

Video Recording Log
Veteran Joseph Hamburg

Name of Interviewer: Brent Cochrane

Name of Veteran/Civilian: Joseph Hamburg

Birth Date: 5/25/1914

Recording format: Mini DVD

Estimated length of recording (in minutes): 62 minutes **Date of recording:** 11/14/2007

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

Recording log:

00:00 Introduction
00:27 Drafted, did not object, wife 5 months pregnant; entered Army in May, 1943
01:40 Lived in Champaign, IL
02:15 Camp Grant, IL—Induction; train to Texas, infantry training
03:25 Camp Walters, TX—largest infantry replacement center
04:08 Tests—listening to sounds, scored high—trained as radio operator as well as infantry rifleman—pleased to get radio training
05:45 Trained as radio operator—Army had special way of teaching, excellent method
06:45 Gun assembling and disassembling, practicing at night; experiences at range—sharpshooter, never had to fire in battle
07:50 29 years old in basic training, training with mostly 18-20-year-old men
08:24 Basic training experiences—hikes, courses
10:40 Earned respect of younger boys
11:35 After training, felt sick, went to see nurse—had pneumonia, stayed in hospital 3 weeks
14:00 On orders to go to Fort Benning, GA for advanced infantry training, removed from orders because of illness—knew people sent there went overseas—Africa campaign
16:15 Promoted P.F.C., assigned to Cadry—taught radio code to trainees
17:10 1st Sergeant promoted him to Corporal—there almost a year
17:38 Orders to go to East Coast to port of embarkation
18:05 Basic training in September—bivouacked—officer told him in middle of the night that his son was born—went to camp to call home, talked to mother-in-law
20:10 Saw son for the first time in January on furlough
20:45 Second furlough delay en route
21:20 Went to England—training—went to France
21:40 From England to France—knew he was going to battle
22:28 Landed on Utah Beach July 14, 1944—beach had been secured—front was 50 miles
23:10 Hearing battle from afar
23:28 Issigny, France—bivouacked near park, not allowed to go into town
24:15 15 miles away from real action—was a free replacement waiting to be assigned, no duties—playing ball, reading newspaper, waiting, preparing self
26:05 First week of August assigned to division

26:50 2nd Division 9th Infantry 3rd Battalion—Headquarters—radio operator
27:10 Felt secure, attached, had a home
27:25 Reported to commander—got to stay as radio operator
28:10 Dangers, experiences
28:45 Headed to front lines, 1st night—wireman gave him SCR 300 radio—had to go to command post—German flare shot up—had to wait until it died to move
30:28 Command was in a house—went to cellar, listened to radio—lots of radio signals
31:25 Standing in the open during the flare—felt exposed
32:10 Issigny, France—40 years later drove by it while in Europe
33:10 First German soldier he saw—prisoner of war, cursing about Eisenhower—humanist sentiment towards German soldiers—no ill feelings
35:00 Hospital ship from Normandy to England, German soldiers received same care as American soldiers—medical department did a good job
35:38 Direct attack—Normandy, France—pulled out of action, put in reserve—U.S.O. sent Dinah Shore to perform
36:50 Normandy, France—transport trucks of 2nd Infantry Division and 29th Infantry Division and battalion of Rangers ordered to Brest, France to capture city held by Germans—digging a foxhole on August 29th with a buddy by a hedgerow
39:40 Germans started to shell—88 mm canons mounted on tanks—M-1 rifles—describing blasts
41:00 Blast hit hedgerow, left arm went numb—shrapnel hit arm in 2 places—fractured ulna and injured nerve
42:15 Surprised when discovered wound
43:00 Went to aid station—only person in communication station wounded at the time
43:45 1st Lieutenant shot in the neck
44:15 Never made it back to outfit
44:25 Respect for medics—tent city, gurney, waited all night for surgery—efficiency, attention
45:45 Operating room in a tent—still in uniform, nurse prepared arm—anesthetic
47:38 Woke up next morning on cot, arm in cast
49:00 Getting ready to go to hospital in England
49:30 Correspondence with family, general hospital in England—there for 3 months—3 more surgeries, physical therapy
50:25 High respect for medical department of Army
50:35 Executive Officer came into ward and awarded him Purple Heart—he could not return the salute because his arm was in a cast
51:30 Rehabilitation centers, interviews
51:45 Replacement Depot in Verviers, Belgium—time of Battle of the Bulge—processing troops—job in classification section
52:25 War ended May 8th—points system for going home
52:45 Last place of assignment—Reims, France—little red school house in which peace agreement was signed—arrived there in September
53:25 Level of points reached 84—sent to another headquarters, then to Marseille, France
53:50 Discharged at Camp Grant, IL
54:08 Saw son, 2 ½ years old
54:30 Visited friends, family, moved to Minneapolis, MN
54:50 Moved back to Champaign, IL

55:05 Returning to normal life
55:35 [Reads aloud his writing about the preparation and planning of D-Day, the D-Day invasion, and the importance of WWII]
59:55 Medics were wonderful
01:00:15 Wrap-up, video of awards and medals