

Wisconsin Veterans Museum
Research Center

Transcript of an
Oral History Interview with
ROBERT KRUSCHKE
Reconnaissance, U. S. Army, World War II.
2006

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Kruschke, Robert, (1920-). Oral History Interview, 2006.

User copy, 1 sound cassette (ca. 45 min.), analog, 1 7/8 ips, mono.

Master copy, 1 sound cassette (ca. 45 min.), analog, 1 7/8 ips, mono.

ABSTRACT

Robert Kruschke mentions his early life in Milwaukee (Wisconsin) and describes several incidents while serving with the Army during World War II in Europe. He recalls hearing of Pearl Harbor's bombing in a local tavern after church and not knowing where it was located. Kruschke mentions induction in Milwaukee, being assigned to the 94th Division while at Fort Sheridan (Illinois), training at Camp Phillips (Kansas), the Tennessee Maneuvers and maneuvers at Camp McCain (Mississippi). He touches on shipping out of New York City on the *Queen Elizabeth* to Grenock (Scotland), subsequently landing at Utah Beach and his unit's involvement at Normandy. Kruschke speaks of the Battle of the Bulge, the Saar-Moselle Triangle and his unit's 183 continuous days of combat in the Third Army. He recounts some unit casualty statistics, his impressions of the German soldier and one incident that led to his capture of three German POWs. Kruschke mentions clothing, gasoline, and food conditions. He recounts a story about procuring beer for his company while near Pilsen (Germany) and recalls that the German surrender "took the lid off being tense all the time." Elaborating on the surrender, he recalls one incident in which he was involved with the turning of Sudetenland Germans over to the Russian side of Germany and the Czechoslovakian attitude concerning this. When returning to the States, Kruschke reflects on his emotions on hearing bag pipers playing Amazing Grace at Grenock (Scotland). He mentions being delayed in New York harbor due to a labor problem and having to stay at cigarette camp "Lucky Strike." The interview concludes with Kruschke discussing work at General Electric until his retirement, using the GI Bill for some courses and his involvement in the Legion Post.

Biographical Sketch

Kruschke (1920-) born and raised in Milwaukee (Wisconsin), worked as a draftsman before being drafted into the Army in 1942 and served in reconnaissance. Following the war, Kruschke returned to work as a draftsman and retired from General Electric.

Interviewed by John K. Driscoll, Wisconsin Veterans Museum Volunteer, 2005.

Transcribed by John K. Driscoll, Wisconsin Veterans Museum Volunteer, 2005.

Transcript edited by John J. McNally, Wisconsin Veterans Museum Work-Study, 2006.

Interview Transcript

John: This is John Driscoll, and I am with the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Archives. And this is an oral history interview with Robert Kruschke, a veteran of the United States Army in World War II. Bob has come up from his home in Watertown and we are doing this interview in the Veterans Museum Conference Room. Bob, thank you so much for agreeing to the interview and for coming all the way up here. Why don't we start at the very beginning? When and where were you born?

Robert:: I was born in Milwaukee September 19, 1920.

John: 1920. Okay.

Robert:: That makes me eighty-five.

John: Eighty-five. Right on. You are in good shape for eighty-five, I'll tell you. Great shape. How about family? Mother and dad, brothers and sisters?

Robert:: Mother and dad, in Milwaukee. And I had a brother who was in the Air Corps, Army Air Corps, and he was in aerial photography. In Italy and North Africa.

John: Okay.

Robert:: He was two years older than I was. He was in for four years. I was in for three.

John: How about schooling? Growing up?

Robert:: Orson High School, in Milwaukee. And I worked as a draftsman at Cutler-Hammer until I was drafted into the Army. I was drafted in 1942. November.

John: Okay. What was happening? Oh, yea, something I always want to ask. Do you remember Pearl Harbor Day?

Robert:: Sure.

John: Can you tell me what you were doing?

Robert:: I came home from church with my brother. And we went to a local tavern after church for a few beers before dinner. And that is where I heard it. Shocked us all.

John: I remember our shock was, where in the devil is Pearl Harbor? We didn't know where it was. Okay, and then for about almost a year after that, until you got called up in November, any delays? Or did they just take that long to get around to you?

Robert:: Cutler-Hammer tried to defer me. And in the process I probably gained six months in being drafted. And my mother, being a widow, she and I came down to

Madison. She wanted to try to keep me home, because we were the sole supporters. But it didn't work. I was drafted.

John: Where did you report to?

Robert:: I was inducted in Milwaukee, and then was sent down to Fort Sheridan for induction. I really was inducted in Milwaukee, I guess. I'm guessing.

John: Okay. And then Fort Sheridan?

Robert:: Yes.

John: And then where?

Robert:: I got that spread here, if you would like to see it.

John: Certainly.

Robert:: The 94th Division - at that time, I was not in it, but I was waiting for an assignment - at Sheridan. And the 94th Division originated in Michigan. And they went to Camp Phillips, in Kansas, with a cadre to form a division. It was not formed here yet. It was formed in Camp Phillips, Kansas. That is where I joined them, at the very start, out of Sheridan. And you might want to...

John: You've got the whole itinerary there. Tennessee.

Robert:: Tennessee maneuvers. After maneuvers, to Camp McCain, Mississippi.

John: Okay. They put Army camps in the nicest places.

Robert:: Oh, boy. Maneuvers were tough, but we had some more training here. And from there we went to Camp Shanks, New York. We were only there like a week or ten days. Shipped out of New York on the *Queen Elizabeth* which was not a convoy, just a single ship, but it was too fast for any sub chasers or anything. And we arrived in Grenock, Scotland.

John: Okay.

Robert:: Grenock, Scotland. We came down there and shipped out of Southampton to the beach where we landed, Utah Beach. Where we landed. Utah Beach. We landed on Utah Beach, I believe it was September. That was September of '44. June 6th was D-Day. And then we were sent down, our whole division, was sent down to patrol the St. Nazaire-L'Orient area, which was the submarine bases for the Germans.

John: Oh, sure. Okay.

Robert:: Now we had to patrol that whole area to keep them contained. At that time. And

then, of course, came the Bulge. So the Bulge, they shipped us, and we drove. I was in a reconnaissance troop, which mainly was armored cars. We were reconnaissance for our division. We drove from there to the bottom of the Bulge and contained, I'm sorry, I don't mean contained, but we were in the Bulge and in the Saar-Moselle triangle. If anybody ever heard of that. A very vicious place.

John: Oh, yea, sure.

Robert:: And we were up against the German 11th Panzer Division, which had been relieved in Russia. They were beat, but they came back there, reformed. After that, the gates were wide open for reconnaissance work. We had no maps anymore. I had one map that I brought, the last map I got for reconnaissance in the armored car, and all they told us was "Go east. Go east. Go east, till we get to the river."

John: Wow.

Robert:: To the Rhine. We had, our records say we had a hundred and eighty-three combat days, with Patton's Third Army.

John: You were with Patton?

Robert:: Not here, but when we got to the Bulge.

John: Okay. What was - you were in a reconnaissance outfit. What kind of people in it? Were there regulars? Were they mostly draftees?

Robert:: Mostly draftees. Our officers were not draftees, of course. They came out of that camp in Michigan.

John: Okay. How about training. How good was your training?

Robert:: Very good. We had very good training in Kansas. The maneuvers was good training and after we went to Mississippi, we had good training. So I would say out training was excellent. Which was spread out over a year. They didn't take us out send us to the front, you know. And we made advances as individuals in that time. You know, corporal, sergeant. Things like that.

John: You ended up as a sergeant.

Robert:: Sergeant.

John: Yea. So did I. Okay. How about the non-coms, the staff NCOs and the junior officers. What were they like?

Robert:: Well, of course, I was one of them, a non-com. Not a junior officer. We had good officers, good officers and we lost some, too, of course. We had quite a turnover, our division. Of, I wrote down some figures to bring here. We had 183 days of combat, we had 5,607 battle casualties, we had 5,200 non-battle casualties, a total

of 10,890, and that is out of a total of 12,000 the division originally was. Seventy-five percent changes. Seventy-six percent turnover.

John: What was the non-battle? Was that sickness? Was that accidents?

Robert:: Very much sickness. Accidents. Trench foot was a big one.

John: Was it? Yea, that was the coldest winter on record.

Robert:: I had, I got a strep throat there that I had to go back to the hospital for three days for. I couldn't talk. Riding in the turret of an armored car, you had no heater in it, and the wind blows right through it. And it was miserable. Standing there on top in the cold, rain, snow. Boy. Bad roads.

John: What, when you were out doing reconnaissance, what were you looking for?

Robert:: The enemy.

John: Just anything?

Robert:: Once we broke through, there really was no enemy. They were gone, and they were surrendering. Like in groups, in masses. They'd come. As we hit those older villages, the white flags were out, you know. It was not a serious front, once we made the break. Breaking through was very tough. At first.

John: I assume you had radio contact.

Robert:: Yes. And we had tanks back of us. Or ahead of us, either way.

John: Was it different when you got into Germany? Were the people, the citizens, the civilians different? Were the German soldiers different?

Robert:: The German soldiers. Well, by the time we got well into Germany, it was the old soldier Wehrmacht, like you and I are today, with kids. You know. You've seen it in the TV. There was a lot. It was quite common. They almost weren't like the enemy any more.

John: How about supplies? Food? Clothes? Gasoline? Ammo?

Robert:: Gasoline was tough. We were cut down on gasoline, which held us back. We got gas, finally. We had rations that we could carry in our vehicles. We could heat our rations on a block of a Jeep. We made wire racks to hold them. And when a new replacement came in, he wanted to know what to do with his can of beans, and we would say, "Just put them in the rack on the Jeep." But we didn't tell him to open the can.

John: Oh, God. Yea.

Robert:: So they'd pop, and be a bomb. That was just one of the funny things we could do.

John: We used to take a can of jelly we'd get and walk by, and just drop that in someone's fire, and walk away. Pretty soon, you'd have a jelly bomb. Clothing?

Robert:: We had plenty of clothing. In our armored car we would carry packs of socks. And there were several times when I would see these infantrymen. I would throw them a pack of socks. Because we could get them pretty easy, when we had half-tracks go back to headquarters for our rations, gasoline, and clothing. We were, our unit, reconnaissance unit, was in pretty good shape with everything. Clothes.

John: The infantry must have liked that. Sure.

Robert:: The infantryman, I am told, their socks would be wet. They'd change their socks - this is hearsay, now. I can't substantiate it. Their socks would be wet but you would see that they would have their socks around their neck from the day before, to dry them out, see, with their body heat. Under their jacket.

John: Okay. Sure.

Robert:: Now, an infantry guy told me this. I did not see it.

John: A 183 days of combat? And you took heavy losses.

Robert:: Not outstanding, compared to a lot of divisions.

John: But you came through without a scratch.

Robert:: Without a scratch, and I was in it from start to finish.

John: That is a miracle.

Robert:: It is.

John: That is a real miracle.

Robert:: I appreciate it, too.

John: Oh, yea, sure. Tell me about when the war wound down, and V-E Day, what was going on with you guys?

Robert:: When the war wound down, which was when we were in Dusseldorf, we were across the Rhine there, and went in and policed the town up, because it had been cleaned out. Then we went down to Czechoslovakia. Still in the Third Army.

John: Pilsen?

Robert:: Yea, Pilsen. That was what I was supposed to tell you. That is your cue, yea. We

had, we lived in this place, an evacuated army camp, in Czechoslovakia. It would have been a German soldiers'. And we had about thirteen, or fifteen head of German cavalry or artillery horses that we fixed up, and we rode down there on our own. And anyway, I went, with a half-track for getting rations. I saw the town of Pilsen. And I thought, gee, being from Milwaukee, there is Pilsner beer. And I went down, I found the brewery, and the guy was very nice, yea, we could have a keg of beer. He gave me the whole outfit, pump and all. But I had to sign for it. And I forget what I signed. A fake name. Anyway, I brought a keg of beer with the tap out to our camp. And at supper time, we all had beer. The next morning, the captain said, he was our commander, he said, "I'd like to have everyone from Milwaukee step one pace forward." And I guess there was just I and another guy. And he said, "Kruschke, where did you get the beer?" And I said, "Pilsen." And he said, "It's a good idea. We'll have it. Keep getting it. We pay for it." And we would have it in the evening. It was great.

John: That's good beer.

Robert:: Yea. I won't say it was, it was wonderful beer to us.

John: Yea, compared to nothing.

Robert:: Right. Exactly.

John: That's great. When you heard that the Germans had surrendered, what was the reaction among the guys?

Robert:: Oh, everybody was happy. That was a terrific time. Sort of took the lid off all the being tense all the time. Boy, I will tell you, there were times when you felt you were going to jump out of your skin, you know. But I never jumped. In Czechoslovakia, historically, if you go back, and I can remember this from about 1936 or 7 or 8, Germany invaded Sudetenland. Do you remember that?

John: Yep.

Robert:: Well, now all these Sudeten Germans were in Czechoslovakia. The Czechs wanted them out of there. We were in, we took and ran down there displaced persons camp for these German evacuees, you might say, from Czechoslovakia. Now we had, we had to take a group of these people out of Czechoslovakia into the German area, which was now Russian. And we had, we took, we walked them out of there to the Russian border. They walked ten miles a day. Now this is part of the politics of the whole settlement. And I never read about it. I was there. We had our armored cars and we escorted all these people to the border. There was a German gentleman in this convoy of evacuees, and he had a lovely little wagon, a team of horses, pony horses, and a stallion tied in back. And I said to him, I tried to tell him but I couldn't, that when he got to the border, I pointed to the two horses, and I said, they are going to go. They are going to take them away. So we got up to the border, and he could see, as the people crossed into the Russian zone, the Russians went through everything they had at the border. And there was

a train there. And then they were loaded on trains. And this nice old German guy, he saw what was going on, and he went like this to me, and he handed me the reins. He got off the wagon and I grabbed the reins. Another kid and I got in the wagon and we went by the armored car, and another armored car and the lieutenant throws me a case of rations, because I had to go back ten miles a day to get back to camp. And we had quite a nice trip coming home. This kid and I. We went to private homes and I would give them rations to cook for all of us. And we had a lot of fun. And this is all after the war, of course.

John: That resettlement was terrible. Those people didn't want to go. They didn't want to go back to the Russians.

Robert:: Boy, did the Czechs ever want them out of there. They were defiant. So, as I said, we handled some of these barracks-type camps for these displaced persons, now that they were going to eventually all be moved out of Sudetenland. The Czechs were very emotional about those Germans being there.

John: Yea. Once the war was over, was there still any problem with German soldiers?

Robert:: No, we didn't have any.

John: They were probably as happy as you were.

Robert:: They were giving up, right along. Probably the only ones that were very defiant were the SS and I saw some, but very few.

John: And how long did you stay there after the war before you started heading back?

Robert:: The war was over in May, right?

John: Yea. In Europe.

Robert:: Well, I had Thanksgiving dinner on the boat coming home. I can tell you that. I got out on points, you know. They gave you points.

John: Yea.

Robert:: It took a while to get to the coast, and after we got to the coast, to come home, there was a mix-up with the longshoremen in New York, that they weren't emptying boats, right? There was a strike, or something. Something like that. A labor problem in New York that held up our coming back. But we stayed in one of those, there were various cigarette camps, we called them, Lucky Strike. I forget which one I was in.

John: What did you do with all your equipment? What did you do with your armored car? Did you bring it back?

Robert:: I understand, I left before the stuff was dissolved. It was still a recon troop there.

But I heard that all the equipment was turned over to the Czechs. Now that is hearsay. Armored cars and all that.

John: Because, with the war over.

Robert:: You can't ship them anywhere.

John: Was there any talk about going to the Pacific?

Robert:: Yes. We were supposedly getting lined up for that, but then the Pacific was over. When was that? I forgot.

John: The bomb was on my birthday, August 6th.

Robert:: Well, so it was shortly after that. We were still in Czechoslovakia. We were supposed to go back to get, to go to the Pacific, but then that bomb was dropped, and it never happened.

John: That must have been a relief, too.

Robert:: Oh, it was.

John: And when you came back, where did you come back to?

Robert:: Where did I come back?

John: In the States?

Robert:: Came back right to, ah, I got to look it up here. Camp Shanks. I came into Camp Shanks, New York. I was there three or four days and came right by train from New York back to Sheridan. And exited out at Sheridan.

John: Pretty fast.

Robert:: Pretty fast.

John: Oh, wow. I've talked to many guys, and months later, they were still waiting.

Robert:: I would say after I got into New York, I was freed out in five days.

John: Oh, that's great,

Robert:: I think so.

John: Did you have any trouble adjusting?

Robert:: No. None at all.

John: Okay. And what did you do after?

Robert:: Went back to my old job at Cutler Hammer as a draftsman.

John: Okay. You had the GI Bill. Did you use it?

Robert:: I didn't use it. I used it for some courses, but I did not get a degree or did not go to college. I went to the, what was it called there in Milwaukee? The school of, not School of Engineering.

John: It became Milwaukee Area Technical College, didn't it?

Robert:: It was the University of Wisconsin Extension. That's what I went to.

John: Extension. Okay.

Robert:: Couple of courses.

John: And then you stayed with Cutler Hammer?

Robert:: I worked for Cutler Hammer about a year and a half. And General Electric took over an Allis Chalmers plant with their x-ray division. And I went, when they came to Milwaukee, I went up and applied for a job, and got a job. Basically, the same thing.

John: Okay.

Robert:: And the I worked, well, I worked there for thirty-four years. Thirty-nine years. In that time I got in charge of a design group and they had an atomic energy project they had, and they built a plant in Florida. And I went down in charge of the drafting group there, and I stayed there for six years. And all of a sudden I got a call back to Milwaukee, come back and handle a design group in Milwaukee.

John: Where in Florida?

Robert:: St. Petersburg. Clearwater area.

John: Okay. We lived in Tampa for two years.

Robert:: Yea, right across the river, or bay.

John: Okay. Something I ask everybody, this took three years out of your life. Bang. You are a young man, your whole world is hanging there, and suddenly you are really put in harm's way. What, looking back on it, what do you think about that now?

Robert:: Well, I felt very lucky. Very fortunate to have made the grade all the way without being hurt. Lucky. I remember when the *Queen* docked and, what was the name of

the Scotland ... Grenock, Scotland. And the pipers were playing when we landed. And they played *Amazing Grace*. And that impressed me. And I thought, maybe I am going to make it.

John: Like a signal?

Robert:: I'm not saying it was. But it really struck me, that song.

John: Yea. It's a great song. Especially on a bag pipe.

Robert:: Yea.

John: What about getting together? Reunions? Any of that?

Robert:: I went to one reunion. Which was in Milwaukee, last year. That is the only one I went to. And of our whole recon troop, there was only five of us there. Now that don't mean they are dead or anything. But that is all that could make it. Very small group. There are some of these people who are all gung-ho for the reunion. I am not, really.

John: I did get together with the guys. Three others. We got together on the Internet. And we went to a reunion in North Carolina, and we hadn't seen each other, or talked to each other, for almost fifty years. What about VFW? Legion? Vets organizations?

Robert:: Legion. Yea. General Electric Company organized a Legion post, and I was the commander of that. I was a charter member. I've been gone, now. In fact, I don't think it exists. And then after I retired from GE, I moved out to a little town near Prairie du Chien, called Wauzeka. You heard of it? On Highway 60. My mother and father were from there. And I retired from GE to a new house in Wauzeka. And then I got sick out there and my daughter wanted me to come to Watertown. So I made some settlements with my daughter and son who were down here. My son has the house in Wauzeka. And I get out there.

John: Looking back on it, what is your, what do you think about it, if anything? All your time in, and what you did, and where you went?

Robert:: I look at it rather like an experience. And it's not necessarily a bad experience. But, sure, there were times that were bad. I don't mean that. There was some good times. We had a good, a wonderful organization, our troop.

John: How many men in the troop?

Robert:: About 250.

John: Oh, okay. A company.

Robert:: Yea. How much time you got?

John: We've got all the time you want. I am going to turn this over.

[End of Side A of Tape 1.]

John:: Okay. I see your note there. You have Stephen Ambrose's name.

Robert:: That's where I got these figures from. From his book, yea.

John: Okay. Steve was a very good friend. He passed away here, a couple of years ago.

Robert:: Was he from around here?

John: Yea. He was born and raised in Whitewater. And he studied here. His idol was Hesseltine, the history professor here. And he graduated here. But then he taught some here, but then he went down to the University of New Orleans. And that was pretty much his base for the rest of his time. And he kept coming back here to do a seminar, to teach some courses, and that. He was always popping around here. He did something one night that I really admired. He was talking to a bunch of World War II vets about one of his books. And in the individuals he was talking to, most of the guys were saying, "I didn't really do anything."

Robert:: Right.

John: "I drove a truck, or I was an infantryman, or something like that. But I didn't do anything." And he said, "Wait a minute! Would you guys all stand up?" And they stood up. And he said, "You guys were giants! You went out and saved the world." And that is true. Steve was a big bullshitter. Great story teller. And a great writer. He could tell a great story and get you right into it.

Robert:: Well, *Citizen Soldier*, that was one of the best books I've read.

John: Yea. Because that is the big thing. The Army didn't fight the war.

Robert:: This is what they published. You might want to peruse that. This was our division paper.

John: Okay.

Robert:: Well, now, we didn't get that overseas too often. But this is when it was all done.

John: Okay. Oh, I see. Okay. Oh, that is something.

Robert:: Pretty old.

John: Yes. '45.

Robert:: There is where we were and the years. Kansas, that was the maneuver area.

John: Mud.

Robert:: Yea. And that is the centerfold. I am going to take that centerfold, I think, and make a copy, and color the route and then put dates on it.

John: Oh, okay. That would be good.

Robert:: I've always wanted to do that. That is basically the outline of our history.

John: That is something. That is really something. 94th Division was a proud outfit. A real history.

Robert:: Had you heard of it before?

John: Oh, yea. My area of study, and where I write, is before, during, and after the Civil War. But I read a lot of history. In fact, right now, I am reading one and it's the whole story of World War II. Okay, it's got to be from up on high. And I was just thinking as I was driving down here, you know, that's not, the Russian something-or-other Army invaded here. That's not what makes the war. What makes the war is you telling that guy he is going to lose his horses, and then him giving them to you, and you driving them back to your base. That's what happened. Giving the GIs socks. You know. What was the Bronze Star for?

Robert:: Did I bring my?

John: Over there.

Robert:: Yea, I know. Well, it says so, don't it? I forgot. Like I was going to say, it is all written out there. Meritorious achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy of the United States in Germany from 16th of January, '45 to March of '45.

John: Oh, okay.

Robert:: That was in that Saar-Moselle triangle. We had, well, we lost quite a few guys there.

John: Were the Germans good? The German soldiers?

Robert:: What do you mean by good? Are we taping now, or not?

John: Yea. I can shut it off.

Robert:: Oh, I don't care. By good?

John: As soldiers.

Robert:: Oh, you mean they're excellent soldiers. But what I always thought about the German soldier, he could not do anything on his own, or in a small group, unless he had orders to do so. Strictly under orders. But, I'll tell you I was on a reconnaissance work, after the Bulge, and I was in a Jeep, and I cut off to take another road, and come back and come back up to pick up my armored car section, again. Making a circle, so to speak. And we were going down the road and here come across, running, some German soldiers, and three got out to the edge. And now they were cutting me off. I stopped in the middle of the road and got up on the .50 mounted in the Jeep, and I started shooting along like this. I honestly don't know if I hit anybody, or anyway, nobody here got up. And I hollered to these guys to come. And they got out on the road in front of the Jeep and they surrendered, just like that. And he was armed. I took his pistol from him. Now I got three live guys there, and these guys, I don't know what I got. But I ain't going to go look, see. And I drove down, to continue my circle, and here is an armored column coming, of ours. And I said, the commander in the first car said, "You got some prisoners?" I said, "Yea, you can have them. I don't know what to do with them." So they took them. And he wanted to know how the road was up ahead, so it was well ahead of the armor. And that was the end of that. But, I said to my driver, when I had these guys down in front of me, going down the road, "If they fall down, run over them. We ain't going to stop." Because I wanted to get out of there.

John: You wouldn't dare. Yea.

Robert:: They almost, if those soldiers would have been on the ball, they would have knocked me off. But they weren't. They didn't know what to do. I don't think, really.

John: Well, you told them what to do.

Robert:: Yea. Sure. And I shot, of course. That made them. And I never investigated that any further. And I didn't care. I got out alive.

John: Any other stories like that? Vignettes? Things that happened? Things that stuck in your mind?

Robert:: I can't think of any. But I know on the way home, I will.

John: I'm sure you'll come up with a hundred of them. That's what I do. That happens to me all the time.

Robert:: We're all that way.

John: Well, this is a remarkable story. Gee, this is really great. While we're wrapping up here. I am going to sign this up there.

Robert:: So will I. Say, tell me, will I get a copy of this?

John: Yes, they will send you a copy of the transcript.

Robert:: Go ahead.

John: And that will be yours to keep. But, like I said, I had a situation here a short while back where a daughter wanted to get a copy, and her dad said, "I don't want her to get a copy." And she said, "Well, send my a copy, anyway." And we said no. "It's your dad's story."

Robert:: Can my daughter and son get a copy?

John: Oh, absolutely. If it's okay with you.

Robert:: Sure. Do I buy it?

John: No. They'll Xerox a copy and send it to you. Okay.

Robert:: In fact, if we just send them each one, I really don't need one.

John: How about addresses?

Robert:: Send them to me. The two copies. And I'll give it to them. That'll be the easy way.

John: Okay. Anything else before we wrap up?

Robert:: No, I don't think so.

John: Rations, going back to rations. You had your beer, in Pilsen. Things other than K-rations or C-rations?

Robert:: After we were in Czechoslovakia, we had, they were Army rations, but they weren't the little, they were field rations for the cooks. We had cooks, and we had, I don't know if they were Germans, or Czechoslovakian DP women and men serving us, and working for us. At the camp we were at in Czechoslovakia.

John: Okay. That must have made life easy.

Robert:: Oh, it did. And we had a lot of free time. And we built a bridge across the crick just to be doing something. And we rode our horses.

John: And you didn't have to do KP.

Robert:: And we didn't have to do KP.

John: Okay. I am going to wrap this up, then. What a remarkable story.

[End of Interview.]

