

1

00:00:02,120 --> 00:00:10,600

We are recording the interview of art Kemp. This interview is being conducted by Jennifer Seavey from Wright State University's veterans voices project.

2

00:00:10,600 --> 00:00:17,500

Also in attendance is Jeff Duffy. This interview is being recorded at the Champaign Aviation Museum in Urbana, Ohio.

3

00:00:17,500 --> 00:00:25,700

It is 2:30 p.m. on February 4th, 2017. Okay

Art, so where and when were you born?

4

00:00:25,700 --> 00:00:36,540

I was born February the 2nd, 1924 [laughing] in Port Jefferson, Ohio

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00:00:36,540 --> 00:00:40,820

Okay, who are your parents and what were their occupations?

6

00:00:40,820 --> 00:00:41,700

You what?

7

00:00:41,700 --> 00:00:45,640

Who were your parents and what were their occupations?

8

00:00:45,640 --> 00:01:00,020

My parents was my dad's name was Paul Kemp my mother's name was Alice Kemp and my occupation all through my life was a tool and dye maker.

9

00:01:00,020 --> 00:01:04,540

Oh wow, okay. Do you have any siblings?

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00:01:04,540 --> 00:01:05,540

No I don't.

11

00:01:05,540 --> 00:01:10,700

Okay. What were you doing before you entered the service?

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00:01:10,700 --> 00:01:22,980

I was running a lathe at the Sidney machine and Tool Company. [laughing] I got that job as soon as I got out of high school.

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00:01:22,980 --> 00:01:31,500

Oh okay. So which branch of military service did you choose?

14

00:01:31,500 --> 00:01:40,240

I was an Air Force and when I was in that is the States I was in the 3rd Air Force, which that's a training Air Force.

15

00:01:40,240 --> 00:01:48,420

Then when I was overseas I was in the 8th Air Force.

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00:01:48,420 --> 00:01:50,130

Why did you choose the Air Force

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00:01:50,130 --> 00:01:53,800

I didn't choose Air Force, they chose me. [laughing]

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00:01:53,800 --> 00:01:54,980

Were you drafted?

19

00:01:54,980 --> 00:01:56,480

Yeah I was drafted

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00:01:56,480 --> 00:02:00,440

Okay. How did you feel about that?

21

00:02:00,440 --> 00:02:06,220

Well after I found out where I was at I felt real good. [laughing]

22

00:02:06,220 --> 00:02:08,840

Where did you go?

23

00:02:08,840 --> 00:02:09,880

You mean..?

24

00:02:09,880 --> 00:02:14,220

Where was your where was your basic training at?

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00:02:14,220 --> 00:02:25,680

Oh basic training was in Clearwater, Florida  
and I was only... when I had basic training only took three weeks of basic training.

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00:02:25,680 --> 00:02:26,420

Three weeks?

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00:02:26,420 --> 00:02:45,440

Three weeks and we did most that on a golf course [laughing] and we lived in a... like a hotel, it was a hotel we lived in and it was nice facility and everything.

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00:02:45,440 --> 00:02:56,740

And we would go out and march out to the greens on the golf course and then they would read the Articles of War to us and we didn't have really much training,

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00:02:56,740 --> 00:03:04,160

only it we were in an obstacle course. It was... they wanted to make sure we was physical fit I guess. [laughing]

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00:03:04,160 --> 00:03:06,900

Do you recall any of your instructors?

31

00:03:06,900 --> 00:03:09,500

No I don't, no I don't

32

00:03:09,500 --> 00:03:16,920

What was your military occupation? What did you do when you were in the military?

33

00:03:16,920 --> 00:03:27,820

Oh well I went to school mostly. I went to radio school and I went to gunnery school then I flew missions. I was over in 8th Air Force in England,

34

00:03:27,820 --> 00:03:44,580

Polebrook, England, flew missions. Then when I came back, they sent me to California for R&R and then then they sent me to Goodfellow Field, Texas and sent me to school down there to be a link printer instructor.

35

00:03:44,580 --> 00:03:56,760

So I taught pilots instruments and cadets

instruments with an elite trainer and then the point system come out and I had a lot of points.

36

00:03:56,760 --> 00:03:59,180

So they discharged me. [laughing]

37

00:03:59,220 --> 00:04:10,640

Oh okay. Did you receive any specialized training? Were you a part of the airborne or did you do anything like that?

38

00:04:10,640 --> 00:04:28,080

Well we had specialized training by going up in the pressure chamber and simulate you going up to 32,000 feet and if

you couldn't do it they's wash you out. [laughing]

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00:04:28,080 --> 00:04:32,880

Now you see you were a tail gunner?

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00:04:32,880 --> 00:04:33,960

Yes.

41

00:04:33,960 --> 00:04:38,040

What was it like? What was your duties?

42

00:04:38,040 --> 00:04:51,680

Well my duties was to keep the guns in good shape and watch so enemy fighters wouldn't attack you from... You had -- I forget how many degrees is was --

43

00:04:51,680 --> 00:04:57,220

but you had a pretty good visibility back there. had a pretty good visibility back there. You could see pretty good.

44

00:04:57,220 --> 00:05:07,000

So we had to watch for enemy aircraft most of time and we also had to tell when other airplanes come up and get in the formation,

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00:05:07,000 --> 00:05:12,760

because we had the airplanes that come up and try to get your formation I then blow in our formation. [laughing]

46

00:05:12,760 --> 00:05:22,540

And then you made sure that they was in the right position and I today I don't remember what some of that was, but,

47

00:05:22,540 --> 00:05:32,960

because it's been quite a few years ago and so...

48

00:05:32,960 --> 00:05:36,760

It says you shot down a FW-90?

49

00:05:36,760 --> 00:05:38,320

An FW-190.

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00:05:38,320 --> 00:05:39,560

Oh, 190?

51

00:05:39,560 --> 00:05:42,240

Yeah it was a Flock Wolf 190.

52

00:05:42,240 --> 00:05:45,140

Was that on one of your missions then?

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00:05:45,140 --> 00:05:57,120

That was on my 11th mission and he was coming into me. His wings looked like neon signs blinking at me and I thought "man, that guy's shooting me".

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00:05:57,120 --> 00:06:10,160

I think I started shooting at him the same time he shot at me. So another thing that I might add, in training they said "shoot three burst then leave up, shoot three bursts".

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00:06:10,160 --> 00:06:18,360

You could do that pretty easy and the idea of that was if you leave up it just cools the gun just a little bit and...

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00:06:18,360 --> 00:06:22,900

but when one's coming at you, you hold the trigger down.

57

00:06:22,900 --> 00:06:24,800

[laughing]

58

00:06:24,800 --> 00:06:42,020

And then as about I'd say about ten minutes later a ME-109 came up and flew in formation with us. Of course, it blew our ball turret gunner clear out of the airplane.

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00:06:42,020 --> 00:06:51,680

We didn't have no ball turret gunner, killed him, blew him clear out of the airplane, wounded waist gunner, and this 109 come in there

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00:06:51,680 --> 00:07:00,780

and he come down low enough that the top turret gunner couldn't get him and of course, we didn't have no waist gunner and no ball turret gunner and radio operator.

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00:07:00,780 --> 00:07:09,940

We didn't handle radio gun. [laughing] They took those out. He couldn't have got them anyway, because he couldn't have shot down that way.

62

00:07:09,940 --> 00:07:17,920

And then the co-pilot, he could look back see him and he said everybody stay off the intercom, but Kempy and I -- he calle me Kempy --

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00:07:17,920 --> 00:07:28,920

and anyway, pretty soon he said "watch him, company". He said he's putting his flaps down, but in the meantime I was sitting back here with my hands on my gun.

64

00:07:28,920 --> 00:07:36,160

I was scared to death. I never moved my head, never moved the guns which is the best thing I ever did in my life

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00:07:36,160 --> 00:07:37,760

and I didn't even know that I was doing it.

66

00:07:37,760 --> 00:07:39,020

[laughing]

67

00:07:39,020 --> 00:07:44,280

Of course he thought... that 109 out there flew in. He thought I was dead, see

68

00:07:44,280 --> 00:07:53,860

and so when he came back over one of the copilots said "watch him, Kempy". I could look out the corner my eye and he looked blurry at first, kind of blurry

69

00:07:53,860 --> 00:07:59,460

and then pretty soon he started getting better and when he got out there about 45 degrees I just swung around let him have it.

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00:07:59,460 --> 00:08:04,120

If it wouldn't been for that I wouldn't been here today or the whole crew wouldn't have been here today.

71

00:08:04,120 --> 00:08:04,700

Wow.

72

00:08:04,700 --> 00:08:16,500

So that's the way I got two airplanes with him. I would say roughly, both of them within 15 minutes of each other.

73

00:08:16,500 --> 00:08:20,580

Wow. Now, did that happen in England?

74

00:08:20,580 --> 00:08:23,060

That happened over at German, Marsburg, Germany.

75

00:08:23,060 --> 00:08:23,860

Oh wow. [whispering]

76

00:08:23,860 --> 00:08:29,580

Yeah and we agree it's about I'd say about five hundred miles from from our base yet

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00:08:29,580 --> 00:08:45,820

and I'm just guessing that. I don't know for sure where that far, but anyway we were bombing the oil refineries at Marsburg, Germany and this happened right after we had bombs away.

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00:08:45,820 --> 00:08:54,720

So we were pretty close to Marsburg. I don't know how many miles. We was within 10 or 15 miles probably.

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00:08:54,720 --> 00:09:10,440

So anyway, that's what happened when I was on my 11th mission. But on my 3rd mission we had a complete crew that we went overseas with

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00:09:10,440 --> 00:09:24,920

and so we were bombing [inaudible] France, if I remember, see... Yeah I got it here. [inaudible] France. It was June the 24th, 1944 and we went over.

81

00:09:24,920 --> 00:09:39,580

We just left the English Channel and got over to France and a flack went up. All three bursts were right close to us and the pilot got hit in the leg.

82

00:09:39,580 --> 00:09:55,000

One flack piece hit him in the leg, went clear through his leg, come out his knee cap. And so then when we come back.

83

00:09:55,000 --> 00:10:04,980

Yeah he lost a lot of blood and but the copilot, we didn't know that, but the copilot, we didn't know at the time, but the copilot never landed the airplane before.

84

00:10:04,980 --> 00:10:06,080

[laughing]

85

00:10:06,080 --> 00:10:13,860

He was 17 and so, but when he came back I remember him saying "don't worry boys, I'll get you back alright".

86

00:10:13,860 --> 00:10:28,620

It's the copilot, he was unconscious. And anyway, we got... flew by. He flew by a thing and over England and of course we had... the copilot was the only one who got hit.

87

00:10:28,620 --> 00:10:39,980

Nobody else got hit, but the airplane got a lot of holes in it and so when when we got back ready, the copilot got lined up with him on the final

88

00:10:39,980 --> 00:10:51,000

and that pilot knew that and he come to enough to land that airplane. He landed the airplane, brought us in safe and then according to what they said,

89

00:10:51,000 --> 00:11:02,200

he, when he hit the runway he passed out again and I remember when we got out the airplane, of course the medics was there

90

00:11:02,200 --> 00:11:09,600

and they give him 5 blood transfusions before they ever got him out of the airplane.

91

00:11:09,600 --> 00:11:10,540

Wow.

92

00:11:10,540 --> 00:11:17,180

He lost a lot of blood. And I remember one... while we standing out there and waiting for them to bring him out,

93

00:11:17,180 --> 00:11:24,000

because we didn't what shape he was in. He was really a nice guy too, really for for an officer, you know. [laughing]

94

00:11:24,000 --> 00:11:30,960

Anyway, one of the medics come out there and had his big boot and had a flying boot over there.

95

00:11:30,960 --> 00:11:37,260

He went and dumped that and it was clear full of blood dumped it out on the ground out there. I never will forget that.

96

00:11:37,260 --> 00:11:47,460

And pretty soon they took him out and took him to the hospital then. They claimed that he was in... that it took him about 45 to get him minutes blood transfusion,

97

00:11:47,460 --> 00:11:58,580

to get him out of the airplane, because they had to be careful with him. And so but he never flew again. He finally, they sent him to. He was in a hospital over there

98

00:11:58,620 --> 00:12:12,400

and then they sent him to Walter Reed Hospital and he was in there for... well he was in the hospital for over a year and they amputated his leg, finally, so.

99

00:12:13,840 --> 00:12:18,000

And I seen him a couple times afterwards and he was from Dayton.

100

00:12:18,000 --> 00:12:20,280

Oh yeah?

101

00:12:20,280 --> 00:12:31,780

So, but he finally moved to Denver, Colorado and I lost track of him then when he went over there, so. I think he passed away now, of course.

102

00:12:31,780 --> 00:12:40,680

He would have been and see he was 24... he was 2 years older than I was and he was a pilot. He was 22 and I was 20.

103

00:12:40,680 --> 00:12:51,220

Oh, okay. So how did you adapt to military life?

104

00:12:51,220 --> 00:12:51,980

What?

105

00:12:51,980 --> 00:12:54,800

How did you adapt to military life?

106

00:12:54,800 --> 00:13:08,500

Oh I think I adapted to it really well. I really liked it in a way. Some of it I didn't like. The part that I didn't like, I didn't like to salute people, I didn't like that.

107

00:13:08,500 --> 00:13:18,880

and I didn't like to be controlled. I didn't like that too well, but I did like officer of course, when he took the office. I liked that part of it.

108

00:13:18,880 --> 00:13:20,940

And everything connected with Jim, I liked that.

109

00:13:20,940 --> 00:13:22,540

[laughing]

110

00:13:22,540 --> 00:13:23,760

So.

111

00:13:23,760 --> 00:13:29,760

So where all did you serve overseas? Where did you go?

112

00:13:29,760 --> 00:13:46,100

I served... I was only on one base overseas was Polebrook, England. That was the 351st Bomb Group and but I was at another base called Stone, England,

113

00:13:46,100 --> 00:13:51,080

which that was just the processing base to bring you back. I was there when I came back from overseas.

114

00:13:51,080 --> 00:14:01,580

That's where we hand our money in, they'd give you shots, and make sure you didn't have no disease when you come back to the United States. [laughing]

115

00:14:01,580 --> 00:14:12,740

That was Stone, England. We stayed there only probably about a week, something like that and same way going over. We stayed there at the same place,

116

00:14:12,740 --> 00:14:18,900

going over before for you've got sent to your bomb group. So there's a but

117

00:14:18,900 --> 00:14:30,140

I stayed nine months at the 351st Bomb Group at Polebrook. Took me nine months to get my missions in and when you got your 35 missions then you've got to come home.

118

00:14:30,140 --> 00:14:32,960

So I came home before the war was over.

119

00:14:32,960 --> 00:14:34,940

So you flew 35 missions?

120

00:14:34,950 --> 00:14:38,020

Yeah, 35 missions.

121

00:14:38,020 --> 00:14:47,460

What... You gave two examples of your missions. What else did you do while you were out flying?

122

00:14:47,460 --> 00:14:49,580

You mean what my other duties were?

123

00:14:49,580 --> 00:14:50,580

Yeah.

124

00:14:50,580 --> 00:14:53,480

We didn't have no other duties. [laughing]

125

00:14:53,480 --> 00:14:57,220

So are all the other missions the same basically for all 35?

126

00:14:57,220 --> 00:15:07,540

Well they were different altitude, of course different places. I mean they were all over England and all over France and Belgium, places like and Poland.

127

00:15:07,540 --> 00:15:18,740

And but then the couple that I remember real well was Peenemünde, did you ever hear Peenemünde, Germany? You ever hear of Von Braun?

128

00:15:18,740 --> 00:15:19,860

That sounds familiar.

129

00:15:19,860 --> 00:15:31,480

That's where he was at and he invented the P1 rocket and the B2 rocket and he invented a jet engine for the 163 airplanes they had.

130

00:15:31,480 --> 00:15:42,700

And when we went there first they told some briefing. I think that they didn't want us to hit him, but I don't know how you could help it, but they didn't and they never did.

131

00:15:42,700 --> 00:15:50,430

And anyway, they said he at that time he was 27 years old and had invented all that stuff already.

132

00:15:50,430 --> 00:15:57,540

And then after the war we got him back here down the Huntsville, Alabama. Did you know that or..?

133

00:15:57,540 --> 00:15:58,340

No.

134

00:15:58,340 --> 00:16:00,960

[laughing] I bet Jeff did, didn't you?

135

00:16:00,960 --> 00:16:06,120

Yeah, he was a the main engineer on all the Apollo missions to the moon.

136

00:16:06,120 --> 00:16:07,360

Oh wow.

137  
00:16:07,360 --> 00:16:13,900  
You know, Jeff is one of my main men. He really takes care of me.

138  
00:16:13,900 --> 00:16:17,240  
[laughing] This isn't about me, this is about you.

139  
00:16:17,240 --> 00:16:27,120  
Yeah, he does all my legal work for me  
and does a lot of stuff for me. He even mows my grass.

140  
00:16:27,120 --> 00:16:29,780  
[laughing]

141  
00:16:29,780 --> 00:16:32,180  
That's great that you have somebody to do that for you.

142  
00:16:32,180 --> 00:16:44,100  
Boy I tell you, I got my neighbor and Jeff and of course Greg, he does quite a bit too and they couldn't be any better people.

143  
00:16:44,100 --> 00:16:59,180  
And they really... and they make sure I got stuff to eat. Of course, my wife died, see and they make sure I got stuff to eat and make sure... Jeff even worried about me about the furnace going out. [laughing]

144  
00:16:59,180 --> 00:17:01,340  
But so far everything's been okay.

145  
00:17:01,340 --> 00:17:02,540  
Good.

146  
00:17:02,540 --> 00:17:11,380  
And then since my knees is bad, Jeff put all handrails up in the bathtub and on the doors and he really got it fixed up nice.

147  
00:17:11,380 --> 00:17:15,680  
We've got you covered. Why don't you tell her by your medals and all that.

148  
00:17:15,680 --> 00:17:16,440  
Your what?

149  
00:17:16,440 --> 00:17:23,540

Why don't you tell her about your medals and all that? Your medals and awards there, tell her about those and your frame here.

150  
00:17:23,540 --> 00:17:25,540  
I don't, I can't hardly hear you.

151  
00:17:25,540 --> 00:17:26,960  
Tell her about all your decorations that you got.

152  
00:17:26,960 --> 00:17:34,260  
Oh, yeah. Can you see that if I hold it up like that?

153  
00:17:34,260 --> 00:17:36,360  
Yep.

154  
00:17:36,360 --> 00:17:47,420  
This here's... and this here's a DFC, Distinguished Flying Cross that I got. This here's an air medal and I got 6 air medals all together.

155  
00:17:47,420 --> 00:18:01,060  
and this here's a Good Conduct medal there. I was a good boy and this here is for Normandy. This one I got last and these here's the ribbons here

156  
00:18:01,060 --> 00:18:09,179  
and this is my dog tags here and there's my gun. One thing I don't know yet what it is, see this little thing around here, the gold and blue?

157  
00:18:09,180 --> 00:18:15,800  
Where they come out to an order you had to put your wings in that. I still don't know yet today what that was.

158  
00:18:15,800 --> 00:18:17,460  
Huh.

159  
00:18:17,460 --> 00:18:26,120  
And here's the ribbon you wore, the ribbons here like this. There's an ETO ribbon with 4 battle or I think 5 battle stars.

160  
00:18:26,120 --> 00:18:36,340  
There's an Air Medal and there's a DFC and I got another row of ribbons that I could wear, but I never put them on there [laughing].

161  
00:18:36,340 --> 00:18:47,000

So there's my picture. This picture here was taken in London and I remember the date was September the 28th, 1944.

162

00:18:47,000 --> 00:18:53,960

I was 20 years old at that time and I flew... at that time I had about half my missions in.

163

00:18:53,960 --> 00:18:55,340

Oh wow, okay.

164

00:18:55,340 --> 00:19:04,020

So that... I guess that's about all of them on there.

165

00:19:04,020 --> 00:19:11,160

Now you have some of your writings there. Did you want to share anything from that?

166

00:19:11,160 --> 00:19:16,880

You know, I would like to bring out some of the some of the main ones. We already talked about the first one.

167

00:19:16,880 --> 00:19:31,280

No wait, we didn't talk about the first mission. The first mission I did was on June the 21st, 1944 and it was eight hours and 50 minutes and it was Berlin, Germany.

168

00:19:31,280 --> 00:19:48,880

Man that was ever the rough mission and we flew it 28,000 feet and the target was headquarters building. They called it the Gestapo headquarters and that was out target.

169

00:19:48,880 --> 00:19:57,170

So then I'm just going to go through. The second mission was Rouen, France and then the third mission I already told you about,

170

00:19:57,170 --> 00:20:06,890

[inaudible] France where my pilot got hit and the fourth mission was Vallejo in France and

171

00:20:06,890 --> 00:20:20,180

at 25,800 feet and the target was an airfield we'd bombed an airfield and let's see if I... I'm just going to try to...

172

00:20:20,180 --> 00:20:32,700

Here's one here that I remember right here it was on July the 4th 1944. We was at 25,000 feet. The target was a railroad bridge, was 4,500 feet long

173

00:20:32,700 --> 00:20:46,780

and it was at Sommore, France and we only had two bombs in the plane and they was 2,000 pound bombs and we had one on each side of the bomb bay.

174  
00:20:46,780 --> 00:20:50,400  
And here's a couple here. You've heard of Munich, Germany haven't you?

175  
00:20:50,400 --> 00:20:51,140  
Umhm.

176  
00:20:51,140 --> 00:21:01,860  
I went to Munich Germany on July 11th, 1944. That was that was 9 hours and 12 minutes you had sit back there in the back of the tail.

177  
00:21:01,860 --> 00:21:02,720  
[laughing]

178  
00:21:02,720 --> 00:21:11,720  
And the altitude was 24,000 well and what we bombed there was area of engine works. That's when it was... they called it area of engine works.

179  
00:21:11,720 --> 00:21:20,520  
That's when they first started making jets. They was making jet engines down there and they found it out and they wanted to bomb them. So we did.

180  
00:21:20,520 --> 00:21:21,800  
[laughing]

181  
00:21:21,800 --> 00:21:38,140  
So then is the seventh mission was July the 13th, '44, back to Munich again and we was 25,000 and we bombed marching yards.

182  
00:21:38,140 --> 00:21:47,080  
Usually marching yards was our second target, you know, the prior, secondary target and the primary target I don't know what it was.

183  
00:21:47,080 --> 00:21:50,040  
Then I put down there I saw six FW-190s somehow.

184  
00:21:50,040 --> 00:21:51,660  
Wow.

185  
00:21:51,660 --> 00:21:52,780  
Didn't get a shot at him though.

186  
00:21:52,780 --> 00:21:56,240  
[laughing]

187  
00:21:56,240 --> 00:22:04,400  
Now here was eighth one. I was telling you about Peenemünde, Germany. That was July the 18th, 1944 and that was eight hours and 30 minutes over there

188  
00:22:04,400 --> 00:22:14,040  
and what we bombed there was a hydrogen factory and I got it on the Baltic Sea here by that 23,000

189  
00:22:14,040 --> 00:22:17,480  
Then you ever hear of Saint-Louis, France?

190  
00:22:17,480 --> 00:22:18,320  
Ughtuh.

191  
00:22:18,320 --> 00:22:24,140  
That's when the Germans was coming back before the Battle of the Bulge and they almost shipped our troops back.

192  
00:22:24,140 --> 00:22:33,920  
So we... that there was on July 24th, 1944 in Saint Louis, France and I got 1,500 yards in front of our troops.

193  
00:22:33,920 --> 00:22:38,420  
We was supposed to bomb the Germans in front of our troops see, because the Germans were breaking the line,

194  
00:22:38,420 --> 00:22:44,260  
they were coming back just like the Battle of Bulge. Only of this here is before the Battle of the Bulge.

195  
00:22:44,260 --> 00:22:54,240  
And so, but on that mission there we dropped our bombs and a lot of our bombs went on our own troops, killed a lot of troops there.

196  
00:22:54,240 --> 00:23:03,180  
You don't hear too much about that. But then I remember going in briefing the next day. They said "well you guys didn't do very good job yesterday".

197  
00:23:03,180 --> 00:23:13,460  
They said "we're going to send you back to Saint Louis". Now we went in at 12,000 feet . That was low for a bomber.

198  
00:23:13,460 --> 00:23:26,240

And then the second second day of zone 10th missions on July 25th, Saint Louis again, in front of our troops at 12,500. That was Lorette,

199

00:23:26,240 --> 00:23:29,320

but we hit the Germans that time, stopped them.

200

00:23:29,320 --> 00:23:30,960

Okay.

201

00:23:30,960 --> 00:23:37,460

And the next one I told you it about already, Marsberg. That was the 11th mission and got down there and shut down a FW-190

202

00:23:37,460 --> 00:23:42,100

and we lost... oh and Canada got hurt. Canada was our waist gunner. That was his name, Canada.

203

00:23:42,100 --> 00:24:03,780

And let's see... this here's Bresse, France. That was on August 11th, 1944 and we bombed the submarine's pins and they said at the top of this,

204

00:24:03,780 --> 00:24:13,140

they told us in briefing at the top of submarine there's 11 feet thick with solid concrete with reinforcement and we had bombs that would go through that concrete

205

00:24:13,140 --> 00:24:24,460

and never go off until they hit down in the... That's hard to believe, but I got pictures at home that the guy took after the war. It really worked, it really worked.

206

00:24:24,460 --> 00:24:44,340

And I've got down here best bombing weather that I've ever seen. I had 16 500-pound bombs in there and 16 in Leipzig, Germany.

207

00:24:44,340 --> 00:24:54,080

I see our hanger, we bombed hangar for ME-110s. That's a German to him he 110 with the twin-engine plane and we was 25,000 feet

208

00:24:54,080 --> 00:25:05,200

and we got... it came back on three ends and I said there were a few holes other places. I saw a lot of fires and black smoke on the ground.

209

00:25:05,200 --> 00:25:14,380

Marshall passed out on the way over like

a... Marshall was our engineering and his oxygen mask come unfastened and he just fell out of the turret

210

00:25:14,380 --> 00:25:19,780

and good thing the pilot seen him. He was right behind the pilots, you know. If he wasn't it would've killed him.

211

00:25:19,780 --> 00:25:20,660

Oh wow.

212

00:25:20,660 --> 00:25:30,880

Yeah he'd have died on a count of that.

Hosting back up real quick and so of course, I didn't know that when it happened. [laughing]

213

00:25:30,880 --> 00:25:48,540

I was about what, 50 feet from him probably. [laughing] Let's see. Oh here's one. August 18th, 1944 is in Belgium and we were bombing the bridge

214

00:25:48,540 --> 00:25:57,180

and I got down here 25,000 feet. Missed the bridge. [laughing] And here's another one in Peenemünde, Germany.

215

00:25:57,180 --> 00:26:10,060

That was on August 25th and I said the target was experimental stage for flying bombs and rocket ships and we got heavy flak with no fighters.

216

00:26:10,060 --> 00:26:23,519

And let's see, there's 6 [inaudible]. That was in Belgium oil factories and oh here's... I've got down here lieutenant Mahoney.

217

00:26:23,520 --> 00:26:36,040

He was our bombardier and he went down September the 5th flying over Germany he was our bomber dear but it was flying spare with Wright's crew that day.

218

00:26:36,040 --> 00:26:47,960

And I tell you what happened. We were scheduled for to go on that mission, but we had a furlough and us guys decided --

219

00:26:47,960 --> 00:26:56,800

-- we was up in the Edinburgh, Scotland --

we decided to stay one day extra but we knew was going to get heck for it, but we stayed one day extra.

220

00:26:56,800 --> 00:27:06,420

That one day extra they had us scheduled for a mission and we weren't there, but the bombardier was. He was there and they put him on Wright's crew

221

00:27:06,420 --> 00:27:13,580

and dog gone if he didn't get shot down. That's the way our bombardier got shot down, the rest of us didn't get shot down.

222

00:27:13,580 --> 00:27:26,900

And I called him up after the war was over and talked to him. He lived in Florida and man he really was mad at the US government. [laughing]

223

00:27:26,900 --> 00:27:40,660

Let's see. Kassel, Germany, that was 29,000 feet. Let's see what kind of a target we had. Oh it's storage depot for tanks, guns, and trucks.

224

00:27:40,660 --> 00:27:43,280

Osnabrück, you ever hear of Osnabrück, Germany?

225

00:27:43,280 --> 00:27:44,280

Hugh uh.

226

00:27:44,280 --> 00:27:54,020

That's marching yards again and Cologne, you ever hear of Cologne, Germany? Are you kidding?

227

00:27:54,020 --> 00:27:54,940

Ugh uh.

228

00:27:54,940 --> 00:28:06,100

And Cologne, Germany was equal to our Detroit, Michigan about the industry and everything at that time. I don't [inaudible] anymore.

229

00:28:06,100 --> 00:28:19,460

And as I said here, Hobie was our Ball turret gunner and got the bends and we had to come down from altitude and 004 got a direct hit in the ball turret.

230

00:28:19,460 --> 00:28:25,960

That was a plane when we was flying deputy lead and he was flying lead and he got... I seen two guys go out of that plane.

231

00:28:25,960 --> 00:28:36,560

That blew half the plane in two. I've got pictures of that somewhere. I don't know if it's in there not and what the number on the airplane was 0-0-4.

232

00:28:36,560 --> 00:28:49,100

All these magazines got that in there. I can see that they got pictures of that airplane and they've got one here at Magdeburg, Magdeburg yeah, 27,000 feet.

233

00:28:49,100 --> 00:29:03,140

Let's see what... I said I got... I seen a ship blow up over the target. That shipped being another B-17, seen it and saw two planes crack up on the way back.

234

00:29:03,140 --> 00:29:07,200

Two of them run right into each other and I seen that happen.

235

00:29:07,200 --> 00:29:11,120

Was that like you're... the U.S. planes or two..?

236

00:29:11,120 --> 00:29:11,760

Yeah.

237

00:29:11,760 --> 00:29:12,280

Oh.

238

00:29:12,280 --> 00:29:24,210

I'll tell you what happened. When our group usually had had 36 airplanes in a group, they had three sectioned here, three, and then finally...

239

00:29:24,210 --> 00:29:29,140

Another group, I don't know why they did... I was siting in the tail, I was in lead plane at that time.

240

00:29:29,140 --> 00:29:36,360

I saw it. Got the lead... I made lead tail gunner after that or shot them planes down and this other group was over here.

241

00:29:36,360 --> 00:29:47,600

Now they had 36 planes in that group too and that pilot, the lead pilot took that plane, that whole group like this, took him over like this, got right behind our prop wash

242

00:29:47,600 --> 00:29:54,920

and two of them planes, that's what did the prop wash and why he ever brought them planes over there, I don't know why he got too close.

243

00:29:54,920 --> 00:30:00,020

And then you ever going flying much?

244

00:30:00,020 --> 00:30:02,220

Just in commercial airlines.

245

00:30:02,220 --> 00:30:08,320

Yeah, but you've never gotten drop force. [laughing] I don't know whether the jets have that or not. Probably have.

246

00:30:08,320 --> 00:30:11,660

I have, yeah. It's not fun. [laughing]

247

00:30:11,660 --> 00:30:21,090

And anyway, these planes, they've got an R-prop. He brought them too close to our group is what happened and he shouldn't have done that there,

248

00:30:21,090 --> 00:30:27,220

because we was on our way home and the two of them planes went together like that and it cut them both right in two.

249

00:30:27,220 --> 00:30:35,440

I can still remember the one went down like this and engine was still running when it went down. They probably didn't run long, but could see them

250

00:30:35,440 --> 00:30:46,580

and I remember the tail. I've seen the tail for a long time. It went like this, it floated down like this and I never seen nobody get out of them either, no parachutes or anything.

251

00:30:46,580 --> 00:30:52,560

So that's what happened that day. So there was a lot of excitement. [laughing]

252

00:30:52,560 --> 00:30:53,860

Yep.

253

00:30:53,860 --> 00:31:16,180

You couldn't hardly wait to get back. Nuremberg, Germany, that was eight hours. I've got here, medium flack, none close to us.

254

00:31:16,180 --> 00:31:31,040

Coming out of Aramits, France flack was shot up from railroad cars and I've got here, the target was a marshaling yards and the bombs lit right in the middle of them. [laughing]

255

00:31:31,040 --> 00:31:32,340

So we done pretty good that time.

256

00:31:32,380 --> 00:31:35,060

[laughing]

257

00:31:35,080 --> 00:31:51,600

Yeah, so that's about it. And here's another Cologne, Germany. We called that Happy Valley. And here okay, here's the one here that was flying at 25,000 feet.

258

00:31:51,600 --> 00:32:00,420

I saw my first jet propelled airplane. I saw a set of M-22.. 262. I'll get it right there pretty soon.

259

00:32:00,420 --> 00:32:13,540

I said there, I saw my first jet propelled German fighter or rather, seen where he had been. Damn fast, I put down.  
[laughing]

260

00:32:13,540 --> 00:32:20,880

That's the first jet I've ever seen in my life. It was M-262. You've seen that one down at the Air Force Museum, haven't you?

261

00:32:20,890 --> 00:32:24,380

Oh yeah.

262

00:32:24,380 --> 00:32:39,920

Here's one Hamburg, that's up in Northern Germany. Let's see, oh we... it's right on the North Sea. I said docks in the middle of the city, flew lead tail gunner.

263

00:32:39,920 --> 00:32:50,640

And here's one in ice water, that's on my 27th mission. I was going to see if there's any... Here's one way to landed at a British base and we stayed there two days.

264

00:32:50,650 --> 00:32:54,900

We couldn't get back to our base and...

265

00:32:54,900 --> 00:32:55,540

Why?

266

00:32:55,540 --> 00:33:06,440

And all them guys, when we landed at that base they didn't have room for us on the base. So they put us in a truck, hauled us to an infantry thing

267

00:33:06,440 --> 00:33:13,160

and we stayed there at this infantry base and them guys never seen any Air Force guys before and all them guys want to do,

268

00:33:13,160 --> 00:33:19,900

they want to trade you for your clothing and I traded my jacket off her for an Eisenhower jacket. Do you remember the Eisenhower jackets?

269

00:33:19,900 --> 00:33:20,500

Yeah.

270

00:33:20,500 --> 00:33:21,480

[laughing]

271

00:33:21,480 --> 00:33:23,440

Had a good deal on that.

272

00:33:23,440 --> 00:33:29,280

I've still got that down in the basement. [laughing]

273

00:33:29,280 --> 00:33:37,340

There was the 28th May, we went to Kassel, Germany we went there before and then there's Frankfurt, Germany.

274

00:33:37,340 --> 00:33:51,120

Oh here's another that's kind of important. Frankfurt, Germany was 9 hours and 20 minutes on the... That was my 27th mission on December the 11th, 1944

275

00:33:51,120 --> 00:33:56,020

and what we did, we jump to drop chaff, we didn't have no bombs in airplane. You know what chaff is?

276

00:33:56,020 --> 00:33:57,940

Hught ugh.

277

00:33:57,940 --> 00:34:06,900

Pieces of tin foil, they look like tin foil about that long. If you take a regular drinking straw and flatten it, well that's what they look like,

278

00:34:06,900 --> 00:34:16,640

but they were made out of tin foil or whatever. I don't know what they was made out of and we would drop those before...

279

00:34:16,640 --> 00:34:26,240

We were the first lead group over the target. We didn't even go over the target, We had to stay back, let the wind take this flack down.

280

00:34:26,240 --> 00:34:32,740

They flew it down and their radar guns would attack this and they'd shoot down here instead of up here.

281

00:34:32,780 --> 00:34:40,260

So when we dropped that then the other plant planes come in. They had it all timed and they knew what the wind going to be and everything.

282

00:34:40,320 --> 00:34:48,260

So we dropped the chaff. It was an easy easy mission. We didn't get shot at or nothing. [laughing]

283

00:34:49,900 --> 00:35:03,260

That was... Then here's one on the December the 15th, 28,500, marching yards again and that's when I flew with Lieutenant Stall.

284

00:35:03,260 --> 00:35:14,300

I never will forget that and I flew as waist gunner. I didn't fly at tail gunner at that time and but they wanted me on that plane,

285

00:35:14,300 --> 00:35:21,680

because I had... so that was my 30th mission and I was supposed to be experienced. [laughing]

286

00:35:21,680 --> 00:35:30,720

So this here was a green crew and they didn't have no experience at all. You know how I felt, I was just shaking all the time. [laughing]

287

00:35:30,720 --> 00:35:41,340

Man, I'm telling you. If you had an experience crew you could get by better, because if you... Usually when they shot flack up and go four persons and burst here and

288

00:35:41,340 --> 00:35:50,080

then up here and they say it's stair steps. Well if you've seen it and the pilot didn't see it or usually the pilot would see it, they would just move the plane over like this.

289

00:35:50,080 --> 00:35:59,560

If they see the first burst you're going to be right where the second one was it and that way it saved you. You didn't get hit that way .

290

00:35:59,560 --> 00:36:09,420

So that was one of the things you had to be wise and but you couldn't move too much, because you're in formation see, but you could just move enough to...

291

00:36:09,420 --> 00:36:18,180

Another thing, if a flack explodes underneath you, they were dangerous. If they explode over top of you they weren't dangerous, but everything was up.

292

00:36:18,180 --> 00:36:18,920

Alright.

293

00:36:18,920 --> 00:36:28,360

And we always said if you can see the fire and the bomb in that flack, it's too close. [laughing]

294

00:36:28,360 --> 00:36:40,360

So then here's the mission on the 24th, 1944. Why we... where's the chart?

295

00:36:40,360 --> 00:36:47,960

I flew as engineer that day, because the engineer and I, he wanted to fly the tail gun, so we asked the pilot if we could trade and he said "oh yeah, you can trade".

296

00:36:47,960 --> 00:36:52,880

So yeah, I flew as engineer and he flew as tail gunner just to be doing it.

297

00:36:52,920 --> 00:36:56,840

What was your job then to do as an engineer?

298

00:36:57,540 --> 00:37:17,640

Just fly the top turret, get up in the top turret and you still had guns to maintain. And let's see, yeah I stayed at another field, came back on a

299

00:37:17,640 --> 00:37:33,780

Oh yeah I remember that was December the 24th. That was Christmas Eve. We had bombs for the.... That's that's when the Battle of the Bulge was going on.

300

00:37:33,780 --> 00:37:43,190

We had bombs for the Battle of the Bulge  
and I think what our target, I don't have a target down here though exactly,

301

00:37:43,190 --> 00:37:56,700

but I remember -- did you ever hear the secret line? They had line... you ever hear that? They had big propellers built up with cement that staggered around

302

00:37:56,700 --> 00:38:05,800

so the tanks couldn't through. Our job was to bomb that cement out and let the tanks through there at the Battle of the Bulge.

303

00:38:05,880 --> 00:38:15,700

That's that's what was holding them up. Of course, that and whether, but we didn't drop the bomb that day because they were too dangerous to drop them.

304

00:38:15,700 --> 00:38:22,780

So we come back and dropped them in the English Channel and as engineer, I could... we were down to 8,000 feet then

305

00:38:22,780 --> 00:38:27,540

We took our oxygen masks off and I looked right down through the bomb bay like that and I seen them hitting the water.

306

00:38:27,540 --> 00:38:33,580

Man they exploded when they hit the water. [laughing] I always wondered not many fish it killed. [laughing]

307

00:38:33,580 --> 00:38:49,220

So that was December, that was Christmas Eve and then on... I flew one on January the 2nd, 1945 and as a road junction and squadron lead again.

308

00:38:49,220 --> 00:38:59,400

And almost done. There's another in Cologne, I think I went to Cologne three different times. That was a rough mission, really. And...

309

00:38:59,400 --> 00:39:00,340

Why?

310

00:39:00,340 --> 00:39:12,340

We went in there, you know what, yeah 25,000 feet and here's another one in Saigon, Germany. I don't know if I'm pronouncing these right or not.

311

00:39:12,340 --> 00:39:20,480

But the marshaling yard, we had a lot of marshaling yards. That was our secondary target. Marshaling yards, it's the same as your railroad yards.

312

00:39:20,480 --> 00:39:21,260

Oh, okay.

313

00:39:21,260 --> 00:39:30,460

And of course, they were important too. And the 31st mission was Ludwigshafen, -- I think that's the way you pronounce it -- eight hours.

314

00:39:30,460 --> 00:39:42,140

That was February the 1st, 1945 and I flew deputy. That was it, that was 35. [laughing]

315

00:39:42,140 --> 00:39:48,560

Here's a... I've got this picture here, I'll show you it.

316

00:39:48,560 --> 00:39:59,870

There's a picture of me right there. That's an escape picture. During when World War II, boy if you put civilian clothes on, that was a no no

317

00:39:59,870 --> 00:40:05,600

and a lot of guys got turned in for putting civilian clothes on when they was home on furlough.

318

00:40:05,600 --> 00:40:16,640

We wasn't allowed to do that. So when I got overseas this here was on my base. We went in a building there they had all kinds of suites in there and everything.

319

00:40:16,640 --> 00:40:23,500

Put them civilian clothes on and then that's some of the suits there to put on and for escape.

320

00:40:23,500 --> 00:40:30,340

These here was to carry with you in case you got shot down and if you wanted to tell them you was German or France... Frenchman,

321

00:40:30,340 --> 00:40:36,900

you could tell them you was a Frenchman, but you really had to be careful not to speak German, but I never got shot,

322

00:40:36,900 --> 00:40:40,600

but some guys did and they used these and they got back alright

323

00:40:40,600 --> 00:40:41,579

Yeah?

324

00:40:41,580 --> 00:40:47,600

So I had two of them. I don't where the other one is. I thought both of them was here. I showed you the...

325

00:40:47,600 --> 00:40:56,500

and here's a throat mic. You don't know what they are? [laughing]

326

00:40:56,500 --> 00:41:04,860

Well this goes around your neck, this here goes right here and that's... your voice goes through your throat right here, see.

327

00:41:04,860 --> 00:41:14,440

That there's what you used. You put that on there. You wore these every mission like this and then you had a button on your guns.

328

00:41:14,440 --> 00:41:18,140

You just pressed the button if you wanted to talk to the pilot or whoever you wanted to talk to.

329

00:41:18,140 --> 00:41:21,320

And that's how you did it? [laughing]

330

00:41:21,360 --> 00:41:31,800

And so I know I used this. Did I show you these pieces of flack? If I dump this stuff out here I'll put it back.

331

00:41:31,800 --> 00:41:45,260

Here's a piece of flack, German flack that went through the engine, went through number four engine and caused the crankshaft to break on the right of pilot engine

332

00:41:45,260 --> 00:41:49,280

and the way I got this, the ground crew guy after we come back, he picked that out.

333

00:41:49,280 --> 00:41:56,820

It landed, lodged in the cell in the back of the engine and he picked that out and give it to me. That's where I got that piece.

334

00:41:56,820 --> 00:42:05,080

So then I got another piece there, this piece right here. It came right through over my head in the tail end, it just...

335

00:42:05,080 --> 00:42:14,820

I expect it went about an inch above my head. Of course, it landed on the other side of the airplane. I picked it out of there, that's where I got that piece.

336

00:42:14,820 --> 00:42:16,000

[laughing]

337

00:42:16,000 --> 00:42:23,860

So then I don't know if you can see these are not? Does that look like a button?

338

00:42:23,860 --> 00:42:24,760

Yeah.

339

00:42:24,760 --> 00:42:36,900

Okay, here's it here's another button. What that is is a compass, yeah a compass. So that's got a real sharp edge. Can you see a sharp edge on there?

340

00:42:36,900 --> 00:42:37,520

Umhmm

341

00:42:37,520 --> 00:42:49,180

It doesn't work anymore. It's... see it won't stay up there like... Then then if you got shot down you sewed this in your clothing.

342

00:42:49,180 --> 00:42:49,920

Ummhmm.

343

00:42:49,920 --> 00:43:00,420

And then we got shot down why, you took a knife, they always had a kit with a knife in it, well a sewing kit too and you just take them buttons off

344

00:43:00,420 --> 00:43:04,740

and you can see what way North was when you got shot down, see.

345

00:43:04,740 --> 00:43:05,710

Oh wow.

346

00:43:05,710 --> 00:43:12,260

But the Germans looked at your coat, see if they got a hold of it, they just looked like the buttons to him.

347

00:43:12,260 --> 00:43:22,060

Okay here's some more. Now these babies here work good right here. Those work. These here were to sew in your clothing,

348

00:43:22,060 --> 00:43:29,300

sew in somewhere where you could do that yourself, put it wherever you want, but I never did though, as soon as I got them. [laughing]

349

00:43:29,300 --> 00:43:38,740

I forgot, I never got shot down and I didn't. So anyway, that's what these are here. I had three or four sets. These are all government issuing stuff.

350

00:43:38,740 --> 00:43:49,020

I had three or four sets of them. I gave them away, only kept one and if it's is lost it doesn't work anymore. But that was the idea.

351

00:43:49,020 --> 00:43:54,150

That's neat, I've never heard about that before.

352

00:43:55,500 --> 00:44:02,890

Show your 50 caliber round there that you had to dig the flack out of.

353

00:44:02,890 --> 00:44:03,480

Huh?

354

00:44:03,480 --> 00:44:05,040

Show her the 50 caliber round you had too.

355

00:44:05,040 --> 00:44:06,120

I think I did, didn't I?

356

00:44:06,120 --> 00:44:06,620

Hught-uh

357

00:44:06,620 --> 00:44:07,380

I didn't show you this?

358

00:44:07,420 --> 00:44:08,380

No.

359

00:44:08,420 --> 00:44:22,540

There's a 50 caliber bullet or shell. It was right by my leg her in the track and I got hit by a piece of flack just like his piece here hit that there and the powder came out of it,

360

00:44:22,540 --> 00:44:37,280

but this here was a live hit back here and so I had to take that out of the track at altitude and it was cold up there too, probably 30 or 40 below zero.

361

00:44:37,280 --> 00:44:44,060

I forget now what it was and we had big heated gloves on. I had to take them off and then we had some goatskin cloves,

362

00:44:44,060 --> 00:44:53,400

which are real flexible and I took the track apart and took this shell out and put the track back. I probably couldn't do that today,

363

00:44:53,520 --> 00:45:01,100

because I forgot how to do it. But that's that's the way I got the shell. I kept the shell in.

364

00:45:01,100 --> 00:45:11,680

Then the primer was back here and so the primers was, they were dangerous too. So we put a blanket --after we got back

to base -- put a blanket over this

365

00:45:11,680 --> 00:45:21,120

and put your foot on there, left foot on there and then take a spike nail on there and hit like it that. They would crack, but the blanket would keep from hitting.

366

00:45:21,120 --> 00:45:23,840

They would... it would protect, you see.

367

00:45:23,840 --> 00:45:25,340

Yeah.

368

00:45:25,340 --> 00:45:34,320

So that's the way I brought the shell back. If they even knew I had that shell they probably would have thrown it away from me. [laughing]

369

00:45:34,320 --> 00:45:48,840

I kept this shell and a 45 that I had. They always issued us a 45 and and I when I come back I took that 45 all apart put it in a cigar box

370

00:45:48,840 --> 00:45:52,540

and I had to hide it a couple times. Same way with this, I had to hide this.

371

00:45:52,540 --> 00:45:53,640

[laughing]

372

00:45:53,640 --> 00:46:05,460

Because they'd have taken it away from us. And these here, these here weren't mine. I bought these at a flea market after. It's been several years ago.

373

00:46:05,460 --> 00:46:14,020

A nice woman, I said "what are those?" She said "I don't know" she said "what they are" and I said, I looked at them... I got the box that they came in and everything

374

00:46:14,020 --> 00:46:14,880

Oh.

375

00:46:14,880 --> 00:46:25,280

And the Signal Corps put these out, put them out for the Air Force and so I said "what do you want for them?" She said "a dollar".

376

00:46:25,280 --> 00:46:27,380

I just pulled a dollar before she changed her mind.

377

00:46:27,380 --> 00:46:35,020

I'd have probably gave her 15 or 20 dollars for it, maybe more. [laughing] So that's the way I got those.

378

00:46:35,020 --> 00:46:39,240

But this here came, this here was on the airplane with me. Same way with this watch here

379

00:46:39,240 --> 00:46:52,140

This here's a watch, a genuine Elgin watch. This here was my watch right here. It's all brown now and doesn't run, but it's got the Air Force markings on the back here

380

00:46:52,140 --> 00:47:05,420

and everything and so that went on all the missions with me. But this here was on most the missions. [laughing]

381

00:47:05,420 --> 00:47:07,340

So any more questions?

382

00:47:07,340 --> 00:47:18,280

Sure, do you still talk to anybody that you flew with?

383

00:47:18,280 --> 00:47:19,620

Do I see anybody?

384

00:47:19,660 --> 00:47:21,600

Umhmm.

385

00:47:21,600 --> 00:47:33,680

Not anymore. The only person I ever seen since I was out of the service was my pilot when he was in Dayton

386

00:47:33,680 --> 00:47:40,620

and he came up to see me twice and I went down to see him a couple times and... do you live in Dayton, do you?

387

00:47:40,620 --> 00:47:44,820

I live near Dayton.

388

00:47:44,820 --> 00:47:53,440

He married a girl by the name of Magnus Flora or Manga Flora or something like that and they had a lot of money and he lived in big...

389

00:47:53,440 --> 00:48:06,960

I was down his house and he lived in a big mansion like. Had a big cupola on top and he said -- of course had lost his leg and was out of the service then --

390

00:48:06,960 --> 00:48:12,380

I don't know what he did for a job whether he's working yet or not. He probably got a pretty good pensions at that time.

391

00:48:12,400 --> 00:48:24,000

That was in 1948 or 49, I expect. He said "I go up in the cupola like that" and he said "I can sit up there and looked right over and watch the airplanes over at Wright Field.

392

00:48:24,000 --> 00:48:39,520

And so that's what he did for his pastime at that time. Then he could drive a car yet and they amputated his leg and then he had it yet an artificial leg

393

00:48:39,520 --> 00:48:50,280

and he get around, but he still... and when I see him he still had to use a cane to walk with and he was only, well he was probably about 23 or 24 years old at that time then,

394

00:48:50,280 --> 00:49:01,260

when I seen him after the war, you know. And I went to see him a navigator one time down in Shadyside, Ohio and he wasn't home.

395

00:49:01,260 --> 00:49:10,220

He was an engineer. He worked on oil refineries up in Pennsylvania and he stayed up there all week. He was only home on the weekend

396

00:49:10,220 --> 00:49:20,380

and I was down there through the week and I never got to see him. I never did see him. This pilot was the only one I ever seen after the war.

397

00:49:20,380 --> 00:49:25,040

What did you do when you came home?

398

00:49:25,040 --> 00:49:38,300

Well my dad run a garage and I worked on automobiles and did precision work on rebuilding engines, stuff like that and I finally went to work

399

00:49:38,300 --> 00:49:44,380

at the Monarch Machine and Tool Company and I run a milling machine up there for good many years.

400

00:49:44,380 --> 00:49:59,700

Then I got in the tool and die and I was tool and die maker for about 35 years [laughing] and I retired as a tool and die

maker. I retired from Siemens in Bellefontaine.

401

00:49:59,800 --> 00:50:12,340

So then I got an airplane down here in Urbana and I come down here and I flew it quite a bit. [laughing]

402

00:50:12,380 --> 00:50:27,820

That was... when I did most my flying was in the 90's. I think I bought the airplane in 1987 and I'm flew mostly in the 90s and flew up to 2-0-0-6

403

00:50:27,820 --> 00:50:43,060

and then I had a mini stroke and my physical wasn't any good after that, so, but I still get fly once in while.

404

00:50:43,060 --> 00:50:44,840

Do you take him out flying?

405

00:50:44,840 --> 00:50:55,440

No, no, he said he's got a lot of friends that own airplanes. He had a fellow he made friends with here not long ago that had a Trojan, T-28 Trojan,

406

00:50:55,440 --> 00:51:00,120

a fellow out of Texas. So he took him up and let him fly the trojan here a while back.

407

00:51:00,120 --> 00:51:12,140

Yeah I flew that plane that day, that T-28. He let me fly it. In fact, I done everything almost, but landing. When we was out here at Simmons we started taxiing.

408

00:51:12,140 --> 00:51:22,200

He said "it's all yours". So I taxied out there and got on the runway. Why, he was going to work the engines from the back seat.

409

00:51:22,200 --> 00:51:33,569

Normally, you fly it from the front seat on that airplane and I was in the front seat and then soon as soon as we took off, got airborne,

410

00:51:33,569 --> 00:51:46,380

he said "it's all yours" again. So I... that thing had 1,400 horse engine [laughing] and I looked and man, the airspeed was really building up,

411

00:51:46,380 --> 00:51:53,080

really building up fast and I thought I'm better pull back on my stick a little bit. We were climbing and I pulled back on the stick

412

00:51:53,120 --> 00:52:05,760

and were climbing to bleed the airspeed off and when I got the air speed down to about 115-120, well I am going about 120 and looked

413

00:52:05,760 --> 00:52:14,960

and we was at 3,500 feet again. So I had to level it off, because at 4,000 feet you've got to fly according to the federal rule. Did you know that?

414

00:52:14,960 --> 00:52:15,520

Ughntuh

415

00:52:15,520 --> 00:52:31,620

Yeah, you got to fly East certain altitude. When you fly West it's even altitude plus 500. When it's East you fly an uneven altitude

416

00:52:31,620 --> 00:52:38,320

Anything over 3,500 feet you've got to obey the rules when you're flying up there.

417

00:52:38,320 --> 00:52:39,360

[laughing]

418

00:52:39,360 --> 00:52:43,700

I was forced to, [laughing] as far I was going.

419

00:52:43,700 --> 00:52:46,960

Are you a member of any veterans organizations.

420

00:52:46,960 --> 00:53:06,400

Oh yeah, I belong to AMVETS, I belong to American Legion, I belong VFW and I belong to couple pilots clubs and a couple museums. [laughing]

421

00:53:06,400 --> 00:53:11,000

Anyway, did you talk about after couple weeks ago?

422

00:53:11,000 --> 00:53:12,180

Here at, Dayton?

423

00:53:12,180 --> 00:53:14,420

No the museum in Bellefontaine.

424

00:53:14,420 --> 00:53:18,080

No, no, I never met this young lady until today, so.

425  
00:53:18,080 --> 00:53:18,620  
Huh?

426  
00:53:18,620 --> 00:53:21,620  
I've never met this young lady until today. Tell them about that.

427  
00:53:21,620 --> 00:53:35,800  
We was up there looking at World War I planes and they had open house that day, so they interviewed me up there.

428  
00:53:35,800 --> 00:53:37,980  
I didn't know who he was, did you know him ahead of time?

429  
00:53:37,980 --> 00:53:38,520  
Yeah.

430  
00:53:38,520 --> 00:53:39,020  
Did you?

431  
00:53:39,020 --> 00:53:39,560  
Yep.

432  
00:53:39,560 --> 00:53:48,200  
I didn't know him and they put my picture in the paper up there in the Bellefontaine paper and had an article in there about it.

433  
00:53:48,200 --> 00:53:51,120  
They didn't say much about me flying missions on there, did they?

434  
00:53:51,120 --> 00:53:56,460  
No, I think that was more about the unveiling of the Whistler airplane than anything else.

435  
00:53:56,460 --> 00:54:01,580  
The one... We was standing by the one we worked on about 20 years ago. Has it been 20 years since we worked on it?

436  
00:54:01,580 --> 00:54:03,840  
Oh yeah, it's been 20 plus years. Yeah.

437  
00:54:03,840 --> 00:54:04,360  
Yeah.

438  
00:54:04,360 --> 00:54:05,040  
That's how we met.

439  
00:54:05,040 --> 00:54:05,860  
Yeah.

440  
00:54:05,860 --> 00:54:12,230  
We were working on a replica. A fellow by the name of Clarence Whistler built one of the first airplanes in Logan County

441  
00:54:12,230 --> 00:54:19,420  
and we made a replica of that about 20 years ago and they pulled it out of mothballs and put it back together they got it hanging in the museum in Bellefontaine now.

442  
00:54:19,420 --> 00:54:20,420  
Oh wow.

443  
00:54:20,420 --> 00:54:29,660  
So that's where we met. We worked on that airplane together that was a fun project.

444  
00:54:29,660 --> 00:54:32,200  
Have you been on the Honor Flight?

445  
00:54:32,200 --> 00:54:33,040  
Nope.

446  
00:54:33,040 --> 00:54:33,620  
No?

447  
00:54:33,620 --> 00:54:34,320  
Not going

448  
00:54:34,320 --> 00:54:35,800  
No?

449  
00:54:35,800 --> 00:54:43,100  
No, I don't think I want to go. I don't know why, but I just don't want to go.

450  
00:54:43,100 --> 00:54:54,940  
I've been asked several times. A lot of guys will take me in push me in a wheel chair if I need it and everything, but I just... I might someday when I get older. [laughing]

451

00:54:54,940 --> 00:54:56,440

You know, I've been there and I think should go.

452

00:54:56,440 --> 00:54:56,940

Huh?

453

00:54:56,940 --> 00:54:58,860

I've been there and I think you should go.

454

00:54:58,860 --> 00:55:01,480

Yeah, if you're the one who wants to push me.

455

00:55:01,480 --> 00:55:05,450

Yeah, Deana said I could go with you and and I could take you wherever you needed to go.

456

00:55:05,450 --> 00:55:13,160

Tom who works here, he wants me to go too, but I don't know.

457

00:55:13,160 --> 00:55:15,720

Maybe after you get your other good knee work.

458

00:55:15,720 --> 00:55:17,800

Yeah, I might get that other knee done, I might go.

459

00:55:17,800 --> 00:55:20,600

Yeah.

460

00:55:20,600 --> 00:55:29,720

It almost hurts all the time now. It's hurting now. I can stand it, but that's some of your privilege right, here?

461

00:55:29,720 --> 00:55:34,080

Yep. So just a couple more questions.

462

00:55:34,080 --> 00:55:34,680

Okay.

463

00:55:34,680 --> 00:55:38,320

How did your wartime experiences affect your life?

464

00:55:38,320 --> 00:55:39,400

They what now?

465

00:55:39,400 --> 00:55:44,000

How did your wartime experiences affect your life?

466

00:55:44,000 --> 00:55:58,020

Well quite a bit, made me lazy, [laughing] because when I was a link trainer instructor down there, we'd go to work at 9 o'clock in the morning, get off at 11:00

467

00:55:58,020 --> 00:56:05,200

and go back at 1:00 and get off at 3:00 and that was our day and two hours in the morning 2 in the afternoon.

468

00:56:05,200 --> 00:56:15,640

So that made me kind of lazy, but the thing that I really noticed mostly when I got out of the service, in the service we was on the go all the time,

469

00:56:15,640 --> 00:56:21,280

on the go, going here, which if we didn't have any work to go we was in town or something like that

470

00:56:21,280 --> 00:56:29,780

and that was something that I couldn't stay home with my mom and dad. I had to get out and walk. I didn't have no car at that time

471

00:56:29,780 --> 00:56:39,060

and I had to... I'd walk down to the.. there was two or three blocks to a service station, I'd walk down there and there was always some guys there to talk to.

472

00:56:39,060 --> 00:56:45,040

I wouldn't be there only five minutes. I'd want to walk back home then be there a little bit and want to go back.

473

00:56:45,040 --> 00:56:51,680

And then there was a pond back at our place in the wintertime. I used to do a lot of the ice skating back there when that was a pond

474

00:56:51,700 --> 00:56:59,820

and you know, when it was fit in the wintertime. And of course, I didn't have no car and I had to do something without a car.

475

00:56:59,820 --> 00:57:04,820

I had a car before, but my brother, he wrecked it while I was in the service. [laughing]

476

00:57:04,840 --> 00:57:14,620

So anyway that was that was the main thing that I had to get used to was settling down you know, settle down.

477

00:57:14,620 --> 00:57:32,020

So, but I finally, I got a job at let's see, where did I..? Well I worked for my dad for several years in a garage and of course, he was pretty tough to work for, my dad was.

478

00:57:32,020 --> 00:57:38,160

I did a machine work there. I had a lathe and stuff like that I did most of the machine and close work.

479

00:57:38,180 --> 00:57:46,400

I'd fit the wrist pans and stuff like that. I'd do a lot of honing, stuff like that and I'm older brother he'd done all the welding and had an uncle,

480

00:57:46,400 --> 00:58:00,060

he done the work on the automobiles [laughing] and it was divided up and... but but anyway, then I finally got a job at the Monarch Machine Tool Company.

481

00:58:00,060 --> 00:58:14,740

I run a milling machine for about ten years and then I had got married and moved to Bellefontaine and they laid me off over there on a count of lack of work.

482

00:58:14,740 --> 00:58:25,180

And then I got a job at Miller... they called it A.J. Miller company. You ever here of that? Probably not.

483

00:58:25,180 --> 00:58:26,940

Yeah, that sounds familiar.

484

00:58:26,940 --> 00:58:37,260

Yeah, they made ambulances there. That was a good job, but I didn't like the looks of an ambulance, but they wasn't any different anything else after you...

485

00:58:37,260 --> 00:58:49,220

And so I worked there as a tool and die maker. I built dies and the first job though, before I got into tool and die there, I used to use a...

486

00:58:49,220 --> 00:58:56,040

We'd have.. you ever see a flower car in a parade, like when they had flowers on there?

487

00:58:56,060 --> 00:58:58,360

Umhmm.

488

00:58:58,360 --> 00:59:12,520

And then they had trays in there and I made that tray, it was a big tray. It was a lot longer than this. It was 10 foot long, I think and I had to cover that with the stainless steel

489

00:59:12,520 --> 00:59:19,080

and make sure there wasn't no dents in it and stuff like that. Then we had to line inside with stainless steel,

490

00:59:19,080 --> 00:59:28,300

then I had to put hydraulic cylinders in there to raise this up so when they put the flowers in, lastly when they went down when he was going on road,

491

00:59:28,300 --> 00:59:33,120

they'd lower that to keep the flowers from from blowing off.

492

00:59:33,120 --> 00:59:33,620

[laughing]

493

00:59:33,640 --> 00:59:43,580

And I really liked that job, that was a good job, because you got to do a lot of plumbing on the things, the electrical wiring and had to do some welding.

494

00:59:43,580 --> 00:59:50,260

I don't know how I ever told you or not. I had weld those cylinders, the bottom part of the cylinder, the mount on it,

495

00:59:50,260 --> 00:59:54,400

I had to reach in like this and I couldn't even see where I was welding. I had to do it by feel.

496

00:59:54,400 --> 00:59:55,900

How do you know if it was any good or not?

497

00:59:55,900 --> 00:59:56,400

Huh?

498

00:59:56,400 --> 00:59:58,020

How do you know if the weld was any good or not?

499

00:59:58,020 --> 01:00:01,580

You'd have to get a hold of it and try to break.

500

01:00:01,580 --> 01:00:03,320

[laughing]

501

01:00:03,320 --> 01:00:14,980

That's the way we were told and then we had big chrome-plated hinges on the back, tried to put them... get that settle down.

502

01:00:14,980 --> 01:00:23,920

Then the guys would put rubber down there and then that's a bring the rubber down and compress it and put the hinges in there and bolt the hinges in there

503

01:00:23,920 --> 01:00:26,340

and it was... I really like that job.

504

01:00:26,340 --> 01:00:28,120

Yeah, sounds like a lot fun.

505

01:00:28,200 --> 01:00:41,420

Then I had to get on a scooter and got underneath and put a cable in there. The cable was eight foot long, regular cable and I forget how many feet,

506

01:00:41,420 --> 01:00:55,500

9/16 -- oh I can't think -- tenting where this is where the hydraulic fluid goes through. What do they call that, the cable? You know, I can't think of the...

507

01:00:55,500 --> 01:01:02,480

tubing, tubing, yeah, 9/16 tubing. I think there was 27 feet of tubing in there.

508

01:01:02,480 --> 01:01:03,300

Wow.

509

01:01:03,300 --> 01:01:08,020

Had to run it on each side of the cylinder and back this and then up to the...

510

01:01:08,020 --> 01:01:16,320

And they had a controller unit in there and I had to build them control units up and they had a pump on there, the same pump that they used in a convertible.

511

01:01:16,320 --> 01:01:17,500

Wow.

512

01:01:17,500 --> 01:01:22,220

[laughing] And they were more expensive and than an ambulance...

513

01:01:22,220 --> 01:01:23,260

I bet, yeah.

514

01:01:23,260 --> 01:01:34,580

...because they was all hand-built. These guys, we would build one up and it took two weeks to build it. We built two a month and I forget now what the price was on them,

515

01:01:34,580 --> 01:01:50,780

but they were... The only time they used those is when big shots had a funeral. [laughing] I've seen a few of them and you don't see them anymore.

516

01:01:50,780 --> 01:01:57,040

Okay, what message would you like to leave for future generations who will watch this video?

517

01:01:57,040 --> 01:01:58,320

I can't hear you.

518

01:01:58,320 --> 01:02:00,160

What message would you like to leave for

519

01:02:00,160 --> 01:02:03,400

future generations who will watch this interview?

520

01:02:03,400 --> 01:02:16,860

Well from the kids, I'd like to see them stay in school, get a good education and if they don't want to go to college to get it go to a technical school,

521

01:02:16,860 --> 01:02:25,940

which is as good as a college in some cases and be good citizens. That's all can say. [laughing]

522

01:02:25,940 --> 01:02:36,560

Okay. Was there anything else you'd like to add or talk about that we may have not... I might not have asked you?

523

01:02:36,560 --> 01:02:48,280

Well I can't think of anything, but the only thing that I'd like for people to know, that I come down here at this museum every Saturday afternoon or try to make it every Saturday afternoon

524

01:02:48,280 --> 01:02:54,820

and I don't work on a B-17, but I come down here and talk my missions. [laughing]

525

01:02:54,820 --> 01:03:02,260

And that's about what I do on Saturday and the rest of week I stay home, so.

526

01:03:02,260 --> 01:03:11,260

See, what's interesting about Art is we've done research about his missions, specifically the Merseburg raid when he had those to shoot downs

527

01:03:11,260 --> 01:03:19,300

and we actually found out who one of the German pilots was that he shot down. So you remember what his name was?

528

01:03:19,300 --> 01:03:20,400

Yeah, Hirschfeld.

529

01:03:20,400 --> 01:03:22,120

Yeah, Ernst Hirschfeld

530

01:03:22,120 --> 01:03:25,560

It wasn't '-field', it was Hirsch-...

531

01:03:25,560 --> 01:03:31,100

Hirschfeld, it's on the paper right behind you there to your left.

532

01:03:31,100 --> 01:03:37,400

Hirschfeld, Hirschfeld yeah, yeah. Oh, I forgot, did you take a picture of this?

533

01:03:37,400 --> 01:03:38,780

I can, yes.

534

01:03:38,780 --> 01:03:46,440

That there's... that picture there was taken then when that picture was taken in London in September the 28th, 1944.

535

01:03:46,440 --> 01:04:00,060

I was 20 years old there and up there's all the missions listed up there and I guess the rest of it speaks for itself.

536

01:04:00,060 --> 01:04:00,860

Okay.

537

01:04:00,860 --> 01:04:03,960

There's another big thing back there. Did you go back there yet?

538

01:04:03,960 --> 01:04:04,820

I've been back there, yes.

539

01:04:04,820 --> 01:04:09,360

Did you see that other thing where I had strings on there where my missions were?

540

01:04:09,360 --> 01:04:10,880

I don't know if I've seen that.

541

01:04:10,880 --> 01:04:12,300

Yeah they've got a big map of Germany...

542

01:04:12,300 --> 01:04:13,700

They didn't want to bring up here.

543

01:04:13,700 --> 01:04:15,940

... with all his missions tracked out on the map.

544

01:04:15,960 --> 01:04:22,780

We'll have to take a picture of that too. Well if there wasn't anything else you wanted to add..?

545

01:04:22,780 --> 01:04:24,380

I don't think so.

546

01:04:24,380 --> 01:04:25,040

Alright, well then...

547

01:04:25,040 --> 01:04:25,920

I don't think so.

548

01:04:25,920 --> 01:04:30,400

...that concludes our interview and thank you for sharing your story and thank you for your service.

549

01:04:30,400 --> 01:04:31,480

Thank you, you're very nice.