

Wisconsin Veterans Museum
Research Center

Transcript of an
Oral History Interview with
HERBERT SAMUEL ROTH
Supply Officer, Army, World War II.

2002

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Roth, Herbert Samuel, (1921-). Oral History Interview, 2002.

User Copy: 1 sound cassette (ca. 35 min.), analog, 1 7/8 ips, mono.

Master Copy: 1 sound cassette (ca. 35 min.), analog, 1 7/8 ips, mono.

Video Recording: 1 videorecording (ca. 35 min.); ½ inch, color.

Transcript: 0.1 linear ft. (1 folder).

Abstract:

Herbert “Sam” Roth, a Mauston, Wisconsin native, discusses his service with the 32nd Division Wisconsin National Guard and in Europe with the 93rd Armored Field Artillery Battalion during World War II. In 1937 at age sixteen, Roth talks about enlisting with the 121st Field Artillery, 32nd Division, summer training in Wisconsin, and hearing of the attack on Pearl Harbor while doing war games at Camp Beauregard (Louisiana). After graduating from officer candidate school at Fort Sill as a second lieutenant, he speaks of assignment to the service battery of the 93rd Armored Field Artillery Battalion, 6th Armored Division. Sent overseas, Roth discusses staging in Oran (Algeria), duties as assistant battalion supply officer, and the bombardment of Monte Cassino (Italy). He comments on his battalion’s armaments, ammunition use, daily transportation of supplies, and distribution of medical personnel. Roth speaks of the weather in Italy, invading southern France with Task Force Butler, participation in the battle of Montelimar, and being unable to unload needed ammunition from Merchant Marine-run ships on Sundays. Attached to the 10th Armored Division after entering southern Germany, he talks about weather, promotion to captain and battalion supply officer, and ending the war in Imst (Austria). Roth details being awarded a Bronze Star for directing artillery fire on a German ambush at the battle of Crailsheim. He recalls capturing some German prisoners of war and dropping them off at the next town. He mentions occupation duty at Heilbronn (Germany) guarding supplies and public buildings. Roth speaks of getting married while at officer candidate school, joining the Officers Reserve Corps, and a medical discharge in 1953 for asthma. He addresses using the GI Bill to earn a degree as a chemical engineer at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and his civilian career.

Biographical Sketch:

Roth (b.1921) enlisted in the Wisconsin National Guard in 1937, served active duty in World War II from 1940 to 1945, and served in the Officers Reserve Corps until 1953. He was the public works director in Hartford (Wisconsin) for three years and an engineer administrator in Shorewood Hills (Wisconsin) for twenty-nine years, eventually settling in Madison.

Interviewed by James McIntosh, 2002

Transcribed by Yasmine Flodin-Ali, 2010

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Interview Transcript:

James: Talking to Herbert Roth and the date is the 15th of March, year 2002. Where were you born, sir?

Roth: I was born in Mauston, Wisconsin, Juneau County.

James: When?

Roth: April 7th, 1921.

James: It's Herbert [pronounced Her-ber] isn't it, yes?

Roth: It's Herbert Samuel, but most of the people call me Sam.

James: Tell me what you were doing on Pearl Harbor day.

Roth: Well actually, we were at Camp Beauregard, Louisiana.

James: Oh, then we have to go back. You were drafted, in the draft?

Roth: No, I enlisted in July of 1937 and was a member of the National Guard.

James: You enlisted in the National Guard? But on active duty?

Roth: Yes, active duty. I went in with the National Guard, the 32nd Division, on October 15th, 1940.

James: When you enlisted in the National Guard, was that the 32nd Division?

Roth: 32nd Division, 121st Field Artillery.

James: That's what I need. 132nd Field Artillery?

Roth: 121st.

James: Where was that stationed?

Roth: Well, my station then was Mauston, but the 121st was all around the state, so we went to Camp Beauregard, Louisiana on October 15th, 1940.

James: For the war games?

Roth: Yeah. And we were to stay in for one year, you know, and on Pearl Harbor day I was over at the Camp Beauregard airport when we heard the news.

- James: You were waiting to come home?
- Roth: No, I was just—we just walked over there to take a look at the planes.
- James: Oh, you weren't ready to come home then yet?
- Roth: Oh no, no, we knew we had to stay in.
- James: How did you know that before Pearl Harbor?
- Roth: Well, we knew after Pearl Harbor. [laughs]
- James: Oh sure, I understand that; after all that, everything changed. But before that you planned to be in for a year?
- Roth: Yeah, in for a year, and of course that was pretty close you know, Pearl Harbor was pretty close to the year.
- James: What caused you to decide to be enlisted in 1937? No work in the area?
- Roth: No, no. Well, I was only sixteen years old and my uncle was an officer in the service battery and they needed bodies, you know. They had to fill their complement of men to go to camp, and so I enlisted and I served in the unit until 1939, when I went to school at Platteville. And I enlisted there with the Platteville unit, which was an infantry unit. When President Roosevelt wanted to federalize the National Guard I didn't want to be in the infantry, so I transferred back to Mauston, which was the artillery. And of course when I went in, in October, that was the start of five years and three months of active duty.
- James: How was your training in the National Guard? Was it pretty sketchy or was it pretty good?
- Roth: I thought that the 32nd Division was a very good unit and we had good training.
- James: You had to go to summer camp?
- Roth: We went to summer camp at Camp Douglas and at Camp McCoy. And then—
- James: You were learning how to shoot a field piece then?
- Roth: No, we were a service unit; and we supplied rations and ammunition.
- James: What was your specific duty then?

- Roth: Well, I was just a plain private and finally got promoted to private first-class, and when we got into federal service I was the battery clerk, and I wrote the Officers Candidate School exam and was selected to go to Officers Candidate School. I had been promoted to sergeant, staff-sergeant, and finally when I went to Officers Candidate School I was first-sergeant.
- James: Where was that; when did you go there?
- Roth: I went to Fort Sill I think about March. They called it a ninety-day course.
- James: Sure. March of '42?
- Roth: March of '42. And I graduated in June of '42 and was commissioned as Second Lieutenant of Field Artillery in the Army of the United States. We had choices of where we wanted to go and serve, and they weren't very choice: a couple infantry divisions, a tank destroyer battalion, and I selected the 6th Armored Division at Camp Chaffee, Arkansas. So I went home on leave and I came back and reported to the 6th Armored Division at Camp Chaffee and was assigned to the 93rd Armored Field Artillery Battalion, and I reported there. Since I had experience in supply, the commanding officer said, "You're going to be in service battery," so I went there and I stayed in service battery throughout the war.
- James: When did you leave the country?
- Roth: Well, we arrived in—it was in August of 1943, because we arrived in Oran, Algeria, on September 2nd, 1943. And we staged—they call it staging—got our equipment in Algeria and the firing batteries and headquarters batteries went over to Italy in LSTs and I was assigned to bring all the mess trucks and supply trucks by Liberty ship from Algiers harbor. So I went that way while the fighting men went the other way and they were in combat about ten days before—
- James: In Africa?
- Roth: Yeah—in Italy.
- James: That was in '44 that you went to Italy?
- Roth: No, '43. Yeah, and so we found the firing batteries near Cassino and we—
- James: Helped demolish that dear old place?
- Roth: Yep, and we served there and then we did the Romano campaign, which—

- James: Tell me about knocking down that Monte Cassino. What did you do that with, 155s?
- Roth: No. Ah, actually I got a note on it. They bombed it, the Air Force bombed it, and it was—they dropped four hundred and ninety-three tons of bombs on the Cassino and then on March 15th they bombed the town and they dropped another nine hundred and ninety-two tons, and our artillery, the 5th Army Artillery, there were eight hundred and ninety guns fired, a hundred and ninety-five thousand rounds of ammunition onto the town. But it was knocked down, the town was destroyed, and they couldn't get through. So then we were pulled out and went to rest a bit.
- James: You were in the 5th Army now?
- Roth: Yep.
- James: And what was your job at that time?
- Roth: Well, I was assistant battalion supply officer. And so—
- James: All kinds of supplies?
- Roth: All supplies of the battalion.
- James: Food, too?
- Roth: Rations, gasoline, oil, repairs, clothing, everything.
- James: How would you keep track of all that stuff?
- Roth: Well, each unit had a supply sergeant and it was his duty to keep track of the supplies.
- James: So your job was to make sure that the supply sergeant was doing his job?
- Roth: Well, and he would come down and requisition food, or not food but—
- James: But you had to keep track of the sources though?
- Roth: Yeah, we had to go to all of the supply dumps to pick up the—
- James: Because early in Italy you probably maybe had to go back to supplies that were still in Africa?
- Roth: Oh no, no. They had supplies in Naples and Caserta.

James: Off of ships?

Roth: Yeah.

James: Do you have to go down to the ships to find any of this stuff?

Roth: No. The Army quartermasters had supply dumps in various locations, and as we moved up in battle they moved their supply dumps up. They had separate ration dumps, separate fuel and lube dumps. And, uh, I suppose—

James: Your job was at a division level? Or a—

Roth: No battalion, battalion. We had only seven hundred men for an armored battalion.

James: That's still a lot of people to feed.

Roth: Well, and it was every day. See, the morning reports would be supplied by the units and then you would draw the rations in accordance with the strength of the unit. So many men, so many officers, and you went daily, practically daily to the ration dumps to pick up the rations.

James: Did you try to keep it supplied with hot food?

Roth: No, each unit has its own mess and they have their own mess and they would prepare the hot food for the troops at the front. We had our own mess at battery back—we were back from the front maybe three miles, four miles, whatever.

James: So your particular unit, your battalion then, was an artillery battalion with the heavy guns, 155s?

Roth: 105 howitzer, self-propelled. We had eighteen; they were on a tank chassis, and they were self-propelled and um—

James: How many would be in one battalion like that?

Roth: Well, there were eighteen guns in the battalion, six guns and three firing batteries, six guns each.

James: I see. Is that hard to keep all the shells coming fast enough for them?

Roth: Well, during the war we fired 235,855 rounds of 105, and that was all hauled by service battery to the battalion batteries.

James: In six bys?

Roth: To the eighteen guns. We would haul it from the ammunition people to the battery usually and from the battery it would go to wherever the firing batteries were located. And that was the way the ammunition was distributed.

James: Did you haul it in six by sixes?

Roth: Well we had halftracks, because if the situation was such that there was fire, you know, enemy fire, we used the halftracks because they were armored then. But most of the time it was delivered by six by sixes.

James: Was that a problem for you during the war there? Were you always able to get equipment and keep up to snuff and so forth, or was it a constant problem?

Roth: I thought our men did a terrific job because they went day and night, all kinds of weather, all kinds of roads, to known and unknown locations.

James: Transporting that stuff at night is a real problem, isn't it?

Roth: Well, yes. Sometimes it was better at night than day because of enemy fire. I think that the sergeants and the men of the ammunition section and the fuel and lube section did marvelous work. And of course when the battalion moved, we had to move, so sometimes the ration section and the ammunition section were out delivering ammunition and we would move and go to a new location and they'd have to find us. So we used signs. Our unit designation was "scorpion," so we made yellow signs pointed like an arrow and just stenciled the black scorpion on that sign and they'd be hammered on telephone poles, trees, bushes, shrubs, whatever. And that's the way they'd look us up. But sometimes the men would spend a great deal of nighttime hours looking for us.

James: They must have gotten pretty angry.

Roth: Sure did.

James: Did they yell at you?

Roth: [laughs]. No, they knew it was their job.

James: Right, to find you.

Roth: That's what they were trained for and they did a marvelous job.

James: What would be the biggest reason they didn't find you? They missed a sign or a sign fell down, or what would be the most common?

Roth: Well, I can't recall any time that they didn't find us.

James: Eventually.

Roth: Yeah, eventually. And when we were attached to the 10th Armored Division, we broke through the enemy lines and we got to be about twenty-five miles beyond the front lines in enemy territory and the roads were only cleared to the ditches and that was hectic because you had to run, sometimes run fire, you were fired on from the woods or places along the side. No, they did a marvelous job.

James: And did your guys stay healthy in your group? Did everybody stay healthy in your battalion?

Roth: We had an excellent medical doctor.

James: Who was assigned to you medical-wise, one physician or more?

Roth: Well, we had a captain who was in charge of the medical detachment and we had a dentist.

James: One of each? Some nurses and corpsmen?

Roth: One of each, and there may have been two medical officers. No nurses. See, the medical detachment, I think, was attached to headquarters battery in peacetime and in wartime it was attached to our battery, mainly because they could work from our battery to go to any of the firing batteries or the headquarters battery, and besides, it was supposed to be safer back where we were. [laughs] But see, each battery had its own medical section, so that's the way it works. What we had in our battery, each battery had a supply section, each battery had a medical section, a medical corpsman, and they served the battery. The ambulance was usually kept back in our battery, and when it was needed it was a halftrack.

James: Where would they take the patients?

Roth: Well, they'd bring them back to the battery and then from there to go to the evacuation hospital.

James: Generally how far was the evac hospital behind you?

Roth: Oh, ten miles.

James: Ten miles, okay. And did anybody get wounded in your group?

- Roth: We had a hundred and eighty-three Purple Hearts issued to the battalion; I don't know if anybody in the service battery—our captain was killed in action, so that was a Purple Heart, and one of the enlisted men was killed in action, so that would be another Purple Heart.
- James: Okay. Did you stay healthy during this time?
- Roth: Very much so, yeah. We didn't have time to think of much else, but we didn't worry about our health; we just had to go.
- James: And the weather, how was the weather most of the time?
- Roth: Well Italy, Italy, you know, we were there in winter, and Italy in winter is pretty wet, maybe a light snow. Of course we were near Cassino, which is southern Italy. When we got into France we had our first winter there, we had snow in the Rouge mountains. So we had to put up with that, but I would say the weather was about like our winter this year, pretty moderate.
- James: Now you said you went to France. Did you pull out of Italy and make the landing in Anvil, the Anvil landing?
- Roth: No, we pulled out of Italy at Florence on the Arno river.
- James: When was that?
- Roth: August of '43.
- James: '44?
- Roth: '44. August of '44. And we went—
- James: That was when the landing was at Marseille.
- Roth: August 15th. But this is early August, we pulled out of Florence and went back to Naples and staged for the invasion. And we made the invasion; in fact, our unit, our artillery was the first artillery on the beaches of southern France. And our battery, the service battery, went in on an LST and we followed the firing batteries and made our first bivouac right next to one of the firing batteries. And then a task force was formed—I think task force Butler was formed—and our battalion was assigned to task force Butler and they drove north and got into the battle of Montelimar, which was where the German tent army was trying to retreat to get back to Germany and we fired—all of the batteries were low on ammunition and I had to go back to Marseille to pick up ammunition from the ships, you know, because there were no ammunition dumps.
- Herbert: You took empty trucks back there and filled them up?

Roth: And filled them up, and we got there on Sunday and the Liberty Ships were not unloading on Sunday because the Liberty Ship ammunition ships were staffed by Merchant Marine and they didn't work on Sunday. So we had to wait 'til Monday to pick up our ammunition. And that was a heck of a way to run the war. We had to fight but they didn't. Well, that's just a sidelight. So then we joined 3rd Army about—well, we went up from southern France and 3rd Army came over from northern France and we joined them at about Saverne. So we fought, the 7th Army fought the Rhineland campaign, which was in Alsace. Then when the bridges had been captured, Remagen and Patton build a bridge across, we went across the Patton bridge into Germany near Heidelberg. And that's when we joined the 10th Armored. And we stayed with the 10th Armored.

James: That was part of the 3rd Division?

Roth: No, it was assigned to 7th Army at that time.

James: Oh, I thought you mentioned 3rd Army?

Roth: No 3rd Army, we just—the 7th Army came up and joined; we were still in the 7th.

James: Oh, okay, because you were in the 5th in Italy, you see.

Roth: The 10th Armored was part of 21st Corp and so we were a part of 21st Corp, and so our campaign in Germany was through southern Germany. We came very close to Nuremberg. We finally ended up at the end of the war in Imst, Austria. I think if you look at my history there you will—

James: What's the name in Austria?

Roth: Imst. I-M-S-T. That was only about twelve miles from Brenner pass, so we were almost back in Italy.

James: And the weather was okay in Germany at that time, that summer—fall, I mean?

Roth: Well, we went through the winter of 1944 and it was not an awful lot different than it is right here in Madison, Wisconsin.

James: It was tougher further up north, in northern Germany.

Roth: Well, I think generally the weather in France and in Germany is probably very close to the weather that we have here. They had snow, we had snow in southern France, I mean in Alsace, but it wasn't really any problem.

James: Okay, and you were still getting the supplies in good order and so forth and so on?

Roth: We did. I thought we did. [laughs].

James: Well, nobody complained to you about running out and that you couldn't re-supply fast enough?

Roth: There wasn't a lot of complaints.

James: So by this time you should have had a promotion; you must have been a captain by now.

Roth: I was a captain by then. I can't tell you the date, but I was, when Captain Mackenzie was killed in southern France I assumed command of the battery and was Battalion S4, that's battalion supply officer, so I had to keep in close contact with the headquarters battery. Just about every day I'd go to what we called the front and see the colonel or the battalion commander, or if he wasn't there, he could be out, I'd see the executive. So I had some experiences, as you will find out in my book.

James: Well, tell me about them. I want them on this tape!

Roth: [laughs]. Well, I was awarded the Bronze Star and—

James: Tell me about that experience.

Roth: Well, it was for two things: one was for meritorious service in serving the battalion because I had served it from September 30th, 1944 to the end of the war. And I was awarded the Bronze Star for bringing artillery fire on a German ambush near the village of Crailsheim—it's called the battle of Crailsheim. We were supporting 10th Armored Division, task force Richardson. On my way to the front one day with my Jeep driver we passed a couple of armored cars and vehicles that had been knocked out by enemy fire and were still smoking. And one of the soldiers in one of the armored cars was hanging over the side, so we just kept going and we got down the road a ways and there was a 10th Armored Division tank guarding a crossroads. So I asked my driver to stop and went over to the tank to see what the situation was. And just as I got to the tank, a Jeep came down the road from the south, we were north of the battalion at that time, and it was subjected to all kinds of machine gun and small arms fire but the Jeep got through, and the captain pointed out on the back of his seat, he was—he happened to be driving the Jeep—there was a bullet hole, that's how close it had come to him. And he wanted the sergeant of the tank to take the tank and go down and spray both sides of the road with the machine gun on the tank. Well, just as he was talking there was

a big explosion and a halftrack came from the south going north and kept right on going. It also had been subjected to machine gun and rifle fire plus this was a Panzerfaust, the German anti-tank rocket, and that had missed the tank but it hit the ditch alongside of the road and exploded. But that halftrack didn't stop, it went on right down on the road in a cloud of dust. Then the captain said, "Go ahead, sergeant, take that, go down the road," and the sergeant protested because he said it was suicide because they had the Panzerfaust. So I told the captain, "I'll fire artillery on the woods." There were woods on both sides of the road, a patch of woods. And he said, "Go ahead," but he was a little bit hesitant about it because he didn't want to have a round of ammunition fall on him. So I called ahead to the battalion which was in the next town down past the woods and—

James: Gave them the coordinates?

Roth: Well I—no, no, I asked for a fire mission and told them to close the road so that no one else could come down the road when I was firing. I gave the fire mission and they relayed it to an artillery battalion behind us, I don't know where. I don't know if it was our battalion or an armored, another battalion attached to the 10th Armored. But anyway, I gave the coordinates, first round came exactly where I wanted it, and the next round I adjusted for elevation and it was not maybe a hundred yards to the right of the road. So I gave—after the second round I gave a deflection change and call for battery fire, uh, latter fire. That's where they fire at one elevation and another elevation and on up like that. And they fired for effect, and you couldn't believe how that fire went through that woods. So after that the road was open, and so that was part of the citation.

James: Sure. Very good. Good experience. Tell me some more.

Roth: Well, basically from then on, you know, it was moving, the war was getting to the end.

James: I mean your experience is "we won the war, but—"

Roth: Yeah, we were moving practically every day and maybe twenty, thirty miles a day, and finally there was one other incident which was not—we were moving, I was moving the battery one day and as we came alongside a hill I saw a German soldier running on top of the hill. And so I was leading the battery convoy and the immediate vehicle behind me was the command halftrack which had a .50 caliber machine gun mounted on a turret, so I stopped, I stopped our convoy and told the radio operator in the halftrack to fire on the hill with the .50 caliber machine gun. And he loaded up and fired, and you couldn't believe how much—in what, you know, it would be like from here to maybe Johnson Street away, so it wasn't far, because the hill

went right up, and pretty quick there was a white flag waved and down came the prisoners. I don't know how many there—

James: Did they give up?

Roth: Yeah.

James: How many?

Roth: I think there were about twenty, nineteen or twenty. And we loaded them in the trunks and took 'em to the next town and stopped at a P.O.W place and let 'em off.

James: You captured those guys, they never shot back?

Roth: They never shot back.

James: Were they all kids?

Roth: Well, at the last part of the war they—

James: I mean, this group that you caught on top of the hill?

Roth: They were pretty much a motley crowd. I think they were ready to give up because, you know, they had been bypassed.

James: Well that was nice. Did you get a medal for that?

Roth: No, no, never even said anything about it. Just dropped 'em off and kept right on going. That's about the way it was during the—

James: Sure, well you were moving quite a bit then. So you got to Austria, anyway.

Roth: No, we weren't taking time to guard prisoners; we just wanted to get rid of 'em so we could keep on going, and that's the way it is.

James: When you got to Austria and were stopped, what was your duty then? Have any particular duty or none?

Roth: Still battalion supply. Well, after the war we were given occupation duties. At Heilbronn, Germany—

James: What did that involve?

Roth: Well you'd send out guards for guarding supplies, guarding breweries or wineries or—

- James: [laughs]. Guarding against American soldiers?
- Roth: Yeah, well, and railroad stations, public buildings. You know they were assigned guard duty really, in essence.
- James: Sure. So did you get along with the German natives?
- Roth: Well, we didn't have much opportunity. We were pretty busy.
- James: Oh, I see. Of course you're in Austria, they all speak German anyways. So how long were you in Austria before you started turning back home?
- Roth: Well the war was over on the 5th of May and I think they considered the campaign for Central Europe lasted until May 11th. I had points because of all my service, you know, and so it was garrison duty up until the time I left, and I left about, oh—I think I got back to the States in November.
- James: 1945?
- Roth: Yes.
- James: Were you married?
- Roth: Got married in Service. At Fort Sill.
- James: At OCS, right after OCS?
- Roth: Well, we were chosen as school troops, and so let's see, that would be the winter of '42, '43. We were scheduled to go, we were alerted for overseas movement to make the African invasion but they didn't have enough ships, so the 59th and 69th and the 93rd Field Armored Field Artillery were formed into an armored group, taken out of the 6th Armored Division and farmed into an armored group which they were gonna send the whole group, but they didn't have enough ships, so we were chosen to fire for Fort Sill as school troops, so we went to Fort Sill and the 59th and 69th stayed at Camp Chaffee. And while we were at Fort Sill we fired about thirty-five hundred rounds of .75 ammunition, so we got very proficient in firing. And while we were there, that's when I got married. Married a high—uh—
- James: High school sweetheart?
- Roth: Well, not a high school sweetheart; a long-time sweetheart.
- James: From Austin?

Roth: From New Elizabeth.

James: New Elizabeth? Okay, that's nice. Then you were discharged as a captain?

Roth: Yep, then I joined the Officers Reserve Corps.

James: You did join the Reserves?

Roth: Yep. And I served 'til 1953, when I failed a physical for the Korean War.

James: In 1953 you were preparing to go back in Service?

Roth: Yeah, they called me up for a physical.

James: In '53 and not before that?

Roth: No.

James: Jeeze, I went over in '50.

Roth: [laughs] The doctor said I had asthma and I didn't argue with him.

James: So you were discharged? Okay.

Roth: Went to the Honorary Reserve.

James: Did you use your GI Bill?

Roth: Yes.

James: Where did you go, or what did you do?

Roth: I went to the University of Wisconsin and graduated as a chemical engineer.

James: UW-M, chemical engineer, okay. And what did you do with that skill?

Roth: Well I first went to work for Cornell Wood Products company, a paper manufacturing company in Cornell, Wisconsin. And while there I wrote an exam for public health engineer with the state, and passed that and was hired as a public health engineer with the state committee of water pollution. And after a while I became a public health engineer, too, for the state. But in 1953 the federal government took away the water pollution control funds that they had provided the state and so they had to reduce their personnel. I was offered a public health engineer one and stay with the state, but by that time I had decided that I wanted to get out, and then I went to work for a consulting engineer in Crystal Lake, Illinois.

James: When was that?

Roth: June of 1953.

James: That's the time when they wanted to send you back to Korea?

Roth: Yeah. I forgot I put that together, but it seems like it was '53. Well anyhow—no, it was—I can't remember. Anyway, I worked there about three or four months and the position of public works director for Hartford, Wisconsin came open and I applied for it and was chosen and—

James: When was that?

Roth: That was 1953, October.

James: '53? You weren't in Illinois long then.

Roth: No. And I worked at Hartford from 1953 to 1956.

James: You were a public health officer?

Roth: Public health director, director of not public health, public works, director of public works.

James: How long were you there?

Roth: Well, 1956 the engineer administrator job for Shorewood Hills came open.

James: [laughs] Boy, you really moved!

Roth: And I applied for that job, and stayed there for the rest of my professional—**[End of Tape One, Side A]**—career, retiring for there after twenty-nine years and eight months.

James: So it was public works, or what was your job there?

Roth: Well, they called it an engineer administrator. I was village engineer plus administrator of the public.

James: Shorewood Hills, Shorewood Hills out here, not in Wisconsin? Alright. Did you join any other veterans' groups after you got out of the Reserves? VFW or anything like that?

Roth: No, I didn't. I did join the Mauston American Legion, but that was only for a month or two after I came home and I haven't joined the VFW. I think I should.

James: No rush. [laughs] I haven't joined either. But I send them money; they send me things in the mail constantly.

Roth: Yeah, I get them too.

James: So I send them ten bucks and they can send me some more stickers.

[End of Interview]