

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW OF RALPH A. MEDSKER
INTERVIEWED BY DAN CREWS
TRANSCRIBED BY STEPHANIE HALL

MR. CREWS: Today is December 8, 1994, and my name is Dan CREWS. In working with the Illinois Historical Society in collecting oral histories from those Illinois residents who participated in the events surrounding World War II. We are in the home of Dick Medsker and, Dick, what is your address, uh, which you live?

MR. MEDSKER: Road Route 1, off of 125.

MR. CREWS: And, uh, Dick served in a branch of the United States Armed Forces during World War II, and we are interviewing him about his experiences in the war.

Dick, let's begin the interview by, uh -- if you will introduce yourself and tell me your full name and the place and date of your birth.

MR. MEDSKER: Uh, my name is Ralph A. Medsker. Preacher gave me the "A" middle initial when I went up to courthouse to get my birth certificate. I didn't have a middle name until after that time.

MR. CREWS: Hm.

MR. MEDSKER: And, uh --

MR. CREWS: Where were you born?

MR. MEDSKER: Born in Western Union.

MR. CREWS: And what -- and what's the month, the day, and the year you were born?

MR. MEDSKER: First day of March in 1912.

MR. CREWS: 1912. Um, we would also like the names -- know the names of your parents.

MR. MEDSKER: That was Mr. and Mrs. Burl Medsker.

MR. CREWS: Uh-huh.

MR. MEDSKER: B-u-r-l.

MR. CREWS: And did you have any brothers and sisters?

MR. MEDSKER: I had only one brother and one sister.

MR. CREWS: Okay. Are there any details about your parents, uh, that you'd mind sharing with us? Like what type of work did your dad do?

MR. MEDSKER: My dad run a place of business in Western Union. Medsker Produce Company.

MR. CREWS: Uh-huh.

MR. MEDSKER: He bought cream, poultry, and eggs.

MR. CREWS: So, kind of like a grocery-type of business?

MR. MEDSKER: Yeah, uh-huh.

MR. CREWS: Dick, what was life like for you before the war, specifically 1941?

MR. MEDSKER: I worked out of Velsicol.

MR. CREWS: Uh-huh. And what kind of plant, uh -- what did Velsicol do?

MR. MEDSKER: Well, we made paint additives and, uh, gas additives, resin -- about anything anybody wanted to be made.

MR. CREWS: Okay. Um, what thoughts did you have about the war before the United States became involved in it?

MR. MEDSKER: Well, we knew that we wouldn't have to go if we didn't enlist because Velsicol had -- was a priority. That's the reason a lot of the guys didn't go because they knew they'd stay put.

MR. CREWS: Oh, is that right. So, the work that was going out of Velsicol was kind of war related in history?

MR. MEDSKER: Yeah.

MR. CREWS: Um, did you hear the December 7, 1941 radio announcement about the Japanese attacking Pearl Harbor?

MR. MEDSKER: Yes.

MR. CREWS: Where were you, and what were you doing at that time?

MR. MEDSKER: I was working full 12 shifts down at Velsicol and I was out there.

MR. CREWS: Were you. And what was the reaction of those around you when you heard the -

MR. MEDSKER: Well, the reaction was most of us were gonna go.

MR. CREWS: Uh-huh.

MR. MEDSKER: And I think most of us did.

MR. CREWS: Is that right. Um, had you -- had you developed any opinions or developed any feelings about what was going on either in Asia or Europe prior?

MR. MEDSKER: No.

MR. CREWS: Uh, do you recall reading newspaper accounts of, uh, German aggression in Europe at that time?

MR. MEDSKER: Oh, yes.

MR. CREWS: Did you have any knowledge of Hitler's speeches or ideas or anything like that?

MR. MEDSKER: No.

MR. CREWS: Well, what events led to your entry into the military? Were you already in the service, drafted, or did you volunteer?

MR. MEDSKER: Volunteer.

MR. CREWS: And do you know when you volunteered? Approximate month and year?

MR. MEDSKER: Yeah, September the 17th.

MR. CREWS: September 17. Was that 1942?

MR. MEDSKER: I don't remember that part of it. It wasn't in there.

MR. CREWS: Well, um, tell me about where did you go to, uh, volunteer? Where did you get inducted in? Or where were you at to be inducted into the military?

MR. MEDSKER: Marshall.

MR. CREWS: Marshall. In what branch of the service did you join?

MR. MEDSKER: Army.

MR. CREWS: Army. Uh, do you have any special memories about, uh, that time when you were inducted into the military?

MR. MEDSKER: I knew before I got to Chicago I made a mistake about volunteering.

MR. CREWS: You made a mistake, huh? Why did -- why did you feel that?

MR. MEDSKER: Oh, I just thought that I should've stayed at home.

MR. CREWS: Well, where did you go after you were inducted into the service?

MR. MEDSKER: Down in Mississippi.

MR. CREWS: Okay. And is that where you took your, uh, basic training?

MR. MEDSKER: Yeah.

MR. CREWS: What camp was that?

MR. MEDSKER: Camp Van Dorn.

MR. CREWS: Okay. And what kind of things occurred at that camp? What, uh -- what did you train for?

MR. MEDSKER: Infantry.

MR. CREWS: Infantry. Okay. Do you remember any specific things that you trained with, uh -- types of weapons? That type of thing.

MR. MEDSKER: M1. That was our main weapon.

MR. CREWS: Uh-huh.

MR. MEDSKER: And -- just, you know, army stuff.

MR. CREWS: Well, did you, uh -- do you remember anything special that happened there during your training?

MR. MEDSKER: No. Only we had a bunch of Negroes on there, that was the 93rd Division.

MR. CREWS: The 93rd.

MR. MEDSKER: Had a -- but they was under armed guard all the time.

MR. CREWS: Hmm. Uh -- did you attend any other training camps, uh, while you were, uh, going through your basic training?

MR. MEDSKER: No.

MR. CREWS: Um, what can you tell me about the place where you were stationed? Uh, maybe the friends you made or did you have any contact with civilians?

MR. MEDSKER: Well, in Italy we had contact with civilians.

MR. CREWS: Well, before you left overseas here in the United States?

MR. MEDSKER: No.

MR. CREWS: And maybe this, too. Where did you go after completing your, uh, basic training?

MR. MEDSKER: We went to, uh, Southampton, England, or Southampton, New Jersey -

MR. CREWS: Okay.

MR. MEDSKER: -- and then we went from there, took Liberty ships over to, uh, over to, uh, Italy.

MR. CREWS: Italy. And, uh, were you part of -- what army were you assigned to, uh, -- were you in? What division -- what were your regiment?

MR. MEDSKER: 3rd Division.

MR. CREWS: Any particular regiment?

MR. MEDSKER: Well, we had one but I don't know what it was.

MR. CREWS: Okay. Um, when was the, uh -- once you arrived overseas into Italy what were you assigned to do?

MR. MEDSKER: We were assigned to, uh, Lippstadt, Germany --

MR. CREWS: Uh-huh.

MR. MEDSKER: -- from where we were stationed at there.

MR. CREWS: Do you know, when you arrived in Italy, what year that was? The month?

MR. MEDSKER: No. I should have wrote all that stuff down but I didn't. Should be in here somewhere --

MR. CREWS: Well, tell me this. Um -- tell me about entering your first combat zone, uh, or your -- yeah, I guess say, yeah, combat zone. Uh, tell me about that experience. What was that like for you?

MR. MEDSKER: That was like being born again when we went up on Anzio.

MR. CREWS: Now, was that your first combat experience at Anzio?

MR. MEDSKER: See, the Germans -- we were pushed back up in the water up there. We, uh, we went up there and shoved them back to their home.

MR. CREWS: Uh-huh.

MR. MEDSKER: We did.

MR. CREWS: What was the, uh, the terrain like? Was it pretty difficult going? Hillies -- hills?

MR. MEDSKER: Mountains and hills.

MR. CREWS: Do you -- anything stand out in your mind, in your memories, when you think about Anzio and your traveling through Rome?

MR. MEDSKER: Well, yes. I wouldn't want to do it again. It could have been a lot worse.

MR. CREWS: Well, tell me your first encounter with, uh, German troops.

MR. MEDSKER: My first encounter was -- was when we first hit Anzio.

MR. CREWS: On the beach?

MR. MEDSKER: Yeah. Oh, they had that place zeroed in. They were bombarding the pudding out of me.

MR. CREWS: Did you, uh, did you see the Germans? Did you, um, you -- could you see where they were at or were they far enough away they were shelling you?

MR. MEDSKER: They were shelling us.

MR. CREWS: Uh-huh.

MR. MEDSKER: We, uh -- my mind went blank. We had -- I say there was a lot of that stuff that we shouldn't have even been doing, I think. I just -- (Inaudible)

MR. CREWS: Now, what rank did you have?

MR. MEDSKER: Then, I was private.

MR. CREWS: Private?

MR. MEDSKER: Then later on I was -- I advanced up to sergeant.

MR. CREWS: Well, when you, um -- were there any other combat situations that you participated in in Italy while you were, uh, traveling north?

MR. MEDSKER: No, but we went -- after we got in, we took Rome, and the folks said they'll be no Garrison troops in Rome. So we pulled out, and they said we would have to train for a landing in Southern France.

MR. CREWS: Okay. Tell me about that. Tell me about the training and, uh, the landing in France.

MR. MEDSKER: I just got on these LCIs and took off and then when they pulled in where we were supposed to disembark, get off, and take off, and chase 'em back.

MR. CREWS: Uh-uh. Did you -- was there much resistance from the Germans when you landed in Southern France?

MR. MEDSKER: No.

MR. CREWS: No. When, um -- so this was not part of the invasion of, like, Normandy, but this was the Southern portion of France; is that right?

MR. MEDSKER: Yeah.

MR. CREWS: Okay. Um --

MR. MEDSKER: However, when I said there wasn't, there was a lot of shelling going on and everything. Well, the Germans had that pretty well zeroed in --

MR. CREWS: Did they?

MR. MEDSKER: -- we just pulled out, come in another -- another landing.

MR. CREWS: Uh-huh. Um, what did you -- were there, were there very many casualties in your unit? Uh, do I understand -- were you wounded during the war? Tell me about your wound and how did you receive that?

MR. MEDSKER: Received it when we come in and make a landing in Southern France and hit a mine.

MR. CREWS: Oh, did you?

MR. MEDSKER: The LCI, that thing, killed a lot of us with it. That killed, I think it was seven or eight people in that whole

-- The rest of us kept on hollering our heads off to get me out of there.

MR. CREWS: What happened to you, Dick?

MR. MEDSKER: Well, it went right through there. The bottom of that ship come up and it had -- on my head up here, on my left eye, and my head, and my side. Anyhow, it was, uh -- I went back down to the Naples unit.

MR. CREWS: To a hospital in Naples?

MR. MEDSKER: Yeah.

MR. CREWS: Is that right? How long were you in the hospital?

MR. MEDSKER: About three or four months.

MR. CREWS: Were you?

MR. MEDSKER: When I came out of there they classified me in the Air Corps.

MR. CREWS: Okay.

MR. MEDSKER: Then I went to Italy to Lippstadt, Germany.

MR. CREWS: And whereabouts were you Lippstadt, Germany? What portion of Germany was that in?

MR. MEDSKER: Up in the northern part.

MR. CREWS: Okay. And was the war over by that time?

MR. MEDSKER: Yeah.

MR. CREWS: Okay.

MR. MEDSKER: It hadn't even got started yet.

MR. CREWS: Is that right. Well, what did -- what was your job when you were stationed up there?

MR. MEDSKER: In the Air Corp.

MR. CREWS: Uh-huh.

MR. MEDSKER: I was in the gasoline dump, which was right up my ally. I had been working in gas and gas additives and everything else.

MR. CREWS: Uh-huh. Your Velsicol experience?

MR. MEDSKER: Yeah.

MR. CREWS: Okay.

MR. MEDSKER: Yeah, we was at -- I couldn't have been transferred to any place any better for myself.

MR. CREWS: Uh-huh.

MR. MEDSKER: That one there.

MR. CREWS: Well, did you miss the infantry at all? I see you have a 3rd Division patch here, a 3rd Army patch, and then also, um, I see you have your Close Combat, or your Combat Infantryman's badge with an oak leaf cluster. Um, when were you awarded this?

MR. MEDSKER: I was awarded that -- it's a Combat Infantry Badge.

MR. CREWS: Uh-huh.

MR. MEDSKER: Um, I don't know why I got that. It was in full Battle Stars.

MR. CREWS: Which was -- I noticed that on your European Campaign Medal -- um, how many, or what campaigns did you participate in?

MR. MEDSKER: I don't know what they were called.

MR. CREWS: Well, where were they at? Tell me that.

MR. MEDSKER: The first one was in Southern France. In Southern France we went over to Germany and, uh, we stopped from there to -- it was all mixed up.

MR. CREWS: Uh-huh.

MR. MEDSKER: Then we -- then we got away from --

MR. CREWS: Well, when you were up in Northern Germany and you were working at the gas, um, fuel dump, what type of

planes -- or did you supply planes or tanks or just all kinds of things?

MR. MEDSKER: Mostly planes.

MR. CREWS: I see you have some photographs here of not only of your training experience in Mississippi, but also, um, there's a picture here -- a picture of you and several other guys working on a Messerschmitt 262 jet fighter. Uh, do you remember what you were doing at this, uh -- with this plane in June, 1945?

MR. MEDSKER: Mostly we was just posing for the photographer.

MR. CREWS: Oh, is that right. Was this at an airbase where these planes were?

MR. MEDSKER: Yeah.

MR. CREWS: Hm. I also saw -- you also had a picture of a German Focke-Wulf fighter.

MR. MEDSKER: Uh-uh.

MR. CREWS: Well, tell me this. Um, did you get to, uh, did you see very many German civilians? Did you have much of a relationship with them? Did you talk with them?

MR. MEDSKER: Yeah. But they -- it was against rules and regulations but we did anyhow.

MR. CREWS: Uh-huh.

MR. MEDSKER: Fraternizing.

MR. CREWS: What kind of things did they -- did they tell you? What did you learn from the German civilians while you were over there?

MR. MEDSKER: They liked us.

MR. CREWS: Did they?

MR. MEDSKER: Now, I don't know if it was authentic or whether they were doing it for fun but, but --

MR. CREWS: Um, did you have any opportunities to come in contact with the German prisoners of war while you were there?

MR. MEDSKER: I did when we got back into the States.

MR. CREWS: Oh, really. Tell me about that. What were they doing here -- or I know we sent a lot of -- or I know the United States sent a lot of German POWs back here to this country.

MR. MEDSKER: Yeah, they sent a lot of them back to Camp Killmer, New Jersey.

MR. CREWS: Uh-uh.

MR. MEDSKER: Course they were anxious to talk to us. In fact, we were their allies and so forth and that. There again we was told not to fraternize and I didn't care to fraternize.

MR. CREWS: Prior to the end of the war, were you aware of any of the concentration camps that they had in Germany, and did you experience -- did you see any of them?

MR. MEDSKER: I met one up there in there in the northern part where they, uh -- what was the name of that -- I don't remember (Inaudible).

MR. CREWS: Um, what would you say would be the highlight of your experience as, uh -- when you were in your combat experience, what was the highlight -- what would you say, during World War II, was the highlight of your combat experience?

MR. MEDSKER: Going into battle and getting out without --

MR. CREWS: Uh-uh. Were you in a rifle company?

MR. MEDSKER: Yeah.

MR. CREWS: Uh-uh. Um, did you see very many -- what types of troops did you come in contact with? Were they paratroopers? Were they German SS troops? The Wehrmacht?

MR. MEDSKER: German soldiers.

MR. CREWS: German soldiers. What was the condition that they were in when you came in contact -- were they still pretty feisty? Were they, uh --

MR. MESKER: Oh yeah.

MR. CREWS: Were they getting tired or --

MR. MEDSKER: They were -- they considered themselves better than any American.

MR. CREWS: Uh-huh.

MR. MEDSKER: And they didn't hesitate to let you know it.

MR. CREWS: Um -- how did you get along with all the men that you served with while you were over there?

MR. MEDSKER: Okay.

MR. CREWS: Did you. Were there things that you'd do differently if you could do them once again?

MR. MEDSKER: Oh, yeah.

MR. CREWS: What would be some things you'd do differently?

MR. MEDSKER: Well, I'd try to be a better soldier and a better man.

MR. CREWS: Uh-uh. In what ways?

MR. MEDSKER: All the ways.

MR. CREWS: Well, what do you think was the most difficult thing you had to do during your period of military service?

MR. MEDSKER: The most difficult thing I had to do is to take orders.

MR. CREWS: Is that right. Um, were there a lot of other men who found, like, some more difficulties, or what were your officers like that you had in your -- in your --

MR. MEDSKER: They were okay.

MR. CREWS: Were they. Um, how did you learn about VE Day and what was your reaction to it?

MR. MEDSKER: Well, we were debating on whether we were gonna have to go down to Japan or not.

MR. CREWS: Uh-huh

MR. MEDSKER: We thought we were but then we didn't.

MR. CREWS: Well, what was your opinion when you found out about the atomic bomb when it was used against Japan in 1945?

MR. MEDSKER: I think that was a wise thing for 'em to do.

MR. CREWS: Did you?

MR. MEDSKER: It sure stopped the war.

MR. CREWS: Sure did. Has your opinion changed in the last 50 years concerning that?

MR. MEDSKER: No. Because I've got a sneaking suspicion if they picked to do it over again they would have used two of 'em. (Coughs) I need a drink of water.

MR. CREWS: Dick, when were you officially -- officially discharged from the service?

MR. MEDSKER: December the 19th, of 19 -- '45 I think it was.

MR. CREWS: '45. And where were you dispa -- discharged at?

MR. MEDSKER: Camp Grant.

MR. CREWS: Camp Grant. Okay. And, um, have you had any contact with the Veterans Administration?

MR. MEDSKER: Oh, yeah.

MR. CREWS: Oh, yeah. Have you ever used their medical facilities?

MR. MEDSKER: Yes.

MR. CREWS: Yeah. And what's your opinion of the VA?

MR. MEDSKER: I think it's very nice.

MR. CREWS: Uh-huh. And, uh --

MR. MEDSKER: They have treated me very nice (Inaudible).

MR. CREWS: And what is opinion of the care that you've received while you're -- while you're there?

MR. MEDSKER: Good.

MR. CREWS: Good. Um --

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: I just heard that when I walked through.
Tell him that, uh, you're -- you paid for some of the medicine
and the rest of it comes off of your, uh --

MR. MEDSKER: AARP.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Yeah.

MR. MEDSKER: Yeah.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: The veterans don't pay for all of it.

MR. CREWS: Right.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: You knew that?

MR. CREWS: Yeah, they pay a certain percentage.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Yeah.

MR. CREWS: Yep. Um, how did your experiences during World War II affect your life since that time? Have you ever given that much thought?

MR. MEDSKER: No, I never -- I never give it much thought.

MR. CREWS: Well, do you still keep in contact with many of the people that you served with or have you heard from any of them? Have you ever attended any reunions of your unit?

MR. MEDSKER: No.

MR. CREWS: Um, do you feel your wartime contribution to the United States has been appreciated over the years?

MR. MEDSKER: Oh, I think so.

MR. CREWS: Did you return to the United States with any souvenirs or things like that that you might have picked up over in Germany?

MR MEDSKER: Uh-huh.

MR. CREWS: You have your pictures and documentation. Just a bunch of interesting pictures of your training. Uh, I

guess -- how did the men in your unit -- how did you celebrate traditional holidays such as Thanksgiving and Christmas? What did you guys do?

MR. MEDSKER: Nothing out of the ordinary.

MR. CREWS: Well, what kind of things did you eat in, uh --

MR. MEDSKER: Oh, meat.

MR. CREWS: When you were out in the field, and stuff, did you have anything?

MR. MEDSKER: Oh, no. The cooks weren't with us.

MR. CREWS: Did they -- how often did you have a hot meal?

MR. MEDSKER: Well, all we got in the field -- we didn't have very many hot meals.

MR. CREWS: No?

MR. MEDSKER: Then, we had C-ration, K-ration.

MR. CREWS: What was in the K- and C-ration? Do you remember them?

MR. MEDSKER: C-ration was in tin and you could get different things. You had to heat your can up to get your food hot. Where K-rations were in a package. Have you ever seen a K-ration?

MR. CREWS: Kind of like a big box of Cracker Jacks type-of-a-shape?

MR. MEDSKER: Yeah. When I was very far from my (Inaudible) contacts (Inaudible) we were usually camped for like, again -- well, there's a picture of us at that gas dump. (Sorting through pictures)

MR. CREWS: Hm.

MR. MEDSKER: Belonged but I didn't.

MR. CREWS: Who had the camera in your group that you got all these pictures taken?

MR. MEDSKER: I had mine.

MR. CREWS: Oh, did you?

MR. MEDSKER: I paid a \$1.99 for a Crows.

MR. CREWS: Is that right?

MR. MEDSKER: Yeah. Then I sold it when I's found out I was coming home.

MR. CREWS: How did you get home from, uh, Europe?

MR. MEDSKER: On the Queen Mary.

MR. CREWS: On the Queen Mary. And where did you -- where did you land when you arrived back in the United States?

MR. MEDSKER: New York.

MR. CREWS: New York City. Did you take the train from New York?

MR. MEDSKER: Yeah, to Camp Kilmer and then --

MR. CREWS: Were you impressed by the caliber of the German soldier when you encountered him in Europe?

MR. MEDSKER: No. They were just like us. They didn't want to be there any worse than we did.

MR. CREWS: Is that right. Did you ever have, uh -- did your unit ever take German prisoners? Capture them?

MR. MEDSKER: Yeah. Marched 17 of them back to (Inaudible).

MR. CREWS: Did they seem to be happy to surrender?

MR. MEDSKER: They was happy to surrender, yeah. Where is that picture? (Sorting through pictures).

MR. CREWS: So you came home on the Queen Mary, huh?

MR. MEDSKER: Yep.

MR. CREWS: December 9th through December 14th, 1945.

MR. MEDSKER: Yeah.

MR. CREWS: Cunard-White Star Liner Queen Mary. Looks pretty packed.

MR. MEDSKER: It was. I didn't know how many there was on there but there was a lot of men. Better than 15,000. We had to eat when they said to come eat. If you didn't go eat you missed your meal.

MR. CREWS: Is that right?

MR. MEDSKER: Yeah.

MR. CREWS: Looks like it'd have to be pretty continuous to feed a group like that.

MR. MEDSKER: Yeah.

MR. CREWS: Well, Dick, I want to thank you for sitting down and answering my questions regarding your experiences during the Second World War. I appreciate this.

MR. MEDSKER: Well, you didn't learn much, but then I'll say I wouldn't take a million dollars for the experience I had, but I wouldn't give a nickel for the knowledge either.

MR. CREWS: What was, uh -- it was pretty tough being away from home I'm sure --

MR. MEDSKER: Oh, yeah.

MR. CREWS: -- and being away from your family.

MR. MEDSKER: You know, homesickness is one of the worse sicknesses there is.

MR. CREWS: Did you get homesick while you were gone?

MR. MEDSKER: Oh, boy, I got homesick before I left Illinois.

MR. CREWS: Yeah.

MR. MEDSKER: Yeah, but I wasn't alone. There was -- we was all the same way.

MR. CREWS: Do you, um -- did you ever think about possibly staying in the military at all after, you know, once you came close --

MR. MEDSKER: No. When I came close to me coming out I was -- I don't know how old I was, but I was old enough that I didn't want to go back in it.

MR. CREWS: How long were you in Munich, Germany?

MR. MEDSKER: Well, I was in there from -- I don't know. Better than a year.

MR. CREWS: Is that right. Do you ever remember seeing any of the more famous American commanders like Patton or General Ridgway or any of those when you were over there? Do you remember seeing any of that?

MR. MEDSKER: Yeah. I remember seeing -- what was the guy's name? He ended up being President of the United States -- Eisenhower.

MR. CREWS: Oh, is that right?

MR. MEDSKER: Yeah.

MR. CREWS: How did you see him? Where was he at?

MR. MEDSKER: He came into our camp and shook hands with us.

MR. CREWS: Oh, is that right?

MR. MEDSKER: Yeah, yeah. And he was telling us, you know, we was (Inaudible) reclassified and going into the airport. Which was a good thing. We were (Inaudible) glad to hear him say that. Oh, they were nice.

MR. CREWS: Well, once again, thanks, Dick. I appreciate it.

MR. MEDSKER: Well, I don't feel that I've done you very much good.

MR. CREWS: It's been a pleasure looking at your photos and all your documentation here.

(INTERVIEW THEN ENDS AND THEN RESUMES FOR THIS FINAL PORTION)

MR. CREWS: Say's here that battles and campaigns, the Rome-Arno, Southern France, Rhineland and Central Europe. The decorations and citations include three overseas service bars, European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon with four battle -- bronze battle stars, Good Conduct Medal, Purple Heart,

Victorious Unit Award, and World War II Victory Medal. Said you were wounded in France on August 15, 1944.

MR. MEDSKER: Yeah. That Purple Heart isn't in there either, is it?

MR. CREWS: No, haven't seen it -- oh, yeah, it lists Purple Heart here.

MR. MEDSKER: It's listed but I mean it -- it isn't there.

MR. CREWS: And you were also given the Combat Infantry Badge. An expert with the rifle, M1?

MR. MEDSKER: Yeah.

MR. CREWS: Good shot, huh?

MR. MEDSKER: Ought to be good for something.

MR. CREWS: So, let's see, your grade was sergeant and your organization, let's see -- the 392nd.

MR. MEDSKER: Air Service Group.

MR. CREWS: Air Service Group 32 (Inaudible) service
group -- induction.

(AUDIO RECORDING ENDS)