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Fred Abraham oral history interview by Michael Hirsh, April 12, 2008

Fred Abraham (Interviewee)

Michael Hirsh (Interviewer)

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[Transcriber's Note: This interview begins in mid-sentence. The Interviewee's personal information has been removed, at the request of the Interviewer. This omission is indicated with ellipses.]

Fred Abraham: —experience. I was in an infantry outfit. I spoke German fluently and was able to read and write it. So, when we caught prisoners, we could question them right away. And before Dachau, there was a trainload of open boxcars full of dead people, you know. And you could see they had starved to death. When somebody starves to death, you can see it on their bodies. Among the most telling signs is that the belly swells up with water retention, or whatever.

Michael Hirsh: Okay.

FA: The company commander—I forgot his name already. It's been sixty years.

MH: I know; it's a long time.

FA: Sixty years. Oh, what the heck. Edwards, Captain Edwards. Anyway, some guy from the 2nd Platoon goes up to see what the hell kind of a place is this. We don't know. So, when we came to the—but don't get into any firefight or anything, if we can help it.

MH: Right. This is from—was it Bert Edmunds?

FA: Yeah.

MH: Okay. Before I start, could you—what's your birthday?

FA: February 9, 1926.

MH: Okay, and let me just put your name on the tape. Your name is Fred Abraham, A-b-r-a-h-a-m?

FA: Where are you located?

MH: I'm in Punta Gorda, Florida.

FA: Somebody else called me from Florida the other day, who wanted to know.

MH: Um—

FA: It wasn't you, was it?

MH: I might have left a message. I'm not sure.

FA: I don't know.

MH: Okay. So, did you know anything about the camps before you got to Dachau?

FA: Yes, my father in 1938 was in Buchenwald.

MH: Your father was in Buchenwald?

FA: Yeah, for about four weeks. I lived in Germany.

MH: Okay.

FA: I only got out in 1940.

MH: You got out in 1940 and came to the U.S.?

FA: Yes.

MH: Then how did you end up in the Army going back?

FA: I was drafted.

MH: Oh. Were you a citizen?

FA: When I was drafted, no; they made me a citizen in the Army.

MH: Oh, so they made you a citizen before you went over to Germany again?

FA: Yeah.

MH: I see. Your family lived where in Germany?

FA: Different places. The last place was Giessen, Germany.

MH: In Giessen?

FA: Yeah. You ever heard of it?

MH: I have heard of it, because I know some guys who were there. I've interviewed a couple people who were there during the war.

FA: What do you mean, during the war?

MH: They were with the Americans who got to Giessen.

FA: Oh, yeah. Who were in the American Army?

MH: Yes.

FA: Occupation, or what?

MH: No, during the war.

FA: During the war, no, I didn't get near there.

MH: No, you didn't, but other Americans did.

FA: Yeah, different outfit.

MH: Right. How did your father get out of Buchenwald?

FA: They let him out. They let most of them out. They put a lot of Jews into Buchenwald. Some of them died there, some they kept, and some they let out.

MH: When he was in Buchenwald, where were you?

FA: In Giessen.

MH: You were in Giessen.

FA: Yeah, I was thirteen years old then.

MH: And when they let him out, did he come back to Giessen, or did he go directly to the U.S.?

FA: Went back to Giessen.

MH: Okay. And it wasn't unusual for them to let him out?

FA: No, they worked minefields at that time, most of them.

MH: Then how were you able to get permits to come to the U.S.?

FA: We got visas in 1940; our quota came due. We went to the American Consulate that was located in Stuttgart, Germany, and they sent our passports.

MH: Wow. And then how did you go to the U.S.?

FA: By way of Italy, by way of Genoa.

MH: And you went to where?

FA: To New York.

MH: To New York. Did you have relatives in New York?

FA: Distant ones.

MH: Distant ones. So, then you went to school in New York and then got drafted.

FA: Yeah.

MH: And you were how old when you got drafted?

FA: Eighteen.

MH: Eighteen. And—

FA: I had my nineteenth birthday in a little place called Reipertswiller, which is in Alsace-Lorraine.

MH: There was a big battle there with the 45th [Infantry Division].

FA: Yeah, I was a replacement for that battle; a lot of guys got lost there. We were all—well, I would say 99 percent of us were replacements for the guys who originally started; in a rifle company, you don't last that long. And we were dug in at Reipertswiller, and then they pulled us back and we came on line again, and they pulled us back from there. Reipertswiller was in the area of Bitche-Hagenau, if you have a map in front of you.

MH: I don't have it in front of me, but I'll find it. What was the name of the place?

FA: R-e-i-p-e-r-t-s, I think.

MH: Right, Reiperts—

FA: Like all those Alsace and all that. The last syllable is “willer,” an old German word for town or whatever.

MH: Okay. So, when the unit left Reipertswiller, then—

FA: We were pulled back from the line for additional training, then we pushed off in March.

MH: And you were heading toward Munich.

FA: No, no.

MH: No?

FA: Not directly. We pushed off to the Saar [River] basin near (inaudible).

MH: Okay. Just take me from there all the way to Dachau. What was going on?

FA: Well, there was a main battle there. We crossed the Main River, and we captured a railroad bridge near Aschaffenburg and started going into Aschaffenburg with very heavy fighting. It was a miserable battle: up the hill, down the hill; up the hill, down the hill. We came under tremendous mortar fire and rifle fire and what have you.

MH: Were you hit at all?

FA: No. I had the straps on my pack cut, though. I had a little case of—a concussion, and the company commander begged me to stay with the outfit because I was the only guy in the outfit that could read, write and was fluent in German to question prisoners.

MH: Were you taking lots of prisoners?

FA: We took plenty of them.

MH: Okay. What did you do with them?

FA: Question them.

MH: And then what?

FA: Send them back.

MH: Okay, so they were sent back to the rear?

FA: Yeah. We couldn't (laughs) handle them.

MH: So then—after Aschaffenburg, then what's next for you?

FA: Oh, I forgot to tell you. Before we came to Aschaffenburg, we hit the Siegfried Line. There we had very heavy losses. Our company started off with about 175 men, and the next day we had only 60 walkers, that were able to walk back.

MH: How did you deal with that, personally?

FA: What do you mean how I dealt with it? I was a machine-gunner, besides everything else. I can only see what's in front of me; I don't know what's going on around me. We came under a lot of fire there, heavy stuff. Artillery—you know, pillboxes, you name it. Tanks, (inaudible).

MH: The kinds of enemy fire that you people came under—I mean, it amazes me that you come out of there not crazy. I was in Vietnam; I've been under mortar fire, but nothing like you people had.

FA: Well, we not only had mortar fire, we had the heavy stuff. They sounded like a freight train coming in. They would rip out an oak tree in front of me the size of—a diameter of at least a meter—and rip it right out of the ground. The old-timers who were at Anzio used to call that the “Anzio Express.” I understand it was a 280mm railroad gun that they fired from a tunnel maybe ten, fifteen miles away.

MH: Right. I've seen pictures of it.

FA: Well, I've never seen pictures, but that's what the understanding was. Well, guys went—did go, you know, shell-shocked. Not too many of them, but they did. You hear that stuff come in, and the 88s, you don't hear come in.

MH: The 88s you don't hear coming?

FA: No, they're too high velocity. You don't hear a mortar shell either, unless they're very heavy ones.

MH: Well, you hear them blowing up.

FA: You hear them blow up, sure, but you don't hear them come in. The sound, you know, (makes sound effect).

MH: We used to hear (makes different sound effect).

FA: That's it, and they blow. You don't even have enough time to duck sometimes. It depends on what the caliber is; the Germans had a heavy caliber 120mm you'd have heard. And then you heard Screaming Mimis come in; they called that that the *Nebelwerfer*. The "fog thrower," it was translated word for word. They threw white phosphorus.

MH: They were called Screaming Mimis, but what was the other word, the German word?

FA: *Nebelwerfer*. They were six barrel.

MH: Okay. I understand.

FA: Now, the Germans, when you took prisoners and questioned them, they also had a name who were on the so-called Eastern Front, what they called, that were under fire from the Russian rockets. They called that the *Stalinorgel*, the "Stalingrad Organ;" they sounded like an organ coming in. Oh, they were terrified of that.

MH: When they'd launch a barrage, how long would they last?

FA: It varied.

MH: So, it could be short, or it could keep you down for hours?

FA: There were all kinds of barrages: barrages to stop you, barrages to harass you, barrages that could be very accurate. So, we were crossing, they knew exactly—they were all zeroed in on that. Pretty determined, you know.

MH: When your unit suffers heavy casualties like that, do they pull you back, or do they have to keep you moving forward?

FA: It depends how bad things are. They pulled us back the next day. We were there overnight; we repulsed the counter-attack.

MH: Tell me a little bit about what that's like.

FA: They try to come in on you.

MH: How close did they get?

FA: Who the hell knows? I fired my machine gun, and that didn't always stop what's coming in.

MH: How much ammunition do you have available for a machine gun? Would you have somebody carrying—?

FA: Oh, yeah, plenty; we had plenty of canisters of 250 rounds. But a light machine gun you can't fire forever, though; the barrel burns out. And to change our barrels takes a half-hour, whereas the German machine gun, they changed it in twelve seconds. They had better small arms than we did.

MH: Was this a water-cooled or an air-cooled gun you're firing?

FA: Air-cooled. A light is air-cooled.

MH: A light is air-cooled?

FA: Heavy is water-cooled. Same caliber.

MH: It's .30 caliber?

FA: Yeah.

MH: Okay. So, what happens next in the war for you, after that?

FA: After that, they pulled us back.

MH: And how soon after that did you move on to Dachau?

FA: We fought our way through Germany first, the heavy fighting; that took about ten days at Aschaffenburg. Uphill, downhill—those are the mountains on the Main River; we couldn't get in. We thought we could go through there, but we supposedly took 10,000 prisoners alone. There were days when we had the Air Force and bombed them, and when they bombed, they went into their cellars. You know, that's wine country. They have the deep cellars there. Our artillery didn't penetrate those cellars, nor did the bombs.

MH: So, how'd you finally beat them there?

FA: Well, after a while, they must have gotten sick and tired of being bombarded. They must have run out of ammunition, and out of food.

MH: There was no problem getting supplies to the Americans, was there? You had plenty —

FA: I don't know about that. I ate K-rations for about six weeks straight. Damn crap.

MH: (laughs) Did you gain weight—

FA: You know what they are?

MH: Yes. Did you gain weight or lose weight when you went to Europe in the war?

FA: I lost.

MH: You lost?

FA: I think we all lost. Believe it or not, I gained weight in basic training.

MH: Really? Were you a skinny kid when you were drafted?

FA: Yeah.

MH: Where'd they send you for basic?

FA: Camp Blanding, Florida.

MH: Which was near where?

FA: It was inland in Florida, if you can picture a right angle—(coughs) Excuse me. Between Jacksonville and St. Augustine, inland.

MH: Oh, okay. I know exactly where it is, then.

FA: Miserable part of Florida.

MH: Yes.

FA: Swamp and sand.

MH: Right.

FA: They didn't have Army camps on the beach.

MH: This is true.

FA: Not for the infantry.

MH: So, you fight at Aschaffenburg, and then move out for where?

FA: Nuremberg.

MH: Lembeck?

FA: Nuremberg, where the trials were.

MH: Oh, yes, Nuremberg. Okay.

FA: And we had house-to-house. We took one or two losses; we didn't take many losses there.

MH: When they're doing house-to-house fighting and you've got the machine gun, what are you doing?

FA: I didn't have the machine gun then anymore, because at Aschaffenburg I caught some concussion. I couldn't carry any more. House-to-house fighting, you don't go in the middle of the street or run down the street. You blast your way from house to house with TNT, and that's that. You don't show your face. You hide.

MH: How long did that last?

FA: About two days, I think.

MH: Was it still winter?

FA: No.

MH: No. So, the weather—

FA: It was nice by then.

MH: It was nice?

FA: Yeah. We got into Munich on May 1. About April 29 we hit Aschaffenburg. No, no, we hit—

MH: April 29, you hit Dachau.

FA: Uh-huh.

MH: So, tell me about coming to Dachau. Did you know the camp was going to be there?

FA: When I saw “*Arbeit macht frei*” at the beginning of the gate, I knew it was a concentration camp. And I saw people in there, you know, with the pajamas on, and I knew something. I went back and I told the company we were at a concentration camp.

MH: So, your company commander had sent you up to look at it and come back?

FA: Yeah, a recon [reconnaissance] patrol.

MH: Had other Americans gotten there ahead of you, or were you in the first bunch to get there?

FA: As far as I know, we were the first to get there. The first ten men.

MH: The first ten men.

FA: Yeah, or so, that were with me.

MH: You were coming in from the south side, or where the big Jourhaus Gate was?

FA: Yeah.

MH: Where the big gate was?

FA: Yeah. There was a gate there, and to the left there was an SS hospital, for the SS and their wives and this and that.

MH: Where was the train in relation to the gate?

FA: Near the front gate.

MH: Near the front gate. So, you came to the—

FA: We came to the train first. How do you know there was a train there?

MH: Because I've been talking to a lot of people, and I've actually seen pictures.

FA: Yeah, I got the division book here; they have pictures in there, too. I'm sure you've seen that.

MH: Yes. So, when you come to the train and you see that, what goes through your mind?

FA: What can go through your mind? What kind of animals are there around here?

MH: Okay—go ahead.

FA: I knew that things like that were happening, so I was pretty well prepared to see it, but a lot of guys, they couldn't believe it.

MH: A lot of the guys—most of the guys I've talked to had no knowledge of concentration camps before showing up at one.

FA: No, they didn't know. That's right. Well, we hit a labor camp just before that, but there the guys were in pretty good shape, in Nuremberg, [a camp] called Allach, we liberated.

MH: And that was—okay.

FA: That was a labor camp. And they had mostly teenagers there working on whatever; at the BMW works, they were pulling out tanks, Tiger tanks.

MH: Did you go into Allach?

FA: No, I stood outside, but I talked to the guys. I met a guy whose uncle I knew in New York.

MH: How do you end up figuring that out?

FA: I spoke to him, and he told me his name, he has an uncle in New York and what's his name. I heard of the uncle, but I didn't know him. He was a chazzan in Washington Heights. And these guys there, they were—they raised the Star of David there. And I asked one of the guys, "You guys want to come to the States?" "Oh, no, we're going to fight for our home country." They were very Zionistically inclined there.

MH: You said they were in good shape—is that because they hadn't been in the camp very long?

FA: It was what the Germans called an *Arbeitslager*, or a work camp. So they had to feed them something.

MH: But a lot of the *Arbeitslagers*, they just starved them to death.

FA: In this one, they weren't in such bad shape.

MH: Okay. How long did your unit stay at Allach?

FA: We kept right on going.

MH: That's something that I've heard from nearly all the men I've interviewed. Is that—

FA: Well, that's the thing: you're in the infantry, you chase the enemy. You can't let them get away, right?

MH: Right. I mean, when you don't think about it from the context of being in a battle, you think you get to a place like that, you want to stay there, you want to do something, you want to help. And all the guys I've talked to said—

FA: Well, what are you going to help with? I had a little package from home, one my parents sent me, almonds and some nuts and some raisins to eat. I gave them to the guys. I mean, I had extra watches I gave them that I took off prisoners. What else am I going to give?

MH: Right. So, now come back—

FA: I have to keep my rations for myself. I have two, three rations, right?

MH: Yes.

FA: Because I have to keep going, too.

MH: True. I mean, what do you say to the guy when you leave him at Allach? You know, this guy you've talked to?

FA: You don't say much. They're happy to be liberated.

MH: Were there still German guards there when you got there?

FA: No. They took off.

MH: They took off.

FA: They took off out of Dachau, too.

MH: Right. But at Dachau, was there shooting going on when you got there?

FA: A little.

MH: From your guys, once they got inside the camp.

FA: No, the prisoners were armed. Some of the guys gave the prisoners—they took away the German rifles that they left behind. They were armed, some of them. They had German rifles.

MH: I had heard that the prisoners were tracking down German guards who were—

FA: Oh, they were looking for them, because some of them—there were some of them were caught. They were in uniform. They took good care of them, the prisoners. They had to obey the Geneva Convention laws.

MH: But some of them, I understand, the prisoners ripped apart.

FA: Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah.

MH: Did you see any of this happening?

FA: Well, I don't like to talk about these things. They're too inhuman.

MH: Okay. When you got inside the gate, tell me about that.

FA: I got in about a hundred yards, and I pulled back with the rest of the guys. They warned us that—we were not too far away from where they had typhus and typhoid and this and that, all kinds of—you know, sicknesses. We didn't want to catch it, either. But anyway, at Dachau, I caught lice. That's how close I came to them, the prisoners. They

were all loused up and full of disease, some of these prisoners. You try to keep—they hug you, you're bound to catch lice.

MH: Yeah. Considering that you spoke good German, you probably had many conversations with the prisoners there?

FA: Not too much.

MH: Not too much?

FA: Not too much.

MH: Do you remember talking to any of them?

FA: Oh, yeah.

MH: Can you tell me about that?

FA: No conversation—they were starved to death—unless they come to ask for cigarettes. You give them the cigarette, they light it, take two puffs, and they fall down. You couldn't even give them cigarettes. They hadn't smoked in a long time; they got nicotine poisoning. It was a sad situation.

MH: How do you deal with it? Do you cry?

FA: I didn't cry. Some guys possibly cried from what they saw. But that same evening, we kept going. Got there in the morning, by evening we're on the go—in the afternoon, we're on the go again, (inaudible) going towards Munich.

MH: Before you left Dachau, did you go into any of the buildings?

FA: No.

MA: No.

FA: We were warned not to go in.

MH: How did—

FA: The prisoners warned us, “Don’t go in.”

MH: The prisoners warned you.

FA: Yeah. “People are sick in there; you can catch something.” But quite a few prisoners were still able to walk. A lot of them were unable, though. It was a sad situation in those barracks.

MH: Right. What kind of a day was it? Was it cloudy, sunny, rainy?

FA: Slightly cloudy, it wasn’t raining. It was fairly clear.

MH: Does the camp smell bad at the time?

FA: I don’t remember.

MH: Okay.

FA: It smelled outside where they had the train. That’s a certain smell that’s impossible to describe. It’s a sweet sort of smell. Ack! The smell of death.

MH: What else did you see there?

FA: Oh, they took some prisoners and put them up against the wall, and they shot ’em. We couldn’t interfere with that.

MH: The prisoners were doing the shooting?

FA: Yes.

MH: When you say you couldn't interfere, tell me what it's like. I mean, what do you see? Is there any consideration of maybe we should interfere, or this is—

FA: Well, when you take prisoners, you sometimes like to take them alive to question them, of course. They can give you information that can be useful: "What outfit are you in? How many in your outfit? How are they armed? How long have you been?" But the German prisoners—when we took them, we asked them in German, "How many men in your outfit?" They tell you, "We just joined the outfit two days ago." But there's one thing you can find out: they all carried what they call a *Soldbuch*, a pay book. And in that book, it was noted in old German gothic script what outfit they were in and for how long. And I could read that.

MH: So, to come back to the prisoners lining these guys up, I mean, what—I'm trying to get a sense of what the experience is like being there and seeing something like this. Are people screaming and yelling and shouting, or is this quiet?

FA: Oh, who remembers?

MH: Yeah?

FA: You watch and walk away, none of your business. I don't like to see people killed. We were not brought up that way. Bad enough to see what they did, very bad. It's unbelievable, what went on there.

MH: I've talked to some other people who weren't terribly upset seeing, you know, a German SS shot down.

FA: Well, they were not in uniform when we saw them, but they shot down our boys. We lost two guys that were wounded; we left them behind. We were riding on tanks in Germany, and the SS sneaked in behind us and killed them. So, we had no sympathy for the German SS.

MH: So, when you see this happening in the camp, your inclination is, as you said, “It’s not our business, walk away.”

FA: Right. They did it to us.

MH: I was just sort of surprised that the prisoners were able to get a hold of weapons.

FA: I don’t know where they got them from, but they got them. Most of them were German weapons; they were rifles.

MH: I’m sorry, your unit—you were in—what battalion were you in?

FA: C Company is the first battalion. A-B-C-D is the first battalion, all of the time. 157th Infantry [Regiment].

MH: Of the 157th. So, after you saw these people shot, then what happens? Where do you go, what do you do?

FA: You do nothing. You wait for your next move. You always keep going.

MH: About what time of day did you leave Dachau?

FA: Early afternoon, I would say; we didn’t stay there long.

MH: In a camp that size, when you’re wandering around in it, how do they get you back together to say, “Okay, it’s—”

FA: We didn’t wander; we stood near the entrance. We found out that there were no Germans in there, we stood near the entrance. What’s the sense of wandering? When you walk all day, you get a little tired, too.

MH: When you finally left, are you riding in trucks or in jeeps?

FA: We rode in all kinds of vehicles: captured vehicles, trucks, whatever we got a hold of.

MH: What kind of captured vehicles did you guys get?

FA: German trucks. All kinds of crap.

MH: And you moved on from Dachau to—

FA: On top of tanks, you know, infantry riding tanks to protect the tanks.

MH: Right. And then you moved on to Munich?

FA: Yeah. We had to cross the Danube [River], which we did. I crossed the Danube in one of those DUKWs¹, nearly got killed in that thing. The damn thing couldn't—grab the line, land on the other side, a machine gun opened up not too far away.

MH: So, how'd you get off the DUKW?

FA: Finally made landfall on the other side of the Danube. At that time of year—you know, in April—the Danube is not the blue Danube anymore.

MH: It's flowing very fast?

FA: It's a brown river, flowing fast, all the snow melting from the Alps and coming in from the tributaries.

MH: And you got into Munich?

FA: Yeah.

MH: How long was the fight there?

¹ A DUKW, or “duck,” is an amphibious vehicle that allowed for land and water transportation.

FA: Not very much.

MH: Not very much?

FA: The regimental headquarters was the Hofbräuhaus [Staatliches Hofbräuhaus in München]. Ever heard of that?

MH: Say that again?

FA: Our regimental headquarters was in the Hofbräuhaus. You know, where Hitler launched his first push. A beer hall; very good beer. We liberated some kegs of beer.

MH: There's got to be something good there.

FA: Oh, yeah, there were two warehouses full of the finest liquors and the finest stuff that we put guards on right away and used for ourselves.

MH: I was going to say, did you sample it?

FA: Oh, you're damn right!

MH: (laughs)

FA: Some of the guys were drunk for weeks, including myself.

MH: Is that where you were when the war ended?

FA: Yeah, in Munich. No, wait a minute—yeah, we came into Munich May 1. The war ended the eighth [May 8, 1945], and we were in Munich. We stayed in Munich for about six weeks, and they took us back. On the way home, we were supposed to go to fight the Japs.

MH: That's what I heard, that the plan—

FA: We trained. We went by way of France, one of the camps in France, and we shipped in at Le Havre. We were stationed near Reims, France.

MH: All right. Do you remember how long the boat ride was back to the U.S.?

FA: Hell no. About a week, I would say, less than a week.

MH: And where did you land?

FA: New York.

MH: In New York?

FA: We came back on a Victory ship.

MH: Okay. Landed in New York, and how much longer did you stay in the Army?

FA: Till the following June.

MH: For almost another year, you mean?

FA: No, it wasn't a year, it was less than; who the heck remembers?

MH: And what did you do once you were out of the service?

FA: I went to school and went to work. I went to work. Look, I'm kind of tired. I've got to go for dialysis in the morning, so—

MH: Oh, okay. Let me just ask you two more questions. Did the experience you had over there, either with the camps or even in the war, affect you later on in life? Is it something that comes up?

FA: Oh, once in a while I think about it. You don't forget these things, because they're so bad.

MH: You have nightmares?

FA: Not really. I was nineteen years old. I mean, when you're that age—

MH: Okay. You got married when?

FA: In 1960.

MH: And you have kids?

FA: Yeah.

MH: What kind of job did you do?

FA: The main thing I did, I worked on Wall Street for a while, about twenty years trading—arbitraging securities.

MH: All right. Anything else you want to tell me?

FA: I don't know what you want to know.

MH: I'm interested in what the experience was like and how it might have affected you later on in life.

FA: Oh, you dream about it and think about it once in a while. Think about some of the guys that came in with you and didn't come out with you, especially.

MH: Your experience of having been over there, born in Germany and especially having a father in Buchenwald was—I've never heard that before.

FA: Well. At eased my impression of Dachau, I knew pretty well what was going on.

MH: Right. Well, I'm glad—thank you for going, and I'm glad you came back okay.

FA: (laughs) So am I!

MH: Do you have a photo of yourself from World War II?

FA: I have some around here; they're misplaced. I'm legally blind. I don't see the crap anymore. So, I have a problem. I'm riddled with diabetes, and I go to dialysis three times a week.

MH: Ah, all right. Well, I thank you very, very much for taking the time to talk with me.

FA: You're quite welcome. My wife insisted that I do. I wish you luck with your book.

MH: What's your wife's name?

FA: Carol.

MH: Carol? With a C at the end, or no C? C-a-r-o-l?

FA: Yeah.

MH: Okay, thank you very, very much.

FA: You're quite welcome. Bye-bye.

MH: Bye-bye.

End of interview