

Interviewer: Okay sir please state your full name and when and here you were born.

Harvill: My full name is Fletcher Evans Harvill I was born January 24, 1926 in a little community known as Les Cases Tennessee over near Murfreesboro.

Interviewer: And you are a WWII veteran what branch of the service did you serve in?

Harvill: Army Air Core.

Interviewer: And what unit were you primarily in?

Harvill: Primary my longest period of time was at a base unit down in Argen Texas which was a training base for remote gunners on B29s. And our squadron was in charge of training squadron and I worked in the supply room and of course responsible for all of the training gear MR property.

Interviewer: What were your parent's names and what did they do for a living?

Harvill: My father was Harbert Harvill and he was a school teacher and he was on the original faculty at Austin Peay and was the third president. And my mother was Katherine Evans Harvill she died early in 1954 of cancer and we moved to Clarksville in 29 when the school opened. And eventually lived two doors down from 4th Street on College Street I was three years old then later moved out on North Second Street. So until I was 18 and went in service I was always in easy walking distance of the campus.

Interviewer: Were you able to stay in school throughout the great depression?

Harvill: Yeh being born in 26 it was a great time to go to school because everybody was about the same. We all the number one thing we had was each other and I was three years old going on four then the crash of 29 came but we had a garden and we ate. And I had a cousin older than I and sometimes I'd get some of his britches and some of his sweaters and life went on I didn't know the difference. Because I hadn't known anything else one thing that was peculiar about the depth of the depression the faculty would get paid with script. It was a state IOU about two out of every three paychecks and if you took that script to the bank it discounted about 50 percent. And my mother never would let my father discount it. She held it and finally in about 38,37 or 8 the state did redeem it all at par and that's when we bought the house out on North Second Street. But it was times were hard I didn't know the difference but.

Interviewer: Did you know of anybody in your community who was long term unemployed during that time?

Harvill: I knew there was a whole lot of people looking for jobs. I can remember I was 8 years old when we moved out on North Second Street the third door from Marion. And over about two blocks from three blocks from the railroad and I can remember it must have been the summer of 34 or 35 people would come and knock on the back door and ask my mother do you have any jobs we can do cut your grass, weed your garden, clean out your furnace for a meal. And she'd say no I've got to keep this boy busy but I'll feed you she would never turn them away. But I have seen them actually turn and walk

away and say lady if I can't earn it I don't except charity. Most of them would eat and she'd get it out of the icebox the same thing we'd had for lunch and they'd sit on the back concrete steps and eat and apologize all the way through their meal because they were having to be. I'm not a bum I want to earn my way but lady I've been riding the rails and there's no jobs. And they'd eat and they'd thank her and they'd go on but I've seen any number walk down out drive way with mother holding a plate of food saying lady I don't take charity. Now that's how things have changed.

Interviewer: Was your family or the community that you lived in affected by FRDs New Deal Programs?

Harvill: He saved the whole nation in my opinion I don't know where this country would have gone if we hadn't had a president with the foresight of Franklin D Roosevelt. He we were Montgomery County was a primarily agricultural county my mother's people had a farm down in Marshal County. The farm programs the rural electrification programs first my grandparents had coal oil lamps and I when electricity was in through TVA and RVA was wonderful. Sure they were affected by it considerable and the kids there at the Peay the NYA the National Youth Administration the kids some of the better friends I had went to school on scholarships what they call the NYA the National Youth Administration. And jobs were provided education was provided and of course where we were going the war started in Europe in 39 and it was just a matter of time until we got in it. My father was a history teacher and had served in WWI so he was gung hoe that we had to stop Hitler and the Japanese I heard that pretty well regular every meal. But yes Roosevelt's economic policies did save us they opened up the banks. I can remember them talking about the banks closing the bank holidays stopping the runs. I didn't know what the heck they were talking about being no older than I was but it was coming people were smiling again and they were singing Happy Days are Here Again, life was just a bowl of cherries pass the cream. He was and of course he was elected in 1932 and took office in 33 and I was 7 years old and I grew up listening to fire side chats. My friends I call you my friend and he made you its like if you ever look at Dave Letterman he has great presidential speeches and as Roosevelt we have nothing to fear but fear itself which in my opinion is a great line. But he instilled confidence and if you'll look at it our economy is now and has always been an economy built on faith. You let something bad happen in the world the public gets scared and look at what the market does. It is built on faith the U.S. economic system in my opinion is built on faith and Roosevelt gave us faith in the future and how can you put a price tag on that. That was more important than the programs themselves the programs engendered faith people to get off their boom booms and do for themselves gave you an opportunity.

Interviewer: So you definitely felt that things were getting better as time progressed?

Harvill: Oh I thought they were of course I was just a kid what did I know. And my folks were not gloom and doom people but we were we did have from the time Hitler did start rattling his savers in the early 30s he went in and took over in 33 by 35 my father was saying we are going to have to stop him.

Interviewer: How did you keep up with national or world events? Did you listen to the radio or newspaper?

Harvill: Radio I can remember very well like everybody else can tell you where they were when they heard the news of Pearl Harbor. We lived on North Second Street we had been to church and we'd come

home and we'd had lunch and I was lying on my stomach on the floor reading the Sunday comics. And they interrupted the radio program WJZM was the first to break in with the announcement that the Japanese had bombed Pearl Harbor. And I could feel the hair on the back of neck stand up it scared the bageebers out of me. I was 15 years old just before my 16th birthday a senior in high school. And it was scary it was scary times.

Interviewer: Did you ever expect s to go to war with Japan? You mentioned that you thought was with Hitler would be inevitable.

Harvill: Yeh because I remember from Japan had invaded China and there was the sinking of the gun boat Pana and I don't remember exactly what year that was it must have been 36, 37 somewhere back in there. And they shot our gun boat up and there was a lot of hostility there but there was and I had an uncle my mothers brother was a Navy doctor. And in the late 30s he served a tour in Panama and Uncle Joe said he would see these freighters going through the canal loaded with U.S. scrap metal. I knew they were buying all of the scrap metal and Uncle Joe said one of these days son we are going to get it back. We're going to get it back of course he died of a heart attack in about 39 before Pearl Harbor. But I remember thinking Uncle Joe was so right he did not live to see the American but everybody knew the Japanese were buying all the scrap metal they could buy from this country. And we knew that they were very aggressive but we aw we can go out some morning before breakfast and whip Japan. And if you stop and look at it if Hitler had not declared war on the United States on December 8th 41 the American public would have insisted that we put the first priority on the war in the Pacific. And it would have ended a whole lot quicker than it did but you've got to remember we put our number on infuses as far the army and such was concerned in Europe. And if you look at it too after Pearl Harbor and when you came to the Battle of Midway in the summer of 42 the United States did not lose a single other battle to the Japanese. After the Philippines fell and the Battle of Coral Sea which we had a naval victory the Battle of Midway the United States Navy and Marine Air Fore did not have a single battle lost. Now there were some army units over there but a basic army if you look at history the basic army units were in Europe or training for Europe.

Interviewer: When you heard about Japan and the threat of Hitler did you remember hearing anything about Mussolini?

Harvill: Oh yeh and when he invaded Ethiopia about the only thing I heard about Mussolini he was such a buffoon the way he stuck his jaw out and they said well he made the trains run all the time. And I'm very found of Italy I'm very fond of Italians I've got some good friends the thing is I took four years of Latin in high school and I'm interested in Roman History. The thing that I can't understand is how today's Italians being the descendants of early Rome ever could be classified as the architects of law and order for this civilization. Because they are fun loving people their not militaristic they are happy go lucky. I've had several trips to Italy going back this summer for two weeks it's a lovely place because they hang so loose. And their not violent their still unstable they've had more damn governments than Carter had liver pills every time you turn around their turning over. They are friendly people they almost brag about that local political corruption but he was not very popular when he invaded Ethiopia. Because there was some that thought Halus Selassie who was emperor of Ethiopia had some kind of

descendants right on back to the Old Testament days. And he was shooting down these people who had only spears they were not armed at all. And the Ethiopians they were just it was just a bully picking on which he was. Then of course I was more aware of the Roam Berlin Axes than the Tokyo Axes of course through the history channel I've seen and learned a lot about the Berlin Tokyo Axes the Berlin Tokyo plan that they were going to converge in Italy I mean in India.

Interviewer: Did you have any knowledge of Stalin's Russia during the prewar days?

Harvill: Not a lot except we knew the communist were bad they were persecuting the people and we were glad that Hitler invaded them because they led it off. And frankly I don't know if Hitler had not invaded Russia if Russia might have attacked him I don't know he had to secure that Eastern front. But if Hitler could have gone in and invaded England the fat lady would have sung. As much as I admire Roosevelt what he did for this country and this world I stand in aw of Winston Churchill. I had the privilege several years ago of being in England and visiting the war rooms. And they have tapes of his speeches and I'll tell you that little bugger will make the hair stand up on the back of your neck. They told us that during the air raids they had to watch him because he would go out and go up on the roof of parliament to watch during 1940 to watch the Battle Britain to watch then the Luftwaffe. They said Mr. Prime Minister get off there and come back where your sand bagged and protected but he stood there on the beach and he challenged Hitler to come. Could he have stopped him I don't know but he bluffed him out. I heard in those days after Hitler turned and went the other way that they didn't have ammunition to last over eight or ten days. And some of the heaviest mechanized equipment they had the little bread and gun carriers which is you probably know is very light there was rumors to the affect they had oil down to the channel where if you had tried to invade they could bring oil into it set the channel on fire. Whether that would have stopped them I don't know. I'm very much aware of the Dunn Kirk rescue and when you realize there were 300,000 British soldiers trapped there and that proved the worth of a democracy because anybody that had anything an available row boat in England got out there in that channel and hauled those boys out of there. And where would England have been if you'd have lost those 300,000 troops?

Interviewer: Heading on the Battle of Britain the bombings of the Luftwaffe on London after the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor did you ever think the war would hit America's shores? That we would be under artillery or bombardment from the enemy?

Harvill: Yes I did we had in Clarksville during the summer of 42 an air raid program. Mr. Ralph Winters whose son was Sam Winters who just recently died Sam was a good friend of mine. Mr. Ralph Winters asked for volunteers to be air raid wardens here in Clarksville. And at 16 years old we went out to the old Clarksville High School grounds and Greenwood and we took instructions from Mr. Ralph to be air raid wardens. And I was assigned a territory on North Second Street and Robb Avenue back by the Dunn Center back in that area. And I can remember they'd have an air raid we'd have air raid drills. Sirens would go off and on one occasion I was on Robb Avenue just a little beyond the Dunn Center now and from somewhere a B24 flew over fairly low scared the bageebers out of me. I thought oh God they've come their here it was not a trial run. I had the pin helmet on with that air warden symbol there was one house up there that had a fire in the fireplace and it was showing light through the shade and I had

to go up and knock on the door and tell them to cover that thing up lights out. But that was your job you had to have a total blackout they had a little they had some little drills with us they set of some tear gas we had to run through that. I felt bad I was bad man I was 16 years old with a territory and a pen helmet and an arm band. But I felt like I was doing my job people were we were a country then. We used to have an ole French 75 sat on the court house square lawn on 2nd Street that went to the scrap metal drive people conserved. Tin cans you swished your cans your spare metal you had your metal we had our scrap metal drives. You had your victory garden my dad always had a garden my mother always canned even my earliest memories pulling weeds out of the garden. But we were a nation at that time and as the war came and every time you turn around people were leaving people were leaving. Draft age was 21 when the war started they dropped it to 20 then they dropped it to 19 then they dropped it to 18. And every time drop drop drop I had always run with a bunch of boys a little bit older than I and most of my buddies had left four to five, six months before I did and I felt like a fool walking around Clarksville 17 years old six foot tall 165, 70 pounds I thought I was a man. And I was real proud when I enlisted in the Air Core that program brigadette program before they called me. They give me a little thing to go in a button hole I wanted everybody to see it I'm sworn in I've raised my right hand. I'm just waiting for them to call me and you felt a little embarrassed. Now there are one or two that I can remember right now that went to Fort Overthorpe and came back and those that were legitimately 4F and I can remember some of those that went to the farm those that stayed on the farm after the war was one thing. But those that as soon as the war was over left the farm and went back to school I didn't have a lot for them. I'm not going to call any names but those that stayed on the farm and were real legitimate farmers that's fine. But and most of the boys that went didn't think a whole lot of these boys that run to the farm and just as soon as it was over because everybody wanted to do their part. When they built Fort Campbell the influx into Clarksville if you had a spare bedroom you were obligated to rent it to somebody there were couples that lived with us one couple in particular the only time they ever had any time together was when they rented a room in my mother's home. My dad went back in the service in 42 and but Dale and Sara from Arkansas Dale was killed going into Munich after the war was over for all practical purposes. The only time he and Sara ever had any time together was when they lived in our home. And you felt a part of those people the money that you made from you rent I don't know what it was it wasn't much by the time you feed all the meals they eat with us you broke even but we loved those people. Right after the war ended in Europe I was hitch hiking home from Arlington Texas and I went through Little Rock so I could go by and see this lady because I knew her husband had been killed. I just had to go put my arms around her and say Sara we love you we love Dale it felt you felt a bonding. One of my aunts came up and was visiting with my mother she said Katherine I swear you put up with that boy she said poor Dale will have to share his wife one day but I loved those people I as like their little brother. And there were three different couples that rented a room in my house after I went into the service dad got sent back to Nashville with the Selective Service Branch at that time and mother moved to Nashville then we rented the house to a soldier and his wife. And everybody that had anyplace some people did take advantage of it there is always going to be those but basically the heart of Clarksville went out. Well they had all of their boys gone too. They had rationing four gallons of gasoline a week for a car of course after I started driving I found a service station that would allow me to fill up on his evaporation quota which did help. And when the war ended I was always very disappointed

I had in my wallet two B gas cards they were worth about 10 gallons and the rationing went off and I never got use them.

Interviewer: Do you remember anybody ever trading ration coupons or ration books if somebody needed more sugar somebody would trade?

Harvill: Specifically no I'm sure it went on but you had sugar rationed and shoes were rationed tires were rationed gas was rationed I think meat was rationed. And you had so many points for this that going to the grocery store and you'd see this roast had points on it. Had a boy call a friend of mine call me a couple of weeks ago he had client in the office who had little stamps they had 15 cents and they had a little tank on it. He said do you remember rations and I said yeh I remember ration but I don't remember having that type of thing. I got to thinking I said those were war stamps when you didn't have enough money to buy a war bond you bought war stamps. And you filled up your book your war bond book with stamps 50 cent stamps 25 cent stamps 15 cent stamps and when you got to I think it was 18.75 you cashed that in and got a \$25 bond that was going to mature in ten years. That didn't sound like too good a deal to me because at my age ten years was an eternity. But I'm sure that's what that was but Steve said it had little tanks on it and 15 cents.

Interviewer: You spoke about the scrap metal drives.

Harvill: The what?

Interviewer: The scrape metal drives and all those different drives they had for resources were there ever any war bond drives or war bond speeches?

Harvill: Oh yeh there was somebody pushing in charge of the war bond you felt it your patriotic duty gosh I'd like to have the 50 cents. First summer of 42 16 years old I worked for \$15 a week 6 days a week ten O'clock on Saturday and every other week two nights or three nights alternated back. So the stores stayed open downtown because Fort Campbell was being built we had to get that \$15 a week but that didn't leave a whole lot to go into war bonds.

Interviewer: Before you enlisted were you afraid that you would be drafted? Did you feel that you

Harvill: Well I was still 17 and I didn't want to be drafted my father didn't want me drafted. I remember he told my mother he said Katherine that's one of the remarkable things you've done is sign permission for our boy to enlist I didn't want him to be drafted. And if I would have waited to be drafted I would have been in the infantry. I just about got through in time to be in a replacement company in the Bulge and I hate cold weather. She didn't know it but she was doing me a big favor.

Interviewer: When you went to enlist did you have a preference for any branch?

Harvill: See when I signed up in a special program the Air Core had a special program you go and take some little test to qualify and you could sign in this program and they could guarantee you could to into the Air Core and go through classification center. And if you could classify the cadet's either bombardier pilot or navigator then you could go to preflight and then primary basic and advanced. And if you didn't

qualify get through classification they would send you through gunnery school or to radio school or to AM school or ordinance or something of that nature. And the last thing I wanted was radio school because all those dots and dots sound just alike to me. I'm sure I didn't classify very well when they put you through those classifications tests you may have had them in the Marine Core. But they all sounded alike to me I'd usually wake up about four dots behind and just guess at what it was .

Interviewer: Where did you go for basic training?

Harvill: Keister Field out in Gulf Port Mississippi.

Interviewer: And did you know then that you were going to go into more specialized training afterwards?

Harvill: We went at basic we went through classification. I'll tell you one thing we went to reception center at Camp Shelby Hattiesburg and they had people there were coming in that had either were just 18 years old like we were or they were older and a lot of them couldn't even read or write. They had a school that they sent those boys to and while we were in the reception center some friends of mine pulled KP over in the area in the mess hall where those boys were going to school. And they swore up and down that the mess hall over there was decorated with Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck, Goofy and all of that. A friend of mine from Nashville would read letters and write the letters for one of the men in our hut because the man couldn't read and he couldn't write. And that boy literally loved Bobby he would have fought for him because Bobby treated him with a lot of respect he did it for him but he did it in a respectful fashion. But basically we were two after we got to Keister they put us in groups of 200 and everybody there was 18 years old and everybody there had a reasonably high IQ or you couldn't have gotten in the program to begin with. Then after we got out of it and when we finished that basic those of us who had classified were grouped up with others I think out of the 200 I took basic with 80 of use classified and 120 didn't. And they put us up with another 200 and shipped us to Columbus Mississippi told us in six weeks we'd be going to preflight but that invasion came off in June and the air losses were much much less than they had expected. And by the time we got that far down the road they had a surplus of pilot a surplus of bombardiers a surplus of navigators because they had taken control of the skies. When they first started that program I didn't know it but I do now from the history channel when they first started this program getting you early enlisted and locking you up into the locking you into the program. The air losses over Europe were 35 % would I have signed up if I'd have known that I don't know would my mother have signed for me I don't know. But I thought I would be much hell with one of those crushed caps and ear plugs. But I was disappointed I didn't get to go to preflight but I'm glad that the need was not there and the Air Core talked about transferring us out but they said no they would not let us transfer out they kept they put us doing permanent party duty. But we couldn't transfer out we wasn't touchable except as a unit and when the war ended in Japan I had juts had a furlough in May my time wasn't up for another one. And they told us unofficially that since we had not had OC service we would do occupational duty in Japan and they gave every one of us a furlough go home get your tell everyone good bye get your affairs in order what have you. So that was in September the first of September so I that time I caught a ride I got home three hours before my furlough started. And told everybody good bye I'll see you in a year bla bla got back to the base and the

Air Core said no these boys signed up for a special program and we couldn't fill our end of the contract which I didn't know I had a contract but they couldn't fulfill it we're going to give you a choice you can either stay in and take your chances on going through preflight and going through cadets in the regular Air Force or go home. Well that took me about 32 seconds that was a no brainer we were all ready to go I don't think a single one of our boys stayed in we all went home. They said they were letting us out for the convenience of the government. This friend of mine from Alabama who went with us to the separation center at Maxwell called his uncle and said no uncle their lettings us out for the inconvenience to the government. He called it and I didn't care what it was but it was over with they had had me I did what they told me to within limits and everybody was coming home. And the greatest social program ever was was the GI bill. They would pay your books now this is hard to believe but they would pay your books, fees and tuition of up to \$600 a year plus \$75 a month assistance and I went to Vanderbilt Law School on that and never did I use the full \$600 allowance. I think tuition now is 36, 39 thousand dollars. But if you stop and look at all of the boys and the girls there were a few that went to school on the GI bill rather than being dumped out on the public and look at what their education did for them and did for this country and the money that has been earned from that education and been paid back to the government in taxes it was the greatest investment there ever was. Because if you would have dumped 10 or 12 million people men young men that age back on the public without some way to easy them I without further training you'd have had the same thing you had after WWI. That jobs were hard then I know it was from 1918 until 33 before the depression or 29 the depression really hit but the veteran the march on Washington and all of those things were going on they kept us busy and they were good students. Most of those boys were but we played hard but we knew we worked hard in school we did well. And I was talking to Dave Kanervo Dr. Kanervo Thursday night and we was talking and I said you know the greatest social program there ever was we could take, you may not want to keep this in because its sort of a political quote, we could take the money we have poured into the war in Iraq and we could have a GI bill education program for every young man and woman in the United States and we could furnish health care to every person in this country. But we can spend it over there but we can't spend it here because that's a social program I'm not going to say what my personal beliefs are.

Interviewer: Did you feel that the training that you did receive during your time in service here state side during the war did you feel that that training was adequate or up to par?

Harvill: Thank God I didn't have to go in combat with it because we had a very mild basic in the Air Core. I think it was about 8 weeks and only long hike out to the field for bid whack only one evening in the field on the range one day or two days only one trip to the range one time to have orientation familiarization with the weapons. You fired one round for orientation and one round for record the only weapon we fired the ole grease gun and the R45 and the carbeam. One round we fired one sequence for formulation I said orientation then one for the record and that was it. And we learned we field striped it one time but we never did field strip it again. Could I you've field striped yours time and time again you did it blindfolded

Interviewer: In the dark

Harvill: But I guess they figured if we did what we were supposed to be doing go through cadets and be pilots, navigators or bombardiers or we washed out and became areal gunners there was going to be a whole new school we'd go through for that. Then after we left basic and went to Columbus Mississippi they put us doing permanent party jobs I worked in a little supply room checking out parachutes. Then I graduated up to riding on the back end of a tug going around picking up the oil and the junk from the line that goes to the dump that was a good duty. Then when I got to Harlingen they put me in the supply room because I had sold men's clothing when I was a kid in Clarksville and that was a great experience. After the war ended in Europe my Sargent Supply Sargent got out because he had enough time on his sleeve and what have you. And I had two stripes but I was acting noncoms in charge and that was a great experience for me because I had men with older than I with more stripes than I who were just back filling in for a job that I had to get along with I had to handle them. And as you know its sort of hard when you've got two stripes on and somebody else had got four to ask them to do to order them to do something. But it was a great experience for me it was good it was good for me I think every boy 18 years old when he gets out of high school needs to serve at least two years myself. Get you're hooting and your tooting done away form home learn to stand up by yourself. When I was in reception center went in to take a shower and came out of the shower room some son of a buck had stole my tooth brush and I said if they'll steel your tooth brush they'll still anything. So I said Harvill you've got to take care of your self from here on and I very well did. I learned a lot met some of the finest boys I've ever known in my life the only regret I have it that I didn't keep close enough tabs with them. And you'll probably look back on it someday and say I wish I'd have keep closer tabs with my Marine buddies. I'll give you a piece of advice stay in there with them keep in touch because I had one I got a friend to look up locate him on the internet and they found his obituary. I'd sure like to have sat down and had one more beer with Rance.

Interviewer: Did any of your friends or family members serve overseas in the Pacific or the European Theatres?

Harvill: Quite a few boys I went to high school with some of them didn't come back. Most of them were just a little older than I but had a number of friends who went in the army about six months before I did. And they went into what was known as ASTP Army Student Training Program they sent them to it was really a holding pool they had more people going than they knew what to do with. And they went to put them in school in colleges in the spring of 44 they were needing people and they busted up those they took them all out of ASTP and a kid that I had gone to school with over at the Peay before going in the service that were in AST program pulled them out and put them in they didn't ask them any questions sent them to infantry advanced. Infantry basic because they had a preliminary influx in basic too and they all got out about October or November and got sent to Europe and got over to England about Thanksgiving and several of them got their baptism of fire in the Bulge. A number of boys that I went to school with were in that and some didn't come back. And you always remember them I will and thank goodness for those that didn't go out. Chancellor McMillan's father was a friend of mine we roomed together over at the Peay and what have you and the Chancellor told me that when his daddy was in the infantry he was in the second wave on D-day and for some reason their boat got swamped and had to turn around and go back to England to get the motor back up and running. And Chancellor said if it

wasn't for that I might not be here. Several years ago I had I think it was 1998 I had the privilege of being in Normandy and I stood up above Omaha Beach and that's a massive graveyard there cemetery and you've got a big wall that shows you know maps to, looking at his watch, I guess I better go, and then looked out at all of those crosses and stars of David I didn't know any of them I didn't go read their names but it was the most emotional feeling I've had in my life. I don't mind admitting I cried like a baby because I thought that was the grace of God it could be I.

Interviewer: My final question for the evening will be during the time the beginning of the war till the end of the war with the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the surrender of the Japanese did you feel that you were part of something enormous of this enormous endeavor that was truly a national and international feat during the world?

Harvill: Just a scintilla part of it but I felt that I was an eye witness to a great global changing. And with regard to the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki Harry Truman made the greatest decision ever made he saved thousands of Japanese lives as well as thousands of American lives but as you know the plans for the invasion of Japan had already been made the date had already been set and it would have been carnage. Far more Japanese would have been killed on an invasion than were killed by the A bomb. Of course it unleashed a genie that has held us all hostage since but it would have happened anyway.

Interviewer: Well is there anything else you would like to add to the conversation?

Harvill: No sir

Interviewer: Okay

Harvill: I've enjoyed talking with you.

Interviewer: Well I've enjoyed it and on behalf on Austin Peay and Kiwanis and myself I greatly appreciate your service to this country and for being able to sit down and share it with us thank you thank you very much.