

TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW WITH CLAUDE REED WRIGHT, 12-23-1919

Interview conducted March 10, 2003, Scottsbluff, Nebraska

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Transcriber Mary Jo Davis as above, transcription completed March 13, 2003

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TAPE ONE:

DAVIS: Okay, this interview of Claude Reed Wright, born twenty-third of December, 1919, is being recorded March, what is this?, tenth, March tenth, 2003 at Claude's home in Scottsbluff, Nebraska. The interviewer is lifelong friend Mary Jo Davis, and also present is Claude's wife Mary, going here and there. Okay. Claude, were you drafted or did you enlist?

WRIGHT: Well, funny thing along those lines. I was in the advanced ROTC at Nebraska, so when the war hit, they classified me as Active Military Training. Then what happened, when we got through with the, got out of school, they had to figure out - I hadn't had camp, I was short of camp (?), commission. So they ended up drafting me. And I was sworn in the army, I've got a date here, the, in February of...

DAVIS: Thirteenth of February.

WRIGHT: Yeah.

DAVIS: 1943.

WRIGHT: Yep. And along, I was ... There was quite a group of us in that particular situation. And the amazing thing is, well, you can look at this list right here.

DAVIS: Okay.

WRIGHT: This was the order that put us to active duty. Look at the names on there!

DAVIS: Okay. Oh my gosh.

WRIGHT: That guy was a Nebraska State Supreme Court Judge later on.

DAVIS: Oh for heavens' sake.

WRIGHT: Mike Poteet, his dad was head of the liquor commission in the state of Nebraska. Charlie Bird come from a strong farming family there in .... But we was all in the same position, we was short of camp, so the army was pullin' their hair, so they ended up drafting us. And then we come out of that, all of us ended up at Leavenworth, then on to OCS, Fort Sill, and these guys would have went to their .... As a result of their short of camp, we ended up going to the schools and taking the regular course that regular enlisted personnel would. And it was one of the best breaks we had, because we grew up right quick like in that ...

DAVIS: I'll bet that's true.

WRIGHT: Yeah, see, we was all in college, and college soldiering is a little bit different than when you get into the ...

DAVIS: I'm sure.

WRIGHT: Yeah.

DAVIS: Okay, so you went to Leavenworth, for how long?

WRIGHT: About two weeks.

DAVIS: Oh.

WRIGHT: During that time, why, they, pulled me on, I took a test, they run some various tests and all the medical and that sort of thing, of course that was standard. There was one

kid ahead of me, the poor devil had got through that and they called him home, and when he comes back they run him through the same thing again.

DAVIS: Oh dear.

WRIGHT: Take all those shors and everything else.

DAVIS: Oh shoot.

WRIGHT: But then from there they sent me down to Fort Sill.

DAVIS: Tell me where Fort Sill is.

WRIGHT: It's in southwestern Oklahoma.

DAVIS: Okay.

WRIGHT: And the weather's very similar to weather here, it's hilly country down in ~~through there~~, and thin-soiled. Oh, the soil in that country is about six inches then rock.

DAVIS: Is that right.

WRIGHT: Yeah. I was amazed at the soil. At Fort Sill we went through thirteen weeks of OCS, which was the equivalent they said to a college education, and it was about right. They poured it on and when you started, they said, "Welcome, gentlemen, look around and there'll just be half of you here in thirteen weeks." And that was just about the dropout ratio. They poured it on.

DAVIS: What was the dropout ratio?

WRIGHT: The class? The OCS class?

DAVIS: Yeah.

WRIGHT About 50 per cent of them. So the fifty percent that come through, you had to be pretty sharp and this and that because they didn't put up with .... I don't know why

more schools, guess it'd be too tough. But man this was bing, bing, bing, and they fired the courses at you and you did it.

DAVIS : What were the courses?

WRIGHT: Well, they had to do all the way from communications, of course gunnery, and management I guess we'd call it, management, how to take care of personnel, and that sort of thing. And it was, it was just quite a course. And it would be. I could understand how some, I wish some of our college seniors could be exposed to one of those courses. Cause, no horsin' around.

DAVIS: Well.

WRIGHT: One of the best breaks I got. Come out of that, that thirteen weeks, and I put in for a survey school. See I'd had surveying in Nebraska, a survey course at Nebraska, so, this survey, I was fascinated with, so I took the Army survey course. Now what's the Army survey do? Well, artillery, what you do is orient your various guns so you're shooting the same direction and different units, you tie together, and it's basically on one level, but there was occasions when we were in the hills, when there was as much as a half mile difference in elevation between batteries, and it was a fascinating thing, surveying was.

DAVIS: How many people were in surveying? It had to be a small percentage.

WRIGHT: Oh yeah, just a very small percentage. And when I got out of survey school, there was a list of divisions that we could, that was openings that wanted this sort of personnel. And I put in for the 35<sup>th</sup>, because that was the National Guard around here, and I knew an awful lot of the people. And at that time they were down in Alabama at, can't recall the Fort's name down there, it's where they, it's the chopper port today in

training. But it was a town, and the town next to it was called Ozark, and when we ended up in there, one of my buddies said, "Nine thousand. I didn't realize that eight thousand of them would be black."

DAVIS: I'll bet.

WRIGHT: And that country was different. The biggest crop in that country was peanuts, and you could smell peanuts 24 hours a day. And part of that ground I was convinced the only thing it was any good for was a military post. Very common timber, hilly, and that sort of thing.

DAVIS: Well.

WRIGHT: And it's a chopper port today. It's where they send the chopper training down there.

DAVIS: Okay. How long were you there?

WRIGHT: There? Let's see, July I moved in there and then in November we went to maneuvers in Tennessee. In Tennessee, it was southeast of Nashville. One of the major towns down there was Murfreesboro, and that had a great big sign, that was where MacArthur's wife was from. Here was a sign on the, it was where MacArthur's wife was raised in there. So we went in there, it was before Thanksgiving, about the first of November. And then the first crack out of the box, we were sent to camp, everything's awful dry, and some jerk starts a fire. Holy cow, and I looked at it, and, see the outfit I was with was Kansas boys, the majority was Kansas farm boys. Said, "Grab that tarp, let's go!" and we just took a big gun tarp, those gun tarps about twenty foot square, just whipped that across that thing and whipped that out. And then I said, in unsanitary language,

"Who was the so-and-so put a fire in this stuff?" Turned out to be a first lieutenant from New York. Said, "How blank blank dumb are you?" Didn't need to burn up part of this country. Well the maneuvers in the Tennessee area, it was difficult, like I said, Kansas, Nebraska boys, some Missourians, we wasn't used to some of that stuff there. It started raining. Oh, brother! Mud, you couldn't believe how deep that mud was. And that sort of thing. And there was a, we parked the guns one night, one weekend, on the top of this particular hill, and I think the old farmer told me it was thirteen acres and that was about right.

DAVIS: Thirteen what?

WRIGHT: Thirteen acres of alfalfa. Well, if you can imagine after it's rained for two weeks and you got trucks with chains on, you can imagine how they cut that up. He come to me and said, "I understand you've been raised around a farm." "Yeah, that's right." He said, "Now, look here," says, "Uncle Sam will be more than fair in his payment for this, but," he said, "I won't live long enough to get ...[?]" Think that was about right.

DAVIS: I'll bet that was true, too.

WRIGHT: But the funny thing about it, I said something, and he said, "You know sheep?" I said, "Yeah, I was raised and fed, we had sheep." He said, "Let me show you something." And we walked in, and good black-faced sheep and he says, "Any idea where they come from?" And I said, "Yeah, Wyoming." He said, "You're right." I says, "Up in the Sheridan country." Black-faced sheep.

DAVIS: Is that right? I didn't know that.

WRIGHT: But then Thanksgiving, went to Catholic mass on that weekend, and Christmas weekend, I stayed in the field, oh boy. We had some kids that got kind of, they got some Tennessee moonshine. You talk about (?) those kids, it was wild, and that was part of Tennessee. We left Tennessee then in December, and we was only in, back in Fort Ruckers -Ruckers is the name of that post I was talking about - We was only in Ruckers there about thirty days and they decided they was gonna send us on winter maneuvers, down in West Virginia.

DAVIS: Okay.

WRIGHT: So we move out and we move into Fort Butner which is part of Raleigh today, the northern part of town up there.

DAVIS: Butner?

WRIGHT: Butner. Camp Butner. And incidentally in that area I had a buddy that was quite a basketball player and we got to watching some college basketball, and college basketball in there is where, ...that was entirely different from what we'd seen, and of course that's where those good teams are still coming out of Raleigh and in through there. Boy oh boy they got some terrific basketball down there. But then they pulled us into winter mountain training in West Virginia.

DAVIS: I'll be darned.

WRIGHT: I seen that, I was smoking a pipe, and seen where that pipe and that wasn't going to work, so I picked up some chewing tobacco. Well, my crew, the sergeant that ramrodded my crew was Indian. His mother was a Ponca, and his Dad was a French, where the name Hayes came from, between French and Sioux. And he'd went to school

at, down at, oh, I can't recall the name of that Indian school. He'd went down there as a little boy to this Indian school, and he must have been eight. I can understand a child, seven or eight years old, and they put him in a situation like that.

DAVIS: Yeah.

WRIGHT: And Lou, he went to Wayne Teachers, put in three years there, and he was living with, among other people, Elmer Peters, which is, you know, Kurtz girl's husband. Yeah, they was in school together.

DAVIS: Is that right.

WRIGHT: Yeah.

DAVIS: Well I'll be darned.

WRIGHT: And I always kidded him, said, "How come you didn't get your degree?" Well, ~~after three~~ years, Lou ... But he was a terrific head on him, good head on him, and a natural leader. He run my crew, and one weekend he liked his football and he was going to go to a football game up to Chicago, the Bears were playing, I forget who it was. Well, I put together passes, talked the old man out of it, the company commander, put together passes so he'd have enough time to get up there. It just took 48 hours and then I got a call. Colonel Roden(?) said, "Wright? You know where your Indian is?" "No, no, what's wrong now?" "They picked him up in New Orleans, drunk. [?] of course." And I said, "What's going to happen?" Well, says, "When he gets back we'll pull his stripes. And I said, How soon can I make him back?" He said, "Thirty days." Said, "That's fine." Well, looking back, they pulled his sarge stripes off of him, and after they pulled his stripes the battery commander says, "Who's running your section now?" I said, "Hayes." Said, "He's a



private!" Said, "Don't care what he is, he's still running that section." He just passed away just a while back. He was a character.

DAVIS: You kept in touch with him

WRIGHT: Oh, a good guy. And he was a division, .... Anybody that wanted to know where somebody was, call Lou Hayes down at Kansas City.

DAVIS : Well.

WRIGHT: He had contacts with all over the deal. But he was a successful businessman.

DAVIS: Well.

WRIGHT: He, I don't know how much of ... I kidded him one time, I said, " Why don't you use .. Do you have to have cash?" "Yes!" he says, "I don't want anybody tracing something on some of these sales." Which was undoubtedly true. But he had been in a painters' union down there and he'd been what do you call the top kick in them?

Bookkeeper, I forget the term. That's what he'd been. And he'd literally run that union. Good mind on him, and quite a character. But he was a good man to have in combat. I remember one day when we was getting shot at, and he said, "Lieutenant, what the hell are we doing here?" I said, "You've got a pretty good ....[?] ..." That winter we maneuvered in West Virginia, snow, that sort of thing, and we had to winch guns up to the top of those hills, in that snow, and the thing that mostly I remember is that we had all the winter gear, all the fancy winter gear and everything else.

DAVIS: Um hm.

WRIGHT: When we got to the Bulge, do you think we had any of it?

DAVIS: None of it went over?

WRIGHT: I don't know where it went to, but it sure didn't ....

DAVIS: Oh, shoot.

WRIGHT: We had, when we hit the Bulge, in late December, we had the same fellows on as when we hit the beach.

DAVIS: Back up and tell me about going over.

WRIGHT: Going over, we went up to New York and went out on a general, can't recall...

It was a military transport, and it was so doggone big that they had literally a whole division, fifteen thousand people were on that thing, and we helped man the guns, one of our batteries, and those guys that helped man the guns why they ate three meals a day and the rest of us ate two, and that was plenty on shipboard. We all laughed about it, if a German submarine had stayed in the right place long enough, we'd pass them at least twice, the way we zig-zagged across there. And we ended up breaking up convoy up north of the British Isles. And then come down between Ireland and Scotland, come down through there, and then we found out why we was on that ship! Man, when they cut that thing out alone, you talk about move, it could move. It could move!

DAVIS: Well.

WRIGHT: We went into Liverpool and got off the ship and went on British trains, hadn't gone too far and we stopped and they had drinks, they was serving drinks on there, and there was a few boys walking out. I started out just as the last person was coming in, he said, "Oh, my God! Tea!"

And we ended up being put out in the Land's End country, which is out in the tip of Europe, tip of England, southwest corner, and it was a British fort, that the British had.

Well, very very interesting things happened around that place. Among other things, they didn't have stoves; the British didn't have stoves, they had great big kettles, and they'd hold thirty-five or forty gallons of water. Big brass-lined, and they cooked stew and everything in those big electric skillers, or ...

DAVIS: Electric? Pots, hm?

WRIGHT: Umhm.

DAVIS: I'll be darned.

WRIGHT: And they had two or three of them, and of course we moved our kitchen stuff in there, our stoves and that sort of thing, and frankly we used those to wash dishes with. The hot water, that was the place for our hot water.

DAVIS: That'd be good.

WRIGHT: I remember one day one went on the fritz and we called an English electrician to straighten it out and he come in, and he said, "You know what's wrong with you Yanks? You don't know how to handle this modern equipment!" Well, I looked around at the boys behind me and they was almost laying on the floor they was laughing so hard. But the British, when we'd go out in the field, the British furnished us bread, and good gosh they had to cut it about an inch and a half thick, cut it any thinner they couldn't get it to hang together at all, and marmalade, orange marmalade - I don't know how much money they must have made shipping orange marmalade, they had orange marmalade running out of your ears. And we'd go out in the field, and I remember we went across a beet field one day and they didn't have near as heavy a leaves as ours does, and I got to talking to the English farmer there, and I says, "What kind of a yield?" And he told me I think 26 or 7

ton, and I took it from their figure. And I practically called the man a liar, and he said, "Come on." So I went down to the {...} in town, and the agricultural office, and they showed me their records there, and he was right, 26 or 7 ton. But I got a {...}, those farmers was doing everything..., they had no choice. You put so-and-so crop in this field, so-and-so fertilizer and this .... Our people here would scream...

DAVIS: They didn't rotate?

WRIGHT: Well, yeah, but they was given orders for everything. They would specify what crop in this field, what crop you put in the field next year, then what fertilizer, yeah, they specified everything. The government specified everything to them.

DAVIS: Oh, shoot.

WRIGHT: Yep. That was something.

DAVIS: Did they have subsidies, then, if it didn't work out?

WRIGHT: I think they probably did, matter of fact I know they did, but they had, kind of like this one fellow told me, he said, "We're hired men in our own farms."

DAVIS: I'll be darned.

WRIGHT: Now, they hardly, I got broke up and ended up back in an English hospital, army hospital up in central England, in an area there, can't think of the name of the big college there. But in that area, they had lined it with drain tubes, and to irrigate, you know what they done?

DAVIS: Hm?

WRIGHT: Plugged the drain tubes! I says, son of a gun, this isn't too bad of an idea.

DAVIS: Oh, hey. Wouldn't that be nice?

WRIGHT: Yeah. And it's in that area where they had the top yield that was there a few years ago, made over a thousand bushels of grain off of one acre. Terrific stuff.

DAVIS: My gosh.

WRIGHT: But that's a pretty good way to irrigate, just plug the tile.

DAVIS: If you've got rain, you've got everything.

WRIGHT: Then we was training in that area, then they moved us up in the Welsh country, in Wales. Oh, Wales, it's a lonely country. But we moved in there and big hills, and they've got literally swamps around those creeks down in there, and I could see where they could lose people in them. I never saw anything quite like that.

DAVIS: Is that right!

WRIGHT: Yeah, it's hilly country...

DAVIS: Coal mines.

WRIGHT: Yeah, and I can understand looking at that country why the Wales, they're melancholy people and that sort of thing, and that's the reason. Then while we was up in there on maneuvers the battalion exec came up and said, "Boys, we've got orders, we're going in." And Patton had wanted the 35<sup>th</sup>. And we wasn't supposed to go in for about another week. Nuts, equipment we had maybe ten percent of the equipment that we needed. So they had to put that equipment together right quick like, and that sort of thing, ...

DAVIS: And how would they do that? Wouldn't it be shipped?

WRIGHT: Yeah. They managed to get it done quick enough that we could ... Now we left England the 6<sup>th</sup> of July. Fourth of July, we had most of our stuff down on the southeast,

on the ocean right along there, and among other things, I was one of the officers running the guard through there, to see that nobody was going to horse anything up, and that sort of thing. But fourth of July? And I had an overcoat on, it was that cool.

DAVIS: I'll be darned. Right along the Channel, then.

WRIGHT: Yeah, absolutely. And we loaded out there and when we hit the beach, the debris was still there, and we hit the beach and moved on in, and the biggest thing that happened there was the first vehicle off of one of those LCTs, one of our radio vehicles, with most of the radio equipment for the battalion, and we was too far out and it just went out of sight. The old man was slightly unhappy about losing that!

DAVIS: Oh dear.

WRIGHT: Then we moved on in.

DAVIS: Now what beach?

WRIGHT: Omaha. We was on Omaha. (Showing map)

DAVIS: Oh, we're tilted.

WRIGHT: This is the east. That's north.

DAVIS: Okay. You left from Falmouth? Or Plymouth? That right?

WRIGHT: Uh huh.

DAVIS: All right. Tell me more.

WRIGHT: We got in, and then of all the screwball things, they use a rammer if a shell gets jammed in a gun, before it's fired, they've got to get it out. They use a rammer, put it down the barrel and push it out. There was only three of those in the entire division, and when you have, let's see, 36, 72, hundred and eight....

WRIGHT: They had an instrument with which to tell distances, that you could sight through, and determine distances, and oh, good God, they was about four feet wide, with scopes on both sides come through, and the thing about reading that doggone thing well, what you done, one tree would be upside down, one straight up, and you moved them til they come together, that type of thing,

END OF TAPE 1

WRIGHT: So it was limited the number of people that could use it, and the darn thing weighed....

DAVIS: A lot.

WRIGHT: So I says to Hays, when we got in, I says, "Lose it. Lose it."

DAVIS: What did they call this gadget?

WRIGHT: Rangefinder. Rangefinder.

DAVIS: Okay.

WRIGHT: And you might know what happened. In about two weeks, the battery supply officer come up and says, "Wright, you know what I found back there?" Oh, brother. He brought it up to the ... I corralled Hays, and I said, "Hays, I told you to lose it. Now you make damned sure you lose it!"

But when we went into action there, the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> divisions were literally on the north side of Saint Lo, and it was a stalemate. So they put the 35<sup>th</sup> in between them to jar that thing, and had us headed right directly at Saint Lo. We were in the middle.

And we run into some odd deals. Let me explain some of my feeling concerning the French. We couldn't understand how come we was getting fire on top of our guns every

once in awhile, and then we got to watching things. And there was cattle around there. And when they'd drive those cattle out of the fields, look out! Ooo, what's going on? So we started doing some scouting and went up in a church steeple, and here we find a Frenchman with a radio, and he's calling fire on us.

DAVIS: Oh!

WRIGHT: You know why? The French people there was feeding the German army. We was hauling all of ours in.

DAVIS : Okay.

WRIGHT: Yeah. And if you think I've got any particular love for the French at all...

DAVIS: No. I can see that.

WRIGHT: In fact, we didn't get to, we was in central France before a Frenchman ever thanked us for doing anything.

DAVIS: Is that right.

WRIGHT: Then on the east side, when the war ended, why those people run up a black flag. So talk about France, France would have a .. The Free French, boy they was something else. You'd have GI uniforms. You'd pull into a town, and you were hunting for a war going on, and it was Frenchmen shooting at Frenchmen.

DAVIS: Oh dear.

WRIGHT: And these captain and I was in this one town this one morning, walked in this town headquarters, supposedly, and this little guy had just taken over as mayor of the town, and he had a GI jacket around his shoulder, strutting back and forth, and who was the town secretary, but an ex-dentist from Chicago! Talked perfect English.



DAVIS: Okay. My gosh.

WRIGHT: Well, the deal at Saint Lo, I had an observation post on top of the hill looking right down into Saint Lo. And the day before the attack, why, British general, oh, I can't recall his name, and an American general come, and we took them up to the top of the hill and they looked at the thing, looked it over, and I never will forget that air attack, that the Americans, that bombing attack that opened up Saint Lo.

DAVIS: Really.

WRIGHT: The first few ships that come in, the German anti-aircraft worked on them some, and we had our little Pipers up there, and it wasn't very long before we had that stopped.

DAVIS: Well.

WRIGHT: And this bombing kept up and kept up and kept up and we was on this, slowly started backing up this doggone hill, started getting a little shorter, and we lost one of the Roosevelts, a brigadier general, on some of that stuff down there.

DAVIS: Really.

WRIGHT: That, ... No, talk about the air show or anything, I've never seen wave after wave after wave ...

DAVIS: How long did it go on?

WRIGHT: Oh, must have gone on an hour and a half or two hours.

DAVIS: Oh my.

WRIGHT: Boy oh boy, they cleaned that area out.

DAVIS: Daytime bombing?

WRIGHT: Yep, absolutely, started about six or seven o'clock in the morning. Absolutely, daylight. And they was done long about two o'clock in the afternoon. All they had to do then literally was walk and now there's been an argument between the 35<sup>th</sup> division and the 29<sup>th</sup> which of them got into town the first, there's been politics over the situation.

And then after St. Lo we went out, we went on south down in the Vire sector. In that area, among other things, I had to replace ... It was part of my job, in addition to survey, it was observation, I was in charge of the observers, and this sort of thing. And we was up in, we was in this hole, and we got a counter-attack, while this little corporal, I turned around and looked at him, doggone radios are bulky and heavy. I said, "You got a hatchet?" He said, "Yeah." I said, "Now listen, we have to pull out of here. We're not gonna pack that blasted radio, I'll tell you that." And that was the last word he said to me. I couldn't believe it. And this counter-attack, then it quieted down, and he was froze. That kid had froze. The medics took him out of there.

DAVIS: Well.

WRIGHT: It was kind of a sad thing, to see that ...

And from there, we moved down to the Orleans. And that's where the - you called her name awhile ago, that woman, oh, what's her name that's a French, that's where her home was, down there. But Orleans, that was the first place where we was ever recognized as Americans, and the people was glad we was there. Now among other things there was a first-class hotel there. And it had catered to American civilians. And this old boy said, Well, I've got some whiskey, boys, we're going to have to break it out and he digs up a flower bed and there was some beautiful American whiskey. And among other things, in

that town, what we literally did there was fight Indian style. We put troops all the way around it. We was ahead of the American lines.

DAVIS: Why?

WRIGHT: We was ahead of the American lines fifty, sixty miles

DAVIS: Why were you there?

WRIGHT: That's the way things worked. You working with Patton, boy, you move. And that's why I still just cuss. We only had one person from the press that Patton had any particular use for, and that was a woman from the Saint Louis Post-Dispatch. And he'd call her up and give her the dope, but the rest of them, there was a sign "No reporters beyond this point" and that's exactly what happened.

DAVIS: Huh.

WRIGHT: Well, because they'd give away your position.

DAVIS: Yeah.

WRIGHT: This is why he was so touchy about that sort of thing. Among other things in that area, I had an observation post set up, and the Germans were destroying their ammunition ahead of us. You talk about fireworks, man oh man, you could see that. And the brass got onto the fact that I could see that, and I think I talked to every American general that night on the phone. "What do you see now?" "What's going on up there?" Because I could see. You talk about fireworks. How fluid that area was, we moved out of there, there was a ridge across {...?} And we got, we was following what they called Combat Command, see a Combat Command was infantry outfit, artillery, and that sort of thing it was made up of, and there was about a third of a division in them. We was traveling in a

couple of those, and the first group got over this bridge fine. We were going east, and here come a German column from the south. They jumped the guards, our guards dived under the bridge, and they used the same bridge going north.

DAVIS: Oh my gosh.

WRIGHT: And we got there just in time to spray the back end of that German column and speed them up. But you see...

DAVIS: What river? What bridge?

WRIGHT: It was one of our bridges, it was a portable bridge. Portable, portable.

And during the month of August, our casualties – Do you have any idea where they was from?

DAVIS: Where they was from?

WRIGHT: Uh huh. What caused them?

DAVIS: No, what?

WRIGHT: Riding German motorcycles! We had more kids tore up riding those blasted motorcycles during that deal than we did from enemy action!

DAVIS: They captured them?

WRIGHT: Yeah, sure, the Germans left them, see.

DAVIS: Oh. Retreat and leave their motorcycles.

WRIGHT: Yeah, or else they'd shoot them off a .... Yeah, those German motorcycles, they're hot, most of them was four-cylinder, and that sort of thing, and they'd get on, and We couldn't figure out what happened to one of our best Sergeants, this mechanic, he got

drunk and got on one of them, and he never did get back. But we had more casualties, and finally Patton come out with an order he was going to court-martial anybody that ...

DAVIS: Anybody that rode them? Or got caught riding them?

WRIGHT: Sure. Thank God about our action, see, you remember the happy things.

DAVIS: The what?

WRIGHT: You remember the happy things. You remember that.

DAVIS: Yeah. Well, that's as it should be.

WRIGHT: That's right. Then we went on into Nancy, of course they call it Nancy, but they called it Nahncy over there, and that was where Patton told us that our objective was Heidelberg. And you know something, we could have made it if they'd kept the ammunition up, but they couldn't keep the ammunition up. That was about the first of September, and we moved northeast out of Nancy and there was a series of canals through there. Boy, we got some boys across one of the canals, and they got cut off, and we had to mass some artillery fire right quick like and that's where the survey paid off. You could put three and four battalions together and you could mass the fire, in other words multiply each one by twelve, you got that many more guns. And that's the way we protected those boys that was cut off over there, with massed fire. I'll never forget seeing watching the brigadier general standing there watching our SC on that firing chart. I knew doggone well he would have given his right arm if he could have been commanding that fire.

We moved across there, and we ended up in a [?] hill... Each little town over there in Germany has their own forest. They've got this small timber area. Each tree will be numbered. You've seen the pictures of their walking around in their leather breeches and

that sort of thing. That's how the forest master's dressed, and each house in these little towns would get so much wood each winter. They'd cut so many trees, and it was cut in meter lengths, cubic meters, see, and so many cubic meters per house. And those forests were just as clean, there wasn't a twig in those. And I think about some of the fires we have, if that stuff had been cleaned off the ground you wouldn't have had a fire. But that's the way they had it, each tree numbered.

DAVIS: Well.

WRIGHT: You talk about handling things. Now the hars, the German and French people in that area, no problem. Now after we moved through that area, we got as far east as Galenkirchen. Now Galenkirchen is on the Rhine River. We got to there, and that was about the 20<sup>th</sup> of December. We got orders they were going to pull us out of the line! We'd been in the line solid since the sixth of July. We was down in our infantry, in our line companies, supposed to be 300 men, we had a hundred left.

DAVIS: Oh!

WRIGHT: We'd taken some rough stuff. So they pulled us into Metz, and we got a hundred more men per company, which actually we was still short. And in Metz we had acid throwed in men's faces. Don't talk to me about the friendly Frenchmen. Tell me about it.

DAVIS: Oh!

WRIGHT: And then there, I was hoping we could set tight, it was the 20<sup>th</sup>, but you might know, we would move on the 24<sup>th</sup>, and the cooks worked all night. And they had turkey,

and they had some big dinners. And then I was O.D., they knew I'd stay sober. And we had a bunch of drunk people. I couldn't blame the kids. Oh boy.

DAVIS: Not after that one.

WRIGHT: And this exec that called me down and wanted me to get him some whiskey, and I said Major, no. He said, you can't tell me that. I said, I just did. I'll never know how, but the whole outfit knew the next day what I'd told him. I had a good buddy who said, "Looks like you took care of your rank!" And maybe I did, but I couldn't see that one. I couldn't see that. And then Christmas night, I answered the phone, and he said, "You got your orders?" Said, "What you talking about?" The division commander is the authority that is above the battalions. Said, "You got your orders?" Said, "What are you talking about?" Said, we're moving out. I said well what?! "We're moving out!" "My God, everybody drunk, man this is gonna be a lulu." He give me the order, said get somebody over to infantry. Got ahold of Captain Hi...?, a good friend of mine, he was more sober than anybody else. He got over to regiment to see what they wanted to put together. And we put together, we moved on out the next morning. We had people, oh, we loaded people in the back ends of trucks and this and that. And we only burned up one three-quarter-ton. What happened there, it was froze up, and they used a torch on there to loosen things up and before the gas started, it caught and they couldn't drive fast enough.

DAVIS: Dear, dear.

WRIGHT: Then we moved into the Bulge. When we got south of Bastogne, we met a corps runner. The 11<sup>th</sup> corps was going in for the first time and we was part of the 35<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> armored, the old fourth armored outfit. Hmm, I think I just misquoted, I don't think

it was... We got up the road and met up with this runner, and he said, "Get up that road."  
"Where's the enemy?" "We don't know. Get up that road!" "Thirty-fifth to the right,  
fourth armored to the left." Bingo. So that was how I went into the Bulge. The first guns  
we run into were pointed back to the southeast. We was going north. "How come you got  
the guns that direction?" "That's the last place we seen the Germans." You talk about,  
when we went into that Bulge, it was wild. The first night we didn't have the artillery  
control, so all four of us battery surveyors got together, and shoot the stars was the only  
answer. And they said, "Can you shoot the stars?" And I said, "Yeah, I'll set this up." But  
we never got a chance to use it. Before we got a chance to use it we had to move out. I've  
always been curious as to whether that would have worked.

DAVIS: Whether that would have worked. You could have done that, huh?

WRIGHT: Oh yeah.

DAVIS: Wow.

WRIGHT: Oh, surveying, it's fascinating stuff. Had a lot of fun at it among other  
things.... The Germans, funny thing about this survey business, the Germans will leave you  
alone. A lot of times we surveyed and didn't even have a gun on us, and I knew they was  
looking at us.

DAVIS: Why would they do that?

WRIGHT: They knew something else was coming in. That's why they left us alone.  
Something heavier was coming in there. They're surveying here, something heavier's  
coming in there.

DAVIS: Umhm.



WRIGHT: We got away with some stuff. It kind of gets to you when you're surveying and all of a sudden some battery commander says "Action rear!" Action rear meant they swung those guns a hundred and eighty degrees, something's back of you, sure, and the Germans been watching us all the time.

They moved us into Galenkirchen and then we moved into the Bulge, oh boy, the feelings in the Bulge. We found boys just laying there, sometimes they might take some gear off them, sometimes they didn't.

DAVIS: Might what?

WRIGHT: They might take some of the equipment off of a body, but {} times they didn't. And here they'd be laying, there was just lines of them in places of American boys, and if you think boy, you think people don't get hot over ...{} What had happened, the Germans had had a counter-attack. When they pushed into Bastogne the first time, they shoved the Germans out. The Germans caught off, the {} was out in the loop, and the Germans cut into that and bingo, who's in that, but the 35<sup>th</sup> division, we was in business but good. But of all fluke lucks, all fluke lucks, we captured a runner somewhere that all the battle plans of this counter-attack into us.

DAVIS: Why would he even have them?

WRIGHT: I'm like you. I'll never be able to understand that one. But we sent those to Patton, Patton's code name was Lucky. Lucky Six, Six is the commander. And Lucky Six come back, "Give them the works!" Oh, three days.

DAVIS: Well.

WRIGHT: All this period, most of the time in combat, we was limited to ten rounds a day. Ten rounds!

DAVIS: Really!

WRIGHT: What the hell we doing here? Ammunition, they rationed...

DAVIS: It was that short.

WRIGHT: It was that close, see.

DAVIS: Oh, my.

WRIGHT: They show you {?} shooting, that isn't the way it worked. There was only about three days in combat, or maybe four days, when we actually shot all we could shoot.

DAVIS: Is that right.

WRIGHT: But we got this dope from Patton, give them the works there, we got that on New Year's Eve. Like I said, we fired for three days, and anybody that could walk was helping pack shells. We was using some of our new shells, which in effect has a radio, a small radio in it. When it gets too close to a solid object or something dense, it will detonate. So you can control, it will break just over the ...

DAVIS: Before it gets there. That would maximize the effect.

WRIGHT: Yeah, it was called Posit shells. And in three days we used those and regular ones. Then all we had to do was walk. We had our New Years' dinner the tenth of January, when we got out of {?}, we had that. And also it was about that time that I got ... See, I had a boy born the fifteenth of December. Just about a month later.

DAVIS: Before you found out?

WRIGHT: Yeah. Then literally it was down to just walking, our guns had done that much. That New Years' dinner, I'll never forget that, in this little French town, there wasn't nothing left. And here's two little kids, a little boy and a little girl, six or seven, wasn't ten, and the cook set up a table right in the middle. You talk about some kids go to eating. And of course, a Yank can't keep his eyes off kids.

DAVIS: Can't keep what?

WRIGHT: Can't keep his hands off kids.

DAVIS: Oh, yeah.

WRIGHT: After it was over, when I was down east of the Rhine River, and I had my battery in a schoolhouse, and they had a place in there for a mess hall, in fact they cooked in there, but the boys wanted to take the tables and eat outside. Do you know what happened? Here come the civilians. In particular, these kids. And I'll tell you something, it took all of about five minutes, and a boy would pick up his plate and go feed some child. And I corralled the mess sergeant and said, "Move them inside." And he said, "Look, you see what's going on?" And then the civilians would fight over our garbage.

DAVIS: And this was where?

WRIGHT: East of Mannheim, that particular deal there. But anyway when they pulled us out of the Bulge, they sent us south. We was down in the Vosges Mountains.

DAVIS: What mountains?

WRIGHT: Vosges, v o s g e s. And we were down in that area, for oh, very briefly, and ~~then they~~ sent us north clear up into Holland and we become the northernmost American division. And the first time, the only time it ever happened, they bivouacked part of our

troops with civilians. And an advanced party went in there, and they would mark on each house how many soldiers that could stay there. And we strung those kids out. The next morning, come breakfast, where the sam hill is everyone? We didn't have ... They were, those people was entertaining those kids like guests.

DAVIS: Well.

WRIGHT: You talk about love, people. Now there was two things: If they didn't want you, "Allied soldiers verboten, German-friendly". There'd be a sign, and that's what it was. And we respected it. But we couldn't have had a ... Thank God, I thought, oh, please, please, don't send my screw-ups to this town with these civilians, and nobody did. In fact, every once in awhile after we went on, they wanted to go back there and visit, they thought so much of that...

DAVIS: What town?

WRIGHT: Can't recall it any more.

DAVIS: Well. Oh, that's nice.

WRIGHT: But it was, uh, we moved out of that town and replaced a British outfit, and mud, oh, Lord they had... Those British lorries are pretty much jokes, so we put our big jimmies on them, put wedges on them, fish them out of that sort of thing. But we're moving out, they was moving out, I forget where I had to go, all of a sudden, looked like down close in the hills, they stopped. "What you guys gonna do?" "Have some tea!" I said if you guys have got guts enough to make it, I guess I've got guts enough to drink it!

END OF TAPE 2

WRIGHT: I thought, with the British, they had funny things... When we was right close there to them, they'd come over and check, couldn't understand how come we could fire our ammunition as fast as we did. Well, we hid, what do you call these rules - you used them - oh, slide rules! Slide rules! We had slide rules. They said, why they cost too much money. God, Nelly. We couldn't understand that. But what got to happening, frankly, up there, we couldn't get ammunition, we could get all kinds of British ammunition, so we borrowed some of their guns and used them, cause we could get ammunition for them. Then we went on east from that area, and got to the Ruhr River. The Ruhr now, that's west of the Rhine, and there was a stalemate there, and all that's left, we had an ammunition train come up with ammo for us, and the orders was don't unload that ammunition until we're ready to move out. Well, we set there one day, we was getting some artillery fire you know there every once in awhile, set there about three days. And I told this sergeant, set tight. And finally he said, you was a liar, a first lieutenant, ...{?} Then they cut loose and the funny thing about it was, we had all of probably thirty units probably to our fire and the bridge was under fire for six hours, and you know what happened? The Yanks went across, the British didn't. Where I got hurt was we was going north to where we was going to move some guns and that sort of thing, and on this particular road, there was mines on this road, and when I got back there one of my .. "Didn't I tell you about it?" Little bit late, I didn't know anything about it, ...{?} road map. So that ended my combat days. And then when I got back with the outfit, it was either the day before, or the day after, no it was the day before the war ended over where the outfit

was in Germany. So that part, the crossing the Rhine, I was no part, I was in England in this air force hospital.

DAVIS: Tell me about this now. You got wounded and what happened then? The medics came and took care of you there and how'd you get shipped out?

WRIGHT: Oh, one medic come there, but I was on my feet all right, but my God, that blast had come up between my feet and my heel felt like a fifty-pound sledge had hit each heel. And my head was ringin' but I didn't think so much about that, I walked on my tiptoes and that sort of thing and took me back to the outfit and the doc shipped me on back. And they shipped me back, I ended up in Paris and I slept for about three days I think, the first time I'd had sheets and that sort of thing for quite awhile and the doctors checked me there and they wouldn't tell me too much. I was complaining about these heels and the major said something about goldbricking and I said, "Go to hell!" I walked out. But funny thing about those heels, but anyway they shipped me to England and the air force hospital was taking ground casualties, every other thing was full.

DAVIS: Where? Where was this in England?

WRIGHT: It was up there in central England, not too far from Cambridge. Up in central England. It was the base, incidentally, where the band master, can't think of his name, was killed.

DAVIS: Oh! Uh .. I can sing his music .... Oh, shoot. Well, we'll think of it.

WRIGHT: But he had taken off from the air base where this sme hospital was part of the deal there. But they had shipped ground force casualties into it.

DAVIS: And how long were you there then?

WRIGHT: Oh, I was there about thirty days. I'll tell you something, when this doc checked me the next morning and he says, "Son, your combat days are over." Said, "What you talking about?" Said, "You can't hear." I said, Captain, there's something wrong that I can't hear. Well, we can try one stunt. And what they used, they used fibrin foam(?), fibrin, you know, is the solid part of blood, and they melt that, and they pour that in, and some strands left in that ear, and it forms a wall, and it gets back across it and that's how they did that.

DAVIS: So there was a hole in your eardrum?

WRIGHT: Yes, just strands left. But they use this fibrin foam, and it makes a foam...

DAVIS: Boy, that sounds more up to date than ...

WRIGHT: Oh, right. You better believe it. And it worked, but I'll tell you something, it took four of them to hold me on the table when they poured that hot stuff in, they can't (?) but it worked. When I got out of there, they... I got out of there just after Roosevelt was assassinated. I'll never forget the effect at that hospital.

DAVIS: Really?

WRIGHT: Yeah. Americans troops really worshipped Roosevelt. It tore people in two, it was awful. But that O.D. .... hospital orderly rounding up that morning, said, "Lieutenant, they just come over that we lost the President." ...AD, it hurt. And of course see the 35<sup>th</sup>, the new president was a Kansan, or a Missourian, boy, and in fact he'd been a Lieutenant in my outfit, the 35<sup>th</sup>.

DAVIS: Is that right.

WRIGHT: Yep. So that kind of hurt. But I got shipped back across the straits and you might know it, I ended up a train commander, taking casualties back up to the front. Went to go up to Storborg Germany... The thing that made me the maddest, I had to take, I don't remember any more, six or eight, prisoners, Yanks that had screwed up in England and was taken back to courts of their outfits. And I got me, the boys I had that was going to go with me in this move, and there was two staff sergeants, couldn't be any sharper, and they'd both been on the red bluffs and been bad hurt and had come back and were back in shape and was going to go back to duty, and I said, "Gentlemen, you reckon you could be sergeant at....{?}" "Yes, sir!" I knew darn well one of those prisoners, and we didn't dare...they knew they had no qualms. They wouldn't say a second word before they shot him. But we get them back there, and the MPs lost all but one! I cussed the post commander outfit. "That's pretty blank blank good! We haul them over here and I don't lose any and you lose all but one!" But then at Storborg we went back to the outfit, and it was at Hamm, Germany then, the thirty-fifth, we was within thirteen miles of Berlin.

DAVIS: Is that right.

WRIGHT: And now, those records have been destroyed.

DAVIS: Really!

WRIGHT: Yes, they made us pull back. Hurt the Russians' feelings I suppose. A bunch of our outfit never will get over the fact that they had to hook that...

DAVIS: How far back did you pull then?

WRIGHT: Well, we pulled back thirteen miles then. No, no. That was about a hundred and twenty miles I think it was. No well I tell you what we were worrying then because



we'd got some people out and the one couple we got out, I don't know *their names* but I do know what the industry owes them. They was the people that come to Salt Lake City and developed the monitor in beet seed. There was people like that that we was picking up that they didn't want to be any part of Russians and that sort of thing. But we picked up those people. And far as I know, they're still alive. Salt Lake City's, where they were. And they done a lot for our sugar beet crop. And we was at Hamm, and then they pulled us on back into Koblenz, on the west side of the Rhine. You know the biggest difference between those towns, the towns on the east of the Rhine and the west of the Rhine? See, west of the Rhine, there wasn't, Hitler wasn't in there too long before, whereas Hitler'd been in our area for several years previous. We found the people where he hadn't been, on Sundays, 95% of them go to church, and what they told you? Count on it. And the other area, maybe 50% at the outside would go to church, and their word wasn't worth a good damn. So ... they talk it appears to me, it's the difference between church and not church. And that's what worries me about this current situation, I don't know where some of our people, some of our youngsters, what are they going to hang their hat on when they get in a corner?

DAVIS: Yeah. That's right.

WRIGHT: Well, that's about the size of the situation.

DAVIS: Tell me where you came back from.

WRIGHT: Well, let's see, I had a battery across the river from headquarters at ....oh, before Lyons, on Mainz, I had a battery over there and I was the only officer in it, and what... I left the 35<sup>th</sup> because I was a high-pointer. I had enough points to get out of the

army. And they let me, they put me out into... What they was putting together was high-point outfits. We'd keep rotating troops, and replacing the younger personnel with older personnel and that sort of thing. And I had this one battery in this little town in Germany and I was the only officer in it, I had a master sergeant, and a good first sergeant, had seen some combat, but the rest of them hadn't seen, oh boy, it was pathetic, I thought, and the thing about, I'll never forget, part of that deal was the majority of the kids was from Brooklyn. I thought I was in a different country for about three days, figuring out who I was talking to. If you've been around Brooklyn people ...

DAVIS: Oh yeah. You don't understand them.

WRIGHT: Then from there I pulled them back, can't recall the name of the camp, we was there a brief time and then they put together this high-point outfit to go through and we went down to Marseille, France. And say, there, that's one of the roughest towns I was ever around. Oh boy. Yeah, that's wild. You laugh, one day an MP runs me down and says, "Your name Wright?" I says, "Yes." "Show you what's going on." And two of my boys, and of course they were replacements, had stolen a jeep, had (?) Marseilles to go to Paris, and got a little ways, I don't know how to pronounce it, Aix is the way it's spelled, and they hit a tree about four foot wide and both boys had the same injury, the left hip was broke. Of all the things. And their record had been clean. And I walked through this hospital one time and said, "What in thunder got into you?" ...{?} pathetic, but then I had to make sure I identified the right guys, so the old Frenchman that got them out of the jeep, I took him down there and had him walk along and he picked them out. I got a (?), a comment of his, I said, "Where the Sam Hill's the young people, the young Frenchmen,

around here?" He said, "They're in the black market. They've got too much time for that, they ain't got time for anything else." I think the old man hit it on the head. But those soldiers, the government would take care of them but they wouldn't be eligible for a pension.

DAVIS: Okay, let's see. We've got a little time. Tell me about coming back. Did it take, did you get back faster than you went over?

WRIGHT: Oh yes. That Marseilles, we loaded a military transport, they was small ones, they had a bunch of these with side walls, they had about seven or eight, up on the side walls around the ship. I had this, I ended up with a heavy automotive maintenance outfit at Hamm, and I had two kids from Nebraska, had three first sergeants from Georgia, we was the first outfit to load ship. The last outfit was a colored truck company, and when they got done the ship's officer come to me and said, "Lieutenant, can I put one of those troopers up in your first hold? And I looked at my three first sergeants, all from the state of Georgia, said, "Gentlemen, can you take care of that?" They said, "Sure." They put that poor black trooper out on a cot right in the middle. On that ship coming home, one trooper had a violin, and he played that violin at night, and you talk about playing a violin, that was a beautiful job, and when he played that, you didn't hear anybody saying a word on that ship.

DAVIS: How did he manage to get on the ship with a violin?

WRIGHT: I don't know. He got the job done. And then they was all excited about the, if there was any dogs on the ship, see. Wasn't supposed to have any pets. Wasn't supposed to take disease and that sort of thing, was the reason there. Well I knew one of my

troopers had a little fox terrier and he had it trained, he'd have it in his knapsack. And the shipmaster would check and make sure. We're clean! Ha. Well, when we got to the States, two things happened. In New York harbor, we had an ice storm. And if you think that don't make those gangways and those stairs a sheet of ice. Well, one man had fell and was killed. Another man had gotten bad hurt, leg broke as I recall, and I said to my three first sergeants, "Gentlemen, we're gonna get our people out of there and we're not going to have any accidents. Here's what I want: I want a line of people up these stairs, up these gangways, and we'll just pass bags up clear to the top. Nobody is gonna get past them with his gear." "Yes Sir!" And it worked. Among other things, too, when we got into the harbor, the strike was on. That was one reason, we'd have been home three days sooner, but there was a strike of the port personnel...

DAVIS: Maritime workers.

WRIGHT: Maritime workers. Our boys was very ...{?}, looking over the side, saying, oh don't strain yourselves down there. They let them have it. We got off that ship, went into Kilmer, and they set us down, said, if you boys will stay on the ball we'll have a dinner here at midnight, and we'll get you out the next morning, and that's what happened. That's what happened. There was a Jewish officer. You didn't find too many Jewish officers in combat outfits, but when you did find one, he was something else. Now this Jewish captain and I got to be great friends. In fact, I learned to play bridge. That month we was setting around there, we played bridge 24 hours a day. And he said his folks was in the clothing industry, which is typical of your Jewish people. He said, get out, and I'll fly you

home. I said, oh, thank you, but I think I'd better go the other way. *But got out at* Leavenworth, and there was a blood sampler, was what it was.

DAVIS: For what?

WRIGHT: I don't know. The medics wanted a sample of blood for something. And this corporal, I don't know how many times he jammed, jammed, jammed. Captain standing behind me says, "How can you take it?" I says, "If that's what it takes to get out of this damned place..." Come home from there. No, the combat outfits, Kansas boys, basically, a lot of farmers, when we first went in the line after we left Holland, I looked out the window come daylight, and here come some of my troopers with pitchforks over their shoulders. What's going on here? "Lieutenant, there's some cattle up here haven't been fed. Getting them some feed." They was taking care of stock. And before, Captain (?), his battery before, when they had orders to move out, he called the old man and he said, "What'll I do?" Colonel said, "What you talking about?" Said, "I got thirteen dairy cows.." and I forget the other, got some geese and that sort of thing, and the Colonel said, "I'm sorry, I'm afraid you're just going to have to leave them there." But they was ... they were taking care of livestock. Can you imagine that. Bunch of Kansas kids. And the thing about the country boys, I'll never forget it, at night when you was moving up and this and that and you had a jeep quit or something and you had to set it by the side of the road and go on and get back and hope you find it, those country boys would find it. We had a jeep shelled on, put off by the side of the road, tell them to go back and pick it up, and they knew where it was. By their sense of direction. Like those New Yorkers I had...

DAVIS: They know left and right.

WRIGHT: You better believe it. Left and right, yep. Thank God I didn't have to go into combat with them.

DAVIS: Well, we're about to the end. Anything else we need to say? How did you feel about, well, I guess the whole experience. That's a bad question.

WRIGHT: No, the question's... I tell you, where it really come to a peak with me, was when we was getting out, they was pulling replacements out and sending them to the Orient from over in Europe, and if I had to go... There's one thing I guess I would want to go with friends who I knew, and why I guess I feel that way, I used to go back every once in awhile and pick up replacements, and replacements for all .... And infantry replacements, that sort of thing. You'd bring those kids up and put them in the hole, I thought my God, they don't know who, left, right, or anything else, you talk about terrorization, there's terrorization. In the artillery, it was a different situation. One kid... I had a series of questions, brief, two or three questions, that I asked these replacements, and pretty much get a picture of where the kid come from, what kind of a home he was out of, that sort of thing. Well, in the artillery I knew basically when I needed replacements, I knew what the non-coms were and that sort of thing, and some of these kids just cocky, boy, oh brother, mm hmm. So and so's a rough sergeant, just what he needs to shake him up. He'll work better over here, that sort of thing. The one along those lines I'll never forget was a big kid, his name was White, and ammo section, B battery, neither a ...{?} , and this ammo section corporal wasn't too big a man, and this White's a pretty good size kid, big kid, and my God, he needed a driver to drive the ammo truck, and I was satisfied this kid could handle a truck, and I put him in that, that was just before the Bulge. During the Bulge, I

was up there past that farm, come back just in time to see this little corporal open the door on that jimmy truck and fish this big White out, and before he hit the ground, he hit him, and I mean man oh man it echoed. Now I'll never know why he hit him, but I do know we never had any trouble with White, he was so good with the trooper. I've often wondered if that clip on the jaw didn't do more good than any other way. Man oh man he hit him. I stepped back, didn't want the men to know...

So it's funny some of your tactics you use.

DAVIS: Yeah, you learned a lot about handling people.

WRIGHT: Yes.

DAVIS: Well. I'll thank you for doing this.

WRIGHT: The pleasure's mine.

DAVIS: And thank you serving the country.

WRIGHT: Ah, I served with a lot of fine people. A lot of fine people.