

**John Favicchio
Veteran**

**Wayne Clarke
Robert von Hasseln
Interviewers**

**Interviewed on May 24, 2001
National Guard Armory Jamaica, NY**

Q: Could you tell me where you were born and raised?

JF: I was born in Long Island City on November 20, 1917, at the age of 6 I moved to Astoria in Queens Ny until the start of the war.

Q: What was lifelike growing up with your family?

JF: Well, my mother's name was Francis Cocouch and my father's name was Pasquale. My mother was a stay-at-home mom and my father worked for the city cleaning the trolley stations. Back in the day my father bought a house on 46th street for \$7,000 dollars. The house ran on coal fuel, and we would cook on a wood burning stove.

Q: Do you have any brothers and sisters?

JF: I have two brothers and one sister, both of my brothers fought for the army and are both dead now. My sister just recently turned 80.

Q: Did you ever complete high school or the equivalents?

JF: No, I dropped out a year and half before graduating. Later, I took the equivalency test and received my diploma in 1967.

Q: Do you remember what you were doing when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor?

JF: It's hard to recall, but I was working at the Davenport free theatre. I was 17 when the sneak attack happened.

Q: When did you enter the service?

JF: March of 1943 and I was discharged in June 1946

Q: Where did you attend basic training and what was the training length?

JF: Camp Grant, Illinois where I was being trained as a company aid man, when he got a call looking for soldiers interested in more intensive medical training, and I volunteered and later wound up working at a hospital in Washington D.C where I eventually met my wife. Training lasted 2 months in the hospital and after that I was considered a medic for the army.

Q: Tell me more about you and your wife.

JF: We met when I was stationed in Washington DC where she was working with the war department on a red cross sponsored cruise. We stayed in touch and when I was discharged from the war in 1946, I asked her to marry me in Great Falls, Montana.

Q: What was it like getting shipped overseas?

JF: We landed in a small town in England Banbury, where we built a hospital from scratch. This was October of 1944, just a couple months after D-day. Le-Havre France is where we got moved to where our team set up camp in an old calvary unit site. The French people blamed them for all the damages. That is where I got my tech 5 stripes. We were receiving the wounded from the Battle of the Bulge where you could just see how gruesome the war had become.

Q: What were the conditions like operating in a field hospital?

JF: We were set up in tents before we went to The Battle of the Bulge during the winter. It was a short period of time where we did not receive any wounded until the battle of the Bulge where I oversaw the cardiac unit. We saw all kinds of cases and it was very gruesome to say the least.

Q: What was it like when you heard the news of Germanys surrender.

JF: Mixed feelings, we saw relief at first but after that it was sadness as the members of his unit all believed they were going to Japan to help finish the war in the Pacific. They were ready to be shipped to Japan when in August of 1945 when Japan finally gave up. After that I was shipped back into the states.

Q: The war ended with Germany were you ever shipped to Japan?

JF: No, I went back to the states and landed in Bowman Texas where I was put into a Psychiatric hospital to work. I oversaw new methods to treat metal disorders like cold therapy and electric shock therapy. I was living in a nice house in El Paso where the mortgage was just 35\$ per month at the time.

Q: Once you were discharged what type of work did you ultimately pursue?

JF: I had an interest in the theatre with acting and play writing, I knew that this would not sustain my life, so I got a job with my brother working construction. Still interested in the medical field, I got a job as a hospital assistant and eventually became and paramedic working in an ambulance. To keep a sustaining income, I got a job at Elmhurst general hospital working in the engineering department working on the steam and air conditioning where I retired in 1978.

Q: Did you have any children after the war?

JF: Yes, me and my wife had one son who died in 1966 and never had any children after that.

Q: Do you keep in touch with fellow veterans?

JF: No, it's a shame for a short time after the war I kept in touch with a general in the Bronx but after a while he felt distant to me.

Q: Are you proud of your service to this country?

JF: Coming from a small town, this experience was amazing to get to travel the world. During the two years I served the only bad experiences came from helping the severely wounded soldiers. I am more patriotic now than I ever was. We don't appreciate the thing you have until later in life. Serving made me appreciate America's history and overall, I see it as a wonderful country to serve for.