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# Tarmo Holma oral history interview by Michael Hirsh, August 21, 2008

Tarmo Holma (Interviewee)

Michael Hirsh (Interviewer)

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

**Tarmo Holma:** —in rehab from my hip injury—hard to get around—fell down a couple of months ago and cracked my hip in a few places.

**Michael Hirsh:** That's not a good thing.

TH: Okay, I got a good spot here. Now I'm sitting.

MH: Okay, first of all, give me your full name and spell it for me, please.

TH: Okay, my name is Tarmo Holma. First name is T-a-r-m-o, and the last name is Holma, H-o-l-m-a.

MH: Spell the first name again. T—

TH: T-a-r, like Thomas, like the Thomas, A, as in alpha, R as in Rod, that's T-a-r-m-o. That's an ethnic Finnish name. I was an immigrant from Finland many years ago.

MH: Oh, okay. What's your address?

TH: ... I have a home phone there, but I haven't been home for quite a few months because of my injury. I stay with my brother-in-law; that's where I am now. He's got less steps to use than I have at home. If you want, you can write my home number down, but I'm not able to answer it.

MH: What's your home number?

TH: ...

MH: And your cell phone number is ... and what's your date of birth?

TH: October 8, 1921.

MH: Okay, and what unit were you in when you were in Germany?

TH: I was with 11<sup>th</sup> Armored Division, 41<sup>st</sup> Tank Battalion, Headquarters Company, Tank Platoon.

MH: Where were you before you went in the service?

TH: I was a mechanic at a local transportation company. Marty's Ice and Oil, it was called, but he had all kinds of—grandfathered rights to haul anything by truck. He was a mechanic before that. The first unit I went into the Army, I went from Fort Devon, Massachusetts, to Camp Hood, Texas, which is now Fort Hood.

MH: Were you drafted or did you enlist?

TH: I was drafted, yeah, but I had to more or less volunteer because I had fallen down and hurt my knee so bad; it looked like a soccer ball. They were giving me deferments, and finally I was the only one left in my neighborhood, so I had to convince them to let me go in the army because that was the thing to do in those days.

MH: What year was this?

TH: This was 1943. They finally let me go in the last days of February, and I was officially in—let's see, March 3, I think it was my official in the army. And they sent me from Fort Devon to Camp Hood, Texas, which is now a big place. And my original outfit was 106<sup>th</sup> Mechanized Cavalry, and so then we were—I did my basic training, quite a few months with this outfit, and then we were getting shipped to England many months before D-Day had happened. But the lieutenant looked at my papers as I'm going up the gangplank in New York and saw that I was still a citizen of Finland. And Finland was allied with Germany against Russia.<sup>1</sup> So, I wasn't allowed to go to Europe to fight against my own people, supposedly, so they sent me to California to join some outfit to go to Japan, which would be all right for anybody.

But while I was in California, I became a citizen through the Army, and then D-Day had happened while I was in California, so now they needed a lot more soldiers in California, and they had put me in the 11<sup>th</sup> Armored Division to fill up their division, and they put me in a tank right away, they said they got plenty of mechanics, they needed to fill up the tank unit. So they put me in a tank. Luckily, they put me in a good position up in the turret, which I liked, kind of a bad position sometimes—I liked it, personally, because I had the most space in the tank, in the Sherman tank. And my position was called the loader for the big gun and the anti-aircraft operator for the .50 caliber machine gun mounted on top of the tank, and also the radio operator. So I had a lot of duties. But I liked it, because I had the most space to lay down inside the tank. Of course, it was on top of the ammunition, but that was all right.

MH: When did they send you overseas?

TH: That was, that was—well, let's see, we landed in Liverpool on October 11, I'm pretty sure it was—

MH: Of forty—

TH: Forty-three [1943]. Yeah, I don't remember—no, that would have been forty-four [1944].

MH: Forty-four [1944].

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<sup>1</sup> Finland fought the Soviets twice during 1939 to 1944 in the Winter War and the Continuation War. Due to the wars with the Soviets, Finland became a co-belligerent with Germany. This agreement lasted until the Lapland War (1944 to 1945) in which the Finns expelled the Germans and Soviets from their territory.

TH: Yeah, that was in forty-four [1944]. I don't remember the exact date we left New York. I think it took a week to get there. But I remember landing in Liverpool, England, October 11. And then we went from train from Liverpool down to Southampton, England, on the south coast of England; that's where we were stationed until we received our new equipment. And we also finally left from there to go to Cherbourg on the LST [Landing Ship, Tank]. That was—well, we landed in Cherbourg December 16, just when the Battle of the Bulge was beginning; nobody knew it was the Battle of the Bulge then. But they got all excited as we were landing. We were supposed to go to southern France to take care of some German units that had been bypassed, but they told us as we landed, "Go as fast as you can straight through to Belgium." The Germans were attacking and we had very few soldiers there, so we were the only large unit available. So, that's about the story up to that point.

MH: So, you were fighting in the Bulge?

TH: Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah. That was our big battle. They gave us jobs to do right away, protecting the road that leads to Bastogne, so they could get some supplies into Bastogne, and then we actually went into the outskirts of Bastogne. I used some of the foxholes to sleep in at night that the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne had used, because the ground was frozen solid; you couldn't dig a new foxhole. So, I sat in some of those foxholes at night. And that was tough going there. I don't know all the details on that. There was a lot going on.

MH: Were you wounded at all during that battle?

TH: No, I never got wounded. I had some close calls. We went through all through Germany after we got out of Belgium, and many places—well, especially when we reached Fulda, a big city in the middle of Germany. The city seemed to be situated high on a hill. We had all arrived in this big plane, and they started bombarding us, and so everybody had to scatter all of a sudden, and that was close from the artillery, the German artillery landing all around us. And that's when we lost our—my own company captain, he had just been issued a light tank, and he said, "I'll look for a road around Fulda," and he took off on a side road looking for a way out. The Germans killed him right away because he was in the top of the tank, and so we lost our company captain right away in Fulda. And from then on, we went in single file.

My unit was in what's called the advance guard most of the time through Germany, and I was usually, like, the third tank because my tank commander was the operations officer, so he had to be up front to decide what to do. So, that gave me a good position, more or less. They told me I wouldn't last two weeks, because I insisted on sitting on top of the tank to see what's going on, and I felt comfortable with my .50 caliber machine gun in

front of me. And I felt—a young kid, you know, you think you're invincible. I felt I could protect myself with that .50 caliber, before anybody else could shoot me. So, let's see, I don't know where I left off.

MH: At that point, had anybody told you about the concentration camps?

TH: No, we had never heard anything about them. And maybe vaguely, but we didn't know what was involved, you know, or how bad they were and all that. We didn't have any of that history. Some of the officers might have, because—where was I? When we did get to—let's see, let's see. Well, yeah, that was—trying to think of that big city. I think it was near Cham, C-h-a-m. I think that's where Flossenbürg was. I didn't know it was Flossenbürg at that time. We had to travel single-file because the roads were narrow.

My tank had pulled over to the side momentarily, and I had always had binoculars. I looked around, because I was sitting on top to see what was going on, and many miles away I could see this activity on the road. And the road was filled with people; I assumed they were soldiers. I saw—it must have been ten miles away, so I could just see the movement. And I said to my commanding officer, I said, "The whole German army has to be out there waiting for us because I see movement." He said, "No, we're arriving at one of the concentration camps."

And so then, it took us several hours to finally get there, and when we got there, the road was completely filled with the victims from Flossenbürg. I found out the name later. And the Germans were trying to march them, I found out later, to Mauthausen, because they had tunnels there and they were going to dynamite all the prisoners that they had rounded up and bury them out of sight.

MH: You found that out later?

TH: Yeah, I found that out later; we didn't know. We were on a combat mission. We were still chasing that part of the German army, so we didn't go inside that camp; we just arrived at the death march outside on the road as they were marching them away.

MH: So, you saw the German soldiers there, the SS?

TH: I didn't see them: they had run away. And the prisoners been able to kill a few of them, but then even a lot of the prisoners—they were so excited, they appeared to be dying as they ran out to greet us. They came out—

MH: What do you mean by that?

TH: Well, I saw them fall down and not—I assumed they were dying because they were just walking skeletons; they looked like skeletons with a little skin on them. So, it bothered me to this day. I'm surprised I can talk this much about it; usually I start crying and I can't talk anymore. Because it was just bad shape, but they were anxious to come out and greet us. And then we were going to give them our rations, especially the K rations; they were very good. Because I'm the radio operator, too, I got the message right away, "Don't feed the prisoners, they can't stand that kind of food that we have," so they didn't want us to feed them. They told us that people coming behind us will take care of their health problems. So we had to keep going as best we could—very slowly, because we couldn't move, because the road was filled, completely filled, with these concentration camp prisoners.

MH: How many do you think there were?

TH: Well, they told me later on there was many thousands of 'em; a few years ago, one of the young people that lives in that town of Flossen or Flossenbürg was taking information about that, and the teacher, the English teacher at Bentley College here in Waltham, Massachusetts, invited the survivors—several survivors of Flossenbürg—because one of their relatives, I don't know if there was a father or grandfather, was one of the victims. So, she was doing a program, and she invited quite a few of the survivors from Flossenbürg to speak at the college. I found out about it because they had an article in the paper, and I told them I was with the 11<sup>th</sup> Armored Division. So, she invited me to come up and participate in that—and somebody from the 26<sup>th</sup> Infantry; they might have been the ones that went into the camp to help clean it up. And so I was at that. That would be nice, if you could get a hold of the English teacher; must have been five years ago at Bentley College.

MH: Do you remember the name of the teacher?

TH: I've been trying to remember it. She was an English teacher, and if you called Bentley, I'm sure they would know who it was.

MH: In Waltham, Mass.?

TH: Waltham, Mass., yeah. And they sent me a newsletter, because the editor of the newsletter interviewed me while I was there. I have that, but I haven't been able to find it, so—

MH: And there was somebody from the 26<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division there?

TH: Yes, an old guy, but he couldn't talk very good so the editor of their newsletter interviewed me. I don't know if he interviewed the guy from the 26<sup>th</sup> or not.

MH: It was the 26<sup>th</sup>, not the 36<sup>th</sup>?

TH: No, it was the 26<sup>th</sup>, I remember that. Yeah. I don't remember his name.

MH: Tell me more about the sight of the people on the road. I mean, was it men and women?

TH: Oh, that I don't remember noticing. Yeah, I don't remember noticing that. Seems to me it was all men.

MH: Did they have clothes on?

TH: Yeah, they had—they had the striped uniform on.

MH: Hats or no hats?

TH: The hats—I don't think they had hats.

MH: What kind of a day was it?

TH: Oh, it was a beautiful day. It would have been late April, like April 20, 21, something like that. And some of my guys insist it was April 23, but they came behind me. So, we might have been there all day, I don't remember. But it's in that vicinity, anyhow. The road was jammed with those victims; we couldn't move for a long time.

MH: You mean they just completely surrounded the tanks?

TH: Yes, they did. They were still swarming what I assume the road was into the camp. We were trying to proceed on the dirt road to continue the combat mission that we were on, because we were trying to follow the remnants of the German army. So, we were trying to proceed on the road, and the road for many miles ahead it was still full of the victims, because they were trying to march them, I found out later, to Mauthausen, which was quite a few miles away. And they told me they had tried to move the prisoners earlier by train, but our Air Force bombed the train so they brought them back to the camp. And so they were trying to march them this time.

MH: Did you see any of the dead SS?

TH: No, I didn't see any—well, I wasn't purposely looking for them, but I saw what I assumed to be dead bodies laying on the side every once in a while.

MH: In German uniforms, you mean?

TH: That—see, it was so hectic, I don't remember if I saw their uniforms.

MH: So, how long were you in this melee surrounded by all these people?

TH: Oh, that had to be all day. I'm pretty sure it was all day, 'cause we could hardly move. At first we were just standing still, where they were still coming out of the camp onto the main road. And the main road was only as single-land dirt road.

MH: Were you getting radio calls saying, "Move, move," and you can't move?

TH: No, they didn't say that, they just said don't try to feed them. I guess the officers knew what was going on.

MH: Did you get off the tank?

TH: No, I didn't get off.

MH: You stayed on it all day?

TH: Well, we had to, because we were supposed to keep moving, but we couldn't move because we had to wait until the victims got out of the way. I stayed on the tank and I was getting ready to hand 'em my K rations, which is in a nice cardboard box; they have a nice chocolate bar especially in it. But I immediately got the radio call not to give them, and the other tanks got the same call, so—

MH: What language were these people speaking?

TH: I don't know—I don't know if they were speaking, they were just waving. They appeared to be so glad to see us. I don't remember hearing any language, if they spoke anything. Because I'm sitting on top of the tank, I'm, you know, like eight feet high.

MH: So, I mean, this has got to be the weirdest situation you've ever been in in your whole life.

TH: Well, I couldn't believe it, because we hadn't got any information about concentration camps. I think we'd heard the term, but it didn't mean anything; we didn't know what it meant. And to think these thousands and thousands of victims—like I say, walking skeletons. That's what they were. You wouldn't think a person like that can walk, or move.

MH: Even if they had clothes on, the uniform, you could still see that they were skinny.

TH: Oh, yeah, because you could see their head appeared to be large, and their hands and arms and legs, nothing to them, even though they had the striped uniform on. Yeah. No, you could see that they were skeletons.

MH: How did you finally move the tanks?

TH: Well, finally, little by little, they separated enough for us to move very slowly through them. And this went on for miles and miles up the road, because the march had already been going on. And that's what I had seen from the beginning, many miles away. I could see the road was black with people. But I couldn't identify if they had uniforms or

not, that's why I assumed it was the army there. My command knew about—maybe our scouts had discovered the camp ahead of time.

MH: The scouts go ahead in what kind of vehicle?

TH: They usually have like an armored car; they call it an armored car. It's lightly armored and it has heavy rubber tires. They can travel better through forests than a tank.

MH: And they usually send one of those out in advance of the tank?

TH: Yeah, they do the scouting ahead of time. It's the armored infantry that has those.

MH: What was your tank driver doing at this time? It must have been really frustrating.

TH: He's got a hard job. He has to stay closed up. He has to close his hatch and look through a periscope in order to drive. Because when you swing the big gun, it goes right over his head. So, he's got a hatch there that he can come out of, but he can't leave that hatch open if we're going to swing the gun.

MH: And were you swinging the big gun while all these people were around you?

TH: No, we didn't need to there, so the gun was pointed straight ahead. He could have opened his hatch. He might have once we got there. I don't remember seeing if he opened it or not. But he probably did while we were sittin' there waiting to go, because you can't see much through a periscope.

MH: I imagine he was worried about running people over, too.

TH: That's the other problem. Oh, in some towns in Germany, we had to run German soldiers over—and horses even, because the roads were so narrow going through some of the villages, and dead soldiers and dead horses would be right in the middle of the road, and we had to keep going as fast as we could. There were occasions when we actually had to run over dead human soldiers and dead German horses. There were situations like that. It was bad at times. Like they say, war is hell.

MH: So, how long did it finally take to drive through this mass of people? Hours?

TH: I think it took all day. Yeah, very, very slow. We obviously didn't want to run over or hit any victims. The victims had a hard enough time. And then it took us quite a few days—I don't remember; oh, I should remember—before we got to Mauthausen and Linz, Austria. That took at least a week, before we got to Austria. We were the first unit to arrive in Austria, and all through Germany we were the easternmost unit, ahead of the Allied army—

MH: The 11<sup>th</sup> Armored got to Gusen, which is a Mauthausen sub-camp, on May 5.

TH: Oh, yeah. I remember May 3, they told us that the war—don't do anything foolish, because the war was going to be over. May 3, they started telling us that. So, they told us not to do anything foolish, don't be the last victim, and so—but we were just trying to take it easy May 3, 4 and 5.

MH: Did you run into guys from the 80<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division?

TH: I don't remember any of those.

MH: So, several days go by, almost a week, and you come to the Mauthausen sub-camps. Do you remember them?

TH: No, because we didn't go directly in there. We were assigned a position to guard the road around Linz; we didn't go directly into that city. I think the other unit that's called CCA went directly into Linz. See, our division is comprised of three combat commands: Combat Command B, Combat Command A and Combat Command R for Reserve. So, my unit was CCB. We took turns doing the leading: some days it would be Combat Command B, then we'd go back into reserve and Combat Command A was the lead. I found out later that Combat Command A, the 42<sup>nd</sup> Tank Battalion, they went directly into Linz.

MH: So, where were you when the war ended?

TH: We were in Linz—yeah, Linz, Austria. On the Danube River, and there was a German barracks on the south side of Linz that they let us stay in those barracks there. Oh, yeah, but before that—that's right, too—they sent a bunch of us, not in our tanks, by

train, into the town of Hradec, Czechoslovakia, so the Russians couldn't claim all of Czechoslovakia. So they sent a bunch of us just to say that we had control of that part of Czechoslovakia, because Linz is right on the border of Czechoslovakia.

MH: They put you on a train and sent you there?

TH: What's that?

MH: They took you off the tank and put you on a train?

TH: Yes, they put a bunch of us in the train, and it was those little boxcars—

MH: The 40-and-8s?

TH: Yes, yes. They packed a bunch of us in there and took us into this little town of H-r-a-d-e-k [*sic*]. I think it's Hradec.

MH: So, what do you do when you get there?

TH: Oh, we just sat around. They let us walk around. Just to say that we were there, that's all. We didn't have to do anything. And they were taking a lot of prisoners there, because the middle of the road—the dirt road over there—was stacked with thousands of stacks of German rifles. I kept a couple of those for souvenirs. So, part of our division had to capture a lot of prisoners there. It wasn't me.

MH: And then you eventually go back to where your tanks were.

TH: Yeah, into Linz.

MH: Into Linz. And you're in Linz when the war ends?

TH: Yeah—well, let's see. Yeah, when the war ends, yeah. But then they moved us—they kept us there and moved us into the city of Steyr, Austria, S-t-e-y-r, something like that,

Steyr. And that's where I stayed the rest of the occupation, until I was sent home in February 1946.

MH: And, so February forty-six [1946] you come home, and you're out of the army?

TH: Yes, out of the army. They wanted us to stay, they promised us all kinds of promotions, but most everybody wanted to get home. So, we could have stayed and got all kinds of extra promotions.

MH: What was your rank at the end of the war?

TH: Oh, I was a PFC [Private First Class] almost the whole time. I got PFC fairly soon, but I couldn't get a promotion unless somebody in my tank crew got killed. So, that's the way that went.

MH: So, what did you do when you got back home?

TH: Ah, let's see. Oh, they gave everybody a—they would have given us a year of, like—whaddya call it? Like work compensation, like—what the heck do you call it when you get out of work? They wanted to pay us a certain amount—I don't know how much it was—for not working. I didn't have to go to work right away, so I stayed home.

MH: So, it's like unemployment compensation?

TH: Yeah, I think it was like unemployment compensation, except it was through the army. I mean, they had their own unemployment compensation, and I think it would have lasted a week, but I only took six months and then I went to work. My mother had bought a house, so I helped her with the house in Quincy, Massachusetts, yeah.

MH: And you went to work as what, a mechanic again?

TH: Then I went to work as a mechanic—let's see, where did I go? Oh, yeah, I went to work—how did I get there, hmm? I went to work. Oh, yeah, I went to work for a local mechanic, yeah, a small garage there. Yeah, that's right. Before the war I had been working as a mechanic for a company in the city of Boston, but I didn't want to go into Boston again. I stayed working near my home in Quincy.

MH: Did you get married?

TH: No—well, yeah, I got married. Well, I was with a girl. I went to roller skate just before I went in the Army, and so I joined a roller skating competition club in—where was that? Dorchester, Massachusetts. I went into competition roller skating and I met a girl there, stayed with her all the time, eventually got married with her, and we became New England Roller Skating Champions, dance skating. So, that was a big event, and I eventually married her. But she died from cancer during the blizzard—oh, 1978, which we had around here, huge blizzard. And she died from cancer during that blizzard, 1978. And then for quite a few years I was single, but then I got married again in 19—hmm, might have been 1980. I think I got married in 1980, but she died after five years from a different form of cancer. Now I'm going with a girl for twenty years and I'm afraid to get married again, because I don't want to lose another one.

MH: How old are you now?

TH: I'm eighty-six.

MH: Do you have kids?

TH: Yes, I have two boys from my first wife. One is thirty, thirty-three and the other is—he must be forty-four, forty-five years old. One lives in Quincy and the other lives in Dover, New Hampshire.

MH: Let me ask you a question. The war was over and time passes, and you're married. Do you find yourself thinking about what you saw at Flossenbürg?

TH: Oh, yeah. When people ask me about it, I can't talk about it very long; that is, I start to talk about it, I start crying. And I'm invited every year to Washington, D.C. to the Holocaust Museum activities. A few years ago, the sixtieth anniversary of liberation of the concentration camps, the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C., made a big event and they invited me and five of my buddies—I don't know how they were chosen—to participate in the ceremony in Washington, D.C. at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel. They had a big dinner there and they had Laura Bush there speaking to us, and Eisenhower's granddaughter. It was a real big event put on by the Holocaust Museum. And then, they took us all through the Museum and showed us.

Then, the following year, they invited—let's see. Yeah, they invited five of us to be personal interviewers, so the five of us are on the Holocaust Museum website, the permanent website, speaking, and I'm crying during that. So, if you look on there, on the Internet, on the Holocaust Museum in "Personal Stories by the 11<sup>th</sup> Armored Division," you'll see me, my picture there and the short message that I was able to speak. It was hard to talk.

MH: Did you find these memories were keeping you awake at night?

TH: Oh, no, it wasn't that bad. It's only when I try to talk about it. Yeah.

MH: Were you a religious person?

TH: And what?

MH: Were you a religious person before the war?

TH: No, not very. I had to become a Catholic to marry my wife, because she's Irish. But Finland is mostly Lutheran, so when my mother and father were alive, I went to church with them, a Lutheran church and a Congregational church. My mother was very active in the churches. I never was too much. Although in the war, when you're sittin' in a foxhole and the artillery starts coming toward you, you become very religious.

MH: I'm familiar with that.

TH: Oh, you've been in that situation?

MH: In Vietnam.

TH: Oh, well there you go, yeah. You become religious.

MH: We didn't have artillery coming at us, but we had rockets and mortars.

TH: Oh, well, those mortars especially, they come pretty close sometimes.

MH: Yeah. Do you know any other guys who were with you, or who were at that camp?

TH: Well, I've been trying to figure out what company was immediately behind me when we arrived there, but I haven't been able to pin that down. But when we have these reunions, a lot of guys remember that, but I can't say which company. The advance guard was always made up of well, myself first because of my operations officer, and then what's called a line company. We had three line companies, A, B and C. So Company A would be the advance guard sometimes, then they'd swap with Company B and C, and then some units were D Company. D Company was light tanks. They could run fast and look around and be like reconnaissance.

MH: I'm hoping that some other guys from the reunion call me. At this point, you're the only one who has.

TH: Oh, that's too bad, because they were sending out the fliers. They were on the table all the time, that's how I picked it up. And that's why I called: to find out what it is you want to find out. They should have called. You could call Bob Pfeiffer sometime; he's home now, and he's our historian. Our historian used to be—oh, the guy in New Jersey. He's sick now; he hasn't been able to come the last couple of times.

MH: Bob Pfeiffer is your historian?

TH: Well yeah, he's our secretary. He's younger. His father was in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Tank Battalion, and he's taken over the duties that his father and mother used to do, to be the secretary of our unit. And he's familiar with everybody, he knows everybody by name.

MH: You don't happen to have his phone number, do you?

TH: Well, I've got it in the house, if you want to wait. I'll have to go in the house to get it. So, all right, hold on a second. I'll leave this on hold for a minute.

MH: Okay, I'll hold on.

TH: His name is—you know how to spell it?

MH: No, go ahead and spell it for me.

TH: Let's see, where'd I put it. Okay, the last name is P-f-e-i-f-f-e-r, Bob Pfeiffer.

MH: And his phone number?

TH: Phone number, let's see. It's up here.... You want his address, also?

MH: Sure.

TH: ... How does that sound?

MH: That sounds good.

TH: Okay. And he might be able to put you in touch with Ray Bush, because Ray Bush used to be our historian. He has all kinds of movies and everything. He was in the 56<sup>th</sup> Armored Engineers, and he had to supervise digging holes to bury a lot of the victims in Mauthausen. He has a video of that. He had a movie camera, and he put the pictures he took onto video. You might be interested in some of that.

MH: Do you have a picture of yourself from wartime?

TH: I used to, but I sent it into a magazine they were putting together at one time and I don't know if I ever got them back. I don't know if I have any more now. I should have someplace, but I've been looking myself and I haven't found them.

MH: Do you have an e-mail address?

TH: My girlfriend has it. I don't have any of that stuff but my girlfriend has it.

MH: Do you know her e-mail address offhand?

TH: Let's see. Yeah....

MH: I'm going to send her an e-mail with my address on it; or, actually, you have my address on the flier, right?

TH: Yes. It'd be good if you'd send it to her, just the same.

MH: Okay, because if you find a picture, I'd really like to have it, and I'll copy it and send it back to you.

TH: Oh, yeah, I'd make copies if I find it again.

MH: But it's just, the reason—if you find a good picture I can scan it and make a good scan that we use in the book.

TH: Oh, yeah, they got such good equipment now. I was just reading at the reunion, somebody had brought a nice map of our complete route from England. The week before, I was in Duluth, Minnesota, at my Finnish reunion, festival, and a guy from the Vietnam War was there. He belonged to the Veterans, the Disabled American Veterans, and the American Legion. They supplied me with a brand new electric wheelchair to use the whole time I was in Duluth. That was absolutely awesome. At no charge.

MH: You needed to get around with an electric wheelchair because of your hip?

TH: Yes, my hip is still bothering me. I have to use a mechanical wheelchair around here, and a walker. I can use a walker, too, as long as I don't put any weight on my right foot.

MH: Okay.

*End of interview*