

Video Recording Log
Veteran Delbert Augsburger

Name of Interviewer: James Meadows

Name of Veteran: Delbert Augsburger

Birth Date: 03/29/1923

Recording format

VIDEO type: Mini DVD

Estimated length of recording (in minutes): 93 minutes **Date of recording:** 07/23/2007

Location of recording: 207 N. Jackson, Flanagan, IL, 61740

Recording log:

00:00:40 Growing up
00:01:25 Mennonite Church and family
00:02:14 Mother's death
00:02:53 Working: farms, plumbing, hardware store
00:03:12 Farm Hand deferment
00:04:43 Brother takes over farm deferment
00:04:57 Brothers drafted into service
00:05:15 Older brother: Conscientious Objector, later joins service, sent to Philippines
00:08:00 Community discussions about Conscientious Objection and Bible
00:08:30 Reflection on Jesus parable, "Render unto Caesar," do what government says
00:09:30 Wanting to fly airplanes as a boy
00:11:00 Talking to peers about war
00:11:50 Conscientious Objectors
00:13:00 Mennonite church and other churches in community
00:14:00 Rejoining Mennonite church after the War
00:14:25 Methodist Wife, joining Methodist Church
00:15:45 Barracks in Saint Louis
00:16:15 "Kill or be killed," equality of Combat and No Combat veterans
00:18:00 Gunnery school
00:18:15 Basic Training, testing
00:19:50 Gunnery training, target training, ball turret, getting sick in oxygen masks
00:21:20 Ball turret gunner training
00:22:00 Forming crew in Las Vegas
00:22:30 Planes, guns, Plexiglas ball turret, flying, camera sights
00:23:50 Training with cameras
00:24:40 Flying, Ball turret, no room for parachute in Ball
00:26:50 Gunnery training, basic training, first mission Fall of 1944, training
00:29:30 Boat to Europe
00:30:30 More fighter protection as war went on

00:32:15 Stationed in Bassingbourn, England
 00:32:35 Crew
 00:34:30 Lost navigator during mission, experiences in Ball, P-51, miscommunication, trouble getting back to base, parachute, bailing
 00:36:45 Training and protocol on bailing, turning oneself in to German army, P.O.W.
 00:37:30 German civilians' hostility towards American soldiers
 00:38:25 B 17's, number shot down during war, P.O.W.
 00:39:00 Experiences in planes, anti-aircraft shells, bombs, flying, spinning the Ball if there was flack
 00:40:52 First mission, anti-aircraft fire, see the black smoke in air
 00:42:00 Crew, experiences in Ball, hearing about mission on intercom
 00:42:50 Flight crews at beginning of war would fly until shot down; Later, crews flying 25 missions only; Flew 23 missions, out early because of ear problems
 00:44:00 Waiting for discharge
 00:44:30 Correspondence with girlfriend and family, family following war at home
 00:46:45 Morning briefings and raids, fly 3 days and get 1 day off
 00:48:30 Getting into formation to fly across Channel
 00:49:30 France
 00:49:45 Germany
 00:50:30 Bombing
 00:51:00 Protection from fighter planes
 00:52:00 First Jet Insurgents
 00:52:30 Anti-aircraft
 00:53:00 Berlin Anti-aircraft
 00:53:30 Berlin civilian casualties
 00:54:15 Missions
 00:54:15 London, clubs, girlfriend in London from Malaysia
 00:56:25 Girlfriend in U.S., now wife
 00:57:00 Back to hardware store after war
 00:57:30 Talking to Germans that immigrated to America after war
 00:59:30 Englishmen
 01:01:00 Playing cards
 01:01:45 Evolution of airplane design
 01:02:10 Pope Benedict in Hitler Youth
 01:03:00 B 17's, B 24's
 01:04:00 Brothers in war in the Pacific, Africa
 01:05:45 Hardware store
 01:06:15 Schooling after war
 01:06:30 Owning own business
 01:07:15 Sons and Vietnam; Son's death
 01:09:15 Views on Vietnam, communism
 01:10:10 Cold War, bomb shelters, community concern
 01:11:15 Trying times in America now
 01:12:00 Holocaust, didn't know until after war
 01:12:45 Veterans' Associations after war
 01:14:00 Memories now

01:15:30 Personal faith and religion
01:16:00 Battle of the Bulge, “nickel mission,” throwing tin out of plane, Christmas
01:19:15 Crew
01:20:35 Crew reunions
01:21:15 Veteran friends
01:22:00 London, bombings, trolleys
01:23:30 War now, Americans don’t realize serious threats
01:24:00 Hometown affected by war: casualties, rationing, cars in 1940’s
01:27:00 Brothers during war
01:28:30 Brothers now
01:30:00 Proud to be a veteran; thoughts on experiences now, American Dream