

Wisconsin Veterans Museum
Research Center

Transcript of an

Oral History Interview with

LEWIS B. HARNED

Ambulance Driver, American Field Service, World War II
Stateside Surgeon, Air Force, Korean War
Hospital Commander, Wisconsin Army National Guard, Operation Desert Storm.

2001

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Harned, Lewis B., (1924-). Oral History Interview, 2001.

User Copy: 1 sound cassette (ca. 72 min.), analog, 1 7/8 ips, mono.

Master Copy: 1 sound cassette (ca. 72 min.), analog, 1 7/8 ips, mono.

Video Recording: 1 videorecording (ca. 72 min.); ½ inch, color.

Transcript: 0.1 linear ft. (1 folder).

Military Papers: 0.1 linear ft. (1 folder).

Abstract:

Lewis B. Harned, a Madison, Wisconsin native, discusses his World War II service as a volunteer ambulance driver with the American Field Service attached to the 8th British Army, his Korean War service as a surgeon with the Air Force, and his Wisconsin Army National Guard service as commander of the 13th Evacuation Hospital during Operation Desert Storm. After being rejected for military service due to poor eyesight, Harned volunteered to serve as an ambulance driver for the British Army with the American Field Service. He touches on being assigned the rank of warrant officer, culture shock, learning ambulance maintenance, and duty driving an ambulance in Egypt until the war ended there. Sent to Baalbek and Zahle (Syria), Harned speaks of joining Platoon C of the 485th Ambulance Company, delivering hashish on his ambulance runs, eating local food, and being hospitalized for hepatitis. He compares British and American-made ambulances. He talks about life with the British Army including trading liquor rations and having a "batman" to make tea and care for clothing. Harned mentions the invasion of Sicily. He details the Battle of Cassino: operating out of a battalion aid station, being under constant artillery and mortar fire, enjoying a stop at a U.S. Army bath unit, and being pulled out after the abbey was bombed. He touches on capturing German prisoners of war and being shelled once by friendly fire. Harned speaks of moving north through Italy and experiencing his first air raid. He tells of stopping in Naples and visiting General Immell, who was a friend of Harned's father. He discusses dating British nurses and reflects on his commanding officer being killed. After he was discharged, Harned tells of earning his medical degree and being drafted into the Army while working on his residency. He touches upon basic training in Texas, being transferred to the Air Force, and serving at the 2791st Air Force Hospital at Hill Air Force Base (Utah) as a surgeon. After his discharge, he talks about his career in Waterloo (Iowa) as an orthopedic surgeon, raising a family, starting a sports medicine clinic at the Dean Clinic (Madison, Wisconsin), and joining the Wisconsin Army National Guard in 1986. Harned tells of being promoted to a bird colonel, becoming commander of the 13th Evacuation Hospital, and his unit's activation during Operation Desert Storm. He describes picking a site for the hospital in Saudi Arabia, never getting the ambulance company or military police company they were promised, and treating forty-six ground war casualties, many of whom were amputees. Harned reflects on the speed with which the conflict ended and being stuck on the base for an extra month afterwards due to Ramadan. He recalls beer could be snuck onto the base in saltine boxes. He talks about getting through a sandstorm, extreme temperatures, and living in tents. Harned discusses bringing an Arab

salesman onto the base so soldiers could buy souvenirs and trading MREs for X-ray film with a British hospital. He describes “Camp Badger” and states they flew the Wisconsin state flag since they weren’t allowed to fly the American flag until after the war. Around 1990, he tells of going to Australia as medical support for the 32nd Division’s National Guard Army Band and being caught wearing his British military decorations incorrectly. Harned touches on attending 13th Evac reunions and retiring from the service in 1992.

Biographical Sketch:

Harned (b. August 17, 1924) served with the American Field Service as an ambulance driver in the 485th Ambulance Company attached to the 78th Division, 8th British Army during World War II. He earned his medical degree from Hahnemann University Hospital (Pennsylvania) in 1951 and, from 1953 to 1955, he served as a surgeon at the 2791st Air Force Hospital in Ogden (Utah). Harned also served as commander of the 13th Evacuation Hospital, Wisconsin Army National Guard and was deployed to Saudi Arabia during the Persian Gulf War. He retired in 1992 at the rank of brigadier general and resides in Madison (Wisconsin).

Interviewed by James McIntosh, 2001
Transcribed by Clint Cargile, 2009
Corrected by Channing Welch, 2010
Corrections typed by Erin Dix, 2010
Abstract written by Susan Krueger, 2010

Interview Transcript:

Jim: Well, good morning. I'm speaking with Lewis Harned. It's the twenty—

Harned: Sixth.

Jim: Sixth day of February, year 2001. Where were you born, sir?

Harned: Madison, Wisconsin, on the 17th of August, 1924.

Jim: And what were you doing when the war started in 1941?

Harned: Well, I was in school. I was in high school, I went to Wisconsin High, graduated in 1942, then started at the University that fall semester—

Jim: Sure.

Harned: And had one semester and, of course, we got into the war December 7th, 1941. Everybody in my class almost went, but I was 4F because of my eyes, and this just absolutely devastated me.

Jim: Devastated, I was going to say—

Harned: Yeah. So my folks—and I to this day I don't know if I would have done this, but they let me volunteer to drive an ambulance for the British 8th Army.

Jim: How was that contact made? That's an interesting story.

Harned: Well, it is, there was a—it actually—it is called the American Field Service, and—

Jim: I remember that. I remember it being—

Harned: And they had, they had contacts here in town, and Dad knew—I forget who he was that did this, but that's how I contacted, and I had to do—

Jim: A couple of letters and—

Harned: I had to do something, yeah. And, of course, I think they accepted anybody, or everybody—

Jim: Certainly.

Harned: For that. And so—

Jim: And so they gave you a ticket, or you bought a ticket to—

Harned: Bought a ticket to New York, and we sailed in early—just before Easter, on the British hospital ship the *Atlantis*.

Jim: '42?

Harned: '40—'43.

Jim: Oh, '43?

Harned: '43.

Jim: Oh, that's right, you're British in—

Harned: Yeah, yeah.

Jim: I was thinking you're a year behind me.

Harned: No, no. See, I finished high school in '42 and started that semester in—

Jim: Okay, so this is '43?

Harned: —in 43, right.

Jim: Okay.

Harned: And so we sailed on the British hospital ship the *Atlantis*, and we were—

Jim: You were all alone?

Harned: Oh, no. There was a whole group of us. Oh yeah, we had a lot of a— since this was a British hospital ship we had a lot of British troops, and—

Jim: Right but, I mean [unintelligible] doin' what you're doin'—

Harned: Oh, there was a whole contingent of us that went over at that time, yeah.

Jim: Any from around here?

Harned: Lowell Messerschmidt.

Jim: I know the name.

Harned: Yes, he has since passed away.

- Jim: Sure.
- Harned: But he was also in this group.
- Jim: Now, were you accepted right off? Automatically—
- Harned: Oh, yeah, yeah.
- Jim: Without [unintelligible] eyeballin' ya?
- Harned: Well, they did—they checked, and we sent pictures and so forth, yeah.
- Jim: So all they knew was that you're okay except your limited vision—
- Harned: My eyes.
- Jim: In the eyes. So they really had some idea of what they were getting.
- Harned: Oh, absolutely.
- Jim: Okay. All right.
- Harned: So then, then we sailed—gosh, it took us what, six, six to eight weeks. We didn't get off the ship until we got to Durban, South Africa, and then we were there for, oh, I guess, two weeks. Great, great city.
- Jim: That must have been a cultural shock.
- Harned: Well, it was, yeah. But—you know, it was funny. One of the things that I remember [laughs] the most was that I was invited—we had courtesy ranks as warrant officers so we could go into British officers clubs and things like that, and I remember this one British officer I got to know, and he'd invite me for dinner, and we were down there and all of us were eating, and all of a sudden he just stopped and looked at me, and I said, "Is there something wrong or something?" And he said, "Tell me," he said, "do you Americans always do that juggling act every time you eat?"
- Jim: Oh, the knife with the fork—
- Harned: [laughs] The knife, fork, it's—you know.
- Jim: [laughs] Gosh, that's cute.
- Harned: That was kind of funny. Anyways. So then we left Durban on a Norwegian ship, and we were going to go between Madagascar and Africa, but there were submarines in there so we had to go around

Madagascar, and we landed at Port Taufig, which is in the Red Sea area. And then we were taken from there to El Tahag, which was the British marshalling point for the attack at El Alamein.

Jim: This was in Egypt?

Harned: In Egypt. And we were there for a while, but then the war ended in Egypt. And then—my unit was then sent—oh, by the way, we drove American Dodge ambulances, four-wheel drive, which was far superior to what the British drove. The British crew—had these big box carts, Austins, or something like that. We could go places they couldn't go.

Jim: Oh, really?

Harned: And so they always picked—

Jim: This was under the auspices of the American Red Cross?

Harned: No, no—

Jim: Or the American Field Service?

Harned: This was strictly the American Field Service, right.

Jim: That was a separate—

Harned: A separate entity, yeah. And we are now attached to the British 8th Army.

Jim: Doctor, what kind of training did you get?

Harned: Well, the big training—most of the training we had was how to take care of our ambulances. We had to learn to grease, change the oil, you know, do all—

Jim: Sure.

Harned: The minor damage, and turned out to be a fair mechanic when we got through there.

Jim: By necessity(??).

Harned: That's right. So then they sent us up to Syria. And I was up in Syria. I actually was stationed at Baalbek for a while. The famous Seven Pillars of Baalbek. And then behind Baalbek were the Cedars of Lebanon. We were placed in a French Foreign Legion post, and that was quite an experience, too. And then—

- Jim: Don't leave it. Tell me about that.
- Harned: Well, the fact was that the—I guess the people there all wore these baggy clothes, you know, with big pouches in the back 'cause they said Mohammed when the next time he comes is going to be born of man. So they wore these pouches to be sure to catch him, you know. That's the story, anyway. And we did ambulance runs.
- Jim: Now, what are we talking about? How many?
- Harned: Well, like I was Platoon C of the 485th Company. Okay, we had, I don't know how many, maybe ten ambulances there, but we were stationed in various places around Syria. I happened to be stationed with two other people in Baalbek. Then we went to Zahle which was our permanent post which is just a little ways south on the way to Beirut. We used to—
- Jim: Was there two of you to a truck or one?
- Harned: There was one.
- Jim: One, ambulance.
- Harned: Yeah. One to the ambulance. Then we would take—we'd do runs, runs from Zahle to Beirut if we had some wounded or sick—well, nobody was wounded then, but sick, sick British troops or things like that, we'd go down there. And I know doggone well that we carried hashish, you know. They would come up to us being very ignorant and what, 18 I guess I was in those days, and not knowing what was going on, but they never would search an ambulance. So they would ask us to include—
- Jim: That's an opportunity not to resist.
- Harned: If we would take a package, you know, they'd give us a package, and knowing what I know now, I'm sure it was dope. And we would take this into Beirut. Interesting thing, we had—one of the [laughs] ambulance drivers was a real good friend of the—I guess what would you call him, the—well, like what do you call the head of the university?
- Jim: President?
- Harned: Chancellor. Chancellor of the American University of Beirut. And we used to go down there and have tea, and it's on a high plateau and you'd overlook the eastern edge of the Mediterranean. Okay, so then the word came out that they were going to invade Sicily and then go into southern Italy, and to confuse the Germans they pretended like there was going to

be an attack up through Turkey. You know, the soft belly up through there. So they moved us all up to Aleppo, Syria, and we were up there for a while, and then Sicily fell. I happened to catch hepatitis, and I was in a hospital for a while, in a British hospital. They—everybody would come around to look at the Yanks over there. And then we, after I recovered from that, then we came down and went to Alexandria, boarded a Liberty ship and went in convoy across the Mediterranean to Sicily. Spent Christmas in Augusta, Sicily. We were bombed, by the way, going over there. They sunk one of our ships, which was exciting. And then we spent Christmas in Augusta, Sicily, and then we went from there to Italy, and we landed at Taranto, and we got our ambulances out and so forth. Then we drove over to Potenza, by way of—I have a map here [sound of map unfolding].

Jim: They're(??) names I'm not familiar with.

Harned: But it's kind of interesting. [sound of map unfolding] See, here's Augusta, Sicily.

Jim: Right.

Harned: Then we went from there up to Taranto. And then we went from Taranto by way of Potenza, Salerno, to Naples. We got to Naples four days after Naples had fallen. It was a wide open town, in lights you know, and everybody's driving around all excited. So we were there for, oh, maybe a week to ten days, and then we went north chasing the Germans past Caserta, and then we got stopped at Cassino, and I was there for the entire campaign of the Battle of Cassino.

Jim: Now before we get further, tell me about living in the Middle East. When you had some free time, what could you do?

Harned: Well, in free time we'd likely go to—I remember one time I spent my birthday in Damascus. And one of the interesting things is going through the souks [bazaars] and looking at everything that they had to serve. One of the interesting—I'm trying to remember what—they had bread that was very thin, and pita—I guess we'd call it pita bread, but they had the best, ah [fingers drumming] apple—it's a mix, a spread—

Jim: Butter? Apple butter?

Harned: Apple butter. They had the best apple butter for their—I'd never enjoyed—so we'd get this pita bread, and then we'd just pile it with this apple butter and roll it up. It—the food is pretty good. It was British food, you know, they always stopped every time for tea. A lot of soybean

sausages, which was just grease, you know, after they got through. But it was okay.

Jim: Gettin' along with the Brits, how did you do that?

Harned: Well—

Jim: Well, or—

Harned: Pretty, pretty good. They thought we were crazy because we always wanted iced tea, and of course, they'd never heard of iced tea, you know, and they just—

Jim: Right, and they don't put ice in anything.

Harned: No. Absolutely do—nothing, not even—oh, the other interesting thing that we got American liquor rations while we were there, we got PX. And the British always were trading for—they got gin, but we would get one bottle of bourbon or something, and we'd trade—

Jim: They don't know what the bourbon was.

Harned: That's right. 'Til we got over there. So, okay, so then, as I said, then we got stopped at Cassino, and I was there during the entire campaign practically. When they destroyed the abbey with the bombers that came over we were pulled back. We were stationed right just outside of the city of Cassino.

Jim: How would associate yourself with the Army? Were you attached to a division or—

Harned: Yes. We were attached to the 78th Division. We called it the Ax-head division. Part of the British 8th Army. And I think Waverly was the general, but we were under the command of General Mark Clark. And, where we were, we were in a wadi [valley] where we had up high on the way—we could just look and see the abbey up there all the time. The town was off limits because you just couldn't get into it, but the Americans who were based further south in Naples would drive up and drive into the—it was just stupid, they'd drive into the city for a—just to take a look at it, you know. And one time a couple of officers and a couple of nurses came in, and they just killed them. It took us about four days before we could get in to get them. Oh, they had, they had the, you know, they said that the Germans, the reason for bombing the abbey was because they knew that the Germans had artillery posts up there, which they didn't.

Jim: Didn't have.

Harned: They did not have. They had them around, but they didn't have them up there. But they could see the entire Liri valley, and this is what it was, and we would come over a hill, we'd come up from—we'd go back to a base hospital, and we'd come up—and it was Highway 6, I'll never forget that—we'd come up to the top of the hill and there would be MPs up there, and if we couldn't see the MPs they were in the slit trench, and the place was being shelled. So we would hang just below the hill 'til all of a sudden we'd see an arm come out and go like that, then we'd race over the hill, you know, just—

Jim: This would be you were going up to pick some wounded up?

Harned: Well, we're coming back from delivering the wounded, yeah. And then we'd go back, and we'd come into an area where we would—there's so many crazy stories that I remember, but we'd been up there for, oh, maybe three or four months, and we hadn't had any clean clothes, or we were dirty, we were, you know, tired and so forth. So we heard that there was a US Army bath unit that had come up by a stream. So we all got a chance to go down to take a shower. So we all came down, and you'd walk in one end of the tent and take all your clothes off, everything. You're stark naked. They would let you go through the shower. They would defumigate you, you know [laughs], and then there'd be bins of fresh clothes that you could pick up on your way out. And this was really a treat.

Jim: I'm sure that was a great treat at that time. It was just what you needed.

Harned: Well, the first time—

Jim: Who gave you your orders? I mean, how did you know what you were supposed to do? The hospital would tell you to go get somebody, or how—

Harned: No, well, we were attached to a unit, okay, as the medical support. Like a battalion aid station, as the British would call it, not—that's what they called battalion aid stations—and then we were situated there, and then they had many attacks on Cassino, and they all failed, and then we'd—they'd bring the wounded back to the aid post, and then we would transfer them back to [unintelligible]—

Jim: So you sort of(??) [unintelligible]—

Harned: We were right there, yeah.

Jim: And you'd take them back to our base hospital.

Harned: To a base hospital, yeah. Which was further.

Jim: Roughly.

Harned: Oh, roughly, maybe—

Jim: 10 miles?

Harned: Yeah. At least, yeah. Something like that.

Jim: So you'd make several trips a day—

Harned: Absolutely. Yeah.

Jim: As long as it was that close.

Harned: I mean, we had, like we had four or five ambulances that would be there. So we'd take our turns, you know, and one would be there, coming back, another one would be sent.

Jim: So you had busy days then.

Harned: They would shell us periodically with mortars, and they would supply the troops that we were with with mule teams, and they'd bring the mule teams up with ammunition, food, and so forth because the terrain was so difficult where they were going. And they caught the mule team one time right in the middle of us, and they hit us with mortars. It was just a mess.

Jim: I'll bet.

Harned: Screaming animals, you know, and people were—we were [laughs]—you know, you think of all the funny things that happened. We had our cars parked into the slope where we didn't think that they'd—we'd get hit, and we were—I was just sitting there writing a letter, and my best buddy was sitting in his car, and the first shells came in, and I opened my door to get out to [unintelligible]; he opened his door to get out. We couldn't get out. You know, our doors [laughs]—here we were, panicking, you know. Finally, we shut the doors, and we dove into the slit trench, and one of the kids that dove in on top of me was hit, and I felt the—something running down, and I put my hand back there and—

Jim: Blood.

- Harned: Blood. I thought, [laughs] “Oh, gee.” I didn’t hurt, you know, but he wasn’t hurt too bad, but anyway. Then we also had friendly fire come in on us one time. And—
- Jim: Really.
- Harned: British shells. Fortunately, it was before we were starting to move around, and we were in—we had dugouts and quite elaborate quarters that we had made because we were there so long, and four or five shells came in short and then landed right, right [laughs]—if we’d been up and around we would have lost a lot of people. Well, then finally they got smart and they decided they were going to bypass the abbey, which they did. And I think we went across the Gugliano River, I think was the name of the river. And I’ll never forget this either, we came down to the marshalling point where we were gonna take off, and we came into this town right by the river, and we were assigned to this one house where we were gonna stay before we crossed the river, and I remember our commanding officer walked right in and here there was a Italian family sitting there having dinner. “Everybody out!” These poor people had to just get out, you know, and we moved in. Of course, that’s war. Interesting thing, too, we captured German prisoners and—we were—we had American uniforms on. I mean, we didn’t have British uniforms. We had the American helmets, you know, and so forth. And the British—the German troops were really upset, because they had no idea there were any American troops there. They thought we were, you know—and they were really surprised. Got across the river, and made—had our bridgehead and finally got across, and we were attacked by bombers that night, and that was the first time I’d really been under a severe air raid attack, and they were lousy—
- Jim: High level bombers?
- Harned: Yeah, they were lousy shots. I mean, they were supposed to be hitting the bridges, but they hit the opposite banks where we were. And we kept screaming, you know, “Not here! There!” See. And I can remember, you know, you’re told to lean on your arms and not lean flat, and brace yourself. And I can remember looking at this hard clay, and it was just shaking like Jello. They were that close to us [laughs].
- Jim: Oh, my(??).
- Harned: Well, that was a long story. So anyway, then we bypassed Rome. We were really upset that we didn’t get to Rome. We got all the way up to Bolgna, before I was able to come home. So we came home in the summer of ’44.

Jim: Were you—was the deal that you would spend one year there—

Harned: That's right. That's right.

Jim: And then come home as sort of a contract thing?

Harned: Yeah.

Jim: How much did they pay you?

Harned: Very little [laughs]. I don't remember that. But enough to—I would say if we got \$30 a month—

Jim: A pittance anyway.

Harned: Yeah, but see, most of our needs were taken care of. Having the rank of a warrant officer, we had our own batman [soldier assigned to an officer as a servant], you know—

Jim: Oh, really.

Harned: A guy—he'd wake us up every morning when we were back at base.

Jim: How nice(??).

Harned: Yes, it was very nice.

Jim: With tea.

Harned: Yeah, with hot tea and hot water to shave in, which is nothing that we got when we were up on the line.

Jim: Right.

Harned: I got to meet Bill Mauldin. He—

Jim: How did that happen?

Harned: We were back in Naples, and we just happened to see him. Recognized him. So, but—

Jim: He was marched up(??) [unintelligible] campaign?

Harned: A lot of—that's right. A lot of his cartoons, you know, we actually, we saw—like there was one where Willie and Joe were coming back through Naples, and here they were stopped and were told they couldn't go to

Naples because they didn't have clean uniforms on. And their comments was, "Hell," he said, "We took the town," you know. Well, when we came back for the first time here was a big sign that said, "Welcome to the PBS," which was Peninsula Base Section, which by the way was commanded by General Immell. He was—

Jim: Our General Immell?

Harned: Our General Immell. He was a real good friend of our—

Jim: Yes, I remember him.

Harned: Of my dad's. So anyway, so they weren't going to let us in because we didn't have clean uniforms on, you know. And when we came in, there were signs, you walk up one side of Via Roma, which was the main drag in Naples, and you walk down the other side, and when we were there several months before, it was four or five days after it had fallen, it was just a wide open town, see. So anyway, Dad said, "If you get a chance, go up and see General Immell." So I walked up, I thought what the heck, I walked up to the headquarters and walked in and told his aide that I was from—what my name was, and sat down. There were generals and colonels and everything, and all of a sudden, General Immell comes out and he says, "Where's Harned?" And, gosh, I jumped up and saluted, "Sir," and so forth, and everybody's—put his arm around me and took me into his office, and all these other guys, "Gee, who's that guy?" You know, and so forth.

Jim: [unintelligible]

Harned: And he said, "Well, is there anything we can do for you?" And I said, "Yes," I said, "We'd like to have a good meal, couple of drinks, and if you could find a couple of nurses for us [laughs] it would be great. And a car." Done. And we—they took us out on the town. We just had a ball.

Jim: How nice.

Harned: It was—really, it was real nice.

Jim: I would have thought that you'd made contact with a lot of nurses at the hospitals you drove these patients to.

Harned: We did, and when we were back in Naples at rest period or something like that, they called them, the British nurses, sisters. We'd—they all got excited, you know, going out with an American. They thought that was pretty amazing.

Jim: Oh, you got British girls.

Harned: Yeah, yeah.

Jim: That's more interesting.

Harned: That's right. And then we would, then we'd take them to the officers' club, as of course we were allowed to go to. And I forget who the—there was a general, a US general came through one time when we were at the officers' club in Naples. Had his own band. And we had a lot of fun that night. So it was—it was quite an experience. Yeah, it was—I lost two of my very best friends. We lost a commanding officer, and I was so worried about, you know, when you're short—what do they call it, short timer. You worry, you know, what's gonna happen and so forth, and he said, "Lew, just remember." He said, "Only the good die young." And he was killed the next day going across a bridge, and they were shelling the bridge.

Jim: Oh, my.

Harned: Yeah.

Jim: Took the jeep down and him with it.

Harned: That's right. Just a—yeah. And then there was another time that we thought we were far enough back. We were at a, like a casualty clearing station which was the next step behind where—and we were loading patients, and I was standing—it was a beautiful day in Italy, and we were out there, and they dropped about six 88's right in the compound.

Jim: Oh, my gosh.

Harned: And I didn't even have a helmet. I was—I didn't have a shirt on, you know. You just felt—you didn't know where to go, you know, and just panicked, but those are about the two closest calls that I had while I was there.

Jim: So you had to come back during war time?

Harned: Yeah, and I came back in '44. Started school that next fall. Graduated in '47. Started medical school in '47. Finished in '51.

Jim: Where? At UW, right?

Harned: No, I was at Hahnemann in Philadelphia.

Jim: Oh, at Hahnemann.

Harned: Uh-huh. And I finished there in '51. And I came back to Madison to intern, which I did.

Jim: At the Methodist—

Harned: At the Methodist Hospital, uh-huh. And then got accepted for an orthopedic residency at the University of Colorado. So I started there.

Jim: In orthopedics?

Harned: Uh-huh. Started there in—

Jim: At Denver General?

Harned: That's correct, yeah. And started there, and because I officially had had no prior service, see—I mean, I was exempt from being further drafted after I came back then. But once I got the magic letters behind my name, MD, I was free game again.

Jim: [laughs]

Harned: So I was drafted for the Korean War [laughs] in 1951. And I was there for two years, '51 to '53, and spent my time in the Air Force as a surgeon at the 2791st USAF hospital in Ogden, Utah.

Jim: Oh, you were with the Air Force?

Harned: Yeah.

Jim: You were drafted into the Air Force?

Harned: Well, no. I was drafted into the Army.

Jim: Yeah, right.

Harned: They sent us down to Fort Sam, where I spent a lot of time later, but they had too many Army people. They asked the Navy and the Air Force if they would take some of them off their hands. Well, the Air Force pulled my name out of the hat.

Jim: This wasn't voluntary, this was an order?

Harned: This was an order.

Jim: You are now transferred, period.

Harned: Transferred, period. The only good thing about that is that I got two uniform allowances.

Jim: Huh!

Harned: Which was pretty nice.

Jim: Pretty nice. That's—yeah.

Harned: So—

Jim: Your training down there in Texas didn't amount to much.

Harned: Oh, they, yeah—

Jim: They really don't do much to physicians anyway.

Harned: Not too much, but they made us crawl under, you know—on our bellies over a field. Or they shot stuff off on either side and shot tracers over our heads, you know, and everything like that. We learned, you know, basic things—

Jim: I'm glad I missed that. I got a letter to report to a physical exam, and two weeks later I got transportation to Inchon, Korea.

Harned: Gee-whiz. Inchon—

Jim: I had to buy a uniform.

Harned: You [laughs]—

Jim: I had no one show me how to put it on and wear it or how [unintelligible] the shoulder goes(??). Nothing. Took a train; took a plane. Ended up in Inchon, Korea and found a hospital ship. Zero training.

Harned: Zero training.

Jim: I loved it! [laughs]

Harned: Well, you were lucky.

Jim: Yeah, I was lucky.

- Harned: We—I was down there for six weeks. Even spent time at Camp Bullis, and so forth, where I had—where I went later, and so forth. Well, anyway. So I was stationed there that whole two years, in Ogden, Utah. Hill Air Force Base.
- Jim: Doing orthopedics?
- Harned: No, I hadn't finished my—I only had one sem—one half-year, one year—yeah. So I was—
- Jim: Oh, I see. They snatched you right out of residency.
- Harned: Right. Out of the residency. So, since I'd had a year of general surgery, which we started off at that time, I was a class D surgeon, you know. So I was the only surgeon there. Fortunately, they had two, and they happened to be orthopedic—that's how I really got into orthopedics—in downtown Ogden. And they would come out and help, see.
- Jim: Oh boy, how nice.
- Harned: So that was real nice.
- Jim: How nice for you.
- Harned: Yeah. So it was a good two years we had out there.
- Jim: Was it a busy hospital?
- Harned: Yes. Yeah, it was a big hospital, and we were very—well, we were AM, Air Material Command post. We had a one-star general. My commanding officer was a lieutenant colonel and he was buckin' for his bird. And we were, what? 200—it was one of those old hospitals, you know, where they were all spread out, wooden, one level all over. And our—where we had our first aid station, there, you know, where we came into the hospital, admissions area, was right across the street from the officers' club. So we were always the first ones over there for TGIF, and—
- Jim: First to go either way.
- Harned: Either way.
- Jim: Depending on the circumstance.
- Harned: [laughs] So—but it was a good two years. Yeah. We had—

- Jim: You got full credit for that I expect(??).
- Harned: Absolutely. Yeah. And then we had a hiatus for about [laughs] 26 years, and I came back—
- Jim: Now wait a minute. What did you do when you left—after you got out of the two-year stint?
- Harned: When I got out of there, I, of course, wanted to go back. They couldn't take me—
- Jim: To finish your—
- Harned: Residency. They couldn't take me back at the University of Colorado, because that session was filled. They said, "But we can get you in the dog lab for six months." And I said, "I don't want to do that." I mean, I'm getting old by this time. I've got, what, two kids by now. So there was an opening at Northwestern. And they accepted me, and I went and finished my orthopedic residency at Northwestern.
- Jim: Did they give you credit for one year or two?
- Harned: One year at—just one year.
- Jim: One year.
- Harned: Yeah. So I finished my orthopedic residency in 1958. I was offered a job opportunity in Waterloo, Iowa.
- Jim: Private practice?
- Harned: In private—well, with a group, and I joined that group in July of 1958. Stayed there until January 1st, 1985.
- Jim: We're a way from that yet. Now, how was the practice in Waterloo?
- Harned: It was great. Yeah, I mean—
- Jim: Was it an easy(??) practice?
- Harned: I never became a Hawkeye. I always kept—I kept my Wisconsin tickets here, you know, and so forth, and we'd come home. I got—
- Jim: But your practice was good and—

- Harned: Oh, it was just absolutely busy. And I got really interested in sports medicine while I was there, and I became the team physician for the University of Northern Iowa which was in Cedar Falls.
- Jim: Where is that? What part of Iowa?
- Harned: That was—well, it was just, like, next door. I mean, they were like sister cities or twin cities. So, I practiced—
- Jim: Well, that was a good experience, too.
- Harned: Oh, heavens. Yeah. We traveled with the team, you know, and did all the—
- Jim: Wow, you really got into it.
- Harned: Oh, yeah—
- Jim: Was that a good deal, for you? I mean, interesting enough to—
- Harned: Absolutely. Absolutely. My office—we had—when we were finding it—we had three orthopods, and we had four general surgeons, just surgeons. We were strictly a surgical group, but my office took care of—it was all the orthopedics—we took care of the three high schools—major high schools in Waterloo—plus the University of Northern Iowa. And so my Sally just hated this because she hated football season because I would work a game—
- Jim: I was gonna say, you were gone all the time.
- Harned: Yeah, I would work a game Thursday afternoon, work a game Friday afternoon—these are high school. Then we'd drive to Madison to see the Wisconsin game.
- Jim: [laughs]
- Harned: And then we would leave right after the game and drive back to Waterloo, or Cedar Falls, because they played at night. And we'd get back in time for me to be there for the second half. And then the next day we would fly up to Green Bay to see the Packers [laughs]. We did that two or three times, and it was, it was fun.
- Jim: How the hell did she ever stay with you?
- Harned: Well, we had five kids by then. Somebody had to take care of kids [laughs]. So anyway, that was nice, and—

- Jim: Jeepers. That's a bunch.
- Harned: Yeah. And, you know, when I think back, when I started practice in 1958, we had no arthroscopes, we had no total joints. Like if somebody had severe arthritis of the hip, we had two choices. We could put in a cup, which always failed, or we could fuse. And outside of that—so to see the things that have evolved—I think when we first did torn cartilages in the knee we'd take out—we'd open up the knee joint, take out the entire cartilage, which now we know is absolutely wrong—
- Jim: Which was that curved down—
- Harned: Oh, you bet. Remember that curved special—curved knife we had? You bet.
- Jim: Yeah, I did a couple of those—
- Harned: Meniscus—
- Jim: When I was in training—
- Harned: Is that right?
- Jim: In general surgery. When I would help the orthopod, you know, he'd let me do a couple of those things.
- Harned: And we now know that that was completely wrong because every one of the kids—
- Jim: Taking that meniscus out was a mistake.
- Harned: Absolutely. You just—you only needed to take out that part that was torn, see. And that's what we do with the scope.
- Jim: But nobody knew that then.
- Harned: Or sew it up. This is correct.
- Jim: That's a shame.
- Harned: Yeah. It was. It was too bad. Well, then we always knew we were going to come back to Madison to retire.
- Jim: Oh, really?

Harned: Yeah. 'Cause this was the home—my wife, we met in high school, and—

Jim: Oh, she's a Madison girl, too.

Harned: Yeah. She's a Madison girl. Met at Wisconsin High. So—

Jim: What was her name?

Harned: Conlin. C-O-N-L-I-N.

Jim: I don't remember. 'Course I wasn't [unintelligible].

Harned: She was the granddaughter of J.B. Ramsey, who started Rayovac. It was started as the French Battery Company and then became Rayovac. They lived out in Maple Bluff, and I lived out in Shorewood, and my father could never understand why I had to pick a girl that lived in Maple Bluff and not in Shorewood. Digressing just a little bit, I was real popular in those days because Dad had a C Card [gas rationing card], being a physician, and all the gas, and so I had a car, and always had four or five couples for dates and so forth. So anyway, Sally—I guess this was in the spring of '84. I came home from work one day and she said, "Well, you want to move to Madison tomorrow?" I laughed at her, and I said, "What do you mean?" She said, well, her uncle who had inherited the house after her grandparents died, died, and we were able to get the old family house, and that's where we live now, 835 Farwell Drive. I couldn't leave right then—

Jim: I was gonna say, your practice [unintelligible].

Harned: That's right. So I had to stay, give 'em six months time. So, she left. And I—we sold the house there in Waterloo, and I rented an apartment, and I would drive home for weekends—

Jim: Told everybody your wife left you, of course.

Harned: That's right. Yeah.

Jim: [laughs]

Harned: Then I moved first of the year, 1986. Then when I came back here, my very dearest and best friend, that was Bill Broadhead. He said, "We want to start a sports medicine clinic at the Dean Clinic," and he said, "How would you like to start that up?" I said, "Fine." So, I did. And, I started that up until—Mark Timmerman was in medical school when I first started, and he took a externship with me, and just fell in love with it, so he decided it's what he wanted to do. So then he went up to Rochester to

take a sports medicine fellowship, and I stayed there 'til he came back. So I retired there in 1992.

Jim: Bill Bartlett was interested in this—

Harned: Oh, absolutely.

Jim: He did a lot of [unintelligible].

Harned: Oh, absolutely, yeah. Right.

Jim: And still does, I guess, I don't know.

Harned: Well, Bill's retired now, too. Yeah. Bill and I got to be real, real good friends.

Jim: He and I won the city championship in paddleball.

Harned: Oh, really? Did you—

Jim: [unintelligible] years in a row.

Harned: Oh, for heaven's sakes. I'll have to—my gosh. Of course Bill is real active now with the sports medicine—the Hall of Fame Club [Madison Sports Hall of Fame Club], and we're—I belong to that, too, so I see Bill—

Jim: What's the Hall of Fame Club?

Harned: It used to be the Pen and Mike Club.

Jim: Oh, that.

Harned: They changed the name. So then he got me into the sports medicine—Dane County Sports Medicine Council, which I'm a member of that. And then we have done a lot of things for all the—we've raised—we had a fund drive, raised enough money to build training rooms for all the high schools in town. And they're just about all done except for Memorial. We're going to have to use brick and mortar because they don't have space for us, but we have a beautiful room at La Follette and a beautiful training room at West and one at Edgewood and one at East. And now the University is furnishing trainers for those rooms, which is something. So I took care of La Follette as the team doctor for several years, and I'm still active with the WIAA [Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Association] as one of the team physicians that they use. Matter of fact, I was the doctor

at the diving and swimming championships that they had a couple weeks ago. And I will be working the girls' basketball on March—

Jim: You work for the University on this—

Harned: No, this is with the W—yeah, they have a trainer there, the University does. And I'll be working the girls' basketball championships on March 8th.

Jim: What do you mean, the WIAA?

Harned: That is the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Association.

Jim: As a representative from the University or from the WIAA?

Harned: WIAA. WIAA association.

Jim: And your responsibility is, to what degree?

Harned: Well, most of the teams now come in, have their own physician, so, but my—

Jim: They bring an MD along with them?

Harned: Oh, yeah.

Jim: Not just a trainer.

Harned: Not just a trainer. No, they have an MD.

Jim: Oh, my goodness.

Harned: My job is to make the final decision whether this boy or girl can play. You know, like in football if he's knocked out or unconscious or something like that and then he says, "Aw, he can play," or going like that, then I—

Jim: That's what the coach says [laughs].

Harned: Yeah. Or, sometimes their, you know, their—

Jim: Trainers.

Harned: Trainers. But I have the final say. And they know this, and there's no problems. So I don't have to worry for that. But then, to continue, after I got back, my brother, who was a fighter pilot during the Korean War—

- Jim: When you got back—when you moved back to Madison.
- Harned: To Madison, right.
- Jim: In Eighty—
- Harned: '85. So he said, “You know,” he said, “You oughta be in the Army Guard.” And I said, “Why?” Says, “Well, they need doctors. They need orthopedic surgeons.” So I said, “Well, what have I got to do?” And he said, “Well, we’ll see.” So I joined the Army, Wisconsin Army National Guard, in 1986.
- Jim: Have to take a physical? Check your eyes?
- Harned: Didn’t make any difference now, you know. See—
- Jim: [unintelligible]
- Harned: So I came in as a lieutenant colonel, and then—
- Jim: Can’t beat that.
- Harned: And then got promoted to a bird colonel within six months, I guess, and then became commander of the Thirt—we had an evac hospital. It was called the 13th Evac Hospital. We were a 400 bed hospital all under canvas.
- Jim: What are we talking about, the lower half of Wisconsin or all of Wisconsin?
- Harned: Oh, no, it’s all. We had detachments. We had—of course the home base was Madison. We had a detachment at Chippewa Falls. And we had a detachment at Marshfield.
- Jim: What’s a detachment, 20 guys?
- Harned: Oh, no. We had over 400. We were a battalion-sized unit. So we had over 400 personnel.
- Jim: So you were company sized?
- Harned: Yes. Well, battalion size.
- Jim: Battalion size.

- Harned: Yeah. But we would have—roughly it would be like we'd have a company at Marshfield, a company up there, and maybe two companies down here, see. And we were a 400 bed hospital, and—
- Jim: Okay, now tell me how you trained.
- Harned: Well, we'd train every weekend. Sometimes it would be just Saturday and Sunday. Sometimes it would be—
- Jim: Each place would do their own training.
- Harned: That's correct. And then we would train, and we'd have a MUTA [Multiple Unit Training Assembly] they'd call it. It would be a Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. And then—
- Jim: A MUTA was for the whole battalion?
- Harned: No, just—again—but then we'd all get together for two weeks every summer, and we'd go either down to Fort Sam, or we'd go to the Presidio or we'd go to Fort Bragg. So we went to various places, and then we—
- Jim: How would you function on those?
- Harned: Then we'd set up our hospital.
- Jim: Okay. And what would you use for patients to practice—
- Harned: Well, we'd use our own. We had enough, and we could do with—we were always inspected—we always would have a formal inspection by the Regular Army that would come through and check and see—
- Jim: Check your triage.
- Harned: Correct. And the—
- Jim: Program.
- Harned: Well, the way we ran the hospital. The way we ran, you know, everything. They checked everything. Our patient care, our records and so forth, and—
- Jim: Did you have a full complement of physicians?
- Harned: No. We were always short of physicians. Which was kind of too bad. So then everything was—

Jim: Did you enjoy that?

Harned: Beg your pardon?

Jim: Did you enjoy that?

Harned: Yeah, I did.

Jim: Did you?

Harned: I really did. I had a lot of fun.

Jim: Was it a lot of work for you?

Harned: Not that much. I mean, when I became commander it was more work, but I didn't get to do doctoring anymore, hardly. I was doing all the—

Jim: No, I would say you were beyond that.

Harned: Paperwork and so forth. So anyway, things are going along pretty good. And then the—our friend Hussein marched into Kuwait, and there were all sorts of rumors that our unit was going to be activated, and we were ready to go. I mean, we had all the latest equipment, what we called the DEPMEDS [deployable medical systems], which is special hospital equipment. They're air conditioned and so forth. This is all under a special canvas. And we had four operating rooms. We have full X-ray—

Jim: Just open the sides up and you're—

Harned: Just open the boxes, as we called it.

Jim: That's up to the CO?

Harned: Yeah, yeah.

Jim: He(??) went through all that. It was interesting.

Harned: It really was. It was pretty exciting. So then we couldn't wonder why we weren't called because, you know, we were so highly trained, ready to go, and so forth and so on. They didn't call up the Guard or the Reserves 'til after the election. So the day after the election—by this time I was doing work at the SSI [Supplemental Security Income], the special security, you know, where we would go over and check on people that had disabilities and they could get Social—

Jim: [coughs]

Harned: And I was working for that for the state. And I was at the office when this was shortly—well, this was Wednesday after the election was on Tuesday, and the phone rang and it was the Adjutant General of the State of Wisconsin, General Berard, and he said, “Colonel Harned?” and I said, “Yes, sir,” and he said, “Your unit has just been activated.” [laughs]

Jim: Holy Toledo!

Harned: And I just paused, you know, I didn’t—

Jim: [laughs]

Harned: And he said, “Lew, are you still there?” And I said, “Yes.” And I said, “Well, what do I do now?” [laughs]

Jim: What’s my next move?

Harned: He said, “You go home, you put on your uniform, and you report to your unit.” Which I did.

Jim: Where was that?

Harned: It was out at the old—we used to call it the—

Jim: On East Wash?

Harned: No, no, no, no. It was over—the old insane asylum area, over—

Jim: Oh, Mendota.

Harned: Yeah, Mendota. Yeah, that’s—there was a—that’s where our unit was.

Jim: Bad, bad place.

Harned: Oh, yeah. So anyway, that’s where we were. We were all set. Then we had then to go up to Fort McCoy, and—

Jim: How did you notify all your people?

Harned: Oh, they were all notified by—

Jim: By telegram, or were they phoned?

Harned: Phones. I mean, then we’d call the headquarters of the other two units, and then they’d get them all in. So that was pretty exciting, and then we

went up to Fort McCoy. We spent—we went up there the end of November. We were there through December, through Christmas. The—

Jim: Just getting ready to move?

Harned: Yeah, we did all sorts of drilling and getting things ready, you know, and so forth and so on. We had to paint all of our trucks—

Jim: That's right, you hadn't stepped into the war yet.

Harned: That's right.

Jim: Yeah. Okay.

Harned: So the—right after Christmas the early contingent left, and then we left on the 12th of—no, the 11th of January. We had a day in Rhein-Main Air Force Base in Germany. And then we landed in Saudi Arabia on the 13th of January.

Jim: Okay, how many in your group now in the 13th Evac?

Harned: 400.

Jim: 400.

Harned: Mm-hmm.

Jim: And how did you get to Germany?

Harned: By air.

Jim: What was it, about four or five planes or a really big plane or?

Harned: Well, see, we'd sent over a—

Jim: The equipment.

Harned: A hundred and twenty—yeah, the equipment all went over by ship. Okay. We had to load our stuff on flatcars the way, you know. The head of Veterans Affairs—Secretary of the Veterans Affairs right now is Colonel Boland, Ray Boland—

Jim: Oh, I know Ray.

Harned: And Ray was my boss. He was head of Fort McCoy while I was up there.

Jim: Oh, okay.

Harned: And then after all this came up, and he had been secretary for one year, then I was appointed to the Board of Veteran Affairs and served for six years on that later on, see, so Ray and I know each other from way back. So anyway—so then we arrived in Saudi Arabia in January, and then we went to what we call Al-Khobar, and this was a big complex **[End of Tape 1, Side A]** that the Arabs had built for their people when they would—the nomads would come in, but they never used it. They'd always put their tents up in front, and so forth. We were stationed there—I was only there for two days. My other unit was out on the pier where they were getting ready to go up north. Then I went with my XO, my first sergeant, and my driver, and we went north to find a site for the hospital, and we finally found this place. It was, oh, about half an hour north of Al-Habatin(??). And that was just off of—oh, maybe ten miles off of Tapline [Trans-Arabian Pipeline] Road. And we were—

Jim: In Saudi Arabia or in Iraq?

Harned: This is in Saudi Arabia. This is in Saudi Arabia. And we were way north—way north of Kuwait. They put us way out there. Where we were, we were 25 miles from the border. And he could have come marching down through there, and we were the only thing—only unit there, between Hussein and KKMC, which is King Khalid's Military City, which is a big marshalling area. We were right out in the middle of the desert. Then our hospital—

[Approx. 15 sec. gap on tape]

Harned: You know doctors, you asked me, did we have a full complement, but they filled us up. I mean, we got Regular Army personnel for the help where we were lacking in our operating room, in our wards and so forth, and then we had a full complement of doctors. Including myself, we had six orthopedic surgeons.

Jim: Oh, my.

Harned: We had three or four surgeons. We had a chest surgeon. We had a neurosurgeon. We had a OBGYN man. And after the war, the busiest guy in our hospital was our OBGYN guy. [Jim laughs] We should have had more than one [laughs]. So anyway, so then we set up our hospital, we were all—had everything all ready to go. I used to travel at least—sometimes twice a day down to my headquarters which was the 332nd Medical Brigade. We had a one-star general down there who was a doctor.

- Jim: For what purpose?
- Harned: Orders. We always met down there once a day to hear briefings, and so forth. Then the air war started.
- Jim: Then you started receiving some casualties?
- Harned: No. We didn't get any casualties from the air war at all. And then the ground war—actually, the ground war ended today, I think, or yesterday when Kuwait was officially—well, Kuwait was officially relieved—I mean, they'd driven the Iraqis out. I think the—I think it started on the 10th of February, the ground war. And prior to that, that last briefing we had—right, I was—our unit was with the 7th Corps. 7th Corps was under the command of General Franks. We had the 18th Corps and the 7th Corps. Each Corps had five MASHs [Mobile Army Surgical Hospitals], five combat support hospitals, five evac hospitals. So we had 400, 600—we had over 600 beds for casualty. And we were told prior to ground war they had no idea what was going to happen, but we could expect 5,000 casualties a day. Which was terrible [laughs]. Fortunately, that didn't happen.
- Jim: I was going to say, you'd never have had—you'd have been swallowed up.
- Harned: We didn't have any way of evacuating them out. As commanders, that was our big problem. Like, we were told we were going to have an ambulance company with us; we never got it.
- Jim: You never saw one?
- Harned: We were told we were going to have an MP outfit that was to protect us; we never saw them, you know. And it would have been a mess. It really would have. But fortunately, we only had 47 real casualties, 23 ours and 24 theirs. And the MASHs—one MASH went with a division. They did get unboxed, but nobody else—the casualty, combat support hospitals—they never—
- Jim: They didn't open their—
- Harned: They never opened their stuff because the thing went so fast, and so they just—and the helicopters then just brought all the casualties back to the—
- Jim: [unintelligible]
- Harned: Yeah. So we had five to our hospitals.

- Jim: I talked to Helen Gurkow. You know her.
- Harned: Oh, Hel was in my unit. Yeah, oh, yeah.
- Jim: I know that, and she said they'd just send—the big stuff just went to Germany. So they never really had a chance to do a lot of—
- Harned: Yeah. It was—yeah. We would—as I said, everything was so close that we came back, and then, of course, when the war ended Ramadan started, and our kids couldn't get off the base. And the doctors got all upset because we were just sitting around there [laughs], and we didn't get home until almost the end of April.
- Jim: You sat there doing absolutely nothing.
- Harned: Absolutely nothing. We tried to have games and softball things—
- Jim: You get tired of that pretty—
- Harned: Oh, it was bad. Yeah, it was bad.
- Jim: And you couldn't drink, either?
- Harned: Well, we weren't supposed to. General Order #1 was that there'd be no liquor, no pornography, and no guns.
- Jim: So how'd you get around all those three?
- Harned: Well, they could—these little boxes that had the saltine crackers, you could take the crackers out, and you'd put in two little ponies of beer. You know, the small beer thing.
- Jim: Oh, yeah.
- Harned: Fit just perfectly. And you could mail those through.
- Jim: That was good.
- Harned: [Laughs] We had a—I couldn't find the original thing [sound of paper rustling], but we had a reporter that was there with us, that came through from the Readers' Digest, and he wrote an article about us. It's called "Those That Were There," and there's yours truly [laughs]. That's how I looked [laughs very hard].
- Jim: That's not one of your better pictures, huh?

Harned: Hey, how about that, huh?

Jim: That's nice.

Harned: Yeah.

Jim: Let me hold that up so I can see it.

Harned: [laughs] [pause] That was the—I have the original copy—

Jim: It's big type, what is it?

Harned: Well, that was for people that—

Jim: Can't see.

Harned: Too well. So they sent one to my dad, who was having problems at that time.

Jim: Ah, I see.

Harned: I've got the real one, yeah. They picked five soldiers and wrote the story about us there, which is—

Jim: That's awfully nice.

Harned: Kind of interesting, yeah.

Jim: Sure.

Harned: So then—

Jim: Now wait a minute. Tell me about living in the desert.

Harned: Well, I had done that before, now. Remember, when I was in the American Field Service, and so we had been through—

Jim: But you weren't worried about the equipment like you were now?

Harned: Oh, that's true.

Jim: Tell me about the sand.

Harned: The sand is, you know—that was the one thing. The sand it was ex—it was hard, hard sand. I mean, you could ride all over the place. I mean,

that was one of the things that they were worried about with our heavy tanks, our M1s, Abrams, that they would sink in the sand.

Jim: [Laughs]

Harned: They didn't have to worry about that. Yeah. There were no signposts there. I mean, you just can't—all you—you could see forever, and it's just—

Jim: Nothing.

Harned: Nothing. I mean, here'd be this ribbon of asphalt that was Tapline Road, and that was the main road from Dhahran up to where we were, and you know, of course, tanks—the big thrust, the big ground war, you know, they called it the end-around. Well, they came around us. I mean, we were that far north. And that was the 3rd AD [armored division] and 1st AD that went around. It was just fantastic to see all that equipment. We lived on MREs [Meal, Ready-to-Eat], and as Robin Williams in his movie Vietnam [*Good Morning, Vietnam*], you know.

Jim: Mm-hmm.

Harned: Meals Ready to Excrete.

Jim: [laughs]

Harned: And they weren't all that bad [laughs], but they were pretty—but we ate well, we had—

Jim: They're supposed to be better than K-rations.

Harned: Oh, yeah. K-rations or C-rations. You remember those, yeah. We ate well. We had a—it was good.

Jim: The sand didn't get in your food?

Harned: No. Uh-uh. We didn't have 'til—it was the day before we were to leave. We had most of the stuff—we had the big hospital down. We had what they call a shamal—it was a horrible sandstorm. And if you've never—I've been through one before. But you could see this thing coming. It was just a—

Jim: Cloud of dust.

Harned: Big black. And it was just slowly moving toward you, you know. And then this thing hits, and it just drives sand everywhere. I mean, it gets—

- Jim: And how windy is that? I've never—
- Harned: Well, the wind was about like what it was yesterday.
- Jim: You mean 30-40 mile an hour—
- Harned: That's correct.
- Jim: So it would pinch your skin and—
- Harned: Absolutely. I mean, we—the best thing to do, is just to sit with your back to it. We had special stuff we'd wrap around our faces you know, and so forth.
- Jim: Just like the Arabs(??).
- Harned: Yeah. And—
- Jim: How did you protect the X-ray equipment?
- Harned: Well, I said everything was packed by then.
- Jim: Oh.
- Harned: Yeah. But when this thing hit, we didn't have any problem. It was interesting, when we first got over there in January, when we set up it was cold. We had frost; the water in the washbasins every morning were frozen. It was cold. And then, all of a sudden, it started to warm up. The last week that we were there, it was temperatures—every day 130, and we'd get down to 100 at night, but dry heat. Extremely dry heat. And we'd walk, do our exercises, you know. Drink about three or four of those bottled waters and then walk about four times around the camp.
- Jim: How did you get your water?
- Harned: They mostly would—well, that was interesting, too. Where we were, there was a well, on the other side of the Tapline Road. So they put us there particularly because we knew we could have water there. And so, they piped it over to us. We had all the water we wanted, yeah.
- Jim: Gee.
- Harned: That's right. And it was—in fact—

- Jim: I talked to Steve Oreck, you know, and he was, you know, at a Marine camp(??).
- Harned: Yeah. Right.
- Jim: And they had—they tanked it in.
- Harned: Yeah, well, we did too. We tanked, but this was primarily for the hospital. You know, we had to have water, you know, to run a hospital. And then they had bottled water, too. I mean they had just tons of these huge cases of bottled water that came in. So we did. When the war was over, as I said, the guys were just going crazy because they couldn't get into town to spend their money and buy stuff so, I thought, well, gee whiz, I can get off base. So I went into Hafar Al-Batin, and I checked with their mayor to see if they had somebody that might be able to come out with stuff out to the—up to the base. And he said, "Come back the next day, and I think I'll have the guy for you." So, came back the next day and they had the equivalent of Crazy Eddie or whoever it was. You know that guy who used to be on television for American. He took me over to his warehouse [laughs], and you never saw such stuff in your life. He had everything. So he said, "Well let me come up to your base." This was all through interpreters. So, he was driving a—the latest Mercedes, and so, here, he's an Arab, I'm a bird colonel in full uniform, and we're driving up Tapline Road and we get stopped at a checkpoint, which they check all Arabs, see—
- Jim: [unintelligible]
- Harned: Military cars, no problem, see. But this a civilian—it was a Mercedes. So the MP comes over, he looks at the Arab, and he looks at me [laughs]. He just about drops, you know. Snaps to, and everything, and he wanted to know what we were doing, and I told him exactly, and, "Well," he said, "if you'll vouch for it." Okay. So then we drive up to the hospital. He looks the place over, and we told him we could give him a tent that's air conditioned, and that's fine. So he said, yes, he'll do it. So, he brought up truck loads of stuff. I bet he sold \$10,000 worth of equipment up there. We had troops from other areas—
- Jim: What kind of stuff?
- Harned: Well, like costumes, you know, like they wear. Saddleba—it's little somethings—
- Jim: [unintelligible] stuff?

- Harned: And gold. Gold. You know, gold is very plentiful over there. Gold bracelets, gold earrings, and so forth. Tea sets. You know, the fancy Arab tea sets and so forth. And he didn't have a cash register or anything. He just had a drawer. And he'd just throw all this money into the drawer, you know, and take it up and take everything.
- Jim: You could pay for it with American money?
- Harned: American money. That's right. Yeah. So, he was—he did well.
- Jim: I'm sure.
- Harned: He did well. Another—
- Jim: That relieved the tension.
- Harned: Another interesting sideline, another little interesting story was that we didn't have any X-ray film, or not enough. We've heard that a British hospital had plenty of X-ray film, and we also heard that the commander liked our MREs, so we loaded up. We thought we knew where it was, and we started down to find this British hospital, and we came to a point where it said—just an arrow, like this, to the 33rd General British Hospital, so, nothing else. We couldn't see anything, so we just started driving with a compass in that direction. And after about four or five miles we saw a British flag, and I said, "Ah-ha, this is where we are." So we pulled into this compound. Right away we knew this was not a hospital, and it happened to be a prisoner of war camp. And as we came into this compound to where the guard was—and he—he was a Scotsman, all dressed in kilt, you know, and everything. So he stops us, and he comes out and gives us the old salute and so forth, and I said, "I know we're in the wrong place. We're looking for a British hospital, but can you tell—give us directions how to get to the British hospital?" For the next five minutes he was talking to us and I could not understand a word he said. I have never heard such a Scottish brogue in my life, and finally—everybody—we got laughing, you know. Finally, I said, "Okay. Stop. Stop. Stop." And I said, "We're not laughing at you." I said, "I apologize." I said, "We both speak English, but," I said, "I have no idea what you're telling me" [laughs]. I said, "Just point us in the right direction," which he did. And we thanked him, and we went out. We found the hospital, and we had a chance to take a tour of the hospital and see how they did things differently than what we did. It was kind of interesting. And we traded MREs for X-ray film, and we came back with plenty of X-ray film. So it saved our souls for a little while till we could get equipment up there. And then we finally got the word that we were going to leave—oh, I might add that here we had all of this tentage, and the sand—you asked me how to—how was life in the sand—just

absolutely ruined it. We had inspectors that would come out, and they would pinch the tent. You know, take the canvas. And then they would try to tear it, and if it tore, we couldn't take it home. We only took two tents back with us [laughs], of all the tentage that we had.

Jim: How would the sand ruin the canvas? [rustling sound]

Harned: Just—just by—

Jim: Tear it apart.

Harned: Tear it apart, yeah. Here was—here was a—here's the way we were—this is a photograph, area photograph, of our—of our unit.

Jim: See if I can get that picture—

Harned: I don't know if you can.

Jim: It's gonna—just sort of tip it up like that so it's not reflecting light. [Approx. 10 second pause] Okay. And there, now. Now point out whatever you have to point out.

Harned: Okay. This is—

Jim: Just the bottom part now.

Harned: This is our unit. This was the living quarters. This is the hospital proper, right here. And this was our headquarters area.

Jim: Now move your finger away so you can see—

Harned: Yeah, and this was my tent right there.

Jim: Okay. Now let's keep it so it's—

Harned: And this was where they—this was the landing strip where they landed the helicopters. And they came—and this is a berm. It went around the whole area. And they would evac the patients off the helicopters here, and then they'd go through triage here, and then into the main hospital here.

Jim: Those are Quonsets?

Harned: No. Those are all tents.

Jim: Those are tents. Big tents.

- Harned: We had no Quonsets. I mean, they were all—that was all tentage, yeah.
- Jim: Okay. All right.
- Harned: Uh-uh. [scraping sound] Just for your own information, this shows—like, here's the helicopter pad, you know, where you'd come in. Here was my tent right here. Then here are the wards, and the EMT, and this was—they'd come in through—here's the OR section. And we had four operating rooms on either side. It was a well, well run, well organized—at one time we had—we gave life support to 700 people. We had a CID unit with us, and we had a human resources unit with us. And everybody just wanted our—loved our area. General Franks—
- Jim: I see you called it Camp Badger.
- Harned: Yeah, that's right. That's right.
- Jim: That's your idea, I'm sure(??).
- Harned: Yeah. Camp Badger. Oh, an interesting thing. We were not allowed to fly the American flag 'til after the war. So the only flag we flew was the state flag.
- Jim: [laughs] Oh, that's cute.
- Harned: Yeah. [sound of pages flipping] Oh, here. There I am standing in front of our ATAC(??), see, and there's the Wisconsin Badgers flag and then the state flag above that, see. And here, this was the command group. Here's my XO, myself, my first sergeant, and she was our tech that we had with us. And it—
- Jim: Do you keep track of all these people now? Are you seeing—?
- Harned: There are three of us that meet every morning for coffee at McDonalds up on Northport Road, and I usually walk from my house over there, so it's two miles, and then walk back, which is four miles. We just recently had a reunion of Tent 1, Row 1, which was a bunch of doctors—elderly doctors. Well, Jed Engeler was with me. You remember Jed, don't you? Jed Engeler. He was my surgical chief. So we had a reunion, such as that. We get together—our club was called the—senior moment here—Black Cat Club. It was the Black Cat Club. And we get together every other summer, as many that can come.
- Jim: And the enlisted personnel, do you ever—are they—?
- Harned: Oh, they're invited to this too. I mean, the Black Cat Club is open—

Jim: Do a lot of them—

Harned: A lot them come, yes. Well, yes there are quite a few that are around here. Yeah. So it's—

Jim: Now tell me about the 13th Evac. Was that just created in this—recent times?

Harned: Oh, no. 13th Evac goes way back. It goes back to World War I and World War II. And then—

Jim: And then they're attached to the 32nd Division?

Harned: Now, that I don't know. I don't know the whole history on that—

Jim: I remember that when World War II started, the 44th General was—

Harned: Well, that was a Reserve unit, though. Now this is Guard. See, there's a difference.

Jim: Oh, okay. That's the difference.

Harned: Hootie Weston was the commander of the 44th. Yeah.

Jim: He and Weschler.

Harned: That's correct. But that was a reserve unit. Now they were mobilized, too. But they went to Germany.

Jim: Yeah, they went early.

Harned: Well, they weren't mobilized until November. So they went just—maybe they got to Germany before we got to Saudi, but they were in Germany.

Jim: I was saying in World War II, I remember they were—

Harned: Oh, World War II. Yes, they were—

Jim: They were always down in Louisiana doing maneuvers.

Harned: Right. This is right.

Jim: And then they went over to Australia.

Harned: That's correct.

Jim: But then there was another unit from Wisconsin General, the 135th. That was another unit with another bunch of doctors.

Harned: Now was that an ambulance unit?

Jim: No, no, a whole bunch of physicians. A lot of people—more people from Wisconsin were in that than in the 44th.

Harned: Oh, really. Now that one—but the 13th Evac has been around for a long time. And now, you know, they downsized. They took away all of the supply units from the National Guard and gave them to the Reserves, so we're down, now, to what we call the 13th DEPMED, which is just a very small—I think there's less than a hundred people in it—and they have doctors, and they just go out and do physicals.

Jim: Sure.

Harned: Yeah. Which is what they were. So, after we came back—we came back in April of '91. And then I got promoted to brigadier, and then they kicked me out in '92.

Jim: Just retired by age.

Harned: Yep.

Jim: Who took your spot?

Harned: I was the—they don't—

Jim: Your spot was eliminated.

Harned: That's right. When we lost over the—General Franks came up to our unit many, many times to see us. He came up there at least five or six times. He sort of enjoyed our unit. One of the things, he came up shortly after we had our first casualties. We had the—the first bunch of casualties we had were mostly amputees. From stepping on mines, you know. And after he toured the hospital with me, he came out and he said, "Colonel Harned," he said, "I have a suggestion to make." And I said, "Yes, sir, General." He said, "Keep your amputees together. Don't separate them." Because he said—now he was an amputee, too. He lost his lower leg in Korea. And he said, "Nobody knows what it's like to lose an arm or a leg unless it's another amputee." So he said, "Don't separate 'em. Keep 'em together." Which we did from then on, and which I thought was very—

- Jim: So you only had 46 casualties and had a bunch of them that were amputees?
- Harned: Yeah. Then he and Clancy wrote a book. It's called *Into the Storm*. And he doesn't mention me by name, but when he talks about the supply units, he said that there was one 65-year-old orthopedic surgeon who ran a 13th Evac hospital, you know, who had been in World War II and Korea, you know, and so forth, which was kind of interesting. And I got to know him real well. He was just a super guy. But he didn't get along very well with Schwarzkopf. I mean, there were some problems there. But it worked out. But all in all, it was a very interesting experience. I think the kids didn't realize that we were in harm's way because everything happened so fast and nothing really did, and I feel—I just—lots of times we were sitting around reminiscing or talking and just to let them know what danger they were in that it would have been nice to have an artillery shell far enough away so nobody got hurt just so they would know that we were in harm's way. But a lot of them just thought this was sort of a picnic, you know, like a prolonged two weeks. But anyway, that's getting—
- Jim: You know Steve Oreck, I assume. He's an orthopod with the University.
- Harned: Yes, I know who he is. Yeah, yeah.
- Jim: He still is active in the Reserves.
- Harned: Oh, yeah.
- Jim: Naval Reserves.
- Harned: Naval, that would [unintelligible].
- Jim: Every month he goes to San Diego.
- Harned: That's good duty.
- Jim: One weekend a month.
- Harned: Oh, he does.
- Jim: Flies there. Right.
- Harned: My gosh.
- Jim: Wow. He's really into it.

- Harned: Yeah. Well, I don't know, did you ever know John Olson? He was with Coast Guard. And he was—what was he—he was a coach here, and then he got into the school system, and he finally ended up by being appliance(??)—he did all of the organizations. He got real high in the school. And he was captain in the Coast Guard, and they were mobilized, and they were sent over, and they were stationed outside of—in Bahrain. And he kept coming over to the pier where my first contingent that went over there, you know, “So when's Lew coming?” you know. And I never did get to see him, but that's kind of too bad.
- Jim: Where's he now?
- Harned: He's here in Madison. Yeah. He just retired, yeah.
- Jim: Was he in the Coast Guard long?
- Harned: Oh, yeah. Well, to be a captain you had to be in for a long, long time.
- Jim: I should probably interview him.
- Harned: Yeah, oh, he would be a good one, yes.
- Jim: John Olson.
- Harned: John Olson, yeah.
- Jim: There must be about a dozen in the phone book. What address would you suggest?
- Harned: Gee. I tell you what. You could call the school board, or the administration. Call the school administration, and they could tell you, they'll tell you.
- Jim: Madison?
- Harned: Yeah. Madison School System. And they can tell you where John Olson—yeah. He was a super guy.
- Jim: Where's he living?
- Harned: He lives here in Madison.
- Jim: West side? East side?
- Harned: I don't know. I don't know anything about that.

- Jim: Okay. All right. Is there anything you forgot to tell me?
- Harned: Oh, I suppose there's things that [laughs] just for your own—
- Jim: Schwarzkopf never showed up did he?
- Harned: No, never did see—he never left down there. This is a picture of the type of ambulance that we drove. And there's a picture of the Abbey after they restored it. Sally and I went back to Rome two years ago, and we rented a car and went down to Cassino, and of course it's so big and grown that I didn't recognize anything. But I never got up to the Abbey, and of course, we rebuilt it, so—
- Jim: At enormous expense.
- Harned: I had a chance—at our expense, yes. So I had a chance to go up there and visit the—this is how [laughs] we looked. There's Lowell Messerschmidt right there. And this was after the attack that we had that just riddled the back of my ambulance. This is a scene—it's kind of a bad picture—but it's a scene of just before you'd get to go up the hill up to go up to the Abbey. That's the first time we had Cokes; we got Coke one time down there. Yeah, it was kind of fun. [laughs] It was quite an experience, I'll tell you. This was our 8th Army patch.
- Jim: Oh, I see. This the shoulder patch?
- Harned: Should patch, yeah. Uh-huh.
- Jim: That's the 8th Army?
- Harned: Yeah.
- Jim: That's it?(??)
- Harned: Yep.
- Jim: All right. I can keep copies?
- Harned: You can keep those. You bet. Yeah. They just tell all of the—oh [laughs], I'll tell you another little sideline.
- Jim: Sure.
- Harned: I had the opportunity to—this was—when was this? This was before we were—so it had to be either in '89 or '90. We were invited to Australia. The 32nd Division. And what was left of it, what they wanted, the only

thing we had was the band. Okay. The 1—what is it? The 128th US Army Band—or, National Guard Army Band. So we sent the band over. I got a chance to go as the medical support.

Jim: Oh, my.

Harned: So we flew from Madison. We stopped at Minot, North Dakota, picked up another band that was there. And then we flew to San Francisco, and we got onboard a C-141. And then we flew from there to Hawaii, and we had to stay overnight in Hawaii. And then we flew from there to Pago Pago, and we fueled at Pago Pago, and then we flew to Sydney, and then we flew to Melbourne. And that's where we were stationed, and where we stayed. We were over there for about 10 days. And oh, they just loved us. We would give concerts, you know.

Jim: Oh, I'll bet.

Harned: And go around. So here I am, I was awarded three British—it's all in there—medals. The Battalion Star, the British Star, and the British Campaign medal. So here I am, I'm wearing my medals, you know, my ribbons, on my uniform.

Jim: Sure.

Harned: So we go down to see the British brigadier in Melbourne that runs the whole outfit there. So we had to, you know, go through all the rigmarole of getting passes and everything. So we finally drive into the compound and we park the car, and I'm standing by the side of the car, and all the sudden a British sergeant major comes up. You know, the swagger stick and the shorts, and he comes up, you know, and he comes right up to me, and he clicks his heels together, and he gives me—he says, "Colonel, sir. I have to inform you, sir, that you are wearing your British decorations incorrectly, sir." I says, "Geez, you know, I didn't know that." Well, then I realized what he was talking about. All our ribbons are the same on each end. You know, there's no difference.

Jim: Americans.

Harned: Americans. The British have a ribbon that is a different color on one end than it is on the other end. And that was the one that I had on incorrectly.

Jim: You mean backwards?

Harned: Well, I guess it was. So he said, "Sir, where are you going?" And I said we were going to have a meeting with the brigadier. And he said, "Sir, I

will draw you a diagram and see that you will then wear your ribbons correctly." I said, "Yes, sir. Thank you."

Jim: [unintelligible]

Harned: And he did, and I did. I just had to reverse it, you know. Yeah. It was just kind of interesting. But he spotted that right away.

Jim: Boy! Amazing.

Harned: And then we were giving a concert, and we marched into this base, and after the break, and we would always give a plaque to the commander or somebody like that, and then a British lieutenant came up to me, and he was in civilian clothes, and he said, "You know, I noticed you have British decorations," and he said, "Tell me a little bit about it," and so forth. So I had a conversation with him, and I said, "You know," I said, "I don't have the miniatures for these. Do you suppose you might be able to get me the miniatures?" And he said, "Yeah, I think I can." And sure enough he did. So I got the three miniatures.

Jim: Boy, that was nice.

Harned: Wasn't that nice? So then I wear those on my messy dressy, you know.

Jim: Great. Oh, neat.

Harned: There's all sorts of—

Jim: Terrific.

Harned: Yeah. Well, it's good.

Jim: Okay. Thank you.

Harned: All right. You bet. You betcha.

Jim: I appreciate it.

[End of Interview]