

Video Recording Log
Veteran Harold Cox

Name of Interviewer: Tom Rogers

Name of Veteran/Civilian: Harold Cox

Birth Date: 05/04/1920

Recording format: Mini DVD

Estimated length of recording (in minutes): 39 minutes **Date of recording:** 11/08/2007

Location of recording: Hoopeston Public Library, 110 N. Fourth St., Hoopeston, IL 60942
Recording log:

- 00:05 Introduction
- 00:29 Working in Chicago, foreman of machine shop; married June 1941
- 00:50 Brother in service
- 01:00 Supervising, firing people
- 01:29 Manufacturing military equipment: presses for 50-caliber machine gun bullets, presses for 105 nose, improving manufacturing techniques; steam hydraulics sent to Europe; describing shop, machines
- 03:20 Deferred out of military because of position as foreman, company wanted him to stay; wanted to go into military: went home, 30 days vacation, set up wife's accommodations, enlisted Spring 1944
- 03:57 Deciding to go because brother was in the service, a lot of pressure being foreman, only one day off every 2nd Sunday for 4 years
- 04:23 Made and saved a lot of money as foreman
- 04:37 Sent wife \$70 a month
- 04:47 Experiences as foreman: injuries, people not listening to orders
- 05:28 Experiences as foreman, "turn a casting," 2 50-ton cranes
- 06:20 Enlisting, Chicago, IL
- 07:08 Son's birth
- 07:25 Shipped to Camp Fannin in Tyler, TX: trained as pioneer with cooks, shelvees, clerks; experiences in TX, all in unit were "going down the hill," infantry

08:53 "Sent us out on the range," rifle practice, mortar practice; equipment: machine guns, hand guns; "above the hill"

09:26 Experiences shooting on range

10:09 Training, "below the hill"

10:38 Shipped out on Queen Mary to England, Mickey Rooney on ship playing craps; voyage

11:25 Landing in England

11:27 One day on range

11:42 Transportation across Channel

12:09 Across Channel

12:20 Camp, experiences: tent with 4 inches of water in it, 1944

13:03 Army trucks to Paris, France

13:20 Experience in trucks: standing room only

13:39 One night in Paris; sent North for 7 days, saw soldiers stacked along the road 3-deep; lost Lieutenants, BAR men

14:14 Picked up and returned to Paris, dog tags

14:23 Paris, France, one day of rest

14:27 Sent South for 7 days

14:35 Third mission, private plane out strafing; no contact for 7 days, checking out enemy location

15:12 Hit by mortar December 1, 1944 in Germany

15:30 Paris, France

15:58 Standing guard at dam overnight; firing across river in the hills

16:50 Hit by mortar: no activity that day, just happened; put belt around leg and passed out; hospital

18:34 Blood transfusion from German prisoner

18:45 Gangrene in hip

18:49 Second blood transfusion

19:00 Medication, experiences, fed through vein for 30 days

19:13 Taken to hospital in England to be flown home

19:26 Lost 70-80 pounds

19:37 Sent home on Liberty ship, 12 day voyage

20:06 Experiences on ship

20:40 Experiences in hospital: amputated at knee 1st night, amputated higher 2nd night

21:10 Gangrene: from being on the street near livestock

21:28 Action unit saw, other people's injuries

22:19 Not talking about war, injuries; lost a lot of men; 379th Patton's 3rd Army

22:42 Daily life: kept moving all the time, not a lot going on, sometimes capture German prisoner

23:30 Did not take enemy fire after 1st mission

23:54 Front lines

24:18 Prisoners, walking in one at a time

24:51 Kept moving

25:07 Last trip out: Russian prisoners locked in barricades

26:34 Food: K rations, dried food

27:15 No information about rest of the war, "Spearheaders of the Bulge"

27:50 Knew nothing about Battle of the Bulge until later

28:00 Voyage home; flew to Battle Creek, MI; in hospital there for 6 months

28:56 Back and forth from Hoopston, IL to Battle Creek, MI

29:06 Experiences at VA hospital

29:25 Not talking to others; in room with 30 others, men in bad shape, missing limbs, paralyzed

30:26 Artificial leg

30:50 Working in Township with GI Loans; working at Department of Revenue

31:08 Artificial leg complications, 3 hospital stays; artificial legs: one wood, one plastic and adjustable; required to wear to work for state, deciding to stop wearing artificial leg, lawyer

32:24 Crutches since 1950

32:42 Thinking about War now

33:12 Treated well by VA, good service

- 33:19 Fell and hurt tailbone recently, nurse visits every 2 weeks
- 33:40 Going to VA since 1982; retiring from insurance business; fell and hurt arm
- 35:25 Choice to go to War, cousins killed in battle, traveling
- 35:56 Reflections, choosing not to talk about War with others, “don’t discuss it,” “it’s done, it’s over, forget it;” this is first time talking about experiences openly
- 37:22 False report of him having an accident in a Jeep
- 37:47 Wrap-up