

Wisconsin Veterans Museum
Research Center

Transcript of an
Oral History Interview with
ROBERT PAULSON
Infantry, Army, World War II

2003

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Paulson, Robert, (1923-), Oral History Interview, 2003.

User Copy: 1 sound cassette (ca. 120 min.); analog, 1 7/8 ips, mono.

Master Copy: 1 sound cassette (ca. 120 min.); analog, 1 7/8 ips, mono.

Transcript: 0.1 linear ft. (1 folder).

Abstract:

Robert Paulson, an Excelsior, Wisconsin native, discusses his World War II service with the 5th Division, 10th Infantry Regiment in Iceland and Europe. Paulson mentions meeting a recruiting sergeant while working with the Civilian Conservation Corps and enlisting in 1940. He touches on basic training at Fort Custer (Michigan), serving with his brother, Roger, and training at Camp McCoy (Wisconsin). Paulson describes the long marches during training and befriending Hank Greenberg, a professional baseball player, while at Camp Forrest (Tennessee). Stationed in Iceland, he speaks of ship transport there, building Quonset huts, using hot springs, seeing whales cut up, practicing maneuvers on a glacier, and soldiers' freezing to death. While there, he mentions having his appendix removed and complications from the hospital burning down. Paulson describes "Bed Check Charlie," a German airplane that regularly bombed around Reykjavik, watching for German submarines, and hearing about the attack on Pearl Harbor. Moved to Kilkeel (Northern Ireland), he discusses befriending a man whom he later discovered was a British admiral. He described being shelled while crossing the English Channel on D-Day Plus One, seeing St. Lo (France) destroyed by bombers, and running out of ammunition in Metz (France). He reveals that, to prevent casualties, soldiers were instructed to throw grenades into caves even though women and children might be there, and he admits to finding and hiding a cache of paintings and champagne. Paulson describes looting a French bank, mailing the money home as money orders along with other stuff he wasn't supposed to have, like a Luger pistol, and telling a suspicious intelligence office that he won the money playing poker. He portrays German prisoners as being "just like us" and tells of capturing a fighter pilot whose plane ran out of gas. Paulson talks about meeting General Patton twice. He relates several instances of seeing other soldiers killed, wounded, and washed overboard and describes different types of shells and booby traps. He recalls two times he was injured, once with a concussion from an explosion and once from air burst shrapnel. Assigned to a car company in Paris, he describes dispatching limousines, being the driver for performer Jane Froyman, and driving and talking with German Colonel General Jodl on his way to sign the peace treaty at Rheims. Paulson recalls seeing rows of bodies and the awful stink of the barracks at Buchenwald. After returning to the States, he describes being a prison guard at a United States Disciplinary Barracks in Milwaukee and mentions his six brothers' military service. He relates difficulties getting signed up with the veterans in Rockford (Illinois), buying a house in Loves Park (Illinois), and holding various jobs.

Interviewed by John K. Driscoll, Wisconsin Veterans Museum Volunteer, 2003.

Transcribed by John K. Driscoll, Wisconsin Veterans Museum Volunteer, 2003.

Abstract written by Susan Krueger, 2009.

Interview Transcript:

John: This is John Driscoll, and I am a volunteer with the Wisconsin Veterans Museum. Today is August 13, 2003, and we are at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum, in Madison, and with me, this is an interview with Bob Paulson, who is a veteran of the United States Army in World War II. Bob, thanks for coming, and we really appreciate your being here.

Paulson: Well, thank you. Glad to be here.

John: Would you want to start off by going back to the early times. First of all, Bob, when were you born?

Paulson: I was born July 7, 1923, in a little town called Excelsior, Wisconsin. I was one of eight children. I was the middle. There was seven boys, one girl. And we lived in a town, it was, like I said, three, probably three blocks long. And I went to a regular grade school. It was, the lower part was fourth grade. First grade through fourth. Top part was from four to eight. In our town we had a pool hall, two stores, post office, clothes pin factory, and then the farms were close because the cheese factory. And the factory was almost in corn fields. And then when you turned fourteen, you was a man. And we never considered high school. They had a consolidated school in Boscobel but when I turned fourteen, I left. Just like my brothers and I, we had a table like this, and then like Harold would leave. You'd have more room. And when each one left, I had more room. So I went up on the ridge. There was a lot of Swedish, Norwegian farmers. And one lady always took me in. So I told her I had to leave home and find a job. So I got a job there on the farm, and I lived in the attic. And I'd get the cows, feed them, hay and that. Then I moved, when I was probably not quite fifteen, I moved to a bigger farm in Richland Center. More employees. And then I joined the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps). That was in '39. At Viroqua, Wisconsin. And they opened it up. We had uniforms on, but we didn't have no, you just, for wear. There was a captain in charge. And our job was to cut willows.

John: Okay. Where?

Paulson: Around Viroqua. These farms had creeks that run through, like this. So if you come to a bend, our job was to cut willows and throw them here. Another guy would cut stones, or pick up stones. And the other guys would make so it wouldn't wash the curve out. And then I was in Richland Center, my brother Roger and I. And there was a recruiting sergeant.

John: How do you spell your brother's name?

Paulson: R-O-G-E-R.

John: Okay.

Paulson: So this recruiting sergeant stepped out and he had all these medals, and everything. And he said, "You like that, huh?" And I said, "Yeah." And he said, "You can have that." "Really?" He said, "The girls go for that, you know." And I said, "You mean we can have all this?" He said, "Sure." So four of us were supposed to meet in October, 1940, at the court house. Just Roger and I showed up. So, we signed up and somehow we got to Milwaukee. And then trained at Fort Custer, Michigan. Now Fort Custer was activated July of '40. And we were there September of '40. And but then, most of the time before I actually went in, the last job I had was picking apples, in the Kickapoo orchards. Now, the reason I'm saying that is because it will show up later. And I never seen nothing before. In fact, I hadn't seen, hadn't been out of Excelsior, you know. The teacher drove us to Madison once. And we were real young. So, I was eighteen then, in July, so that would be maybe three months after I was eighteen. We got into Fort Custer, Michigan, and we was in tents. Well, the barracks were just being built. So, after basic training and then after that, I washed pots and pans, and peeled potatoes. And, so they wanted volunteers for driving. So I thought, well, I'll get out of this KP (Kitchen Police) duty, so they marched us over, and each one got a wheel barrow. And we had to dig the sewers for the barracks. And then they wanted volunteers for another job. And that was in the mule barns. Behind the mules. And I slept in the mule barn, you know. And then, let's see, now that would be the fall of '40. Okay, then around November, or December, we went to Camp McCoy, Wisconsin. And we had these open trucks. The backs were, you know, four-by-four, and then the big ones, six-by-sixes. Well, the driver only had a canvas right here, and it was cold. And we got to Camp McCoy, I don't know if they was expecting us, but it had melted, and they had about a foot of ice in the tents. Now, the tents would take care of four. And right in the middle was a stove, but there was so much ice, you couldn't get the door open. And this was in the middle of the night. So we chopped, and we found some coal, or coke. And we got a fire, but, of course, all that would do was just melt the ice. And in the morning, you'd look up and a spark would go on the canvas, and it would start burning.

John: Oh, boy.

Paulson: So then they would try to make ski troops out of us. And they wouldn't let us do any jumping. Just walking. We'd march between Camp McCoy and Camp Douglas. That's twelve and a half miles, and we'd march say, to Douglas, and back. That was supposed to be twenty-five miles.

John: Okay.

Paulson: The last few, I guess, yards, we'd run. Well, you'd see the ones that dropped out. I was in good shape, but a lot of these city guys, they couldn't do it, you know. So then, while we was at McCoy, I wanted to miss one of those runs. So I told them I was, measles were out. I was, what do you call it? I caught the measles from somebody.

John: Okay.

Paulson: So they sent me to La Crosse hospital, and I caught them up there. So I was in the hospital. And I didn't have the measles, see. And then, so then, that would be December, then, of '41, and January. That was that winter. Okay, we went back to Fort Custer, I am guessing, like April, May, of '41. So then, after we got to Fort Custer, they marched us to Tennessee. We marched, say, maybe twenty miles, and then they would pick us up and they would take us to a bivouac area. Well, all that trip, then, we walked. We got down to Tennessee, I am trying to think of the name of the camp. I thought it might be Camp Forest. And then we bivouacked there, had these little pup tents.

John: So you marched all the way to Tennessee?

Paulson: Well, let's say we were in Fort Custer, now. Well, we'd walk twenty-five miles. And then they'd put us in a truck, and we may drive another twenty-five, to a bivouac area.

John: I see.

Paulson: So, we didn't march all the way, but every day we'd march. We got down there in Tennessee, well, there was on maneuvers. It must have been Camp Forrest. So there was the Red, and the Green, on maneuvers. Well, a guy named Hank Greenberg, he was a baseball player. Well, I met Hank at Fort Custer. And when he first come there, why, all the guys were around him. And I didn't like baseball. So he had the last bunk, from mine, and I asked him, "What did you do on the outside?" And he looked at me like, "What's wrong with the guy?" "Oh, I played baseball." Well, I said, "I can't stand baseball." And he come around and picked me up. I only weighed a hundred forty pounds. And he wanted to know if I could be his buddy. He said that everybody was bugging him. So, you know, I was eighteen, didn't know too much. Said, "Sure." So they started picking up Hank in staff cars. They would send a driver, some, he was supposed to go to the officers club. Probably in Battle Creek, or on the post, and he said, "I won't go unless Private Paulson goes." Well, I was scared stiff. But you know, I started to like it. And I couldn't stand those stage shows. You know, we'd go into Battle Creek,

you know, like that. All the stage shows, these huge ones, you know.

John: Okay.

Paulson: And he always liked chili. So after these, like, I am trying to think of some of these stage shows. *Oklahoma*. Stuff like that. And that was way beyond me. Well, anyway, we'd go to these chili places and their chili was, they would put the spaghetti on and they'd dump beans on it. That is different than ours. So, then, down South on maneuvers, there was a tank came at us, and that slit where the driver was, he took a can of hash and he threw it through that slit, and hit the guy on the head. And so then, the bad part was, them little roads in Kentucky, we'd be marching up them roads, little dirt roads, and, not my company and not my squad, but it was in my regiment. The guys were laying on the bank, they had their legs out in the road, and a tank run over seven of them. Just smashed them, yeah. See, a tank on them little dirt roads, and we'd lay down. We'd lay down on the same roads, but they didn't get us. We'd lay up the bank and our feet was on the dirt. And just knocked off seven of them.

John: You said, in your regiment. What outfit was that?

Paulson: I was in the 5th Division, 10th Infantry Regiment. Let me see, 5th Division, 2nd Infantry Regiment in the States, and in the anti-tank company. But it was changed later on.

John: Okay.

Paulson: So then Roger also was with me. We were together. And we went back to Fort Custer, and I am guessing around July or August. This is '41. So they give us khaki outfits. We drove to New York, went down to Fort Slocum, where the was. And we was there probably for two weeks. Then they took us back to the Brooklyn Navy Yard, put us on a big transport called the *Born Queen*. It was a German transport from the First World War.

John: Called the --?

Paulson: I think it is B-O-R-N Queen. Yeah. And then after we got out, we left at night time. And then during the night, they called us all and they took our uniforms, and give us O. D. (olive drab) wool. I guess they was probably afraid of spies, or something. But out outfit went in with khakis, and they thought we was probably going to some warm climate.

John: Okay.

Paulson: So, then, I had never seen anything, and the next morning when we got on the ocean heading towards Greenland, and that ocean was just full of ships. Oh, gee. Battleships, and I never seen a convoy like that. See, I never seen nothing up to then. So, then during the night, these destroyers, or sub-tenders, whatever they call them. You know, there was forty-five thousand men, if I remember, on our ship. And I was down in the hold where the propeller is. And that is all I could hear. Roar-roar, you know. And then the guys in these bunks, probably three high, they'd get sea-sick. And you can imagine the stink. And then on meals, you'd get an A and a B card. Well, I'd got both of them. So, if you are A, you run up and eat, and if you are B, you run up and eat. And then they gave us lemon drops for sea-sickness. Now, I don't know if that is all in the head, you know, we got them. And then I asked the, some navy guy, at night time, you know, all this, well, he said, "There is subs out there. The Germans are trying to sink you." You could hear depth charges. Well, we hugged, near Greenland, and then we got up a little farther, we got to Iceland. And the reason I wrote, when we got to Iceland, the people from Dunkirk. Now, the Germans had sent these British down to Dunkirk, and I was told he turned and went back to Russia. He could have killed them all.

John: Yeah. And they got away.

Paulson: So all the ships from England went to Dunkirk, and they sent them to Iceland. Meantime, we was going to Iceland. See, we got there, our barracks were filled with Englishmen. So we stayed on the transport, and then we went way, then we were engineers, then. We wasn't infantry any more. We went way up and we put these Quonset huts up. Well, long before we got there, that island was full of tanks and jeeps and artillery, just all over there. So then, we put our billets up, or barracks, whatever they call them, Quonset huts. Right near a stream that would stay, I am guessing, like 140 degrees.

John: Okay, I know they have got steam, natural steam.

Paulson: Now, the Germans made a square, wasn't a pipe. I guess you would call it a pipe. And all the way into Reykjavik. See, the Icelanders liked the Germans. And then they took that water in to Reykjavik and they upped the temperature, and they heated Reykjavik. Well, then, we could go in and swim in that water, if we stayed next to the, see, it got seventy below zero up there. And then, if you stayed near the bank, it was pretty good, you know. Yeah. And then, we would go on maneuvers. They would take, maybe, our company and we didn't know it, but they took us to a glacier. I mean, you didn't know it was a glacier. And then I remember chopping into the ice, and then they would give us this quarter pound of dynamite. And we'd stick it in there, and we'd keep blasting holes. And then if you are real good, you take your shovel and you would make like a phone booth. And you'd chip off here a place where you could sit, and you'd chip a little hole

up here, and put your canned heat. And then, the guard, the guy that was on guard, they would take snow and pack it in front of you, all the way up. But what they forgot to do was leave a hole so you could breathe.

John: Yeah, sure.

Paulson: Well, the next morning, see, we learned from other people's mistakes. The next morning, there was a lot of them dead in there.

John: No kidding?

Paulson: Yeah. In them holes. So what happened, then, they would give us a pipe, like, say a half-inch pipe, or three-eighths. So then when they brought this up to you, you stick that pipe out and you pack around it. Well, with this canned heat up here, you are comfortable in there. I mean, it is nice in there. And then the guard would take each one of them pipes, and he'd clean the snow off it, and he'd blow in it. And, of course, he would blow a little snow on you, too. And then the worst part was, in the morning, when breakfast comes. Oh, geese, you'd go up there in the blizzard conditions and the food would freeze. They'd try to set up a kitchen, you know. And then they'd give us a can of, say, beans. And we'd stick that under our arm pits, you know. By noon, it would still be, the grease would still be white, but it wouldn't be frozen. And then, we got off that island, we got off that glacier someplace else. I mean, like, we would go down here. And you wouldn't know it, but the glacier moved. And it would move, you know. And then, they had Eskimos. You'd go miles and miles from anyplace, and there might be kind of a hill, like. And in that hill, the Eskimos lived there. You could see a stack. Miles from no place, you know. And now the Icelanders didn't like us because the Marines went in, and they would, they had pools, they went in nude, in the pools. Well, that was, the Marines, you know. And they were causing a lot of trouble, and when we got there, they thought we was like Marines. So, they didn't, they kind of avoided us. And then, we didn't know this, when December comes, it starts to get dark. And it stays dark all winter.

John: Yeah.

Paulson: Till spring. And then none of us ever had a problem or needed counseling, or you know. And then in the winters, we had three coal stoves. And then they'd designate people to keep them hot. And then at night time, they had a thing they called Bed-Check Charlie. German. And there was, first, there was this sub that was, we knew the sub could hide. Well, the sub, being in Reykjavik, the guys would come off on one of these rubber dinghies, they would come in and shoot the town up. It was for psychological. We never even bothered with them. And when they shot the town up, and went back to the sub. The plane, now, they had

pontoons on it and it would fly at ten o'clock, Bed-Check Charlie. He'd fly around Reykjavik and he would drop one bomb. Well, if that hit your hut, then you are gone. But, he never done much damage. So, when the British, we had a big airport. And a lot of these P-38's used to come in there, and go to Russia. And then the British had a think called, if I remember, the Liberator. And it was corrugated. And I used to get on that and we'd ride the island, trying to find that plane. And we figured he was supplied by the sub, but he probably hid in some cave or cavity. Then, we didn't know this until it got time to leave, really. The Icelanders had some big fishing boats. And inside the boat was hollow. They would go out on the ocean. The German sub would submerge and come back up under the boat, the conning tower. Come up in the boat. And they would come in, they'd let the fishing boats through the sub nets, you know. And you'd think they were supplying the boat. They were supplying the submarine. And then also in Iceland they had sub pens. See, the Germans were there before we were. I didn't, we didn't fight them, but someone drove them out. But they used to skip bomb. They got those submarines. And, then, of course, it never got daylight there so them after two years they come out with a piece of paper. No, before that. The Sullivans got sunk in the Pacific. Okay, then they wanted no brothers together, so they took Roger and kept him in the 2nd Regiment and put me in the 10th. And, because they didn't want us together. You know.

John: Okay.

Paulson: So, then, Roger was sent back to the States with some other guys to Officers Training School. Well, then, we wondered why we didn't make no, two brothers are bad. You never make any rank. So, as soon as he left, they made me corporal, right off the bat. And maybe I was no good, and they'd want to, you know. So when he left, they got down into Kentucky and they all got drunk, and he got washed out. So then I didn't see Roger. I signed a slip to leave Iceland, and I thought sure we were going home. But, you know, we never talked about going home. Never worried. We knew we were there for the duration, but we thought, well, maybe we will go home. Got on the boat and we were all happy, and everything, and they had a nice meal for us. And then, we went to Liverpool, Scotland. Liverpool, yeah. Woke up, I said, "This don't look like New York." It was Liverpool. But, getting ahead of myself, we had these anti-tank guns. They were 37 millimeter. They had a projectile probably like that. And then they had, they would pull a target. General Bonesteel was our commanding officer.

John: Bonesteel?

Paulson: Yeah. Bonesteel. And then Captain Jantz was our, he would be, let's see, he wasn't the company commander then but he was like a section, you know. And then, we never could hit that target. We had sights but if that target would stop,

we'd bore-sight it. See. If they give us enough time, and they didn't know that, see. Maybe they were doing something and the target would stop, we'd bore-sight it. We'd put the shell in, and we'd get it. But when it was moving-- same way in Germany. So, anyway, then, we got to Bristol, no we got to Liverpool, Scotland. And then we went to Bristol, England. That is near Salisbury. And we done a lot of training there, but the Germans were sending these, I call them buzz bombs, over.

John: Let me interrupt for a second. This was after Pearl Harbor?

Paulson: Yeah.

John: Where were you when you heard about Pearl Harbor?

Paulson: Okay, I was setting in a command car in Reykjavik, Iceland. It was way up in the mountains. But then, we moved in to Reykjavik when the British left. We were listening to music and the radio we was listening to interrupted and said the Japs bombed Pearl Harbor. And then, we said, "Where is Pearl Harbor?" So, then, we stayed there another year or so after that. And we didn't really know the consequences. Good thing we were dumb. We were healthy and excited, but I think we'd have been smart. Maybe we were good soldiers.

John: What was the reaction, now? You were in the regular army.

Paulson: Yeah.

John: What was the reaction among the guys when they heard about Pearl Harbor?

Paulson: You see, the whole bunch--

John: Or did you know it was going to happen?

Paulson: We didn't know then, no. But see, when I grew up on the farm, we lived in town and on the farm, I knew there was going to be a war. Because, you know, we knew about China and we knew about Hitler. And so, we just said, we are going to have to fight. And we figured now, there used to be a pilot come in to our school in Excelsior, First World War pilot, he come down in his twin-engine, you know, two wings, and come to our school and he was dressed something like Patton. He had these pants on. And I was fascinated by army, everything army, tanks, guns, and I was a good shot. I used to, I could get a squirrel running on a tree. So then, I got a sharpshooter's badge at Fort Custer. And I could get a guy easy with my M-1. So, then, they moved us from England to Ireland. Back up to, well, we was at Kilkeel, but the capitol of Ireland.

John: Dublin?

Paulson: No. Well, its, ah, Belfast.

John: My grandfather is from there.

Paulson: So, I was in Kilkeel, County Down. In fact, I am writing to people there. And we were near Belfast. You know, in Belfast, I met a little girl worked for the Red Cross. She was kind of heavy, and I liked her. Her name was Sue. So, Sue come to me and said, "You know, there is a guy here at the hotel, an Englishman, wants to meet us." You know. We were friends. So, we went there and this guy was a little guy. He had a moustache that curled out to here. He was real intelligent. Well, I always got along good with generals.

[End of Side A of Tape 1.]

John: Okay, this is the beginning of Side 2 of Tape 1. You said you got along good with generals?

Paulson: Yeah, now, during my time in the army, I was only an enlisted man. And I got along good with colonels and generals, but I hated lieutenants. I was scared stiff. And first sergeants. Oh, I was scared of them. But this guy, I'll call him Bill because I don't remember his name. He was a little guy and kind of intelligent. So, he would take us to Belfast for lunch. Well, this stuff was all new to me. Now, Hank Greenberg had left. When we left the States. So we went in this building and when we got off the elevator, a big room. And I said, "Bill, I think we are on the wrong floor." "Oh, no, no." A guy met us and "Here's your table, Bill." And there was colonels, admirals, generals. I said, "Bill, are you sure you are in the right place?" These guys would come over and, you know, whatever his name was. And then they'd, of course, we'd be right with him, you know. So then we'd talk. And I thought it was funny because everybody knew him. You know. So then, I got into the MP's (military police) in Ireland. And that job didn't last long because I couldn't go into a bar and pitch some big drunk out. And nobody liked them, either. So, Sue says, after one winter, why, my dates, now, it's kind of hard to figure out.

John: That's all right.

Paulson: But, anyway, she said, "Bill wants us to come to the hotel. They are going to have a meal brought up. And he is leaving." And so we went there, and when he opened the door, why, I said, "Bill, are you going to some Hallowe'en party?" He says, "What's Hallowe'en?" Well, I said, "You dress up." "No, no," he said.

“Come on in.” He had an admiral’s uniform on.

John: Oh, man.

Paulson: Yeah. He said, “Bob,” he said, “I want to apologize for lying to you and Sue,” but he said, “I am an admiral in the British Navy.” He says, “In your *Stars and Stripes* paper,” he said, “you remember a ship being sunk in the English Channel?” Whatever the date. I said, “Yeah.” “Well, they announced in England that Admiral Bill Pope,” maybe, “it was sunk.” And he was a real important admiral and they wanted the Germans to think that he was at the bottom of the English Channel. “But I was hit out in Belfast.” And he says, “Bob, if you would have known I was an admiral, you wouldn’t have been around.” “No,” I said, “I’d have been scared stiff.” So, he said, “I apologize.” So, then, after that, he said, “Now, you watch your *Stars and Stripes*. I am going to charge of the invasion, of the British.” And then we were also fighting the Southern Ireland. I guess they call them Northern Ireland. They were coming up. You know, we still went by the old army book that you put your guns, by then we had the M-1’s, and they got a hook here.

John: Yeah, the stacking swivel.

Paulson: And outside. And they were stealing them. And I said, “Why don’t you take them in, like what we called the armory, the place, take them in there. Well, after they stole a few, then they done it. None of us was killed but they done a lot of raiding, you know. So, then, somehow we left Belfast.

John: Now, wait, this was the Irish doing this, like the Irish Republican Army?

Paulson: Yes. Like they are still fighting today. Now they call then Northern Ireland, but I don’t know they would be north. Belfast was north. Yeah. But they always called them, the Irish that they were fighting.

John: Well, there are Catholics and Protestants in the north.

Paulson: Yeah. They were coming up there and, I don’t know if they ever got killed, but they were bad. You know, us guys, we never shot anybody, you know. Now, in Fort Custer, I was a guard around the PX (post exchange). I think they thought I was smarter than I was. I had this big .45 and I thought, boy, I was all it. And a guy came out of the PX. He was dressed like we are. And they always said, stop or you would shoot. I pulled that .45 out, got a shell in the chamber, and I was shaking. And the guy, he was shaking. He said, “Soldier, don’t point that gun at me. We are both scared.” And he said, “I work in the PX.” And, you see, I always thought it was some spy or something. And you know I never paid for nothing after that. Like a candy bar, or a beer, or that. And then, of course, we had never

killed anybody up to then. And I don't remember how we got to the English Channel. It had to be convoy, by trucks. So we got to the English Channel and they put us on those big troop transports. Well, the First Army, we didn't make D-Day plus 1. We was on the English Channel, and I can't remember when we went on, but I do know the front line was twenty-five miles in. Now, the Navy didn't like to go too close. We went down this rope ladder and got into this ship, or landing barge, and there were three tanks in there. And these tanks were sealed so they would go in the water, you know. And we went in when the tide was out, so all those iron things, we could see them. And they were shelling us. See, what happened, the guns that you seen in the news, in those big forts, they weren't guns, they were logs. They were logs. And then the Germans put their big guns back, way back. See. Okay, the guys that landed at D-Day then, got machine guns and mortars, and then they had these, I call them air ships. Balloons, with cables hanging down so they couldn't strafe us. So then we got the big stuff. And, oh, some of that stuff was coming in. And there was a big railroad gun. I don't know if they ever found it. We called it Big Bertha. Later on, I'll tell you about that. And so we got into a town near St. Lo. We were just this side of St. Lo. And they stopped us. General Ben Lear got killed, so we pulled back, I'll say a mile. All at once, over our head was bombers. You can't imagine. From what I had seen, at my age, bombers. There were hundreds and hundreds of bombers. So you are up there on this hill, looking at St. Lo, and pretty soon it was gone. The whole city is gone.

John: Wow.

Paulson: And then it made a good cover for the Germans. See, they came out of that rubble and the only thing that is standing is a pillbox probably about ten, twelve feet in town but then out Cats, our tanks had to go in and make room. And the British, when I left, was at Caen. And they way, we say they were holding us up and Montgomery says we were holding him up. So then we go through St. Lo and so then there was other towns but I remember Metz. So we went down, there was a town called Thionville (?) here and then we went into Metz, we was on the Moselle River side of Metz. We didn't see the city, just a huge bank. And on that bank was some big steel door that opened up, and this railroad gun would come up, and of course, it didn't hit us, because, I don't know where it was hitting. And this was, I think, Big Bertha. And then after the doors would close, our 240's, you could see it go up and it would bounce off that door. And I thought, why was it when they open the door, now why don't they shoot, see? And then, we had run out of ammunition. We was with Patton, by the way. We run out of ammunition, and they had what they call the Red Ball Highway, these trucks that would bring stuff up. And we didn't have enough gasoline. We were across the river. We had to come back. Now, Goebels was cornered up there in Metz, on the other side of Metz. I don't know it come out. But, anyway, the black soldiers had smoke pots,

or smoke machines, and we had pontoon bridges across and they would smoke the river, so the Germans couldn't see us. But they were knocked out left and right. The black guys. In them days, we weren't together. You know. So, then, we were waiting for ammunition and gas, so as we was roaming around, there was a hillside. And, see, Patton told us, if you come to a shell or a hillside, the Germans used to lay back in there with the women and kids. And when the Americans come to the face of the cave, like three or four of them, they would kill them. So Patton told us now, when you come to a cave, throw grenades in there until the screaming stops. So, we kind of hated to do that, because we knew what it was doing. We come to this cave and we would throw in grenades, and then we'd be hoping when we got in there, why, there would be some Germans laying with the women and kids. And the kids, they would be all killed, you know. So, this particular cave, there was nobody in it. Well, right in the middle of the cave was champagne and beer, right in the middle. And on the sides was paintings in crates, and they were on pallets. Probably the Germans hid them there, see. So I got an idea, then I was a sergeant, but I wasn't, I was acting. I never got paid, but I was a sergeant for a long time. So, as we went out, I, we drove the jeep in and filled it full of champagne and stuff. So then I got out, there was a tank over there, see. And it had a blade on it. And I went over and I said, "Hey, you, we'll fill your tank full of beer and champagne if you'd do a job for us." "What is it?" Well, they brought them over and we had them cover the cave up, cover the hold. And we put brush on it. And you would never know it is there. So, our idea was, a guy named Mo, and Bo, Bo and Mo, we were coming back. See. So then, we made a change, we got one of the tank, we called them "grease guns." You would lift up the lid and then your fire power is here. And we traded. And then I had a German Luger, at that crossing. And some captain said, "You better not have that." And a German belt buckle. He said, "You are dead. You better not have that."

John: Yeah.

Paulson: A lot of time, I'd wrap stuff up, tie it, and address it to my dad, and you know, it got home. I couldn't believe it. Yeah. I got a Luger home, and up here now, I got a, in that box upstairs, I got a, the Germans were having trouble with clothing. So they would steal all the rabbits in France and they built a coat out of it. And that would go under their uniforms, see. And then, because it was warm. I wore it for a while jut to check it out, years and years ago. And it was a dead German. So, anyway, then, I remember the 11th Infantry Regiment, we crossed the river and they had to go down these tunnels, see, and get those Germans out. And I never went down into one. And I was in the 2nd, but the 11th did, and they had some awful battles down in there. We took Metz. Then, we went down around Switzerland. And I don't know what we were doing down there, but then the Germans made a break-through at Bastogne. And then, I guess, Eisenhower asked Patton if he could help. We turned our lights on and we went all the way up to

Bastogne.

John: With the lights on?

Paulson: At nighttime, yeah. The lights on. I met Patton twice. But, before that, we were being shelled in this little town and we were down into an outside cellar. The doors open. And one regiment was from the South, and one was from New York, and then one was from Wisconsin, most of the guys. So we seen a column of tanks. Now, the head tank was a guy like this, and he had a helmet liner, real shiny. And one of the guys, you know they got loud voices, "You better get your..." And the tank stopped. And then I suppose, to turn a tank I guess you got to lock one tread. And here come this tank. And I said, "Boy, we were in trouble." And as he was coming down, this guy got up and you could see pearl handled pistols, and a jacket, and it was Patton. And as he come out, he said, "Who is the (he swore) that hollered at me?" Well, there was about eight of us there. And he says, "I am going to have you all arrested!" Well, we was kind of scared. He was a four star general? A three star general?

John: Yeah.

Paulson: And this guy stepped forward. We'll say, Private Smith. "I did, sir!" "Well, you are a sergeant now!" He said, "You are the kind of guy that we want." He said, "I know I shouldn't have this helmet liner on. I should have a helmet." But, you know, he got cigars. We all had a smoke. And he said, "I'll meet you in Berlin!" And we also had seen him in Ireland. He talked so dirty, a lot of the nurses had to leave, you know. So, then, he left and so then we went up to Bastogne. We didn't do any fighting up there. We was on a hill. We was in a pillbox. And, see, the Germans, they had everything, if they left this section and moved to here, their guns were already zeroed in. And we had to, we had artillery with us, and we had artillery spotters. I guess they would throw a smoke grenade or something. And if you stayed away from the intersections, you were safe. Now, if you were coming down here and you go around this way, you would never get hit. The Germans had all their artillery right on the intersection. And then another thing, with ours, we used to capture the Germans. Now, I could shoot a German like over here, but once they were in, I couldn't. They looked just like us. They knew baseball. They knew Joe Louis. They knew, just like we did. And we would give them cigarettes, we'd bandage them up. Sometimes on the front if you were stationery for days, we'd go down there, especially in Belgium, we'd go down there in the snow and meet them, and we'd have a cigarette. And they'd have schnapps. And they were just like us. They knew a lot about America. And they never did say it, but they liked America. And so, with the Germans, the Germans, now, if you would kill the officers, then the other guys didn't know what to do. And, but then, anyway, in this pillbox, Moon Mullins was sitting here and I was sitting here. And they had

hit that thing so much they just shook it. It was a pillbox bigger than this room, and they had kept hitting it seemed like forever. And there was a crack here, in the back. And I know Moon went like this once, kind of went, like that. So when the shelling stopped, why, I said, "Moon, let's go," because our officers said we had to move out. He was dead.

John: I'll be darned.

Paulson: Somehow, I don't know why I felt back here but there was blood. A piece of shrapnel went through here, you know. And there was Mullins. And then another guy, the poorest guy I ever saw, he was a cook and a mechanic. He could do both. He got hit right here, and it blew the back of his head out. And another time, in France, we had stopped for a rest and we pulled into this big chateau. And inside was a kitchen, you know, you had your food and I think you had the first barrel, tub, was probably a lot of water with soap, and then each one till you got clear water. Well, we were pulled back there for I guess they call it R & R (rest and recuperation) two or three days, and so we all wanted to go into town. And, of course, it was dangerous. Germans, you had to watch them German kids. Oh, fifteen and sixteen. And a guy bucked the line, and he said, "You care, Sarge? I got a date." So that put him ahead of me, see. And then, as he went up these steps, there was a guy sitting up there drunk, and he said, "The next (swearing again), I am going to shoot." Well, we never thought anything. We were together for years, you know. So, the guy went up the stairs and I heard a bang, and then I seen this guy's shoulder blade come out. He had a German Luger and it hit him, it popped his shoulder blade out, and it came right down stairs. And I was thinking, that should have been me, because he bucked the line.

John: Yes. Yes.

Paulson: So they grabbed him and, of course, probably Leavenworth. Took this guy outside and covered him in the rain, laid out all night in the rain. And another time we was in this house. Probably the same area. And we were laying on the floor, and there was French doors. And they were wood slats. Well, I had a French gun and it had lead bullets. So, I didn't think it was loaded. So we was going to go out and look the town over, and I pulled this gun out, and I said, we'll just say his name was Pete, a buddy of mine, "Hey, Pete, here's what Buck Rogers does, or Buck Jones, the cowboy." Boom! And it hit that wood and it hit him right here. But he had a Testament right here. And that stopped it.

John: I'll be darned.

Paulson: Yeah. Now, if that had been one of ours, it would have went straight.

John: Sure.

Paulson: But the lead hit him, and I thought, "Oh, boy!" Because I remember that guy getting killed. But he got bruised. And, then, so after Bastogne, somehow we crossed the Rhine River, and we got up into Bittburg (?), Germany. And the Germans had what they called a Neibelwurfer (?). Okay, they wasn't too accurate, but I am guessing there was nine of six, or so. And if you ever heard them, they would scare the heck out of you. We were in this house and my squad, we laid down. And they thought I was a sergeant. But I was a replacement, a battlefield sergeant. Because we had lost so many men, see. And I heard, and we was laying there in the front room, and I heard this terrible noise, and I thought, "Boy!" See, when they split, if you get hit, you are done for. But you could be missed, too. But this must have hit out in the yard. All I remember, the whole house blew in, and I remember being, the house blown, probably into another room. And that is all I remember. And I woke up, I thought, the next morning, in Luxembourg, hospital. So I woke up, and I told the nurse, "Where am I at?" Well, they said, "You are in Luxembourg." So, I said, let's say it was Tuesday I got hit, I said, "What is today, Wednesday?" "No," she said, "it's like Friday, two weeks." I said, "Two weeks?" "Yeah," she said, "we gave you these blue 88's." Like the Germans had the 88 guns. And they would knock you out. So, she said, "You came in here, it was concussion." And I asked him about where was the other guys, I didn't know where my squad went to. So I said, "How did I go to the toilet?" "We took you." And on the side of the bed was orange juice and apples and fruit. She said, "When you come in here, you didn't know nothing. Concussion." And, before that, then, I am kind of getting ahead of myself. Going in to France, we was in France. We come into this town, and the town was like New York Times Square, it went like this. And here was a bank.

John: On an angle. Okay.

Paulson: So, you see, I was always game for anything, like in Iceland, I got in trouble, we was shooting ducks up there. But, my captain, Jantz, now, got me out of that. So, then, these guys from the South, they, I was always, you could do anything. So they said, "Let's go blow that damned bank up." So we took a bazooka and the door wasn't that heavy. And I aimed it right at the lock, and blew a hole in it. We opened the door and went to the next one, blew a hole in that. We went in there, and it was probably half this size, and we got all kinds of French money. 500 French, what do they call that?

John: Francs.

Paulson: Francs, yeah. So, I took my light pack, and I had a piece of cardboard and I packed it in here, real hard. And I always carried a light pack. And then I put that board

down. So, then, when I got hit in Luxembourg, I mean, after Luxembourg, why, they brought my stuff in. And she said to look at it and then sign this thing. So, I thought, oh-oh. The money was in there. Well, you can see, you can get arrested for that. That is what they call pillaging. So, I don't know how, then, I didn't go back to my outfit. They went on up into Poland, I suppose, and they met the Russians. And somehow or other, I was sent to Paris. And I got into a car company. And now, the Arch de Triumph was right here, see. And I got into a hotel called Rue de Tippin, see. Now, another thing, too, before I get any farther, the first time I got hit was in France, and we had these, by then we had these 57 millimeter anti-tank guns.

John: That was the first time you got hit? That was the concussion?

Paulson: No, that was the second.

John: What was the first?

Paulson: The first was, this was the first one, and I got ahead of myself. We were really fighting and one of our guns, the 57 millimeter, the hydraulic cylinders, one of them leaked. So they told me to take the gun and go back about thirty-five miles to Ordnance, and they were going to change the cylinder. So then they had a chateau there and they had nurses, and you could rest and could wash up, and all of that. And we was at least thirty miles back, you know...

[End of Side B of Tape 1.]

John: Man, what a story.

Paulson: So, anyway then, I took the gun back and took it to Ordnance and this Captain Jantz, again, I think I was his favorite. I drove for him a lot in Iceland. He was from Wisconsin. He played for the Green Bay Packers.

John: Oh, yeah?

Paulson: Yes. Captain Neil W. Jantz. I been trying to locate him but so far I can't. But, anyway, I went through the back door of this chateau and I was up on something high in the back. I don't know, I clumb up on it. And I don't know why I was up there. Maybe just resting or looking. Now, the Germans had this big railroad gun and they, their projectile, I imagine, is huge. Well, at the factory, where this thing came down to a point, there is a groove here, so they would take a piano wire and they wind it in that groove, real tight. In case that thing gets bumped, it wouldn't go off. See. So, let's say that they wind it this way. Okay, when that projectile leaves the gun, it goes this way. And then that piano wire unwinds. And then it is armed.

And you could hear it *whish!* We used to hear them in Germany and France going over, and you could hear *whish! Whish! Whish!* So we knew that piano wire was unwinding. Well, I don't know why that thing exploded in the air. I don't know why. Usually it has to hit something. But I remember that piano wire noise. I remember an awful explosion, you know. It was a air burst, and I remember it seemed like a whole bunch of bits of metal come down on me, you know. And I was just peppered. Nothing serious, but I was just peppered with blood. So I went down, I jumped down and went down in the basement and a nurse looked at me. I guess I looked a mess, you know. So, when she got through cleaning, it was nothing for a bandage. I don't know if it got blowed out of there, and I don't know why that shell didn't hit first, and then explode. And I guess they were designed for that. I think. So, anyway, she said, "I'm going to put you in for a Purple Heart." And then I went back to Paris. And I got into a car company. I met, all of this stuff seems strange because I wasn't smart enough for any of this stuff. You know.

John: Now, when you say a car company, what was that?

Paulson: What it was, there was a motor hotel and then there was limousines in there. So I reported to this colonel. So, my one job was to go to the third floor and that is where the office was. And I would dispatch limousines. So, let's say, you called up, you are a general, you wanted a car. So, you'd send a driver over and I'd give him a limousine. And in the meantime, this Jane Frohman came to Paris. I don't know if you ever heard of her. Okay, I got a call. I was there alone. In the afternoon, and there was one car there, King George's limousine. And whoever this guy was said, "We need a car. We need it now. Go to a certain hotel." Well, I said, "I'm alone here." "You got a car? Can you drive?" I said, "Yeah." "You have a key for the door?" "Yeah." "Well, go." He gave he his name at the time and so I went to this hotel and I am glad I didn't know who it was, see. I knocked on the door and the door opened, and there was George Brooks, he was a dancer. And I didn't remember the guy's name, but here was Jane Frohman in a wheel chair. Well, I didn't know who she was. So I went in, and I said, "I'm going to be your driver." And we put her in the limousine. But, you see, before I got to Paris, a lot of the troops come back to Paris. They had tent cities around Paris. Like Old Gold, Chesterfield.

John: Yeah, they named them after cigarettes.

Paulson: Yeah. Well, I take Jane Frohman, and they told me to wear everything I had. Well, I had eight hash marks. Well, I had seven then. It wasn't quite four years. So, two a year. So I was over four years. Well, at that time I had seven. So, I'd drive her, say, we'd go to Old Gold today, you know. Well, on the way in, I'd get these cat calls. Nobody could see me. "Hey, draft-dodger! Hey, this and that." So, I told my

colonel, "I kind of hate that, you know." And then after I got out, it was all right. But they thought because I drove her, you know. So, I tried to sit on pillows, you know. And I hated the cat calls. So then I took her to all of the, over a period of time, and as I would go to town, down to Paris, why, I saluted some officer, and he stopped me. And he said, "Hey, sergeant, just a minute." And he counted them. I may have the wrong hand, I was thinking they were on this side. Anyway, he said, "You can't have seven. You can't have this. I don't even know if you are supposed to have this." It was something like you were impersonating or something. So they arrest me. They take me to the MP (military police) station and they call my colonel. And he came in and he says, "This guy earned this." Well, he got real mad. So then I asked him, he said, "We'll give you a paper to carry in your billfold." And then these officers said I couldn't have seven. I said, "I was in Iceland before the war." And they wouldn't believe none of it. Even the paper didn't go any good. So, I told the colonel, "I'm going to cut these off." "No, no," he said. I said, "I get arrested every time I go in town." Because, see, that many is a lot. You know. And I never did, let's see, then I got another call after Jane Frohman, I got a call to have a car to go to Rheims, France. Same person, same deal. So I drove to Rheims, France, and he told me where to go. What street. And there was MP's. So I follow the MP's out to an airport, and there was a two-motor transport come in. And they had a ladder, a thing they pushed up. Off the plane was a German general. Boy, he had this thing in his eye.

John: A monocle?

Paulson: And he had this walking stick with a sword. And that was Colonel General Jodl. And, see, he had come to our side to meet Eisenhower, and he wanted to surrender the troops in France. Well, they sent him back and said, "You got to surrender all the troops." Now, Keitel surrendered in Germany, in Berlin. So, Admiral Doenitz, I guess Hitler appointed Doenitz in charge. So, anyway, I met Jodl, then, I don't know what a colonel general is, but it is probably pretty high. Like ours. And I saluted him, and I thought, "This is strange, every time you see a German, you shoot him, see." But, you know, I wore all my stuff, and, you know, he came over to me, he clicked his heels, he took his glove off, shook my hand, and I guess he was amazed, too, by all this ribbons, you know. So we talked a long time, and he held my hand, and then he got in the car, and he tapped on that glass and I wound it down, and he said, "Hey, sergeant, what state are you from?" I said, "Wisconsin." He said, "I studied in Iowa." Yeah. He said, "I know Michigan, I know Wisconsin." He said, "What do you think of Germany?" I said, "Well, it was probably pretty nice until we blew it up." My words are, he hated what happened. He said, these are my words, "If it hadn't been for Hitler, you know, things would have been different." And then, we got to the airport, there was a young lieutenant sitting there, just come over from the States. He didn't say one word. So we got out there at Rheims, they called it the Little Red Schoolhouse.

But it was big. And he gets out, and there are a lot of people there. And I was into something there that you just accidently, see. If they were going to pick somebody, I don't think they would have picked me, I just happened to be, see. So, he got out, clicked his heels, we both shook hands, and he said, "Well, sergeant, you are probably the last decent person I'll see after this." So, he went in there and General Bedel Smith signed the peace treaty. And I didn't go in the building. But then he threw the sword over, the walking stick. And then he met Eisenhower, I was told, in the hallway, and Ike said, "All I want to ask you is do you understand this surrender?" He said, "Ja!" And then so after that, then, I went back to Paris and it wasn't too much happening then. So, then, I met my brother, Roger, then. See, he had come over during the Bulge. And my brother, Donald, was over there, he was in the field artillery, big guns. So my colonel let me go up and see him, but I didn't know it, but he was asleep under the gun. And, then, so, another story, before that, in Germany, before all this, we, there was three jeep loads of us soldiers, and we raced across into Germany and we went to this concentration camp called Buchenwald. I'm not pronouncing it right. And we get up to this gate, and there was a great big pole across. And they raised it up, and there was a German here, in front, "Komerad," I think he said. And then you got to see these skeletons, these guys walking, and the stink, and beyond the camp, the Germans had took a Cat and they dug a trench, and they had bodies in there with lime on it, and they had another row of bodies, and they had a railroad car full. I remember one with the door open. And we went in the barracks, or whatever you call it, and they were laying on this straw, and the stink! And you would go to shake hands with them, they would grab you. And I tell you, that was bad. And then we got into a Polish refugee camp, and that was bad, you know. And we walked through the ovens where they hadn't had time to clean them out.

John: Wow.

Paulson: So then we was going to go back to that cave, you know. And then I was always going to, I was going to write a letter to the mayor or chief of police of Metz and see if they ever found them. You know, there is guys that done that, you know. So, then, in Paris I got into, of course, this car company. And I stayed in a hotel and then sometimes I would go to a YMCA (Young Men's Christian Association), I'd meet guys, friends. I got into a girl that worked in the PX. My idea was that this money, now, I was just wondering, I was kind of scared because I stole it. And I had a car. So I took a bunch to a town called Chateau-Thierry, and that is where the big battle in World War I was. We went through all of that. So, there were probably six of us, so I ordered champagne for everybody, the bottles. And kiddingly, I pullout one of those big francs, five hundred French francs. The guy says, "Oh, oui, oui, oui." And he brought back some coins. So that paid the whole thing. So I told Sue, her name was Sue, too, I said, "I got a lot of that back at, you know." And she said, "I'll find out if it is any good." So, I went to the PX the next

day and she said, "Yeah, you know, each one of them is worth \$125." So, I started sending money orders, with her help, back home. I would send them, and one day I was in the YMCA barracks or this place shining my shoes, and an officer came in. And I knew then he was from G-2, Intelligence. And, see, you get kind of smart after all them years. I had to be, I suppose, to last. And he sat down and he said, "Hey, you are from Wisconsin. Good fishing, there." And I figured, he is going to get on my side, see. And the whole bunch is probably, well, he said, "I love Wisconsin, this and that." And he never come to the point. So I knew he didn't come to see me. "Hey," he said, "you're sending a lot of money back." "Yeah," I said, you know, these Frenchmen, they don't know how to play poker. Buddy and I go down to this warehouse and we take them. They don't know he is with me, see." "Oh," he says, "that's how you do it?" So then I got kind of scared. I sent thousands of dollars back to Richland Center. So then I told a buddy of mine, I had sent some to my cousin in Richland Center. And I give my buddy one, two of them. I said, "You send one to yourself, send one to me." So, when I got home, I was pretty rich, you know.

John: I guess.

Paulson: So, then, everything was kind of quiet then. The soldiers were going through. My colonel said, "Bob, now you have been here four years. You are going to get stuck here when everybody leaves and if you are going to get stuck here, you are going to be homeless, and all this. I'm writing out a report, you go home. You take your car and you go up to Antwerp, Belgium." And I went up, see. I got up there, and they had on the beach, they had the last inspection. "Open up your barracks bag, put your shelter half out, and lay everything on top of it." Well, I had an extra .45 and holster, and I told Bo, I said, "Boy, you know, I hate to," and he said, "Well, hide it in the sand. And then when the officer ain't looking, after inspection, you are safe." And I just didn't have the nerve, because I wanted to go home then, on the *Queen Mary*. And it come to that point, I wanted to go home, but I didn't want this gun hold me up. But I had a Luger, I had a French, two or three French guns, but this was an American gun. And, you see, I already had a .45 here, and I think I had to get rid of that, too, I think. But, I remember, no, I still had that. And I put it in my barracks bag, but I left it in the sand over there, and got on the *Queen Mary*. And then coming back, why, you know, you make friends, so I made friends with this one guy from New York. And he said, "I sing a little bit," he said. So I was surprised, we went down to the, on the fourth floor, they had a stage and it was him, and he was singing. And he was good. And he said his friend was, he was friends of people back in the days of, oh, like Bing Crosby and those kind of singers. In New York. And he told me, he said, "Now, when we get home and you get settled, you come to New York." I guess he was a rich singer. And then we got back to the States, Newport News, I went back to Fort Custer, and then they made me a prison guard in Milwaukee. At the, it was the Girls Reformatory School, in

Milwaukee. And I can never find it when I am up there. When I left the prison, I'd go right into the lake. It's on my discharge papers, United States Disciplinary Barracks. It had a number, and the army took it over, and I was a guard. So all the guys in there were soldiers, see. That had done something wrong. So, after I was done with my guard duty, I'd go in to the cells, and these guys would say, "You're crazy, Paulson. Them guys will kill you." No, I'd go back in there and they was just like me. Cause I wanted to make sure I had a uniform and my overseas, and we'd play cards, and I fit right in with them, you know. The only trouble I had, I was eighteen, twenty, maybe twenty-six, but I still wasn't, one of the guys, see, they gave me three men, or four. They gave me four. One of the guys was older. And I still considered young and inexperienced, even then. So, as we was walking around with this shotgun, I had three shells in it. And the chamber was empty. So, as we got out there in the lot, they all sat down on a log. And, "I didn't tell you guys to sit down." The old guy said, "Now, what we are going to do, he is running one way, each one is running and you only got three shells in that gun. The guy that is left is going to take that gun and hit you over the head." I pumped a shell into it and I aimed at him. I said, "You're first." He said, "We're just kidding." I went back to the guard house and I told the captain, I said, "You know, you shouldn't send anybody out with four and then three shells."

John: Yeah.

Paulson: Well, anyway, I went back to Richland Center on vacation, and the guy had climbed up some vent to the roof, and he jumped and around this place there is a wrought iron fence that looked like spears, and he hit that. Went through him, and they had to cut him to get him off. But he didn't make it. Because see, he was dead anyway. So then, Japan surrendered. But I had signed up for Japan in Fort Custer.

John: Now, let me ask, you were in the regular army?

Paulson: Yeah.

John: Guys who were drafted, they were in for the duration.

Paulson: I was in for three years, but with the war on, everything was frozen.

John: So, did you, were you due to get discharged? Or were you going to stay in?

Paulson: Yeah. Well, see, when I got back then, I signed up for Japan. Okay? They must have, I got out in October, I got out in August, the 9th of August, '45. So, when Japan surrendered, I guess I had the to leave if I wanted to. So, I was downtown in Milwaukee, and I knew I didn't have to go over. But I had prepared to go over.

Because, really, getting back to this picking apples, when I went in, they wanted to know what I had done. And said, "I picked apples." And they said, "What did you really do?" All them five years, what did I do? I picked apples. And then this girl I met in Milwaukee, I was going to get a job there. I told the guy I picked apples. Then, anyway, then, I went back to Fort Custer and in 1945, I got out. See, I went in in October, of '40, and got out, I was just a few days short. Overseas, I was ten days short of being four years. So I got out and I come to Madison, and my first job was Oscar Meyer, sticking pigs. And then my next job was Rayovac. And then I got a job, my aunt lived at Dolly, near Truax Field. But I lived on Mifflin, in the original area, and then my brother, Roger, he, we all got out. Harold was in, you know, the three bombers that dropped the bomb on Hiroshima, he serviced them in Guam. Harold. Donald was in the artillery. Roger and I were in the 5th Division. Merlin spent twenty-some years in. He went all through Italy. Junior was in the navy, they would transport ships to Russia. And Marvin stayed, he was in Intelligence in London. And, of course, when we went in in '40, I didn't know what happened, how, what order they went in. We all come back to Madison, then. And Harold stayed in Madison, and then Merlin and I went to Yellowstone Park. I stayed there four years. And then I went down to Rockford to meet a friend, she and a girl.

John: What were you doing at Yellowstone?

Paulson: Well, see, Yellowstone Park, there is an outfit called Hanes. Now, Hanes had stores like the camera shop.

John: Oh, I got you.

Paulson: Yeah, camera shops. So, we'd go to Mammoth Hot Springs and then, we'd open up these stores. We'd go to Old Faithful and open a store. Fishing Bridge, Lake, you got all the stores hooked up. Tower Falls was up here, pretty high up. And then July 4th, we'd open. I run a diesel generator up there. And then I lived up over where they had the store. I had an apartment and I was the only one that had a car, besides the administrator. Her name was Mrs. Quackenbush. And I was single, and there was about fifteen, or twenty girls there. And then I was in charge, see, I do air conditioning and refrigeration now. I studied in Iceland. And I do plumbing, wiring and all that stuff. Well, I come out good in Yellowstone, and so then I come to Rockford to meet a friend. He was in the Marines, in the Pacific, and I seen this girl. And then, she wouldn't talk to me the first year. And I went to Yellowstone the first year, and I come back. If she'd have talked to me, I'd probably wouldn't have come back. But we been married fifty-four years now.

John: That is a long conversation.

Paulson: And then, so I stayed in Rockford, and then from then on. And also now, we got a book, 5th Division book. And in that these people are trying to find, now, in Ireland, there is a lot of sons and daughters want to know about their grandparents, or fathers. Well, in Ireland, I am corresponding with two that they want to know, they had heard of Red Diamond, 5th Division, was in Ireland so I sent them a whole bunch of stuff. And in Iceland, there was a guy there, he was a professor at a university, Reykjavik, and he put these ads in this paper. And so I sent him a bunch of stuff for the museum in Reykjavik. And then, there is a girl in California that, her mother won't tell her nothing about her dad. Her dad is dead. And she keeps everything locked up in a trunk, and so then she, I give her information, you know. So, I am doing a lot of that now.

John: When you did get out, you had the G. I. Bill.

Paulson: Yeah.

John: Did you use it?

Paulson: I used it for, no, I didn't. I went to the dentist and they would pay for one tooth, like \$10. And then, when you get out, it was something the 27/20 Club. I think you get \$20, I could be wrong, for twenty-seven weeks. And then that is supposed to help you. So I lived at Blue River with my uncle. So I would go down to Boscobel to sign up and the girl said, "Now, you know this ain't no give-away program." She says, "You got to find a job." Well, I said, "I been overseas four years." "Well, that is no excuse. This is no give-away." I signed up for \$21 and went back to Uncle Pete. And the next weekend, went down and then she said, "Now, are you looking for jobs?" I said, "Where would you find a job?" I said, "I used to work in the orchard." And she got real mad. Third week, I went down. I told her to, you know. I told my dad, if they ever send it, send it back. And I went through my whole life. You know, Wisconsin didn't give no bonus. Well, it didn't bother me because we had to fight anyway. Illinois did. And I never collected nothing in my whole life. And even, I worked for the hospital. First I worked for the City of Rockford, Rockford City. And then I worked at the hospital, twenty-five years. And then I worked for a children's home. I was always a boss, in each one of them. And I retired, I'm eighty now. I retired in '79, twenty years ago. But I can go through my whole life. Now, we got married, we got married on the sly, my wife and I. So I can go through life without saying I collected anything. So far. But now, the veterans, I tried for three years to get into the veterans, in Rockford. I'd send papers, they'd lose them. I'd send papers. And so my daughter called the veterans and wanted to know "Why my dad can't get in?" You know. Well, they said, "We'll send a paper." Well, my daughter said, "He's already filled out three." And so, they called back again, and the guy said, "He's in the computer." And then, I tried, and they said, "Now, if you got a Purple Heart, you are in

Category 7. Well, if you got a Purple Heart, you would probably be like 3.” Well, my discharge papers says I only got credit for one, “Wounded in action, September, France.” I think it is the 12th. And that ain’t enough proof. So then I sent to someplace and they come back with a six page report. They found my files and they okayed. And in fact, I’ve got the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Combat Infantry Badge, the Croix de Guerre, German Victory Medal, and pre-Pearl Harbor ribbons, with one little star. So I went up to Madison to the hospital, and that ain’t good enough.

John: Back up, Bob. The French award you have?

Paulson: The French Croix de Guerre.

John: Oh, I’ve worn that, too. That green, with a little red in it?

Paulson: DeGaul, gave it with a kiss. You had that, too? I hated that. We wasn’t in Paris, we didn’t go through Paris. But that is the only thing, I never got, they never gave me no Purple Heart. I got my Combat Infantry Badge and I got this, and I was a Pfc. (Private first class). And I only got credit for one Purple Heart, but I stopped at that. But then Madison said, “That ain’t good enough.” So then, I went down to the eligibility department and I told this lady, “I don’t know what else you want.” I said, “Here’s my discharge papers. This is from the War Department.” And she told me something to get, and finally she called me and said, “I went to bat for you and I got it.” So I’m in Category 3 now.”

John: Okay.

[End of Side A of Tape 2.]

Paulson: Now, going back, I got ahead of myself there. This might mean something. Do you remember the battleship, the *Bismark*?

John: Yes.

Paulson: Okay, now, we never saw it, we don’t think, but I’ve watched the History Channel. And now, in Iceland, that ship, I seen this on TV, the ship went near Iceland and we thought, we had heard about the battle. I think it was the *Hood* and, let’s see, there was a bunch of battleships. I knew at the time. But, anyway, one of them hit the steering on the *Bismark* and we knew that was going on, from Iceland. And we was in town at that time, and there was a statue of Lief Ericsson on the hill. So when I write to this guy, at the university near that. But, the *Bismark* was news. And do you remember the sub they captured, it’s in Chicago now?

John: Yes.

Paulson: 509? Well, that was news, too. When we was in Iceland. Yeah. And let's see, what else went on? We was in the middle of a lot of stuff. But I remember all these battles. And we made a landing in Norway. We left Iceland, see. We were ski troops. And I think that they wanted to make Hitler think, because, in Norway we had our skis, we had out white outfit on. We went into Norway and them cliffs were ahead of us. And I think they just wanted to make Hitler think we were going to land in Norway. The Germans almost sunk all of us, you know. We went back to Iceland, but I still wore that white uniform, saved my life up in Belgium. We were on a hillside, and there was a canal froze over, and I was laying on the bank with that white outfit. In fact, there was a few of us. We were on patrol. And we were laying on the bank, and watching a farm down there, and the door opened in the garage, I think you call it. And there was a tank in there. And I seen a puff. And if you see the puff, it's too late. That shell must have been armor piercing, because it landed just a little ways from me. And the same way with the German 88's. If you hear it, it's too late. Yeah. Because it's there. That's the gun, I know, one place there they shelled us and it, we was in a basement and I think we were safe. It was a stone basement, and thick. But that thing hit the road and it burst, and it just shattered. And that thing was vicious, that 88. And the Big Bertha, I got hit once with that. And but, I seen it a lot. And the Germans had a tank, the Tiger. Our guns, we had the 57 millimeter anti-tank guns, the projectile was 37 and the British had a plastic around it. So when it would leave the barrel, that would come off. And this was armor piercing, and that would go through a tank. And it would really do damage inside.

But, German, now the air force, I remember we was bombed once pretty bad, and another time, too, we had pulled back for a rest. And I didn't write their name down, but we had captured a German motorcycle, and a side car. And, let's see, this singer was about ten miles from where we were at, and it was like Doris Day. She was singing in this town. Well, I was driving it, and we was going along pretty good clip, and I heard an awful noise. It was just a terrible noise. It must have been air. It was a fighter plane. And the engine was cut off, and it landed ahead of us. The guy jumps out and took his cover off, put his hands up, and he was happy and said, "Don't shoot, don't shoot! Kamerad!" This man was just real happy. He was an officer, and a fighter pilot. He said, "I ran out of gas." And he was just the happiest guy. He jumps down, and he hugs us, and he said, "I'll ride with you. Where are you going?" "Well, we are going to see," her name was Dinah Shore, maybe. And he said, "I'll tell you what, you guys. You captured me, you get a medal." Hey, that is an idea. So, he gets in the sidecar with Bo. It seems to me we tied him with something. "You tie me, see," he says. "I am your prisoner." And the whole thing is, we did get him, see. So we got in there and

everybody was waiting for Dinah Shore and here we come with a prisoner. I think we had a belt, or something. We didn't get no medal for that, but, see, they took him in and he sat down, and he listened to Dinah Shore, and was, you know, just like an American. And up there in Bastogne, though, the Germans were capturing our jeeps and our uniforms, and I know that I had trouble on night patrol, because they had to ask you questions about baseball. See, the Germans knew more than I did. They was stopping at the intersections and the first thing they would do is talk about baseball, and they were Germans. And their English was good English. Their uniforms, and we didn't know it then, but we were a hundred percent sure they were Germans, and they would ask questions about where CP (command post) this and CP that, you know. We were still not as smart as we should be, you know. And then I remember seeing a whole army of Germans, I mean another outfit got them. But you can't imagine the Germans down in a big valley. And then I saw Douglas Fairbanks, General Patton, Eisenhower, DeGaul, Hank Greenberg, and then this Colonel General Jodl. But everybody seen them, too.

John: When you got out, Bob, did you do anything with vets organizations? VFW or the Legion, or any of that?

Paulson: No. When I got out, well, I got my house through it, four percent, yeah. I got my house. And I lived in Loves Park. The house was \$7,500 and I got a mortgage for four percent, and then I put an addition on it and, of course, that ruined my four percent. I lived in the same place fifty-two years and then the dentist, now, they had worked on a tooth, but I was really in good health when I got out. I didn't have, the only thing that bothered me when I got out was like this plane. Every time I see one of these little single Piper Cubs, you know, I duck. Or noises. Certain kinds of noises.

John: How about reunions? Getting together?

Paulson: No, my outfit, I think they went to Panama. I lost contact with my outfit. But then I was trying to figure out, oh, I know, I must have seen something in a book about the 5th Division. Now, they are in Fort Custer, Michigan and they are going to meet in Waco, Texas. But see, we're not one to, I don't know, my wife, she is not one to want to go and do that. When we go to Fort Custer, ah, have you ever heard of Crazy Horse?

John: Oh, yeah.

Paulson: Okay, when I go to Yellowstone, I stop at Crazy Horse. I met Kershoff [Korczak Ziolkowski, sculptor of the Crazy Horse monument]. I'm pronouncing it wrong. But I'd meet him. He was a horse's-- He was a genius. And we were starting on that mountain, and he had that plaster of Paris thing. And I'd stop and talk with

him, and then when we, after four years, then, I got to know him before he died. And I got to know her, and the kids. So then we'd camp out in the mountains. So Jeff, my little, he'd be my little grandchild, he'd say, "Uncle Bob, when I get big, I am going to work on that mountain." Well, Jeff got big, and he went to Idaho, went to school, went out there and he graduated. He went to California and made a movie. A Western called "Paradise." You might have seen it. Lee Horsely (?) was the good cowboy. Jeff was a tramp cowboy. And he made two movies. He never got killed, you see, to they thought maybe he'd be in it again. So, he went to Rapid City and met Kershoff and said he wanted to work on the mountain. Well, Kershoff, you know, he swore a lot. And I don't want to say it here, but he said, "What do you want to work on that mountain for?" And no one has ever worked, only the family. So he gave Jeff a job and the job he got, he made the tomb. They chiseled into the mountain and they left a square like this on the mountain, and then they sliced off the top, the chiseled down in, and that is where he is at. And I've been in the tomb.

John: You don't know how he spelled his name, do you?

Paulson: I want to say Kruschev, but that is the guy in Russia. It's almost like that. Kershoff.

John: Well, I can look it up.

Paulson: He died, and then we'd go out there, and we'd go up on the mountain, and no one is supposed to go up there. But Jeff, now, he made the eyes. He's the one painted the eyes and the lips. And the horse's head. He goes out over the side. He keeps that painted. And he, they go in there. They got a lot of equipment now they didn't have before, and, but I've been up on sort of the head many times. And under this arm. You can drive a big semi under there. And we went through that, and down there it looks like straight down, you know. So, when I talked to this colonel at Fort Custer, I told Jeff. Now, Jeff is in to, and there is a girl in Rapid City that writes books. So said, see, he made a documentary about Crazy Horse and Mount Rushmore. And you might have seen it if you, he showed how they done things. Jeff Hermanson is his name. He is real good with explosives. And he teaches explosives. So Jeff said, "What I want to do if I can, I want to come to your place and this lady, and we'll go to Battle Creek, stay all night, and I am going to see the colonel and make a documentary on the 5th Division. See, 5th Division is the same as is here, now. They wanted me to do the same thing. But, see, it was activated in July of '40, so you see, I know the history of it, of the whole five years, except I didn't go to Poland. But I don't know if they deactivated it. I think they was in Panama, and they were in Viet Nam, too. Yeah. So, anyway, he said they are hard to find someone that can, and I said, now, the only thing I probably wasn't sure of was when we landed. Everything up to that point. But I do know

they were twenty some miles in.

John: Okay.

Paulson: But the day we landed, I just, you know. Ain't that funny? My memory is that good.

John: Oh, yeah. This is fantastic. Names, dates, places. You have a sharp mind. That is great. This is quite a story.

Paulson: And there is probably a lot of stuff I missed. But, it was, you know, you never win. So many people, when we got back...

John: Take your time.

Paulson: See, my outfit, there were, probably, let's see. In a regiment, probably two hundred and some. I think in the end there was probably fifty.

John: Do you recall how much time you had in combat?

Paulson: Yeah. I was in combat, let's see. D-Day was on the English Channel, okay? Bobbing around in one of those little boats. I remember most of this, I hope. The 1st Army and I don't know what divisions it was. I think the 3rd made the landing. So if you look at *Saving Private Ryan*, that was true. Then, when we went in, everything was blowed up. See, we were a long ways from St. Lo, but there was a town, Cherbourg Peninsula was up this way. There was a town called, I want to say St. Nausari (?). No, I don't think so. But the first town, it might have been Mona, or something. The first town. We relieved the British. I remember when we relieved the British, they were sitting in an orchard making tea. And I asked the guy, you see, I didn't know the British had a right lieutenant or a left lieutenant. And I was talking to a guy and he didn't have nothing on, and I thought he was a private. And, of course, I was bragging about something and I said, "Hey, you lost one of these things." "No," he said, "I'm a left lieutenant." "Oh," I said, "I was talking to an officer?" But they were having tea. And I asked the guy, "What's those puffs?" "That's artillery." And then the mortars come in. And I tell you, I don't know how I survived. Patton told us, "Now, when you go through a town, go through the buildings." And the problems we had were the young Germans. Now, like, booby traps. You see, we were lucky, because someone else got killed. We went into a town, we went into a house, there'd be a Luger laying up there on the stove. And there'd be a piano wire maybe under the lid. And you lift it up, Americans are always trying. And then, of course, a lot of the guys got their heads cut off in a jeep. And then the tanks, going through the hedgerows, they took these things you found on the shore, you know, these things. And they

made, like that. And then the Germans had a Bouncing Betsy, you'd trip and it would come up. Now, on a grenade, if you lay flat, close, you could be safe. But, I was in a lot of close calls. We had a gun set up, 57 millimeter, near Metz. On this side of the river. And you knew exactly what to do. Now, this guy, we put, I don't know what they call them.

John: Trail?

Paulson: Pardon?

John: Trail?

Paulson: Yeah. They'd anchor them. So you bring down the, open the breech, put a shell in there enough so it would lock the breech. But you didn't have it to a certain point, see. Well, this guy, when you hit this handle, it would kick the shell in, and then you would pull this rope. Well, I don't know how this went off. But he took one, we had it set up and we had it faced across the river. He took this camouflage net and he'd throw it over, and I was standing over there, and he pulled it to bring it over the barrel and he blew himself up. The shell went in and it blew him in half. And I seen him. But, you know, them things didn't faze you. And then, you'd seen guys get their foot blowed off. You'd see all that stuff, you know.

John: Tremendous story. Man, this is, this is really something.

Paulson: I'm surprised I didn't break down. Sometimes, you know, you talk.

John: Yeah, I know. Well, looking back at it. This is a question I ask a lot of the guys. You went into the army, you didn't get drafted. What is your reaction looking back at it?

Paulson: Good. Yeah. See, in Iceland, the only thing in Iceland, we was always cold. And we had a lot of guys froze to death in the beginning because we had all this ammunition dumps of food and everything way up in the mountains. Well, we'd have posts, like I'd be on Post One, and I'd have to walk around so many crates, and I'd get to a point, "Post Number One! Everything okay!" And then Post Number Two, see. And then maybe Post Number Two wouldn't answer. So then you had to get permission to leave your post to go over there, he was froze to death. He'd be sitting out of the wind, and you'd start getting warm, and then that is dangerous. And then they started putting two on, and if the one guy wanted to, if he was warm, you started hitting him. Getting him mad, you know. And we lost guys going over, we lost two. We had these big trucks chained to the top and the chain broke. So the guy jumped in the truck—it was open on the sides—to set the brakes. So, as this was happening, we was in a storm, and the truck was sliding.

He slid over. The truck and everything went over. He couldn't get out. And then when you walk guard duty, we didn't know we were supposed to strap to this cable going around the ship. And we'd be walking and the waves would come up and wash you over. So then the navy said, just put a belt around you and snap it, see. And then in one place there, we crossed a railroad bridge. And there was a sniper someplace. We didn't know where in the heck he was. Well, there was a wheat field over here, and stacks of wheat, see. So, they'd say run, and two of us would run across the railroad bridge, but it wasn't my turn yet. So, bang! On the bridge, he hit. So I told somebody, I said, "It has to be coming from here." It just didn't seem right. So someone said, "Now, you watch over there." And pretty soon, we seen, what happened, the Germans had a piece of ply wood with straw, or wheat, probably. So he'd be in a hole, he'd move that and shoot and slide it back. And I was watching, and I happened to see this wheat thing, and I went over and rolled a grenade in there. Never looked back. And then I rolled one in a well. The guy was in a cistern, and he was hung so he could, whatever the top was, he'd come up, he was a sniper. And I found him. And you go someplace and watch, and then you see that thing. And the Irish, no the French, or was it Irish? No, it had to be the French, yeah. In their houses, they had fireplaces. And if you looked at the chimney, it was real wide. Okay. I don't know if the Germans knew this, but they had something they could switch over, okay. When they would burn this wood, it would go up in this half, they'd have their hams up there.

John: Yeah, to smoke them.

Paulson: So we'd go up there and there'd be hams up there. And we didn't know if, and we'd see piles in the back yard, and there'd be potatoes and carrots in there. And manure piles, you'd see a hot manure pile and you'd hope you stop, you'd crawl in that. And then you take, it's warm in there. We'd slide in there. And then, all the soldiers done that, you know. And then I remember one time the Air Corps had strafed a whole column of horses, pulling artillery and little carts with ammunition in them. Well, when we got there, the horses were rolled up like this. They had swollen. So we were going to stab them, see. And I never stabbed a horse when they were swelling, so I went whoom! And that went all over me, see. And everybody laughed, and the officer said, "No, take your bayonet and go this way." So, I go like that, you know. And then they would just blow, and then they'd go like that. And then, our mess kits, we would wash in that, everything. And I didn't know why we didn't have, well, up in Luxembourg, I got, must have had walking pneumonia. Because I was coughing up stuff. See, you never went on sick call. Now, in Iceland, one month, everyone once in a while we'd unload beer for the British. White Horse and Black Horse ale. So we were quartermasters, I suppose. So we would go down to these ships and we got these nets, and we put these cases of beer on them, and sometimes we'd break one. You know. And that morning, we had to go in to work, and I was sicker than a dog. I throwed up. So I

didn't dare. So I got down in that hold, and I passed out, and they got me out with all that beer, and sent me to the hospital. My appendix. I woke up, and I set there, and I tell you, I was almost dead, you know. Some sergeant said, "You've been here about four hours, now." He said, "I'm going to find out." He went in and told the doctor, "There's something wrong with this guy." And then they told me to take a cold shower. So my appendix, they hadn't busted. Cut me open, and then they was going along pretty good. I was on a cot and the guy next to me, I was going to be released. And that night the hospital burned down. And it was awful cold, so they sent us downstairs with blankets, sitting outside in a tent, and then it tore open, and I got proud flesh in there. And they had to operate again, and it took years before I could, you know, pulling. And then, in Iceland, all you would do is you'd, they'd cut up whales. We'd get on a truck and we'd go to Thingvellir. That is up from Reykjavik. And they'd harpoon those big whales and bring them in. And they would close the gate and pump the water out. And there'd be about eight Icelandic fishermen. Each one had a long pole and a knife on the end of it, about that long, with a hook. So, one guy would start. Seemed to me he'd start at the tail, and he'd cut in maybe that far. All the way to the head. And the next one would cut in, and pretty soon, you know, you'd get this far, and this far. And then they would cut here, and then they'd pull a great big hook up and they would hook on to that chunk and they'd pull that whole thing down into a hold. And I suppose they would render it down there. And then there was, I never did drink and the soldiers always would go to some bar, some nightclub. And I never went, and you know, I dreamt years and years I'd get almost to that place, and the truck would break down, or I'd wake up in Ireland. I'd never get to Iceland. And then I met a girl there, an interpreter in Reykjavik who worked for the Americans. I didn't know she could talk English. And I was telling a guy, see, I was a courier, I had a motor cycle, messenger, I guess. I'd go into Reykjavik, to headquarters, with a little satchel. And I guess that was a dangerous job, you know. Because a lot of them got killed. And I'd tell this guy, "I'd like to have a date with her." Not knowing she knew English.

John: Did you ever get the date?

Paulson: Never did get the date. And the girl didn't talk to me.

John: I was in Iceland for a very short time, this was 1956. And, of course, there had been an Air Force base there, and the guys were chasing the good-looking Icelandic girls, and the Americans had a lot of money, you know. They didn't like that. We can start another tape.

Paulson: That is just about all of it.

John: That is about it?

Paulson: Yeah. Unless you want to ask a bunch of questions.

John: No. This is a tremendous story.

Paulson: Now, all of that is true, except D-Day Plus. I just don't know. And I could be completely wrong, but I do know it wasn't very far, and I do know that those wasn't guns, they were logs.

John: Logs.

Paulson: Now, I don't know about the whole coast, and I do know the big guns were back, and that was it.

John: What I need is your address.

Paulson: Okay, it is 735 Merrill Avenue, Love's Park, Illinois, 61111.

John: Your phone?

Paulson: It's 1-815-877-6379.

[End of Interview.]