

Interviewer: Okay this is Rick Burr the date is November 3, 2006. Ladies go ahead and state your names for me please.

June: I'm June Uffelman Nemethy.

Interviewer: And here sister.

Jeanette: Jeanette Uffelman.

Interviewer: Okay and we're also here today with.

Zieren: Greg Zieren

Maria: Maria Uffelman

Minoa: Minoa Uffelman

Interviewer: Okay and we're just going to go ahead and sit back and talk a little bit about your experience your younger years your experiences during and around WWII today. Where were you born at June?

June: I was born in the house that the family lives in now in Wells Creek in Erin Tennessee.

Interviewer: In Erin okay. Alright and did you guys go to the same school elementary school?

June: Yes but not at the same time because she's six years older than I am.

Zieren: So you were born in 1926?

June: Yes

Jeanette: Thank you

Interviewer: Okay the same high school also?

June: Yes

Interviewer: She said it wasn't there anymore but it was there.

Jeanette: I think here class was the last one.

June: My graduating class was the last one.

Interviewer: And what was the name of the high school again?

June: It was Yellow Creek.

Interviewer: Yellow Creek.

June: It was in Houston County.

Interviewer: And you took the bus there also?

June: Yes were bused and didn't know it. We were bused all the way across the county but it was because there was a crowding situation in the nearby school.

Interviewer: You guy's school experience is much much different.

June: Right

Interviewer: Tell me a little bit about your school years elementary school before the war and everything.

June: Well I was just a little kid we walked to school and we walked in groups and that's just about all it was just a country elementary school.

Interviewer: Really what grades was there?

June: One through eighth and it was a two teacher school.

Zieren: So you had one teacher for four grades?

June: Yes

Zieren: All in the same room?

June: No we had two different rooms.

Jeanette: WE drew drapes.

Zieren: And so the teacher had to teach to the five year olds, the six year olds, the seven year olds, the eight year olds and give each of them different kinds of assignments?

June: Right

Interviewer: Did you guys have the same teachers at the school was it the same teacher when you went through school?

Jeanette: No

Interviewer: Six years later.

June: No the teachers were elected every year just like they are now and sometimes we got the same teacher back and sometimes we didn't. It was but the school we went to was originally a one room but they divided the classes when I went there was it divided at your time Jeanette?

Jeanette: Shakes her head yes.

June: And they just put I think they had a curtain there when she was going to school but when I went they had put a partition up and down the middle of the school. So each teacher had a area that she

called the student up to and she had a bench and we all went up and sat on that bench while she conducted

Jeanette: She had a blackboard

June: While she conducted that class and then she sent us back to our seats and then she called the next class up and conducted the next class.

Minoa: Do you remember if the boys had to cut the wood for the heat?

June: No I don't know Jeanette did they? No they always hired somebody.

Jeanette: I think the counties furnished the heat for the school.

June: Now some of the teachers in the early days had to build a fire every morning.

Zieren: Was it coal or wood?

June: Pardon me.

Zieren: Was it coal or wood?

June: Wood but later they had they bought they hired somebody they bought the wood and hired a man to come in and build the fire in the morning. So we did progress a little as we went up and the teachers were not doing all the labor and the teaching too.

Interviewer: How far from school was the farm?

June: It was a mile and a half.

Interviewer: A mile and a half walk.

Minoa: Well tell how that school got started your ancestor.

June: Oh how Camp Ground got started. Well our grandfather gave the ground for the school because they wanted their children to have an education.

Jeanette: It was ten families in the community I mean three families in the community and each of them had ten children. They had no, is that what you wanted?

Minoa: Yeh

Jeanette: Each of them had ten children and they didn't have a school so our grandfather, go ahead June, our grandfather donated the property for a little church and school Camp Ground church and Camp Ground School. Were it got Camp Ground was the people used to collect used to collect gather there for their meetings and they didn't have a building. And our grandfather gave the property I believe grandmother Hittie gave the property too it was McCauley property to build the church and the school and it's called Camp Ground.

June: And she also donated the nails to build the church I don't know about the school. And I don't I can't imagine where she got money in those days but it's recorded in the archives somewhere in it in the family archives that she donated the nails to build the school and church.

Zieren: Is this the Pennsylvania Uffelmans?

June: Yes

Zieren: Because of course in Pennsylvania building the school would have been understood I mean everyone went to school in Pennsylvania.

June: Well and of course they only had an elementary school and if they wanted the children to have a higher education or anything they had to send them away. Now our father went away to there was an ole, and Jeanette and I were trying to think of the name of it, over in the Ruskin Cave area there was a they called it a college in those days. Everything that was a high school equivalency they called it a college. My mother was from over in Humphreys County and she went up to Gallatin is it Martin College she went to Martin it's a college now but it was little more than a high school in those days. But they sent her up there for her education her advanced past elementary.

Zieren: They also used the word academy sometimes to describe.

June: Yeh

Zieren: Institutions like this.

Minoa: So during the school year they would be at Camp Ground six days a week.

June: Do what?

Minoa: You would be at Camp Ground six days a week five days for school

Zieren: And one day for church.

June: Oh yeh one day for church.

Minoa: So they walked back and forth a lot.

June: Didn't think a thing about it in those days.

Jeanette: And on Sunday twice a day we went in the morning and

June: That was when everybody walked that's how you got there if you didn't ride a horse or ride a buggy cars were not that prevalent in those days.

Interviewer: Okay and high school of course was much different also

June: Absolutely

Interviewer: With the six years difference.

June: Most of the boys had access to cars.

Interviewer: But during your high school years with the war and everything you had a little bit different experience then

June: Absolutely

Interviewer: Than Janette huh? Could you tell us a little bit about your high school experience with the war going on?

June: All of the boys went away and there was nobody in the school at the time I graduated high school there was one boy in the class. And the girls were down to like eight or nine I think so it was a very small group. And there were no high school activities there was no buses no organizations nothing you just got on the bus and prayed that the bus wouldn't break down before you got home because all of the school buses were they were just barely being kept. There was maintenance was a real problem during those days because there were no parts available for the school buses no tires no gas they just barely got to school and back. And there were absolutely no school activities

Zieren: No sports or extra curricular activities?

June: No no money and no boys and most of the girls were gone so it was really according to today it was a really sad experience. When I look at kids today I don't believe it.

Minoa: Now when Jeanette was in school they played basketball and they played instead of half court it was third court. The court was divided into threes.

June: Now Jeanette and O.S. had a big time in high school. There were plenty of activities there were basketball games teams and sometimes they played two games a week and they had all these friends and lots of boys' lots of girls for the boys. And of course when I got to high school there was neither.

Interviewer: Did you or your friends during high school help out or contribute at all to the war effort going on?

June: No we didn't live in an area there was no war effort going on in our area. One summer I worked for Bell Telephone and then I went back to school in the fall and finished my senior year. Then I went back to Bell Telephone when I graduated in the spring and I stayed with Bell Telephone for 27 years.

Zieren: Did you graduate in 1944?

June: Yes you figured that out you do good math.

Interviewer: He's been doing this for a little while.

June: That's right 1944 right. I was in Atlanta a 19 year old kid working in Atlanta when the war was declared over and we went out and blew the streets away that night and just way into the night everybody came out it was just a glorious occasion. Everybody was so excited

Zieren: VE-Day or VJ-Day?

June: VE that was VE day now I don't recall where I was I think I was back in Clarksville VJ-Day. VJ it was not as big as deal because we seemed to think when the war in Europe was won that the other one was just around the corner.

Zieren: Right

Minoa: And plus your brothers were in the European Theatre.

June: Huh?

Minoa: Uncle Charter and daddy were in the European Theatre.

June: Yes O.S. and my both of my brothers were in the European Theatre right.

Zieren: Where did you live in Atlanta?

June: Jeez I have no idea. I was 19 years old I had no business being there. I would be horrified if a 19 year old child of mine went down to Atlanta my mother was too but she couldn't do anything about it.

Jeanette: She was there when Roosevelt died.

Zieren: In Warm Springs.

June: Do what?

Zieren: In Warm Springs.

Jeanette: You were there when Roosevelt died.

June: Well that's right I was in Atlanta when Roosevelt dies yeh yeh but that was a very hush hush thing it was a big war secret big war secret. We didn't know what was going on for a while finally we found out the reason we didn't have access to the circuits over to Warm Springs was because they had a special person to take care of them because Roosevelt was there. I didn't know anything about it and of course eh died there.

Minoa: So the general public did not know he was there?

June: No the general public didn't know where he was.

Zieren: But they knew that he had gone to Warm Springs by that point people knew about Warm Springs.

June: I'm sure the press knew it of course the press knew where he was. And I guess we knew I was 19 years old.

Minoa: And that explains it.

Interviewer: How long were you down there in Atlanta before you came back to Clarksville?

June: Oh I think about six months.

Interviewer: A lot different?

June: Well the war was over and the big rush for help in Atlanta was over they could hire people so they called them imports. The imported people in from all over then when the war was over we all went home.

Zieren: What was your job for the telephone company?

June: Telephone operator.

Zieren: And how many circuits did you generally have?

June: Oh Lord well in Clarksville we had about maybe 35 into Nashville. Nashville was our outlet and in Atlanta of course it was a switching center it was multiple ones I couldn't begin to imagine them. And everything was done by hand in those days there was no the only advancement at that point was the dial system.

Zieren: So you never worked as an operator say on a party line system where several

June: Well now we had that in Clarksville the number P thank you.

Zieren: Uh huh

June: Yeh we had that in Clarksville. And Clarksville did get that they didn't get the dial system for the local subscribers until 1950. That's when we moved to the building over on Madison Street we were in an old building down on 3rd Street its now lawyers attorney's offices right net to the court house.

Zieren: And did you belong to the Communication Workers of America?

June: Well it came about I did not belong to the Communication Workers of America. I did originally and I had a bad experience and I dropped out and then I was promoted to management and I didn't I had to deal with the Communication Workers of America on a supervisee employee bases and I didn't like that. So I didn't have much respect for the Communications it was a brain washing thing actually you were trained to take the company's interest at heart. Taking the company's interests so naturally you didn't it was not the I can't think of the word I'm trying to use I can't talk because I can't think of the word I want to use. But anyway it was not the thing that you did you cooperated with them and did the best that you could but.

Jeanette: In management you did not cross.

June: It was management we called them craft and management. So you just it was two different worlds it was all in the head.

Zieren: When you were an operator did you have any difficulty getting up to speed? Because the operators had to work fast to deal with all the circuits.

June: Well we didn't in those days there help was so hard to get you did not have a requirement but in later years we did we did require them to we called it carry a certain load.

Zieren: Uh huh

June: So we did require them in my later years but not when I was working the switchboard no. I only worked the switchboard a few year sand I was promoted to management and I didn't I didn't do any switchboard work after that.

Interviewer: Do you remember about how much starting off with the phone company you made by the hour or in a week in pay?

June: Oh I went to work for \$8 a week.

Interviewer: \$8 a week did that jump at all after your supervisory moved to supervisory?

June: Yeh but there was no there was no taxes in those days. Remember in those days we didn't pay income taxes so there was and no social security. So we might have paid a little social security.

Zieren: Yeh

June: The Social Security Act came in 33 didn't it or something?

Zieren: 35

June: 35 yeh so there was just a very little social security but there was no income taxes that all came about with the war.

Interviewer: Right

Zieren: Well \$8 a week that's not too bad for

June: Well it people who made \$12 a week could afford a car.

Zieren: Yeh which is amazing if you think about it.

Minoa: They got their first car in 1960 right? Didn't you two share a car?

Jeanette: I did mine was a 60.

Zieren: And how did you did the company offer you a job back in Clarksville after your experience in Atlanta?

June: We were on loan.

Zieren: Uh huh

June: Yeh we were on loan so it was strictly understood that we would go and stay so long. When they didn't need us any longer we would come back to our original job. I did that same thing the first year after the war Miami went in to a big boom everybody was going to Miami on vacation so I did the same went down to Miami on the same plan and stayed there one season.

Interviewer: Did they give you choice if you hadn't have wanted to go would they have let you remain in Clarksville?

June: It was a volunteer thing.

Interviewer: Was it?

June: Yeh and then when it was over it was understood that you would come back home.

Interviewer: Right

June: So but then of course they started by that time the people were all back home and going to work and there was plenty of employment because after Miami the war was over and it was

Jeanette: You had to come home.

June: We had the good ole 50s coming on.

Zieren: I wanted to ask some questions about Fort Campbell. Fort Campbell was built in 1941 and in fact O.S. told me that he worked briefly on the construction at Fort Campbell. What kind of impact did the building of this military base have on Clarksville as a town?

Jeanette: Well it was pretty terrific it was a lot of people came in it was

June: It changed it, it changed everything

Jeanette: It's never been the same.

Interviewer: Do you think it's changed it for the better or?

Jeanette: Oh it was oh it was a quiet little country town that we all loved.

June: It went from a country town to a war booming town.

Minoa: They knew a lot of the people who were displaced by the that their land was taken.

Jeanette: Oh yeh

Minoa: Emanate domain.

June: Ain't never lived in a house with a bunch of girls and then when the what is it the 12th Armor Division came in they entertained half of the 12th Army Division. They all had a torrent affair out of the 12th Armor Division. Then the 14th came in and they didn't like the 14th at all the men weren't nearly as nice as the 12th Armored.

Jeanette: Then they all got shipped out.

Zieren: And it was primarily a training ground for armored divisions in WWII wasn't it.

Jeanette: Oh I think it

June: Yeh yeh it didn't I don't know you know more about when it became Air Borne I'm sure than I do.

Zieren: That came in later.

June: Yeh that came later.

Jeanette: June's husband was in the Air Borne Air Force.

Zieren: And was your husband in the Air Borne?

June: Yes

Zieren: With the 101st?

June: Yes my husband came to Fort Campbell in 1962 were not that far along yet. But he came as commander of the air field and he commanded the air field until he was given battle group. And he commanded the 502nd battle group but his tour of duty was up just before the division went out to so he went to Vietnam before the division did.

Zieren: In those days was Fort Campbell Boulevard a two lane country road?

June: It was a death trap. Oh yeh it was terrible it would take well you must remember if you've been there that long you must remember New Providence Hill.

Zieren: No I know New Providence Hill.

June: You did?

Zieren: Well I just from what I've heard I hate New Providence Hill its

Interviewer: It was as bad back then as it is now or worse for that matter?

June: Yes honey it was much worse it was terrible it was

Minoa: The roads weren't as wide but that traffic was horrible.

June: Yes

Minoa: Is that what you're trying to say?

June: Yes they had all those people half of Clarksville was working at Fort Campbell and they you just couldn't get out that road between reporting to work and

Jeanette: And people from all surrounding counties were working out there Houston, Humphreys, Dickson

Zieren: And what kind of impact did all these young men have on say entertainment in Clarksville. Did they get weekend passes could they come in the evenings and go to town and drink and enjoy life?

June: Both

Jeanette: We did it all they did it all.

June: That's the reason most of them married Fort Campbell people or the Fort Campbell people married Clarksville girls.

Zieren: Where would you go downtown for entertainment for a goodtime for sociable?

June: There were no nightclubs you just had to do the best you could create a party anywhere you could.

Interviewer: Was Dunbar Cave still having entertainers down there?

June: Well in the summer time Dunbar Cave was there but there was nothing out there in the winter time.

Zieren: Montgomery Country was dry then wasn't it?

June: That's right no booze. I forgot that.

Jeanette: That made it a pretty nice town.

June: Of course I didn't know about booze until I got mixed up with the 101st.

Interviewer: Do you remember what year that changed?

June: Pardon me.

Interviewer: Do you remember what year that changed when Montgomery County quit being a dry county?

June: Montgomery County became wet well that hadn't been very long you must remember that Minoa when was it?

Minoa: Liquor by the drink was the 70s.

Zieren: That's what I heard the 70s.

Minoa: But you could buy booze at the package stores you could buy beer.

June: Yeh we could always buy it at the package stores.

Jeanette: You could buy it there

Minoa: Well liquor but the drink was the 70s the early 70s I think.

Zieren: And someone told me it passed in a referendum but not by much.

Minoa: Yeh I think it might even have failed once before it passed the churches all came out in mass to vote against it.

Interviewer: Do you remember anybody going up across the states lines in Kentucky was it a wet county up there on the other side?

June: Oh my Lord we've got millionaires just over the state line in Kentucky everybody I know id millionaires.

Jeanette: And there Montgomery County money.

June: And that's how come they passed the, they finally voted for liquor by the drink because all of the money was going into Kentucky. I have friends who are millionaires from those booze stores over across the state line. You'd go over there and come back with a truck load. You'd grab whoever's going over there then sometimes they'd even put the police out there and search the cars as they came across. You'd have to sneak just a few across at a time.

Zieren: Did you know bootleggers in Clarksville?

Jeanette: Not in Clarksville but I knew bootleggers in Erin.

June: She knew she knew

Jeanette: We knew bootleggers at home.

June: That was not the, that was what do you call it moonshine.

Zieren: Right and it was really no big deal in a way

Jeanette: It wasn't no big deal their daddy caught them out there making it on my mother's farm and you know it wasn't no big deal at all. The big deal was getting them to close it out.

Interviewer: I asked your sister if she remembered where she was when she heard about the bombing of Pearl Harbor do you remember where you were when the news came out?

June: Yeh I was in the hospital having my appendix out.

Interviewer: Really did you hear it on the radio?

June: I think she came out and told me we didn't have hospital radios. And then a friend of hers brought a radio out so I could listen to the music and the war news.

Minoa: Tell them how you got to the hospital. What was your mode of transportation when you had you appendix.

June: The what?

Minoa: Your mode of transportation.

June: Oh an ambulance.

Minoa: Wasn't it a hurst?

June: It was a hurst.

Minoa: That's right.

June: Right it was a hurst we had mother and daddy belong to a burial service over in Waverly and

Jeanette: That's in Humphreys County.

June: And as a bonus for belonging to the burial service association they would provide ambulance service. So I had this attack an appendicitis and daddy called we didn't have a telephone daddy rode back to town with the doctor and called Love Boy and man they were right there and took I got on that stretcher and went right to the hospital.

Minoa: In a hurst.

June: I didn't know the difference.

Jeanette: It didn't make any difference they'd just take it out of the window take the funeral out of the window.

June: Well actually that only changed a few years ago where they have a special to special thing to take people to the hospital. They used to send all of the ambulances out to wrecks in Clarksville when there's be a care wreck and it was always the ambulance the hurst or whatever. It was a hurst during a funeral and it was an ambulance during the dead people and the sick people all rode on the same cot.

Zieren: What hospital was it?

June: Clarksville Memorial it was before it became a Memorial.

Jeanette: Oh it was out there where the academy is now.

June: The hospital was you must remember that.

Zieren: No I don't but I've seen photographs of it.

June: Now it's the old hospital.

Minoa: Memorial Hospital just had its 50th anniversary.

June: Yeh

Minoa: Greg wasn't here 50 years ago.

Jeanette: Well it wasn't Memorial when it was out there it was Clarksville.

Zieren: Oh I've seen post cards.

June: It was not Memorial at that time it was just Clarksville Hospital. So anyway

Interviewer: One other thing and again we asked Ms. Uffelman the same question but looking back on WWII despite the sacrifices and the shortages and your brothers being over there at war many people describe it as the best years of their lives due to the patriotism and sense of community you know pulling together in support of the war. How do you look back on it do you see that the same way?

June: Well I see the support of the war being universal but anybody who agreed with the war that had been good for the nation didn't let the parents of these soldiers know that they thought it was the best thing for the nation because their sons were on the battle line and that was not a recommended comment in those days.

Interviewer: Yeh

June: I remember on e man in Erin said he wouldn't mind if the war would have gone on a couple of more years then he would have his home paid for. My parents were irate that could not believe that somebody would make that comment.

Zieren: It's pretty insensitive.

June: Oh yeh

Interviewer: Very insensitive especially when you've got children over there two sons.

June: Well everybody's sons were there some of the girls were that was the beginning or they called them the wac's?

Zieren: Wac's and wings

June: Women's Army Core isn't that what it was called?

Zieren: When you came back from Atlanta you lived in Clarksville?

June: Yes

Zieren: And what neighborhood where did you live basically?

June: What?

Zieren: What neighborhood did you live in?

June: Well I lived with my sister on College Street.

Minoa: They lived together and then when my dad started Austin Peay the three of them lived together.

Jeanette: When he got home from the war we had we had a bed for him.

June: Yeh we

Jeanette: He had he just went across the street to Austin Peay.

Minoa: Tell how you said he was somewhat traumatized by the war.

Jeanette: Huh

Minoa: He was somewhat traumatized by the war.

Jeanette: Oh your daddy?

Minoa: Uh huh

Jeanette: He couldn't talk about it.

June: He never discussed the war.

Jeanette: I never did have a conversation with O.S. about the war.

Zieren: Never once?

Jeanette: I never did.

Interviewer: He finished his degree after he got back from WWII went to Austin Peay? What did he get his degree in?

June: He went on the GI bill.

Minoa: He got his degree in History.

Interviewer: Uh huh a history degree.

Jeanette: Yeh he got his degree in history.

Maria: Then he went to Peabody.

Jeanette: For his masters in teaching yeh.

Minoa: But he said for a longtime after he got back he'd hear a car backfire and he'd duck.

June: He said what?

Minoa: He'd hear a car backfire and he would duck. And you said he used to go off and just be in a room by himself.

Jeanette: Well he had the big living room there in our apartment and he spent a lot of course he did all of his studying there that's where he got his masters degree.

June: Well in the early days of his return he spent most of it up there's an area on our family farm called Jennie Hollow and it's a really beautiful area. And he used to take his squirrel riffle and go back there and sit against a tree and look down in the valley and he said he got more peace of mind from that then he did he was sort of able to cleanse his mind because it was because it was I don't know what it was whatever it took

Jeanette: Peaceful area

June: Well he's just like these poor kids that's coming back now there coming back we've got a real this is all about to fit the fan now these poor boys coming back their coming back half crazy.

Jeanette: June's daughter is a

Minoa: Counselor

June: She's a social worker.

Jeanette: As a social worker and she was telling some of the most hairy things last night that

June: Well it's just those boys are coming back

Jeanette: Just coming back terrible

June: You know their lives are wrecked.

Jeanette: And their coming back to homes and their of course their going to wreck their wives lives and their children and everything it's just too

June: It's just so sad the same thing it's the same thing all over again.

Minoa: Well our dad had you too and support and he had Jennie Hollow to go to.

June: Well yeh but you know

Minoa: Everybody's not as lucky

Maria: He only spoke of the war starting at the 50th anniversary he rewrote his diary and started talking about he told us would tell us a few stories about the war. He had enough distance there was a lot of commemorations of the 50th anniversary of the war and he spoke of it.

June: Bless his heart.

Maria: He never spoke of it before that except to tell a funny story.

June: He didn't talk about it.

Maria: He would tell a funny story but

June: I think there was one thing that bothered him he the only thing I ever heard him talk about that was so sad was that they were under fire and he tossed a grenade and it went in the German fox hole. And that was always that sort of bore on his mind his whole life because he blew up those soldiers in that fox hole.

Maria: He got a Bronze Star for it.

June: Yeh

Interviewer: We've got some stuff laid out on the table that you guys have provided if we can we will go ahead and move over there and take a look at everything.

Minoa: Okay this some of the things that my father sent home and he kept records of every letter he got and every letter he returned. And he said that he got more mail than anybody in his whole unit and you can look at these letters. It lists his immediate family extended family his neighbors and it's just one right after another. Detailed descriptions of the letters that he got and that he returned. These are some V-mail he had a very pretty hand writing. So he got a lot of that. These are some shells that he picked up in Sicily that he marked. And my sister just found these in a box recently of course he would have known they were there but he forgot they were there then he passed away and then a couple of years ago my sister was looking for something in the attic and found this box with all these pictures and these are little communion cups where they took communion in England right before the D-Day invasion. And he kept these so this must have been very important to him. We've just got various other stuff this is Camp Ground Elementary School (holding up a picture) this is Jeanette Uffelman right here in the middle.

Jeanette: That's where all of us went to grammar school.

Minoa: This would have been the two room school. You can see their in overalls. I laugh because people make jokes about walking to school barefooted well my daddy really did honestly he did. This is my Aunt June when she was a baby. Aunt June there you are. Let's see here's some children's picture of my dad this is my dad when he was probably six in the overalls. And here he is when he was 12 and I'm thinking this is probably when he's in his early 20s because he's got lots of hair I never knew him with that much hair. By the time we came along his hair was

Interviewer: How old was he when he went away to the war?

Minoa: Well he was born in 17 so he went in 42

Zieren: 23 or 24 yeh

Minoa: He had gone to work in Detroit in the 30s and then came back when he knew the war was getting started. And then my aunt Jeanette had went to live with the Mott cousins when she got her beauty school he also worked for their drilling company so they really this extended family network really helped. Then he sent

June: They were the only members of the family that had money he owned a business.

Minoa: And then Aunt Jeanette bought this camera on the black market and sent him during WWII so he has these photos. There pictures of him he's there in Notre Dome and I think he was supposed to be pretty good hunting so sometimes he would actually kill I think he even shot a deer isn't that one of the stories.

Maria: He shot a deer and they had it in camp.

Minoa: And that looks like squirrels to me.

Maria: I think its fox skins.

Minoa: Maybe its fox. He said the first time he ever saw a chain saw was during WII and he really wanted to get one of those when he came back home. And then here's and these are probably too small to pick up but there's pictures of damage more damage and that's a mine that washed up I think that's what that is Greg.

Zieren: I think so too yeh.

Minoa: This one tickles me because there he is with one of his buddies and they found a puppy or a little dog. There's Notre Dome again they captured a Nazi flag he actually send home a Nazi flag. He said they were pretty easy to find the Nazis had spent so much money on flag just about anybody could I think this is probably Italian.

Zieren: Uh huh it looks Italian.

Minoa: And here's one and probably it's probably right before I'm not sure but it's probably right before the Battle of the Bulge because that was that hard winter. That must be him with one of his girl friends you recognize her?

June: No I didn't know her. That was when he was working for the drilling company down somewhere. That's before that's not a uniform that's when he was still working for the drilling company.

June: Yeh somewhere wherever he was.

Minoa: I don't know what that is.

Maria: It's on the back.

Minoa: Oh it is on the back. Ship burning in the Amera Perilously after a bombing. So he did most of this stuff he didn't write on the back but this is great that we have that.

Maria: The band of brothers.

Minoa: It is the band of brothers. When he came to see me in England in the late 80s I took him to the Imperial War Museum and we saw in the museum a teller mine and a tell mine is what he used to detonate so that's what. I just wanted to show the newspapers because during the war every little county newspaper across the county printed these kind of things. So my dad was featured he would send letters home and other people in the community would too so

Interviewer: Are those his letters underneath the picture?

Minoa: Some of them are yes this is him right there and here's one from England March 1944 and he's still a PCF there O.S. Uffelman. Here's another one this is March of 44 those were the same addition the mouse got a hold of that one. And here's one that he wrote a prayer at Easter time this is it right there. And there's another one right there. And I've been told by older people in the community that they really liked reading what he had to say it was a connection and I'm intrigued because this is before he was educated before he went to college and while he was in England he while his buddies were all going out and getting drunk and not knowing where they were the night before he would go see parliament or he would go see a cathedral. So he had a since of history then he actually listened to some pretty important debates in parliament. Here's the band of brothers this is later in life. He was active in the veterans group we were saying how he didn't talk about the war but he was active in veterans groups. He wanted to memorialize it he was very please with the D-Day museum he was very please that there was going to be a big monument in D.C. He didn't live to see it built but he knew it was coming.

Jeanette: He had a brick at the D-Day Museum in New Orleans.

Minoa: He does so that's just the tip of the ice berg we've got a lot more.

Maria: He said he would have been court marshaled if they knew he kept such a record.

Minoa: Yeh he's got a little journal that I don't have. I think Lance may have it I'm not sure. But he kept a little bitty book and he just kept a tiny little where he was and what he was doing. And then last year when he knew he had the terminal illness he went through it and he re-read it and then he would write down what he remembered from then. Big wig residence after the war when they were waiting to ship back home his job was to clean up the pool from the 36th Olympics so they were right there.

Zieren: Well this city was a military fortress and one of the things they did was they removed a portion of the city walls and the fortifications because the thinking was I mean they destroyed them because the thinking was is that it was a reminder to the civilian population of the military influence. And they wanted to remove that reminder from the Germans they left part of it but most of it was destroyed.

Minoa: This is Jeanette this is June when she was working down in Atlanta as a telephone operator.

Zieren: And that post card on the top is Dunbar Cave right there.

Minoa: Yes this is Dunbar Cave this is the picture I was telling you when you weren't filming they thought he was Frank Sinatra at the airport. He was good looking.