

Video Recording Log

Veteran Jim Hull

Name of Interviewer: Nancy Rotzoll

Name of Veteran/Civilian: James Edward Hull

Birth Date: 10/13/1920

Recording format: Mini DVD

Estimated length of recording (in minutes): 30 **Date of recording:** 02/20/2008

Location of recording: WILL AM-FM-TV, 300 N. Goodwin Ave, Urbana, IL 61801

Recording log:

00:20 In Galion, OH when war started—21—working at industrial plant
01:13 Drafted, September, 1942—inducted in Cleveland, OH
01:30 Train to El Paso, TX—basic training—25-mile hikes—Coast Guard Artillery
02:00 Fort Bliss, TX, 2 weeks—promoted Private First Class—trained men in drilling
02:35 After 12 weeks—promoted to Corporeal
02:39 Went to Fort Knox, KY—became part of 453rd Automatic Weapons Battalion
02:53 2 ½ ton trucks to pull 40 mm guns
03:00 Part of B Battery—battalion had Headquarters, A, B, C, D batteries
03:16 Picked up half-track with 50-caliber machine guns
03:41 Went to Camp Stewart, GA—pup tents, snakes, alligators, wild hogs
04:10 Training—Tennessee maneuvers—made Active Sergeant over gun crew of 15 men
04:28 In Fort Knox, TN—got electronic equipment to guide gun with generator
04:54 Digging holes for 40 mm gun
05:20 From North Carolina to the Atlantic Ocean
05:30 Gun crew—lead plane—vertical online—firing
06:10 Fort Dix, NJ to England
06:20 Artillery mechanic—allowed on deck
06:40 Boat tipped over in storm
06:51 February, 1944 traveled to Liverpool, England
07:09 Went to [indiscernible: “Black Shemore?”], England—had round huts to sleep in—practiced gunnery
07:35 Invasion, June 6th—moved to Yeovil, by South Hampton, England—had to waterproof guns for D-Day
07:50 Did not go in on D-Day because part of artillery—infantry had to go in 1st landing and secure land
08:05 Letter from President Eisenhower [reads letter]
10:49 Reaction of men to letter—did not think anything of it at the time—only one goal: to get Hitler

- 11:08 Infantry went in first—lost 6,000 men—boats had balloons to keep German planes off of them—Germans on mountains
- 12:12 Fortunate to get off of ship onto boat—went in on Omaha Beach
- 12:45 Hedgerows
- 12:55 20 mm guns
- 13:28 Breakthrough at Saint Lo
- 13:45 Liberated the sea port Sherborough—tremendous—his unit part of 1st, 3rd, 9th, 15th Armies—went to wherever the battles were
- 14:19 Attached to Patton—Louvre River, France—Germans had been driven out of Africa, Italy, France—20,000 Germans surrendered there
- 14:50 With Patton at Rhine River
- 15:00 Went North—Archon Force—Hurchid Force—the blood was knee-deep—had to cut down trees to make roads for the trucks
- 15:30 Traveled North, rest period—North again, Germans brought in unit behind them—American green unit holding—Battle of the Bulge—ran green unit out—headed to England, English Channel
- 16:10 Took 83rd Infantry with them—hit Germans in the nose—stopped them
- 16:20 Battle of the Bulge—7 degrees outside—bayonets—found German soldier frozen solid
- 16:50 Friend was killed—took his blanket—remorse
- 17:10 Driving Germans East back to Germany
- 17:20 At Elbe River—83rd Division held river—named it Truman Bridge
- 17:40 Went into Army of Occupation—went into German houses—tried to confiscate guns and equipment—took Nazi flag for souvenir
- 18:48 Went to South France after Occupation—tents—units had to return to U.S.—asked to go back to England
- 19:28 In England—two girls in line for fish and chips—saw girl in line—started dating—said if she wanted to move back to America he would marry her—January, 1947—married in Ohio
- 20:50 Have 4 children—now 9 grandchildren
- 21:15 Went back to France
- 21:22 Discharged at Fort Indiantown Gap, PA December 1945
- 21:35 K Rations [describes and shows to camera]
- 23:28 Battle of the Bulge—carrying M-1 and rations
- 23:45 Has not talked to children or grandchildren about WWII
- 24:09 After war—received letter from President Truman [reads letter]
- 25:10 Looking back—remembers being shot at and strafed—could feel bullet going by his ear
- 25:50 Took him 6 years to make Purple Heart Highway on I-72 interstate
- 26:40 7 medals—Normandy, Brittany, Arden Force, Battle of the Bulge, North Germany, Occupation—one from people of Normandy to those that liberated—certificate of merit for outstanding performance
- 27:40 Gun maintenance and repair—ordinances
- 28:16 When war ended—happy
- 28:25 Family at home—correspondence
- 28:57 Feels satisfied—great accomplishment

29:07 Grateful to WILL for telling his experience—educational purposes

29:38 Wrap-up