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ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW OF FREDERIC SHEPPARD

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ORIGINAL

1 Frederic Sheppard - 1-29-2003

2 MR. RUSSERT: Interview with
3 Frederic Sheppard, January 29th, 2003, Division of
4 Military Naval Affairs Headquarters, Latham, New
5 York, approximately one o'clock in the afternoon.

6 Michael Russert and Wayne Clark
7 are the interviewers.

8 BY MR. RUSSERT:

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

11 **A. Frederick Gardner Sheppard. Born**
12 **on June the 8th, 1924, Yonkers, New York.**

13 Q. Okay. What was your educational
14 background prior to your military service?

15 **A. I finished grammar school and I**
16 **went to high school, two different schools. The**
17 **second one it was a military school in Washington**
18 **D.C. A military business, it was called Theodore**
19 **Roosevelt Business School, I think it was northwest**
20 **section of Washington.**

21 **I -- back up, was there and**
22 **continued my high school education. I got as far**
23 **as November of my senior year and I got drafted out**
24 **of school.**

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2 Q. Okay. So you were drafted into
3 the service?

4 A. I was drafted in the -- I
5 couldn't finish my last year of school which my
6 father got very upset.

7 Q. Let's go back a little bit to
8 December 7th. Where were you and what do you --
9 what was your reaction to that? What were you
10 doing?

11 A. I was in a movie theater,
12 Poughkeepsie, New York. We double dated, a friend
13 of mine, and we had a couple girls with us. We
14 went to the movies. I don't know the name of the
15 movie but at the bottom of the screen, the Japanese
16 bombed Pearl Harbor and so forth and so on. And we
17 just looked at it, and it didn't hit us right away.

18 And then all of a sudden, in fact
19 the whole theatre all of a sudden we hear them
20 gasp. The whole theatre gasp at once, on the news.
21 And that was it.

22 Q. What -- what grade in school --
23 what year in school were you in when that happened?
24 Were you still in school?

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2 A. That was December 7th, '41? Yes.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. Okay. So you were drafted, did
6 you select the airborne or were you?

7 A. More or less. I didn't know it
8 was the airborne. We landed -- I was with the
9 artillery and I put in two -- I put in basic
10 training and then I was classified as -- I think
11 would be limited service. I had just finished a
12 bout with pneumonia and I was down to one hundred
13 and twenty pounds. And I went up and got my
14 physical and they said okay you passed but you're
15 going to be living in service.

16 So, with the basic -- the twelve
17 weeks of basic --.

18 Q. Where did you do your basic?

19 A. Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. And at twelve weeks I went from
22 one hundred and twenty to one hundred and
23 seventy-two pounds. The army agreed with me, the
24 army liked me. And the -- my dad told me when --

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2 when I left that morning, he said, I'll give you
3 some advice. He said, if they can dish it out, you
4 can take it, but don't be a smart aleck about it.
5 And that's the attitude I did -- I took when I went
6 in. I tried to excel at everything in basic.

7 And during that course, I almost
8 had to pay for two gun stocks, I broke the gun
9 stocks and bayonet. Then I -- they took me to
10 advance basic more or less. I was to stay in the
11 artillery. And then they -- we finished that and a
12 group of us -- we got called to the training
13 station and we were going to ship out but we didn't
14 know where. And about eight of us were left there
15 standing. They didn't call our name off. And to
16 make it a long story short, I wound up in the one
17 106th infantry division, being enthusiastic about
18 it. Okay?

19 And I stayed there -- or we
20 stayed there about eighty or sixty of us. And the
21 106th shipped out, no one knows where. It wound up
22 though that they got annihilated in the Battle of
23 the Bulge, 106th and 28th.

24 And there we are, we're stand

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2 there again, and we wound up at Fort Meade,
3 Maryland. And we took these unusual courses and --
4 and lectures and nomenclature on equipment. We
5 spent three days on tanks and we spend half a day
6 on this plastic explosive, I think it was called
7 C-3 or C-4. And which I never saw again the rest
8 of the war.

9 And we went through -- we -- a
10 weapons carrier, we went through -- we did some
11 grenade tossing and you know. But then we got
12 shipped to Nyack, New York for the port
13 embarkation, to Europe.

14 And we were on the North Atlantic
15 and in ten days -- nine days of it was stormy. And
16 we were on the -- I don't know, I can't think of
17 the name of the ship -- it was British cruise ship,
18 converted to a troop ship and -- Cape town Castle
19 which later burnt to the waterline.

20 And there were British -- and we
21 had British rations and we complained and one of
22 the British sailors said, "Don't complain, as long
23 as this storm lasts, we won't get torpedoed." I
24 guess it's too rough for the subs to surface or the

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2 **torpedoes to hit their target.**

3 **BY MR. CLARK:**

4 Q. Were you in a convoy?

5 A. Yes. The first morning -- I was
6 shipped out at night. The first morning we were on
7 the southern -- as you're going like east, so,
8 north, we were on the southern flank of the convoy
9 on the outside. Which we didn't care too much for
10 that. And the next morning we woke up we were in
11 the center of the convoy. We had baby aircraft
12 carriers, we had I guess destroyers and whatever,
13 troop ships, and merchant ships.

14 The following day, we were in a
15 bad spot. We were on the tail end. That's where
16 they pick them off, you know. They work from the
17 tail end up. And -- and if your ship gets crippled
18 somehow, the subs go after like you know, a shark
19 after a rodent fish or something.

20 But without incident, we got over
21 there and we landed I believe Liverpool and we went
22 to a Repple Depot. About one hundred thousand guys
23 in this place, you know? They're all coming on the
24 boat, and they've got to be assigned. Well, we

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2 wound up doing every single day we did the coal
3 detail -- and this is October. We did the coal
4 detail or we did garbage detail. We helped load
5 the trucks, load it -- load the trucks, and we
6 couldn't wait to get out of there. I mean we were
7 filthy. Garbage and coal, we were filthy, rotten,
8 dirty at the end of the day. And when we --
9 everybody wanted to get out of that place.

10 So, they had a -- they had a
11 bulletin board, we watched the bulletin board for
12 our names to come up, see? And they wouldn't come
13 up. But there was -- there was a notice on there
14 that they're forming a new division over in England
15 and they -- it was going to be a -- a what you
16 would call -- a like a -- it went behind enemy
17 lines. They called it something. It wasn't a
18 covert operation or anything like that.

19 So, new division, we decided hey,
20 you know, we signed up. Our chances of promotion
21 are good. So about six of us went down and we
22 listened to this guy. I think it was a captain.
23 Telling us about this division. You get jump
24 boots, you get flight pay, you get this, you get

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2 that. And you'd go in behind the lines, you know,
3 secure an area. So, I said to a fellow, I said to
4 his name, I said, "What do you think?" He said,
5 "Anything to get out this place." I said, "Okay,
6 let's go." So we signed up.

7 And they told us up there you're
8 going to be airborne division. And we said,
9 paratroops? He said yeah. We used to down in Fort
10 Burnie used to watch these guys on the 101st jump
11 out of the planes, you know? And -- and they said
12 they were making an extra fifty dollars a month, we
13 liked that. So, we're going to go to the
14 paratroopers. Now, he never detached the number
15 that I didn't see.

16 So, about two days later we were
17 lined up in a six by six truck in England and we
18 were going down the country roads and we lined up
19 at this farm, it's called Watkins Farm. We come
20 out of the truck and there's this thing there with
21 no motor on it. It's got wings and everything.
22 What the hell is that? This guys says, "Uh oh." He
23 says, "It's a glider." Of course the only gliders
24 I know are down in Elmira so, we got out, we lined

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2 up, boy, we didn't like this idea at all, but you
3 know, we stuck it out.

4 And -- they sent me to a gun -- a
5 gun -- a gun battery -- I think it was a battery
6 and we had four guns and we had -- I don't
7 remember. Anyway, what we did was dig, fill sand
8 bags, and then dump them out and fill the hole and
9 then you have to pull the artillery piece out.
10 That -- that's -- that's not for me.

11 So, I went down to the orderly
12 room and talked to the -- to the corporal down
13 there who is the orderly, or who is the captain's
14 secretary. And I said, I've got to get out of this
15 gun section. Look, I've got a military license to
16 drive up to a six by six, pulling trailers, pulling
17 guns. And he says, well I'll see what I can do.

18 So, a few days later they were
19 looking for a driver, on a Saturday. I'd been to
20 town with the guys, it's a two mile walk and a two
21 mile back, so, I mean you're drilling all day long
22 you know, you're tired. If you want to go out and
23 have a beer and shoot darts you had to -- you had
24 to walk, you know? So, I didn't go out too much.

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2 So, they need a driver. And I'd
3 just walked out of the -- out of the company
4 orderly room and when I heard they said they need a
5 driver. They -- all the drivers are out on pass or
6 something. This was a Saturday. And I just went
7 back in, I said, I got a military license. I said,
8 "where do I have to go?" He said, "Put on your
9 OD's report to the motor pool. What's your name?"
10 I told him. I ran back, put my dress uniform on
11 and I went down and the corporal gave me a
12 dispatch. I had to take two officer's to London
13 the next evening and that started.

14 I was assigned to the motor pool.
15 And I got to see Stone Hedge, I'm sure you've heard
16 of that. I got to see that. It was dusk when we
17 got there, took the captain there one day. And --.

18 Q. What was your reaction when you
19 saw that?

20 A. That stone hedge? Well, he told
21 me -- I said, "Captain, where are we going?" This
22 is Mike Haffner (phonetic spelling), he was a
23 prince. I said, "Captain, where are we going?" He
24 says, "We're going to Stone Hedge." "Oh." I says,

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2 "Where's that?" He says, "I'll show you when we
3 get there." So, we hustle right along. We get
4 there about dusk. I got a couple pictures. And I
5 look at this thing I said, "Who did this?" You
6 know? And he says, "Nobody knows." I said, "You're
7 kidding?" And he says, you know, they had these
8 uprights and they had the stone going across the
9 top. We walked around. He took photographs. He
10 had what they called a rolleflex camera -- a
11 Rolex -- a rolleflex camera. And I had -- I had a
12 camera with me. Oh, that was after we came back
13 from Normandy. We -- we made that trip. Because
14 before Normandy I didn't have a camera so, it was
15 after Normandy.

16 So, anyway, I had a -- I had a
17 good career and they would -- they always knew that
18 I was around if I they needed a driver for a truck
19 or if they needed or needed -- an officer had to go
20 someplace, you know, I was there.

21 The only other driver was around
22 was -- would be colonel's driver. And of course
23 the colonel -- you don't take the colonel's driver,
24 you know?

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2 **So, I take a break from that,**
3 **okay? Right now?**

4 **Q. Sure. Okay.**

5 **A. Okay. We brought in Big Black,**
6 **it was nothing really exciting happened. The --**
7 **the one exciting thing -- I had to pull guard duty**
8 **one night. One night, this was a twenty-four hour**
9 **period. And the -- they sent -- put me up on a**
10 **hill over looking the battalion area and they said**
11 **now you -- go down along the fence -- the wire**
12 **fence and you cut across where the wooden fence,**
13 **always keep the fence on your right. Then you come**
14 **back up the hill again. This is all on top of a**
15 **hill. Then you come around to the thorn tree. The**
16 **thorn tree -- it was like an apple orchard or**
17 **something. But there was a thorn tree there. So**
18 **he leaves me.**

19 **And I made maybe two trips, and I**
20 **used the thorn tree as a stop and go, take a break,**
21 **sit down or whatever, careful where you sit though**
22 **because some of the branches come down sit on them**
23 **and bam you -- you'd stand up.**

24 **So, I stood up and I heard this**

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2 plane, very faintly I heard the plane. It wasn't
3 laboring and it wasn't racing or anything like
4 that, you know? It was -- it was like way up, I
5 could just about hear it. All of a sudden I hear
6 this psst bang. It was a flare. That airplane
7 dropped a flare. And I guess there was times
8 though it would light up so many feet above the
9 ground. Well, all I'll tell you Mr. it was scary.
10 I was all by myself up there, you see.

11 So, I pulled on the chamber, you
12 know, the light around the chamber and I froze,
13 then I slowly slipped back and I went right into
14 the thorns of the thorn tree and I didn't care, you
15 know. All I wanted to do was get the hell out of
16 that field of view. So, it burned, I don't know,
17 maybe five minutes. And when it -- when it fired
18 on if you've ever been there in a flare, but the
19 flare is coming down and shadows are moving, you
20 know? A branch, a tree, or a post, everything is
21 moving all around me. I don't know if it's enemy
22 or what that parachuted in, but I got through it
23 all right. And the -- that -- that was about the
24 most interesting -- interesting -- there was -- the

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2 first most scary thing I've -- I'd been in was that
3 flare. Because we were told, you know. They will
4 parachute in at night and fortunately we weren't on
5 the coastline. And they had the home guard taking
6 care of the coastline.

7 And then we got alerted for
8 Normandy. And I had a friend of mine who -- we
9 made friends. He was in South Africa for the --
10 they call it the Big Red One, the 1st infantry
11 division. And he was an Italian. And his parents
12 were born over there, in Italy? And so all his
13 ancestors were born in Italy and you know, the
14 southern part. And he went to the training officer
15 and he said, I want to get out of Division if
16 you're going to invade Italy. He says, all my
17 relatives are over here.

18 So to make a long -- long story
19 short, they transferred him -- they put him on a
20 plane and with some officer's that were going to
21 England from North Africa. And he wound up -- he
22 wanted to be in the parachute -- the infantry
23 division. So he wound up in the artillery you see.
24 And he and I became real good friends.

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2 And he finally -- he finally
3 signed up for -- he wanted to be a Pathfinder for
4 Normandy. The Pathfinder goes in like twenty-four
5 hours before the invasion starts. And the jumpers
6 go in -- the -- in Normandy the jumpers would enter
7 in about twelve hours ahead of time, roughly. And
8 a Pathfinder goes in, and he sets up a transmitter.
9 And he sets up the beacon. Now, he's -- he's got
10 communications and of course it's turned down very
11 low. Well, he had to go to school to learn Morse
12 code. And I remember he told me that, he
13 disappeared for awhile.

14 Well, anyway, never heard
15 anything about him after that. Never heard a
16 thing. But after Normandy, we got back in July I
17 guess, we go back to England, back to Moonton Farm.
18 Captain Williams who was my superior -- he's my
19 boss. He told me about -- Anthony -- he didn't
20 want to be called Tony. He'd rather be called Scag
21 you know, the name was Scaglari (phonetic spelling)
22 or something like that.

23 So anyway, Scag, he had a
24 teammate, you know a two man team. And his

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2 teammate landed okay at night as a Pathfinder. But
3 Scag went through a roof of a barn and both his
4 legs were broken. This is the story that came back
5 to us. And his partner had to leave him. And
6 nobody knows whatever happened to him. The 50 the
7 5 -- he was with the 502 but we called -- we called
8 it the deuce, he was with the 502 and don't know if
9 he got killed or captured or what.

10 So we could move into Normandy
11 now. We got ready for Normandy like, oh, gee whiz.
12 We were down the southern coast -- oh, before that
13 happened, you may know it you may not know it. But
14 there was a real disaster. We lost seven hundred
15 men before Normandy had started.

16 It was a place called Slapton --
17 Slapton Sands. S-L-A-P-T-O-N Sands. Where the
18 coastline resembled Normandy and Utah beach areas,
19 we found out much later. And they were going to
20 have practice there, practice the invasion, landing
21 on the beach, you know, and Slapton Sands was the
22 ideal thing.

23 So they had troop ships down
24 there. Our division never participated in it but

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2 the British subs and the British -- the
3 British run boats or something were supposed to
4 protect the -- the -- us, or the U.S. Army on this
5 invasion because you know, they had U-boats all
6 over the place, see.

7 Well, the British fell asleep, we
8 had a U-boat come in, I guess one U-boat and they
9 had some like PT boats, something like that come in
10 and killed seven hundred of our men, we had seven
11 hundred casualties.

12 The U.S. Army, okay? My friends
13 were none of the 101st. And they kept it corend
14 (sic). Oh, it was a real disaster.

15 Well, now we go back to getting
16 ready for Normandy. We were down there about ten
17 days before -- my job of course wasn't what you
18 call really important for administration or
19 anything like that. And they sent us -- not
20 essential -- and they sent us down there first. I
21 had to turn in my jeep at compound and I said, "I
22 don't like doing this." And he said, "Don't worry
23 about it, it'll be over there. It might be done
24 before you get there."

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2 I left, the last I saw him. And
3 we wandered around. We go here, we go -- while
4 we're walking, okay? We were supposed to
5 originally go supposed to go by glider but they
6 told us the British ran our of their Horsa gliders
7 they were made out of balsam. And they took some
8 of our gliders. And we wound up we were going in
9 by boat.

10 And let me jump ahead. I took
11 seven glider rides, while I was in the -- while I
12 was in the 321st glider infantry -- or artillery.
13 And I saw four smash ups. And we had Smash ups in
14 training, they were strange reasons. And so we
15 were glad to go by boat. We took the risks of
16 torpedoes and mines, and said we took our chances.

17 And we went on the Susan B -- we
18 wound up on the Susan B Anthony headed towards the
19 Utah Beach area. I don't know what we were doing
20 down off the shore of Omaha I don't know. But
21 somewhere along the line I lost a whole day. I
22 thought I'd land the 6th. And I found out about
23 six months ago, less than that, I found out now you
24 got me going.

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2 **June or July of this past year**
3 **that -- when we hit the mine it was off Omaha**
4 **Beach. It's right in here (indicating).**

5 Q. You're saying your ship hit a
6 mine?

7 A. Yeah, we hit a mine, the Susan B.
8 Anthony sunk but we didn't lose -- we didn't lose a
9 man and anywhere about two thousand in the boat.
10 It was a converted cruise ship. And we were
11 transferred onto a British destroyer, British
12 Corvette and as I say the story goes we never lost
13 a man.

14 And from there they moved us west
15 where -- where we were supposed to be. Utah --
16 Utah Beach. And we were trying to signal landing
17 craft to come and take us, see. But once these
18 guys got to the beach, to turn around, you know the
19 navy, turn around and got the hell out of there,
20 they wouldn't go back. They didn't want to pick us
21 up see, and take us to the beach. They had already
22 been there, they didn't like it.

23 So, finally we got a couple of
24 guys -- well, more than a couple but I was on the

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2 second -- second boat load. We went -- we went to
3 the beach and we -- we landed and it was a quiet
4 area compared to the rest of it. There -- there
5 wasn't much artillery coming in, there -- or
6 borders, or small armed fire, or machine gun yet.
7 And we get up out of there, we ran like hell.
8 There were dunes and tall grass, we went up hill.
9 It was soft and you couldn't run too fast, it was
10 soft sand. And then we ran down because we got
11 near the top and the machine guns opened up so we
12 ran back down again, crouched low, started running
13 towards where most of the action was because our
14 battalion and division was supposed to be up there,
15 landed up in there, except the jumpers. And they
16 went in the night before.

17 So, finally we got -- we got a
18 break. And it was only two of us now. We had this
19 one lieutenant that says follow me, you know? He
20 says on the way, grab some -- a crate of supplies,
21 he says, of supplies or whatever it was from this
22 crate you know, and he says follow me.

23 So, a couple of guys they went in
24 well, a friend of mine, we went out to pee, you

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2 know, we were going with this guy. So, anyway we
3 get up -- we -- get up all our loose stuff the
4 grass and we get into -- we get into like an
5 orchard. I think -- we didn't run across any pack
6 horsa and we wandered around and we were here,
7 there, and the supplies were coming in, you see.
8 And they were stacking them, and they're trying to
9 grab us to stack this stuff, see? And we take off.

10 But finally we got to our outfit.
11 And we had one gun, that's all we had. A
12 seventy-five pack Howser, the barrel we had is only
13 about that long. It's a seventy-five millimeter
14 it's about that big around (indicating). And we
15 had one gun and well, everybody's not sitting
16 around but you know, trying to think keep from
17 getting shot.

18 So, we moved around finally got
19 another gun. The things would show up, the guns
20 would show up. When I see guns the artillery. It
21 won't move I always like it. Excuse me, a
22 two-legged mule. Carrying stuff on my back, under
23 my arms, going here, coming back, going over there.
24 Changing positions -- we were support shooting the

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2 second battalion of the 506th which we did most of
3 the war. And if you had read or seen the movie
4 "Band of Brothers" easy company. But we supported
5 easy company.

6 And in the book not so much in
7 the -- in the VHS -- VHS tapes, but in the book,
8 Wares -- Dick Wares who is -- well, he started off
9 the -- said he would call for artillery and the
10 British would support him. We supported them.
11 Okay. The 341 supported him. And as I recognize
12 most of the names of these villages. They were --
13 they were trained to not liberate trying to capture
14 and we'd get into and hold.

15 And finally one day my captain
16 says to me -- he said to me, you have a radio
17 operator -- I forget who the radio operator was, it
18 changed so about every week, said to me and he
19 says, "Look, are you tired of lugging this stuff?"
20 He says, "I am." I said, "Yeah." He says, "I
21 didn't tell you this but see if you can find a
22 truck for cheap with it." So, he says, doesn't make
23 any difference if it's enemy or what. We'll --
24 somehow we'll paint it over or something. So, I

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2 went. And I wound up back near the beach and
3 things were hot. But I caught a glimpse of a Jeep
4 down by the beach, see. Not real close. I'm
5 trying -- trying to get an idea. Maybe fifty years
6 from the water, the water mark. And it was buried,
7 all four wheels, you know, up to the hubs.

8 So, I went down there and there
9 was a beach master up -- they're -- they're --
10 they're bad boys, you know. You can like cross
11 them up especially the British. Here we got buried
12 in the waters, so I go running down to this thing,
13 you know and it's in good shape. I didn't see
14 anything wrong, it's not wet or anything. So, I
15 can see it's not going to move. So, I pop the hood
16 up, I look, everything looks all right, slam the
17 hood down, buckle it. I got the shovel off the
18 side of the jeep and I started to dig, see.

19 I did until I could go a few feet
20 you know. I figured I could get a quick run I can
21 get up and get right up on the upper high ground.
22 And I know it might be a foot or two, when I was
23 there. Along comes this six by six truck and there
24 was -- I think there was two guys in the back or

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2 three guys in the back, and two up front. And they
3 says, we'll give you a hand, he says. Take this
4 rope. I took the rope, they tied it, I tied it,
5 out comes the Jeep but they took me for a way but
6 they took me the wrong way, you know. It was going
7 into the heavy fire.

8 And the beach master is screaming
9 his head off at all of us -- at both of us. And I
10 pulled the rope and knot out of the rope and I took
11 a left turn and went on forward. And -- and -- I
12 thought I was going to get stuck, buried, because
13 the sand was soft and dry, see. Down near the
14 water it was wet and packed but I hit some hard pan
15 and boy I jumped down, laid down, and I'm just --
16 I'm panned (sic) -- I'm still panned from
17 shoveling.

18 So, anyway, I got back to the --
19 I got back to -- found the Captain and brought the
20 Jeep back. But on the way I stopped, it was a
21 swampy area now this bumpers on the Jeep -- front,
22 back bumpers had ENG on it, and it had a number.
23 And -- which is the engineering battalion. So I --
24 so -- over the front bumper and the back bumper and

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2 away I went see.

3 It had a whip antenna, which we
4 needed. And then it had a radio. It had some
5 stuff in the back and I don't know, Devero took
6 care of that. And we loaded all our stuff and we
7 had a Jeep, full of gas. Full -- radiator. And I
8 head back and told -- and so we went back to
9 England. Yeah. The same old break through. Yeah,
10 I think it was just before or just after the break
11 through, we shot back to England for R&R. But we
12 were only carrying ten commandos, our outfit.

13 **BY MR. CLARK:**

14 Q. Where were you called then?

15 A. You know, it seems we couldn't
16 get as far as Carentan.

17 **BY MR. RUSSERT:**

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. You know? I think. Now, you got
20 to understand something. I never knew a hell of a
21 lot what was going on, you know? Because I was on
22 the run like almost twenty-four hours a day. I'd
23 go here -- they -- some officer's would say, jeez,
24 I need a Jeep, I need your driver and a Jeep, you

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2 **know? And the Captain said oh, take them, go**
3 **ahead, you know? So, I -- I knew some of the**
4 **names, some of the towns, some of the villages, the**
5 **hamlets. And -- but where they were? You know,**
6 **exactly, I don't know. I'd have to look at a road**
7 **sign or some -- I did a lot of running through the**
8 **fields. And -- because the roads were zeroed in,**
9 **the artillery had the roads zeroed in, you know,**
10 **even the little roads, you know, the pavement.**

11 And anyway, we got back to
12 **England, July -- end of July and it was sort of**
13 **evening then. It'll be there, it'll be there, you**
14 **know? So, they -- they're going to send two of us**
15 **down to South Hampton, Portsmouth, we're going to**
16 **go down by train. And we're going to pick out some**
17 **jeeps at the compound, but that never -- that never**
18 **worked out. They bought us a couple of Jeeps**
19 **around and we helped ourselves to those. Can I**
20 **take a break for a minute?**

21 MR. CLARK: Sure.

22 BY MR. RUSSERT:

23 Q. So, this is the ship you were on,
24 the Susan B. Anthony?

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2 **A. Susan B. Anthony.**

3 Q. And where was it struck?

4 **A. We hit the mine right there, that**
5 **little black dot. We weren't supposed to be there.**
6 **We were supposed to be over here someplace. This**
7 **is Omaha we were supposed to land at -- at Utah.**
8 **But how we got down here, I don't know. But a**
9 **destroyer and a British Corvette took us off, we**
10 **didn't lose a man or a piece of equipment. And**
11 **took us over here -- the ships took us over here**
12 **where it passes the river, where LST's finally came**
13 **and took us off the destroyer and the British**
14 **Corvette and put us to shore in here.**

15 Q. Okay.

16 **A. The name of that river is -- I**
17 **don't know. Okay?**

18 Q. Now, when you got back to England
19 then you were on R&R?

20 **A. Yeah.**

21 Q. How long were you in England and
22 what did you do there?

23 **A. After Normandy?**

24 Q. After Normandy.

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2 A. Okay. We turned in our -- we
3 turned in our ammunition and we turned -- got new
4 clothes you know.

5 Q. What type of weapon were you
6 carrying?

7 A. Carrying a Carbine. And never
8 fired it. And we turned in our clothes, they were
9 ripped, turned them in you know. They didn't want
10 you to sew, you know. Give you new clothes.

11 And we got cleaned up. We didn't get much rest.
12 Went right back into training again. And I went
13 back to being a Chauffeur. And -- and part time
14 truck driver. And then we go on what we call
15 bivouac and field problems, make believe war you
16 know to keep us in shape.

17 And we'd get a lot of -- get a
18 lot of calisthenics got a lot of lectures and they
19 were -- they looked for pathfinders. And I was
20 going to sign up for it but every time -- everyone
21 told me don't do it, don't do it.

22 Q. Did you ever do any jumps?

23 A. Yeah. After the war was over.

24 Q. Oh, okay.

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2 A. The war in Europe.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. But to get ahead of the story but
5 we were -- we were destined after the war in Europe
6 was over they -- they told us we were going to
7 be -- make the airborne invasion in Japan you know,
8 the whole way. Jump us all in.

9 And it was -- it would be shipped
10 to the United States as soon as they could, you
11 know, make arrangements. We were going to get a
12 thirty day furlough we were supposed to be in San
13 Diego in thirty days. Get on the ship and head for
14 some island, I don't know which one to get ready
15 for the airborne invasion in Japan.

16 So, nothing was mentioned about
17 gliders. Nothing was mentioned about jumping, you
18 see. So, they had a jump school down in Moshier,
19 France and outside of town. And so we signed up,
20 we went to jump school. Ten days, we had our
21 wings, five jumps. Come back, this was August, I
22 believe we come back. And all of a sudden Japanese
23 surrendered, see.

24 So, we wanted to go back on

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2 glider status because glider pay, regardless of
3 what the book says, glider pay was fifty percent of
4 base. All right? The more rank you got, more
5 stripes, okay, the more money you got. So, if you
6 were a Corporal, you made more money than a jumper
7 made, because a jumper was a -- was a flat fifty
8 dollars no matter what rank you were.

9 And the book, "Band of Brothers"
10 Book said that the jumpers made more, you know,
11 made more money which was wrong. There's a lot of
12 inconsistencies in the -- in the book.

13 So, anyway, we got to -- that's
14 when I got to see Stone Hedge between --.

15 Our next -- our next -- our next
16 campaign was Holland, Netherlands Market Garden.
17 And we made two or three drive-ups to the airport.
18 What we were supposed to do -- we were supposed to
19 go to -- in France -- we were supposed to jump in,
20 glide in, whatever, and open up a big area for
21 Patton to come in and get ammunition, gasoline,
22 oil, they need twelve hours of rest of whatever for
23 his tankers. And we're supposed to have this whole
24 big area secured. And we got down to the airport,

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2 we got all lined up ready to pull -- we had the
3 Jeep and the glider and -- tied down. And I said,
4 you already past that spot. He was going so
5 fast -- so then we went back -- we went back to
6 the -- our -- our Watkins Farm and the next thing
7 you know, well, Patton needs to get some --
8 resupplied. So, back to the airport we go, you
9 know. We get all set, tie the Jeep in -- into the
10 glider, everything is all set. He passed it, see.
11 So now we're getting ticked off. Go back to
12 Watkins Farm. Monty Montgomery took him into
13 Market Garden and of course that's history and that
14 was a bad decision.

15 Ike wanted to go up to Antwerp
16 because we needed the port at Antwerp. I mean PFC
17 I know we needed the port at Antwerp, see. Because
18 we got -- get me supplied for you know, Germany.

19 So, anyway, we got down in there
20 and to the airport and it was a devil, it was a go.
21 We -- our pilot was -- the rumor was that these
22 were Air Force pilots but they were wash out --
23 wash outs from flight school. All right? So, they
24 put them in the glider, glider pilot, which was

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2 comforting. They -- the co-pilot now in training,
3 the co-pilot was the highest-ranking officer in the
4 glider that have to get on board in the glider.
5 And we went to Holland. My captain was the -- was
6 the co-pilot and he didn't say anything about
7 flying the glider, see. And we have -- we had
8 nylon rope which I believed they said if you had
9 one hundred feet of nylon rope, when you took off,
10 it would stretch beyond one third. And then when
11 you get it up in the air and cruising it was
12 stretched one-third of its -- lower of its -- of
13 its length see.

14 So you -- for one hundred feet
15 you have one hundred and thirty-three feet or if it
16 was two hundred feet you know, sixty-six. So --
17 then there was a telephone wire wrapped around --
18 wrapped around the two rope. And the two pilots
19 were talking to one another. Not one single tow
20 rope was intact two minutes after we left the
21 ground. They snapped, the rope would stretch just
22 so far and the telephone wire would snap and that
23 was --.

24 So, we took off and regrouped, a

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2 **big circle. And we left the -- left door in the**
3 **runway in England so we wouldn't get airsick. And**
4 **Hiltz (phonetic spelling) was in -- the radio**
5 **head -- the radio operator was Hiltz, I think he's**
6 **from Missouri. And I was in the driver's seat of**
7 **the jeep and of course the gas tank was right under**
8 **me. And we had an extra barracks bag in back. I**
9 **had -- I had a two piece radio like this. One was**
10 **receiver I guess, the other was sender. We had**
11 **that. And you know whatever stuff we had, barracks**
12 **bags -- not barracks bags particularly, but**
13 **bedrolls, blankets, you know, equipment we needed.**
14 **The Captain was up as co-pilot and we started and**
15 **all of a sudden we --.**

16 Q. How many were on board?

17 A. Just -- well, the pilot, Captain
18 **Williams (phonetic spelling) as co-pilot, myself,**
19 **and Darrel.**

20 Q. So this was more like a command
21 glider? You had the officer and his jeep on board?

22 A. That was my jeep.

23 Q. Well --.

24 A. Yeah, the officer -- yeah. He

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2 was -- there's so much. I was -- I was in the
3 driver section motor pool until we got a letter. I
4 immediately went from there in my jeep, got
5 everything I had -- supposed to get. Got the
6 officer, got the radio operator, and we were three
7 man section, the Liaison section. Our code was
8 lucky one, first the Liaison section. We had two
9 Liaison. And we were responsible for two forward
10 observers. Each of the Liaison section was
11 responsible for two photo observer sections. And
12 the Liaison officer was a captain and the photo
13 observer officers were lieutenants, can be first or
14 second. And the forward observer had a radio
15 operator and he was a sergeant.

16 And we were responsible. My job
17 was to take care of him. Make sure they had
18 ammunition, they had radio batteries, they had
19 radio, they had food, they had drinking water. And
20 if one -- if they got shot up, I had -- look for
21 another one a radio operator or an officer or
22 whatever it was. And try to bring the wounded man
23 back if he wasn't already in the aide station in
24 the infantry.

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2 And I had to keep them supplied
3 and I would go night and day. And I slept many
4 nights in the jeep, sitting up.

5 So, anyway, we got up in the air,
6 we hit this fog bank right over the channel. We
7 could see probably a total -- not as far as that
8 wall down there (indicating). That's all we saw.
9 All right. Maybe fifty feet.

10 To be up like this, going right
11 up, see the -- it was hooked up, up here the -- the
12 coupling. It came off the back of this -- the tug
13 shoe and when you want to release you throw the
14 handle in the cup and you go and of course the rope
15 being stretched out had snapped back like a rubber
16 band back to the tug ship. And you can see the
17 rope and all you could see was going over the --
18 the -- the cockpit, the Plexiglas and caught me up
19 like his (indicating). And you'd have to pull
20 back.

21 We had the wait before the CG-48
22 gliders. They had to hate to tender something
23 which had a stick, nobody liked that. They found
24 out they had better control, like a steering wheel

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2 type, you know, that came down from up there.

3 And the -- the glider pilot was fighting the
4 glider. My captain was hollering to up -- up, then
5 the tow roping people here. Ordered me over shear.
6 Or it would be -- go right straight down the nose
7 of the glider, down -- down, and of course we
8 got -- that tug ship must have had a hell of a
9 time, you know, trying to keep -- keep himself
10 going straight. And we dived -- and then he level
11 off a little bit by guess work. First thing you
12 know his tow rope would be out and then all of a
13 sudden, we were going down too fast, we didn't
14 know.

15 Q. How well was that jeep tied down?

16 A. I tied it. Okay? And we had
17 what we call baker's knots. And it's not even a
18 rope. A baker's knot is great. I used a Baker's
19 bow line. I have a tie -- and baker's -- baker's
20 not okay. Around a handle, tied down in the
21 glider. And then I tie one -- a baker's knot here
22 (indicating). And try to explain it, I use the two
23 knots as pulleys and I pull up -- boy would that
24 tighten the rope on it. Wow.

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2 Of course the glider pilot when
3 he got in -- got ready to go in, he checked
4 everyone one of my knots. Every single one. And I
5 was waiting for him to say something. Now a
6 glider, it's got a tubular -- all those tubes as
7 part of the framework. There's a fabric on the
8 outside that -- that was somewhat to fabric you'd
9 have on a model airplane, you know, it's very
10 simple. And then it had a plywood bottom, the
11 bottom

12 it was probably hollow inside.

13 We had two ramps in a glider that
14 you would loaded and unloaded become ramps. And
15 well I had it tied on enough.

16 And our barge binder stuff you
17 know, I tied what I could tie. Sometimes you have
18 to stick rope and stuff to tie something like that.
19 But I didn't care. And we got May west -- we call
20 May west -- they were inflatable PFD's -- we called
21 them -- we called them something else.

22 Anyway, we cleared the fog. We
23 lost suddenly seven gliders in the fog. We lost
24 our nine battery the headquarters and service

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2 battery. He went down the channel. We had head on
3 collisions, we had gliders that were tearing their
4 wings off on each other. You couldn't see
5 anything, you know?

6 By the time you saw the glider
7 next to you, where it came up behind your or
8 something, it's too late. And we cleared, lower
9 strands we got into Belgium and somewhere in there
10 we started to get small arms fire. And we had
11 the -- the company executive officer. We already
12 lost the company command -- or the Battery
13 commander, we lost him in a channel.

14 The executive officer he had
15 driver. He was little bit -- what I call, you
16 know, his name was Polls come from the hills
17 some -- either Tennessee or Kentucky, some place
18 like that. And he had a machine gun mounted on his
19 jeep, see. and the shaft went down to the floor
20 and bolted to the dashboard and he had a thirty
21 caliber machine gun air cooled.

22 They come in for a landing and
23 strafing. I mean, that draws fire, see? And the
24 lieutenant you know, the -- the executive officer,

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2 I'm hollering at him but he can't even hear,
3 machines going off, the wind is going through the
4 glider and all that. And -- excuse me -- Court
5 Marshall.

6 So, anyway, we had bullets going
7 through our glider. And you know we get a bullet
8 once in awhile. What they did is they aim at the
9 tug ship and the lead was automatic and the rider.
10 So, every once in awhile a bullet would go through
11 and you'd hear the pop going through the fabric
12 see. Well I could take -- don't hit that
13 framework, you know, then we'll be in trouble.

14 So we were at -- we were at
15 probably thousand feet -- one thousand -- I just
16 don't remember. Anyway, we went -- we were
17 going -- we were going -- coming along at so
18 many -- so many feet and the tug ship decided to
19 drop down to eliminate -- the -- the Anti-air-craft
20 guns, you know less of a target. And we had to
21 follow him, you know? And we're going along, we're
22 about three hundred feet off the ground. Sitting
23 here you look down and see these guys aiming at
24 you, you know, shoot -- and the -- anyway he drops

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2 down like this (indicating) and all of a sudden a
3 whole bunch of bullets go through the glider
4 machine. And I turn around and look at Hiltz, to
5 see if he's okay, and his face is all blood. So I
6 reach around the seat, and I got the strap --
7 because there's a safety strap over here. And I
8 reach around to get to my first aid packs, see?

9 I'm fine, he waved me off. He
10 says (laughter).

11 So anyway, we cut -- now the --
12 now the word we got in England was that the -- the
13 Dutch underground -- or Dutch resistance. We're
14 supposed to have, make sure the whole corn field
15 was cut and stacked, you know and we're going to
16 land in that corn field. Well doing the big screw
17 up going over the channel in the fog we weren't in
18 the position that we were supposed to be up -- up
19 here in the front. We were supposed to spear head
20 this -- our glider won't be on of the spearheads.
21 And we were back away.

22 The gliders over head touched on
23 the ground only cleared half of the field. And the
24 German army drove them off, see. So of course the

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2 first gliders, they got the open field. By the
3 time we got there Captain Williams tapped glider
4 pilot on the shoulder said you know, point it down
5 as we're supposed to land. Lucky that we're
6 looking too, it's all corn stalks, I mean, they
7 didn't cut the corn. So he cuts low and he cuts up
8 like this, and he comes up like this, we had enough
9 speed, okay? Comes up like this and I'm looking
10 right at the cornstalks outside the door, and we
11 come down and we hit the ground, just a beautiful
12 job. We hit the door you couldn't see anyway. The
13 cornstalks in front of us they were high, you know.
14 Cornstalks in emergency door, you know, and you
15 couldn't hear too much. And all of a sudden, bang,
16 we stop dead. We're like this. Our Artillery
17 shell hole crater we dropped into that. And of
18 course everything has stopped. You -- you could
19 hear a pin drop. The captain holler up, make for
20 the woods to the left. Make for the woods. Forget
21 the Jeep, head to the woods.

22 I'm out, I'm the first one out, I
23 went out through the emergency door. I run then I
24 come back to the Jeep, I wanted to make sure Hiltz

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2 was getting out. He -- he's out, he goes out the
3 other side though. He took the door and out the
4 other side. He goes, it was too hard for him to
5 get out the side that I went out. And we went over
6 to the woods.

7 Finally the three of us got
8 together. The pilot -- he finds us, he comes over.
9 He takes off his may west he still got it on, takes
10 off his may west hands it to me, you can have this.
11 Takes his shoulder holster with a forty-five in it,
12 hands it to me, he says you can have this. He says
13 which was is Zahn (phonetic spelling) I says,
14 straight that way. Zahn is the village. It's a --
15 we pronounce it Zahn but it's Zahn. And he says
16 okay, here take all this stuff. I says, what are
17 you going to do -- what are you going to do? He
18 says, I'm waiting for Zahn. I'm going back to the
19 American lines. I said, you're not going to make
20 it. And he says, I'll make it. And he takes off.
21 We don't know what happened to him. We don't know.

22 But I had his forty-five. You
23 know his shoulder holster. I -- I like that -- I
24 liked that deal. And he gave me something else

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2 besides that a may west I didn't want that. Oh, a
3 flight jacket. May west gave me the flight jacket.
4 Which wound up that I picked up every flight jacket
5 that I could find that laid on the floor of the
6 jeep in case I ran over a mine, you know? Some
7 type of protection.

8 So, that night jet planes came
9 over. We were eating some rations we brought with
10 us you know. The -- the K rations were ten and
11 one's, I forget what it was. The ten and one is
12 ten -- ten men one meal or one man ten meals, right
13 on the crate.

14 So, we had something to eat. The
15 Captain gets all the -- or I help him myself and he
16 says we got to get a couple more guys he says and
17 we got to go out and get that jeep. And I -- I
18 looked at him and I said holy Jesus. And I said,
19 the -- the thing was like this (indicating), the
20 tail was above the cattails. And it made a great
21 aiming point for the enemy you know? They could
22 see the tail, they know there's people around the
23 grounds there some place. So we got -- it was
24 nighttime and fortunately there only was a little

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2 **burrowing you know, but not much. And we went.**

3 **We got to the -- we got to the**
4 **glider and Captain brought two -- two guys and he**
5 **had himself, Hiltz, and two other guys. And they**
6 **could pull the tail down see, which was good. That**
7 **means was can get the jeep out.**

8 **So, he says to me he said now get**
9 **in there, and he said get some of those knots of**
10 **yours untied. We're going to get this jeep out**
11 **tonight.**

12 **Q. Let me -- let me stop you right**
13 **there.**

14 **A. Sure.**

15 **Q. We've got to change tapes.**

16 **MR. SHEPPARD: So, I -- I was**
17 **untying the ropes and you know you -- you try to be**
18 **quiet. They must have heard something because they**
19 **started to shoot some squirrel on fire, you know.**
20 **And they were -- we had to crank the cockpit --**
21 **there was a cover for the cockpit -- the nose of**
22 **the glider so we could get the jeep out. And when**
23 **they cranked that all the -- the steering, the**
24 **controls go up with the hood.**

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2 I was ready. We got the -- the
3 tail down. And I looked -- I had to climb up like
4 this just to -- and I said holy Jesus, I don't know
5 if it's going to make it or not. So the Captain
6 checked with me and he says, "What do you think?"
7 I said, "You can -- you can drop this tail down a
8 little bit more I think I can get out." So he
9 says, "Now, we don't want to me make any noise."
10 we were making all kinds of noise. So he pulled it
11 down, I said, "That's good, that's good."

12 So, I said, "Is everybody ready?"
13 "Yeah." I didn't hear high range, through low gear
14 put my foot down and you know hit it, the sucker
15 started right up, you know fast as I'd ever seen --
16 the jeep wanted out of there too, see. And popped
17 and grabbed -- popped the clutch, it went right up,
18 front wheels, you know hit the ground. The Captain
19 said keep going, he said don't wait for us. So of
20 course by then machine gun small arms fire. They
21 held down -- the tail is down, you know? They let
22 go and the tail pops up. And they ran for the
23 woods and we made it. And no casualties.

24 Now, understand that while living

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2 in Normandy we couldn't have any pictures. The
3 only ID we could have were the dog tags. No money,
4 no wallet, no nothing. And we can't -- you know,
5 no letters from home. But when we went into
6 Holland we could bring anything just about. And I
7 had sent home for a camera when I got back from
8 Normandy, got back to Lincoln Farm. And my dad sent
9 me this camera see.

10 And it was a 1920's -- one of
11 these things, a flat -- you know and you -- and you
12 open it up and then you pull this accordion type
13 thing out; do you know what I'm talking about?

14 Well, I didn't know it and he
15 didn't know it he didn't -- but the corners were --
16 were fractures and it left light in. Anyway, I had
17 a camera, such as it was. You'll see the pictures.

18 So, when we got our orders for
19 the next day, we had to go in and help the infantry
20 get into Zahn and you know, capture -- take the
21 town and liberate it more or less. And that's what
22 we did. And the next morning we walked to town. I
23 camouflaged the jeep and walked to town. I had a
24 camouflaged net and we walked to town and we did

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2 our share of chasing the enemy out -- out of Zahn.

3 And from there we went to Eindhoven later, which is
4 a larger town, and larger village I should say,
5 almost like a city. We did that.

6 And then they -- then they had to
7 go up -- I guess they called it the Red Ball
8 Highway and we had to go -- we went straight on up
9 to Niemagen but we had to fight our way up.
10 Every -- every inch of the way we had to find -- we
11 were like infantry half the time. And when we --
12 we opened the road -- half a mile or so, we turned
13 over to the British and then we keep going. And
14 then we turned some more over to the British. And
15 they had tanks in there and they had infantry.

16 Pretty soon we hear, the Germans
17 cut the rope. We had to turn around and go back.
18 Now, every tank -- British tank that we saw on the
19 very back end of the tank they had a -- they had a
20 hook there, we used to call it the pintle --
21 P-I-N-T-L-E. And they'd hook on a trailer or a --
22 they could tow another tank or something, you know.
23 And on the back it was a tea kettle. They'd stop
24 and have their tea and that's the honest God's

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2 truth. What's going on? They had to have their
3 tea so, anyway, we get up to -- we had some -- we
4 had some fierce battles. We finally got up to the
5 Niemagen Bridge and they -- they -- Germans try to
6 blow the bridge. They succeeded, some sections.
7 Then they put the artillery onto it, but anyway, we
8 got across. We're talking an island. Now, we saw
9 windmills and all kinds of things.

10 We get onto this island, now this
11 island is -- is an island. It's -- oh jeez, I
12 don't know how -- how long it was. It wasn't very
13 wide, but a river came like from Germany came --
14 came to this island and the river split. And one
15 leg of the river was the WAAL W-A-A-L, the other
16 leg was the grade, G-R-A-D-E.

17 And it goes both side of the
18 island and meet again and I guess it went out to
19 sea we got on this island and I really saw the
20 first serious dike -- when I say serious -- I --
21 And I kept thinking, I said, jeez, how far is --
22 how far is the ocean from here? He says it's a
23 little ways. He says, do you really want to walk
24 it? I said, I think I saw it all there. Yeah,

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2 it's all there. And I said, why don't the Germans
3 blow the dike? They'll flood us right out? He
4 says, that's a good question. He said, we talked
5 to -- down at headquarters, the division
6 headquarters, and certainly expect the dike to be
7 blown. And he said there's nothing we can do about
8 it if it's blown, you know, we're just going to get
9 washed out. They never blew it.

10 And I lost a jeep. I had a jeep,
11 I lost that sucker up there. I had to take the
12 section. They lost the driver in their jeep. They
13 never know what the hell happened to it. He never
14 came back. And the executive officer, Lieutenant I
15 think it's DePours (phonetic spelling), he asked
16 me, where is my boss? He says if they can borrow
17 me and the jeep for about an hour -- hour and a
18 half to lay new wire. So get communication up to
19 the photo observers which were in a three story
20 farm house up by the dike.

21 So, the captain says sure. So
22 they -- they got the framework, they had two spools
23 of wire on it. Like they got in the back, the two
24 guys climbed in and away we went. They knew where

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2 to go.

3 So, this guy -- I guess he was a
4 Sergeant or a Corporal, he says, okay, stop right
5 here. He said park -- let's park under that tree.
6 Okay. So they unloaded everything and they were
7 going to start out. And he says, okay, you wait
8 here. I said, "Like hell." I said, "I'm going with
9 you guys, I'm not staying here by myself." So, I
10 went with them, and they started to lay the wire.
11 The wire got -- I don't know burned or something, I
12 don't know.

13 So, they made a little bit too
14 much noise and this -- here's the dike, okay? The
15 dike is here, the river's here, the dike over here
16 (indicating throughout), the German's are over
17 there, they're watching us through their binoculars
18 or whatever they're using and we're watching them,
19 see.

20 And our guys are watching them.
21 So, I called up - I looked over, I didn't see
22 anything. So, I slid back down and by then -- oh
23 yeah, I had a -- picked up a Thompson submachine
24 gun. I left the carbine and left it there and I

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2 had the Thompson clip see.

3 So we started -- started to lay
4 the one and we made too much noise and boy did they
5 open up on us. Oh my jeez, with tracers, they set
6 the haystack on fire, they set the barn on fire.
7 All right? And here we are, broad daylight just
8 about. And we got the wire down, the knew wire --
9 mortars started to come in. Mortar fire. And it was
10 quite a bit of it. In fact it stopped, it was cold
11 wind, and we had to flatten right out. Go back to
12 the jeep and I got you know maybe one hundred feet
13 from the jeep and I smell gasoline. So I says, oh
14 Jesus. Arty says, "What's the matter?" I said, "I
15 smell gas, do you smell it?" He says, "Yeah. Is it
16 the Jeep?" I said, "Jeez, we didn't -- we didn't
17 see any other machinery up in here." So, we got up
18 there, sure enough they hit the -- they didn't hit
19 the gas tank, they hit the five gallon tank on the
20 back. They ruined the spare tire hanging off the
21 back. It had holes in the side on the back. It
22 had -- so I says, let's make a run for it. So, we
23 ran back and got back there and the engine seized.
24 They -- they -- they got the radiator, the block or

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2 something. I don't know.

3 And of course I caught hell for
4 that, from the Motor pool sergeant. I didn't like
5 him, he didn't liked me, you know right -- excuse
6 me from day one.

7 And the -- the battalion Motor
8 sergeant he was a good guy. And he said I will get
9 you another Jeep. So that would be jeep number
10 three. So I got a new jeep. And then we -- I woke
11 up one morning with malnutrition. This general and
12 I we were -- we were in a small railroad station.
13 We bunked there rather than sneak -- dig in the
14 dirt and sleep in that.

15 We bunked in a railroad station,
16 which is not very smart, it's like being in church
17 steeple. And woke up and said Jesus he says,
18 you're like yellow jaundice. He says, look in the
19 mirror, since we were hanging at the train station.
20 I looked, and boy, my eye balls were yellow, my
21 face was yellow. And I says, stay the hell away
22 from me. At that time we've got to get some chow
23 so went to -- went right to -- we had a aide
24 station. You know, we had a medical detachment

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2 with us, it was a Captain, sergeant, and a PFC. I
3 went in, they said holy jeez.

4 So they checked me all over, I
5 didn't have -- I didn't have yellow jaundice. I
6 had - he said malnutrition from the British
7 rations. We're on British rations. Oh, jeez, that
8 stuff you know, and soda crackers that had no
9 taste. Tea, they never heard of coffee. But those
10 were the rations.

11 So, they made arrangements for me
12 to get down to the church, this medical officer.
13 Took me down to the church where the minister, his
14 wife, and his son and daughter were in the -- in
15 the house, which was part of the church. To make a
16 long story short, I wound up in the steeple, and I
17 had to bunk up there and they brought me a gallon
18 of raw cow's milk, raw cow -- unpasteurized, you
19 know and long from the cow yet, and I had to drink
20 as much of that as I could handle. And I was there
21 like maybe three days -- two days anyway I was
22 there, and I cleared up, you see. And then we
23 started to get American rations. The word went out
24 that spread like wild fire through the division.

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2 Hey, this one guy got malnutrition from the British
3 food, so somebody did something you know, to get us
4 American rations.

5 We had our -- things quieted
6 down. We had screaming mimi's which was rockets.
7 And you could hear when they left, the rocket
8 tubes, they'd start screaming and then they'd go
9 way up in the air and they'd come down. And it
10 would scream, it would drive you right out of your
11 mind. You'd sit there and you'd plug your ears.
12 And one hit between -- I had a little dug out
13 there, it's like a slit trench between -- along
14 side the jeep, between the jeep left rear wheel and
15 my little dug out there, just maybe this much. And
16 that one rocket hit right down, right between us.
17 Never exploded or anything. Never hit the wheel on
18 the jeep, or me, or anything else. But boy, the
19 scream is a -- it's a morale -- morale buster, see.

20 And anyway they brought us
21 Thanksgiving dinner up there. We were still on the
22 island. All on the island. They brought us -- we
23 had a Thanksgiving dinner and I -- I no longer
24 washed my mess kit and they said pack up Sheppard,

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2 taking Captain White back to Morralon your the
3 advance party. See, we are pulling out and pull
4 back. R&R.

5 So, that suited me fine. So,
6 anyway, he and I got started. And we got to -- we
7 were coming into Brussels. And I saw this statute,
8 I said, that's got to be King Leopold -- you know,
9 on the horse. Oh, I stopped and took the picture,
10 you know. It was getting dark, I took the picture.
11 And he directed me to the Officer Billet where all
12 the officer's stayed. And he said, "Drop me off
13 here." He said, "Go find yourself a place to
14 stay." He says, "Pick me up at nine -- 9:30
15 tomorrow morning. Pick me up right here." Okay.

16 So I got into Brussels, I was
17 moving around, finally found a compound, and I
18 parked my jeep, I got out, they took care of my
19 jeep for me if you park it there. And I had the
20 forty-five shoulder holster and the Thompson
21 submachine gun, I'm walking around Brussels.
22 Nobody stopped me. Nobody stopped me.

23 I had dispatch in my pocket you
24 know. If MP or anybody stopped me or questioned me

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2 or anything I showed them my dispatch. I found a
3 place to get some chow, had to pay for it.
4 And I really didn't have to you know, but I could
5 have made a big issue, but I paid for it. And got
6 to a gin mill, this a tavern. I don't know where
7 the hell I slept. I don't have no idea where I
8 slept. But I know when I woke up it was kind of
9 late. Boy I took off.

10 Finally got directions where the
11 jeep was, got the jeep and they -- they released
12 it. I picked up Captain White, oh, he looked
13 horrible, he must have been partying all night
14 long, you know. Took him -- we got back to
15 Moormalon and I got a good place to stay, I know
16 that. I got a horse stable, two of us were in a
17 horse stable, two men to a stable. And the rest of
18 the division, the battalion got back. And we
19 hadn't even turned in our -- we didn't get fresh
20 clothes yet. We got plenty food. All we could
21 eat. And they set the kitchen all set up by the
22 time we got there. And we picked up some -- extra
23 blankets if we needed them or not.

24 Never turned in our guns, never

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2 turned in our ammo, or our grenades. And we had to
3 go out one morning about ten days later, or two
4 weeks later and -- and what else did Sergeant say.
5 He says -- we get lined up for roll call you know.
6 And the sergeant says, you guys put on your
7 fighting clothes. We're leaving. And that's what
8 he said. He says get ready he says to bring your
9 barracks in and all that.

10 He says to me, he says, "Shep,
11 can you get down to the mess hall?" He says, "You
12 get yourself your breakfast. Pick up some rations
13 at the supply tent, he says turn in your stuff to
14 the supply room. Take what you can for combat."
15 And he says, "Go pick Captain Williams, you've got
16 to pick him up in an hour."

17 I picked him up, he gets in, we
18 take off, he tells me which way to turn. I says,
19 "Where are we going, Captain?" He says, "Bastogne."
20 I said, "What the hell is that?" And that was the
21 start of Bastogne. We stopped -- we got what they
22 call a transit, mess tank. The military if they
23 were in transit from one area to another area you
24 know? You got coffee and -- and food and water to

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2 go to the bathroom.

3 So we hit one of those. We got
4 into Bastogne that night. As we were coming into
5 the outskirts we could see these guys coming up on
6 both sides of the road, and they were -- they
7 were -- their heads were bandaged, blood and arms
8 they were wounded, they limped, some had a homemade
9 crutch and they said, you guys are going the wrong
10 way -- you're going the wrong way. And then I got
11 up a little bit further he says, "Holy Jesus,
12 they're from the 101st airborne." We were going
13 into town, they were leaving the whole area.

14 **A. I mean just rows of them, one**
15 **right after the other. I never thought to ask them**
16 **for -- do you have any extra ammo? The infantry**
17 **didn't have any ammo.**

18 **And I never thought to ask him.**
19 **So, I didn't know exactly where to go. We got into**
20 **this big stone building, pieces of stone farm like**
21 **this, see. And I think -- I'm almost -- I'm**
22 **ninety-nine percent sure that Captain Williams and**
23 **I were the first two guys from the one hundred and**
24 **first airborne to get into Bastogne because we had**

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2 to go to this big building which was the command
3 center. And the anti tank guys I never saw anybody
4 with the 101st patch. And Captain was in there for
5 about two hours. When he come out he took off and
6 he had to -- where every part of our division --
7 the -- the infantry regiments, the -- the signals,
8 the wire and everything. You're going to go there,
9 you're going go there, you're going to go here,
10 you're going back that way. He had to know that.

11 And he wanted to take -- I had to
12 take him over to a certain spot in the country. In
13 suburbia we would call it. And on the way pretty
14 soon this other jeep rolls up and he has a shoulder
15 patch which I didn't recognize. And two of them
16 were working out this and working out that. And it
17 was dark and they told me to go find a place to
18 sleep. So I went to an apple orchard. And I still
19 had the camouflage net with me. I threw that on
20 the ground. I threw my rain shelter half down and
21 I was warm because I mean and I laid down and I
22 went to sleep. And when I woke up it was dusting
23 of snow and everything.

24 So, I hadn't eat, I just started

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2 the jeep up, loaded the -- loaded the camouflage
3 net on there. And went up looking for the Captain.
4 And he says -- he says, "Shep, you're not going to
5 need that today." He says, "Winter time, they
6 won't be here for awhile." So I abandoned that.
7 And then it started -- that started.

8 BY MR. RUSSERT:

9 Q. Did you have winter gear?

10 A. No. But one thing -- when I was
11 in Holland and it just started to get cold, see, so
12 when I wrote a letter home and I wrote my dad I
13 said, dad, send me some long underwear, see. So,
14 when I got back -- when I got back from R&R from
15 Holland, before I left for Bastogne, they had a
16 package for me there. It was long underwear, it
17 was one piece, you know. But it was -- and I just
18 unwrapped it and I stuck it in my zip bag and boy
19 was I glad I brought that. It will come in handy.
20 But I got cold -- I got plenty cold. And I got
21 hungry. But the infantry had it bad. They really
22 had it bad. These guys were wet. They couldn't
23 build fire, even a small one. They couldn't light
24 their cook stove, the little one burner cook stove.

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2 They couldn't light those. They couldn't smoke.
3 They had to throw -- the shelter half over top of
4 them if they wanted to light a cigarette or
5 something like that, you know, you could do it out
6 in the open. These poor guys were -- were -- they
7 really had it miserable.

8 And that was the beginning of
9 Bastogne.

10 I think -- I get in on -- get in
11 there -- General and I got in there on the 17th. I
12 think it was the 17th of December of '44. And I
13 don't know if we spent a full day there before the
14 rest of the division got there. I'm not sure of
15 that. But they came in by truck, open bed truck.
16 These guys were freezing and tractor-trailers come
17 and they're pulling cattle in the trailers.

18 They got there and we went on the
19 attack. And -- you're all right?

20 And we started up the road for in
21 Nobell and we went by this little Hamlet. There
22 was a string of houses that were wall to wall.
23 The -- the wall on the outside wall of one house
24 was the outside wall of the other house, you know

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2 what I mean? And it just went like this.

3 And we were there and then I
4 recognized Reeman -- Sam Reeman (phonetic spelling)
5 who got a letter just -- he had a letter waiting
6 for him when we got back from Holland. They
7 brought the mail to him and his wife had the baby
8 you know? And he was telling me about it. And we
9 were standing in a room and an artillery shell
10 comes in. And he and I were as close as you are
11 right now and the rest of the guys are in the
12 ditch, see, we were standing in the road. An
13 artillery shell comes in and takes his head off,
14 from here, from just below -- took from here, and
15 just a little part of the cheek and up top like
16 this, and of course he hit the -- he hit the road
17 like -- crashed down. And therein lies and I never
18 got scratched or anything, you know? And Sam went
19 down, I heard the helmet hit, I turned around and I
20 went to him and I says, I looked at him and he says
21 to me, Shep, am I hit bad? And like a jerk, I
22 said, "Yeah, Sam," and that was it.

23 I felt so bad now because here he
24 had to -- his -- his wife and -- Sam should never

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2 have been in the army. If he had, he should have
3 been back in bookkeeping some place,
4 administration. He was a real nice guy. His
5 buddy, Shats (phonetic spelling) -- Shats from
6 Brooklyn, and Shats took it awful bad. They were
7 both Jewish. He took it bad.

8 And then I hear -- then I hear
9 artillery shots started coming in 88's. Then I
10 heard somebody screaming down on that road. He
11 had -- "keep off the road," you know, for safety.
12 Worse, because he and I -- you know, we got along
13 pretty good even though he's a Colonel. And the
14 young guy in the ditch says, "Hey, is that your
15 sister talking to you?" Shells are coming in three
16 at a time, bang, bang, bang. And there was a
17 delay, you know, I guess they were loading. So, I
18 waited for the third one and I jumped up, I left
19 the jeep running, jumped in sand went right
20 around -- swung around and these houses are brick,
21 you know. it was about as good a place as any and I
22 waited.

23 And finally Captain Williams said
24 were bound to I don't know if he said to go back or

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2 what. But he said, we're down we -- and he said --
3 I guess I went back you know, and later for him
4 call. He called the CP and the CP said -- I had a
5 net, sleeping bag there and a couple extra
6 blankets. Like a little stove, I had that. I had
7 to hide that in the hay. Then when I got chance,
8 that's where I took a nap. They're always knew
9 where to find me.

10 And I was going -- I was going.
11 Didn't make any difference, night -- night or day,
12 you know. I -- I was -- he tell me to standby, I'd
13 standby, and sometimes I'd sleep sitting up in a
14 jeep I would put the shelter half and a couple
15 blankets, just sit there and doze off and one of
16 the guys would wake me up.

17 And I had to take an overlay,
18 which is a map -- change of positions. I don't
19 know if you know what an overlay is. Okay.
20 Overlay if they change something up there or
21 something change back at battalion you know I was
22 running these things back and forth, rations and
23 whatever.

24 And actually I got one time I got

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2 a chance to take a bath. You know, I got a couple
3 helmets of water and you know heated and I got sort
4 of a wash. So, then -- then one night I spent up
5 there and I don't remember where I slept. But in
6 daylight I left, and I had to go back with -- I
7 don't even know what I went back with. And they
8 say you can't go back on the roads -- the roads
9 been cut off. You know? So, I had a favorite
10 spot, I had broken through the gate -- a gate in a
11 pasture and I went right straight and I went to the
12 woods and I found a fire trail -- a fire break -- I
13 found a fire break down right to the end, and then
14 I would swing out into the open field. And then if
15 I bear right, I'd get right up on the road, see,
16 this road.

17 The first time I'd ever been on
18 it, see, but I knew I had to go left. So I took a
19 left. And then going along, and I went -- I come
20 to this little Hamlet. And I forget the name. And
21 come along like this and then all of a sudden you
22 drop down, and a sharp turn at the bottom. Well up
23 here, it was like a - a place for firewood, it was
24 a building -- a building. And it was a farm house

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2 that was up on here. And then right here there was
3 a laid up stone wall, cobble stone wall. Over here
4 was a two-story barn, black. And I get down and I
5 go around, shoot down a straight line, just as
6 straight as an arrow. Right at the end was a hard
7 left, and you had to go up the hill like this
8 (indicating). And you could almost see the CP from
9 there, the artillery CP.

10 And this one morning I went down
11 through there, I had been over this thing like
12 three or four times, you know, I used it for an
13 escape route like. And I came along and it was
14 snow, we had -- we had enough snow, the road was
15 packed. And I came and something caught my eye, it
16 was a mussel breaker here of a bands a tank
17 sticking out from this little patch of woods. All
18 I could see was the mussel breaker on the end. I
19 couldn't stop, there was no way I could stop. So,
20 I went around and turned like this and as I stepped
21 on it, there's twelve to fifteen German soldiers
22 lined up with a fire going, okay? In the front of
23 this barn. The barn and the road, and they had the
24 fire going, and their rifles all stacked in threes,

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2 you know. They stack them in threes.

3 They looked at me, I looked at
4 them and I floored the jeep like this and I get
5 down at the end, made the turn. I don't know how I
6 ever got around the turn without going over the
7 ditch, and the first artillery shot hit. As I
8 started up, hit behind me. Well, it must have been
9 a awful soft snow deep or it must have been soft
10 ground because as far as I know there wasn't a hell
11 of a lot of schrapnel that I came of this thing the
12 88's. I heard the bang, it exploded and then you
13 heard it you know. They must have loaded like hell
14 because I was still going up the hill, I still had
15 all -- everything. You know, I had my head, and I
16 had my arms and everything. They already had hit
17 the jeep. I just got over the crest of the hill
18 and the second one went. Right over my head like a
19 freight train.

20 I get back to battalion. I told
21 Major Henderson (phonetic spelling). He -- he was
22 a good buddy of mine, I mean he was a prince, this
23 guy. And I told him S-2 Captain Perkins (phonetic
24 spelling) he and I didn't get along, nobody got

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2 along with Perkins. And he was standing there, I
3 was telling Major Henderson. I says, the tower is
4 occupied by Germans and a tank. There's about a
5 twelve or fifteen of them and they got a tank there
6 in a clump of trees. "Oh, no, that's ours,"
7 Perkins, said. "Oh, we -- that's our, our men are
8 in there." I said no there not. After we went back
9 and forth, Perkins and I, Major said, I'll send
10 infantry down have them investigate.

11 Two days later when I got back to
12 the CP, Perkins comes over and apologizes. He
13 says, "You were right, I was wrong." I never -- I
14 just turned around and walked away and left. I
15 didn't say nothing to him. But -- yeah, that was
16 close.

17 Then we had -- had to bring up
18 another officer or two -- a general officer a
19 forward observer officer. The one who head up
20 there, the second story he got a piece of shrapnel
21 and it went into his ear and into head, and it
22 killed him. And I had to bring another officer up.
23 And I said, where -- where the hell did the
24 shrapnel come from? He says second floor the --

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2 over the top of the windowsill. I said, okay
3 that's a German tank.

4 But he was -- this time the --
5 the -- the gun -- or the artillery on the piece of
6 the 88 wasn't pointed at the house it was pointed
7 off like this way (indicating).

8 **BY MR. RUSSERT:**

9 Q. How long were you in Bastogne?

10 A. On that's a good question, maybe
11 the first of the year.

12 The -- what's his name Patton he
13 broke through and those guys in the armored
14 division said they rescued us. No, they didn't
15 rescue us. They supported us so we could attack.

16 Then we had a resupply by air.
17 Boy when that happened the sky opened up and they
18 must have know the sky was going to open up. They
19 were PT-47's when that skies open up. I mean, it
20 wasn't five minutes or ten minutes or anything like
21 that and they started releasing what they call
22 parapacks. And they were full of food, full of
23 ammo, gasoline and they come down in a parachutes.
24 The parachutes were different colors. The red was

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2 ammunition. And some of them were frozen, you know
3 from the flight. And the chutes never open and
4 they come down like a rock.

5 I grabbed the jeep and I wanted a
6 trailer -- I couldn't find a trailer, so I went out
7 with my jeep and loaded what I could load on my
8 jeep and brought it to the Battalion and I mean the
9 snow got deeper than hell, I almost got stuck out
10 there. Yeah, that was -- I got pictures of that
11 the camera leaked of course.

12 And -- I don't know the
13 clothes -- I just stopped one night. I left the
14 infantry area. I had to go back -- Captain says go
15 on back to CP get some sleep. So, get a meal if
16 you can get it, get some sleep.

17 So, I got in the Jeep and I just
18 got up on the road and I got stopped. And as far
19 as I could tell there was about six of them. I
20 recognized the helmet, see. There was no -- there
21 was no moon and I recognized the helmet and they
22 were our helmets, but what had happened, is that
23 they captured so many guys you know in the
24 breakthrough they took their uniforms. And they had

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2 some cameras you know?

3 And they said where are you
4 going? I said I'm going back through Bastogne back
5 to -- back to CP. He said, the roads cut off, you
6 can't get through. He says you got to turn around
7 and go back. Nobody's ever told me to turn around
8 and go back, you know? And he says, well, you
9 better, change your plans or whatever. What this
10 guy says, you better turn around and go back.

11 So, I thought it was kind of
12 strange. I said, well, I didn't want to go anyway.
13 I says, by the way I got had a Thompson you know,
14 safety off. And I says, "Oh, jeez, by the way, is
15 the password the same as it was last time?" He
16 says, "Yeah." Wrong answer. But they said I didn't
17 kill them because three died the Captain said. And
18 they're trying to get information out of the other
19 three and the only way you can do it if they refuse
20 to treat them for their wounds.

21 But I never killed anybody you
22 know? But they said they died after I shot them
23 but it didn't kill them on the spot so -- and Major
24 Henderson questioned me about it. He said, "Did

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2 you have any problem?" I said, "Yeah, I had a
3 little bit of a problem. I had a
4 misunderstanding." But then the next time I got in
5 there he says, "You didn't tell me everything that
6 went on up there that night." And of course the
7 infantry, it was quiet, not a shot being fired they
8 heard a submachine gun going off, of course the guy
9 in the infantry is sitting up, where the hell it's
10 coming from? What's going on? We have an attack
11 or what? Which I would probably do the same.

12 So, anyway, so there we left and
13 went into -- I guess we went into Germany and Hill
14 country and we stayed there for a little while,
15 maybe three nights. My -- when we had to do -- get
16 billets for the troops get sleeping quarters for
17 our guys. And I was teamed up with Corporal John.
18 And he spoke fluent German I mean, perfect German
19 he spoke. And I spoke -- when I got over to Europe
20 I spoke high school French two years, see, but
21 that's a lot different than French -- French.
22 And -- you know, that -- That's okay. So, we had
23 to get going so we knocked on the door. They
24 didn't want us to chase them out of the house.

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2 They have a kitchen, they have a kitchen, bathroom.

3 BY MR. RUSSERT:

4 Q. So you billeted with the
5 families?

6 A. Yup, yup. So, we looked and we
7 saw how many guys could stay in the house you know.
8 But -- we were supposed to take food, but we're not
9 supposed to take any guns from them or anything
10 like that, you know.

11 And so he and I -- this went on
12 in France and it went on in -- it didn't go on in
13 Holland, it went on in Bastogne, Germany, and
14 the -- the CP -- artillery CP outside of Bastogne
15 was in a -- was in a little Hamlet called Savy,
16 S-A-V-Y. And what it was, was a farmhouse, a
17 woodshed, an outhouse, a hay wagon, and a large
18 barn. That was it. And the people who were in the
19 house took the barn downstairs, they slept in this
20 room and they -- they had the farm animals right
21 next to them, okay? With the pen, a cow, and a
22 horse, and whatever they had. See, we were
23 upstairs.

24 They -- maintenance and Motor

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2 Pool section. We had that -- the floor there with

3 the hay. And then -- anyway, we moved out of

4 there. I can't -- I'm not clear where we went --

5 where we went after that. But we wound up in

6 Alsace Lorraine. And that place, the city down

7 there, I can't think of the name of it. And we had

8 whole of that section. From Alsace Lorraine we

9 went to Austria. And that's a beautiful country,

10 beautiful country. And we were in -- we were in

11 Bedreganhall Salsburg after we went to the Eagle's

12 Nest. We had -- Eagle's nest, but the French first

13 met us there. And they had in the book -- in the

14 VHS that Easy Company took over -- took the Eagle's

15 Nest and we had a fire fight with the French --

16 French first to try to get up the hill. We didn't

17 know anything about -- we never even heard Easy

18 Company being there, you know, but maybe they were.

19 And did I say they had -- boy they looted that

20 place. Holy mackerel. I wound up with a coat

21 hanger and a clothes brush. A good clothes brush.

22 I said I got the clothes brush, that's all I got.

23 They found Gorings car and

24 somebody found Hitler's car we found Goring's car

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2 between the -- in the tunnel, behind Eagle's Nest.
3 I say we find him, I -- I wasn't with them but they
4 told me they found -- when the guys which I didn't
5 believe bullet proof plans from '45 back.

6 And we occupied for awhile. And
7 I was due for furlough for quite a while you know
8 and finally you are going to lose it if you don't
9 take you're going to lose it, you know the wars
10 over.

11 And well go to -- to the Riviera
12 stay here. I don't what to got to the Riviera
13 nothing but G.I.'s down there. And I sat in the
14 back of the truck and all of a sudden this guy
15 comes running up in the Jeep he jumps out and he
16 has all this paperwork. I said, what you got?
17 Furlough's for Switzerland, so I went to
18 Switzerland for five days. the only thing with me
19 was twenty-seven dollars, that's all. Swiss money.
20 Converted down there. And that's a nice country
21 but you can't drive all over country in a car, you
22 know. You can go by water, you may go by train, by
23 boats. That's about it.

24 BY MR. RUSSERT:

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2 Q. Okay. Why don't you show us some
3 of the things you brought with you?

4 A. Sure. This here is the Belgium
5 **Caude de'guerre** it goes up here.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. And then I have a French **Caude**
8 **de' Guerre** of Normandy. And that is gone. I tried
9 to get another one, I can't get it. And then they
10 have the -- similar to this one on this shoulder
11 which **Orange** -- from the Netherlands. I sent for
12 it and they sent me a letter back said I wasn't
13 there. And I fought and the guy from the -- from
14 the VA he said --.

15 Okay. Here's maybe something
16 that you never saw before. This here's a **Jump**
17 **Jacket**, okay? This is like a new one a second
18 issue. Here's a patch we wore on our right
19 shoulder. Okay? It was on our right shoulder. Of
20 course the 101st is on our left shoulder.

21 I kept this fixed up, my stripes
22 were -- I was actually a technician in fifth grade
23 it had a T underneath I can't find it, I can't find
24 a replacement. The stripes used to use I notice

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2 **it's in two separate shades.**

3 **BY MR. CLARK:**

4 Q. I might have a set of those
5 stripes at home. I'll give to your son to give to
6 you.

7 A. Technician fifth grade, Corporal
8 T?

9 Q. Yup.

10 A. That'd be great. These are
11 replacements. This ones the originals. The little
12 bronze spearhead. That was from Holland, the
13 spearhead. And I had this embroidered in the back.

14 We have to go to Veterans Day.

15 Out of -- out of combat I was with this one.

16 Combat mode I was with this one. I spend the whole
17 campaign with this. Okay. Got it?

18 Q. Got it.

19 A. Okay. And you know about this.
20 As I said I got two of these things, two of them
21 are missing. Here's this stuff. I -- I had some
22 of this stuff replaced, all right? They send me
23 this. I never shot my carbine. They send me this
24 darn thing. Never shot it. Never pulled the

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2 **trigger.**

3 **And here's the -- the different**
4 **medals, okay?**

5 **BY MR. RUSSERT:**

6 Q. You didn't tell us you received a
7 purple heart.

8 A. **Bastogne.**

9 Q. Bastogne?

10 A. **I got hit -- I got hit between**
11 **the eyes, slanted right -- right exactly right**
12 **there. And I got hit here.**

13 Q. Was it a Shrapnel?

14 A. **Rock. Rock. And what happened**
15 **is I heard the mortar go boom, you know that's what**
16 **you hear.**

17 **And you know mortar shells are**
18 **coming in. So I flapped down face first in the**
19 **snow, and when that thing hit it hit like, maybe**
20 **from here to that (indicating) -- down there, and**
21 **was shear rock underneath. You know, it hit that**
22 **and I got splattered with the rock. My jacket, my**
23 **gloves, it hit me here, in two spots here. And it**
24 **was so cold it started to bleed, but then it dried**

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2 and stopped and I went to the infantry second
3 battalion CP no I went to Colonel CP was there.
4 Went to Regimental the radio operator says "Jeez,
5 you're bleeding." I said, "Where?" He said, "Right
6 up here." So he says, running down -- it's running
7 down your nose. So I took my glove off and I felt
8 you know, and all of a sudden I see a blood here
9 here, whole in my glove. He says, boy you better
10 get care too. The doctor look at you one there and
11 one there. And that's all. It was a rock.

12 Oh, I got one piece here, or
13 here. I don't know, either here or here. It was a
14 fair sized piece. And the guys said well, it'll
15 stop. It didn't. So it's rock. It would have
16 gotten smaller and smaller, and yeah, I still got
17 it.

18 Here's that Battalion book if you
19 want to look through it. It's got -- I got these
20 pictures in here. This -- here's Eagle's Nest.
21 This is Eagle's Nest. Here's my --, there it is.
22 Eagle's Nest. Here and there. And I guess here
23 too. There's a -- the picture -- what you call
24 picture window? That's a view from the picture

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2 **window like the living room, right there.**

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. But this is -- the Air Force did
5 **all this damage. Here's the -- here's the reply to**
6 **the General Commander Bastogne when Gen McAuliffe**
7 **told him "nuts" is a some kind of a copy.**

8 Q. Did you ever see McAuliffe?

9 A. Yeah. Not there somewhere
10 **afterwards at a -- we had a ceremonial parade where**
11 **we get to presidential citation. The Gen McAuliffe**
12 **was there, the Gen Talyor was there, Ike Was there,**
13 **Secretary of State of war -- Secretary of war I**
14 **guess was there. We get a presidential citation,**
15 **do you know what that looks like? Okay.**

16 Q. Yes.

17 A. And there's our -- there's our --
18 **there's our artillery piece pack seventy-five they**
19 **call it. That's the size of the projectile. And**
20 **this is the gun. Not very much you can see of it**
21 **but --. All right?**

22 And we got -- there's a
23 **resupply -- that's the best picture we got.**
24 **There's the resupply coming in, see the chutes**

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2 coming down? I don't know if you can see them or
3 not.

4 **BY MR. CLARK:**

5 Q. Yes.

6 **A. They've got three forty-sevens.**
7 **They got two gliders in there too that crash landed**
8 **back in there. It was bringing the stuff in from**
9 **the field.**

10 Q. I think we've got about five
11 minutes left on the tape.

12 **A. Okay. And here is Ike's Sheaf**
13 **book. And here's some stuff here that -- oh boy.**
14 **Took up too much time. I wanted to show you this**
15 **stuff too.**

16 Q. Now, are some of these things
17 your original photographs that you took --?

18 **A. Yeah, yes.**

19 Q. Would there be any chance that we
20 could borrow this and copy them?

21 **A. No, I'd have to be here.**

22 Q. Okay.

23 **A. Not that you would steal it.**

24 Q. I know.

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2 **A. But we've lost a lot of stuff.**

3 Q. Yes. I don't blame you. Maybe
4 sometime you can come over to the museum --

5 **A. Sure.**

6 Q. -- we can copy this.

7 **A. Sure.**

8 Q. Because then we would like to put
9 this in your -- the file especially the photographs
10 you took.

11 **A. Here's a -- here's a classical**
12 **map of Germany. This is the one I carried.**
13 **Topography in Normandy and I got one here that's**
14 **very interesting that's put out by Michelin Tires.**
15 **I don't know which one it is.**

16 **BY MR. RUSSERT:**

17 Q. Yeah, if you wouldn't mind if we
18 could -- you know, if you came over to the museum
19 sometime, we'd like to be able to copy this.

20 **A. Okay. There's the first glider**
21 **ride.**

22 Q. Okay. Pieces of --.

23 **A. First glider ride.**

24 **BY MR. CLARK:**

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2 Q. How many rides did you take in a
3 glider?

4 A. Seven.

5 Q. Seven wow.

6 A. Four crackups.

7 MR. RUSSERT: And you --.

8 BY MR. CLARK:

9 Q. And you lived to tell about it?

10 A. Yup, yup. Well, we had some bad
11 crackups, I want to tell you. There's -- there's
12 a --, there's my picture with the chief. What's
13 that? That's chief number one. And that's
14 cameraman over me. Here is -- remember
15 I told you I took King Leopold's picture in
16 Brussels?

17 BY MR. RUSSERT:

18 Q. Oh, yeah. Okay.

19 A. Here is a -- two and a half
20 guilders printed by the Dutch people. This is not
21 invasion money. This is the Dutch treasury. This
22 is invasion money printed by U.S. Army. These are
23 marks. Oh, well. Anyways.

24 Q. Well, if you bring this over we

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2 would really like to make copies of those things.

3 **A. Okay.**

4 Q. I'd appreciate that very much.

5 **A. I sent them to Detroit. I can**
6 **sent them, get down to where they do architecture**
7 **things. Building a building, what do you call**
8 **those things?**

9 Q. Oh, the blue prints?

10 **A. Blue prints, down on Erie**
11 **Boulevard and have these maps photocopied and I can**
12 **send it to the guy in Detroit who's doing a book on**
13 **the 101st Field Artillery. And there's some**
14 **pictures to that.**

15 MR. RUSSERT: Okay. Thank you
16 very much.

17 Thank you for your interview.

18 (The interview concluded)

19 pwss

20

21

22

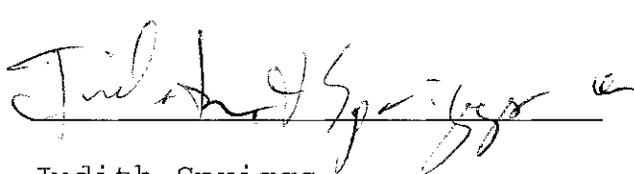
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This is a transcription of the audio provided to us. It is completed to the best of our skill and ability. The transcript consists of pages 1 through 85 inclusive.

 5/2/2006

Judith Spriggs

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