

**Howard C. Bowman**  
**Narrator**

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**New York Military Museum**  
**Interviewer**

**July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

**Charlton, New York**

Q: Today is the 17<sup>th</sup> of July, 2012. We are in Charlton, New York. My name is Wayne Clark. I'm with the New York State Military Museum in Saratoga Springs, New York. Sir, for the record, will you please state your full name, date and place of birth please.

A: I'm Howard Chester Bowman born the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April, 1923 in what is now Gdansk, Poland. My father was the American Vice Counsel there at the time.

Q: Did you attend school there at all?

A: No I didn't. I left as a young child and moved to various places around the world.

Q: I assume you graduated from a high school along the way?

A: Let me begin by saying that the war hit me quite early. I was living in Glasgow, Scotland in 1939 when the war began. My father was the American Counsel in Glasgow. I was about to start my last year of high school in Glasgow. The war began on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September, 1939. That night, the liner Athenia was torpedoed outside of Glasgow on the Clyde estuary by a German U-Boat and was filled with American tourists fleeing Europe to get back to the states. They were all brought back to Glasgow. It was the job of the consulate to get them clothing, food, accommodations and documentation. Some of them appeared in pajamas and night clothes.

I was drafted as an unpaid clerk to help out at the consulate. That was my first introduction to the war. I spent about two weeks doing that then school began. I went back to school. My father, a couple days later, said, "Why don't you come down the consulate to have lunch with me and the son of the American Ambassador who came up to help out." I said no that I was too busy at my school so that's how I missed meeting John F. Kennedy.

Q: Oh really. Wow!

A: So, we stayed on in Glasgow 1940 and '41. The city was bombed. We were lightly hit. One time I came up from the cellar to our apartment during an air raid. I looked at the bombing of the shipyards and the workers tenements along the Clyde and suddenly I saw a parachute come down with something that looked like an ash can. It was a land mine. In addition to bombs, they sometimes brought down landmines which exploded above the ground for their blast effect. I saw them and I flattened myself on the floor. A window went out right over my head and embedded itself in the other wall. That was my first narrow escape of the war.

Then in January 1942, my father was transferred back to the States and we proceeded to London and saw the damage there. Then we took a train to Bristol, England and got aboard a Dutch KLM airliner which took us to Lisbon, Portugal. It was only half filled with seats. The rest was filled with spare fuel tanks. You have to go way out into the Atlantic and make a wide berth around France and approach Portugal from the west to avoid German patrols. We flew at about 100 feet. It was my first airplane ride. It was the bumpiest that I have ever experienced since.

A couple of flights later, the great British actor Leslie Howard was on the flight and his plane was shot down, so we had an escape there.

We got to Lisbon and spent about two weeks waiting to get on the Pan Am Clipper – the flying boats. We kept being bumped by more important passengers. From Lisbon, we took off from the Tagus River and we flew to Portuguese Guinea in West Africa and spent the night there. We were supposed to leave the next morning but the plane had to go out looking for survivors of a torpedoed ship in the South Atlantic. It came back and we spent another night there.

We then flew across the equator to Natal, Brazil and had breakfast there. We went to Belem, Brazil and had lunch there and spent the night in Trinidad. Then we got to Bermuda. We spent a night in Bermuda. There was none of these cross Atlantic flights. It took a long time. Bermuda was buzzing with activity. It was a great base for hunting German U-Boats. It was full of British and American ships and airplanes going on patrol for U-Boats.

The next day, we flew to New York and landed in Long Island Sound. We took a taxi to the city and we drove by the docks along the Hudson. I saw the liner Normandy lying on its side.

Q: Oh really.

A: It caught fire a couple of days before. It was a total loss. It was a sad sight to see this great ship lying in the water there.

So, I went to Swarthmore College and spent most of the next year at college and then in November, 1942, I enlisted in the US Army.

Q: Let me go back just a little bit. You have that one picture in the Scottish uniform. You mentioned ROTC.

A: Yes. After finishing school, I went to the University of Glasgow. I was in the ROTC at school and this is the uniform of the Highland Light Infantry (shows a picture of him in uniform). We were trained by cadre of Highland Light Infantry.

Q: How long were you there for?

A: I was there for two years in the ROTC. I passed. I could've applied for a commission but at that time I would have lost my American citizenship. My father and I agreed that it was not a good idea. So, I didn't do that. I went back to the states.

Q: Okay, so you're back in the states.

A: Yes. I had three semesters at the University of Glasgow before coming to the States. I had a couple of semesters at Swarthmore College. I decided to enlist because the draft was going to get me anyway and I heard that if you enlisted, you got privileges. You got to pick your branch of service and so on.

Q: So, you enlisted in the Army.

A: This was completely false information. There was no particular benefit. I tried to enlist in the Navy but they refused me because I had a heart murmur. I tried to enlist in the Marines, and I was too puny but the Army didn't care so they took me.

I went to the processing center at New Cumberland, Pennsylvania. I was interviewed and the young man who interviewed me said, "You went to the University of Glasgow didn't you?" I said, "Yep". (He said), "They have a good medical school, don't they?" I said, "Yes, but I studied economics." (He said), "But they do have a good medical school?" I said, "Yes, but I studied economics." Well, the next morning I found that I was assigned to medical basic training in Camp (unclear), Virginia and I was trained as a medic.

Q: What was your basic training like?

A: It was strenuous because when the infantry is resting you go up and down the line treating for heat exhaustion and sore feet and so on. So, it was 16 mile forced marches and 20 mile marches all while that carrying pretty heavy packs with medical equipment.

Q: So that medical basic training as far as that being trained as a medic was it like an on the job type training program?

A: Yes, theoretically. We didn't treat any actual injured people. Then we were going to go on from that to more advanced training. But, before I was assigned anywhere else, I was told to take an examination at a certain place. I said, "Sergeant, what is this exam about?" The Sergeant said, "Shut up Bowman and go to Building 23 and take this exam." – which I did. I guess I passed because a few days later I was assigned to Georgetown University in Washington, DC for testing.

I took various tests especially language aptitude tests. I spent about a week there waiting for an assignment. It was a glorious time. There was the Stage Door Canteen in Lafayette Square with Senator's wives and Mrs. Roosevelt would sometimes come serve meals to the soldiers in the evening. It had a great band and nice girls to dance with. I went to visit Congress and the Supreme Court. It was a lot of fun and a nice interlude after my basic training.

Then I was sent to Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania for the Army Specialized Training Program. They trained engineers and they trained people for language. I was trained for the German Aryan Language Program – intensive German language training on the economics, geography and the culture of Germany.

Since I knew German already, I spent very little time in class. So, I was able to take courses at Lehigh and got another semester's credit. It was just a boondoggle. It was a lot of fun.

Q: Did you go to class in uniform?

A: Oh yes. We were all soldiers. We were all promoted to PFC. There was a song at the time *Take Down Your Service Flag, Mother, Your Son's in the ASTP*.

It was just very relaxed.

In Pennsylvania, you couldn't get drinks on Sundays so you belonged to a (unclear) club. It was a private club where you could buy beers and so on. I went to the Holy Ghost Beneficial Society which was an Irish Steelworker's beer club. They wouldn't take my money for beer. They were so hospitable.

I had a good time there until Christmas 1943 came. I got a ten day Christmas furlough to go to Swarthmore College to spend it with my old professor there and stay in his home with his family. I no sooner got to Swarthmore when I got a telegram telling me to report back to Lehigh which I did. They said go immediately to Camp Ritchie, Maryland for the Military Intelligence Training Program there.

On Christmas Day, I arrived there. Of course, they weren't expecting us so I spent two weeks shoveling coal and cleaning classrooms and so on waiting for my program to begin.

I was trained then as a Military Intelligence Interrogator of prisoners of war. This was a very intensive course. You had to know more about the German Army than most Germans knew – order of battle, reading German Military documents, interpreting German army maps, looking at aerial photographs and identifying German equipment.

There were night compass programs. A covered truck would take us up in the Catocin Mountains where Camp David is now. It was cold and it was snowy. They would dump us out of a truck and made us find our way to a certain point on the map. We got this map. There was a tent there and there was a German prisoner to be interrogated. He was actually a German-American who spoke native German. He had a script to follow and we would interrogate him and then write up the interrogation report. We then had to transmit it by Morse code or radio to some place.

Then, we would go to another point and there we would find some German Army documents which we had to interpret and analyze and so on.

Q: Were you working with a three man team or?

A: Yes. It was about three or four men to a team.

So, it was intensive and strenuous. I never worked so hard. I went to two tough colleges but I never studied as hard as I did there.

I completed the course. I was all ready to go overseas to join some division as part of an IPW team but I was sent with five or six other guys down to Atlanta, Georgia all of the sudden. We were interviewed there by the G-2 of the (unclear) Service Command Intelligence Office.

He said, "I have an assignment for you but first I want to see how good you are at intelligence work. Take ten dollars and spend the day in Atlanta tomorrow. Pretend you're German agents and pick up as much information as you can. Write up a report and come back to me the following morning."

We stayed at a hotel. I went into Atlanta the next morning and visited the USO there and ran into a soldier who had about six to eight hours to wait there before moving on to his furlough point. It turned out that he was from Ascension Island in the South Atlantic. It was a place where bombers transferred planes flying from Brazil over to Africa. They could stop for refueling or repairs and so on. He told me all about the equipment on the island, the fuel tanks, how often the planes came and so on.

At the end of the very short airfield there was a bump. The planes would rush down the field and hit the bump and get knocked in the air.

It was all very interesting. I wrote up a report and Colonel Everett was very pleased with it. He said, "You passed." So, I and two other guys were then told that we could volunteer for this job but you'd better volunteer.

We were sent back to Camp Richie and our service records were all expunged and we got new service records and new identities. We played the role of disloyal American soldiers who refused to fight the Germans or the Japanese because we were pro-Nazi.

Then we sent to a place, Lebanon, Tennessee which was the site of the old Tennessee Maneuver Area which had been used by the armor divisions earlier in the war. They chopped up the fields and broke bridges and fences. It was the job of the 1800<sup>th</sup> Engineer General Service Battalion to repair things. The people in this Battalion were all disloyal American soldiers. They were in uniform. They were mostly German-American Bundists people like that.

What was very strange was that these guys were in American uniforms and they had weekend passes. They got furloughs back home. They were not obliged to risk their lives at the front. They just were given very tough jobs working in the fields.

I had the job with some other guys of dismantling an air strip made of steel plates. It was about 95 degrees temperature. The heat was almost unbearable and we had to knock these apart and load them on the trucks.

Q: What rank were you at that point?

A: We were all privates. Whatever rank we were, we were demoted because we were disloyal. The cadre, the NCOs and so on, were loyal American soldiers. They were in charge of it. They were engineer specialists and they told us how to use bulldozers and pour cement and so on to fix things.

My job was to see if these guys were up to anything – whether they were meeting any German agents and become one of them. There were two other guys from Camp Ritchie. There were

three companies. I was Company A. The other two were in Company B and Company C. We were not supposed to meet with one another.

I would go into town – into Nashville with these guys and have beers with them. As far as I could tell, they weren't up to anything. In Nashville, I would pull away from them at one point and I would go to a safe house and report to an FBI agent who would debrief me on what I learned the previous week or two.

I did this for three or four months and then the three of us were recalled back to Atlanta.

Q: Did you find out any information.

A: No, I did not. I did find that some of these guys were just malingerers. They weren't Nazis. They just took advantage of the situation to have a safe war. I recommended that they be put in regular units. They're not dangerous – these guys. Make them serve. They did that.

When I got back to Colonel Everett, he praised us all. He said, "Bowman, your predecessor was murdered when the guys found out about him." They found out he was a plant and they poisoned him." (I said), "Thanks for telling me now."

We all got promoted to Sergeant from PFC and we were sent down to Fort Benning, Georgia to work in the G-2 section there. I said I wanted to get back to Camp Ritchie so in about two months, the Colonel arranged it and I got back to Camp Ritchie where I was given a direct commission as a Second Lieutenant. I guess partly because of what I did in the south.

At this point, I was given a commendation by Colonel Everett which was the basis for the Army Commendation Medal. It says here, Howard Bowman and so on:

"After volunteering for this mission, beyond the call of duty and after undergoing three and one half months of hazardous and trying conditions accomplished his task with exceptionally outstanding success. His ability to successfully cope with adverse conditions in addition to his loyalty and conscientious effort and keen interest in his country reflects great credit both on himself and the command" – which is sort of exaggerating what I did but it was very nice. I think that was partially responsible for getting my commission.

Then, I was finally sent overseas.

Q: Why don't you hold up that one photograph as an enlisted man.

A: (He holds up a picture).

Q: Do you recall when and where that was taken?

A: It must have been taken after my completing basic training in 1943.

Then I was commissioned. Here I am after the war in Europe (shows picture of himself). This time I was a 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant.

Q: Was that taken in Europe?

A: Yes it was. It was taken by a friend with a camera (unclear).

With a bunch of other guys from Camp Ritchie, we went to New York and boarded the Mauritania – the big Cunard liner- and zigzagged across the Atlantic to Liverpool, England on the (unclear). We took a train to Southampton. There that night, we boarded a French liner, the Cuba, and crossed the channel overnight to Le Havre.

Another narrow escape – two or three trips later, the Cuba was sunk by a submarine with a considerable loss of life.

I got to a Military Intelligence assembly center outside Paris – a place called Le Vesinet. I had a couple of very nice visits in Paris.

Q: Did you speak French also?

A: No. I did not – a few words. Not much.

I was then assigned to an IPW team – Interrogation of Prisoner of War team 154. It had a history. 154 had been assigned to a division during the Battle of the Bulge and it was captured. The team members were captured and all were executed by the Germans because most of these fellows in the interrogation teams were German Americans. A lot of them had come from Germany to escape Hitler. (unclear). In fact, they spoke better German than English. They were treated as though they were Jews for one thing and they were treated as traitors by the Germans and they were shot. The whole team was wiped out.

It's funny that they kept the name. Here, we were a fresh team. It was commanded by a 1st Lieutenant, Jake Berger. He was an American fellow from Brooklyn. Then there were four enlisted men. They were all German- Americans.

We took off in two jeeps for Holland. We went met our division – (unclear) 20<sup>th</sup> Armored Division – in Maastricht, Holland.

An Armored Division in those days was divided into two combat commands A and B. One is commanded by a Brigadier and the other by a Colonel. Lt. Berger and two of the enlisted men went to Combat Command A and I went to Combat Command B with two enlisted men.

We took off across Germany across the Rhine at Remagen down south through Nuremburg. We saw these cities totally destroyed. It was still a sad sight, the smell of bodies in the ruin. We knew that most of them were women and old men. The soldiers were out in the front. It was sort of sad.

In southern Bavaria, we got into action late the war. My Colonel, Colonel Jones, was killed.

Q: How did that come about?

A: There was a fire fight and he was killed by a sniper.

I was not far away from him interrogating prisoners. I was never scraped.

Q: Were you actually involved in part of the fire fight.

A: No. I huddled behind a tank talking to a prisoner to find out what was happening and what unit he was from.

Q: How cooperative were these prisoners?

A: I'd say one out of five was cooperative. That was enough. We had a lot of prisoners then. The army was falling apart.

Q: What happened to the prisoners?

A: The MPs would then take them to the rear and put them into fields which were surrounded by barbed wire. There were stockades there and they were guarded there. They would eventually take them out further elsewhere.

One of my Sergeants – they were all native Germans – sometimes we would get into a little village and if the phone was still working in the railway station or something, he would call ahead and say, "This is Lt. Schmidt" of the "something, something" and call the unit in the village ahead of us. Sometimes that would say "This is Captain so and so of the 21<sup>st</sup> Grenadiers and we are here still holding on." So, we got information by telephone. It was very clever of this Sergeant to do this. My German was good but it was not native. I could not do that.

Anyway, we got near Munich getting near the end of the war. We hadn't had any prisoners for some time so my S-2, Intelligence Commander Major (unclear) said why don't you go take the jeep and go up to our main line infantry regiment up there further south and see if you can find any fresh prisoners. See if they've got any fresh prisoners to talk to.

I said I would then got in the jeep. The CIC Lieutenant, a friend of mine also in the unit, said I'll ride shotgun with you. So, we took off. It was the middle of the night and there was sleet falling even though it was April. It was absolutely dark. We went down this muddy road. There were no signposts. We had no map and we couldn't use lights. We had a password if we met other people. We didn't meet anybody. We went on and on.

Gradually, the road got better and became a paved road. Suddenly, we were surrounded by fairly tall buildings beside us. I said, "My god, we're in Munich. We'd better turn around and go home." We turned the jeep around just then Mercedes sedan with red crosses on it drove up. A gentleman got out and said, "Are you Americans?" I said, "Yes". (He said), "I'm from the German Red Cross and also from the anti-Nazi underground. I wish you people would stop bombing the city at random indiscriminately. I have a map here which shows where the SS Units are, where

the gun emplacements are, where there are tanks are and so on. Shoot at them not at these people.”

I said, “Hop on”. He said, “Where are you going?” I said we were over in (unclear) but I am lost. He said, “Well, I know the way.” He guided us safely to our village and we didn’t meet and American or German troops. Our new colonel was delighted and sent him up to division headquarters with an escort.

Q: Now, did he have his vehicle too or did he leave it?

A: He left it there. Evidently, this was pretty good information because a couple of weeks after the war I was out with Lt. Beim (sp?), my CIC pal, rounding up Germans and Nazis in the (unclear) category. I came home at night with Lt. Beim and the colonel said, “Where have you been?” I said, “We were working sir”. He said, “The general was here and he wanted to hang a medal on both of you. He was there with photographers and you missed it. So, here’s your medal” and he then went back and sat down and had his dinner.

This is way overblown perhaps but this is the citation for the Bronze Star for both of us:

“For meritorious service in support of military operations 20 April to 4 May ’45, As IPW Officer for headquarters Combat Command B, Lt Bowman’s initiative and cleverness were instrumental in obtaining much information of material value to its headquarters .30 April, during the Battle of Munich, Lt. Bowman with another officer proceeded beyond the front lines and sought out information concerning the enemy defenses of the city. By his actions, he materially aided in the destruction of the city’s defenses”

Q: Very nice.

A: It was sort of an exaggeration. It was all by mistake. We just got lost.

Q: Were you aware of the concentration camps?

A: Yes. After Munich, we went on and our division liberated Dachau concentration camp. I saw the gas chambers and the crematoria, the bodies lying around and the half dead prisoners wandering around. I stayed away. I looked in and I left. The medics and the quartermaster people wanted to treat them and feed them. I didn’t want to get in their way.

We rounded up some German civilians from Dachau city and brought them to the camp and made them dig pits to bury the dead so they could see what went on there. It was about that time the war ended.

Q: Did you ever hear stories of atrocities like, well, of American being executed or German prisoners being executed?

A: I was going to interrogate some of the guards at Dachau but they were shot before I could get to them. Others ran away or escaped.

As we approached Munich, I came upon a convoy of two or three trucks abandoned by the side of the road. They were Wehrmacht trucks. We inspected them and found that they were from a small concentration camp called Gross-Rosen concentration camp. There were bag after bag, cloth bags, of gold teeth and then jewelry and rings, wedding rings and bracelets all taken from concentration camp prisoners.

I talked prisoners at Dachau, the able bodied and one guy was quite able bodied and still alright. We took him to our place where we were living and would commandeer the villa and gave him a good meal and a good bed and spent much of the evening talking to about his experiences. So, I got a firsthand account.

Q: Now going back a little bit, do you recall where you were and what your reaction was when you heard about the death of President Roosevelt?

A: Not really. We heard about it actually by...they issued a Stars and Stripes paper and it got right to the front. I don't know where they print them up but very quickly we'd get papers distributed to us. I had one here (gets paper). That's how I heard about it. The reaction was one of shock and who was this fellow Truman? We never heard of him. This is an issue of the Stars and Stripes the day the war ended in Europe (shows paper). European Theater of Operations - ETO (refers to paper).

Q: Was there much celebration?

A: Yes. We got drunk. Among other things in this convoy of trucks from the concentration camp there were cases of fine French Cognac. I confiscated that and passed it around. We had stuff to imbibe.

After the war ended, hostilities ended, we went down into Austria a ways. We were going to go down to Trieste, Italy to keep Tito's forces from taking over the city but another division from Northern Italy got there ahead of us. We didn't. We went back to Bavaria and then the 20<sup>th</sup> Armored packed up to go to Japan. They only got as far as Antwerp when the war ended in the Pacific.

I, by this time, was transferred to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Army Intelligence Center at Freising, near Munich where I interrogated the poor Nazi people. After that I went on to a place near Frankfurt (unclear) which was a major interrogation center.

Q: Any important Nazis that you were involved with?

A: Interesting. Yes. There was Hitler's dentist. That was important if we ever found his body. We had Hitler's secretary who had an account of the last days in the bunker and a very interesting woman I talked to named Hanna Reitsch. She was the Amelia Earhart of Germany a very fine aviatrix and she was a test pilot for the Messerschmitt jet plane – jet fighter - which was fortunately not developed in time to do any good in the war.

Q: Now, were those people cooperative?

A: Yes, they were. Hanna Reitsch's boy friend was a Luftwaffe General called Ritter von Greim and he was stationed near Munich and he got orders by radio from the bunker to get his commission to take over the Luftwaffe because Goering had been a traitor according to Hitler. He was dismissed from the job as chief of the Luftwaffe. So, she got into a little liaison play and flew her boyfriend all the way from Munich to Berlin stopping in farmer's fields to pick up fuel from farmer's trucks and landed in the street outside the bunker in this little plane under heavy Soviet fire. She got the guy into the bunker and he got the orders from Hitler to become the head of the Air Force. The next day, she got him out again and flew him back to Munich where upon he and she just took off for the Alps. The war was over and she said "what are we doing?"

So, I talked with her. She was an interesting woman.

Q: Was he captured too?

A: No, he committed suicide not captured.

Then, there was a couple very outstanding German armored division commanders -one from the Panzer-Lehr Division. I can't remember his name right now. We finished the interrogation and said, "ok, you weren't a war criminal so you can go home." He said, "I have no home. I lived in Hamburg and its gone can you get me a job?" So, we put him in charge of the motor pool. He was an excellent mechanic. That was nice ending there.

Then I stayed on until July or August of '46. I enjoyed my work there and then I and two other officers were put in charge of a document shipment of German classified documents which the Pentagon wanted to read. So, instead of going back on the troop ship, we went up to Antwerp and got them loaded on a Belgian freighter and got a nice leisurely trip across the Atlantic by ourselves in this comfortable Liberty ship to Hoboken and that's where we ended the war.

Q: What rank were you when you were discharged?

A: 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant.

I want to make a boast at the end. Five generation of Bowmans have been in the military service. My grandfather came from Clyde, NY a little village between Rochester and Syracuse on the Barge Canal and he joined the Union Army. He marched with Sherman from Atlanta to the sea with the 20<sup>th</sup> Michigan. When he got to the sea, he got tired of walking so he joined the 11<sup>th</sup> NY Cavalry and spent the rest of the war with that.

My father served in World War I on the western front and won the French Croix de Guerre. Then I served in World War II. My two elder sons served in the armed forces during the Viet Nam War one who was in the air force. He never got to Viet Nam. He served in England, Spain, Turkey and Iran. The other joined the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne and served in Germany and Panama. My grandson

enlisted in the Marines and saw service in Somalia. That's five generations. I'm pretty proud of that.

Q: Nice. Once you left the service, did you make use of the GI Bill?

A: Yes, I did. I went back to Swarthmore and got my degree.

Q: Did you join any veteran's organizations?

A: No I didn't. I went overseas soon after that. With my military intelligence training, I was snapped up by the Central Intelligence Agency as was my wife later. I went overseas and spent most of my career in Europe and that was it.

Q: Did you retire from there?

A: Yes, I did after 38 years of service. My wife retired too after 25 years. We met overseas.

Q: I suppose I better not ask you about your career with them.

A: No. I just served in interesting places. It was very enjoyable. I was in Switzerland, Germany, Greece, Austria. We made the most of it mountain climbing, skiing in Switzerland, the opera in Vienna and in Bonn my office was on the Rhine and I would look out the window and watch the boats going up and down the Rhine. It was very pleasant.

I was in Berlin when the wall was still up. It was claustrophobic but it was an interesting city.

Q: Did you go to Viet Nam at all?

A: No, I didn't. I was never asked so I didn't go.

Q: Did you attend any reunions or keep in touch with anyone that you were in the service with?

A: Just casual friends. A number of people in the Agency had been in military intelligence with me and I knew them, yes. It was just casual. I didn't join any organization.

Q: How do you think your time in the service change or affected your life? Obviously it had a great affect on it.

A: It made a man out of me I guess because I was rather fragile. I got in with this awful Engineer Battalion and I had to work pick and shovel work and that built me up that four or five months. That was very good for me. Basic training was good for me and I had to deal with people. It was a fine experience as the British would say "I had a good war."

Q: Is there anything else?

A: I think that's it. Thank you for coming.

Q: My pleasure. Do you want to show me some photos?

A: Yes but that's not for the camera.

Q: Alright. Thank you again for your interview.