

Interviewer: Can you give us your full name and what year you were born?

Newman: My full name is George Edward Newman. I was born on the 14th of December in 1920.

Interviewer: And can you tell us what branch of service you served in?

Newman: I was in the U.S. Army I was an infantry officer that means I wasn't one of the smartest people in the class. They generally went to the engineers or one of the other technical areas. But I graduated alright and I was if I remember correctly number 163 out of 512 so.

Interviewer: That's really impressive. Stepping back a little bit can you give us any recollection of the great depression?

Newman: The great depression absolutely. My family moved to Gunsville when I was seven and a half years old in June of 1928. And of course that preceded the depression. My father was the principal of what was then Marshall County High School which was on the hill where the elementary school is now. So I grew up here in Gunsville in the heart of the depression and it was very tough because back then this was primary agricultural country and we had very little industry. In fact when we came here the only industry of any size was the basket factory and agriculture which wasn't industry of course it was agriculture. But they processed a lot of cotton and everything here and then a couple of years after we were here the cotton mill came in. That's where Mike's Tools are now and that brought in some industry but Gunsville was basically all through the depression years was an agriculture community the county seat of course. And as a matter of fact as the depression we could learn to tolerate it and get through it we were fortunate in that the national government decided that the TVA program should take place and very shortly after that the TVA started surveying to determine the location of a dam on the Tennessee River. And they provided tremendous amount of employment so really it was God sent to us. The depression was tough it was very tough. I remember in 1932 I was very proud to become a scout 12 years of age back then was when you could join. And very shortly after that we were given a job of in 33 of helping distribute what was known in those days as the commodities. People were broke all over the place and it was a great, I don't mean this in the wrong way, but it was a great experience in just how tough Americans are and how they'll work hard. Because fine families would come in they had lost everything particularly the sharecroppers' money that they would normally have made cotton had gone down to almost nothing so they had no cash. And most of the landlords the big farm owners let them stay on their land and they had a garden and things like that. But basically they had no reserves of any sort and many of them who had moved into town for one reason or another looking for work were literally could have they could have starved. But the commodities were you will never believe how simple they were. The standard ration was a sack of flour a sack of cornmeal a bucket of lard and then some sort of meat. Mostly pork frankly that had been already cured and everything side meat. And the other items bread depending on what was available some canned vegetables stuff like that. But everybody cooperated everybody got along. And as a matter of fact during the heart of the depression it got so bad that Alabama's schools closed for an entire year. But in Gunsville families all got together and the school board got together and so our school ran during that I think my memory doesn't give me the exact year it was either 30 I think it was the 34-35 school year. When it really or 33-34 but it really got tough but by the end of that the hiring for the dam had started. See the dam was a God sent because it took over 2,000 men working down there they set up a little village down at the sight. So literally just about anybody willing to work they had to have some skills to get a job in fact they had to bring in people. But that created demands for all sorts of things. But Gunsville really got out of the depression you might say about 1936. And of course the dam was filled and the work crews went away February of

39 when the lake finally filled up. I had graduated from high school in 38 and I was down in Birmingham living with my grandparents and going to Howard College as a streetcar student. It was very cheap to ride the streetcar and I could live with them it was very inexpensive to go to school.

Interviewer: So did you have any type of job before you went into service?

Newman: Oh yeah well my father had we had been here several years he bought what was then known as the fairgrounds location farm just on the outskirts of town here. So from the time I was 10 I was milking a couple cows and helping out on that. Not that my father ever intended for us to move to a farm but he had grown up in that kind of environment and he thought it was good for us. I was fortunate we had a fine family a wonderful father and mother and I had a brother and a sister. And my father was a great believer that work was necessary for young men and everything he was also a great believer in sport. So he told my mother when he got enough money to buy the farm she thought she would get a better house and he said no I want my sons to grow up knowing how to chop cotton hoe corn and milk cows.

Interviewer: Were you paid for your services then?

Newman: No of course not no that was part of the family. Now I did get a job with the families for mission encouragement working for one of the local drug stores. It's where Lord forgive me Wanda's is now. It was in those days that was Thomason Drug Company. It was owned by proprietor with Mr. Bill Pricket who was very highly thought of. And it was good working for him because he was a very fair man taught you a lot.

Interviewer: Do you recall what an average wage was for you doing those jobs?

Newman: I can remember my first one was I was downtown and I had sold a little milk because we had the cows and daddy let me do that. So I had a little extra money and I bought an ice cream cone and I was sitting on the main highway wasn't built up as high so you could sit on the curb. I was sitting on the curb eating an ice cream cone. And Mr. Bill Pricket came out and he said George finish the ice cream and get into the store, that's as well as I can remember the words, I thought well what have I don't wrong, maybe he didn't want me sitting out in front of the store. I came in and he said come over here and he had an apron and he put it on me and says get behind the counter there and start washing those dishes. Well in those days, they were family friends and all, you didn't argue with anybody that was older that you were. All I said was yes sir and I started washing them I thought well it's something unusual here. But I washed dishes and spent the, I had gotten the ice cream right after I had walked downtown, I had intended to go to the picture show to tell you the truth. But the move but I wound up working until closing time washing dishes in the summer those were places, it may sound funny today, but we didn't have all the fast food places and the drug stores were kind of the social meeting place. So it was good steady work and when it was all over he told me well you did good work so you're hired and here's your pay 50 cents I'll never forget it. Half a dollar now you may laugh at that I see you looking but in those days that was a lot of money. And when I got home that night my father was reading the paper and he said what did you do today because I got home late and I had to milk and all. And then I was so proud it was pitiful I said I got a job. He said you got a job? I can't remember just how he went he kept reading his paper in a while he said now the jobs not going to interfere with any of the work you're supposed to do that I've got you doing or that your momma wants you doing. I said well no sire no sir nothing like that. He said well where'd you get a job? And I said Mr. Bill Pricket gave me a job down at the drug store. I think daddy knew about it to tell you the truth I think he had already talked to Mr. Bill. I never

was asked if I wanted to work he just hired me. And I said oh yes sir and he said what did you do? I said, I'll never forget it, I said well daddy I really didn't do much today except just wash dishes. He said well you can do that your mothers taught you how. And he didn't day anything else after a little while he said are you going to work for him? I said yes sir yes sir he's told me I'm hired and he'll tell me what days but this was summer time. He says but I enjoyed it he said well that's fine son he said you go right ahead just remember anything your mother had to do or jobs around the house you've still got to find time to do them. I said oh yes sir finally he said how much did you make today? I said well I got a half a dollar. And daddy said well son I may have to talk to Bill, they were friends, he said at this age you're not worth that much. It just about broke my heart. But we didn't make a lot of money in those days. I did get up to where by the time I got out of high school during the summer I was working for him every day. And I think at the top which included they didn't really have the rules like overtime and all some days you'd work ten and twelve hours but it wasn't anything a young guy couldn't do. If I remember correctly the highest pay I ever got was \$67 for a months' worth which looked like a fortune to me in those days.

Interviewer: I bet. Switching back to the war for a second. How seriously did Americans take the threat from Nazi the Nazis and Japanese before Pearl Harbor?

Newman: Well that's a very interesting question it's one I'm glad you're asking. Some wanted nothing to do with it the idea of getting into the European War they still remembered World War I see everybody was still alive. Of course there had been a lot of casualties in World War I and this was a very patriotic area so we had a high percentage of participation. My father had been a 90 day wonder in World War I but he never saw any combat it ended before he got it. But when Hitler came to power my dad was quite a student of history. He told my mother he said actually before he came to power he said things are not looking good I'm going to ask for my commission back. Momma said about had a fit they were talking about it there at the dinner table said I can remember her saying it. She said Walter you're too old for that sort of stuff you've got three children and you're a principal at a school. He said well it's not going to happen for a long time I just feel that I'm gonna get into it. So to make a long story short he did get his commission back he wound up he was a lieutenant in 19 I guess it was late 35 or early 36 he got promoted to captain and was company commander of Company E of the 167th infantry which was stationed here in Gunsville in the National Guard. And as a matter of fact that armory that is nearby was built for the 167th infantry the old armory. So from families view point everybody had to focus on sooner or later we would have to fight. And as a matter of fact daddy was very proud of the fact that Company E never had to go out and campaign to get young men to volunteer. As a matter of fact they always had every space that they were authorized. Now in peace time they weren't authorized a full complement I think at that time this is just a guess I believe a rifle company was authorized something like 158 to 160 men. And they were authorized at peacetime I think it was 78 or 86 I forgot which. But they did have a chance to get a lot of young men through there both training and also participating in things. And interesting enough I was already gone and at West Point when this happened when the president called the guard to active duty and he did it Roosevelt was thinking ahead way before. The guard was called to active duty in 1940 most people don't know this. Pearl Harbor didn't occur until 1941 just at the end of 41 December the 7th. But Roosevelt saw the need to readiness and when he was called to active duty they were allowed to fill up to full strength. And daddy was very proud of the fact that here in Marshall County there were a couple other guard units authorized up on Sand Mountain. Every guard unit went to reported to Camp Blanding Florida at full strength full authorized strength. They had no problem this was very patriotic area. So I don't know whether that answers your question or not but I'm very proud of the fact that Marshal County an buy the way if you go down and talk to the veterans people down at the court house they can tell you all about this we've always had a great record in Marshal County of supporting national defense.

Interviewer: So did you feel like the local newspaper and things did a pretty good job keeping people informed?

Newman: Yeah we've always good newspapers here and the one we've had particularly for the last oh how long way back there when we first got here it was the Democrat. Later on it merged and so today it's the Advertiser Gleam but it's been a very patriotic paper. So is the paper up in Sand Mountain and of course later on the Tribune from _____. No you couldn't ask for a finer I think very fair coverage here in Marshal County.

Interviewer: Do you remember where you were when you heard the news about the attack on Pearl Harbor?

Newman: Yeah I was at West Point as a cadet. I had I told you earlier that I went to Howard for a year frankly was running out of money. And my grandmother who I had gone down to be with because she had been sick was doing better so I enlisted in the army. (The telephone ran and the tape stopped so Mr. Newman could answer it).

Interviewer: Do you recall where you were when you heard the news about Pearl Harbor?

Newman: Yes I was at West Point and the news it really didn't shock us because we had kept up with everything. And everybody had a feeling that sooner or later because the president as I say had called the National Guard up and everybody knew there had never been such things as selling things to Brittan and all like that. The war news was kind of relief well the idea of the devastation at Pearl Harbor was a tremendous amount of concern because military families and all seemed to have relatives all over the place in both services and all. So it was very it was taken very seriously. Then shortly after that we got the news that the president had decided in view of the urgency of the situation that we'd all move up to a three year rather than a four year schedule. So we were all ____ then to think about that you know. But they did it simply by taking away a lot of our leaves and passes and also working us on Saturdays and even some Sundays we'd have different formations or different things. But it was the thing to do and it worked out very well during the war, they went back of course when the war was over to a four year system.

Interviewer: Did you get to hear President Roosevelt's speech the following day "A Day Which Shall Live in Infamy?" Did you get to hear that?

Newman: Yes they arranged of course we just had radio only then yes I think we all heard it. Some of it was rebroadcasted to us but yeah we all heard it.

Interviewer: So did you approve of the way FDR pretty much handled the war?

Newman: Oh I think everybody thought he did a great job. I think we had great leadership all through World War II. We were particularly fortunate having not downgrading the ability of the president at all as the ultimate leader he was a good leader. But we had some real strong people in both the cabinet and also leadership. To me one of the greatest heroes of the whole war was General Marshal who you just couldn't say enough about how well he ran things.

Interviewer: Was the besides the year at Howard when you stayed with your grandparents was your time at West Point your first time away from home?

Newman: Well I had been away on different things with scouts and fishing trips and different things like that as a kid. But yes as far as being a protracted time away from home yes and even to be honest when I went to Howard I was living with my grandparents so it really wasn't away from home. So yes West Point was my first time to really be completely away from home for any protractile period.

Interviewer: While you were up there what was your impression of your fellow recruits?

Newman: Well I along fine with all the see West Point is highly competitive. And the students there come from every state in the union and literally every county because the appointments are allocated out based on the congress. And then in addition there's so many allowed from the regular army from the navy which we didn't have an air force then. The air force was part of the army but everybody that came there had three common characteristics. One of them they were all good students you would never had gotten in because you had to take a pretty rigid entrance exam so they were all good students. Second they were all in good physical shape because here again you had a very rigorous physical exam and so everyone was in good physical shape. And third because of the nature of the place I'd say just about everybody was as patriotic as you could ask for anybody to be.

Interviewer: Did you at that time did you think your training was getting you well prepared for the task you had ahead of you?

Newman: Oh yeah yeah I think they did a great job. I know a lot of people laugh at it they said all that drilling and everything else is that's just show, it isn't. It teaches you a lot of things one thing is you learn to take orders and not everybody can give orders. The second you learn to manage things right away there's an art in even getting so many people to assemble together from the squad to company and everything else then moving them from one place to another. Yes people say oh that's regimentation it may be but it sure made for official operations.

Interviewer: How good were the living conditions there?

Newman: I'm laughing we didn't worry about that. They were you were hard to work every day you were up from early to ten o'clock at night, your life was prescribed. And it's a little I'm not trying to denigrate anybody anything it's a little different than any civilian experience than anybody had ever had. Even my father and mother they were never stern but they were very set that you got up and you got things. But when you get into a military academy environment it's regimented you just have to except that. If you're not going to except it and some don't they flunk out. But if you do except it and just look at it cheerfully as a challenge there's nothing to it. You but you are told that you will be studying during this period of time and you study. Of course when I was there we didn't have any television or anything like that. You were allowed a radio in your room one radio and as a plea you could have as many as three other roommates in your room because it was already and they hadn't had a chance to build a new construction it was already getting crowded. As you got into the upper classes of course you wind up with just two men to a room. There never was a situation while I was there I think they've done this some since then where you had the luxury of having a single room of your own for some of the more senior positions I think they've done that. There was no problem you learned to share things very quickly and you learned that you didn't spend all the time in the shower you got in got your shower you got out you got dressed everything all your clothes had to be hung up in a certain way. You learned to take care of yourself there was no maid service or nothing like that. They had what they called BP Barracks Police they swept the halls up and things like that. But you were responsible people who lived

in what we called squadrons were responsible for that room and you did take care of it, it was just that simple.

Interviewer: What type of unit did you serve in immediately after your advanced training?

Newman: Well after I got out of West Point the first thing that happened to me and it was the uniform way of doing it we were shipped to whatever branch you wound up in. And I was an infantryman so I was sent to Fort Benning and at Fort Benning you went through what they call the basic officers basic course. The abbreviated form it was the same sort of thing that the OCS went through or the people from the National Guard Reserves had been called to active duty. Fundamentally it was to brush up on some of the same tactical training that you had at West Point very heavy on bringing you up to date. You fired various weapons you got qualified in the weapons. You got qualified and brought up to date in all of the different skills that were essential at the time like map reading, cross country navigation, proper first aid taking care of wounds and things like that that you might encounter on the battle field. In other words it was getting you ready to fight because that's what we were going to do. They did a very I guess this is going to sound like flag waving but I think Fort Benning is a great instillation. It does a great job of training not only American troops but a lot of foreign leaders. And they do a first class job and I thoroughly enjoyed the basic training there it was very it wasn't very long and after that we were shipped off to our different divisions that we had been assigned to.

Interviewer: Where were you shipped off to?

Newman: I was shipped off to and this was my first disappointment in the army you get a lot of them, but I was shipped off to the 65th infantry division which you've probably never heard of. It was one of the divisions that was activated specifically for World War II. It wasn't one of what they called the old line divisions and it was stationed at Camp Shelby Mississippi. That's where the University of Southern Mississippi is now. I think they have part of the or quite a bit there was a huge reservation hundreds I think about two or three hundred thousand acres plenty of room for maneuver and further weapons training and training larger units and everything else. And I was there for much longer than I wanted to be because we were there's a regular cycle when you start training for division in combat. We went through the cycle we were in what they call the POM preparation for overseas movement to move to Europe. And we were all kind of nervous about where we would go or what we would do. Well to make a long story short we didn't go anywhere. All of a sudden as a result of the D-Day invasion the army took a lot of heavy casualties and they need immediate replacements. So what they did is what they call a drawdown they and this was done all manually at the time because they didn't have computers. But fundamentally they put everybody in what they call a different cadre. You had an A, B, C, D cadre everybody was arbitrarily assigned to one or the other. And they every week there would be so many taken out and shipped off for replacements to Europe and quite a few of my buddies and by the time this happened I was a first lieutenant or commander at different times of the company. And then they'd send you in replacements coming straight from the induction centers where people had brought in and you'd start the training all over with them. To make a long story short instead of getting overseas in we were supposed to have been over there originally in July of 44 we didn't leave the states until late December of 44. And so my division didn't see any combat until the moved us right into a rear area when we got over there because the Bulge was going on and they really needed and did have some great divisions that seen a lot of action that were in that. So we were assigned to a quadrat area to patrol and all we really didn't see any real fighting until the end of January. And from there until the war ended in Europe which ended in May of course we were just like every other division we were hard at it.

Interviewer: When you said you did you travel overseas in troop ships?

Newman: Yeah we did.

Interviewer: Do you remember which port you departed from by chance?

Newman: We left from New York.

Interviewer: About how long did the voyage last?

Newman: Gosh I can't remember that I know everybody it was an anxious kind of time. We landed in Lahar in France and I was glad to get off the boat because it was the middle of the winter and those seas are not calm troops ships are very crowded. So all I remember is everybody was delighted to get off. Now of course we didn't have to fight that area had been secured. They moved us in fact the same day we got off we were they were buses not buses but trucks really. But they trucked us to an initial assemble area and we were there for it was almost two weeks that I remember while all of our supplies and equipment were being offloaded and everything else. And from there we moved to a as I said a quiet sector up on the French and German border area.

Interviewer: Were there permanent barracks there or did you live in temporary?

Newman: Oh just tents just tents. In fact we had to pitch our own tents in the area we moved to because of course the Bulge was still on it was winding down in our favor but nobody had time to worry about any barracks or anything. In fact we never saw any barracks the whole time we were there just living in the field.

Interviewer: The different equipment that you spoke about earlier training with stateside did you feel it operated pretty well in combat?

Newman: Oh yes we had there's been a lot well soldiers are always going to argue about who has the best equipment and who had that. And not to sell the Germans shot they were superbly equipped and of course they'd had the advantage of having been at war for better of six years in various ways. And the supposed invincible weapons were the German 88 which was a terrific canon and the heavy German tanks which frankly just the use of the ____ scared the hell out of you when you saw one coming toward you. But our equipment was first of all our equipment performed very well and second it was durable and third it was a lot faster. Now I was in an infantry unit so we moved primarily by foot and by truck. But there were plenty of truck companies that were available to move us when you had to move quickly by truck from one place to the other. And our armor my division we wound up in the third armor by the way. And General Patton was a superb field army commander so we never stayed in one place very long we were constantly in and out of things and that's the way it had to be. We did had been there long enough and were in on the big push to the Rhine where we went through the Siegfried Line. That was the first time we really got any heavy casualties or any like that. And after we crossed the Rhine River it was mainly a pursuit phase from there to the end of the war. My division we wound up down in Austria in fact we had crossed the line of the Danu and the Star the Danu is the main River that end in the tributary and the Star is tributary which wound up being the boundary that was established between us and the Russians. But we had crossed it and had our leading elements heading up towards Vienna when we were told to pull back to that line which we did. And actually the Germans had where they'd been fighting before, in fact in early May I can remember watching I was a canon company commander in an

infantry regiment watching the Germans still trying to push tanks that were being built in an underground factory in _____ in Liens Austria and we were knocking them off when they came out along with anything else that showed up. And in less than a week later the war was over and all of a sudden Germans who had been willing to fight were surrendering by the thousands. And in our sector I forget what the final figures were but there were literally thousands of them at came in to surrender and they came in with their equipment in good shape. And some of them believed that it was just a question of time before we would be fighting the Russians which many people worried about. But it was a rather dramatic end to the war it took the Russians several days before they actually got up to where we were and by this time we had had the Germans has surrendered. We had them in fact we put them to work using their own engineers and their own work to build temporary POW camps for them. And to put all of their artillery tanks anything that could move or shoot we collected it and all. The Germans were very cooperative at the end they didn't they had had enough we didn't have any trouble with anybody trying to break out or anything like that.

Interviewer: Can you tell us what qualities of the enemy impressed you their tenacity, leadership, withstand hardship their ability

Newman: What qualities frankly you had to be there to understand how anything like that happened. And frankly I think most of us had hardly any use for what had happened to them. And yet the Germans were really fine people but they had been completely misled I shouldn't swear so I won't I was getting ready to say something. That whole nation had really been completely superlative. It was interesting once we got across once we got across the Rhine where they had fought like hell then after that it was a pursuit phase. But as you would go into any town or anything else and there were refugees all over the place by the way the common phrase you would hear was _____, I'm not a Nazi I'm not a Nazi. Which is a bunch of crap they were all Nazis they had been taken in the young people had been taken in. And the one thing the divisions I was in we were part of the group that liberated the first concentration camp it's one you probably never heard of named Orange Rough. It was the first one it wasn't as big as some of the others but I'll never forget it as long as I live and neither will anyone else that ever saw it. And it was so horrible that they asked Eisenhower to come take a look at it. They flew him in to look at it and after he saw he gave some strict orders to what would be done whenever one of them was liberated. And they were carried out in all of the other liberations but basically the nearby townsmen were put to work digging graves cleaning up and everything else. And there were some suicides I understand in particularly at Orange Rough. I haven't been to this new museum in Washington but I intend to go to it because I understand it does a very good job pictorially and on database way of telling just how bad those places were. I have served with officers and men who were in on some of the others so I know they were telling the truth because I saw it with my own eyes. Right before we got into the thing just to show you how deprived they had become they apparently had a program where, this is just a surmise on my part, where they formed them up as they moved them out to work details and all because basically on top of being humiliated beyond words all of them were made to work until they got ready to kill them you know. And they had this kind of open parade ground where they assembled people and they had a couple of machine gunnery had been set up on some platforms about the size of that all Japanese hibachi table there. So the machine gun was set up on top of it and they obviously put them on free travelers where they swept back and forth. And there were well over a hundred people laying out there that had been killed within the proceeding four or five hours just butchered simply because we were closing in on them. I remember going over and looking at one of them I don't think a single one of those men would have weighed 100 pounds. And I counted ten bullet holes in one where he had tried to dive to the ground and get away from it. I'll never forget it as long as I live. To be honest it was so bad that after I had seen it and also saw there's no need talking about it you just have to see it to understand

it. The depravity of poling the clothes they had salvaged from one they had all of that stuff existed just completely inhuman completely inhuman. And to be honest I walked over to one side after it was over and puked. To be honest I was a captain company commander for the next several days whenever we fired at anything we didn't much worry about anything that early.

Interviewer: Were you ever wounded in combat?

Newman: No I've been very fortunate. I well I was wounded but I didn't get a Purple Heart because I refused to accept it. To be quite candid and honest my first fear in real combat I lead one of my platoons into a mine field. And fortunately it was of course frozen middle of the winter and the ground had heaved so that when the vehicle, it wasn't my own vehicle, but the vehicle behind me I was leading the thing hit a mine it blew off the right front end of the thing. But fortunately the way the ground was and everything we had some wounded but nobody got killed. In fact the worst wounded was my driver. Me I had a bunch of scratches and little they painted with macurecrom and I got him back to an aid station got him evacuated and they wanted to know if they didn't think I should go and I said hell no I was going to get back and get my company back under control and everything else. And I had already taken the other two platoons and moved them to where they could get in the other gun positions they were supposed to be in. It was a great lesson for a young captain it proves you never know as much as you think you know. It wasn't any stupid thing I just frankly hadn't done a good enough job and I was very fortunate. I wound up actually the next day when I had time enough to look at it and everything I was black and blue from all the way up on my shoulders down to my knees where it had thrown me clear. And I had completely it had completely emptied my bladder. I thought it was blood it wasn't blood it was just urine. But I wound up passing blood in my urine for about the next week. And I went when enough time I got back to the aid station and asked them about it a good friend of mine who was a doctor asked if I liked beer. I said well hell yes he said well my recommendation unless you're willing to be evacuated and give your company up keep drinking beer and keep urinating every time you got a chance. So it was probably not the right thing to say but piss on Germany that's what I did. And I said I wound up later on having to be operated on for some of that stuff but it wasn't didn't qualify as I would have had to accepted evaluation for it to be a Purple Heart. I didn't want a Purple Heart all I wanted was to get back to my company and run it which I did.

Interviewer: So did you feel that those that were wounded the medical treatment that they received was

Newman: I think I've always been very proud of our medics I think they did a superb job. I had other times that I got little small you can see there's still a little scar on that hand. I had several small places that they had to doctor up but it was never anything to necessarily be evacuated so. No our medics we had the finest medical system in the world. By the way I wound up my career in Vietnam I was over there on two extended tours. And I commanded the first brigade of the Big Red One during all the heavy fighting from 67 through 68 and it was amazing to me how thorough out medical system worked. And what a good job it did and how compassionate they were and how many if we could get a man to where we could get him back and they could start working on him he lived. You can't do anything about it if he lost a leg or an eye or anything like that but our medical system it is first class. And even in World War II we had a lot more problem with shock and it took a lot longer we didn't have the helicopters and all we had later. But I think we did a good job I've never seen any of our medical units so I think we are just number one.

Interviewer: Did you feel that the average soldier in World War II had a sense of the big picture what the strategy was behind what they were doing?

Interviewer: Much more so in World War II than later on in either Korea or Vietnam. We realized we were in a fight to the finish with the Germans that was all there was to it. And of course some of us like myself for example when the war in Europe ended were ticketed to go straight to Japan. And we didn't wind up over there of course. But no there was no doubt in anybody's mind that the United States had and see one of the clear cut things and I guess Churchill deserves credit for it more than anybody else. He insisted that the only agreement with Germany would be unconditional surrender. And of course in the Pacific MacArthur had the same of course Churchill, Roosevelt, and Stalin all had to agree on that being the policy unconditional surrender. And of course Eisenhower was carrying it out in Europe and MacArthur in the Philippines. But I think it was the right way if you're going to go to war go to war to win. I guess maybe it's not good to say but I don't have any useless idea that you go to show the flag. My personal view is that we had a great first commander George Washington who never gave up. And in his farewell address said we ought to, I'm just giving you my impression of it now, that we ought to concern ourselves with making this nation great in the new world and stay out of the problems in the old war. Of course I recognize you can't do that all the time but I hope you won't take this the wrong way but I don't have much use for this business of running around hollering we're number one we're number one we're number one. Every time you get into that you probably start making enemies on the other side you don't need to make enemies you'll get enough of them. We are the greatest nation truly we have the best military in the world but we don't need to brag about it and we don't need to rub it in. We just need to when we use it we need to be through. We're in a situation now where we've got to do that this is a terrible war we are in most people don't realize how bad it is. And we don't need to get into another situation like we got into in Vietnam where we wind up having all the students deciding they know better and that this war is unethical or whatever. You know I guess this is facetious in a way but you never let the inmates run the asylum. Students are students they are learning hopefully from the past how to do things in the future but they're not decision makers and they should not be allowed, this is just me talking now, any choice in whether we go to war or not. Conversely our leaders shouldn't go to war unless it's really for a national purpose. We have one now because we have clearly in front of us an enemy that's decided they will at a time and place of their own choose they will try and exterminate anybody who doesn't agree with them. Which basically is what we finished was so horrible about Nazism. They happened to settle on the Jews but they treated everybody that they concurred. This may not be in what you're talking about but interesting enough since I had a mechanized company when the war ended I got the job of taking care of several of the forced labor camps. They weren't concentration camps they weren't the ones where people had been put in there to die which basically they were pretty rough on others but that was basically the Jews. But these forced labor camps were set up actually they were guarded people were forced to work. And I wound up since I had a see a canon company first of all we had six what we call prime loaders and six guns. So we just put them in park we didn't need them anymore and you have lot of what's known as ammunition training and of course I had a lot of jeeps and a lot of radios. So it was a useful force that didn't have anything else to do after May the 7th but we had all these former Liens Austria was first of all it was considered to be Hitler's home city. And they had built this tremendous industrial complex there called _____ at Gunn. And not too far away at Whales they had an underground aircraft factory. But in the Liens area they were actually making tanks and other things war material of various sorts. And they had literally they were just like the concentration camps they lived in these barracks like beasts and they had one well they had more then but the ones I wound up taking care of I had a Polish one a Russian one an Italian one and another Ukrainian one. And a very small and I don't mean this deprecating Jewish one. Now these I'm not trying to run them down it was very small and these were people who were highly educated they were

basically engineers and brains and they were treated like dogs. But they had been left alive simple because they were needed in various forms in these different factories and everything. There were less than 300 in that one if I remember correctly the biggest one was the Italian one and it was almost 2,000 people. But we had to take them over and you talk about our medics, our medics moved in and tried to get all of those people deloused clean. We had quartermaster shower units brought in and gave them all baths got them into decent clothes. A lot of it being dyed US uniforms that were available and then interesting enough we had to start shipping the Russians and the Ukrainians back to Russia. And that was very distasteful but it had to be done then they processed the Poles and the Italians and I left before that was over because I had volunteered the day after VE-Day to go to the Pacific. And I wound up being shipped out. But some of the our medics of course saved a lot of people's lives just seeing that they got fed properly got shots and got treated like human beings.

Interviewer: Is there any areas you feel that haven't been covered?

Newman: What we haven't covered?

Interviewer: Yes sir

Newman: No I think the questions are very fair. I may be I may be a little bit too gun hoe on some things but I'm very proud of the United States. I've had the opportunity not during World War II but in subsequent assignments to work with people from the navy people from the marine core the air force and frankly foreign nations and I think we get our monies worth. I think our people are patriotic I think that they are well trained and I believe that I believe they can do the job whatever it is that the government finds for them to do. Conversely I don't think we should put any of them in harm's way unless we do it for what really is a national purpose.

Tape ended