

**James A. Haynes, Jr.
Veteran**

**Mike Russert
Wayne Clarke
Interviewers**

**Interviewed at the
Home of James Haynes
Norwich, New York
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Q: Sir, for the record would you please state your full name and your date and place of birth.

JH: James A. Haynes, and I was born in Norwich, New York on October 7, 1925.

Q: Okay, and did you attend school here?

JH: I attended all Norwich Schools, and I graduated from Norwich high school on in June of 1943, I guess or four. I think four, 1944.

Q: When you graduated from high school did you go into the service immediately?

JH: Not immediately. At that time I... I wanted to go into the service. When I was a senior in high school, they came through requesting the candidates for the Naval Air Corps and the Army Air Corps pilot training and also Army specialized training program and uh... what we call v12 Naval Officers Training. I...I wanted to join the Naval Air corps, so I took the aptitude test and passed that, and they sent me to Rochester. I took the train from Norwich to Utica and then the train from Utica to Rochester and stayed overnight in the YMCA in Rochester and took the physical test for the Naval Air Corps, Navel flyers uh that next day. But they wouldn't accept me, because I had third degree flat feet, which they say prevented my eligibility for the Naval Air Corps. So, I graduated from high school, and my father moved to Clinton, New York, and I spent the summer, after graduation, working on the Hamilton College campus in Clinton mowing lawns and working for the grounds department. And then my father and mother agreed that I could enlist, but my father said not in the Army Air Corps. So, I enlisted in the army in Utica and took a physical, which lasted about an hour in Utica and passed it and was sworn into the army that summer and then in... while still living in Clinton in September, I received a notice in the mail to report to Fort Dix in New Jersey in November of, I think it was 1944 then. No, it was 1943 still (Okay). I was only eighteen. The same day I received a draft notice, this day I left for Fort Dix, I received a draft notice from the local draft board telling me I was drafted, but I left with my father and he took care of... I went to Fort Dix and reported there and was outfitted.

Q: Now how did you get the Fort Dix? Was it on the train...

JH: From Utica to Newark, and then I... I think a bus from there out to the camp. I'm not sure. I don't remember that. And I was in Fort Dix for a couple weeks. And...

Q: Was that your first time away from home for any long period of time?

JH: Definitely. I'd never been away from home for any long, any period over a day or so then.

Q: And how much time did you spend at Fort Dix?

JH: Probably, two weeks. I know after I got to Fort Dix, we were barracked and uniformed and given our... our army issue uh uniforms and other things, and then stayed and camped there. But I contacted strep throat, and so I had to go into the hospital there for a week or so with the strep throat. And I missed, I think a shipment out which would've sent me down to uh Virginia to uh army artillery outfit for training. But then when I got out of the hospital, I made... they shipped me... you used to get up in the morning at six o'clock in Fort Dix, and go out and fall out and they call a roll make sure you were there. And then they would call out a list of people who were being shipped out to some training camp and that. I think the shipment I received was a training camp in Camp Craw, South Carolina. Now when I took the physical at Fort Dix after I reported there, it was a longer one. It took a couple hours, and it was more uh detailed. And they told me then that I had flat feet and wouldn't... "How about going in the air corps?" And I had remembered what my father had told me, no air corps. I think he was concerned, because at that time the B-17s were having a bad time over Germany. And I said no, so I ended up in Camp Craw, which was an IRTC infantry reception training center. (Okay), and I ended up in the special uh company there, the 26th Battalion, which was intelligence and reconnaissance.

Q: Now where was camp uh Craw?

JH: Down near Spartanburg, South Carolina (Okay). It's no longer. It was a basic infantry training camp done mostly for people in the infantry and uh or line soldiers, people who uh... But we were in a special company. I think, because of my IQ (Uh-huh).

Q: And what was... what was your training like there?

JH: The training was basic infantry learning uh weapons the M1 rifle and the uh light machine submachine guns, grenades and things like that and bayonet training mostly uh physical exercise. But we... we had uh observation training things like that map reading that specialized that the infantry guys didn't get.

Q: Now how long did that training last?

JH: For I think, my recollection of it, lasted about six months (oh, really, not long) I think so I'm not sure though. It was in uh December late December when I got there and uh I can't remember how long I was there I... I know when I was in the... You joined a company a whole company that had a lieutenant and a sergeant and they took you out all the time for all the training, I remember, I developed a skin disease in my feet, athlete's feet. And uh near the end of my at the end of each training period whether it was three months or six months, there was a camp out for a month. You had to go out in the field and camp (yep) and... when I was near the in that... just before that last month my mother, who lived in Clinton, New York, died. And I had to go home for her funeral. I had leave to do that, so I missed the camp out. Then when I reported back to camp

they said that I couldn't uh finish the training. I had to finish the training with another company the camping before they could do anything with me. So, I missed shipping out with all my uh company trainees all the buddies I'd made, and they all shipped out to a embarkation camp in Maryland, Fort Meade I believe. I went back with another company and finished the training. Then they shipped me out alone or with a couple other guys to Fort Meade, but I understand I'm not sure of this that at that time they adopted a rule not to send eighteen year olds overseas as replacements where all my previous company had gone to England. So, they shipped me instead from Fort Meade down to Camp Butner in North Carolina to the 89th infantry division, and I joined a battalion their first battalion of the 355th infantry division of the 355th regiment in Battalion Headquarters with an INR patrol where I served in that division, and we went out we were shipped overseas as a division uh later that year.

Q: Okay. So, that would have been in 1944 you were shipped over?

JH: I think it I think we lasted until 1945 (okay). I think we were shipped when we... When our division went overseas, it was in January of 1945 (oh, okay) right after the Battle of the Bulge.

Q: All right. So, so you were there towards the end of the hostilities.

JH: Very much so (okay). We uh went overseas in January in the middle... I think we landed... we left January 10th from Boston and uh...

Q: Now did you go on a convoy or a single ship?

JH: On a ship on a uh a cruise ship called the USS Uruguay, which was an old cruise ship where one where part of our division went on other ships too. It was in January. It was rough, rough seas and in a convoy.

Q: Did you get sick at all.

JH: I didn't, but most of the guys on the ship did. I served KP and didn't mind it at all, never bothered me on the ocean.

Q: How was the food?

JH: Food was terrible. It was two meals a day mostly breakfast in the morning, not really breakfast something to eat, and then supper at night. And the food was no good really. We were thinking of eating ours... they had... we had an issue of sea rations, and we were thinking of eating those the food was so bad, but we didn't.

Q: And how long did it take you to cross the ocean?

JH: I think we were on this on the ship ten or fifteen days. I'm not sure. It's a long time. I slept in the bunk beds. You couldn't sit up in them, you could just lie down on them, down in the hole. So, they're probably six or seven guys stacked up over you and then along... and then a toilet that was always messy and smelly and no showers or anything. I think we landed in France on the 10th of January. I'm not sure what day it was.

Q: Where... whereabouts did you land?

JH: Outside Le Havre (okay, right in France then). Yeah, it was one of the coldest nights of that winter. We'd been on that warm ship, and they got us off the ship, and they put

us down these big uh flat rigged trucks on benches and sat there and I think it was ten degrees below zero, ice cold. We sat there and for probably a couple hours freezing. Then they trucked us to a new camp they were starting, one of the cigarette camps called Camp Lucky Strike (okay). And in the Lucky Strike, they had tents and first it was just icy cold. And they had very few food facilities to feed you. So again, you're only getting two meals a day and snow covered with snow. And after we were there a week or so, the snow melted and it got all muddy.

Q: Now was your clothing adequate? Did you have warm clothing and boots?

JH: We had the standard army boots weren't for too warm (yeah). And we had uh overcoats... and that's pretty much... and wool uh shirts and pants, ODs I think we call them. And that's what... we were... We had tents, and they gave us little stoves. You could take empty cans and make a stove pipe out of the cans by uh pushing holes in and tying them together and saw that... and some wood and a little coal.

Q: Did uh did it heat the tent enough to stay warm?

JH: It was just about, yeah. We weren't ever really warm there. We were there a week or two or three weeks. I think some of the guys in the mine companies went out and helped remove mines in the minefields around there. This was an old German airfield that we were... our campus on. And we go out on hikes through the countryside to keep in shape (uh-huh).

Q: Did you uh make any contact with the enemy at all there?

JH: None. There was no enemy there. This was the after the... This was at the time the Battle of Budge was taking place (they were), so we had no contact. We were long ways away from the enemy at that time. We... we were still in France near Le Havre. And of course that the fighting was then in Belgium and the Ardennes and up in Germany the border of Germany. We'll, we used to see the air raids. They'd go over every night, the uh thousand plain air raids (yeah). The sky would be covered with planes for an hour or two. It's anywhere you looked up in the sky, you see the, the bombers going over and uh the... hear the noise of the drone, but it wasn't. That's about it.

Q: Okay, and then at one point you ended up with Patton's army, the third army?

JH: We... we uh were in France there for a couple weeks as I said, and then they, they sent us... they sent us... they took us on trains in the box cars, you know there's so many horses and so many men. (They call them forty and eights). Forty and eights, and we went from on trains up to the uh German border in Luxembourg. Then from there they uh... we joined the Patton's third army the 11th armored division. We hooked our division hooked up with the 11th armor division. And we drove... and went into action in near Aachen near Trier in the Mosel Valley. And with the 11th armored division, our division cleared the entire Mosel Valley.

Q: What... what sort of resistance did you encounter?

JH: Not heavy, occasional resistance. I think the first time uh first we used to travel in convoys, of course, we had as a infantry division we had very little... few vehicles. Our section had a jeep and the lieutenant and the sergeant and uh I think it was six enlisted

men in our section. So, we, we... If we... We didn't ride in the jeep, the lieutenant had the jeep and, and he went with the armored divisions at the point. And we, we rode in six files in a column and the first, first resistance we had was when uh we the column was fired on by uh uh, I think they called Nebelwerfer, we call them Screaming Meanies rocket guns, were fired at us. And one of the rockets hit a truck behind it... hit in... not a truck. It didn't hit the truck. It hit the ground behind us, and the shrapnel injured some of the men in the truck behind us. And that was that was the kind of action we got. The points, of course the columns were miles long and uh the points were always getting some sporadic uh action but they clear it out and go on. They, we had tanks, plenty of tanks in the 11th armor. And those guys were really good, so we cleared out the Mosel to the Rhine. And then one of our regiments jumped across the Rhine in... in a small attack boat and made a landing in a bridgehead. And then the division built a pontoon bridge, and we crossed the Rhine on the bridge with planes overhead. And uh then went on into Germany to a town called Wiesbaden, which we captured. And then, then I think the 11th division left us, and we were attached to a Fourth Armored Division, one of Patton's better armored divisions. The 11th Amor was a great division too. They were great soldiers. They had seen a lot of action. Of course, we were we were sort of like the 106th that got uh pretty much broken up in the Battle of the Bulge. If they were in line, we hadn't seen much as much action like that. And if we'd been there, we probably would have suffered the same thing they did.

Q: Did you uh come across any concentration camps at all?

JH: We... We uh... When we were when we went into Germany after we had a week's rest in a town called Rudesheim on the Rhine River after we crossed the Rhine and took Wiesbaden, they took us back to the Rhine and we stayed there a week. And then we went with the 4th Armored all the way into Germany, and we were the first division to capture a concentration camp, which was a small one called Bod Ohrdruf. And it was the first concentration camp that was captured. It was a very small one, but it was large enough to break us up.

Q: Had you heard about concentration camps?

JH: No, no we heard about Germans and SS and like that. Of course, they had given us resistance along the way and killed some of the people. I was in the first battalion and we had an a company A company and a B company, and a C company and a D company. And A company took quite a few casualties on our drive through the Mosel and into Germany, but we hadn't heard about concentration camps. This is the first I'd ever seen one. I've got pictures of it in my division history.

Q: Were there uh still German soldiers there when, when you took it or had they fled?

JH: They had all fled. I think they'd taken the inmates that were living on a march. Then had marched them out, but there were still... It actually outside the office of the camp, there was a concrete uh I don't know what to call it a a flat concrete piece of concrete for your (a slab). What? (Like a slab of content?) Yeah and on it were 30 or 40 dead people who had been machine gun and right next to it were gallows that were unoccupied at that time, but outside the fence when he entered the camp, there were

two dead inmates in their striped pajama type clothes lying. And then next to one of the huts where they lived in bunks like we had on the ship uh wooden bucks, there was a shed where they had bodies laid out, dozens of bodies just skin and bones with lime on them, so they didn't smell. And then there was a railroad track going from the office way out into a field at the end of the field there was a big ditch and in the ditch there were railroad ties that had been burned, and on top of that bodies that were partly burned. It was a very, very uh I can't I didn't know how to describe, a terrible sight (yeah disturbing). At that time that I saw it, the next day after it was captured, General Patton and General Bradley came to see it, and I think Eisenhower, but I 'm not sure that I know I saw two Patton and Bradley there. And they were they're looking at it, but of course they captured much larger camps after that. We never got one of them.

Q: Did you ever have any encounters with Patton?

JH: Once when we were in a column going through central Germany, we came to a crossroads, and he was, there was a jeep there, and he was standing by the jeep outside of it just like a statue with his white pistols on the side looking at us and saluting as we went by. That's uh that's the only encounter I have with Patton.

Q: Did you have any encounters with the Russians at all?

JH: Well, not, not in combat. I did later after the war when after the war ended in Germany. We were in Germany near Chemnitz about a hundred miles from Berlin, and the Russians were only ten... ten miles from us. I didn't see any. All we saw were Germans coming through our lines, German soldiers and convoys, to surrender, but they sent us back to uh Camp Lucky Strike again on a train (yeah), and we thought we were going to be shipped back to the United States, but we didn't get shipped back. We stayed in Lucky Strike to operate the camp, but we didn't have to operate the camp, because German POWs operated it. They did all the driving and the cooking and everything else. We didn't have to guard them they were working, and the prisoners did what they were supposed to do. So, I had... I was young only well I was just nineteen then, and I didn't have enough points. We had battle points and service points, but being so young, I had not enough to go, be shipped back home. So, they sent me to Austria. It ends Austria for, for occupation duty, and then from there to Vienna where I did occupation duty. And there I had contact with Russians in Vienna. We uh...Our company picked up German prisoners of war who were mostly Hungarians from the Russians and took them to the Prater, p-r-a-t-e-r, which is the playground in Russia the park where the ferris wheel is and guided them while they cut wood, because the winter was one of the coldest winters they had. And they needed fuel for fires, so the, the prisoners cut wood we guarded them and then took them back to the Russians. Then when I didn't do that, I pulled guard duty on the canal in Vienna, which at a place where they had a storage for food in Vienna. And the Russians would come along and talk to us at that place where I had he had to go out and patrol the area where the food was stored. And so I came into contact with him then, but not, not really heavily.

Q: How did you get along with them? All right?

JH: Well, you were... It was difficult, because they were armed and we weren't. We... we

couldn't carry weapons with us in Russia, I mean in Vienna. But the Russians did, they carried their AK-40... whatever weapon it was I think it was an AK-47 then or a machine gun. We... we had rifles, but we couldn't take them with us. So, they uh... we were warned that they weren't to be trusted and not to be alone in their area (okay).

Q: How did you get along with the civilians?

JH: Very well, yeah. The civilians were very hungry and they used to line up and try to get food we discarded that we didn't eat after we lined up for food (yep) and... But they were friendly with us. I remember I went to the opera with a couple of Austrians, and that was interesting in the opera the Russians would come on and sit in the balconies with their guns against the railing, and we were in the orchestra without any weapons or anything. Not a very pleasant situation for us (yeah).

Q: How long did you do occupation duty?

JH: Well, I was I think I was shipped to Enz in the fall of '45 and then left Vienna and sometime in the spring of '46 (okay) in April I believe, probably six months (all right).

Q: And you were discharged in April of '46?

JH: Yep, at Fort Dix (okay).

Q: Now while you were overseas, did you see any USO shows or get any leave time at all?

JH: My rec closed. Yes, but I don't remember exactly what (okay). Yeah, I don't uh... We saw some... The red cross was always there with donuts and coffee when we were shipped around, but I don't remember seeing any big stars overseas (all right).

Q: You left in April, uh did you go back uh ship by ship probably?

JH: Yes, and uh and I forget where I got this ship. I... The Navy uh ship and I remember I ...I don't know which port in France it was. It might have been Le Havre, but I 'm not sure of that. I got on the ship and uh with of course soldiers. I didn't know had no knowledge of it all. I had been all, all by myself in the occupation. The other, others in my company were an occupation too in Austria with different outfits, but I got on the ship and these... I was a private first class always, and so they gave me KP. I remember I went down I to report for KP on the ship, and the Navy chef and that ship said saw me and he said, "You're Jim Haynes from Norwich, aren't you?" and I knew him he was a uh...His last name was Charles one of the Charles' boys. I went to school with one of them, and he said, "You get good duty." So, I did KP for him all the way back across the ocean for eight or ten days.

Q: And how was the food?

JH: Oh, it was great. We, we ate officers food; cinnamon buns and uh everything you wanted; ice cream. Never had eaten like that in more than a year.

Q: And what was it like when you got uh back to the states was there any kind of celebration at all?

JH: Definitely. We came into the New York harbor and all the uh boats were in the

harbor freight, fire boats sprayed water to welcome us. Yeah, it was a big, big celebration. Not uh like probably some of the guys got, but they welcomed us (all right).

Q: And you landed and then they shipped you to Fort Dix?

JH: Fort Dix, yeah. And then they went through the, the procedure discharge procedure, and that meant uh physicals and things like that and request just volunteer for the reserves. Before... before I was shipped home, the captain of the company I was in, in Vienna, I can't think of his name now, called me down and said, "Soldier you've got a good record and a high IQ. Did you ever think of staying in the army? He said, "How would you... How about going to West Point? And I said, "Sir, I don't want to stay in the Army. I've had enough of that." And so, I didn't, and then in Fort Dix that's what made me think of it. They asked me to join the reserve, I said, "No thanks, no reserve." So actually, it was a good thing I didn't, because when I was in law school, there were several guys that had stayed in the reserve as officers to keep their rank (yeah), and they were called (for Korea) to Korea, yeah. One I remember specifically was a naval uh uh pilot from Utica was called. I had to go... He had to go. He didn't go to Korea though. He went down to Florida to Pensacola and taught guys how to fly. So, he came back and practiced law in Utica, but I was really happy I didn't get called back.

Q: So, once you were discharged you came home and then obviously you made use of the GI bill?

JH: Well, that's another story. I had a uh, as I said, I had an attack of athlete's foot or it's... There's a medical name for it and I can't think of it now, and it, it was prevalent it never was really cured. It was prevalent, obviously, at my fingers and on my feet when I was discharged. So, they gave me a five percent disability, so that I was getting five percent disability in the summer. My father knew eight months with a man in Binghamton, that's where he was living then, who told me that there was a special program for disabled veterans called, 'Public Law 16.' So, I had the benefit for that. I had to go to Cornell to take aptitude tests to decide what I was qualified to study for, which I did. And then I had the advantage of Public Law 16, which was somewhat better than the GI Bill. It gave you more money per month and paid for more books and things like that. So, I had Public Law 16 through my education until toward the end the last year I was on my own.

Q: Whereabouts did you attend school?

JH: I attended Hobart. That was a tough thing I...I was I applied... When I got home, it was in April of '46 I guess, (yes). And of course, all the schools were filled them with veterans it was hard to be accepted. I applied at several schools and was accepted, but not for a year. But the superintendent of schools here suggested that I'd apply to Hobart, and I'd never heard of it. But I applied, and I was accepted for the fall of, of that year and went to Hobart. Then I... When I was in Hobart, I had decided I wanted to be a lawyer, and I qualified for that under the Public Law 16 Test. So, I applied to Omni Law School in my junior... in my sophomore year and Hobart was accepted. Then they accepted you with three years college pre-college in law school. Now, I don't think you can do that. So, I was accepted in Albany Law School before I graduated from Hobart and went to

Albany and graduated from there. I married Shirley here and before I entered law school. The first year in law school '49, I graduated from Albany Law School in 1962 that came back to the way '52. Yeah okay. I came back to Norwich. I wanted to go in the FBI, but Shirley wouldn't... didn't want me to. So, I came back and practiced in Norwich with a woman who was at her husband... The woman was an assemblyman there and finally went into a partnership with another Norwich lawyer who was a county attorney. And then he died and I took over as county attorney. And and uh what's almost twenty-five years as a county attorney before I retired from that job. Then I stopped to practice with law quite a few years after that.

Q: Now you mentioned that you were on the Selective Service Board?

JH: Yes, I was a Government Appeal Board agent for the local Selective Service Board the mayor. I forgot who it was that asked me to serve (asks wife: Do you remember?) I...I can't remember who the mayor was then, but he asked me to serve. And so, I agreed to do it, and I served in that position for several years.

Q: So... so basically what did that job entitle?

JH: Uh that's very difficult. I had the help of a lady who worked for the draft board permanently and she...I used to have to go down and interview to select a service designee to see whether they qualified for a religious uh (I see) yes or things like that or review appeal board papers to see if they were qualified. And I can't remember exactly what all I did, but it wasn't easy work. Because I still was a patriotic person and thought you should fight for your country and not uh object to serving your country. Well, that was difficult for my idealism (sure), but you had to apply the law and that was it.

Q: Now you did that until uh they, they stopped drafting?

JH: I can't remember how long I did that. I did it for quite a long period.

Q: What... Was that during the Vietnam?

JH: It was all during Vietnam (okay).

Q: And then you eventually retired and settled here in Norwich? Stayed in Norwich. Now, have you uh uh joined any Veterans' organizations?

JH: Did I what?

Q: Join any Veterans 'organizations?

JH: Yes I...I joined the American Legion, and I enjoyed... I joined the Veterans Forum Wars and I... I finally determined in my mind that that was too many. I mean would've been enough. So, I think I resigned from maybe it was...I think it was the Veterans Reform Wars, and we lived on the street here in Norwich in an apartment upstairs over a guy, a nervous person who had served in the Marines, and and he was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and after I got out of that he came by one day and convinced me to rejoin, which I did. And so, I've always stayed in the Veterans of Foreign Wars. I've not rejoined the Legion.

Q: Have you stayed in contact with anyone you were in the service with?

JH: Definitely. Of course, we had an INR section composed of a lieutenant, a staff sergeant, and I think six or seven private first class. And the lieutenant was a great guy. He was an armored he had armored basic at Fort Knox Kentucky, and it just so happened that one of the six privates in our section had attended the University of Illinois with our lieutenant. And he was in the ASPC program. He had gone with our lieutenant to Officers Candy School, but had been flunked out, because he was colorblind. And then there were two other three other privates in our section that have been in the Army Specialized Training Program, which was discontinued and they were shipped to our division into our section. And the other three of us were just young guys like me eighteen years old, who had no college training. They called us kids. So, those guys were the the seniors but we bonded very well we were in training in North Carolina together for a long time, and then shipped overseas together and then in in combat in Luxembourg and Germany all that the short time we were there six, seven months. And we bonded and of course we bonded, I think you bond with with your fellows in the army. So, uh one of the guys in our section was a Chinese guy from San Francisco. He was a... His grandparents had been Chinese immigrants, and he had grown up in San Francisco. And he was named... his name was Sydney Atai, but we all had nicknames for each other and we called him Ching. And he was a brilliant guy. And the lieutenant he was also a hero. He won the silver star in action in uh Germany with us and uh he was the tennis driver the point and the jeep was usually the point of a task force whenever we were on a task force. And uh he's dead now. He died shortly after he was discharged with cancer, but the lieutenant is dead now too. But the other ASTP people stayed in contact with him after the war. I didn't. I sort of got lost, because my father had moved from Utica to Binghamton and they lost me. So, I didn't know... I didn't see any of those guys. We finally...I don't know how they get in contact with me (wife: I thought Phil sent you...) They found me, and I met uh...We had one guy named was a Texan he was from saint Louis his father had moved to St. Louis from Texas and... Bill Simon's. We called him Deadeye. He was a great rifle shot. He could shoot anything, I mean he really could shoot an m1a more than an expert rifle and then he could he could fire a gun really well. And uh he, he found me. He worked for a Proctor and Gamble down in Staten Island. And they had been looking for me trying to find me. We had a division society and they had reunions, but I never was aware of it until he found me. And we had a reunion down in the Hyde Park in the Culinary Institute. We had lunch there. He suggested that we eat lunch there, and so we went down and drank champagne all one afternoon and discussed our experiences and what had happened to some of the guys that were in the section. There's only uh three of us left now. There's two in Oregon, Deadeyes in Oregon. We... we went to an aero hostel in Asheville, Oregon on the Shakespeare. And he lives right outside Asheville. And my other buddy lives near Eugene, Oregon, so we're still in close contact, had one in Buffalo, who just recently died (wow), yeah.

Q: What was the fella's name in Buffalo?

JH: Heldwein, Bob Heldwein, h-e-l-d-w-e-i-n, (okay. Yeah we do interviews out in buffalo. I...I didn't recognize that...) There was a guy...Our staff sergeant was from

outside buffalo. I forget the name of the town. Sergeant Winners, but none of us kept any contact with him we didn't care for him.

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

JH: Well, I think probably a great deal. I learned discipline, which I needed I believe. And I learned how to use my time and to put effort into things. And I think I...I learned discipline of studying and like that.

Q: Do you think had it not been for the GI Bill, you would have gone on to become a lawyer?

JH: Could be, my father always had aspirations of...He wanted me to go to college and not join the army. But we were not a rich family, so uh I don't know how he could have handled it (okay) and several sisters that were alright and did well in life and studying and like that (Okay, well, thank you very much for your interview.) Oh, I hope it's helpful to you. (Oh you... you did well.) Thank you.

Photos

(Okay you uh you mentioned the concentration camp.) Right in there's a picture of the bodies laying stacked up like cord wood. Then there's a picture of the bodies on the concrete who would all have been machine gunned I believe. And then there's a picture of the ditch with the railroad ties in it where they burned the bodies or buried them the ones that were killed. There was a railroad track with a railroad car going out there. I don't know how long the camp had been open, but there's also pictures of officers I think one with a hat like Eisenhower used to wear.

Q: Okay and what was the name of that camp again?

JH: Ohrdruff, Ohrdruf (okay all right) o-r-d-r-u-f.

Q: And that's your unit yearbook?

JH: This is the uh 89th division 1942-45.