

Sinks: Dempsey told how many prisoners we captured how many got he said this is at Fort Know Kentucky so I got information number at Fort Knox and they didn't even have a 3rd armored division down there.

Interviewer: Really

Sinks: But that's the outfit I was in.

Interviewer: And now they don't have it anymore?

Sinks: Well I can't find it.

Interviewer: The 36th armored infantry regiment.

Sinks: Yeah

Interviewer: Wow and this is

Sinks: I spent all in the back of it in the back of it is all of the dead ones. Let me show you where it starts (looking at a book) let's see now I went through and circles all in H Company. H Company was my company. And I circled them all, all that many pages was dead not counting how many got wounded see.

Interviewer: Did you know some of them?

Sinks: Oh all of them not all of them I've got circled in H those are the ones I was with three or four years see.

Interviewer: Oh my goodness wow.

Sinks: I was close to my first sergeant at that post there where he got killed see.

Interviewer: Where were

Sinks: A man got shot he got killed and a man on the other side and I was on the middle and I was left see.

Interviewer: God saved your life.

Sinks: A thousand times over there.

Interviewer: Oh my goodness I just can't imagine.

Sinks: No we was we weren't in Normandy beach I guess just a few days after an invasion. But wasn't too much room to get in them see we'd be on one hedge row that's why we lost a lot of men there taken trying to fight them hedgerows over there.

Interviewer: Yeah

Sinks: We'd take it today and lose it tonight backwards and forwards backwards and forwards see. Then one morning 3500 planes come over one plane back to the other one. And they bombed all day long the ground just shaking see there were big bunch of planes when they come see. And the next morning we loaded up and headed up through France see. We made 120 miles that day behind and we was in behind that's how far we were behind them Germans see. But anyhow the company our general got killed General Rose he got killed trying to come where we was at see he didn't get up there.

Interviewer: Ya'll were ahead.

Sinks: Then this here's a copy I scribbled up now but you can look at it.

Interviewer: Thank you

Sinks: And that papers about wore out that's one of them I got that's where I got a Purple Heart see.

Interviewer: Neat I would like to hear that story.

Sinks: And that's my discharge and see this is all of the four major battles that I was in.

Interviewer: Normandy, Northern France, Nurisland Ardance

Sinks: Wound up with the Battle of the Bulge.

Interviewer: Wow

Sinks: We was in Germany inside the Siegfried line and the company commander sent word it was the 18th of December 1944 and it was Sunday. I can remember it just as good as it happened see and he sent word for me to come up to his office. I went up there and I thought well I know I hadn't done nothing today. And I said what's wrong now? He said well you can't tell this but we're leaving here tonight at 8 o'clock we're going to Belgium got to be there in the morning at 4 o'clock. And said I want you to drive for me and my drivers going to drive for your halftrack. I said well you've got a good driver, he said no I want you to drive for me said we've got to be there. He said I don't think we will make it with mine. I thought we may be better off with him. We went down there and started we started fighting at 4 o'clock that morning and that Monday morning. Then we got over another hill I don't know we went a couple or three miles in another little ole town and got hung up there see. And they wanted to send a patrol out that night see and I said no I ain't going. They had to volunteer on a patrol see 12 men there and didn't a one come back.

Interviewer: Oh my goodness.

Sinks: And when we was all parked there I was down there with the company commander and the boy that was driving my halftrack got killed that night see.

Interviewer: What you were supposed to be driving it?

Sinks: Yeah

Interviewer: But you took over

Sinks: I was driving his he was driving mine see.

Interviewer: Oh wow that's amazing.

Woman in the background: I'll tell you what I tell him. That just tells you God had his hand on him.

Interviewer: Isn't that true. God knows exactly

Sinks: Well you couldn't make it without him over there.

Interviewer: Oh no way.

Sinks: No way I guess there was about 20 of us probably out of about 250 out of the company survived. I bet it was about 200. Now this was the thing I sent Nashville but it was different copy from this see.

Interviewer: Okay and this is

Sinks: That's a Xerox copy there this is the one I sat down

Interviewer: Okay

Sinks: See I started off where I was well I was born about a mile down the road here on this old it was the new 40 it was the only 48 it was then see back in 1920 was but one that was the main 48 see. And just a little ways down there where Rod Shackle Road turns off there's a little old house it was up on the bank there is where I was born at see. But I went in the army from down Ryes Chapel.

Interviewer: In 41?

Sinks: Forty One I stayed in the draft five days I got to Norfolk Georgia they got a meeting and the Colonel told us if we volunteered for the regular army we'd get \$30 a month instead of 21. And we could pick any camp we wanted to after we got out of training see. So I said okay I'll sign for three years I thought they'd probably you know if anything happened you ain't going to get out anyways so.

Interviewer: Yeah

Sinks: And when I got my training in South Cross South Carolina my commander called me up there and said I want you to do me a favor. I said alright if I can he said stay in help me train the next thousand men. I said no I'd rather leave man I don't like this is I don't like to do this every day all day see. He said well you're making another mistake. I said I don't understand he said you're going to Fort Knox Kentucky the 1st armored divisions there. They are fixing to leave for Italy in three weeks so you ain't going to be on this side long. And I was you I'd go to Camp Polk Louisiana and go in the 3rd armored division said they're just forming the 3rd armor. Said you can drag around a year or two over here maybe. I said send me to Camp Polk I don't care. I went to Camp Polk Louisiana got in the 3rd armored division.

Interviewer: And you got to stay?

Sinks: Stayed there until I got discharged see. I've got a piece of shrapmetal in my arm there now.

Interviewer: Really

Sinks: Yes

Interviewer: Where all did okay wow you have to tell us about that story in a little bit. I want to hear these stories this is neat. Okay I'm going to ask you okay the first question is I just want to know for the documentary your full name and where and when were you born and I know you told us what branch of the service which was the army and what primary unit you served in was the 36th armored infantry regiment.

Sinks: Right

Interviewer: Okay so your full name.

Sinks: Samuel Thurman Sinks

Interviewer: And you were born in?

Sinks: Montgomery County January 17, 1920.

Interviewer: Wow and what were your parents' names and their occupations?

Sinks: Well my daddy was Dan Thomas and he was a farmer. He had it rough I felt sorry for him there was 10 kids and him and my mother see. And he had to sharecrop and give half and take care of the family see. And I was helping but none of the rest of them wouldn't help him.

Interviewer: Were you what

Sinks: The morning I went to the army was the first time I ever saw him cry in my life. Yeah he wouldn't go and I got in town over in Clarksville and they said now listen we've got one too many you can go back home today if you want to. But you will have to come back next month and we won't call you, you just show up over here see. I said I thought well I'd have to go through another month just like we had see and I thought well there ain't no use in doing that so I said no let somebody else go back I'm going. And I went cause I didn't want to come back.

Interviewer: now were you the oldest?

Sinks: No I'm third oldest I had a sister and a brother older than I am. I had a brother I had two brothers younger and three sisters wasn't it?

Woman in the background: Uh huh Bessie, Jessie, Lou

Sinks: Jessie and Bessie were twins behind me see and Jessie he was going to elementary school and a nail stuck in his eye and put his eye out and they didn't

Woman in the background: They were building Willow Bridge across the bridge.

Interviewer: And they wouldn't take him see.

Woman in the background: He was the one hammering and the nail flew up and hit him in the eye.

Interviewer: So he couldn't go

Sinks: They wouldn't draft him see and my oldest brother I don't know he drank pretty bad all the time. And after I went in after they drafted me he volunteered see and I knew he was in the army and one morning I told them at Camp Polk I said you know I believe that's my brother I see over there. He was with the 7th armored division you see.

Interviewer: No way

Sinks: Yeah I said I know that and I went and talked to him awhile and we all went and fooled around there a day or two. And we had to leave there you see but they took over Fort Polk and we went to the desert center in California see.

Woman in the background: They discharged him he never did go overseas because

Sinks: No he met he had a hump in his back and he claimed his pack hurt it and he would sit down see. And they finally I guess they couldn't they give him a medical discharge. He'd have got killed over three anyway if they hadn't cause the 7th armored division is what got run over when we had to go back see. They slaughtered all of them just about lined the bunch of them up side of the hedge row and shot them see.

Interviewer: Oh my goodness

Sinks: They weren't taking no prisoners.

Interviewer: And that was which battle was that?

Sinks: Battle of the Bulge

Interviewer: That was Battle of the Bulge?

Sinks: Uh huh they had 40 I believe 40 German armored divisions circle and all and that's what they was all in the middle see.

Interview ends and goes to a family trip to Fort Knox.