

## Dale Hume

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**Question:** Now were you born in Olympia?

**Answer:** Uh huh.

**Question:** So you grew up fully in Olympia?

**Answer:** Am I on now? When are you starting this?

**Question:** Maybe. We're on.

**Answer:** OK fine. I'm one of the last kids born in the old St. Peter Hospital up where the totem pole is across from the general administration building. Myself, and well she has to be a distant cousin of yours Sally Fullerton. She and I were born I don't know maybe she was born maybe a few weeks after I was and then we probably cried so loud they decided to tear the place down. They eliminated that and built the one on the West Side.

**Question:** That's funny because when you say old hospital of course my first thoughts go to.

**Answer:** No, this is the old, old hospital and of course we lived up on water street and when I was born we lived up on 25<sup>th</sup> that went down to the water at the end of 21<sup>st</sup> of Columbia, I mean 24<sup>th</sup> and Columbia, up past the Lord Mansion and museum. But anyway there was a little house there where I was first born. My brother was born here too. He was born actually in a home on 17th street.

**Question:** So when did your parents come, have they been here for quite awhile?

**Answer:** Yeah they came here, they got married and came out here in 1909 or something like that. They were both from a couple little towns in Iowa just across the river from Omaha or Council Bluffs really, and they matriculated out here and my father went to work first off for the paper here in town, then he ended up working for what they call the war camp community project in World War I which was in Tacoma.

**Question:** WCC?

**Answer:** No. It ended up being the USO but they called it the war camp community service.

**Question:** Are you dad's age?

**Answer:** I'm a year behind him. I was born in 1924.

**Question:** So you went to Lincoln?

**Answer:** No we lived up on water street like I said until 1928, 1929, and my dad was manager of the chamber of commerce at that time. He had been a couple of times before that and he got a job in Anacortes in the mill up there. And we moved to Anacortes and were up there for four years and then when we came back to town it was partly through the fourth grade and we had a camp down the bay which I know your dad knows all about because he and I lived there for a couple of summers while we were both working at the brewery. Good cook. Kept me well fed all the time. We enjoyed it down there. So when we came back we moved to the bay and it was summertime and then in the wintertime my folks had rented a house up town and so we moved from this little old open camp to two places in the next three

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years that were suited for wintertime living. And so then in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade if you can believe it we moved back up town. Well like a dummy I didn't want to have to walk a block and a half over to Lincoln School. I didn't want to leave my buddies at Garfield, so I rode my bike all the way across town every morning and back. That was a neat experience especially on a cold winter's day.

**Question:** That's quite a ride.

**Answer:** Wasn't too bad down the hill and of course up the hill at Harrison but that wasn't too much of a problem because in those days you know the trucks didn't have a lot of power, they couldn't go up the hill very fast. I'd wait until one came along and let him pull me up the hill.

**Question:** Get to the top and zip right to the.

**Answer:** I like to tell the story on the way over a lot of times if the weather wasn't very good in what used to be the insurance building they had that hallway that was down the basement and they had about two steps going down into it and a couple going up, I'd ride my bike all the way through the hall early in the morning and keep myself dry at least that far.

**Question:** That probably made a lot of people happy with the fact that some kid screaming through there on his bicycle.

**Answer:** Well there wasn't too many there at that time yet.

**Question:** Olympia sounds like it was so different back then. Was it a small but working community.

**Answer:** Oh yeah. You like to talk history you can think of all sorts of things when you getting back with your dad an awful lot of people like that. And of course if you ever get around Dick Talcott and those older people, people ahead of us that knew exactly where things were, but even I now remember a lot of things interesting that I'm sure have been told many many times. Things like the old trolley car that went down Capitol Way and all the way up to the west side and over to Rogers Street and the street up by where I live now the track is still in there. They have never taken that track out to my knowledge and the track goes all the way to the end of Rogers then they had a turn around up there and they'd turn around and come back. Remember there used to be a guy, relative of Governor Stevens that wasn't quite all there, and he always liked to ride that but he never thought the thing would stop for him. And it was really kind of fun, he'd get out there with his umbrella just waving it down from the middle of the track to get the guy to stop the trolley so he could get on.

**Question:** That's what Olympia is missing now days, they used to have a lot more characters like that. Like we used to talk about Noah and the tin man who had foil on he was afraid of the radiation coming down.

**Answer:** Then we had the Jutes Family that we called that were all the same family. They had been producing each other together, what's the term, I can't think of what it is.

**Question:** Incestual.

**Answer:** A little incest going on, and there was about five of them and the old man would lead and everybody would follow behind him, different sizes all the way down, at least 3 or 4 feet behind, they'd come down through town get their stuff and go back.

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**Question:** Like a family of ducklings.

**Answer:** A lot of good memories talking about down on the bay. You know your dad and I spent an awful lot of time down there with the homes we had and one of the grocery store guys, Mr. (Krabel?), his home is still out there by Athens beach which was all built out of rock and everything. In the summertime he had about a 16 to 18 foot boat that Henry Long had built and he had a little Alta Motor on the end of it. And on nice afternoons anybody wanted groceries they'd call him up and he'd load it up on his boat at Percival Dock and deliver it on his way home. You could get him to deliver groceries for you. Then there was another guy that had a farm out on the clay the north end of Harstine Island. And once a week in the summertime he'd come in with his vegetables and fruit and everything and he'd row to town and sell this all the way into town and he'd sell it by the time he got to town and he'd spend the night in town I think probably at a tavern somewhere and then you could see him rowing back out home again. He'd spent all his money and.

**Question:** That's cause you are coming out of the depression and again Olympia is a working community and it sounds like everybody knew everybody still back then.

**Answer:** Oh yeah. Yeah I think so. Of course my dad used to walk to work from down at the bay. My brother Don used to walk until school got out when we moved on the bay from up town. He'd walk all the way to Lincoln school to go to school. So, but walking in those days wasn't awful, everybody didn't seem to mind too much. I don't know if they minded or not. And of course all the mills along West Bay Drive. I think we were talking the other night about the ark that was down there that was always fun and everybody always wanted to go see that and see the guy that ran it. Was going to save the world again. That was the interesting part. I used to work after the war, when I lived at the camp. The first job I had was down at the mill, at the end only about three blocks from where our camp was, old Buchanan's Mill and I'd either paddle my canoe down there depending on the tide or I'd just walk down the beach to it. That was always nice. That was one summer.

**Question:** That would be north of Delson's Mill.

**Answer:** Yes, it was the last one. It was the first one going to town and the last one coming out West Bay Drive. Yeah.

**Question:** It's amazing how quickly you forget what it was like. I mean I just barely remember I remember Delson, Hardel was really going, Reliable everything like that, all the log booms out there, where now not there.

**Answer:** Well there were at least four mills there at one time up and down. A lot of the old incinerator pads you can still see there. One of them is down off to the left of where we live now is slowly disintegrating. Call it Rat Island now. It keeps folding away but down in front just a little bit off the edge of where Peeler Mill was, there is a big old circle where they had an incinerator.

**Question:** Now you were class of?

**Answer:** 1942.

**Question:** So you were in high school when Pearl Harbor got bombed?

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**Answer:** Oh yeah, sure. I remember a kid calling extra!, selling papers. He was in front of our house walking selling papers announcing about the war and I had no idea where Pearl Harbor was of course. So that was kind of a shocking type of thing.

Part of the thing you might be interested in would be we had quite a few Japanese kids in school. I played basketball with one of them in junior high and I had a couple other friends and one particularly. A day I'll never forget about this time of year. I think there was something in the paper about it or on television that the commemoration of the day they gathered all the people up and took them down to the camps. I sat next to a little gal by the name of Minnie Atsui in a cooking class that we had. And we were in the top floor of the old high school. That's where it was and of course that is when they gathered all of these people up. And I remember I was still in class the day they had to put them all on a bus and I'm still sure when we knew they were going up the street and I'm not sure how many buses there were, didn't even bother counting them. I think, my memory isn't probably too good about this, whether they started out in Tacoma or someplace and gathered people up, but I still think one of the buses that went by I could see my mind imagining it, Minnie waving to me as they went by. It was a heart wrenching kind of thing. Propaganda at that time everybody was getting tuned to think they were all spies at that point which was kind of ridiculous. Because that generation and their parents generation had all been born here, they all worked down at the oyster companies.

**Question:** Didn't Olympia kind of have a Japanese community? I mean, it's like New York, you've got an Italian community and all the different ethnic. Dad always talks about Chinatown, the firecracker factory down there.

**Answer:** Yeah, for the most part they lived in little houses built for them by the oyster companies. Olympia Oyster Company and Brenner Oyster Company were both down there right on the. Well the Olympia Oyster Co was on the same street that I'm sure goes down to the yacht club now. Brenner Oyster Co. was farther west and here again I don't remember how many houses but I know that Minnie lived there and Satoshi Kaku was the kid I played basketball with. Yeah pretty much the Japanese were living there, either there or out where the fields were, the oyster fields, out on Eld Inlet.

**Question:** Prior to World War II was there like in school was there a segregational feeling or ?

**Answer:** No, not at all. Not with them at all. Nor with the blacks and of course we didn't have too many blacks. I think during the time I was there we had three blacks. One turned out to be a pretty good friend. He ended up being yell king senior year and he played football and the other one worked on the paper. And in school there was another one that worked down in the garage downtown, here again my memory goes bad when I'm trying to think of something, but nobody felt that way. Nobody felt that way at all.

**Question:** Did you guys have a high school hang out?

**Answer:** In my years we didn't have too much of a hang out. We used to have after game dances an awful lot around town that were pretty much popular. One was down in the Capitol Park Building where TCWV is right now. That originally was a big ballroom right in the middle of that building and we used to have after school dances there and then they turned it into a bowling alley and now of course Denny Heck and his crew have that place. I went down and Denny showed me through the thing a couple three months ago. After the war most of the kids in Madge's age, and she's four years younger than I am, but that bunch of girls used to walk all the way down to the Fifth Avenue. I don't know if you know where the Fifth Avenue was, but its right in the corner by the theatre on Washington and Fifth and it was just

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a little old I guess you'd call it they we served booze. I worked in it as a matter of fact, I used to flip hamburgers and make cube steak sandwiches and things. And that's where all the young gals would come down there and they'd gather around giggle and everything. They couldn't sit at the bar, but I'm amazed they were even allowed to go in there since we were serving beer, but they were and they'd come down everyday and they actually had another kind of hang out when I was in school. The Triple X, we used to go to a lot if you want to call that, we'd go there.

**Question:** That was a block off of Plum?

**Answer:** No, it's the one on fourth avenue, the one, it's the Ribeye, was the Root beer Triple X place.

**Question:** So, how did you decide to get in the service?

**Answer:** I didn't decide that.

**Question:** You didn't decide it.

**Answer:** I'd like to start another little story Karl. This was after I graduated went up and worked on the firefighting crew up on the Hamma Hamma River and so had one more year went to the University of Washington and played basketball up there for the freshman team. As a matter of fact played until I flunked a course and couldn't play anymore. But after about, before the first quarter was over I got the call that I was going to be drafted, that I had to report. Well my dad was a good friend of Ace Baker who was the big shot in town, if you want to call him that. He was the head of the draft board and dad kind of got to him and said you know he's in school, isn't there some way that can be deferred so it got deferred. So well before I found this out I had decided well I don't think I'm going to need to study much anymore because I'm going to go get killed in the war, so I'm going to enjoy myself a little bit. Well then it comes along that he got it deferred and I was still going to quit and I came home and dad says you can't do that, he says I already talked him into letting you go you've got to go back to school so I went back to school. Well about three quarters of the way through that quarter I got the call again and to make a long story short, dad went and did the same thing. That happened the second quarter and I managed to make it through the third quarter also, its when they were in quarters. But here again I was having too good a time and I really didn't do an awful lot of studying so where do we go from there where was I again?

**Question:** Did you get a letter that said Dear Mr. Hume, we want your service?

**Answer:** Have to report, have to report, yeah.

**Question:** So at that point could you choose to go in early I mean did they select which branch you were going to go in or did they just say show up at this place?

**Answer:** They just selected the branch, yeah, I could have gone and signed up I suppose but I didn't. I thought about going into the Merchant Marine and I made some passes at that but that didn't turn out good but just as well too cause I get a wheezy stomach and I don't think I'd have enjoyed being out there bouncing around on a ship very much so.

**Question:** Well, actually, too, if you read the statistics on the Merchant Marines their mortality rate was a lot higher than some of the you know.

**Answer:** Yeah, yeah, it was too dangerous.

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**Question:** Now you ended up going into the army?

**Answer:** Went into the army right.

**Question:** Jack Martin went?

**Answer:** Jack Martin and I went at the same time right. We got on the bus here and went up to Fort Lewis and had a six-week training type of thing. The first morning it was a wonder I didn't get kicked out already because I've always gone by my middle name, my first name is Roland and I've no idea, and neither do my parents where they happened to find that name. So actually now I go by R. Dale Hume, anything that is official and I'm standing there while they are calling off the roster and some guy is saying Hume, Roland, Hume, Roland and I'm standing there looking around and Jack is next to me and pointing. He says, isn't that your first name, he says, so I say, hey I'm here. I'd have been on KP the rest of the day or something I suppose. So yeah we went there and then I was of all the things, I was always they'd call me little Dale (inaudible) the miniature Dale Hume and they sent me to the combat MP's of all places you know which ended up being a very good experience. Sent back to Salt Lake City for another six weeks or so and just progressed on from there.

**Question:** So you must have been about nineteen when you got in?

**Answer:** Nineteen yeah.

**Question:** So you and Jack got as far as Fort Lewis together then?

**Answer:** Yup, we separated after our basic training at Fort Lewis. We separated at the old train station up at Tacoma in fact we rode together and when we got there he was shipped off one way and I was shipped off another.

**Question:** As a kid of that age do you remember what was going on in your mind or were you just a nineteen year old kid going I'm in the army now?

**Answer:** I was just a nineteen year old kid not thinking too much about any dangers of it for some reason or other. Everyone was doing it, it was not like you was the only guy doing it. And so you met a lot of guys and friends that you enjoyed and the training was intensive. It should have been, the combat MP's was intensive we did quite a few type of things like that. From Salt Lake City we went down to Camp Carson in Nevada which is by Hoover Dam and had desert training there since they had us out trying to build a fox hole in the sand out there you know and we figured we were all going to go out to the Pacific, but that didn't turn out that way. I went from there to Barstow California on a detail as an MP which was kind of fun, not fun, but a detached service kind of thing. They had a little unit there. We were all housed in an old school which sat up on the hill in Barstow. Barstow was about not more than ten blocks long at that time with route 66 going through town. And we'd sit there and then we would we'd all take turns on patrol and particularly on the weekends because they had all these guys out on the desert that they let come to town on the weekends after you know trying to win the war out there somewhere and they decided to have a good time so we ended up with a few people that we had to throw in the pokey or ship them back out to camp so. But that was kind of good but then I decided I wanted to go and to be a pilot which I did to begin with so from there I got transferred to Florence, Arizona, which was a prisoner of war camp, an Italian prisoner of war camp. And that was kind of interesting and we had duty up in the big towers up there watching these guys and we didn't need to watch them because they were so happy to be here they had no feeling about you know – here they were getting

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good food and now they are out there kicking the soccer ball around you know. And so anyway I got transferred into the Air Corp and went back to a class in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, but that only lasted a month when they found out they had let too many transfer out of the infantry and they transferred about ten thousand of us back into the infantry so I was shipped from there back to Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

**Question:** Back to?

**Answer:** Back to the infantry.

**Question:** To the MP part of it or?

**Answer:** No a foot soldier, I'm an old dough boy but I ended up being a runner, a mortar runner, and I reported to a lieutenant who was in charge of a squad of mortar experts. But here again an amazing thing happened. This was eleven months later and of course Jack and I kept track of each other all the time and eleven months later finally I got leave to come home. I got a nineteen-day furlough and so I took the train all the way home. My mother happened to be in Iowa, where she was born, and I stopped off there for a day with her, then she and I came back. And I think it was the first or second day and I thought I'm going to walk down town and see what is going on and walking down town and I ran into some old buddy that I knew and he said did you know Jack Martin is in town? And I didn't know it and we spent the next four or five days getting his boat in order which he had built when he was a freshman, an eighteen foot run about. And the next two days we went around to five different liquor stores because you could only buy so much in each liquor store and we loaded it on the boat and the next bunch of days we had our girl friends out in the boat running around the water. And then we separated again and believe it again I went back and was transferred into the air, oh excuse me this was before I got out, no this was afterwards I was sent to Texas, Shepherd Field Texas and I'm laying there one morning about 3 o'clock in the morning and somebody is shaking my shoulders and I look up and its Jack and he'd done the same thing, he'd wanted to transfer, and he'd got transferred that far but then they transferred him back because his eyes weren't good enough. So.

**Question:** That always amazes me. Today we have cell phones and everything like that, but I listen to these guys traveling all the different camps and they get into Europe and the South Pacific and they still can find their buddies. There is this war going on but there's still these eighteen or nineteen year old kids that are being kids on top of it it sounds like. Now at this point are you thinking that the training is for real and you'll be shipped out or did you think you'd be training forever?

**Answer:** No by the time I got back to Fort Bragg it looked more and more like we were going to be going over with that particular division, the hundredth division, which we did. We shipped over, forget the name of the ship we were on going over but that was kind of interesting too. I got put on night KP duty or kitchen duty and one of the first things I was asked to do was go into the big cold box freezer locker and get a couple of boxes of canned fruit and open them up. And put them into a big old dish and would you believe it when I got that box and put it out there I looked at it and it says Olympia Canning Company on it. So a little touch of home. That was kind of interesting. The other thing I got to be a pretty good egg cracker. I got so I could pick up two eggs with my hand at one time out of the two big bins they give you and pick up two eggs and crack one and throw the shells away and crack another and throw the shells away so sometimes the shells would get away from me and one time you get a rotten one so I start picking around and the chef came around and says leave it in there, it doesn't make any difference, so it gets stirred up all together in there.

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**Question:** In those quantities, what's one bad egg stirred in there?

**Answer:** Oh yeah. And then another time we were talking about something like that is out on the firing range. I was on this detail again before we went out in the morning making sandwiches so we'd make sandwiches on a table across from each other and we'd make them so fast that the guy on one side was in charge of taking the bread and putting the bread down for you and I was in charge of my side happened to be when we make them they were strawberry sandwiches of some kind or another. Strawberry jam in great big cans you'd think you'd use a spoon well no but the chef says go wash your hands and when you come back you dig it out of there spread it on with your hands and then you fold it up and put it here and put this down and fold it up so you never knew what you were eating I don't think.

**Question:** You ended up in Europe is that right?

**Answer:** Yeah, ended up going into Marseilles after they had chased all the German's out of southern France and we followed that route up the Rhone River and of course we passed an awful lot of tanks and dead Germans and everything as we 'd go up the river. And the planes just came along and strafed them all when they were going and they couldn't you know and then the bulldozer would come along and shove them off the road so we could get on up through so that was kind of interesting too.

**Question:** Do you remember your first recollection of I'm in war? I mean where you really knew you were in the war?

**Answer:** That was the day I was wounded, prior to that I might have because we went, the first thing that made us mad or made me mad was after we came into Marseilles and we went up to a little town called (Acheres?) La Chapelle Which is north of there. And we bivouacked out and it was raining and terrible and cold and we went out and gathered up some wood scraps of wood off some trees and brought it back. And can you believe it, the officers came back and said hey you can't do that. French don't want you taking their wood. I thought oh those Frenchman. Here we are over here saving their country for them and we can't even have their wood to keep warm? So that was a maddening type of thing, so then we went from there and got on this caravan and went on up. Funny thing is they didn't have American soldiers driving these things for some reason. I guess they didn't have that kind of.. that part of the army unit. So they had Frenchmen, I guess because they knew the roads better, well these Frenchmen just loved driving those big old troop trucks you know and we'd go along about, it seemed fairly slow. Most of the little villages over there go down into a little hill and drive back up through and would you believe it, when we started down this hill these guys would just stomp on it instead of slowing down to go through. They put their hands on the horn and go a roaring through there and chickens and people would scatter all over the place going and then we'd get back up on top of the hill and go along kind of slow. That was kind of interesting. So it took us a couple days to go through up there. We bivouacked up there and it snowed pretty bad, and we had to dig our fox holes and get into these mummy bags and we could hear some shelling by the time we got there. And I think that was when I got a little nervous. But the day I was wounded we had advanced up over this hill and down a hill to the road at the bottom. There was another road with a creek that ran through there and again I was responsible to this first lieutenant who wasn't one heck of a lot older than I was at the time he came out of West Point. And we went roaring down through there and by the time we got to the bottom of the hill the German's started lobbing in these 88 shells. Well this lieutenant fell in the water got his carbine wet and wanted me to clean it for him. So he was going to go up and see what was going on. He had the mortar crew up above farther up. Well we all retreated and ran back up this hill and I can remember very clearly I laid down behind this tree because they had stopped lobbing the shells in down there of course. The



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reason they were doing that was that they were smart enough with these mobile 88 shells that they had on these big trucks and they would go and find a position and they knew where we were coming to and as soon as we got to a certain spot they'd start lobbing the 88 shells in on us. Well it took a little bit for our guys to find out where they were so they could start getting back at them so the German's would up and move somewhere else. There was always a lull in these fracas. Anyway we went back up the hill and I laid down behind this tree and then we were told to get the heck out of there, get back a little farther. And when I got to help myself up with that tree it just fell right over it was so dog gone rotten. It wouldn't have saved me if it had been. Anyway, went up further and found another tree to lay behind and that's when an eighty eight shell came along, they were designed to explode in the trees and they were loaded with all sorts of shrapnel nails whatever they could put in those dog gone things. And one of those things exploded and got me in the hand and in the foot so that was my end of trying to win the war. I laid there I don't know about five hours waiting for somebody to come. Those were our instructions wait for the guys to come and get us. They finally came.

**Question:** Can you remember the feeling?

**Answer:** Fear at that time. I didn't know if they were going to come you know and get us or advance back and be captured or something and being wounded you know I couldn't do anything. I could have actually. I got up so my hand had a shell fragment that went through the hand, went through one way and came out the other. It got into the right part of my foot, and of course the medic cut my boot off and of course did what they could just to wrap things up a little bit so. But when they finally came for us with the ambulance down on the road down there I didn't try to walk on my foot but I think I probably could have, but I had to hop because I didn't have a shoe on and the medic helped me down there. Went into a first aid type of place where they had a hospital set up and originally they cleaned everything up and then I was sent to another hospital to do more operating and I was there for maybe three weeks or so and then sent all the way back to (Acheres?) La Chapelle, which was in an old insane asylum they had turned into a hospital down there.

**Question:** You said you were there once you were wounded for about five hours? Do you remember what's going on in your mind at that time, are you thinking am I going to make it or were you thinking oh my God it's chaotic does the world slow down or?

**Answer:** I know I smoked an awful lot of cigarettes and wished I'd had some booze or something. There was a couple of other guys that weren't too far away from me and we kept hollering back and forth but we remembered as I remember that we were trained that might not be such a sharp thing to do because if there were German's coming back looking for anybody it would be better just to lay low. I guess I just laid there hoping somebody would come pretty soon because we were instructed not to move because the medics were trained to pretty know where there was somebody was wounded. But the guy that came was trained to know where I was and how to come back and get me so you were instructed to stay there was the smartest thing to do and if you tried to go some place else hell you'd get lost in the woods if you are wounded you couldn't move and they never would find you. So yeah it was a long afternoon. I guess I can't remember an awful lot I thought about except hoping I wish I wasn't there.

**Question:** Now were you in the traditional, did you have a backpack on and poncho material?

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**Answer:** Oh yeah. Yeah. We had sleeping bags and the whole thing we had to carry plus our rifles, of course I had a carbine, not a big rifle, so that wasn't too tough to have to carry. Yeah, it was regular stuff, helmet and all that kind of stuff so.

**Question:** So how long then did you stay at the asylum that had been converted to a hospital?

**Answer:** I was wounded on November the 12<sup>th</sup> and each of the places I moved to ended up shipping back out to a hospital ship on well I passed the Rock of Gibraltar on my birthday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 1945, I was wounded in 1944, so it was I guess you'd almost call it a miracle wound you know I didn't have to get into the tough part of being an infantry soldier, getting up there trying to shoot people or things like that.

**Question:** I would assume having to march through where you describe tanks that were strafed and pushed off to the side and the carnage of war had to be I assume shocking or are you so trained that your mind says ok I know what I'm getting into, block it out.

**Answer:** Well, I wish I could answer that Karl. I guess I didn't really realize this was happening cause you're with a bunch of guys and we're all pretty young and not really having to experience that first blast you know. If I'd have been in the shape to be sent back to duty I probably would have realized it an awful lot more than I did but I guess I didn't really feel the fear until I got wounded and then after that I probably felt glad I did get wounded a little bit so I didn't have to go do this anymore, being selfish about it, I suppose.

**Question:** All of a sudden mortality sets in.

**Answer:** Yeah, and of course I don't know what happened to a lot of the guys that I served with. I think there was only one guy that I knew in our platoon that came back and I saw him. He was back at the hospital. As a matter of fact he shot himself on purpose in the foot.

**Question:** Now you are marching a lot so free time has a whole different concept I assume, but was there conversations that you had that you can think about with the troops. The stuff that you guys BS'ed about to either your mind away or to stay up?

**Answer:** Oh I think so. You know a lot of the guys that were in my company we hear at the time were at (inaudible) up north where we bivouacked there for about a week in the rain. We washed our clothes there and here's pictures I wish I could find I know I had them of these guys the pictures I know, I had them which I guess I don't have any more and yeah we'd sit around when we were eating and you know but mostly I think we talked of home. Talked about things you know that we knew about and stories about what we liked to do and it was pretty much that. I think that is pretty much the case of most of the people who have gone of the GI's who have actually gone into war I think mostly that's what they think of, the good times.

**Question:** That's a lot of what I heard? I've heard men say if we got a letter we were glad to hear about a new building that was going up or a little parade that was going on or the average somebody went to school and the little sister was in a play, crops were in.

**Answer:** I'm pretty sure that's what we talked about. I don't think we talked much about what we were going to do if we got in battle.

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**Question:** Do you think and this is a hard one because you don't know, I ask people do you remember what it was like being in the depression, well we didn't know any different, that's what we grew up in, so that was normal, do you think World War II had an profound effect on your life?

**Answer:** Oh definitely just the training in the service had a profound affect. Gives you some disciplines, the things that kids don't have now a days, I've always thought its too bad that a high school senior when he graduates can't go off for basic training for six months at least and get into a place where he has to learn to accept authority or he has to be humble and you also learn how to do, how to shoot a gun if you ever need to again, well you learn how to well I don't know, you learn how to make your bed you know and how to shine your shoes.

**Question:** I think two that you talked about were interesting. Humbleness, discipline, and I assume respect and I assume that is a lot of why post war America could come back and rebuild because you had a lot of these young soldiers that had learned all that. Some learned how to lead and some learned how to follow but there was this discipline would be, was probably the biggest thing.

**Answer:** I think it was probably that, probably more so in World War II, maybe more than World War I. The WWI guys so many of them came back in pretty bad shape particularly from the gas you know, affected their health more than coming back from World War II. Viet Nam of course was a complete disaster and those guys you know I think went through a heck of a lot more hell the way they had to fight than most everybody in the World War II except maybe for having the beach head things where they go up on the beach and get nothing but machine gun bullets and bombs and mortar shells coming down on you, raking the place and you know just watching pictures of the number of guys trying to get off those boats and falling right there and laying on the beach and what it took to capture the French coast and also all those islands where they go into the islands.

**Question:** Your kids were too young for Viet Nam.

**Answer:** Yeah so you didn't have to face the dilemma of how do I advise them?

**Question:** You described the Frenchman driving the truck down through this village with chickens, these villages you went through were they still functioning villages while the war was going on, were the stores open or what happens to a village like that during a war?

**Answer:** We only stopped at one village where people came and we were so thankful we had gotten there because they were under German control for so long you know and you know we were told not to accept wine from them but like dummies we did because they all wanted to give you a glass or bottle of wine. They were afraid we might be poisoned or something. For the most part they were so happy we were coming there I guess I can't answer what the towns looked like, but those towns actually those little villages had never been fought in very much you know they had been taken over and I think when the German's took it over from the French. Why I really don't have much respect for the French people. Here we've saved their country twice now and they still don't respect us too much or they don't have much feeling for the Americans.

**Question:** I think it was Will Rogers that said the reason they call it Niece is there is no nice in France. You know. Yeah, you can come save us but don't take our wood.

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**Answer:** Wood, yeah. Don't take our wood. Yeah. So to answer your question about those little villages I don't remember them decimated or anything.

**Question:** What was the worst part of being in the service for you?

**Answer:** Oh getting back to the strictness of it, some of the officers that thought they were winning the war, you know that were a little bit outrageous in what they wanted to get you to do to be a soldier plus just being taken from what your plans were. You know. Having to go do something you know is distasteful. Not being able to finish college or go on to school and do what you eventually wanted to do. I guess that was the worst part but really looking back on it, it wasn't that bad you know. Great experience really. What the heck I got to go to France.

**Question:** So there were some people in the service that were over enthusiastic or took their own mind set how they were going to train you and make you a man.

**Answer:** Some probably never had authority before and now probably had some authority and they wanted to tout it and it was unreasonable. My first captain or control of the unit that I was in was the first guy in Salt Lake City in charge of the first combat MP's. And this guy was a New York cop and he thought he was something else because he wore jodhpurs and carried a crop around. I think he had been watching General Patton, so you know, he was a little arrogant and a little bit over bearing in his way of treating the soldier instead of. You didn't get complete respect for him because of his arrogance you know and he didn't need that arrogance and was getting it because he probably had never had it when he was a cop because somebody above him had been that way and so he thought that's the thing you got to do. And now I'm the big boss and I'm going to show my authority.

**Question:** Is there anybody that stands out in your mind that you think back and you really respect from your time in the service, that sticks out to you?

**Answer:** Well, yes I do respect. I met a guy his name was Harry and he's the guy I first met in the combat MP's and we went to Camp Carson, Carson City, together. He was older. He was in his thirties and I'm a nineteen-year-old kid but we seemed to have something we admired about each other. He'd been a hell of an athlete. He played the University of Arizona in football and baseball and we had a little softball team and we had played some basketball and I wasn't too bad at basketball and he respected that from me. We played baseball, softball. The first thing I did, and I could never hit the ball very good, was hit a homerun and he thought Jesus, you know. We ended up being really good buddies when we were transferred down to Arizona and it was a dry city because it was a government camp and we were in an old barracks they had used when they built Hoover Dam. And nine miles out of town was this place called the Railway Place Casino and that was the first place you could get a drink. He and I used to sneak out at night and hitchhike out there. We'd hitchhike and when we got there we'd pool our money and he'd roll dice, no first thing we had to do was to drink Tequila on the rocks and I'd never done this before and he taught me how to do this. I don't know if you know how to do that, but first you lick your wrist and pour salt on it and then get a little hunk of lemon and lick some salt drink Tequila and squirt lemon in your mouth. Oh it's delicious until you have, well you have one of those, and then he taught me to drink an old Grand Dad Presbyterian and that was old grand dad and seven up and top it off with soda so it wouldn't be too sweet so that is what we'd drink. He'd go roll the dice and I'd go play black jack for two bits, that's all you had to play in those days, you could play more but that is the minimum and I'd play along with two bits and the dealer was nice to me and I'd make two or three dollars and then if I'd start betting fifty cents he'd take it away from me you know. Anyway I called him Pop, Pop Gray and he'd call me Country cause I was a country

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kid from Washington where my nearest neighbor lived fifty miles away. He was just a great guy so we became very close friends. He had a wife that looked just like Rita Hayworth and he called her the Duchess. And she was really a neat gal and he'd come over in ten or fifteen minutes and lose all his money, wanted to know have you made any yet. And I'd have to give him some back. Yeah. I saw him a few times he lived in California and we'd stop and he ended up being the west coast manager for the Johnson's Wax Company and he was just a salesman when he went in the service but he ended up being the top guy. We stop and saw him a couple times so yeah that is one guy I admired that left the biggest impression on me cause actually I wasn't around any others long enough in the times I changed back and forth. The other guy I didn't like was the guy.. I had transferred, this guy had gotten some respect from me I'm telling a lot of stories here. I don't know if they're things you want but they're things...when I worked for the forest service I learned how to climb a telephone pole cause we'd fixed all the poles up the Hamma Hamma River all the way down to the highway the loop highway, 101. So I learned how to climb those with spurs to go up there and redo the line up there. When we were in Florence, Arizona, they had a firing range out on the desert out there where they had a whole bunch of poles and they had things moving all around the sky if you wanted to shoot it, and one of them got off the track and so he called this is my buddy the cop. So he called the guy back at the base to get him a pair of climbing spurs and they bring these climbing spurs out to him and he puts them on and he starts trying to climb this thing and he gets up a little bit and he slips down and he keeps falling down and he had no idea how to use them. And Pop over here says hey captain country knows how to do that cause I told him that so I'll be darned if I didn't go over and go, up and fix the darn things and I was a hero to this guy from then on. But then he had me out there fixing all of them for a couple of days so I was in his good graces and I think that I was getting close to getting a promotion to a corporal or a sergeant when I requested this transfer and I got this transfer he promised I had an uncle that lived in Los Angeles and this is the end of December and I had a cousin and an uncle and the University of Washington was going to play in the Rose Bowl that year and my uncle got the tickets and this guy said he'd give me leave, a delay on route to be able to go into Los Angeles and see the game, well he never did. This he promised me before I transferred or before I got the transfer anyway I didn't get to do that so I was not too happy with him.

**Question:** What, oh go ahead.

**Answer:** I don't know what you were going to ask next but before I forget it I've got to tell another little thing on the way home on the hospital ship. I was clear down in the bow of this thing with my particular bunk. And up on one of the main deck they had a USO room up there and they had books and magazines and there was a little gal who ran the place, a little USO lady. And they had a record player and the record player was piped all over the ship. One of the songs they played quite a bit was "Rum and Coke a Cola" by the Andrews Sisters. I don't know if you've heard it and it got played quite a bit. One day I was down reading and they were playing this and had been playing three times and all of a sudden it went beep beep you know screech like the needle did something and it quit playing. And I didn't hear it for awhile, didn't hear it and hear it, I went back up and I went to the gal and said hey what happened to Rum and Coke a cola? She said you probably won't believe this, but some guy came in here and he picked the thing up and stepped out on the thing and sailed it out onto the ocean. So that was the end of Rum and Coke a cola. Now the end of this, when I got home and asked people how they liked Rum and Coke a cola they didn't know what I was talking about because it hadn't been released in the United States yet. That and Frank Sinatra's, Nancy. Both of those hadn't been released in the United States.

**Question:** Prerelease them. I have to switch this.