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Paul Glaz oral history interview by Michael Hirsh, September 28, 2008

Paul Glaz (Interviewee)

Michael Hirsh (Interviewer)

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Concentration Camp Liberators Oral History Project
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Michael Hirsh: Okay. I'm talking with Paul Glaz, G-l-a-z.

Paul Glaz: That's right.

MH: And your phone number is....

PG: Right.

MH: What's your address?

PG: This address here is....

MH: And what's your birthday?

PG: 1-7-18 [January 7, 1918].

MH: And you were with the 4th Armored Division.

PG: 4th Armored in the 8th Tank, Company B. “Be there!” (laughs)

MH: Company B, “Be there.” Which regiment?

PG: 8th Tank.

MH: 8th—?

PG: 8th Tank.

MH: 8th Tank.

PG: But it was battalion; we weren't regimental. We were the first outfit in the armored division they called the battalion.

MH: Okay, so you were the 8th Tank Battalion. Just tell me, what did you know about concentration camps before you got to Ohrdruf?

PG: What'd I know about them?

MH: Yeah.

PG: Well, we took a few small ones, you know, and they were rough. They were nasty. You know, you'd better forget about them than what we saw there.

MH: But can you forget about them?

PG: Well, it's hard. When you see people piled up like logs, you know, they take all the clothes off them and knock their teeth out if they got any gold in their mouth or anything like that. Ohrdruf was a rough one. We took that one first. I remember that because I

was supposed to go on leave back home. I made a good boys' furlough, you know. It was 4-4-1945 [April 4, 1945].

MH: So, how come you didn't go on leave?

PG: My loader, the kid that was loading my gun for me, his mother was bad. She had passed away, or just passing away, at the time. Colonel—at that time, he was Colonel—Colonel Irzyk—couldn't get him out. The only way he could get him out was on my leave. So, I said, "Let him go." You couldn't say no for something like that.

MH: How'd you get to Ohrdruf?

PG: In a tank.

MH: Yeah, I know in a tank. But did you know it was coming?

PG: Oh, we knew. We knew there was something going on over there.

MH: How'd you know?

PG: Well, you know, you get your orders every day. Orders come in from headquarters, from up above. We knew more or less what we were coming into. We didn't know how bad it was or anything else, but you never know.

MH: Did you hear guys talking on the radios about a lot of bodies?

PG: Well, I saw them.

MH: But, I mean, before you saw them, did you hear people talking about it?

PG: No, no, because we were the first ones there. 8th Tank was the first ones that took Ohrdruf.

MH: That was like up a hill, through woods?

PG: No, no. It wasn't woody or anything like that. It was a regular town.

MH: Yeah.

PG: It was a regular town, and when we took it, then Patton came in himself and some figureheads—the generals come around and all that.

MH: Yeah, but before the generals came, tell me what you saw.

PG: Well, we saw these people just laid out there with lime on them and everything. They were piled up about four or five feet high, one on top of the other. There must have been about—I don't know, 500 or so, maybe more.

MH: Is this inside the wire or outside the wire?

PG: This was on the outside.

MH: Okay.

PG: This was on the outside they were piled up. And they had a big hole dug; they didn't bury one at a time, they buried the whole bunch all at once, you know, in a big hole and they cover them up. That's what they did with them.

MH: Right.

PG: And what they did do—the battalion boss and everything, Irzyk and all them guys come in, and they got the mayor of the town and his wife to show them what was what. They got so worried and so nervous about it and all they committed suicide the next day.

MH: Right. Were you there when Irzyk came into the camp?

PG: Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah. Irzyk was a very good friend of mine.

MH: How'd that happen?

PG: Well, he come out of Kansas. He was in the horse cavalry, originally. He knew a horse from his nose to his tail, but he didn't know nothing about a tank. We were, I think —yeah, it was in Pine Camp. Pine Camp, New York, Watertown. He sees me coming to—I think I was in the motor pool or something like that that day, walking through, and he says, "Hey, Sergeant! Come here, I want to talk to you. Where's a good place to sit down?" We sat down, you know, and he told me what he was for, what he came for. He was only a lieutenant at that time. He wanted to know things about a tank. After we got talking for about an hour, we sat there talking about the bogie wheels, this and that, the guns and all that what's on a tank, he said, "Hell, I learned more from an hour with you than if I was reading the book for a couple of days!" You know what I mean?

MH: Yeah. What are the bogie wheels?

PG: They're in a track. You ever seen the smaller wheels in a track?

MH: Right.

PG: They have about six or eight of them on each side. That's to hold the track; they're in place, you know, so it doesn't—

MH: So, you saw Irzyk at Ohrdruf?

PG: Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah. We stayed there—I think we spent the whole day there, or better, even, 'cause I walked all around there. I've seen it all.

MH: What else did you see in the camp? Once you get past the stacks of bodies, what else do you see there?

PG: Well, that's about all we saw. We looked all over at everything else. They had—I remember there was a water thing there, where they operated some kind of a mill; I forget what it was, a carpet or what, some kind of a mill that they used like electricity. You know what I mean? Things like that. You don't remember everything, you know. You forget a lot of that stuff.

MH: Were any of the German SS still there when you got there?

PG: No, they had run. We knocked a lot of them off; we got a whole bunch. See, one thing about the SS—the Germans themselves, they weren't bad people. They were in the service the same way as us. They were drafted. They had to serve their country. But the SS was a bastard. Either you or him had to go; one or the other had to die. I mean, you had to kill him. He either killed you or you killed him. I was watching that on TV the other day—maybe you seen it—about the guys that didn't want to kill and didn't want to serve in the military and all. You seen that movie that they had on TV?

MH: No, I didn't.

PG: Yeah, that was really—(laughs) I mean, that's being yellow.

MH: Were you wounded during the war?

PG: Did I what?

MH: Did you get wounded?

PG: Minor stuff, minor stuff. I got a couple of Purple Hearts, just minor stuff. I got hit in both arms, just tore the flesh; then I got hit in the thighs (laughs) two bullets. That one got my cojones! (laughs)

MH: Uh-oh.

PG: And then I got a little shrapnel in my leg. I got a little shrapnel in my head, you know, but nothing real bad. I was one of the lucky ones.

MH: Yeah. You mentioned earlier that you saw a lot of small camps, slave camps.

PG: Yeah. Well, they was—you know, they didn't amount to nothing.

MH: Were the people still there?

PG: Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah.

MH: Tell me what that was like. Tell me what you saw.

PG: Well, we freed a lot of them. There wasn't too many dead. I mean, we just freed a lot of people, you know. I'd say a lot of them, maybe 150, 100, 200 people.

MH: In each camp?

PG: In each camp, yeah.

MH: What did the camps look like?

PG: Eh, you know, nothing to talk about. Like barns, you know, and stuff like that. They had some kind of bunks in them.

MH: Right. Were these people starving, too, or were they feeding them?

PG: Eh, the ones that just came in, they weren't too bad, but the ones—like, there was one down below Dachau, was down below Ohrdruf. That, I understand, was really bad. One of our divisions went down there; the 7th Armored was down there. That was really bad. I mean, there was people in there that weighed—originally probably weighed 180

pounds or something, 200 pounds; they were down to about 65 pounds. I mean, practically starved to death. That was bad. That was a bad camp.

MH: That wasn't one that you saw, though.

PG: No, I didn't see that one. I just heard a lot about them, because we didn't go down there. That was south of us, closer to the Austrian border down there.

MH: Yeah. When you leave a camp like Ohrdruf and you're going on with the war, do the guys still talk about what they had seen, or do you just push it out?

PG: No, because they've seen so much. We did—my outfit did 300 days of combat. Probably you talked to Irzyk; he's got a lot of stuff written down and all. He's got a memory (laughs) like an elephant. He remembers everything. He's a hell of a guy, good guy to know.

MH: Yeah, I've talked to him. I've been to his house.

PG: He had a lot to do with Tom Brokaw and them guys when he wrote that book about the soldier—the Second World War, you know?

MH: Yeah.

PG: Yeah, he's a great guy. And he's been to Europe I don't know how many times. He went in—oh, I guess he had over thirty years in the service. Every time I go down south, I stay with him. (laughs) He gets mad at me if I stay in a hotel. Yeah, he treated me—I got along good with him. In fact, I got along so good the other brass—you know, the other officers—were so damn jealous of me that they were afraid to attack me, because I got along too good with the battalion commander.

MH: Yeah. What was your rank over there?

PG: I was a sergeant. I was a sergeant. I was a sergeant, a car commander, and gunner, mostly a gunner. I was a good gunner. I was one of the top gunners in my battalion.

MH: What'd you do with your life when you came home from the war?

PG: I was a millwright machinist, and I worked for a cracker company, Sunshine Biscuit Company. You've probably heard of them.

MH: I've heard of them, yes.

PG: They were doing a lot of—replacing a lot of machinery, and I was having that heavy stuff, you know, millwright work. But then they formed a union, and I was a snapper. You know what a snapper is. I mean, I had about eight, nine guys working under me. I used to get nervous when we were raising something up and they would put their arms under the equipment, maybe it weighed ten, fifteen, twenty tons.

MH: Ooh.

PG: If one of those blocks ever snapped, I mean, goodbye your arm. It was dangerous. The next thing was arbitration, arbitration! So, I said, "The hell with this!" and I quit. I went into building homes, and I became a builder.

MH: Okay. You go to the reunions regularly, right?

PG: Oh, yeah. I made them all but about three of them. I had three of them—the first two I missed, then Irzyk called me up. I didn't even know there was a reunion, because I went home—I was home in early June; in May I went home. Actually, I was relieved from the military: I was re-discharged. I think it was 2 June or something like that. I was the high pointer, you know what I mean? I was the oldest guy in the division when it was formed.

MH: Right. Okay. Anything else you remember about those camps?

PG: Well, there isn't—I mean, what can you say about them, you know? You see a lot of stuff, the smell and odor, and stuff like that. You see these poor devils, you know, they're hungry and whatnot; you give them cigarettes and whatever you had. You felt sorry for

them, but what can you do? But, you know, if you put in the time that we did and fought as much as us—our division was different. We were together so long that we were like family, and we're still the same way.

MH: How'd you happen to stay together so long?

PG: Well, what we did, we were formed in 1941 out of Fort Knox, Kentucky. They formed the 4th Armored Division. Then they used to cadre out, where you broke in troops, you know, trained them. What we thought—[the ones that] the officers didn't think were good enough for 'em, they sent out on cadres. You don't send out the best; you send out the worst and kept the best, you know. So, we were really buddy-buddy, good friends and everything else. We're like family. We've become like a big family. Being together so long, we knew people all over the division. You know what I mean?

MH: Hmm. Okay. All right, well, I thank you very much for taking the time.

PG: We had a lot of—I mean, I really enjoyed my service. I didn't mind it that much. You know, we bitched, everybody bitched; that's (laughs) part of being in the Army, you know.

MH: Right.

PG: (laughs) Latrine bitching and all that stuff. Oh, I'll tell you a good one. I was in charge of quarters one time; you know what charge of quarters is?

MH: Yes, I do.

PG: The old man, (inaudible), we went through the barracks; they were checking the barracks out and everything else. We stopped at the latrine, and there was a young kid out of the Great Lake region, not too bright, you know; he was a cook or some damn thing. He's sitting on a pot (laughs) relieving himself. We walked in there, and he gets up and he's saluting!

MH: (laughs)

PG: (laughs) I said, “As you were! As you were! As you were! There, kid!” (laughs)
The old man laughed like hell, you know?

MH: (laughs) What’d you win your Silver Star for?

PG: What was what?

MH: You got a Silver Star?

PG: Yeah.

MH: What’d you get it for?

PG: I saved a couple of guys. I went on—we lost one thing, it seems. Banks, then there was Jonesy—no, not Jonesy, Sergeant Bailey. That was our first sergeant; he wanted to become an officer, and he was a fool because he never had to take nothing before, but he went for it. He got killed. I think there was about six or seven of them that crossed the river. I think they lost about three tanks.

I run across the river, you know, and I picked up one of the lieutenants, Lieutenant Menk. I picked him up and I carried him back, must have been about 300 yards or better, maybe more. And the old man says to me—he got all nervous—“Are there any more?” I said, “Yeah. Hell, there’s four or five of them there that I seen that are hurt.” So, he ran over with me and we brought these guys back. They thought it was (laughs) really something big, you know, and they gave me a Silver Star for it. You know those things: the right people see you at the right time, and they make something out of it.

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

PG: Yeah, I have some photos.

MH: Could you send me one, and then I’ll copy it and send it back to you?

PG: What do you want, military?

MH: Yeah, military.

PG: I got a couple of photos in a tank and whatnot. I'll scrape 'em up and I'll send you some stuff.

MH: Okay. You want me to send you an envelope?

PG: You send me an envelope.

MH: Okay.

PG: I would have got back to you. I would have got back to you, but I got—I was in New York two weeks ago, and I had company; some relatives of mine from Canada came in, and they couldn't get a flight back to Montreal, so I said, "I'll take you up there." So, I went up there, and I spent a couple of extra days there.

MH: Oh, okay.

PG: That's why I didn't get back to you.

MH: All righty.

PG: Okay.

MH: Thank you very much, sir.

PG: If there's anything else, give me a call.

MH: Will do.

PG: You got my other number?

MH: Yes, I do.

PG: Okay.

MH: Thank you.

PG: Okay. Take care of yourself. Bye-bye.

MH: Right. Bye-bye.

Part 1 ends; part 2 begins

PG: That's quite a while ago.

MH: A few months, yes.

PG: We just came in from Pittsburgh. We were in Pittsburgh last week.

MH: Oh, okay.

PG: That was terrible. It was terrible. We were at the Sheraton hotel over there, and they served us dinner there for \$50. It was supposed to be prime ribs of beef, and it was like chewing on a rag, and then you spit it out. You couldn't—it was inedible.

MH: Oh, jeez. I'm sorry.

PG: That's how bad it was.

MH: It makes K rations sound good.

PG: (laughs) You better believe it!

MH: Okay, so your name is Paul Glaz. G-l—

PG: G-l-a-z, right.

MH: And your address is ... and your phone number is....

PG: Right.

MH: What's your date of birth?

PG: 1-7-18 [January 7, 1918].

MH: 1-7-18, okay. And you're with the 4th Armored Division.

PG: I was with the 4th Armored right from the beginning right to the end.

MH: Tell me what the beginning was. Where were you when you went in the Army?

PG: I was in New York, Long Island. I lived in Long Island, and I was drafted on May 14, forty-one [1941].

MH: Forty-one [1941]. You were in the Army for a long time.

PG: Four years.

MH: Four years.

PG: Four years. And then I made a rotation furlough at the end, and I had a lot of points, so they let me out. I got out in forty-five [1945].

MH: Where'd they send you after you got drafted?

PG: We went out of—we went to Watertown, New York.

MH: Okay. How long before you got to the 4th Armored Division?

PG: That was the 4th Armored right away. That's where they started it out.

MH: Okay. And what—

PG: They started out of Fort Knox. They sent a cadre out of Fort Knox, and we went to fill the cadre when they opened that camp.

MH: What did they train you to do?

PG: When we first got in there, we had nothing. We had nothing. We went in for one year; it was supposed to be one year training and they were supposed to let us out. And then Pearl Harbor came along, and that was the end.

MH: Yeah. Were you a tank driver, were you a loader? What was your job?

PG: I was a gunner and a car commander.

MH: Okay. When did they send you over to Europe?

PG: We went into Europe in 1943, right around Christmastime in forty-three [1943].

MH: And your first battle was what?

PG: Right at Normandy, the hedgerows in Normandy.

MH: Okay. So—

PG: We went over—guys will tell you all kinds of stories. But what they had to do for tanks, they had to make a bridgehead form so they could land, because they're too damned expensive, you know, just to try to get on the beach. You'd lose too many tanks. So, they send the jumpers out, the paratroopers out, the infantry, and the artillery from the ships and all that, you know, to get on the beach. We got on the beach—oh, I'd say maybe three weeks after the war started. Then we went right for Normandy and the hedgerows there, and then we went down south. From the south, we went right from Paris; we landed and wound up in Souppes [Souppes-sur-Loing]. We went day and night. I mean, like wild men we went.

MH: This was early in the war.

PG: This was the beginning of it, yeah. That was in forty-four [1944].

MH: Forty-four [1944] or forty-three [1943]?

PG: Forty-four [1944]. We didn't really go into combat until June forty-four [1944]. June 6 or something in forty-four [1944] is when the United States went into Normandy.

MH: Okay, so you're talking about the D-Day invasion.

PG: That's right.

MH: Okay. What did you know at that point about concentration camps or the Holocaust or anything?

PG: Well, just what we heard or read about, and that's about all. But we went through a few of them. We went to Ohrdruf and then a couple other ones, little ones we went through.

MH: Which were first, Ohrdruf or the little ones?

PG: The little ones.

MH: Can you tell me about those? Do you remember them?

PG: Oh, jeez, I don't remember. If I hear the names, I'll remember them.

MH: I've actually talked to a number of guys who don't even know the names of small camps that they went through, and they probably didn't even have names.

PG: Well, it's so long ago, you don't remember this. Ohrdruf was, I think, one of the first big ones we went through.

MH: It was absolutely the first big one.

PG: That was the first big one we went through.

MH: Tell me about coming to Ohrdruf. What did you see?

PG: That was—we seen bodies laid up there. They laid them up like cords of wood, one on top of the other. They were naked. That was on the outside. They were naked, and they'd laid them up about four foot high, lime in between. There was pictures in *Look* magazine and everything else. It was terrible; it was a terrible-looking thing.

MH: How old were you then?

PG: Oh, at that time I was probably about twenty-six.

MH: What does it do to a twenty-six-year-old guy seeing stuff like that?

PG: What does it do to him? It all depends what kind of a man he is. If he's a man, I mean, he's all right. But there were so many guys that were scared, you know. They just didn't have it. And we had quite a few—we had, actually, nobody really—they never even talk about it, but I think when we went overseas and before we went into combat, we must've had about 100 guys that run out of the division.

MH: You mean they deserted?

PG: They deserted, right. They're yellow. They were yellow, you know what I mean?

MH: Nobody wants to die.

PG: Hell. Well, hey, that was our thing we had to do.

MH: Right. Did you go into the camp at Ohrdruf?

PG: Oh, yeah, I was right in there. The 8th Tank was the first one that went into it.

MH: Which was?

PG: 8th Tank, out of the 4th Armored.

MH: What unit in the 4th Armored were you in at that point?

PG: I was in the 8th Tank.

MH: A Tank?

PG: 8th Tank. 8th Tank Battalion.

MH: 8th Tank Battalion, okay. So, did you drive the tank into the camp, or were the tanks outside the camp?

PG: No, we drove right into there. We drove right into it. We drove right into it. We lost a couple of tanks getting into there, but we got in there.

MH: You saw the surviving inmates?

PG: We saw a few of them were still alive, you know, but most of them were dead. And then what they did—I mean, we got in there and [George S.] Patton came in, [Dwight D.] Eisenhower came over, whatnot, and they showed—tried to show the people in town what was going on. Everybody who saw it said they didn't know nothing about it.

MH: Yeah. They didn't see it, they didn't smell it, they didn't hear it.

PG: Yeah. But it was in—I think it was in May.

MH: It was April 3 or 4.

PG: Something like that: very early in the spring, anyway. I remember it smelled like hell. Dead bodies, you know, just like an animal or anything else will stink. God only knows how long they laid there.

MH: Were there any SS still around, or were they gone?

PG: Oh, they run. When they heard the 4th Armored was coming, they took off. We had a thing between the SS and the 4th Armored: one or the other had to go.

MH: Tell me about that.

PG: Well, when you fought them, you didn't take them; you killed them. If they got us, they did the same thing with us.

MH: Was that because of Malmédy?

PG: Well, it just—they thought they were better than us, you know, tougher than we.

MH: Yeah. I've also heard from a lot of guys that, after they saw the camps, they didn't take any prisoners.

PG: Oh, the war didn't last that long. The war was practically over at that time.

MH: Right.

PG: It was practically over. It finished in—let's see, around—

MH: May 8.

PG: May 8. Yeah, because I was supposed to leave in March or something on a rotation furlough. What happened [was] my loader, the kid that used to load the gun for me, his mother was passing away or something like that, and he had to go home. The only way General [Albin] Irzyk could get him out was on my rotation, on my furlough. I said, "Let him go." You couldn't say no to something like that.

MH: Yeah. Tell me about Irzyk.

PG: Irzyk? Oh, he was a terrific guy. Irzyk was a terrific man.

MH: Why? What was—I interviewed him. I went to his house.

PG: Oh, he was a real gentleman. I mean, you talked to him, you probably found him to be a nice guy, right?

MH: Yes, absolutely.

PG: His wife is very nice. I know Irzyk very well. I go to—I have been over there many a time, slept upstairs in his house and everything else. We're really close. Real close.

MH: What made him such a good leader?

PG: He was a gentleman, and he knew—what a memory that guy's got! He knew practically every man in the battalion: 750-some-odd guys in the battalion, and he practically knew everybody by their name. He was a real—I mean, I don't think you could find anybody could say a bad word about him.

MH: Okay. What was your rank at the time?

PG: Sergeant.

MH: Sergeant.

PG: I didn't want to be—I could've been a staff sergeant, but I didn't want to be, because you were like a babysitter. Weekends come along or something—I mean, I used to like to enjoy myself, go out. I used to hang around with a Jewish fellow named Miller, Bill Miller. He died here about—last year? Close to two years, I guess. Me and him, boy, we had to see everything. We were in the military to enjoy ourselves.

MH: Yeah. When—

PG: Take care of the girls. (laughs)

MH: I hope so. When did you get out of the service?

PG: I got out very early: at the end of May, I was out. See, they hold you a few days. I was told right away in May that I had so many points—you know, I was a high-pointer—that I'm due to get out, so they let me out. They're gonna let me out, okay, I'll go.

MH: And you went back home?

PG: I went home, yeah.

MH: What did you do for the rest of your life?

PG: I was a snapper in Sunshine Biscuit Company. I was a millwright machinist. They formed a union over there, you know, and the snappers were not in the union; only the workers were in the union.

MH: What's a snapper?

PG: The boss, the foreman.

MH: A foreman? Oh, okay.

PG: He used to run—he had a gang, you know, and took care of the job.

MH: Okay.

PG: So, I told my boss, George—I can't think of his name right now—"This ain't for me," and I got out and become a builder. And that's what I did the rest of my life. I was a builder. Build homes, bought land, sold land, and stuff like that.

MH: Did you get married?

PG: Oh, yeah.

MH: Kids?

PG: One son. I got one son, one daughter-in-law, and one granddaughter. I lost my wife ten years ago.

MH: I'm sorry.

PG: It's one of those things. Poor thing died. She had a rough death; she had cancer. Rough.

MH: Yeah. Do you have a picture of yourself from World War II?

PG: Yeah, I have some—yeah, I've got some pictures around.

MH: If I put an envelope in the mail to you, could you send me a picture of yourself?

PG: Yeah, I can send a picture of myself, maybe with a couple other guys in it.

MH: Okay. I'll copy it and I'll send it back to you.

PG: No, that's all right. If I send it to you, don't worry about it.

MH: Okay.

PG: I got plenty of them around. But the thing is, see, I live in two different homes. I got a home in ... and then I got home over here in....

MH: Okay. So, what address should I send it to?

PG: ...

MH: Okay. I'll send you an envelope and a release form to sign. And I already have a picture of you that I took at the reunion, so I've got a current picture of you.

PG: Real ugly guy, eh?

MH: Well, you were wearing a hat.

PG: (laughs) I had a guy—we used to come from Pittsburgh, and he sent me—he was in a maintenance part of the company, and he brought a bunch of pictures of me and different guys, and even my tank. Even my tank, Big Mike—you know, the tank I had. He had pictures of that he gave to me.

MH: Okay. Well, if you have a good picture that really shows you real well, that'd be great.

PG: Okay.

MH: Okay? Thank you very—

PG: What do you want, a military picture, or do you want—

MH: No, a military picture.

PG: All right. I'll send you—I'll Photostat a picture and I'll send it.

MH: Well, if you—the thing is, I need to get, like, almost the original, so I can make a good copy on the computer, and then I'll send it back to you. If you just Photostat it, it won't come out good in the book. So, if you can send me the original, I'll copy it and send it back.

PG: I've only got when they made them on the—they put them as—they came out pretty good.

MH: Okay.

PG: They came out pretty good. I'll send you one that's 8x10.

MH: Okay. I'll send you an—

PG: I'm on top of a tank right—just after the Battle of Bastogne.

MH: Okay. I'll send you an envelope. Okay. Thank you very much, Paul. I appreciate it.

PG: You want a tank? I can send you a tank, too.

MH: Okay.

PG: All right, I'll throw a tank in there. What else is new?

MH: Nothing. I've talked to about 110 guys so far, who liberated—I've probably talked to guys who were at maybe thirty different camps. And it's moving along. So, I will talk to you, then.

PG: See, a lot of guys, they bullshit a lot: they tell you stories, you know.

MH: I've found some of that, too.

PG: The thing is, you do what you gotta do. You know what I mean?

MH: Yep.

PG: Yeah, that's about all I could say. Some guys, you know, they did nothing. They were in the rear echelon and they hear stories what happened from our guys in the front lines, and they're talking, "Oh, I did this." When you hear that, forget about it.

MH: Okay.

PG: You know, I won the second-highest award my country has to give me. I got a Silver Star for gallantry in action.

MH: What was the Silver Star for?

PG: One of our officers—not only one of our officers. We lost about six tanks crossing a river, and they got shot up real bad; real bad they got shot up. There was Sergeant Bailey there, Lieutenant Menk; they got up shot up very bad. I run over like a nut over there, and I brought a couple of them back on my back, you know. Brought them back there and administrate first aid, give them shots and all that stuff, you know, got the medics for them. You do what you gotta do. They would've done the same thing for me.

MH: I understand that.

PG: That's being a soldier.

MH: Yes, sir, I understand that. You guys in World War II mostly did a hell of a job.

PG: A lot of these kids today—I was mad at my son the other day; he's complaining about Bush and this and that. I said, "Bush? What the hell are you talking about? You never served, you never had nothing to do in the military, and you're knocking the man."

MH: Yeah, but [George W.] Bush is a phony, man. You know, I was a skinny little Jewish kid from the North Side of Chicago, and I went to Vietnam. I was with the 25th Infantry Division. George Bush pulled all the strings he could get to fly in a National Guard unit in Texas, and he didn't even show up half the time there.

PG: That was the other Bush, the old man [George H.W. Bush], right?

MH: No, that was the current Bush.

PG: Oh, this current Bush?

MH: Yeah, the current Bush. The old man did his job. The old man was shot down in World War II.

PG: I know. He was shot down in the ocean.

MH: Yeah. Different story.

PG: He jumped—when was it, about five years ago? The old man jumped out of an airplane with a parachute here. You heard about that one?

MH: Yeah.

PG: Eh, he was all right.

MH: All right. Well, I'll send that envelope to you. Thank you very much, Paul.

PG: Okay. Nice talking to you.

MH: Nice talking with you. You take care.

PG: Bye-bye.

MH: Bye-bye.

End of interview