

**Carl Henry William Winter
Veteran**

**Mike Russert and Wayne Clarke,
Interviewers**

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

CW: Carl Henry William Winter. March 11th, 1917.

Q: Okay. Where were you born?

CW: Brooklyn.

Q: What was your education prior to going into the military?

CW: Two years of high school and a year of trade school. Jamaica Vocational Trade school.

Q: Did you enlist or were you drafted?

CW: No, I was drafted. {You were drafted in October 1941.} Right.

Q: Where did you go for your basic training, your induction and then your basic training?

CW: Well, it started out I was supposed to go into the Navy as a volunteer, but when the number came up, we weren't at war, so they said you have to go where the Army wants you right now. So, we went to Fort Dix. And I spent almost three weeks in Fort Dix while the rest of the guys that I went with were shipped out. They went all the way down to Panama Canal. So, that's where those guys went. I was still at Fort Dix until they decided what they were going to do with me. Because we were not at war, and they said now you're gonna be in the army. The thing was you go along that way and you have to follow what the army tells you what to do. So, I was held until they found out that they needed two more men to make the quota to go down to Fort Bragg. They were going to ship me into the field artillery. I said, "All right." They told me when I get down there, to notify the battery commander of the situation that I'm volunteering for the Navy. But it didn't work out that way, all right. The thing was you get down there, your basic training starts in right away. They put me in the field artillery. They made me... I've got a paper there that says I'm an acting sergeant when they brought us all in. The thing was, you had to follow the rules, what they tell you, everything they write up, you know. So, then they shipped me to the field artillery after I had my basic training. They put me in with the 60th Field Artillery. And I was assigned to B battle of the 60th Field Artillery (Battalion). It was a good group of guys. And I explained to the company commander at the time was... the captain was Turtle... Captain Turtle. From there on I got along fine.

Q: What kind of guns did you use?

CW: We had an old-fashioned 75-millimeter gun, French gun.

Q: How was it carried from one place to another? Did you use motorized vehicles or horses?

CW: No, no. We used a motorized vehicle. {I think in '39 they were still using horses.} Oh no, everything was starting to change when you get down there. But by the time we were there, we had two-and-a-half ton trucks. And they were the ones that were pulling the seventy-fives. Then we 105's.

Q: What kind of helmets did you have? Did you have the old-fashioned one?

CW: Yeah, we had the old-fashioned helmets first.

Q: And your rifles?

CW: We had an '03 at that time. {Okay.} And then you get assigned to different things that go into the training of the shooting of the rifles and stuff like that and dismantling the 75-millimeter French cannon and stuff like that. When you go out for firing practice, I was always lucky enough to get along with the lieutenant as his OP observer. And I was good with figures. So, I got my figures with the guys, and you send them out and tell them what they gotta do over the phone, everything worked out fine. Couple of times when I got off KP... I was taken off KP because the lieutenant wanted me to go along on them with these field trips. Some of the guys in the platoon didn't like that because I got out of KP a couple of times. But then the army says that this is what you gotta do. And then we were all set to... They had notices up. They wanted people for airborne outfits, the glider outfits. So, I went up to the company commander. I said, "How about I ask for a transfer to go there?" So, they gave me permission to go over to see the colonel. He said, "Okay. I'll see if I can get you working papers." But then the company commander wouldn't let me go. That's when they decided to ship me into the infantry. They put me in the infantry and then they made a new company, what they call cannon company. When I got over there, they had half-tracks with 75-millimeter cannons mounted on them. That's what basically we had... start all over learning how to do things again and to go on artillery again. But we were in support of the infantry. Where ever they needed support right away, we were there. But then one day comes along, December 7th, they said, "We're all too old to stay in the service." When you're twenty-four years old, they don't want old guys, they want young guys. So, a lot of us were told we were gonna go home at Christmas time. But then we got back to the barracks, and found out that was December 7th, everything stopped.

Q: Now where were you on December 7th?

CW: In the barracks, just coming back from a field trip.

Q: How did you hear about Pearl Harbor?

CW: On the radio in a... what would you call it? It's not a bungalow. It's a regular building. It's the barracks, they called it. And everybody heard.

Q: You heard it in an orderly room or something?

CW: No. We heard it in our own barracks. And that's when an order came down that you're in the Army now. That's it! No more.

Q: Do you know what the feeling was among the men or yourself when you heard this news?

CW: No. I figured, well what am I gonna do now? I'm already in and what I don't want. But I'll do whatever I can. {Okay.} And that's the way it went. And that's... You get along that way. We did all right. We got all kinda trips going down to the Solomon Islands and the Chesapeake Bay going up and down, over the side of the boats and going to shore, doing everything like that, all amphibious training.

Q: What kind of landing craft did you use, the old Higgins boats that the...like the Whaler bow?

CW: Yeah, right. We had the ones with the bow to pull out the cannon out and stuff like that or we had the personnel boats some of us were in. I got a list in there of what boat I was in too. There's an article on that. We were in those boats, just whatever they wanted us to do. We got plenty of training, even in Chesapeake Bay. The chips were in the bay, we would... They would stop the ships and we'd go up and down the ladders, over the sides and stuff like that. And then we'd go back to the barracks and then we'd float them on rubber rafts and put Jeeps and seal them all up so they could float them across the water and everything like that and that's the only way until we got orders to go overseas. Everybody else... One regiment went to England, the 39th went to England, the 47th stayed in the barracks, the 60th went out on board the ship. And when we were on board the ship, then the 47th regiment came after us. We were two regiments on the water already and the other one was in England. That's how they told us, you know, you're going to go to Africa. It was a little mix up like, you know. Because... It was kind of rough going across the ocean, because a couple of submarines came up and around us.

Q: Were you in a full convoy?

CW: Oh yeah, full convoy. The convoy was hit a couple of times. Some of the ships were sunk going into the Mediterranean. The 39th lost a couple of boats going in. But they managed to get in. They got all of the Higgins boats off tried to get them to shore. They'd go 116 miles they all collapsed (laughing). They just fell apart. But the guys got all together because they have an article about some British captain come along with his escorter and picked them up and took them in anyhow. They landed in Algiers, the 47th landed in Casablanca and we landed in Port Lyautey.

Q: Now was your landing contested?

CW: Oh yeah! For three days! We lost quite a few men. In fact, I've got an article there also... that after the battle was over, we went around...we had to take all of the dead shells and stuff that didn't go off and put them in a pile and they were gonna blow them up. So, when the engineers came by to blow them up, they wouldn't blow up. They were all armor piercing shells. What the Navy did was, they used up all of their shells, armor piercing shells, to shoot in to knock some of the buildings down, but it lost a lot of our guys. Instead of AG it would've been better off. But we managed to get it all. Then we were then and we did guard duty for the Spanish Morocco boarder. We were situated in

a cork forest. Then Patton came to ashore on Casablanca. In his movie you see him with the Arabs and in a parade at Arabrot. Then we had Eisenhower... I mean President Roosevelt and Churchill and Stalin. They were down there for a conference. We had a... My battalion was on guard duty all around the whole thing. Well they had regular...

Q: Did you get to see any of them personally?

CW: Oh no, just from here to there (motions an arm's length) that's all. The only personal time I saw anybody was when we were in England. You can look in that one book, that Matte's book. He's got a picture there. My platoon was on guard duty when Churchill and Eisenhower came through for inspection and I happen to be the sergeant of the guard at the time. This is one of the things that comes up as it goes along. It's a thing... I lost... We lost quite a few good men. There's nothing that can be... It gives me goosebumps all right. The thing is, the group that I was with, my platoon, they guys were very good. We worked the system out by ourselves... our lieutenant and stuff like that. We never had any problems with the company otherwise, nobody... anybody got into trouble, we tried to fix it up amongst ourselves. We got all through that thing. We went through the Sedjenane Valley sat down in Sened. There's one fellow that's attach to a... He was in a company at one time, then he got attached to what they call Gomes /goo mz/, French Gomes. There's a big article there and read it. They call them Molotov /mal i tof/. He's got a beautiful write up. He did everything unofficially. He was always AWOL and everything like that (laughing). But he was well liked by the men. He was like by the officers, but they had to punish him for different things he did. But he always got away with it. There's a big story in there. You can copy it down if you wanna. I got the original copy when they had the ceremony for him when he got killed. We went through all that, went through the Battle of MakNassy, then got into Bizerte. Then we came back to Sidi Belabbes, foreign legion post in the desert. We were teaching the French some of our equipment and how to use it and stuff like that. So, I worked with a bunch of Frenchmen. But they were good. They're very good.

Q: How long were you in Northern Africa?

CW: Well, let's see... From November 8th 1942 till... When in the hell did we go into Sicily? July of '43 I think. Something like that. It's on the discharge that we made the change. We went into Sicily. We got into Palermo and then we started across a mountain. That's another big story (snickers). We did things that were not according to books.

Q: In what way weren't they according to the books? What did you do?

CW: Well, how do you... How do you get an object... We had to figure... We learned how to do things to follow orders the way they had planned it. Instead of fighting directly at the enemy, we used to go around them and cut them off and stuff like that. And this is what happened, even in Sicily. They got a big article about the March of the Silent Men. A whole battalion went through this one road. Only half of the battalion went through the road. The rest of us had to go over the mountains with the donkeys and stuff like that. Everything was carried on donkeys. We came in the back way, so we got them out of the way. That's when Patton was there. They said to us how he got on the other side of the river (laughing). We were on the opposite side of him too. I mean this is when they tell the kids at school when they saw a picture of Patton, you can say, "Well here. This is

what happened when Patton was there.” The same way at the (Battle of) Kasserine Pass. The 39th was at Kasserine Pass with the First Armored Division, and they were getting shellacked. The Germans were making a break though. We made a trip of 735 miles in a hundred hours to get up to the front line, only the artillery. All artillery pieces were told to go and get in there and try to block this up. So, we got there and it was completely dark. When you’re riding in a half-track, you got little eyes at the bottom that you can look at to get your way in. When we got in there, we set everything up. And when morning came, all hell broke loose. So, from the first of February 21st, 22nd, and the 23rd, we held that position so they couldn’t come through this pass. The citation by the president is noticed there, of the citation that we stopped them, little incidences like that. They took one of my half-track drivers and the him on a forty-mile goose chase through the mountains to see how far the Germans had retreated. So, when he came back, the fellow told me. He said all the lieutenants and colonels went along with him. And that’s when it stopped. That’s when Patton says, “I read your book. I read your book.” (Laughs) And he gave me the business, you know.

Q: What did you think of Patton as an officer?

CW: He was very strict, I agree. You had to wear neckties and everything. Well, that’s because when he saw the...When he first come in there, these guys were sloppy and everything like that. I mean, at least I understand you have to be clean, presentable, all right. But a lot of guys didn’t care no more because it was rough living in the sand. And today, the guys over there right now are finding out that they can’t use their rifles and stuff like that with the sand. They just cut short. There’s a bunch of articles that I got from different guys. You can read them and it’s all things that come up.

Q: Where you in Sicily until it was secured?

CW: Yeah, right. And then after that we got... We thought we were going home now but we didn’t. Instead, they took us on a boat ride back through the Mediterranean up to Glasgow in Scotland. Then we landed in there and they ordered us down to Winchester barracks, down in Winchester Cathedral. I got the brochure that we had the church service there. That’s why I said I put the book this way so you can see as you went along. I could tell you. You can open them up and see what’s what. At least, you got an idea of what it was like. {Well, we’d like you’d to tell what you thought it was like and your ideas.} I don’t want to say what it was like, please. {Well, that’s what we’d like you to do. Give your opinion.} My opinion is just to follow orders. That was all, please. You’re doing the same thing my niece did to me down in North Carolina. She had a subject about she interviewed me for her class so she... to put it up. And that’s what she was doing. The same thing what you’re doing. And all of the questions she asked me were different things like, how did you find your German people? How did you do this? What did you do? And did you hate them and stuff like that. This is on a principle of what you’re doing now.

Q: Now, did you train for the Normandy invasion while you were in England?

CW: Yep. We did training. Yes. We didn’t go up and down the boats like we did in Norfolk at that time. But we had other things to do. We had different types of fighting. We’d go out. And other people would be maneuvering in the bay. Then one time we

found out that one outfit got caught short in the bay and the German eBoats came in there and knocked the daylights out of them. But the British patrol boats were not there.

Q: Were you in the Normandy invasion?

CW: Yeah. Came in on Utah beach.

Q: Would you tell us about that please?

CW: When we got to land, they unloaded us and we just went out to get our equipment, our half-tracks were already there. So, they took our one battalion and sent us...

Q: Now, what did you come in on? The landing strips or the LSTs?

CW: No. They had... It had a ramp that went out the front. We only got wet just a little bit going on the feet that's all. But our half-tracks were already in. When we got ashore, everything was all right. Then they marched us up to the area where the 90th Infantry was, their headquarters. And they were supposed to help the 4th division, and they were having a problem. So, right away they took our battalion, the 3rd Battalion and the 60th and they sent us on a job to go around Cherbourg. The other guys went through Cherbourg, and we came through the other way. So, we went through Sainte Mere Eglise. We went all the way across, cut the whole peninsula off. And this guy, Ambrosia, he's writing a big article about different things. The guys from my division get pissed off (laughs) because of what he did, you know. He's mentioned different things that don't relate to it and giving other people credit.

Q: So, you don't find him that accurate?

CW: No, and I can show you a lot of comments. {I know. There's one other veteran I talked to that he said he'd found Ambrose's books very inaccurate.} Right! {Yeah, band of brothers, I think they said...} That's right, because I came in there... We came in where the paratroop was and where the gliders were and then we had to go back to where the gliders were. We had to get any rubber boats that came in, anything we could find. So, we took all to get together and... for the battalion to get moving.

Q: Did you have any trouble in the hedgerows...?

CW: Oh, we had plenty of trouble. Yes.

Q: How did you get through them or what did you do? Go around them?

CW: Go around them. We had to go around them because with our half-track, we couldn't. You had to get your own ways through.

Q: Did you encounter any snipers at that point?

CW: Oh yeah. In fact, one of our lieutenants was up on OP and he got killed by a sniper, Lieutenant Shaughnessy. We lost our... a fellow by the name of Karl and a fellow by the name of Parker with the snipers with the shells. They caught the OP and just blasted them away. That was all the things. We went through all that, cut that thing, and then we got a break when we stopped in an area where they had Lindsey Nelson, Ernie Pyle, and a bunch of newspaper guys. Ernie Pyle wrote up an article and they threw it out in a junk pile, you know. So, I picked up the letter. I got the whole copy, the original copy. {That he wrote?} Yeah! You can see it. I mean, that's what I'm saying. All of these things,

you have to see what it is, then you'll understand what I'm driving at. I took that letter and I sealed it up nice and put it underneath the seat in the half-track and stored everything I could like that. And that's when we had a break. And then we got into the Battle of Saint-Lo. We'd go up in the foxholes, get all set up and then they called off the first bombing raid. Then we had to go back. The next time we'd go, we'd go forward again. And then the Airforce dropped the bombs on part of the 47th and part of the 9th Division, and the 29th Division too. And the bombs were really coming down. They killed a general by the name of Lieutenant McMaire, Brigadier General McMaire. He wasn't supposed to be there, but he was up there watching how things were going. My mother saved the newspaper clipping in the states of the deal and it tells that my outfit was in that breakthrough at Saint-Lo. She knew just where we were going. Sometimes she would tell me that if I was going to a certain place, she'd put a letter down, in Germany. And she'd be pretty close, because she thought I was going to go to Hamburg... Rostock, in that area. But I didn't, I was going down south. We went through all that. That's the part where it gets a little scary. The 3rd Armor Division had to... After we made the breakthrough, the 3rd Armor Division took off forty miles. Then they're running out of gasoline. We're going, taking out the pockets. And as we're taking out the pockets, we get orders any 3rd armor tank that comes by, he needs gasoline, give him what you can spare. Here we are in foxholes and stuff, giving our gas away so these guys can keep on going 'cause the Eight Ball never caught up to us. "What's going to happen when we get caught short?" We're stuck. We're surrounded. We bypassed a lot of people, a lot of places. We figured the guys coming back of use would take care of the rest. But that's how they did it. They did it fast. Patton went along fast. He wanted ground. He wanted to get up ahead. But that's the part you take a gamble. It's a funny situation, I'll agree. It happened to us. One night we were in a town or going into a town... and we... just the one battalion... We split up the groups the line-companies the anti-tank companies. They took one side of the road, we took the other side. And we biv-whacked for the night. And during the night, the German troop comes through (laughing) and the order passed down, don't shoot because you'll only hit the guy across the road on you. Wait until he gets down to the very end and then they opened up on them down there. That's the time when you're really sweating it out because you don't know what's going to happen. Because all they have to do is find you. If they went off to the side of the road a little bit, they would've saw us and everything like that. We went all through that. We went into Belgium, first troop's in Belgium. Then we went into the Hurtgen forest. We went into the Riordan. We went into all of the big battles there.

Q: Were you involved in the Ardennes?

CW: Yeah.

Q: Can you describe the Ardennes?

CW: (laughs) We were stuck in the Ardennes. They wouldn't let us out. They had the engineers mine all around us, because they had too big a front but too little troops. We were in the Hurtgen forest and we were taken out of there by the 99th Division. We were taken out to go towards Elsenborn and Monschau to go over to the Riordan to stop the Germans from blowing up the damn to flood the area. What happened is that we get over there then we were told to come back because they had made a breakthrough where the 99th Division was and that's where the breakthrough came. Because these guys were

the brand-new guys. Then they took my company out. When Patton was making a speech to Eisenhower praying for good weather and stuff like that. He'd already turned his outfit around to come back to the Battle of the Bulge. What happened was, we were told... We went the around about way, we went all the way over to Luxemburg to get into the area where Patton was going. When Patton was coming down the road, we were going down the road with him on both sides of the road. Then when we got up to where the Airborne outfit was situated where they could be relieved, then we switched back into my area. But I only know from what battalion did, and that's how we, the 3rd Battalion, got all the way over there. The other two battalions stayed in the defensive position around Elsenborn, Saint Vith, Malmedy and that's where we spent the winter in that area.

Q: What kind of winter equipment did you have?

CW: (laughs) We had no galoshes, no gloves, no nothing. {You didn't even have gloves?} Oh, we had gloves, but they were no good. There's a pair of gloves in there (points to a cabinet). They only got one finger. You can't use them. But they gave us woolen mittens, a woolen scarf and stuff like that.

Q: Did you have an overcoat?

CW: Yes, you had your overcoat. But that was... You needed more than that, because it was cold. A lot of fellows had frostbite. We lost a lot of us that way. A lot of fellows got hit by air bursts in the forest. We lost one sergeant from my platoon. We called them Bed Check Charlie. They'd come around at night. They spotted us and they dropped the bombs. He happened to be outside of his foxhole and he got hit. To this day, I'm trying to get in touch with him. He don't want to have nothing to do with it. So, I don't even know how bad he was hit, fellow by the name of Kisselberg. A fellow from Ohio knows him. He goes to see him every once in awhile. That's how they work it. So, we went through the whole thing and then after that was all over, you went to start fighting again, town after town, Hessen Walleräng, West Walleräng, all of these little towns. And then we went into to take Cologne, and when we got to Cologne, we were ready to take it. In night they'd got a hold of the American Bridge, so we turned around. As soon as they got one part of the company, the 47th of our outfit across the bridge, we followed them across the bridge. We were the second one to cross it. But when we went across, we didn't go to the left. We went to the right. We were told to protect our flank, because nobody was on that side of the river yet. So, that's where I went. I went down to the town of Linz, maybe twenty miles from the Remagen area. We went through there when we crossed the bridge and everything. In fact, in one of the book, they took a picture of our half-truck drivers. He set up a fifty-caliber machine gun protecting the bridge, because we had nothing there while building it up. He got his picture in the book there, fellow by the name of Roger Hood. He's one from my platoon. You hold off a couple of days here, a couple of days there and then you get a break, and then you go ahead again. Whenever they need you, in you go. What came across the American Bridge, they brought part of the 99th and the 78th. There were two divisions that were just starting to have combat. And the 9th Armored couldn't get their tanks across because the bridge wouldn't support them. But we got across on the main bridge with our half-track, so we got all of our heavy equipment across. But there were a bunch of holes in a thing like that. And that's when I saw the Messerschmitt me 262, the jet job. BOY! (laughs). I said,

“That plane really caused a lot of damage.” But they shot it down. They got it back. I saw on the History channel they got a copy of it and they’re trying to find out how it works.

Q: What did you think of it when you saw it go overhead?

CW: (laughs) I said, “Boy! We ain’t got nothing like that.” They could have done a lot of damage. And the funny part was we were in the Hurtgen forest and directly in front of us was where the V2’s were coming out of Germany. They would take off and come right across our area and head for England and Belgium and places like that. One dropped out front, just one time, and what a hole it made! You could but a two-and-a half ton truck in it when the bomb went off in that thing. I knew where it was. They knew where it was and everything like that. But near the end of the war I had a chance... I got an assignment. I got taken out of the line and my platoon... This is after we went through all of the other crap. Before we got there, we had to go through what they call a Ruhr Pocket. That’s where the 3rd Armored Division captured this like a Dachau camp. {Concentration camp?} Concentration camp, all right. We went through there and saw everything was there. Then we had to keep on going, but the 3rd Armored set up their... They set up... people that would photograph... They had Eisenhower there. They had a bunch of people, big generals. Our job was to keep on going, so we kept on going.

Q: What was your reaction when you saw the concentration camps?

CW: Unbelievable and people today don’t want to believe it. People won’t believe it. You take out my 9th Division book you’ll see what they saw exactly the way I saw it. I only saw it just passing by. I got a chance to go by the ovens and saw the ovens and stuff like that. But I had to keep going. And then we kept on going until we met the Russians. When we met the Russians and then it was our job. The war was over. We had to keep the Germans on our side. Russia had to keep the Germans on their side.

Q: Did you have any personal encounters with Russians?

CW: Oh, a couple of Russian prisoners.

Q: What did you think of the Russians?

CW: Well... They’re very heavy... They’re muscular people. The thing is that there was a farm that I had to go and investigate, after the war was over. I was supposed to get all displaced persons back to a central unit. The platoon was with me going all around picking up all the stuff... like anything that was American and stuff and guns and stuff. We had to bring them back to an area, and all the people, a list of them, write them up and everything. And here were these Russian people. There’s one of the card and he had his papers and everything. And when they have something to eat, it’s all on one table in one pot. And I said, “Jesus Christ, how in the hell, how can they do this?” That’s how they were living on the farm. And they were tickled to death to live on a farm because they were fed every day. And the people were good to them. When I told these guys, I said, “Well, tomorrow morning we’re going to pick you up.” The next morning when I went there, there was nobody there. They all disappeared. They didn’t want to go back. Some of them were like Mongolian, Russians, like Chinese. That’s how that worked. In that same deal, I got a notice where I was supposed to go with a lieutenant from another company, and we were supposed to go into this area and investigate this building. Well, it was up to my platoon leader and myself to disburse the men around it. We had to go

into this place, and it's all underground. This factory and ammunition and everything in it. And down in the very bottom of it, they were building these Messerschmitt 262. It was right there on the platform that they had. I saw that and a lot of equipment that was there was American equipment from people from the states. They sent them there, tool and dye stuff. They had the guys' names on them from the states. They had a machine shop down there, everything. They also had all kinds of drapery. They had all kinds of historical equipment, paintings and stuff like that. Like a dumbbell, I didn't know this. I had to write it all up and give it to the other lieutenant. About five years after the war was over, the Daily News came out with a big article on it. And I said, "That's what I saw down there. What the hell's going on?" Then I found out that some of the people were stealing the silverware (laughs). Some of the guys took the silverware home and the government got after them. But we didn't touch any because I didn't know what was down there. The only reason I got help... I got a picture of a bunch of Belgium people, fellows, that were working in these mines. I got a picture there with them with their names and everything on it. It's kind of funny to see this later on and say, "This is what went on. We went down there. I don't know what was going to happen." They told me as I was going down there. These guys would say, "You better have somebody knock this wall down, because something is behind that wall." I just made the notations and gave it to the other lieutenant that was in charge afterwards. I didn't know, but we had to have guards up on the top, had guards on every floor. We spread us all out. That's when I got stuck with the job of afterward of being in the Army of occupation. My guys... The rest of the outfit went home by boat, I had to stay for the Army of occupation. That's when Westmore... He wanted to start the riding academy for the for the officers. So, my job was to go around to all of the farms and pick out the best horses they could use for the riding academy.

Q: Now this was William Wes Moreland?

CW: Yeah. I got a picture of...

Q: What was his rank at the time?

CW: Colonel. He gave me the orders, because... This is the funny part of it. And this is how it worked out, you know. So, we brought the horses back and everything and gave them to him. He and some of his men were going to take care of them or whatever they were going to do. But later on when he was commander of West Point, we were all invited up for a parade and a meal at West Point. Well, I figured, "Do I get a chance to talk to him?" Being he's a big wheel at the academy and he's got all the Brass around him. My daughter was with me and my son. I said, "Come on, let's see what happens." So, I went over, I gave him a salute, and I spoke to him. I said, "You might not remember me sir, but how was the horse after the war?" He looked at me, "You mean the big black one?" I said, "Yeah." So, with that my kids ears (pushes ears forwards) go like that. So, they're listening to the conversation. I said, "Could I take a picture? (becomes emotional and nearly in tears) With my daughter?" He said, "Certainly." Everybody else is wondering what's going on. The funny part about the whole thing is after we got talking and everything and had the picture taken, my daughter goes to school and she tells the teacher, "I had my picture taken with a general at West Point." So, the teacher calls her a liar. The kid comes home. I said, "Wait until I get the picture. Then you can show it." Then the teacher apologized. But my son shook hands with the

general. (emotional) When he got home, he wouldn't wash his hands. It turned out nice, but everyone else wanted what I had... why I was talking him. I told the guys it's just between me and [this one]. And you can see in the picture some of the guys were all looking around. They wanted to know what was going on. It worked out fine. In fact, my daughter met him at the airport down there at North Carolina where she works. She spoke to him. Whatever happened, I don't know, at least she mentioned something to him. It's just one of things how they work out, you know. But all of that stuff is in there with all of the different papers, everything that I said is all there from every one of these guys, whoever is in charge of the boats, landing crafts and stuff like that, how they changed it around and made me a commander on that. Because on the ships coming over, my job was to be working with the Coast Guard on the anti-aircraft guns and the three-inch guns that they had on board. We were always on top of the deck, everybody else was below deck.

Q: When were you discharged?

CW: In August of '45.

Q: Now you received two bronze stars. When did you receive those?

CW: (laughs) To tell you the truth, I think they loused something up, because I got two or three bronze citations downstairs from different dates. I don't even know what they're for. The other one I got was from the French government because... They gave me one metal for being in Africa and one medal for being in France. The sent me a diploma it's all signed...

Q: Would you hold these in front of you and tell us about them?



CW: You have that one citation from June the 11th to the 17th. It's in that one picture frame. That's the citation. This one is the one they just sent me recently for D-day. This one here is for Africa (points to top right corner medal). This one they gave us when they had the battle over in Normandy battle ship over in Staten Island (points to lower bottom left corner). I was supposed to go over there and collect it, but instead they sent it to me. And this is the one from the Belgium people (points to bottom right corner), The Battle of the Bulge. And this is the Conspicuous Service medal from New York State (points to the middle medal).

Q: Why don't you tell us about your other medals {The tray you have there.}?



CW: (starts pointing from bottom left corner to right) This is before Pearl Harbor. This is Good Conduct. This is the ETO [Easter Theater Offensive] with eight battle stars on it, one silver and three bronze and an arrow head for the invasion. And this is the Atlantic Ocean Pacific medal. You're supposed to get a bar for that. And this is the victory medal and this for the Army of Occupation (pointing to last medal on bottom right corner). (Point to top left row going right) This is the two bronze stars and this is the Belgium medal [Victory Commemorative Medal] and there's a ribbon that goes around there. {And that's your Combat Infantry Badge up on the top.} Yeah. Then you got your number of months that you're overseas, 36 months.

Q: And why don't you tell us a little about that photograph.

CW: That's... When I came home... I got a phone call saying that my brother was getting married.

Q: Which one are you?

CW: I'm this guy here (points to man on the far right of photo).



Take a look at how I look and how he looks. Now, we were both in Africa, right? But the thing is that I got home in time to go to his wedding. And then from there, I had to go back because the hospital wouldn't OK me. I had to stay for a couple of days, because I was getting teeth replaced and stuff like that. But now they all broke off after forty-five years. They all broke off and now I got (wiggles out his dentures). I got a hold of somebody in the army and they said it would take over a year to get them replaced. So, you can't do that, I ain't going to wait that long.

Q: Did you ever use the GI Bill when you returned?

CW: No. {Fifty Two Twenty Club} I had that for two weeks. I got the book on that too.

Q: Did you join any Veterans organizations?

CW: Yeah, I got... Take your pick (pulls out wallet and shows several membership cards), VFW life member, French Guerre life member, and 9th Division life member, and the American Legion. They're all since 1946.

Q: Did you stay in contact with anyone that you served with?

CW: Yes. I got in touch with a couple of the fellows. In fact, I saw my jeep driver. He lost both legs, got blown off. He got injured when he was in a foxhole with a lieutenant on observation. He only passed away just a couple of months ago. Another fellow from Connecticut he just passed away. He was a cook for the company, but he did me a lot of favors than anyone. We got along very good.

Q: How do you think your military service effected your life?

CW: Well, I don't know. I couldn't say anything about that. All I know is that, I went to work right away when I got home, as soon as I found out I could get a job, I went around

to a couple of places. I went... My neighbors had friends in the telephone company, so I went there and told them what I did, showed my discharged papers. They said, "We can't use you." I said, "Why not? I can lay wire. I can do all that kind of stuff. I know how to blow up stuff. As soon as I said blow up stuff, he said, "We can't use you." So, I said, "Okay." Then I went to... I got a job at Consolidate Edison. And after I worked for Consolidate Edison for two weeks, the boss there said, "We can use you." He put me downstairs in their machine shop, and I got along fine. But then somebody told me to go work for Pfizer. So, what I did was I put an application into Pfizer, and then Pfizer called me and told me, "Sure. I'll give you a job." So, they put me in the research department, making different things with the chemicals and stuff like that. That went along fine, but in the meantime, I had to go back and tell them I was going to quit in a couple of weeks. They gave me another \$6 a week raise, so I was up to \$26 a week, for a five day week. I went to Pfizer and stayed with Pfizer for 34 years. I was a foreman after a while. I had different kinds of trades, machine shop. I was in a pipe shop, a welding shop, the plumbing carpeting shop, did all those kinds of trades for Pfizer. In fact, I've got an album for Pfizer of all of the things that I did for the company, that I got noticed. It makes a point that, I kept learning by going on. I was fortunate. That's where my pension is now. I've been out twenty years now. I was out in '74. Some of the things you have to look, some of the articles. That's the only thing I can tell you that will prove everything that I've been telling you about. {Thank you.}