

Wisconsin Veterans Museum  
Research Center

Transcript of an  
Oral History Interview with  
FRANK N. HIGGINBOTHAM  
Motor Sergeant, Army, World War II.

2000

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**Higginbotham, Frank N.**, (1911-2004). Oral History Interview, 2000.

User Copy: 2 sound cassette (ca. 73 min.), analog, 1 7/8 ips, mono.

Master Copy: 1 sound cassette (ca. 73 min.), analog, 1 7/8 ips, mono.

Video Recording: 1 videorecording (ca. 73 min.); ½ inch, color.

Transcript: 0.1 linear ft. (1 folder).

### **Abstract:**

Frank N. Higginbotham, a Richland County, Wisconsin native, discusses his World War II service as a motor sergeant in a reconnaissance unit of the 6th Armored Regiment in the European theater. Higginbotham talks about not being allowed to enlist due to a bad heart but being drafted later anyway. He mentions basic training at Camp Chaffe (Arkansas), duty as a motor sergeant with the 6<sup>th</sup> Armored Division, and reconnaissance training day and night in California. He discusses travel to England aboard a troop ship and landing in Normandy. He states he threw away the rifle and carbine he was issued in favor of a .45 pistol. Higginbotham mentions scouting bridges through France and Germany: measuring river depth, testing bridge strength, and estimating the type and number of German tanks. He touches upon using mainly jeeps in his unit, eating mainly C-rations, and a friendly fire incident while behind German lines. Higginbotham reveals feeling bitter that the Division next to his got baths and more breaks than his because his unit was mostly composed of draftees. He portrays getting on the bad side of his captain, which is why he was often assigned to dangerous recon missions. Higginbotham touches on capturing German prisoners and getting into a firefight with a Russian soldier who was on the opposite side of the Elbe River. Higginbotham comments on being quarantined, shipping back to the United States, and his activities after discharge. He talks about receiving a bronze star for recovering four armored cars under fire that another unit had abandoned. He reflects on being a good shot because he grew up hunting squirrels and rabbits. Higginbotham speaks of combat during the Battle of the Bulge and states he witnessed a concentration camp.

### **Biographical Sketch:**

Higginbotham (1911-2004) served in the Army from 1942 to 1945. Born in Glendive (Montana), he moved to Richland County (Wisconsin) at age two. During the war, he landed in Normandy six days after D-Day and fought in the Battle of the Bulge. Higginbotham eventually settled in Evansville, Wisconsin.

Interviewed by James McIntosh, 2000

Transcribed by Alex Combs, 2009

Checked and corrected by Joan Bruggink, 2011

Abstract written by Susan Krueger, 2011

**Transcribed Interview:**

- James: Startin' over now Frank. Ok. Frank Higginbotham, the date is 2 June, year 2000. Frank, tell me where you were born.
- Frank: Glendive, Montana.
- James: And when was that?
- Frank: 1911.
- James: And how long did you live there?
- Frank: Two years.
- James: Then where did you go?
- Frank: Richland County, Wisconsin.
- James: Richland County?
- Frank: Uh-huh.
- James: To a farm?
- Frank: No, to our country store.
- James: Oh, how did you happen to do that?
- Frank: Well, Dad was there.
- James: What made your father move from Montana to Wisconsin?
- Frank: It was a desolate place. My mother--
- James: Which one? [both laugh] Which one, right? I was going to say, I don't see much improvement. Got away from the mountains.
- Frank: But mother wouldn't stay there. There wasn't a doctor within thirty miles. I was born, just born; she said no more of that.
- James: I didn't send you a preliminary review sheet, so I'll fill it out as we go here. [pause] With all my excitement I forgot to get him to sign approval; Frank we need your approval to publish this stuff.
- Frank: Beg pardon?

James: [Louder] We need to have your approval to publish anything that you tell us, ok?

Frank: Yeah, sure.

James: If there's a movie you'll get your 10%, but don't count on it.

Frank: [Laughing] Dog-gone-it, can't win.

James: Can you sign your name if I hand you a pen?

Frank: I don't know.

James: Well, you can try.

Frank: Where?

James: I'll take this finger. It's right in this, in that line from the [unintelligible].

Frank: Do you want just Frank or do you want Nathan first?

James: I don't care; Higginbotham is the name I'm looking for mostly.

Frank: 'Bout there, is it?

Man: Yeah, right in there Frank.

James: Yeah, start there. Perfect.

Man: Now if the pen would work.

Frank: Isn't it working?

Man: No.

James & Man: Try it down more, it's--yeah, push down on the pen. There ya go, now you're doing it. Perfect.

Man: Oof, I guess.

James: Yeah. [pause]

Man: Great, that's good, Frank.

Frank: Glad I can't see [laughing].

James: You did it just right. Do you want to do me a favor and fill out this other stuff? Print his name in there and then the address. Do that while I'm doing this.

Woman: Ok.

James: Ok, back on camera. Tell me Frank, when did you go into military service?

Frank: When?

James: Yes, sir.

Frank: Oh, cripes. [pause] Hm. You know I can't get it. Is that on—no, that isn't on that thing, is it?

James: Where did you go?

Frank: I was drafted out of Richland County and I went to Arkansas, Camp Chaffee.

James: Was that right when the war started or before the war?

Frank: After the war started.

James: Were you drafted or did you enlist?

Frank: I was drafted. I tried to enlist when they had the mile--er, uh, one year deal in Africa but they said I had a bad heart.

James: [Laughing] But they didn't mind drafting you? It didn't bother them for that?

Frank: No, uh-uh. No, my buddy he and I rode together and we were gonna get it over with, and [unintelligible] stayed there.

James: Well if you were drafted after the war started, then it was probably sometime in 1942.

Frank: Yeah, it was in Europe, whenever that is.

James: I'm sorry?

Frank: In Europe.

James: What was?

Frank: We started in France.

James: You confused me now. When you entered the Army, was that about 1942 after the—

Frank: It was—hm, ain't that awful?

James: Well the war had started, hadn't it?

Frank: Oh yeah, down in Africa; sure.

James: Yeah, but I mean in the United States.

Frank: No, six days [pause] people--Americans had gone in six days, then we were landed.

James: Where did you go? Where was your training camp?

Frank: Camp Chaffee.

James: Fort Chaffee?

Frank: Chaffee was starter.

James: Were you in the Army?

Frank: Yes.

James: And were you a regular Army soldier or did you do something special?

Frank: No, I was just drafted in.

James: You were an infantry man?

Frank: No I was in reconnaissance.

James: What was your duty?

Frank: I was the Motor Sergeant, took care of fifty-two vehicles; supervised and trained them.

James: How long did you stay at Fort Chaffee?

Frank: Oh, I'd have to guess.

James: Well, roughly. Six months to a year?

Frank: Oh, approximate, yeah, six.

James: Where did you go next?

Frank: Went to Louisiana.

James: It was a different outfit there?

Frank: No, it was just our outfit, our division.

James: Which division was that?

Frank: 6<sup>th</sup> Armored Division.

James: Ok. Did 6<sup>th</sup> Armored stay there, or did they move over to Europe?

Frank: No, we went to the desert. California.

James: Went to California? For more training?

Frank: Yes.

James: You recall what desert that was?

Frank: [Laughs] Right next to Arizona, but I don't know what that was.

James: Ok. And how long did you spend there, roughly?

Frank: Oh, I would say four or five months.

James: Did you get any more training there than you had before?

Frank: Oh, we trained day and night.

James: In what way; what was different?

Frank: Workin' nights with vehicles.

James: What was different about the vehicles in night versus the daytime?

Frank: You had to learn to drive without lights.

James: Did you have those covers over the headlights, with the slits?

Frank: We had the slits off. I took the--dismounted the switches so they couldn't use 'em. I did that in combat.

James: Yeah, but that's a little later.

Frank: Yeah, but what I mean is—

James: Right. I don't want you to get ahead of the story here.

Frank: Oh, Ok. Excuse me.

James: I got to keep track of this myself; we both can't be going different directions.

Frank: Right, right.

James: Then where did you go after the desert?

Frank: We went to California; I was trying to think of that.

James: It was a port of embarkation, I assume.

Frank: No.

James: Ok.

Frank: No. We stayed just north of Los Angeles, I think.

James: I see. And was there any particular duty there?

Frank: More training. More training. Day and night.

James: Day and night?

Frank: Right.

James: Why was it so much night training?

Frank: We were in reconnaissance, scouting.

James: What was your job in doing the scouting?

Frank: I was Motor Sergeant.



James: You were in charge of the vehicles?

Frank: In charge of the vehicles and the drivers.

James: You had to repair them?

Frank: To a certain extent. If they were real bad they took 'em down to ordinance; if minor stuff, why then we fixed it.

James: How many men did you have underneath you?

Frank: Six. Six mechanics.

James: Six mechanics? How about drivers?

Frank: Fifty-two.

James: Right. What was that unit called, that small unit?

Frank: Troop C.

James: Troop C? Of a small platoon?

Frank: Yeah--no I wasn't platoon. I was a—oh, wait a minute now. Troop C was a company.

James: Ok. So you had all the vehicles for that company?

Frank: That's right.

James: Company C.

Frank: Company C.

James: Of what battalion?

Frank: No battalion, we had Troop C.

James: You were assigned to a division?

Frank: 6<sup>th</sup> Armored Division.

James: Ok. Did you maintain all the vehicles for that division?

Frank: I oversee the fixing, yeah.

James: There must have been other vehicles, must have been other groups like yours. A division is too many men to—

Frank: Yeah there was, oh, four or five more.

James: Well a division runs around 20,000 men, you see—

Frank: Yeah, that's right.

James: And Troop C isn't gonna hack it.

Frank: No, uh-uh. No.

James: So how long were you in the United States then? Until you went overseas?

Frank: Oh, I would say a couple of years.

James: I see. When did you go overseas?

Frank: [Laughs] It was in spring; we were in England.

James: '44 or '40—?

Frank: I can't get that.

James: Probably '44 if you were in—

Frank: I imagine, yeah.

James: If you were in the United States two years and you went in in '42. And you were sent to England?

Frank: Sent to England.

James: Where did you leave the United States from? You didn't leave from California; you must've gone across the country.

Frank: New York, correct.

James: Big troop ship?

Frank: Right, brand new.

James: Good. You throw up?

Frank: Yes. [laughs] And the table slid back and forth.

James: That didn't help anyone. [laughter] Well, you were in good company; most people did when they were— Those of us in the Navy always laughed at the people in the Army when they came aboard ship because they all got sick.

Frank: [Laughing] Yeah, big clowns.

James: Ok. Do you remember where you went to in England?

Frank: Eaversham [?]

James: Ok. And how long did you stay in England before you went to the Continent?

Frank: Oh, I would say three to four months before we went to France.

James: And you got over there ok, the whole division?

Frank: Far as I know. I didn't hear of any—

James: Where did they send you in France?

Frank: Try, uh [laughs] you got me. There wasn't even a landing there. They had everything in our boats, all of our vehicles, and they took 'em out of there with a hoist, put 'em right out on the soil. You know we had them—

James: Right on the beach?

Frank: Yeah, in the beach.

James: Then you traveled where?

Frank: Well, we waited there about two days until part of the division got in, then we started down across the—

James: Where was your first stop?

Frank: We didn't.

James: You must've run into some opposition sooner or later?

Frank: Oh yeah. Well, of course.

James: If nothing, at least the Rhine River stopped you [laughs].

Frank: Oh yeah, we hit opposition every day.

James: What was your job under those circumstances?

Frank: Well, kinda keep things going. We lose a vehicle, I'd have to go draw one.

James: Where'd you find the replacement?

Frank: Our battalion maintenance had stock.

James: How far behind you were they?

Frank: I don't know [chuckles]. Couldn't hardly find 'em.

James: Was it necessary that you carry a weapon?

Frank: Oh, [chuckles] I wouldn't be without it.

James: What weapon did you carry?

Frank: I was issued a damn rifle with a bayonet. I threw it away, and then they issued me one of them 49 cent carbines. I threw that away and I got a .45 automatic pistol.

James: Didn't care for the carbine, eh?

Frank: [Laughs] Squirrels. [unintelligible] I had a bunch of 'em.

James: Ok, so what'd you do with that .45? Did you bring it home?

Frank: Oh, I wish I had it. I had it remodeled; I have a large hand and the issue stock was too small. I had one of our Air Force guys take--what do you call it?--glass thick [?]. Anyway, he made me grips on them so then I could shoot.

James: Could you hit anything? Most people can't hit anything with that .45.

Frank: If you get a clear shot you hit him.

James: Well, 1 out of 50. "Even a blind pig can find a few acorns," they say [laughs].

Frank: You can't shoot a quarter of a mile or anything, but it sure as hell beats a bayonet.

James: Yeah. Well the .45 was designed with one purpose, you know. That was back in the First World War.

Frank: Mmm-hmm, I know it; that was one of the best guns they had.

James: You know when it was designed, what the company that made it was told? They had to develop a weapon that was guaranteed to knock a man down with one shot.

Frank: Right, absolutely. No matter where you hit him he went down.

James: That's right, that was the purpose. That's why it was developed really for the First World War, but it stayed on since that time, and it's still being issued, as a matter of fact. It's still hard to fire and it's still hard to hit anybody beyond twenty feet.

Frank: Right, right. [laughs]

James: Ok, enough of that. Tell me what else you did when you were in France.

Frank: Oh, I went looking at bridges at night.

James: With what purpose?

Frank: To see if the bridge was there and whether it was armed.

James: And whether it would hold a truck?

Frank: Yeah, or a tank.

James: Or a tank, even more.

Frank: 6<sup>th</sup> Armored, see it was a tank outfit.

James: Right; I didn't know that would be one of your responsibilities.

Frank: It wasn't.

James: What was your rank at that time?

Frank: Staff Sergeant.

James: And how was your vehicle maintenance? Was that a problem in Europe?

Frank: No we had good vehicles, because we took care of 'em, broke 'em in right in England; everything was tip top.

James: Most of 'em were the 6-5s, two and a half tons?

Frank: No, only had one.

James: Only had one of those?

Frank: That was a mess tent; we didn't use that.

James: What truck did you drive? Did you drive around in Jeeps?

Frank: I—yeah, we had twenty-three Jeeps.

James: Twenty-three Jeeps?

Frank: I had mine.

James: How about these two and a half ton trucks I mentioned?

Frank: Only had one. One the cooks drove.

James: You kept all the kitchen equipment in there?

Frank: For a while. Used it to haul prisoners. We ate C-rations.

James: If you had a cook, he'd certainly cook something better than issuing C-rations.

Frank: [Laughs] Change it here a little bit. We had two days break time and we had C-rations on that, so you can imagine what, yeah.

James: Break time, what is break time?

Frank: Well, you're supposed to have so much liberty time.

James: Right, but where did you go? That's what I'm—

Frank: We didn't. Two days is not--I didn't even know we had it.

James: Oh, so you enjoyed it without even knowing it?

- Frank: Yeah. I was workin' on something, see? And they wasn't moving. I don't know whether the guys knew it or not; that was our vacation, two days, all summer and winter.
- James: Did you vehicles ever get up close to the front lines?
- Frank: Beyond the front lines.
- James: On what occasion?
- Frank: Well, that was part of our job, get behind 'em. We had uh—well, to give you an instance, we got too far delayed and it was daylight when we hadn't got back yet. There was Germans shooting here and, uh, our drunken outfit back here, we was telling 'em not to shoot, so we were being shot both ways.
- James: Was this your vehicle? Were you in those vehicles or not?
- Frank: Yeah, we were using 'em, and when we got to being shot at back here and back here, then we got out of 'em and slid up agin a building. But we wised up; somebody radioed or found someone sober back there.
- James: I see. What was your specific job in this situation? What were you doing?
- Frank: Oh, if you need a plug—
- James: No, what were you doing when you got behind the German lines by mistake?
- Frank: That was our job.
- James: What were you doing?
- Frank: I was with 'em. I found out afterwards I was stupid; the rest of the motor mechanics stayed back, back, and I stayed in front.
- James: Why was that?
- Frank: Nobody told me any different. I thought everybody did; a war was on.
- James: Ok, alright. Did anybody shoot at you?
- Frank: Um-huh. I got--
- James: Pardon me?

Frank: [Unintelligible]

James: Did you ever get wounded?

Frank: Just nicked a little bit.

James: What's nicked a little bit? [laughs] Is that like—

Frank: Draw blood, draw blood a little; nothing to go on to the medics about.

James: In your arm?

Frank: Arm and I think I got one on the neck a little.

James: Did they give you a Purple Heart?

Frank: No, [laughs] they didn't recognize that. [unintelligible] guys held fire, they were losing their cups [?], and that's all they get. [pause] I don't-- maybe you notice it, but I'm a little bit bitter.

James: I missed that one.

Frank: I'm a little bitter.

James: Than--what?

Man: Bitter.

James: Oh, bitter, oh. Why are you bitter, Frank?

Frank: The way, uh--there was the 3<sup>rd</sup> Armored Division next to us. They got two days a week off, they had nice--regular Army, see--they had beautiful uniforms, and they could go and take a bath. We had two uniforms and we had two days off the whole issue. That's your wonderful Army. If you belong to the Army, you're [unintelligible]. If you're drafted you're a dog.

James: But your outfit was composed of both draftees and enlisted people together.

Frank: We had a few officers, you know, regular Army, but the rest of us were all draftees.

James: But your duty wasn't any different?



- Frank: They got more breaks than we did. We had two days out of the whole damn war, excuse me, and they got two days out of the week.
- James: What else did you do? Besides that.
- Frank: Check bridges.
- James: How would you check a bridge?
- Frank: Oh, I don't know. The officers were doing that. They didn't want to get dirty. The other side of the bridge there was machine guns set up. I went in the river to see how deep the bank was for a tank, or how deep it was for a Jeep or a tank in case the bridge was gone.
- James: Did you cross the river or just went in a little way?
- Frank: I went in as far as I had to. It only got--you know, you go in there the water's two feet, that's ok; go down there four feet, that's too deep
- James: That's too deep for a tank?
- Frank: Not for a tank, but too deep for anything else. A tank would just about take four; a Jeep about two, two and a half.
- James: Well, when you got to four feet, didn't you try for six? [laughs] Then you'd know the tank couldn't make it, that's what I mean, you see?
- Frank: Yeah, but a lot of times your bridge is here and your bank is steep and you know the other side's steep, so the tank can't get up there.
- James: Well, you gotta put a bridge across [laughs]--one of the portable bridges.
- Frank: Yeah. They did once for us. When we was doing something else and we'd come back up there--the engineers had been there.
- James: They put up a bridge?
- Frank: Yeah.
- James: Didn't take long to put those portable bridges up.
- Frank: No, that was a good outfit; that was a good outfit. They went through crap.
- James: The engineers?

Frank: Yeah, because they built a bridge while they was bein' shot at.

James: Yeah, that takes a little toughness.

Frank: You betcha.

James: Did they shoot at you when you were out fiddling around the water down there?

Frank: [Laughs] They did if they knew I was there.

James: You did this at night then?

Frank: Yeah, yeah; oh yeah. Yeah, I had a good friend out of Texas who was First Lieutenant, and he drew the outfit. He walked out there and he got eight holes in him--one of my best friends.

James: Ok. Well, you had to be careful.

Frank: Yeah, there were plenty of [unintelligible].

James: So how often did you do this? Was that a frequent thing or not?

Frank: No, there weren't so many bridges. We crossed two bridges; one of them was hand-guarded[?] and the other we could drive across.

James: Who did the bridge test? Did you do the bridge testing to see whether it would hold things?

Frank: I did after I had a little trouble with the captain.

James: This is a little punishment that you had earned?

Frank: Well he was a jerk.

James: And you told him that?

Frank: Yeah.

James: That's what earned you this wonderful trip across the bridge? What prompted this outburst?

Frank: Oh, I'll tell ya.

James: That's why I'm here.

Frank: [Laughs] We were holding recon. We're getting too far ahead for the tanks to keep up, so we had a bridge here--or not bridge, it was a field. I suppose there was more of 'em other places, too, and you know, keep 'em back, and they were throwing artillery at us, you know. Rain, rain, rain; you can't imagine how it rains when you're out there, [laughs] no roof. There was a hay frame there. I took the frame--excuse me a minute--I took the top off of the black top--er the, see now, give me a minute. [pause] Off in the half track, I took the top, put it on the hay frame. The First Sergeant, and the Captain, and myself were there. I fixed all that and, of course, they grabbed the good places, see, so I was taught if you're going to stay in a place, dig a hole. So we got everything on, it was raining, raining, raining, and I dug a foot trench. And I come back up in there he's setting in there. "Are you nervous, Sergeant?" "Little bit." Everything's still raining, still raining; water was about that deep in there. Like I say, they took the good part and I had just a little neck here and I had a cramp, see? I kind of wiggled a little bit. Captain rolled on top of me and landed in my hole in the water, and I says, "Captain, a little nervous?" and that made him mad and I got --[laughs].

James: What did he say to you?

Frank: He didn't say. He wouldn't speak. He'd send a message to me all the rest of combat.

James: So what was the message he sent?

Frank: I don't know now.

James: But anyway, that gave you some more extra duty?

Frank: Yeah, it did.

James: He didn't put you on report, did he?

Frank: No. He just made it miserable for me. You see, this bridge detail was *not* my duty, but he had the power to make me do it--I was supposed to get killed.

James: Yeah. That stuff runs downhill in life. [laughs]

Frank: Yeah, yeah. He was a nervous nelly. If we stopped in a village he slept in an old building; the rest of us slept out here.

James: In a field?

Frank: He was hiding down there, see?

James: You shoulda gone inside with him.

Frank: [Unintelligible] and that's the law.

James: That would've earned you something else you didn't want!

Frank: You'd have to finish it.

James: Been able to finish you, also!

Frank: Yeah, he had a pistol; I don't know whether he could shoot or not. He used to give me hell for shootin'. Yeah, we was recon.

James: Shooting what you're supposed to shoot?

Frank: That's what I asked him. But he didn't answer me.

James: When you were on recon they preferred you to be quiet, and not—?

Frank: Yeah, yeah. You're supposed to be a sneak. Find out what they got, go at night, so you know whether they got five tracks on 'em or four tracks, which tanks they are.

James: You could tell the difference in the German tanks by the tread?

Frank: By the tra—the rollers. One side--I don't—that was so long ago, I don't—but one of 'em, they were kind of a small tank, had four rollers on each side and the larger ones had the five. We'd go in there about, I don't know, first dark, crews were sleeping. We'd count the tracks, how many there were, then report back to the guys back there [**End of Tape One, Side One**]—so they'd know whether we wanted to run into them or not.

James: Who would you report to? A lieutenant?

Frank: Oh, let's see--who did I--I had one lieutenant, he was the one who got on the radio. We had big radios in the halftracks. I never got in on that—

James: You didn't write anything down? Was there oral report by--?

Frank: Right, right. We didn't dare to write it.

James: But you radioed back the information?

Frank: They would. Somebody did. We had men settin' at the radio twenty-four hours a day.

James: I understand. What did you do with the information you got? What did you do with it?

Frank: I turned 'em, in, usually to a lieutenant, and he went to the stripes.

James: How did you turn it in? That's what I'm trying to get at.

Frank: Verbal.

James: You told'em what you saw?

Frank: Yes.

James: Ok. Then when the daytime came, then what would you do for a different duty?

Frank: I'd try and move forward.

James: But you didn't drive any of these vehicles?

Frank: I drove my own.

James: Just your own, which was a--?

Frank: Jeep. Yeah, I didn't want anything else, and I didn't want anybody with me.

James: Because?

Frank: I'm ornery.

James: Oh, well, that's one reason.

Frank: Too many of them lay it up against a tree.

James: You didn't want somebody else to drive?

Frank: No, I didn't want—you see, my wife can tell you that. I'm fussy about driving. Always was that way. We had guys that that blow their cork, and they were weren't doing you any good. But they can't help it; they were born that way. We had guys that lay down, hold their heads—

James: When?

Frank: When they was being shot at.

James: You mean rifle fire'd put 'em down or mortar fire?

Frank: It was rifle.

James: Did you ever encounter mortar fire? Was that ever a problem for you?

Frank: Yes. I was always scared of it.

James: Right. I didn't know whether they would attack your units with mortars rather than rifles.

Frank: They hit with artillery [unintelligible].

James: Right. Well, that would take everybody out.

Frank: Yeah. But the other guys, they were in back, they got big guns; they can shoot.

James: How did you get fed when you were up there on the line?

Frank: [Laughs] C.

James: That's it?

Frank: Once in a while we got a K or something, but mostly it was the big cans.

James: Did you get any mail?

Frank: Yeah, sometimes. I don't know how long I was--I don't remember now—

James: Did you folks write you?

Frank: Oh, yeah, yeah.

James: Regularly? Did your folks write you regularly?

Frank: Yeah, they did the best they could.

James: How about you, did you write home?

Frank: Oh, yes.

James: Who'd you write to?

Frank: Oh, brothers, sisters, mother, dad.

James: Were your brothers in service?

Frank: No they threatened, but the youngest brother was too young and the oldest was in farming.

James: And then they were deferred because of the farming?

Frank: Yeah, and he [unintelligible] and I told him if he did I'd kick the hell out of him.

James: So one was enough for the family?

Frank: That's what I figured, 30% [laughs]--33% really.

James: So how long do you recall--you were in this position in France and Germany, then, until the end of the war?

Frank: Yeah, we—

James: Or the German war, anyway.

Frank: —met the Russians. Let's see, I can't even remember—

James: At the Elbe River.

Frank: Yeah, that's it! That's it.

James: Tell me about crossing the Rhine River; tell me about that. Were you near Remagen or not?

Frank: Beg pardon?

James: Were you near Remagen?

Frank: No.

James: You were north of that, I expect.

Frank: I suppose. I don't know. We just knew our area.

James: How did you cross the Rhine River? In a –

Frank: I don't know.

James: Was it a standing bridge or one that the engineers made?

Frank: Well, I didn't hit the Rhine. We hit smaller rivers; the Rhine is a big river.

James: Well, if you got to the Elbe, you *had* to cross the Rhine, there's no way—

Frank: Yeah we did, [laughs] but—

James: Because one is on one side of Germany and the other's on the other.

Frank: Huh, darn. I can't get a picture of that.

James: Well, we'll leave that. So how was it? Going into Germany did you notice anything different compared to France?

Frank: Nah, not much. France didn't help too much.

James: The farms in Germany look like those in Wisconsin?

Frank: About the same.

James: Except they kept pigs in the back room in German farms, in the farmhouse.

Frank: Cows too.

James: [Phone rings] Yeah. Well, that's always different.

Frank: Yeah. No, I don't know where so many people went.

James: Did you encounter any German prisoners?

Frank: Oh, that's really when I got rid of my cook truck, to haul them out.

James: What was your contact with them?

Frank: Man to man.

James: I mean how did you come in contact with German prisoners?



Frank: Oh, we were going up there and there's a bunch up there, and they wanted to—

James: So your lieutenant told you to put 'em in your truck and take 'em back?

Frank: Yeah. It wasn't my truck; we had a cook driving.

James: So you didn't have to do that?

Frank: No, I didn't have to do that.

James: You had no personal contact with any of these prisoners?

Frank: I helped capture 'em.

James: How'd you do that?

Frank: [Unintelligible] put 'em in the truck and away they go. I don't know where they took 'em except some of 'em come out here.

James: How did you get them to put down their guns? That's what I'm trying to find out.

Frank: Let's see, what did we,--most of 'em they kind of threw their guns up and come out with their hands up.

James: When you weren't even having combat with them, you mean?

Frank: Yeah.

James: They just crossed the lines. That must've been near the end of the European War when they were afraid to be caught by the Russians.

Frank: Yeah, that's right.

James: They kept heading west because they wanted to be where they knew the food was better and they weren't going to get killed.

Frank: The Russians didn't fool with them [cat meows].

James: Oh, they didn't.

Frank: That helps for your cat.

James: We'll have recorded that. Ok, so you finally got some--at the end of—how'd you know the war was over?

Frank: Beg pardon?

James: How'd you find out the war in Germany was over?

Frank: When we met the Russians.

James: Tell me about that.

Frank: Well we didn't know where we--somehow on the radio, I suppose. On the Elbe River was it?

James: Yes.

Frank: Yeah, and that's where we had to wait two days for the Russians to get there. They had a boat landing on this side, and a boat landing on that side.

James: So you just sat and waited for them?

Frank: Sat and waited for 'em two days.

James: They came across and visited with you?

Frank: No, oh no. We was just men. They had men with good uniforms and was ready.

James: I'm missing something here.

Frank: The big wheels in the rear. After two days then they showed up. And then they met the Russians across the river; there's a bridge there.

James: Right, but—

Frank: And a little village.

James: You didn't have any contact with these Russian soldiers?

Frank: [Laughs] I shouldn't. No.

James: No. By no, you're not going to talk about this?

Frank: No.

James: Why not?

Frank: [Laughs] Well, he shot at me first.

James: Who did?

Frank: The Russian.

James: So, where was he? On the other side of the river?

Frank: On the other side of the river.

James: You thought they were friendly but actually they weren't?

Frank: They were stupid.

James: I see. Did he hit you?

Frank: No, just hit the armored car, right in the side of it.

James: And what did you do then?

Frank: I shot at him.

James: With your .45?

Frank: Yeah. Just a small, small river.

James: I was gonna say, that .45 doesn't carry very far.

Frank: It emptied.

James: Did you put all six of 'em in him?

Frank: Well, I don't know where he disappeared, whether I hit him or not, but he disappeared; let's put it that way.

James: Yeah. Well, that'll do it.

Frank: Yeah. Anyway I got on the other side of the armored car real quick.

James: Did your lieutenant discuss this with you? Shooting at your supposed comrades across the river?

Frank: I don't suppose he even knew it, because he was up there.

James: So what about the other guys who were with you on your trip?

Frank: We were on the ground. We had our vehicles parked--let's see, the big boat landing, each side and I backed my vehicles in there. Then I don't know--we had a tire or something. I wasn't doing anything, but the guys were a little ornery. To keep 'em busy, why he'd putt a tire or something on the armored car. He missed us.

James: Pardon?

Frank: I say he missed us when he shot. The Russian.

James: Did you hear the gun go off or just hear the thing smack against your truck?

Frank: We heard the gun, heard the gun, and it seemed like it was--wasn't any warning--hit the armored car; then we knew it was automatic [?]

James: So what about your friends there, standing next to the vehicle? Did they all start shooting, too?

Frank: No, no; they was behind the vehicle.

James: Oh, you took it upon yourself to do this?

Frank: It came closest to me.

James: You thought it was a personal thing?

Frank: [Laughs] No, we didn't want to have any vacation, or what do ya call it?

James: Yes, ok. That's your only encounter with the Russians?

Frank: Mm-hmm. Didn't even go across the river to see them.

James: I don't think you should after you shot one

Frank: [Laughs] Well, they didn't know who done it.

James: Hmm, but you're not sure of that?

Frank: Don't even know how I hit him.

James: Did you hit him?

Frank: I don't know. It took him out of there. Either that or he sprained a knee or something.

James: Was he on his feet or was he on his back?

Frank: No, he was on his feet. Maybe it just scared him. He was across the river; I just shot back. We were taught—

James: You almost started the Third World War.

Frank: Yeah, [laughs] could've, I could've been. Being shot--I thought of that a few times—

James: You get nervous.

Frank: Damn nervous.

James: Right. I appreciate that. Ok. So after this, then, you're about ready to go back home.

Frank: Yeah. Let's see, how long was we quarantined? Quite a while.

James: Couple of months?

Frank: It don't seem like quite that much; might've been a month.

James: Did you stay on the river or did they move you back?

Frank: Moved me back. Yeah. I, uh, drew two men and two new Jeeps and I got--and we took 'em back, oh, I don't know, a couple three hundred miles, I guess. Some big shot needed 'em, and the rest of the guys went in the troop train.

James: And what'd you do there?

Frank: Delivered that—I had two drivers, delivered--I don't know, somebody delivered it to 'em, got my OK. I'm trying to remember where in the hell--I forget even where we stayed that month or so, but it was quarantine.

James: Then what about going home?

Frank: Well, finally we [laughs]--that was a laugh, I don't know [unintelligible] of that ship. We went over there, brand new ship, you know; we went home it was the same thing. I didn't think It'd go the first twenty—miles; well, it did. Propeller down there, the waves

would go up--little boats and [makes boat sound effect] she'd go, the bearing was shot. But it made it.

James: How many troops were on that ship?

Frank: Oh, they didn't have over two or three hundred, I guess.

James: Yeah, that may be why the screw was out of the water; you didn't have enough weight on it [laughs]. You need more weight to keep—

Frank: Shouldn't give two inch clearance on the bearing either. That's what bothered me. Because I was on the detail and was taking care of the guards, in case they'd get [unintelligible]. I was back there, [unintelligible].

James: Did your whole division come back together?

Frank: No, no.

James: They took you back to New York and then you trained it back to Fort Sheridan or somewhere like that?

Frank: Sheridan's where we got discharged.

James: Do you keep in contact with any of the folks you were with in that division?

Frank: Uh, hardly. I had one friend down in Kentucky; he was my crew chief. He was a right guy, you could depend on him, but then we quit, too.

James: Just dropped off the friendship?

Frank: Yeah, you know, a year or so.

James: Oh, that's too bad.

Frank: Yeah.

James: Did you join any veteran's groups?

Frank: I did for a while, but then I found out that everyone that joins it or any officer or anything never went overseas. I bought an old hotel that owned one of the— [speaks away from microphone] anyway one of these guys had volunteered or joined—he owned a hotel, so we bought that.

James: This is the VFW?

Frank: He just accidentally happened to have one to sell. He stayed on the site. I was too busy building.

James: Did you use your GI Bill?

Frank: Yeah, I think I used—or did I? No. I went—No, my brother and I worked in the timber [long pause of blank audio on tape] Nobody else lived in it but us.

James: But you didn't get any help to build this—

Frank: No.

James: —the bank gives a 5% loan on the GI Bill.

Frank: We had some money. The other 6% or something [unintelligible].

James: Ok. What decorations did you receive from you experience?

Frank: Oh, I just got one; what the heck is it?

James: Well, the theater ribbon. Did you get a--well everybody got those. Did you have a unit citation?

Frank: No. I had a, not a unit, what do you call it?

Woman: You got a Bronze Star.

James: You got a Bronze Star. What was that for?

Frank: Oh let's see. It was in a field. We were dismounted and the crap come out pretty thick so I was gonna leave, and four drivers got in a floorboard--in muddy mud mud, and got stuck, so they ran. So I went back and got them one at a time.

James: Were they wounded or just didn't want to walk by themselves?

Frank: Didn't wanna—[laughs].

James: You picked 'em up by the collar and dragged 'em out?

Frank: [Laughs] No. I don't know. They went out and they left their vehicles up there and I went and got 'em.

James: Their vehicles?

Frank: Yeah.

James: Oh, I misunderstood you.

Frank: Well it's—

James: I'm sorry. So we had four vehicles and they all got stuck?

Frank: Yeah, four armored cars.

James: Four armored cars. And the drivers of three of them—

Frank: Four of them, left 'em.

James: They all left 'em? They left the vehicles and ran for it? Were you under fire at that time?

Frank: Yeah, they were shooting.

James: Rifle fire, no mortar?

Frank: Artillery.

James: Artillery--what, the big stuff?

Frank: Yeah, it sounded big. Yeah.

James: But it didn't knock those trucks out?

Frank: No, they didn't hit the trucks; weren't trucks, it was armored cars.

James: Excuse me, armored cars. You mean half tracks?

Frank: Nope. We had only one, two, three halftracks.

James: They're like APCs now, the anti-personnel, the armored personnel carriers.

Frank: Yeah that's what we had our big radios in.

James: I got it now; I'm a slow learner here. Ok. And so they left 'em and you decided that you were going to save those vehicles by driving them back yourself?



Frank: Yeah.

James: I thought they were stuck?

Frank: Well—

James: What was stuck was the drivers, right?

Frank: If you put ‘em all six wheels and idle ‘em you can go, but when you floorboarded ‘em they’d stand there and spin, and they didn’t [chuckles] listen to what I’d taught ‘em.

James: They back up easier than going forward?

Frank: Don’t make any difference just so you slow it up, because you’ve got six good tires on there. Of course you can spin ‘em.

James: The reason that they were stuck is because they didn’t know how to drive them?

Frank: They were nervous [cat meows].

James: Well, artillery tends to make people nervous.

Frank: Yeah.

James: So you saved those vehicles then?

Frank: Right, right, right.

James: What about those boys that didn’t want to drive them?

Frank: I never heard of it.

James: They were from your outfit; didn’t you talk to them at all?

Frank: Oh, it wouldn’t do any good; a lot of New York people. I hope you’re not from New York [laughs].

James: No, I’m from Madison.

Frank: Yeah, the guys in New York—oh, I won’t say any of it.

James: No, don’t say anything bad about people. Yeah, I don’t like to listen to that.

Frank: No, uh-uh.

James: Ok. So anyway, did the lieutenant recommend this Bronze Star or your friend, the captain?

Frank: [Laughs] The lieutenant [laughs].

James: What was his name?

Frank: I don't--I was just trying to think of that the other day. I don't know.

James: Where was he from?

Frank: I don't know that. He wasn't my buddy so I—

James: Well he recommended you for a medal; that was pretty nice.

Frank: Oh, you want to know who--the First Sergeant recommended me.

James: What was his name?

Frank: Bellingham.

James: Where was he from?

Frank: Army.

James: Army?

Frank: Yeah; since he was 16 or 17.

James: Where was he from?

Frank: I'd have to guess for that.

James: You didn't keep contact with him after the war?

Frank: Oh, yeah. He came to visit me here. Yeah, he's a good guy. He was honest. But he was joined the CCs [maybe the CCC, Civilian Conservation Corps] when he was a kid, and after he got too old for that, then he joined the Army.

James: Before the war, then?

Frank: Yeah, then he got tossed into our outfit.

James: Yeah, the CCs were an interesting group.

Frank: Yeah, they helped a lot of kids.

James: Well, they planted a lot of trees is what they did.

Frank: Yeah, they did a lot of things.

James: That's where the government practiced developing an army. They recruited them to plant trees when actually they were getting them used to military life.

Frank: Yeah, right.

James: --in preparation to become soldiers, that's what that was all about.

Frank: But I couldn't get in the CCs.

James: Why not?

Frank: Not a large enough family.

James: Now you'll have to explain that to me, Frank.

Frank: Well, uh, you had to have I think it was four children in the family and you could take one out of there and join the CCs, and it was supposed to give enough--part of it anyway to the family, that's the way I understand it, but they wouldn't take me.

James: I didn't know about that.

Frank: Oh yeah--I was there.

James: I saw when I was--I spent some summers up at Camp Douglas and there was a CCC camp up there and I saw these guys out with picks and shovels and doing all kinds of stuff--

Frank: They did a lot of good things.

James: Oh yes, they did.

Frank: Yeah, but they tore up a lot of stuff too, guys that age [laughs].

James: Yeah, right. Ok.

Frank: Couldn't blame 'em.

James: Ok. So did the people train you well for the job they asked you to do?

Frank: Well, half of it I knew on vehicles, and I trained a bunch of people to shoot, you know, guys who'd never had a hold of a gun.

James: You're talking about an M-1?

Frank: M-1 yeah; that was a good rifle.

James: Still is.

Frank: Yeah, it's a good rifle. [unintelligible] No, I'd get up here and a guy down there and when it kicked why you'd lose it and well, you know, I done a lot of stuff. I was a good shot.

James: That's good. You got that from shooting squirrels out in Montana?

Frank: [Laughs] No, I shot squirrels in—

James: Richland Center?

Frank: Richland County, yeah. I was too little in Montana.

James: You learned your motor mechanics then fixing tractors on your farm?

Frank: Yeah. We didn't have too many, but we had old cars and you'd have to be able to fix something because they're old cars. Every two or three hundred miles something had to be done. Seemed like it was always something.

James: Did the Army have an extensive training course on motors, too?

Frank: Yeah, but I never got to go to that.

James: Who taught you how to shoot?

Frank: Dad.

James: Right.

Frank: Squirrel huntin'. One shot was supposed to be enough.

James: {Laughs} That's a theory, only [both laugh]. That's funny, that's very good Frank, I'll remember that.

Frank: No, uh, Dad was pretty good. He'd give—

James: He gave you a single-shot .22, didn't he?

Frank: Yeah. I got my--but I don't have my old .22, I don't think. But he got us a box of shells--you could sell rabbits, I think they were 20 cents a piece or somethin', and he bought us a box of shells and that was it.

James: You had to shoot enough rabbits so you could buy more shells?

Frank: Yeah, right, right, right.

James: There was no bounty on the squirrels, though?

Frank: Oh no, no, no. No. We shot rabbits because you could sell a pile of those.

James: Oh, somebody liked to eat them?

Frank: Well, we ate some and had to buy more shells, too. If there was poor shooting, why then we had to dig a rabbit out.

James: Dig it out? Out of where?

Frank: Out of a hole.

James: Oh, ok.

Frank: There was a little place up there, name of Barnum. Jenkins owned the store; he bought 'em. Hang em up and let 'em freeze.

James: Did you gut 'em or did he gut 'em?

Frank: Somebody gutted 'em. People that bought 'em, I guess.

James: Yeah I don't think they'd a hung 'em up there without gutting 'em first, though. Otherwise that'd ruin the meat.

Frank: Yeah. Well no, they went up there because we were doing part of his work. He'd count the rabbits and check 'em, then we'd put 'em in an egg—a chicken crate, you've seen these chicken crates? That's what they shipped 'em in.

James: Where did he ship those?

Frank: I don't know; city somewhere. Went on the Milwaukee train anyway.

- James: Down to make Hasenpfeffer [laughter] down in Carl Ratzsch's [German restaurant] in Milwaukee. Rabbit is something I ate once and never would again.
- Frank: No.
- James: I never cared for it; it's really not very tasty. Ok, is there anything I forgot to ask you?
- Frank: Oh I don't know. We done pretty good, I think.
- James: Nothing more we can think of here? [long pause]
- Frank: Mike, do you wanna—
- Man: You told me some things today, Frank, I'd never heard before.
- James: There you go [Frank, James and the unidentified man all talk at the same time, indecipherable].
- Frank: That's the reason why.
- Woman: I think you're aware that he landed, what, three or four days after D-Day in France?
- Frank: Six days.
- Woman: Six days after, and he fought in the Bulge, the Battle of the Bulge; he was in Belgium. Ok. I was trying to figure out by your questions whether you know by what he's saying—
- [End of Tape One, Side Two]**
- James: I know roughly where it was, right.
- Frank: The Bulge was [unintelligible] Germans' big deal, Hitler's last chance. We were south of it and we moved—
- James: Tried to hold it?
- Frank: —Moved north, yeah.
- James: Talking about the Battle of the Bulge, you were south of Ardennes?
- Frank: Yeah, we were south, down there, and we were stopped, for some--we never, never know anything, you see. We were stopped for three days

and all at once we loaded up and go up there; this outfit. I talked to some of the guys, some more wonderful--uh, I don't know what you call it, I don't know--management or whatever you would call it--this outfit came in, this division, new division, and they had the ammunition that was on their belt, and they got {unintelligible] half—slaughtered.

James: Were you near the 106<sup>th</sup> Division?

Frank: 106<sup>th</sup> --let's see, where was I?

James: Must've been south of them.

Frank: Yeah, we hm, yeah--we were south of them, that--oh I'm trying to think of the name of that town.

James: What about that town?

Frank: Where the Bulge was.

James: Oh, Bastogne.

Frank: Yeah, Bastogne, yeah.

James: You were south of Bastogne?

Frank: Yeah, then we had to go north, to get in that.

James: Ok. What is the reason you went north? Is that the—

Frank: Beg pardon?

James: What is the reason you went north towards Bastogne?

Frank: To give 'em help; we took over.

James: You took over Bastogne?

Frank: Yeah. We took over the enemy, the other outfit, every--I don't know why they didn't have supply. But hell's fire, how many shells can you have on a belt?

James: Well the 101<sup>st</sup> was at Bastogne.

Frank: Yeah, yeah.

James: And some of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne was there, also. I've interviewed people who were there, in Bastogne.

Frank: Yeah.

James: The 106<sup>th</sup> Division was the one that was killed with the ACP got their—

Frank: Yeah, that's right; I came home with what was left.

James: Yeah, because so many of them were taken prisoners, you know, because these boys had just barely had basic training; they pulled them out of the schools. A lot of my friends that I grew up with were in that—

Frank: Oh is that right?

James: They were taken prisoners.

Frank: Yeah, that's good then.

James: Well, they had no experience, then all the sudden they were surrounded by Germans—

Frank: All at once—

James: Out of one division, seven thousand became prisoners.

Frank: Yeah.

James: Right. Totally inexperienced, put in the wrong place.

Frank: That's right, that's right.

James: That's where they came in the Ardennes. Did you ever get to Malmedy?

Frank: I don't remember it.

James: Well that's probably north of you.

Frank: Well, we went right through the town there.

James: Ok, when you went north to Bastogne, did you go in the town or not?

Frank: We went in the town.



James: By that time the Germans were gone.

Frank: They were receding and so we took over.

James: Yeah, right, ok. Now I've got it straight. You helped relieve the soldiers who were in the Bulge rather than being into it?

Frank: Well, we went out to the edge of town, and then they were shooting.

James: Right, ok. I've run out of soap.

Man: Are you out of tape?

James: I've run out of soap; I can't think of anything else to ask.

Woman: I know that he had mentioned once, too, that he was at one of the camps. Which camp was that?

Woman 2: In this country?

Woman: No, the concentration camps.

Woman 2: Oh, yeah. He, um—Auschwitz? Was it Auschwitz, or was it the other one?

Man: Do you remember what camp you were at, Frank, where the Jews were being killed? What camp that was?

Frank: Uh, no. We went up with the Bolshei[?] in a truck--oh wow, wow, wow. Ain't that awful to see something like that?

James: Did you visit a concentration camp?

Frank: Yeah, we did, where they was burnin' 'em.

James: Was this after you were falling back at the end of the war?

Frank: No. It seemed like they gave everybody a chance to see that [unintelligible].

James: No, that was Bastogne. I mean at—

Frank: Oh, what is the name of that—??

James: I'll think of it.

Man: The reason why, are you not taping now? The reason why you want to talk to him about that, is people have always said that, they can't-- some people, believe it or not, don't think there was a Holocaust. Frank saw it.

James: No thinking person says that.

Man: Well I know, but I mean, it's frustrating—

Frank: Well, a lot of people thought it was a lot of hullabaloo.

Man: Frank saw it first hand, and that's pretty amazing. I think.

Frank: Along the fence here there were four people high, clothing off, false teeth gone, their gold teeth, no glasses—

Man: [Unintelligible]

Frank: —waitin' their turn.

Woman: Something else that might be of interest to you. Was it the 3<sup>rd</sup> Army, they formed that just for the Bulge? And did the 6<sup>th</sup> come third?

Frank: No they had. The 6<sup>th</sup> was in, uh, the 3<sup>rd</sup> army had a whole lot of different outfits.

Woman 2: Yeah but, just for the Bulge they--in fact it's thirty years now, or fifty years. They're going to disband this year because they did—

Frank: Oh, is that right? I didn't even know, because we still have our old—

Woman 2: No, I mean that—

James: If you're interested in the Bulge you should read McDonald's book. It's the ultimate book if you're a battle buff.

Man: I am; what's the name of it? Just tell me about it before you go. Because I am—

James: I can't remember the name.

Man: Because of him being near there--

James: Yeah. I've read about five books on the Bulge and this is the best of all of them.

- Man: McDonald's?
- James: Yeah, and I can't think of what the name of the book is. Just a second, just call me when I'm at home, because I have it there. It's probably out of print, but that doesn't mean now that we're—
- Man: Do you want to have any kind of closing thing with him at all? Or you're done now?
- James: No. But anyway, what I'll do is--do you know how to find old books?
- Man: No. We're on the Internet at home; will that help me get old books?
- James: Of course.
- Man: Ok. Well, my wife is good at the Internet, so she can help.
- James: It used to be in finding old books, I had a fella in California who had an old bookstore and whenever I needed something, I'd just send this to him and say, "Find it!" and sooner or later he'd find it. Now, there's a number, a telephone number, you can call and you call these people and say the same thing to them. They'll call you back or they'll let you know within hours, sometimes minutes, where that book is, somewhere in this country, and if you want to buy it, they'll arrange that.
- Frank: Rent one for ya.
- James: It's breathtaking how good that is. But this book is a special, special book, and it was given to me by a guy who is also a history nut like I am and he was dying—
- Frank: Ahh.
- James: —He died, oh, last fall--somebody I grew up with. Anyway, so I got all of his old stuff and this book was among them. I was so impressed with it, but if I got a book--he bought it many years ago, but it's my opinion any book is available if you look hard enough. There can't be all of those destroyed except the one I have; there must be others around.
- Man: Sure, I'll find it.
- James: Yeah, and if the worse comes to worst, you can always borrow the one I have and read that. There are a lot of ways to solve it.

Man: Now by talking with him, Jim, have you talked to other people that have been in the area where he was talking about today?

James: Oh, yeah.

Man: A lot of people—

James: The best of 'em lived up in Siren, Wisconsin, who was mentioned in this book. He was one of the guys in the Malmedy Massacre. He was probably the only survivor in Wisconsin. Forty-two guys escaped that, one hundred twenty—

Man: What was that massacre? I have no idea what you're talking about.

James: Oh, well—

Man: Do you have a minute to tell me?

James: Sure. I don't have any problem with that; let's shut this off.

Man: You're done, Frank!

James: You passed!

Man: You did a good job. That was like I said, I heard some stuff today I had never heard before. You were really good.

James: You're alright, Frank. We're gonna keep you.

**[End of Interview]**