit saying all you people who were not, and this is the part that I always like to tell. We were active all of the time because we were assigned to units that were going into action. We were assigned. We'd come back and be assigned to another unit and be assigned again and then reassigned.

Then an order came, you people who were not involved in any action were now going to be transferred to a unit that is in action. So this is 52 doctors who had assigned to everything, being assigned to active units and getting shot at and everything, who on

paper, we are a Gas Treatment Battalion which had no use. So, we were all assigned to active units going into action. We had been doing it all along.

So, I was assigned to a field artillery unit where I was the only doctor. From that moment on it was among soldiers and men who were a delight to be with.

Q: You mentioned in this sheet that you had your teeth knocked out while working on a patient. How did that happen?

A: What happened was I was with this field artillery outfit. What we did which was very interesting. Tell these stories. What happened was this field artillery unit was assigned to – I can't think of his name – Patton's "fair haired" Lieutenant – I wish I remembered his name who formed a special unit.

Q: You wrote here a Colonel Polk.

A: It is. Where did you get that?

Q: You wrote it down.

A: Colonel Polk (laughs). He had this unit and he wanted a field artillery unit. We went with him and he had the latest tanks that Patton had given him because he was Patton's "fair haired boy". He must have had a good ten to twelve tanks.

We were assigned to go into an area that had not been captured yet. A whole unit. We have now close to about 1500 people in this one unit that are on the go.

This little story here. I setup my little hospital in a private house and we had people coming in very rapidly. Usually what we do we setup a place where we could put the litters on. We'd put them on a (wood) horse so you could work a little but we didn't have time for that. So, they kept people coming in. I happened to be leaning over a patient and what happened was a shell came in and the shrapnel hit me in the face and knocked out my teeth and that was it.

We went with this unit and these guys are gung ho. They used to go places with their tanks that I would never consider going. They were a terrific unit and we went in there and we did what we had to do. What our primary purpose was to go through enemy lines just to see what the situation was behind the enemy line there. Not to get into any trouble although our unit got into a lot of trouble with it because these people we were with, with their tanks. They did a good job then they pulled us back.

Q: Were you assigned to Patton's Army?

A: I was 3rd Army.

Q: Did you ever get to see Patton himself?

A: Oh yes!! I have pictures of him.

Q: What were your feelings about Patton?

A: Really, I never got close to him. The only thing I know is that we were being bombed and I see him and he's walking down the street. He didn't give a damn about it if they are going to kill me, they'll kill me. But as far as talking to him or doing anything with him, he was just you would see him and salute him and that was it. But the people used to say. What did they say about Patton?

Q: His guts and our blood or something like that.

A: His guts and our blood. Or our blood and his guts maybe his guts and our blood. I would see him but as far as any communication with him, I couldn't get close to him.

Q: Now you mention in here to your daughter that you met many of the best and worst of people. The worst seem to have been high ranking officers. What did you mean by that?

A: You must remember in the army they have a lot of people who have been trained for war and they want to go to war, they want to do war. They want to do this and when that time came they were little kings in their little realms that they had. The regular army men were prima donnas.

We were civilians who were in a war but they were the ones who liked to rule and who liked to do and say things because here for the first time now they have the upper hand. They were Colonels and Generals. They could do what they damn well pleased. They were in control of this thing.

Q: Did you ever have shortage of supplies yourself, hospital supplies, medical equipment?

A: There was never a lot of it there. We had our own little boxes of supplies that we had that we would use up very, very rapidly but somehow we always managed to do with what we had. We had plenty of morphine. We had plenty of the essential medications that we knew that we had to have. There was never anytime I thought that if we only had this that we could do this. We were well supplied.

Q: You mentioned that you were involved in the Bulge. Can you tell about your participation there?

A: That was an interesting thing because at that time we didn't know anything that was happening. This is when I am with the 3rd Army now. We knew nothing that was happening up above and suddenly we get this information that a big unit of Germans had gone into the Belgium area there and they're really creating havoc.

If Patton ever wanted to hang his hat on anything, he decided he would get all of our units that were available from the 3rd Army and we're going to go up there. We went there. We were traveling. We didn't stop until we go up into the area where the Bulge was taking place.

That's the place where we were ordered to set various units. I always say that's when I joined the 101st Airborne. We were in one area where most of them were located. So, I claim that I made a jump with the 101st Airborne from the back of a 6x6 truck with this group of them.

We were up there. We were sort of enclosed in. We couldn't do anything but we set up a very, very, very we'll say fairly good hospital there but our equipment had to be parachuted. All our stuff had to be parachuted to us.

Q: Did you setup in private buildings?

A: What happened was the Germans were so sure that they were going to get in we setup in what they call their (unclear) the places where they housed their own people. We used one of theirs. That was about the only building that was intact because they were so sure they were going to come in that they wanted to save their buildings. So, we setup our place in the basement of this building and put big red crosses out on the highway there to tell them that we were actually a unit that was working. They didn't shell too much at us in there. I don't remember anything landing on that place. But I said they want to save that place they want to stay. That was it.

We were up there and I'll never forget. There was one tank that making a lot of noise going around and around. (unclear). We want them to think we have a bunch of tanks up here. That was very interesting to me because he kept moving that one tank around and around.

We kept getting all these casualties in this place. When I tell you, we had over 4000 casualties in this one area and no way to get them out. All they kept doing was they kept coming in but we couldn't get anybody out. It's getting piling up and piling up. We were using this place that we had just to pile up the injured and the dead.

Q: How many doctors did you have there at the time?

A: We had there working with me, I would say at least a dozen doctors and about six to eight priests and ministers working all the time giving last rites and all the things they had. We had a missal up there where we had Last Rites, Catholic, for Muslims, also for any Jews. We used to read off there when they were dying in there. These ministers that we had, these priests, they were the nicest....I never saw a bunch...they were so good to everybody. Not just reading last rites but helping out doing this and doing that. I used to tell this one fellow "enough now" He'd setup stuff for intravenous and things like that. I told him "you go in there and lie down"....we had a straw pile... "and get some sleep now".

Q: How much rest did you ever get?

A: We got very little rest. We were very busy all of the time. Every now and then one of us would go and get maybe an hour or two of sleep and then we'd come back. But these

priests and all the rest of them, I've never been with such a...you know you ask them to do something and they do it for you.

We had a nice relationship with everybody because we all knew, and we did know this, we were going to be killed. We all knew that. We said it to each other. So what. We were all going to be killed. That's it. Then lo and behold, they opened from Belgium into where we were in Bastogne in this field.

Q: You were in Bastogne itself?

A: Oh yes. Right there.

They opened a road and in come at least twenty, twenty five tanks. I was so glad to see them and we were able then – and then a bunch of ambulances came in – and we were able to evacuate people from this place here. We evacuated for about ten days. One ambulance would come and we'd fill it up. He'd go into Belgium. I forget which Belgium...I'm terrible. I forget the names...where there was a big hospital setup in Belgium, an American hospital setup in Belgium.

We would load these ambulances and these ambulances for at least seven to ten, fourteen days kept coming in and going out just evacuating our dead and also our wounded to this place in Belgium. We were then able to get out and go up to Belgium.

The interesting thing is in Bastogne....I didn't mention enough of this....planes were coming over dropping medical (supplies). We could tell by what the parachute was. You had medical supplies. That was always a purple parachute. That was medical supplies. If they were going to send food, that would be another color. Our food consisted at that time of big loaves of bread this big and big pieces, things of salami. You have never seen people enjoy cutting a big slice of bread and slapping a piece of salami on it. They parachuted us that to our place. That's all we had. That and coffee. I must say we had coffee too.

Q: Were you in Bastogne when the Germans asked McAuliffe to surrender?

A: Yes! Yes! And we thought...what happened was the head man....I shouldn't be saying this, the head, the full two star general, he was in Washington someplace. McAuliffe was his second in command and he was there. I shouldn't say this. This you don't copy down!

Q: It's going to end up on film!

A: I know (laughs)

Q: We can turn it off (laughs)

A: I'll tell you later on what happened because he said "nuts"

Q: You were talking about Maxwell Taylor who was in Washington.

A: I better not say anything. We all knew it.

Q: OK. I'll turn it off for a second.

A: I kept notes though (laughs)

Don't say anything. A lot of the people down there, they unfortunately they were under so much stress and strain and anything that anything they could do to get rid of this stress.

Q: After the stress and strain on you, did you get any time off? Any R&R?

A: No, they took us into our place in Belgium.

Q: Was it Brussels?

A: No, it was a small name. What was that name (Tongres)? It was a small place where they set up a tremendous hospital. Once we were able to get rid of them into the hospital and everything, all the units went back to where they were before.

Q: So, you didn't get any real time off?

A: No, No! Our time off is when we stopped and didn't have to do what we were doing. We were so happy when that happened.

Q: Do you think with the trauma cases you encountered and so on, do you think the training that you received at Johns Hopkins prepared you for this?

A: Of course it did. The training that we had not only at Hopkins but also when we did our internship and things of that sort at the various hospitals and with the help as well of a lot of the older doctors in the various "evac" hospitals which were the older doctors were always very much of a help to us.

You had physicians there...let me tell you a little story which is very interesting. When I was in France there, I was assigned to an "evac" hospital to help out. I was helping out. The head of the "evac" hospital was a physician who had been in the army all his life who knew how to issue orders but knew very little about medicine or surgery but he also knew that he didn't know.

One time, we were getting in a lot of casualties. I never did surgery but these people needed badly hurt. They recognized that these regular army doctors, many of them, were not used to doing anything in medicine or surgery (unclear).

I was at this hospital and along comes a big truck and out of it gets a major, two captains and about three nurses, medical men. He says we just completed a surgical residency in one of the big hospitals in the United States and had been assigned over there. We go around to the various units where we know we have to do important work.

With that, this group comes in and he says to the workers around there, we want this, we want that. We're going to setup the hospital. We're going to get to work right away. Remember, this is a major who is the anesthesiologist and two surgeons who were just captains and some lieutenant nurses.

This colonel of the outfit comes in and says "I'm going to assign what I want to be done here." With an expletive, this captain says "You get your ass out of here and I don't want to see you anymore." The colonel says, "I'll get you. I'm going down to headquarters right now"

He went down to headquarters and came back a beaten man. He was still a colonel and everything but he was told these men are running your hospital starting right now, these four doctors and they did a terrific job, specially trained in what they had to do and everything. Fortunately, we had enough people who were higher up who knew that certain things had to be done that way but I'll never forget that he came back with his tail between his legs. They told him they'll give the orders.

Q: So, he was more of an administrator rather than...

A: He was the head of the hospital. He was going to assign and do this and that and they told him you get out of here. They worked for about, I'd say, a minimum of about two to three days then they left. They were assigned to another place.

I say this only because we had people in command who knew certain things had to be done in a certain way, in high command, and knew that some of the ones that they knew were in positions of power had to be held back because lives had to be saved.

TAPE STOPS AND REESUMES SOME OF THE INTERVIEW MAY NOT HAVE BEEN RECORDED

A: After I had sutured his finger and everything, he felt he was indebted to me for something. He said, "Would like to visit your brother in England?" I said, "Gee that would be nice" because I hadn't seen my brother now for about – there were only two of us my brother and myself – I hadn't seen him for at least five to six years. He says, "Just wait". He goes in the office and comes out with big sheets of paper. He says, "I've just arranged for air travel for you to go visit your brother in England" So, I got in the plane and lo and behold, I'm in England.

My brother meets me and says, "How'd you do this?" I told him the colonel and everything. I said, "Incidentally, I'm assigned to your outfit here because I don't want to take it off my leave that I usually get. In other words, I'm a member of your unit right now. I'm assigned to you." He said, "Great!" and he assigned me to....He was a full colonel, my brother, at the base air depot #2 which is Doolittle's hospital. Doolittle's hospital up in England. So, I stayed with my brother for a while. I thought my outfit may

be planning to go home. I'd better get home or I'll be left up here. He says, "Fine, your orders call for you to return with only air" So, I was shipped back to my regular unit and that was only because I did a little favor for a good officer who was there but didn't want to be evacuated home.

Q: I notice that you were present at the liberation of Buchenwald.

A: Yes.

Q: Were you aware prior to that of the existence of these camps?

A: We knew about camps. At Buchenwald, I went in with my outfit, primarily, we went in just when it was just liberated. I went in and my first duty was to get these – they had what they called (unclear), beds lined...my first duty I had to separate the dead from the living that were in there.

We went in and had to liberate these people and they were really most of them very quiet. They were practically starved and didn't want to do too much. We went in and my men would come in take the dead and put them up...in fact, I had piles of dead they would be lined up like cords of wood. We have pictures of that...lined up like cords of wood. We used to bring them out. The ones that were alive, we tried to explain to them that we were really liberating you. It was difficult to get through to them. Not only were there a lot of political prisoners, there were a lot of other prisoners. Not all of them were Jewish or anything like that.

In fact, at that time, I spoke German very well but I didn't speak Russian very well. They had a bunch of Russian prisoners there as well at Buchenwald. I didn't speak it that well. I recall...I went...these people most of them were just very blasé. It wasn't gee we're liberated now. They were so sick, beaten and thin and everything.

So, I went into the German part. I tell this because here I am in the one part there and (unclear). I go into the Russian part there and in my best Russian I say (speaks Russian phrase) to them which means "how is everybody?" With that, the Russians came and began hugging me and kissing me and all sorts of things. They kept asking me questions and I was saying "Yeah, No" (speaks in Russian). I kept doing that. Finally, I said to them in my best Russian I have forgotten now "so long, I will see you some other time." I left.

The next day, the commander of Buchenwald comes to me. He said, "They want the doctor who speaks Russian to come down there." (laughs). But that was a horrible place. I went through the whole thing. The furnaces were still full of bodies in there, all the furnaces. I have pictures of those.

One place where we cleaned out very rapidly was where I imagine they beat people or something. It was a big room and had a big hose and an exit on the floor and blood all

over the place. We washed the whole thing down. At least it was a nice looking place after. I don't know what they did but they told me they used to torture people in there. I don't know whether they were torturing their own people but there was blood all over the place there in this one area of Buchenwald. It was a horrible thing, those camps. It was very bad what happened there.

Q: The other thing you mentioned you went to a camp with a SS hospital.

A: No, that's terrible. What happened was this. I was in Erfurt. In Erfurt which is a big city and I was with a government unit there. I was their physician of this unit of American people there.

They said to me that there's a bunch of – in this hospital – there are a bunch of Germans who got themselves hospitalized. Why don't you go down there? We want to know whether they have to be hospitalized. Of course, they wanted to send them to a prisoner of war camp. A lot of them did that. They would go to a hospital and complain about something.

The one thing we were all interested in, we were....I don't know if anybody ever told you about the SS people – the Schutzstaffel. They were a tough, mean bunch, the Schutzstaffel, SS and a lot of them went down there. I went in there and the first thing I said was we're going to see how everybody is and I'm speaking German to them. I want everybody to strip down to their waist. Immediately, they knew what I was after because this SS group had themselves hospitalized there so they wouldn't be sent to a prisoner of war camp.

They knew that I knew what was going on because every SS has their blood type down this part of the arm (points to his left arm). All the way down to their wrist.

Q: Tattooed on?

A: Tattooed. So, I asked them to strip down. They knew what I meant. In that whole unit there, I gathered up all the SS, the Schutzstaffel and I said we are sending you all to a special area because they wanted to get the Schutzstaffel. Schutzstaffel stand for the "prideful unit" but they were the SS people. They would kill anybody. They used to put them with the regular army, people used to tell me this, and if they saw somebody who wasn't doing their work, they would kill them – their own people. What happened was, I gathered them all up...

Q: How many were there?

A: In this hospital, I must have had about forty of them. It was a big hospital. They had a lot of others, they had Air Force. I said that what we're going to do is to get you to the nearest point where we are going to incarcerate you.

I come out with this whole group of SS people. Did you ever hear of the French Maquis? The French Maquis were the French people who were always shooting at the Germans.

Q: They were the “underground”?

A: They were the “underground”. The Maquis. I come out with this group there and I have a lot of soldiers helping me there. This leader of the French Maquis, he must have had about maybe a dozen people with him. He says, “We’ll take them to the camp.” I said, “Yeah?” He said, “Yeah. These are the SS, we’ll take them to the camp.”

We gave them over to these French underground, the Maquis. Tough bunch! Tough bunch! I wouldn’t want to be against them in anything. They left and in about an hour or so, back they come and say, “Do you have anymore?”

I talked to my Sergeant, I said, “what camp are we sending them to?” He said the camp is about forty miles away. They should put them in trucks to get them there. I knew what they did. They took this group of SS out, the Maquis, the French. They shot the whole bunch of them.

These are some of the things that you don’t like to talk about but they did occur but they were tough people, the French Maquis. These SS people were very, very...these were the “death’s head” unit. In fact, I have one of their units upstairs, “death’s head” was a cap that they wore.

I told you a lot of nasty things didn’t I?

Q: Yes, you did. How long were you in the service? When were you discharged finally?

A: I was in the service...when was I discharged (turns to daughter to ask). About the middle of April.

Wife: of ’46.

A: It was the middle of April. 1946.

Q: Were you married at the time?

A: No

Wife: We got married in January of ’46.

A: No, I wasn’t married but I had a lot of longevity for it coming to me. Incidentally, I am one of the few people who have – for every three years you get a stripe. I had about four of them because I was a member of the National Guard. Before anything happened, I was in the National Guard.

Q: Where were you? In Pennsylvania?

A: In Lancaster, Pennsylvania. So, I had a long full (unclear)

Wife: Tell them how old you are?

A: You would have to turn that (camera) off. What happened is, it's not that bad. When I joined the National Guard, I was fourteen years old.

Q: Really? Fourteen? That's got to be a record.

A: But, it was because they had organized a National Guard Band. They needed me as one of their players.

Q: What did you play?

A: I played the clarinet at the time. They needed me as one of their players. The rest of the group were all older people. All I had was a whole bunch of fathers, old timers. We'd go up to camp and everything I had at least sixty fathers taking care of me all the time.

But then, what happened was for longevity and things I said, here's my record. My record was available to them. I had all these records that I was in the National Guard all this time. I had about eight years in the National Guard way before the war.

Q: When you left the service, did you ever make use of the GI Bill? You had all your education...

A: There wasn't anything that I...about the only thing....no. (turns to wife). Did I use the GI Bill to buy anything?

Q: Did you buy a house with the GI Bill?

A: I got the FHA mortgage through the GI.

(some talk in the background with wife. unclear)

A: I go the mortgage through the GI Bill but didn't go to any more schools or anything like that or anything of that sort?

Q: Did you join any veteran's organizations at all?

A: No. No active veteran's organizations did I belong to.

Q: did you every stay in contact with anybody that served with you?

A: The head of our unit who was in the last (unclear) we always spoke to each other and when it came time for me to get married, he came from (turns to wife)

Wife: Chicago

A: Chicago. He said, "I have to be there! I will be there!"

Wife: We had a very small wedding

A: That was his full name Frank Macloraine who was the nicest, gentlest guy who was about six foot six and built like an army but he was one of the Colonels in the outfit that I was in. We always had a good relationship. I had a good relationship with all those groups there.

Wife: But he didn't get to the wedding.

A: He came from Chicago. He didn't quite make the wedding but he got to see us.

Wife: (unclear) Williamsburg when we were on our honeymoon.

Q: How do you think the time in the military affected or changed your life?

A: First of all, being in the military is for me is not something that has done anything to help my life. It may have done that for other people but it hadn't for me. But, I would say being in the military you meet the best of the people and you meet the worst. There were plenty in the military who were pretty bad.

Q: Thank you very much for your interview.