

Wisconsin Veterans Museum  
Research Center

Transcript of an  
Oral History Interview with  
BUD WARNS  
Bodyguard and Driver, Army, World War II.

1999

OH  
243

OH  
243

**Warns, Bud**, (1928- ). Oral History Interview, 1999.

User Copy: 1 sound cassette (ca. 75 min.), analog, 1 7/8 ips, mono.

Master Copy: 1 sound cassette (ca. 75 min.), analog, 1 7/8 ips, mono.

Video Recording: 1 videorecording (ca. 75 min.); ½ inch, color.

Transcript: 0.1 linear ft. (1 folder).

### **Abstract:**

Bud Warns, an Eau Claire, Wisconsin veteran, discusses his World War II service in the 5<sup>th</sup> Army as an escort with the bodyguard detail for General Mark Clark, Allied commander in Italy. Sent to Vienna (Austria) via France near the end of the war, Warns talks about riding in the motorcycle escort unit, duty as a driver and a bodyguard in a twenty-man unit, and being promoted to sergeant on his birthday. He touches upon treatment of enlisted men by General Clark, security arrangements when the General was on foot, and getting his picture taken with General Dwight Eisenhower. Warns talks about the cars he drove, including one of Hitler's captured cars that Warns later saw on tour in the United States. He mentions chamois hunting trips in Bavaria with Generals Clark and Eisenhower and visiting Dachau Concentration Camp, where he was impressed by the smell. Warns talks about spending time with General J. Lawton Collins, Mrs. Clark, and General George Patton. Warns comments on saluting, tending to Pal, General Clark's dog, and being put in the Army for one day so that he could accompany the General to Madison. He mentions being a member of the VFW. He recalls an incident in Milano when the General wanted to drive the vehicle. Warns touches on getting paid by the General, getting free cigarettes, learning to pilot the General's airplane, and flying a mission to fetch seltzer water for the General. He discusses screening reporters for security, seeing the General promote someone for being vigilant during watch duty, and asking Eisenhower to be sent home. Warns comments on his later encounters with Eisenhower and Clark, exercising Clark's Lipizzaner-breed horse, staging photographs, and visiting a variety of locations in Europe, including uneasy trips through the Russian zone in Vienna. Throughout the interview he references photographs of his experiences.

### **Biographical Sketch:**

Warns (b.1928) was honorably discharged in 1946. After the war he settled in Eau Claire (Wisconsin).

Interviewed by James McIntosh, 1999

Transcribed by Maren Maland and Yasmine Flodin-Ali, 2011

Checked and corrected by Joan Bruggink, 2011

Abstract written by Susan Krueger, 2011

**Interview Transcript:**

- James: So you went straight over to France right from your basic training?
- Warns: Yeah.
- James: That was probably in '41 or '42?
- Warns: Well, I don't remember exactly when it was. I was over there about three years.
- James: I understand. Did you go to England or did you go directly to France?
- Warns: No, I went directly into France.
- James: Oh well, then it was after D-day then.
- Warns: It was after D-day.
- James: Right, so that'd be '44.
- Warns: Yeah.
- James: And then you become associated with the unit that Mark Clark was in.
- Warns: Well, what had had happened, we, ah, I think is I used to ride motorcycle when I was young, you know, I'd go at it, and what was happening was that they needed motorcycle drivers, as the war was coming to an end in Italy, to be on an escort for the General. Well, we didn't know this; this is where we get sent, see, and we came right out and the war was over. And then the General—and then we got into, into Bavaria, or whether it's Austria, and we stopped at—the first stop was at the Svanska sveind[?] in Salzburg in Vienna. The date I can't tell you because we moved fast.
- James: What was your outfit?
- Warns: Well, once I'm in Austria it was the—ah, I must have a patch here, he has a patch of it; oh, he's got a different patch.
- James: What are you looking for?
- Warns: It's a U.S. Forces Austria patch. I've got pictures of it here someplace.
- James: And when did you meet Mark Clark?

- Warns: Well, it was when—as soon as the war was over. We, he went to go into Vienna, into Austria, because he comes—he was then the Supreme Commander of Austria and Italy and he started out in Africa.
- James: Yes, I know that.
- Warns: And I have a slip here later on, I'm gonna give you that, of all of his appointments that he had during his war years.
- James: We have records of all that.
- Warns: Well I've got one because he sent it from the Citadel for Mark. Mark was—he calls the General and he says, "You know I got, I'm gonna have to write an essay up on something." He said, "Well, I'll help ya." He says. "I'll have the boys—"
- James: Make up something for ya?
- Warns: Make up the whole thing for the Citadel, so he did and sent it to Mark, and Mark of course got an A on that one and he said, "Well, that's fine." [laughs]. It was very close to the stuff in the history books.
- James: And you were officially his driver, or is that the official name of—
- Warns: I was his bodyguard and driver. Mostly I was his driver.
- James: And what rank did you have at that moment?
- Warns: I had—I started out with a corporal; I got a sergeant [unintelligible].
- James: Well you should've been. If you're driving for a general, I'd say you're at least a sergeant.
- Warns: Well, I wanted to stay as a sergeant. General says, "Okay." And if you don't look closely on it, it was in congratulation for what? There's nothing on there; it was my birthday. So he gave me another stripe and I became a sergeant and he gave me a bottle of whiskey. He says, "And by the way, Bud," he says, "every time we move it seems that I lose a case of brandy." I says, "I think you do, General. I noticed that, too." I says, "I've been in [indistinguishable]." He says, "Knock it off, you guys. I won't have nothing to drink pretty soon." He was just that kind of a guy. His ethic was all off. He has twenty—we had the CG Section, Commanding General Section, and it was twenty men that take care of him and were always with him. Twenty men.
- James: You were a part of a twenty man group?

- Warns: Yup, yup. And I've got pictures here to show you later on, the group sitting down eating and my commander. If I had had to go to my lieutenant, I'd of had to go to the general, because it was all the same with that group of twenty. There were generals in it, there was captains, there was captains, and then there was lieutenants and—
- James: But you could take your problem directly to the General?
- Warns: You had to go right to the General.
- James: No chain of command?
- Warns: No, no; no chain of command. You went to see the General and that was it.
- James: That's different. Well, you're getting more action that way.
- Warns: Well, I was always with him so—[laughs]. We would get home and it was—I was as tall as he was and if he wanted us to go down to the headquarters from the house we were in, in Vienna, well he wanted to walk. "Come on Bud, let's walk," so the bodyguards switched over and got out of the car and you're going down with one that was really up in front, that was the one motorcycle, and then two on the next one. And then there was a Jeep with a .50 caliber machine gun and then first came the car and the General and we duplicated that; in back of him was the Jeep with a .50 caliber, two motorcycles and one in the rear. And they all were trained, and I trained them myself, they're going down the—you know, in Vienna there was cobblestones, there's a lot of cobblestones in Germany and in Vienna in that area. You got to go drive, kick your motorcycles down, you got your submarine, uh sub-what-ya-call-its on the sides because they always land on the right side. If you're gonna be on that side, your had—your machine gun is on this side over here, and then you'd fall out and then he'd take his crew and everything, his valet, and that is part of the twenty, part of the twenty people.
- James: So when you move, all twenty move?
- Warns: Um-hmm. We went up to the lodge, all twenty went up there. And we had to have a vacation, too.
- James: And he made sure you had plenty to eat and drink?
- Warns: Well, everything was there. We moved it all up and moved it all back. If we had to take the train, we took the train, you know. We didn't—he was, he was a merry—he was a dad.

James: It sounds that way.

Warns: He was a dad to all of us. You could talk to him anytime. You could—he'd stop and listen to ya. "Well, we can fix it up some way or another," he says.

James: Did he talk to you about his experience in Africa?

Warns: Oh, yeah.

James: The submarine?

Warns: Yeah he was in the submarine. Not only that, [laughs] but they had the Krauts—see, the Germans came in and were helping out the cabinet because they didn't fight very good, see. So there was all Germans down in there and when they'd come into the—when they came into the house, well, the guys that were there, they'd pull the chair, the table out and fold up the thing and everybody got down in the cellar and they'd close it up, see.

James: That was the French place?

Warns: Yeah, that was when the General came in and he was talking about people that were going to be on our side to help.

James: They were planning the line [unintelligible].

Warns: Yeah. And then—so people were walking around on the General, and finally they left because they couldn't find him or they didn't look.

James: Right. He was lucky. If they could have captured him, he would have—

Warns: He was just being commander now down there. And he couldn't get no bigger.

James: That's right. He outranked everybody.

Warns: Everybody. Everybody, even the English. Even what's the guy—Rommel?

James: A German; he was a German.

Warns: Yeah. And then you take the Frenchman; they didn't get along.

James: Darlan[?]

Warns: What?

James: Darlan[?]

Warns: Nope, nope. There was another one there. Well, I'll get to it later. I can remember as I go on. No, there was another one, and this was the big deal going up along in Italy. Once they got out of Africa they went to Italy, was that they were—this English general and Mark Clark, who was going to get first, and then they got bogged down because they were on the east side, the General was—the Americans were—and the British went on the other side. Of course, all of this had to go through Eisenhower. All of this had to go through Eisenhower. And just, ah, just give me a second and I'll show ya.

James: [Speaking to someone else in the room].

Warns: And as we went up, I think everything got cleared and you talked to Eisenhower, and this was even after the war, we'd go up to the lodge that we had to hunt and this was at the lodge and I think you will remember who those are.

James: Yeah. That's Eisenhower.

Warns: That's right, and that's Clark.

James: And you?

Warns: And me.

James: Great. Alright.

Warns: There are few pictures like that.

James: Yeah, I'll bet there are very few.

Warns: Can't show your wife that [laughs]. [Conversation between Bud, James, and woman about copying picture.]

Warns: I'll tell ya, I'm gonna give you one of the pictures to take along. I can take a smaller picture along; I've got some for you.

James: Thanks.

Warns: And as we were going, coming up through Italy, I got a picture someplace here too that—all my records were gone. I lost them somehow, and I don't know how in the hell. They don't know, I don't know.

James: Where did you first meet Mark Clark?

Warns: In, uh, just as he came out of Italy.

James: In Vienna?

Warns: It was the Brenner Pass where along the—ah—I don't—so many hundred thousand Germans gave up. That was the end of the war that day.

James: That's when you first met him?

Warns: Yeah. And then we came through—and then I got to drive him. Through all the rest of the time I was there.

James: What did you drive? A regular Ford, or a car, or a Jeep?

Warns: Well, here, wait just a second. I had a—well here's a trip ticket, what I'm allowed to drive.

James: Oh, yeah.

Warns: I had a Cadillac. A Cadillac, you know we had the Cadillac and then we had a Packard and then we had a—the brown one was a Packard; the brown one was a Packard. The gray one was, that was the main one that we drove, and then we had the—I have pictures of Hitler's car too. And I got pictures of those. Vienna gave him that car, Hitler's car. See, Hitler had six of these cars. A lot of people don't know that.

James: Bigger than a Volkswagen too, I'm sure.

Warns: Huh?

James: Bigger than a Volkswagen.

Warns: Yeah, it weighed four ton and the doors were four inches wide and steel plate coming up the top and you'd see him standing there giving the salute a lot of times. That was the one that we had. That one was then given to—when the General left, he give it back to Vienna and Vienna sold it to a ball bearing plant up in Sweden and then a gentleman from the United States bought it, brought it back to the United States and had it on tour. Ah, it happened to be in Chippewa Falls here. It ended up in here and everybody had a big fence around it and they had to look, everybody could



look at it, well they had the door open and all this and that. And I said to my wife—we had just got married a few years—and I came up to him and I says, “Well, do the superchargers work in this car?” “No. Why?” I said, “Well, do they have truck tires on—Army truck tires on it?” “Yeah. Um-hmm.” I says, “I’ll tell you what you do. You walk up to it and open the door and look at the \_\_\_\_[?].” “Why?” “See if there’s anything carved on it. See if there is a B and W on it.” He walked up to it, “Yeah!” I says, “I used to drive this for General Mark Clark. That was one of the ones that I drove.” And this was at the same time Patton got hurt on the Isis.

James: Was it?

Warns: Yeah. I had the General—

James: Do recall what kind of make this car was? Was it a Mercedes?

Warns: Yeah, yeah. It was something bigger than Mercedes. There were six of those cars. And I don’t know what the other ones were, but this—

James: I thought that Mercedes built both of those?

Warns: Well, they were just elite, the most elite things, I can say that. Superchargers I took off because General says when they came down from the headquarters and he’d sit there ten minutes he says to get going; that thing was just screeching. I says, “I’ll care of them.” So I hadda cut those superchargers and that was alright. Every once in a while we’d change cars. It wasn’t always the same car that we took.

James: Did you stay in Vienna with him or did you move?

Warns: Did I what?

James: Where did you go from Vienna with the General?

Warns: Vienna we stayed at, because he was the—I got papers on it—he was the Supreme Commander of that whole area, see.

James: So when he left there—

Warns: He came back to the United States.

James: And what did you do?

Warns: Well, I was—I went back to the United States before he did. But it was just short, very shortly. And I wanted to get—I wanted to go home. When

I was talking to Eisenhower there—and I talked him a lot of times because we went hunting together and fishing.

James: In Bavaria?

Warns: Huh?

James: In Bavaria?

Warns: Yeah, yeah. In Bavaria, up in the mountains, see.

James: What did you hunt?

Warns: Well, we'd hunt what you call a chamois. You know what a chamois is? It has those little tassels, that these guys would—

James: That's a goat.

Warns: Yeah, that's a goat. So we went up there. We stayed overnight. The General came in, we stayed overnight and then [laughs] [unintelligible]. We should have known! [unintelligible] We either caught the train or we'd put big campers on the—

James: Did Clark mix with the local people much?

Warns: Oh yes. Oh yes.

James: He did?

Warns: Very, very—

James: He kept his eye on the local people?

Warns: Kept his eye on the people. The people loved him.

James: Oh really?

Warns: Oh, they loved him, any place. No matter where he'd go was swamped. And that's the hard part, see. You gotta keep him away from all of that.

James: Are there any concentration camps around there?

Warns: Nope. There was the one that was in Munich, Munich, and that was Dachau.

James: Yeah, right.

Warns: That was up the ways there.

James: Did you ever go there?

Warns: I went through that, yeah.

James: Were you impressed with that?

Warns: Well, it was the most terrible thing you ever seen. You will never forget it if you see it, and if you're twelve miles from it, you can smell it.

James: Is that right?

Warns: Oh yeah. You can smell the death. Don't have to tell ya, but you can smell death, and we went into Dachau, yeah. But, ah—I feel better not listening to it and going into that because it was so [unintelligible], you know.

James: No, no.

Warns: I went through the good times with General Clark and I don't want to—

James: I don't think you should have to do that, no.

Warns: But it—then we, ah—oh yes, this you can tell it's a—here's Clark. Now this is Mark my son, see. Should get his hair cut, but he didn't. Here's the three of us. And that is why Mrs. Clark took the pictures. Then we had dinner there, over in Travis City, but you should notice the difference here. Well I'm gonna show you the difference here. Little, little quirks that come up is like we were at the—this is the EM house, the Lisiven[?] house down in, up in the mountain there, ah, and ah, I've gotten a lot of pictures and I don't know which—I know I had two copies of this, but later on if you want to read that before you go, real fast, the last thing, it'll tell you what Mark thinks of it.

James: Okay.

Warns: But Mark got it chewed up a lot. The General was supposed to be the general of the 42nd Division but he wasn't; the 42nd Division was, the General was—oh, I'll find out later on. Collins! General Collins.

James: I saw him when I was in Korea.

Warns: He rode with us enough. We had to come in and he would fly into Vienna, and then of course they had [laughs] about nine stars in the car before I drove back halfway to Vienna, you know, to an Air Force base—but, ah,

Collins—I knew all the generals, because you’re right with ‘em, you’re right with ‘em, see, and the General himself, I was with him so much, the General says, “Well, you don’t have to salute all the time,” he says, “or else we’d be breaking our arms. But you salute if there is somebody else around, then you salute.” You got to know that, you gotta salute. Well, if the General wants the dog taken—Pal, you know, you take Pal out.

James: Was that his dog?

Warns: Yeah, he had Pal over there.

James: What kind of a dog was he?

Warns: A little black one, with a—oh, I had that someplace.

James: He picked that up in Germany?

Warns: Yeah, in Austria.

James: Oh, Austria.

Warns: He picked it up in Austria. Anyway, I’m gonna show you these. I had these made up of a—better forget it, you know, it’s just like a kid. He often said, “Mrs. Clark and I wonder how in the heck did you get in here,” and this and that. “You’re just like one of us,” he said, “just like a son.” And it was. Well I went up there and finally I was looking like this. He looked and he stopped; over he comes.

James: [Laughs].

Warns: Hugging me. The General. He’s all in his big stuff there, all of his buttons and everything—oh Christ, he had enough [unintelligible] he could hang them on. He had his own valet, you know, he didn’t have to take care of himself all of the time. And then we went in there, I went along with him to the “how do you do” they had down in Milwaukee, and we just about got in and he took his coat off and he went like this, and I knew what it was. I told him I’d take care of it. [unintelligible] And that’s what you do. And when it was done, you’d see that he get, I’d come back in, in his own car and we went back, and then it was about nine, ten o’clock and I was tired. I went up and got a room and got in it. In comes a knock on the door. “Yeah, lieutenant.” One of his aides came in, he says, “The General wants to know what your serial number is—the Army serial number.” And I said, “Why?” And he said, “Well, he’s gonna put you in the Army for one day because he’s gotta fly to Madison.” And I said, “One day?” [James laughs] “Yeah,” he says. “He gave the order that no other people

but personnel, Army personnel can fly on the plane.” It is what it is, so he had to put me in the Army for the day. [laughs] He cheated a little bit[?].

James: Do you remember what year that was?

Warns: Oh. I could look in the book to find someplace that he was—at a certain time he was at—

James: You can’t think what year it was?

Warns: 1950? About ‘50.

James: I see. Have you joined any veterans organizations?

Warns: Yeah. I wanted nothing of it but just a lifetime member.

James: Of the VFW?

Warns: VFW.

James: You’re active in the VFW?

Warns: Not as active as I should be.

James: Is that right?

Warns: No. We’ve got a lot of, ah, cowboys in ours, you know.

James: Cowboys?

Warns: Yeah, they think they know it all and they basically never got out of Eau Claire. [both laugh] But you don’t want to argue with them. I know I went through that and—

James: These youngsters were in Vietnam?

Warns: Most of them Vietnam, you know. They thought they—that’s the only war there is. That’s the only war there is, the Vietnam. [inaudible] World War II fellows, nobody knows that. See these \_\_\_\_\_[?] out here? Dave Zien. You know Dave Zien?

James: No.

Warns: He’s a senator, state senator.

James: Oh yes, I know.

- Warns: Alright now, Dave Zien, well actually you don't have to put that on, leave it off. [outside inaudible voice] [pause in tape]
- Warns: That's in Milano, the pigeons of St. Martin Square.
- James: They don't have St. Mark's in Milan.
- Warns: Huh?
- James: It's a basilica there, in Milan.
- Warns: No, Venice.
- James: Oh yes, St. Mark's in Venice.
- Warns: Yep. Yep.
- James: We were there.
- Warns: Milan is across the state or across the—We were supposed to go over there to a big “how do you do” because they named a street after him. So we left Venice—
- James: They named a street after him?
- Warns: After General Mark Clark in Milano.
- James: Oh, in Milano.
- Warns: Yeah. So we were driving. We had a Cadillac and we were driving, we had an escort. Not the big escort, we had a half of an escort. [James laughs] And we were driving along and all at once he says, “Why don't you hold up, Buddy.” He says, “I'll drive it.” “I didn't know you could drive.” He says, “Well what the hell do you mean? I can drive.” And Mrs. Clark is sitting there, you know, oh god. “Okay.” So I get up and I sat where the General sat.
- James: On the right?
- Warns: Yeah, it would be on the right, see. Well, that made me a little nervous; I didn't know whether he could [unintelligible] damn machines, you know. He's full of that. He's cocky. And I said to this gunman, “Ah, he can drive.” And then he kept talking. I felt better. We were almost up to Milano. And I said, “General, I can drive now because you should be taking up their escort.” You get that information all ahead from this—as

we go, we'd get all zeroed in who to talk to, who don't you talk to, and this and that, you'd get all of that. So he said, "No, it's alright." We're getting closer and here comes the escort, was sitting on the side in motorcycles, see. I said, "Well, better slow it down a bit so you get these guys ahead of you." "Well," he says, "let's see what those boys have got over ours," he said. And he opened it up. [laughs] I said, "You know—" He says, "Bud, give it a go." He says, Mrs. Clark says, "Just leave it go; he's got to have his kicks, too. You know, he's a young boy, he's gotta have his kicks." Well, he could drive alright. There was no doubt about that. He would say, "I'll get right in there, I'll come right up into them." Here was a stand with all the generals and the music was going and he pulled right up like this. "You ain't gonna get me." They reached for the door to open up, I pushed it open and I jumped out and I saluted right across them, right across the car. I had [unintelligible] and I didn't look at these guys over in the [unintelligible]. I looked at—and he got out and he walked around, threw 'em—"Here's the keys, Warns."

James: [both laugh] Where'd you get a Cadillac over in Italy?

Warns: Oh they were brought over.

James: Oh, they brought it over?

Warns: Oh yeah, they brought them.

James: Was it his car?

Warns: His personal car, yeah.

James: Oh, I see. He owned this in the United States.

Warns: Well not only that, I was paid—this twenty bunch here, these twenty guys were paid by the General.

James: What did he—

Warns: I didn't get paid through the Army; I got paid by the General when I was with him.

James: Well you're in the Army.

Warns: What?

James: You were in the Army.

Warns: Yeah I know but, no. The General has to buy it, pay for those.

James: For what?

Warns: For those men.

Woman: Security guys?

Warns: Yeah, yeah.

James: Well, I don't know what to say. You guys were being paid by the General and the Army?

Warns: No, not the—just the General.

James: But you're in the Army?

Warns: Yeah but that—they—we weren't paid by them. We didn't get no double pay or nothin' like that. We were paid by the General. Yep.

Woman: How much did you make?

Warns: Huh?

Woman: How much did you make?

Warns: I don't know because, you know—if I wanted cigarettes. I'd open the back end of the Cadillac and he says, "Give him some cigarettes." That's how he'd give 'em, these Austrians, you know. "Cigarettes?" "Sure." Like, "rrurr," that first top part went in there and then the box went to the guard, so he thought he got a full case.

James: But he actually didn't get [unintelligible]?

Warns: The top part[?] was mine. [all laugh] I didn't have any money. I didn't get—I didn't see no [unintelligible]. We had our cigarettes, and everything else is there.

James: It didn't sound like you needed any money.

Warns: I didn't. We don't need no money. I could go out—that's the only time we started to take pictures was when the war was over, because where would you go during the war that you can get film or have one? You don't! What for? And that's when I got all my pictures was after the war, so. But I had fun, that's like this one here, here gives you an example of—oh, these are the L5s that we flew up to the lodge up in the mountains. They had two of them.



James: Did he have his own pilots and his copilots?

Warns: Oh yes, his pilots—there was another one.

James: [unintelligible]

Warns: That's \_\_\_\_\_[?], and this is the big boss over here. They had L5s; they open up from the side.

James: These are observation planes.

Warns: Yeah, that's it. They had variable pitches on 'em.

James: You didn't fly the plane?

Warns: Well, sure I flew. When I was with the General. Ricketts[?] was the pilot, but I always flew.

James: So you flew when you were with him?

Warns: I was with him, I always flew. Here's what happened. There is a cut strip in Vienna along the Danube; that's where we had to land, and it was on a curve. Well what you learned, I was taught that you— when you're coming in, you'd get it back as far as you can, you put the flaps back and slow down and then you watch your wing and keep it four feet off of the ground, and then you land on that one wheel and then that's what hits, you slow it up enough, well then you can brake and hold [?]. You come in on a cut strip?

James: And you flew the plane yourself?

Warns: Well sure. Ricketts[?] was up in front of it.

James: Who taught you how to do that?

Warns: Ricketts[?], the guy ahead of us.

James: Oh.

Warns: There were two pilots; it was the pilot and myself, see.

James: And they showed you how to fly?

Warns: Well, sure. I wanted to know how to fly, so I flew. But then we were flying in one time and—you got that double? No. Here, this is the double

one. See, that's the two planes—and the General flew in first, nothing said; he even got out and he stayed there by the plane. And we flew in, and I flew in, landed, but I flew around in a circle like that and landed. He come out and he says, "Who in the hell taught you how to fly?" "Well," I says, "I fly like I did back in Vienna along the cut strip. You gotta go around that curve." "Rickets[?]," he says, "you take him up and you fly in and land and land and land until he knows how to land on two wheels."

James: [Laughs].

Warns: I tell you, that isn't much of an inside here. That's the mountains right here like this and you—when you take off and you pull up, you better pull it, because then there's the mountainside and away you go out of the valley, see. But that's a little bit more of the things that happened. It was the little things that count, and then he says, "Well, seeing that you've done that," he says, "you fly up to Nuremberg"—not Nuremberg; what in the hell was that place up there? He wanted some seltzer water. We gotta have some seltzer water; he got pissy[?] without seltzer water. So I flew up with Rickets[?]. We flew up and got about five of those big things like this. I said, "That ought to hold him." And I said, "Rickets[?], you got money?" And he says, "You pay for it; I don't have no money on me." [laughs] So we came back—**[End of Tape 1, Side A]**—flew in, I landed, you know. I don't know if he's lookin' or not because I was down in the valley and he probably was. But then we brought him up his seltzer water and things settled down fine and he was alright.

James: Those guys were really pampered, those generals.

Warns: Huh?

James: They were pampered!

Warns: In a way, yeah. Yeah. If they want something, they get it, boom.

James: Their wives get pampered, I'd say.

Warns: Yeah, that's right; oh yeah, they get pampered. You're always there to help 'em.

James: What about reporters and guys like that hanging around 'em? How did you deal with those?

Warns: Well, what we'd do is we'd put our own MPs out; they're not MPs, they don't wear it. I don't wear it either, and I would just call in—well, I didn't even have it on this one, did I? No here—I didn't have MPs on there, did I? By God, I did. When I'm not with the General, I had to wear MP, see.

There was six other guys there. What you do, you put your own men out and they're trained—you're trained to look that crowd over, and I am, too, I'm always watching, always watching, so if somebody makes a false move or—this is part of it, and so you're taught if it looks like somebody is going to shoot, you get in front of the gun. You get in front of the gun.

James: What about reporters?

Warns: Reporters are—they are—

James: They must have hung around?

Warns: They hang around, and you'd think that—I don't know what the hell I'm thinking of, but a lot of them I'd like to push off. They'll just bother you, they want to get in, you know. So I'd put my hand over the camera, that helps, things like that, but you just put your hand over the camera.

James: The General would be annoyed by them, in other words?

Warns: I can tell when he gets annoyed. He gets a little rough, see. Well, he's getting annoyed, he's giving the signal, giving the signal to push those [unintelligible] out—I can remember that signal. That's push those photographers back, way out. And the guys would start immediately pushing these guys out and they'd go right around, push them away. And if there is one that he'll talk to, the General will look at somebody, and if he looks at that cameraman and he starts to walk a separate route, you know he'll talk to that guy and that guy, you walk right up to him. But you stand in front of him at the beginning. If the General was here, you stand right in front of him until the General is ready to talk to him, then you back up, get out of the view and stand there. You don't—you gotta look at that guy. You can tell. Believe it or not, you can tell if the guy is a good guy or if he's got a gun inside of that camera, see; you can tell that.

James: Well, I'm talking about American reporters.

Warns: Yeah, them too. They can shoot just as good as the other guy.

James: You weren't sure about all of them?

Warns: We were never sure about nothing, we were all—I'll tell you one thing. The General—it was about four o'clock in the morning. I slept in the house itself many times with the General in the way back in the wing here, with General and Mrs. Clark, and here's the house, right there.

James: This is right in Vienna?

- Warns: In Vienna. Yeah.
- James: Okay.
- Warns: And, ah, we had the MPs around the outside of it, inside, and the rest of the guys took them to [unintelligible] over here, that's where they stayed. I got a knock on the door. This was like, oh, three o'clock in the morning. And I say, "Yes?" He says, "I want to walk." I says, "Ok." I got up and slipped my pants on real quickly, put my gun on. I wore a sling holster. A sling holster is like this; well that doesn't look like a cowboy. Well the reason for that is when you sit in the car, it comes up and you'd get it out of your way. Well anyway, the General got down, we got in the big square that we could walk in, it was all fenced off, but we had MPs inside all the time and we were walking in there and then a flashlight and I watched him shine on the General. And all at once he says, "Halt! Who goes there?" Both of us stopped. We saw him. He says, "General Clark." "Yeah, and I'm Eisenhower," he says. "When I say stop, I mean stop."
- James: [Laughs].
- Warns: Jesus, I didn't know what the hell. I said, "This is General Clark." "Halt." And I put the light on the guy and I flipped it on and it was a kid. A young guy—he didn't know what to do. He just—
- James: But Clark put him at ease?
- Warns: Finally he says, "Bud"—he called me Warns a lot, but if he gets a little tied up he called me Warns, otherwise it was Bud—"Warns," he said, "take his serial number and his name and number." So I did and I wrote it down, always had a pad on me, wrote it down with the flashlight and I says, "He's ready to go." I says, "We're ready to go," to the kid, and he says, "You did the right thing." What do I do with this? You get to walking along and he says, "You turn that into Jack." That's his aide, top aide, Rubner[], Jack Rubner[] So I turn it in to Jack; the next day I turned it in to Jack Rubner[]. He gave the kid a stripe. Just like that. And that kid will always remember that. And someday I'd like to know where he is and what he is. It's one of those things that happened that—
- James: So he went from corporal to a sergeant or a private to a corporal or a—
- Warns: Well he was—God, if I can remember. He was—I think he was a corporal and I think he made a sergeant out of him.
- James: Out of that one incident?

Warns: Remember, I was a sergeant; I didn't want to any higher. I wanted a buck sergeant. Hell, I could have went, I could have went all the way up.

James: Why, because you didn't want the responsibility?

Warns: I didn't want the—a rocker[?] is all you got; that means you're a cook or something. [James laughs] Hell, I didn't want that; I want the hard stuff, so I always just left it at a sergeant.

James: How many years were you in the Army?

Warns: Two, two and a half years that I was with him constantly.

James: Where did you—

Warns: When I wanted to go home, finally I asked Eisenhower when he was sitting up here with me. I was talking to him and I said I wanted to go home, but he won't let me. [laughs] [unintelligible; both talk at once]

I said, "I want to go home, and he won't let me." He says, "Well how many points you got?" I said, "I got enough a long time ago to go home." He says, "I'll cover when he goes." [?] And that was it. He shut it off that day. But I talked to Eisenhower, we went hunting up in—that chamois, we went up, down the big road down the end of the—towards the mountains there and we sat by the big rock. It was Eisenhower's—his bodyguard and me and Clark and Eisenhower. We sat by this rock and Ike, he pulls out his gum, you know—tells you what kind of guys they are. He says, "Hell, I only got one stick of gum." He says to me, "Do you want half?" I go, "I'd like to say no, but you've got to be honest; I'll take half." Tears it in half, "Here." I ate that gum with Eisenhower. Now Eisenhower, that picture of Eisenhower is when he was Supreme Commander of everything, European theater of war. Later he is the President of the United States. And when he becomes President is when I—he shot that chamois, the guys and the—he shot a chamois, the guys and all the aides and [unintelligible] up there, they came down and they had a little German song they sang and then they pulled the hair out of the goddamn back of the chamois and that's what they wrap around like this, they wrap it around, and that's that tassel we had in our hands, with these little straps on.

James: Oh really?

Warns: That's what it is. That's the chamois.

James: That's where that came from?

- Warns: That's where that comes from. You only get them out there in that one area, at the Bavarian mountains up there. And of course they have aides up there all night, watching where they are. Eisenhower, you're shooting up, "bang," one shot and down that thing come, rolling, rolling, rolling.
- James: Did you eat him?
- Warns: No, we don't eat them. I don't know why.
- James: Because goats are good eating.
- Warns: I suppose, but we didn't eat that. You get other stuff. Yeah, it was—one of the things, like he is just [unintelligible]. And I sent it in and I got a reply back from the White House.
- James: You sent what in?
- Warns: Well, that tassel. Yeah, yeah. I take that back. He was in Denver; he had a heart attack. And I got the reply back from the White House over here with the words, "if it was." Right. I knew goddamn when I get back over there I'd pinpoint them buggers, you know. It's what you do, the higher you get in the economy the [unintelligible] also. Once you get up there you don't have to get \_\_\_\_\_ advantage. You've hit the top and you become very—in time you become very soft and very thoughtful, and the easiest thing to work with is a general, especially a four-star general or a five star general, but there's not that many of them around. And I think it was only four guys, remember, there was Clark and Patton and—hmm, there was another one, a G2. There was four of them that I knew, but I knew—when you know the generals, they know you, they remember you, and it's a good thing. You don't have to be all dressed up with a lot of buckles on; you are what you are. And you know what they're gonna say and you know how you get out of it and they teach you that.
- James: Have you kept in contact with any of these other twenty guys that were Clark's aides, with the other twenty that you were in Clark's entourage? Have you kept contact with any of those guys?
- Warns: Reedy[?], Reedy is down in Illinois and I've seen him twice, and that's about all. He was one of the motorcycle drivers.
- James: I thought he was a pilot?
- Warns: Huh?
- James: I thought he was a pilot.

Warns: No, no that was Ricketts[?]

James: Oh.

Warns: Ricketts[?] was a pilot; never got in touch with him. Jack—I got a call from General one night and I had talked for about a minute and a half or two. Of course, Mark’s down here; they had to talk, you know. Jesus Christ, that was about three dollars, five dollars worth right there when those two get on it, and he said, “Jack Ricketts”—what did I say?

James: Reedy?

Warns: No, no. Jack—well, whatever it was. First of all, he got shot. And he was gonna give a guy a ride and the guy got in the car and shot Jack. He shot him.

James: He killed him?

Warns: Yeah. Oh yeah, killed him.

James: Where was this?

Warns: When he was back in the United States after the General got back in the United States. Rubner; Jack Rubner. Oh, a hell of a nice guy. We had a good group and they’re all—I’ll show you some kind of a good group.

James: Is that all ’77, ’78?

Warns: Well, here’s pictures of—you know, you’ve seen these white horses coming around and the [unintelligible] —

James: Lipizzaners.

Warns: Here I am on one right now.

James: Oh yeah?

Warns: I had to go down there every once in a while and ride it because the General didn’t run it.

James: Whose horse it that? Is that Clark’s?

Warns: Yeah. Clark’s, yeah.

James: Somebody gave it to him?

- Warns: What?
- James: Someone gave it to him?
- Warns: Well he had—Patton had got a hold of those, went out and picked them up and they brought them back to Vienna and then they were in Vienna's hands.
- James: During the war they took them away so they wouldn't get eaten or something.
- Warns: Yeah. Here is the—this is the train. Hitler's train. \_\_\_\_\_ cars and driver. Well, then you'd get the train—here's a couple pilots that I knew. I don't who the hell; I was all over. Here is Mrs. Clarke and Reedy[?] Here in—oh, come on. They were in Czechoslovakia.
- James: You better get this [inaudible for a minute, he seems to be talking to someone else in the room; a woman's voice comes in]. He's talking about George Patton.
- Warns: George Patton. He thought he was Caesar. Believe me or not, he thought he was Caesar.
- James: He said that publicly?
- Warns: Well anyway, he would go to certain places and I'd talk to some of the guys, and he'd stop and he'd go over here and he'd say we should go this way or we should go that way. And you don't say no. He was a ruffian. He'd get there and direct traffic if he had to, you know, get these damn things moved; let's go this way, and he was right. Everybody was just moving off a little bit, trying to get through the mud and crap and he'd move them. Boy he'd move them. But he's a—he always had a pistol on him.
- James: How did Clark get along with him?
- Warns: Very good, but very distant, so he didn't have to say yes or no or none of that. Montgomery is the name I was trying to think of, that came up the other side, literally. And he was a four star, one of the big ones in the English line. He did not get along with Clark. Clark beat him to roll and that was, killed him.
- James: Well and Patton made him into a receiver, so it was—
- Warns: You know, when they met up with the Russians they took that picture three times before they got it right?



- James: Which picture?
- Warns: The picture of the meeting.
- James: Between the Russians and the Americans?
- Warns: That was staged three times they had to take that picture because it didn't turn out just right. So they backed them up and they go through the thing again. Politics.
- James: What about the three flags that stood up there?
- Warns: That was taken—that isn't the original ones that were on there. That was taken twice.
- James: On Iwo Jima?
- Warns: You know that too.
- James: I know that story.
- Warns: Yeah, that's right. That's another one when they met with the Russians and this and that. [both laugh] And all that is good, there isn't war.[?] Here's some more pictures. I got 'em from all over. We went to Czechoslovakia with—that was one of the times we went to this, ah, what was it? Glass. Here's a picture of the General and General Collins, too, and Mrs. Clark. This is a picture of the lodge. Our planes are down here now. Picture of that.

Here is where the EM [unintelligible] stayed and there is when the General took it up on the hill. And there is General Collins. He was with the 22<sup>nd</sup> Division, and there he is again, but this was taken outside of the Schloss Schlesheim[?] in Salzburg. This is the inn where we all stayed—not we all, but I stayed there. I didn't stay with the General if he was up here; I stayed down at the village[?]. That's where we had the cooks, we didn't have a lot of—a lot of wine, and a lot of booms. This is U. S. Royal[?], Secretary of State, U. S. Royal[?], 1950; he came in. What the hell is the other one? This is how it looked when we'd take off, see. There is Mrs. Clark waving, waving, and one of our boys and here is—well, he didn't have to go along because, [laughs] he didn't have to go along because the kennel didn't have to go because we were flying out. \_\_\_\_\_[?] wanted to fly out, see. He'd go there a lot. He'd go up there, we'd go fishing. God, we'd fish and—pictures of all that stuff. I had a picture of a, of a—I'm trying to get a hold of it—a picture of special occasions.

- James: He didn't stay with your group then, the photographer?
- Warns: Yeah, he was in our group, but not all of our group moved at all times.
- James: Did the photographer have any other duties?
- Warns: No, just being a photographer. Same thing with the plane. Those two pilots? They didn't move any place but just stuck around Clark, right now, all the time.
- James: You mean the photographer had absolutely no other responsibilities?
- Warns: Nope; just take pictures. He took a picture of that, see.
- James: Well I mean, there's so much time here that he does nothing with.
- Warns: That's exactly right; he was just one of the group.
- James: Was he a sergeant?
- Warns: I think so. Just a second, I can tell ya. Yeah, he was a sergeant.
- James: I'll be darned.
- Warns: This was taken in Venice, you know, where the streets are of water. You see those pictures end up on TV, you know, you see those? We'd go through underneath there. And General Clark was on one of them right here; General Clark was on that boat and of course Kelvin[?] was along and we put Kelvin[?] in charge and I went with another one. I snuck out once in a while. Here I am, out in the middle of nowhere, and here I am in one of the cars. I had a convertible. [laughs] This is a place—where is that? Here it is, right here. 1946 in Betz[?] in Czechoslovakia. And it has the dog in it. And that's where I got my idea of a \_\_\_\_\_[?] out here. It was made like that.
- James: What is the dog's name?
- Warns: Pal. Yeah, we had fun. They'd go through underneath here; oh, we got some of 'em on the right anyway. Here's another one of Pal and the tunnel. They are in places like this. We were going back to Vienna and the news came out that he was, he'd fell off the balcony and broke his neck. We were there just three days before that. We knew damn well what it was all about and I looked at the General and the General looked at me and just shook heads, just like you're doing. And you know it and so do I what happened. The Russians killed him. That's because we were there and we were getting too close to Russia—see, we were in the Russian

zone. We had to fly out a zone from the Danube into Vienna through—it was about a mile. That was our zone; you stayed in there, otherwise they'd start shooting at you. You had to know. There was one road going in. You stayed on that road and they'd—well, we got 'em going. We drove by there and you'd have these Mickey Mouse watches, you know. They'd work but they didn't [unintelligible] like this, you know. "I don't want no rubles. I want cash; I want Americanish money." They'd come out with American money and I'd get about eighty dollars for it, something like that. But if you turn it over the damn thing would fall apart. [both laugh] I says I'll screw the guy that'll buy it; I'm gonna give it to him and then you just barrel out of here like you wouldn't believe. Out we go. They wouldn't remember you the next time you come back because we go through that checkpoint you see. Oh, I used to pull the damndest things. It was worth it; you hadda live. I don't know how much is—really was just like the mom; that's what you get you know. Go over there at night and play the piano over there and they was sittin' there and would just be talking, you know, and sit there playing. I told them, "Don't quit [unintelligible]." Memories that you'll never, ever duplicate; you can't. But he just was one hell of a guy. He was one hell of a guy.

James: He was a real general.

Warns: I know. I was there.

**[End of Interview]**