

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE
KNOXVILLE

AN INTERVIEW WITH GEORGE R. MCINTOSH

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JOHNNY GOINS: This begins an interview with George R. McIntosh on April 8, 2000, at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. I am Johnny Goins and I am here with ...

DAVID WEED: David Weed.

JOHNNY GOINS: ... and Mr. McIntosh. And we welcome you here to share with us this information on this interview. What we'd like to do is just start with some background information about childhood and anything about that, particularly—maybe going back looking at your parents, your father and mother, where they were born and how they got together and anything along that line that you'd like to share with us.

GEORGE MCINTOSH: My father was born in Missouri near St. James, Missouri, my mother in Springfield, Illinois. Her name was Barngrover, Katherine Barngrover. And according to my father, he grew up on a farm with about seven or eight boys of which he was really the only one who liked to hunt and fish. Of course, back in the early 1900s, boys worked out on the farm a great deal and you had parents who didn't care much for them doing things like fishing, they wanted them to work. (Laughter) However, he was the provider since he was pretty adept at that [hunting and fishing], so his father ... allowed him to do—sometimes to get food for the family.

GOINS: Was he older?

MCINTOSH: No, he was about in the middle ... of the group. There were seven or eight boys, two or three girls. Of course, at that time, there were a lot of kids that died for one reason or another, and I guess there were eleven or twelve in the family really and ... if you go to the cemetery, you'll see all the old young ones who died at six months and things like that, but the farm is outside of St. James and ... it's [the cemetery] on the northern side of St. James. And they had acreage of, I guess probably 200 or 300 acres and ... I guess they tilled the land and had cattle and things of that nature. Now, I was able to see the original house there.

GOINS: Really?

MCINTOSH: But I was a young boy and actually got to sleep in it, the one that he [his father] grew up in, at the farm. It's dilapidated now, in fact it's down to the ground, but I did get to see that—where his family grew up. I never did meet his father ... but I did meet his mother. I met her and ... probably for the last time in about 1936 or something in St. Louis—but dad was a very smart man. After he graduated from high school, he went to—they didn't have junior colleges at that time, but he went to business college for a couple years there and then began to teach in the school in St. James.

GOINS: Do you remember the name of that college?

MCINTOSH: No, I don't. I don't have—it wasn't a college, it was like a business school really, and he decided he would go to the big city, and he for somehow—he was not ... during the World War I, he did not qualify to go in because of his health, and I don't know whether it was his heart or what it was. But he tried to go in and they wouldn't accept him. And at some point in time he decided to go to Chicago, Illinois—after he had taught school there a few years in St.

James. And the schools in St. James was not really a school, it was a one-room school where he taught maybe the first eight grades. (Laughter) He had two or three, you know, that were two or three years old, I mean there was eight and nine year olds, some a little bit older, some was younger. So, you know, you taught in one room, he may have taught four or five grades. He liked that but he didn't—he wanted to get away from the farm, and he moved to Chicago and began to work for the National Life and Accident Insurance Company first as an agent. My mother had migrated there after ... her schoolwork and she was very smart in school too. Her name was Katherine Adelaide Barngrover, and her family—they only had, she had one sister and I think there was one brother. I met both the sister and the brother, the sister as I know is still living, the brother is dead. No, I have not been in touch with that sister for some time.

GOINS: I see that she went to college ... in college as well?

MCINTOSH: Well, she also went to a business school.

GOINS: I see.

MCINTOSH: She went to a business school. And both of them were pretty smart persons, as I know, they both did well in school and they both did well as long as they were in business—mother also went to work for National Life and Accident Insurance Company in the District Office in Chicago. The District Offices at that time ... were where the agents and staff managers and the manager ... worked out of that office. And the manager was the head person who was responsible for that. At that time, they also had a cashier, and the cashier had at that time more responsibility than cashiers of this day. Their responsibility was everything except production reported to them. When we talk about writing policies, and getting it out, getting it issued, and this and that and so forth, that had to do with the District Manager, and he was—he had the overall responsibility. But the cashier had the responsibility of getting the money, getting it right, getting the forms signed, and things of that nature.

GOINS: Yeah. Bookkeeping ...

MCINTOSH: Bookkeeping. And ... dad didn't make it as an agent. He tried that for a couple of years and didn't like it and then because of his adeptness in math and reasoning—and he's a pretty good disciplinarian too. (Laughter) He ... was given the job as the cashier. And my mother ... went to be a secretary to the manager at that time. And the secretary to the manager is what the name implies. She ... used at that time whatever they had to take dictation and write letters for the home office and do duties that a secretary normally would do. And they met, being in that close proximity, in the same office, almost in the same working area and ... in—and I'm not sure the date they got married, but I think it was 1922 or '23. Maybe it was '24 or somewhere in that range and I was born a year or so later ... December 20, 1925. Of course, she had to quit working as a cashier when I was born, and dad, because of his ability to—with math and things of that nature, he worked in that office for about another year while mother tended to me at home, and ... [he] was transferred then to the Detroit office which was the largest district office that the company had. At that time most of National Life's business ... was nickel and dime business. Most of it, but not all of it, was with the black race. Much of it, I'd say the ratio was probably 50/50, but it also was—you know Chicago was probably the second or third

largest, Detroit was the largest district, so they gave that district to him as the cashier to prepare him to come into the home office in Nashville, Tennessee. And he did not know it at the time, but after about another ... year there ... we moved to Nashville in about 1927 or '28. And that may not be the exact date, but I know I was only ... I was only about two or three years old at that time.

GOINS: So by that time he was moving into the main office in Nashville?

MCINTOSH: Well, yeah, at the home office, at that time it was at the corner of Seventh and Union and it was a ... five story building at that time, and they built a ten-story building next to it later on where the Grand Ole Opry used to meet in Studio B. If you're a Grand Ole Opry fan ... you worked out of that building, as I did too, as I—my time in Nashville ... But anyway, he didn't know it at that time, but the National Life was getting ready to get into the ordinary insurance business, which they were not into at that time, and they wanted him to begin to set up the responsibilities and how to pay the agents, transfer the business, when people moved from one place to another, and so ... they told them what they wanted and then he kinda worked toward, you know, developing a system to handle—because there was no automation at that time like a 705. [705] was the first IBM computer that ever came out and National Life bought that, but ... at that time that wasn't a computer. You know, a computer then was like an adding machine.

GOINS: Yes.

MCINTOSH: And so, anyway, he began there and we moved to Nashville.

GOINS: Now you said that was in [19] '27 or '28?

MCINTOSH: Well somewhere around then. I can't tell you the exact date, but somewhere like that—'27 or '28.

GOINS: Your childhood memories then are probably what, more of Nashville than Chicago?

MCINTOSH: All of Nashville. I don't remember—I think I remember a few things. Being on Lake Michigan at one time. I don't know whether that is correct or not, but I have some memory of being in a lot of water when I was kid and that had to be Lake Michigan, but I really don't remember anything in Chicago. I've been back to Chicago a few times. I went back to the Chicago World's Fair with my mother in 1936. And I've been back a few times when I worked for National Life and Accident Insurance Company on visits, but I'm not ...

GOINS: You said you had seen your father's birthplace and such ...

MCINTOSH: Yes I did.

GOINS: Did you get back to Springfield to your mother's?

MCINTOSH: No I never did. [I] Never did get back to Springfield.

WEED: Where in Nashville did you live?

MCINTOSH: The first location that we moved to, and I don't know that I ever saw it to my knowledge, but it is somewhere down near Music Row, where it is now, maybe back towards Belmont University, somewhere in there. And then after living there for a couple of years, my first memory we moved to ... 3610 ... something like that, Meadowbrook Avenue. It's off of West End, if you know where West End High School is in Nashville ... where it used to be, it's on straight north from there, three or four blocks.

WEED: You said you went to Ransom Elementary School. Where was that?

MCINTOSH: Yeah. Ransom is still there, 440 is on, Interstate 440 ... you look out the window you're going east coming toward Knoxville you can see it. And I used to walk or ride my bicycle from Meadowbrook, up Bowling to West End which was only about three or four blocks, it seemed like miles at that time, but it was only three or four blocks away and you had to cross a busy West End ... from West End, you went out to the Belle Meade area, to the better part of town. The middle class areas and people rode street cars and—do you want me to explain to you what a streetcar is? (Laughter) But ... we had—my experience of going across that street one time, a friend and I we used to trade bikes and we'd ride bikes up to the West End and then we would trade back to our bikes and he was taking his bike across the street and got hit by a car.

GOINS: Oh!

MCINTOSH: And so I always wonder to this day, you know, that could have been my bike, you know. We had traded. But I went to Ransom. And Ransom was a grade—grades one through six.

WEED: Then you attended David Lipscomb School?

MCINTOSH: Yes from there ... my mother—I'll tell one thing that wasn't in there. That ... my grandfather was living, my mother's father—was quite sick and living in Los Angeles and she took me out of school in the sixth grade and ... she tried to tutor me while we were there 'cause we stayed there three or four months. He just kept hanging on ... did die, but we thought that he would so mother stayed there. And I did. And she taught me every day but, you know, that's not like the same thing as being in school, so I went back to take exams. I flunked them, and went to Peabody then during the summer. But then the next year, I went to Lipscomb Grammar School, starting in seventh, eighth, ninth grades. And at that time—while I was on the campus as it is today ...

WEED: What was the—like today's education is based with math and science—when you were at David Lipscomb was the education based towards math and science or was it a broader subject of classes or ...

MCINTOSH: Well, of course, now remember I was in grammar school.

WEED: Right.

MCINTOSH: As I—all I remember taking at that time was reading and writing and arithmetic, and of course, Bible. You had to take Bible in school in whatever grade you're in and you go to chapel everyday. And ... as I recruit players now for our tennis program, I have a little piece there that tells exactly what they have to do in regard to Bible and chapel, and I underline it, and I said, "If this gives you or your parents any problem ... Lipscomb's not for you." And even back then you would have a Bible class everyday, and you had chapel everyday, and you had the regular classes.

WEED: Right.

MCINTOSH: And so, high school days, from the time I was there, I did graduate from Lipscomb High School. Main things I remember out of high school is that I took Latin, and I took the two years, and I went to summer school and I took it two more years and then took Spanish the next two years, and then I went to summer school one of those summers trying to pass it. (Laughter) And my mother and dad thought both of them would be good for me and I wish now I had not—I guess Latin wasn't so bad because you'd learn the language in the words as you get older, the roots of them where they come from, but I wish I had spent more time on English and history ... because every night, there was either Latin or Spanish and ...

GOINS: So Lipscomb was affiliated with what ...

MCINTOSH: Church of Christ. Yeah.

GOINS: I see that your mother's religious affiliation was Church of Christ and so you probably ...

MCINTOSH: And my dad was too.

GOINS: ... had a very strong upbringing in the church.

MCINTOSH: Well we went to church every Sunday, we went every Wednesday, then they had meetings and we went to meetings, we had preachers at our house. Back in those days preachers didn't—we didn't have motels hardly.

GOINS: Sure.

MCINTOSH: We had some hotels downtown and so they'd usually come for a week to have something and mother and dad would have—when the preacher and his wife came, you know, for supper one night and sometimes they'd spend the night and sometimes they wouldn't. But due to our religious background, we went to church every Sunday.

GOINS: Did your mother and father hold offices in the church?

MCINTOSH: No.

WEED: When you think back on Nashville, what are your fondest memories or your memories of Nashville growing up? I know you were talking about going and riding your bike on West End, around that area, but Green Hills—what was Green Hills like as compared to today?

MCINTOSH: Well there wasn't hardly any Green Hills at that time. It was just kind of an old road going out—ran north/south and there were some businesses there but ... Green Hills didn't begin to grow 'til after I'd say the 50s. After the soldiers came back and their families began to grow and then that's when Green Hills began to grow. But up to that time it was just an old road with some filling stations on the side. You could buy gas for a quarter a gallon or fifty cents a gallon as the case might be. In fact, during that time David you had to have a ticket to buy gas. They had gas rationing back then from about 1940 ... to '45, you had gas rationing. And my dad had an A-card, which meant he got four gallons a week. That was to get him to work and back.

GOINS: To and from work really?

MCINTOSH: Yeah. It's hard to get by on four gallons. I tell you. (Laughter) Especially if your dad is using the car five days you know, and so—but there were ways, you could always buy a sticker for four gallons somewhere or another, you know, and then the problem was you had to be sixteen years old to drive and my dad had a lock on the gas cap. So that was another problem you had to overlook. (Laughter)

GOINS: Meanwhile, your parents and you were living in Nashville, I guess during the time of the Great Depression, right?

MCINTOSH: Yeah, in the 1930s ... '33 we were living in Nashville. Dad was working for National Life, mother was a homemaker during that period of time and National Life was one of the few companies that did not reduce the employee's pay ... most, a lot of the companies during that time—and people starved and sold apples or other goods—but I mean it was ... and of course, up east it was worse. You know, in the south, it wasn't quite as bad as it was in New York and Chicago. You had people jumping off eighteen, twenty, thirty, forty story buildings just because they owed a million dollars, like maybe fifteen or twenty million now. But here in town or in Nashville, the economy stayed level. It didn't grow. National Life put in a lot of gimmicks so people did not lapse on their insurance. They tried to keep it in force as best they could. They extended the grace period as best they could. Sometimes looked the other way. I guess they were trying to keep business on the books rather than coming off. But as far as dad's salary, it was never reduced—one year he didn't get ... he didn't get a merit increase. No one got a merit increase ... you know, that particular year. So actually dad bought whatever National Life stock he had, he started buying stock back at that time during the '30s when they were so low. And I don't know that he never did have a lot of shares of stock, but the basic shares that he bought were during the Depression.

GOINS: Do you remember when you moved there to Nashville, did your mother continue to work?

MCINTOSH: She started working when I went into service in 1945. I was her only boy. I was the only child. And my mother was very young looking. I could be downtown with my mother when I was seventeen, eighteen years old—and I was dating my wife I'm married to now—and before I could get home—Nashville was so small—people would call my wife and tell her that I was downtown with another woman. (Laughter) So my ... mother really ate that up ... that she looked so young. And she did look young. She looked probably ten or fifteen years younger than she was. And she looked that way until I went into the service and when I came back in 1946, she had aged, because I guess me being in service. My dad looked the same. But my mother looked older at that time. And so I could tell—and as I grow and have children, I can see ... why that would be true. Certainly it's one of the things that you learn about life.

GOINS: Indeed. So then she basically stopped working while you were young and then went back to work.

MCINTOSH: Right. She didn't go to work again until 1946. At that time ... '46 and '47, let's see, I may get my dates right. Forty-five and '46 somewhere in there, a guy named Fred Harvey came into Nashville and started a department store and they was—he began to push Dillard's, which at that time was called Cain-Sloan and Castner Knotts. And one of his slogans was “we will never know completion,” we always have improvement or something like that. We'll always be building or something like that. And that was the truth. They stayed on that corner, which I guess was Sixth ... and Church Street for twenty-five years and they were building every day, tearing something down and he put his claim to fame was the Merry-Go-Round. He put the Merry-Go-Round horses at different places and made that kind of a theme. Anyway, my mother became the first personal shopper that Nashville ever had. She loved spending her own money, but loved spending other people's money better. (Laughter) And she had the knack of knowing better things, the nicer things that people would call and say I want this and that and so forth. And so there was a period there for a couple of years that she remained with Fred Harvey as the personal shopper. Then Rufus Fort, who was the adjutant general of Tennessee during World War II and who also wrote one of the first insurance policies on my life when I was just born in 1925—he was an up and coming young man with the [National Life] company, his claim to fame was probably going by the board, but he was the father-in-law of John Jay Hooker at one time. Trish Hooker who was married to John Jay, was married to [Kenneth] Schermerhorn, the conductor in Nashville. But anyway, his daughter married John Jay. But anyway, he was an executive, now at that time with National Life and Accident Insurance Company and he needed a secretary and my mother had the secretary skills still left over and so instead of going through the ranks, they hired her straight from Harvey to National Life and she became a secretary to Rufus Fort and he retired in due time down the road some years later as an executive vice president and his father was one of the founders of the company.

GOINS: Well, being in Nashville, do you remember your parents being involved in politics at all and working with any particular organization?

MCINTOSH: Well, no, I don't. I don't remember anything. I do remember that they were staunch Republicans. Dad coming from Missouri—in the area dad came from is still staunch Republicans and they're still, the family, it's real funny—they're different areas of the Church of Christ, and the Church of Christ that he came from back then was like ... they were against

everything. Small church—thirty-five people, forty-five people in it ...but they were against everything. They were against orphans' homes, the church giving money to orphan homes and they only had one cup and all that you know. But anyway, he—what was the question?

GOINS: We were talking about politics.

MCINTOSH: Okay, politics. He ... they were Republicans in that area, not many Democrats around. And mother, I'm not sure what she was, but I guess they got together and voted Republican as long as I can remember anyway. I voted Democrat a few times ... actually for the man. But I'm really a Republican and more so as I get older, so ...

WEED: You attended David Lipscomb High School. Did you play any sports, like tennis?

MCINTOSH: Yeah, I played two sports there, basketball and tennis. Basketball in Nashville, I mean tennis in Nashville was pretty well locked up in the last thirty-five to forty years by Montgomery Bell Academy, which is a private school around town better known as MBA. Their tennis programs have been fantastic over the years and they have won the local conferences or districts and regionals and then gone on to state and have done well. But back in those years, Father Ryan, which is a private Catholic school, and West End High School, and Lipscomb had the better players. ... My freshman year I was to play with a David Scobey who became the vice mayor of Nashville and also after two years in junior college at Lipscomb playing basketball went to Vanderbilt and led the Southeastern Conference in scoring. Probably the best little 5'10" guy I ever saw. But I was able to play doubles with him my freshman year. And I played number one. I wound up playing number one my freshman year in high school. And then my sophomore year ... and junior year, I got beat in the state interscholastic two years in a row by the same guy, a lefthander from Memphis. And my ... senior year, I won the state interscholastic at the University of the South. It was held there that year where the other years it was held at Tennessee Tech. In high school I played [basketball] on the junior high team my freshman year and played partial varsity that year. And then the sophomore, junior and senior years, I played first string ... and then captain my senior year. Uh, we didn't have very good teams during that time. The year I was a senior there were only fourteen boys in the class and so our class was kinda limited to the juniors. And the juniors didn't probably have over twenty-five or thirty at that time, so what plays you had had to be good, you know, you couldn't compete with the big teams like East High and West High and the other teams. [We] ... would luck up and beat them. The year I was a junior we beat Father Ryan. Father Ryan won the state that year. We beat them in our own gym nineteen to eighteen and a shot through the rafters by our captain that year made the two points that made us win the ballgame. Of course, we went to their gym about two or three weeks later and got beat by forty points. They're a lot better team. We had a lot of rafters in our small gym and so we shot. We were used to arching the ball and the ball would hit the rafters. I guarded the All-State player that led the state's scoring that year and I think he shot ten times the last minute-and-a-half and eight of them hit the rafters. (Laughter) I can remember that. He could hit the shots though.

GOINS: Were you always interested in sports?

MCINTOSH: Pardon?

GOINS: Were you always interested in sports?

MCINTOSH: Yes, I always have. I've always been one of the smallest that played, but I was always one of the most aggressive and ... there was always a bunch playing and I was always the first guy to choose—I was either choosing or the first guy chosen. And so I've always taken sports probably more seriously than I should have. I should have spent more time on my education, but I didn't, you know. And I did what I thought was necessary at the time.

GOINS: So, then ... earlier on—you know, back in your earlier days in childhood, from what you've said, this was not really a rural area but maybe not a downtown ...

MCINTOSH: In Nashville?

GOINS: Yeah, where you lived.

MCINTOSH: No, no. It was in the residential area, in a residential area.

GOINS: So did you get into the typical stickball kind of game?

MCINTOSH: Oh yeah, yeah, yeah. We had—I drive by that place occasionally and that big ... area that we used to play hide-and-go-seek and kick the can or something like that. I thought it was such a tremendous lot, [it] was only about a sixty foot lot. You know, about sixty foot wide and maybe a 120 foot long, you know, because Meadowbrook is an old part of—I mean the houses there were put up prior to 1940, so they're a good sixty years plus and they're all two or three bedrooms, a bath and kitchen, and they're small. Most of them probably don't have 1200 or 1300 square feet if that much in them. Of course, there are some larger ones there, but I mean that's kinda the run of the mill.

WEED: Guess I should move on to—on December 7, 1941, where were you and what were your thoughts when Pearl Harbor was bombed?

MCINTOSH: Well that's very easy. I was at church. It happened on a Sunday and we were going to go Hillsboro Church of Christ, which is on Hillsboro Road, which is almost—Vanderbilt now is within two blocks of the church coming south. It's not a church anymore. It has now moved out to Hillsboro Road in time, but it stayed there near Blair Boulevard and Hillsboro Road where we worshiped for I guess twenty, twenty-five years, but that was the—it had happened as, before we left home and as we got to church that morning everybody ... was talking about it. That was an important, that was a big day in ... for a young man, you know. I was born in '25, so what's that make me, fifteen, sixteen years old. Fifteen years old, be sixteen in a few days.

GOINS: So you heard the news on the radio then?

MCINTOSH: I heard the radio at home and then our car didn't have a radio at that time and so we rushed home to listen to the news.

GOINS: Do you remember what your parent's reaction was to it?

MCINTOSH: Very solemn. They could see things coming that I couldn't see. All I could see was just basketball and tennis and stuff like that and school work and ... so it was—they was solemn when I look back.

WEED: From the end of high school ... you graduated in May, until February of 1944 where were you? What did you do? Did you stay in Nashville?

MCINTOSH: Well, no. I stayed there and went to college, went onto Lipscomb. I thought I could probably get in a year—at that point in time in college you didn't have many [men]—you had only two or three different types of men there. You had 4-Fs. 4-F was one who was physically unable to go into combat. They had one leg too short or they had kidney problems or they had something wrong with them and they would never go. And then going to a church school and I can't remember the code for that, but they had some that were preachers and some that didn't want to go in because of their belief in killing and so forth. And there were a few of those fellows. And then there was other people like me who had just turned eighteen or seventeen as the case might be and were just waiting to go into the service, to be called. And ... there were a half a dozen like me in the freshman class that year. And ... so I thought I would go until they called me because school started in August and there was August, September, and October, November, December and I wanted to play basketball although they didn't have a ... [regular] college basketball team. It was kind of ... [a pick up team] ... you played a lot of ... Army division [and] Air Force divisions. You played some schools around town like Vanderbilt and Austin Peay and Tennessee Tech. ... [Schools] that were right next to, near Nashville. You didn't do any traveling. And ... so I played on the team that year until February. I only missed about four or five games that year. But I still see some of the guys that we played with back during that time. One's a judge in Columbia at this point in time.

GOINS: Do you remember—a couple angles to this question—when Pearl Harbor was bombed—the reaction of your church and did the minister give sermons on responsibility and such? Then also, after you went on and weren't called up immediately, what you heard from the school and how other people in the school reacted to what was going on as the news began to filter in about the battles and such.

MCINTOSH: I don't remember the church taking any position or attitude on it. I'm sure there were sermons preached, but they didn't make an impression on me if they did. Of course, the school at that time ... being a church school ... I think they kinda really felt maybe you shouldn't go. It wasn't for everybody, you know. They kinda felt like that during the war I think. And because I came back and went to school in '46 through August of '49 things began to change when you got a lot of veterans back and things that you couldn't do on campus in 1941, '42 and '43, like smoking, you know, man you could be canned for smoking on campus. But ... when you came back in 1946, and they had 500 veterans there going to school there and they all had to have a place to smoke, they let them smoke in the restrooms. And the smoke was so [thick]—I didn't smoke, but I mean you couldn't go in there because of the smoke. You know, you'd start gagging. So there was a problem with that. Things did change and things have changed. It's

still not like a state school, but they have certain things that you adhere to. And I had my opportunity to go to Vanderbilt when I came out of the service to play tennis and I met my first atheist. You say you meet them in different places, I met this one in a well lined foxhole. It wasn't something we just made up in this foxhole. This guy supposedly had a college education at that time, he [said] ... he didn't believe there was a God. It scared the hell out of me. I decided at that time that I wanted to go back to Lipscomb rather than go to Vanderbilt. Never been sorry.

GOINS: In relation to that then ... so you're saying that the school before '43, '44, '45 maintained pretty much its strictness or its rules—because of the veterans maybe didn't bend the rules, but allowed a little more ...

MCINTOSH: There were some rules. You couldn't drink on campus.

GOINS: Sure. Sure.

MCINTOSH: And ... you got all the smoking in certain locations, but, you know, if you walk across campus in 1941, '42 and '43 and you hold hands with a girl even though you had just went to chapel, I mean you went to Wednesday night services and it was dark and you walked across there and you were holding hands with a girl, your name could be turned in. Very easily, you know. Well, of course, those things went by the wayside as things changed, as they changed in the meantime. I mean things were—we laugh about it now, but they were all things I guess to make us have more character.

GOINS: Indeed. Indeed.

WEED: So you were drafted into the military.

MCINTOSH: Definitely.

WEED: Did any of your friends at the same time go?

MCINTOSH: Yeah, there were three of us. We were called the three musketeers. We had birthdays on the sixteenth and eighteenth and twentieth of December, and we all got our driver's license on the twentieth, which is my birthday. They all waited and they all had better cars than I did and when I went to get my driver's license, the horn wouldn't blow and one light wouldn't run. That was a '36 Ford and the others—their cars were better, newer, so they ... passed and I had to go back and get the horn fixed and get the light fixed. But one went into the Army and one went into the Navy and I went into the Army. One guy is still living. He's living in Birmingham, Alabama and has been a radio announcer down there for some years. And I've just lost the other fellow. He went to California and I think he's dead, been dead for some time. But I don't know that for a fact.

GOINS: What were their names?

MCINTOSH: John Allen Cleaver was the one in California and he married a girl from Nashville and Marty and I, my wife and I, were both in the wedding and the other one was—his dad was a teacher at Lipscomb and he also, his father, the boy's father had also about seven or eight boys and one girl and every boy had a nickname and so when you had an English class under him you had a nickname and he didn't call you George—my name was Grm. And that's spelled G-R-M. And you could answer Grm or if he called you ... that is the father of the boy, then he would just count you not being there that day. He had to know your name. Anyway, his name was Bookie Brewer. He's now living in Birmingham.

GOINS: Yeah. So he was a radio announcer?

MCINTOSH: He was a radio announcer, kinda like ...—I'm sure you've had programs here where they've had wrestling and he was one of the wrestlers [side kicks] and he does the cool announcing. He's not the one that gets in the ring and fights and all that kind of stuff, but he's the one who talks to them, you know. He did that for years. He is better known for that. I don't know what else he's been doing, but he's still living. I see a couple of his brothers and ... his sister that's still in—I think his sister goes to the same church I do and so I keep pretty close contact, knowing where he is. I haven't seen him but maybe twice in the last ten or fifteen years.

WEED: So then you were drafted and then you made your way down to Van Dorn—Camp Van Dorn in Mississippi?

MCINTOSH: Well I stopped by the way of Fort McClellan to have my basic training. And that was pretty nice. It was down near Huntsville. It wasn't too far away from Nashville except you never had a pass to go all the way to Nashville. They just gave you an overnight pass. And so you took it on your own if you could get in a car—and I was dating my sweetheart Marty, which was the one I married and this guy that had the old car was married and lived not maybe over three or four blocks where I used to live over on Meadowbrook except he lived on Murphy Road, off ... West End. In those days you could count on one or two flat tires and the water pump going out, but if you started out at 12:00 as soon as you cleaned your rifle and so forth, you got out of the camp by 2:00, take you five or six hours from Huntsville to Nashville after repair and everything, go down and meet my wife [-to-be] and my parents, go to church the next morning and then we'd start back.

----- END OF TAPE ONE, SIDE ONE -----

GOINS: So we're continuing our interview now with Mr. McIntosh and we were discussing the early days after being drafted. The two friends you had, the three musketeers, what happened to them, as far as service was concerned?

MCINTOSH: Well they both came back and both of them attended a few years at Lipscomb and then went on about their ways. Both of them got married and both of them left town, at different times. The one that went to Alabama almost left immediately and the one that lived ... the other one ... he married and stayed here in town until probably 1954 or '55 and then moved out of town, moved to the West Coast. And I don't see him—that's the one I think is dead, but it's been fifteen years since I've seen him and his family.

GOINS: Did you have any contact with them during the time you were in service? Basic or anything like that?

MCINTOSH: No.

GOINS: So where did you do basic then?

MCINTOSH: I did the first basic—the thirteen weeks that you have to have—remember now the war, this was 1943 or 1944 and things were culminating over there and so they're rushing all the divisions—I couldn't have gone into the air corps if I had wanted to. I couldn't go because of my eyesight. I was going to go and they wouldn't take me because of that and there's a lot of kids at that time eighteen years old, they just shipped them right on into the divisions rather than put them in the Air Force. And so, and we went to Fort McClellan at Huntsville, everyone was eighteen years old. Ninety-nine percent of them were eighteen years old and after thirteen weeks there, then we went to Camp Van Dorn, Mississippi. At that time there was a law. I don't know whether it was written or unwritten, that you couldn't go overseas until you were nineteen years old, but the pressure got to be so much at that time and they could see the handwriting on the wall that they would need resources in Germany that—and on the other side of the world too that they began to move the forces over there with the hopes that the majority of them would be nineteen by the time they got over there and just because of my switching my birthday—my birthday was late December and we landed in Marseilles—you know, and I was still eighteen years old.

GOINS: So you turned nineteen in Europe?

MCINTOSH: Yeah, I turned nineteen at Sarreguemines, Germany [now in France], and this book I'm going to leave with you it mentions about the crazy house. It was a house for people who were ill of mind and it was almost like we see in the movies now where they chain them on a wall, you know with the long beards. I mean that's just what it looked like. They had straw out there, they had the chains up there you know, and that's where we spent my ... nineteenth birthday—and if you look at this book you'll find that there's another division—I mean there is another company also spent some time in there too—so we spent some days too and we moved on and then someone else came in and so they were part of the division.

GOINS: What is the title of the book again ...

MCINTOSH: It's called the *63rd Infantry Division's Chronicles*. This is a patch that we used that's called blood and fire. And now if you're familiar with all the recon outfits, this is the same patch that they have now on recon. And so if you'll look at some of the movies even now you'll see that this is the patch that the officers and the enlisted men are wearing, so ...

GOINS: Now the inmates there in the crazy house ...

MCINTOSH: There was no one there. Everybody was gone, but ...

GOINS: You could tell, you could see the ...

MCINTOSH: Yeah, you could see where they chained them to the wall. That's covered in there a little bit.

GOINS: Interesting place to spend a birthday ...

MCINTOSH: Snowing. The wind's blowing on the roof like it is today, twenty-five, thirty miles an hour—snowing you couldn't see the hand in front of your face that particular night. It was miserable. So we were lucky to be inside even though there was no heat, no nothing, but we had some walls around us with the door closed.

GOINS: So, not much of a celebration then?

MCINTOSH: No, no.

GOINS: Did you do that later?

MCINTOSH: No, you didn't celebrate. You were glad you're alive.

GOINS: Just glad to stay alive.

WEED: In the time you left Camp Van Dorn, Mississippi, what were your thoughts when you were leaving when you knew that you were on your way to Europe?

MCINTOSH: Well that's real funny. Of all the questions been asked me, that's the first time I've had that question asked. But we went by train from Mississippi right on to New York and it took us almost three weeks, two or three weeks there, to do all the paperwork and get everything, you know get the ships there to take us and everything ready and so we—there were troop trains that went out of there and so almost 'til I read this book, I thought the whole division met at the same time. Now I find out from reading it that our division was ... [split going] overseas. Actually this book says this. There were some things done and several forces didn't go with us. Maybe I don't know whether the cooks—for example say like the cooks didn't go with you or the people who—the field artillery that backs up didn't go or situations like that didn't go with us. They were going to stay and come back at another time, maybe a month later or something. And as we got over to combat a lot of times we didn't have the resources that we needed and we were moved ... into some other divisions, I never knew about. You know, we were maybe attached to the 100th Division or the 74th Division or some other division and we probably didn't get in our division and start our fighting until some time, as a division, until January. We fought attached to all these others—to a corps or to a division.

WEED: So it was a lot of jumbling up and you had to

MCINTOSH: Yeah. And the regular guys didn't know that, you know. At least the enlisted men didn't know it. There were probably a few officers that knew it.

WEED: When you arrived in Europe, where did you say you arrived?

MCINTOSH: Marseilles.

WEED: Marseilles. Were you stationed in Marseilles for a time?

MCINTOSH: No, we stayed there, we stayed there about oh a week or so and we stayed on the side of a hill, rocks, it snowed almost, or rained every night. It was the most miserable time that I've ever spent, having been on a boat or a ship going overseas. It ... was just kind of like a holding area and they got you there and made sure you had your rifle, your bag, then you had to get transportation and everything ... —talking about the asylum, change the subject a little bit. But, we stayed there some week or so and before we got on 40&8, you know, what a 40&8 is? A 40&8 is what the French used during World War I ... [to transport forty men or eight horses].

GOINS: Chevaux?

MCINTOSH: Ah yeah. They used to have it on that forty men and x number of horses and so that's what we got on. It's just a box car like you see on a train except they were all wood. It had a sliding door on either one side or both sides. And so you would put a platoon of men—platoon is thirty something odd men—thirty, thirty-six plus, about forty men in one car. And ... you can imagine the problems you had on that, you know, traveling, train stopping every hour or so. Maybe you want it to stop more often and when you need to go to the restroom, there's no restroom, there's no bathroom, and you just go out doors. As soon as that train stops you go to the restroom somewhere, the nearest place you can find. I don't care if you're in the middle of the town. You go, you know. And also during that period of time there's always Frenchmen trying to sell you wine, sell you bread. In that part of France the bread and the wine wasn't too good. They had doctored it up and they were hoping to get the cigarettes or whatever they had and not give up the good thing and sometimes they would wait until the train was moving and then they would make the swap, see. But, so a lot of times you didn't get—at that time we didn't know the value of cigarettes and soap and candy and things like that. That became the barter system as the years progressed.

GOINS: Was there anything in your training at boot camp in Van Dorn and the other experience you had before that in any way gave you some idea of what you were going to see when you got to Europe? Or what was life like during the Van Dorn and all as compared to when you ...

MCINTOSH: Not really here, not here in the States so much but as we got nearer to France we were given books, French books to carry with us. French and later as we got near Germany, we had German books that we'd take off three or four hours a day and were able to pick up some words that you use often and they would tell us about the civilians and the classes, you know, large classes, maybe a couple hundred men at a time—and when we were on the ship going over, to get us up on deck. Cause, I mean, you wouldn't, it took us I can't remember if it was eight days or twelve days, twelve days I think, to get over because you had to zigzag going over so you didn't get shot by the submarines. And you sleep twelve days with about six, seven thousand guys in a ship and half of them are sick and vomiting and all that kind of stuff and hanging over the side and you don't want to see food. You smell the food before you see it and so—but so, to

get us up on deck and take our mind off of it, they did have classes that told us about the French culture and what we should do and what we should not do and so forth.

GOINS: But most of that came after ...

MCINTOSH: Yeah. We had some in the States, but we were so excited at that time it went in one ear and out the—what really counted was when we were onboard and they were talking to us about it.

GOINS: Well, did basic and the training you had here in the States seem like it was really tough and hard to deal with the physical training?

MCINTOSH: Well, Fort McClellan wasn't that bad. ... I think I took my first twenty-mile hike with a full field pack in Van Dorn, Mississippi. And it was so hot down there and so many mosquitoes that we'd start at night and they took us out in trucks twenty miles out and then about one or two o'clock in the morning we started back toward camp and I remember Van Dorn being more [like] combat than Fort McClellan. That was kind of a cleansing type thing, you went to the rifle range and then you shot, and you took ... [three to five] mile hikes and that kind of thing, you know. You'd clean the barracks and you had parade drills and all that. You got down to Van Dorn though, everything was about double or triple [time], and we had some gung ho officers that wanted to be the number one of their regiment. And I will say this, the squad that I was on ... we ran when they ran division problems at squad level, we ran it for the brass, our squad did. And everyone of us were the same age, eighteen years old, and we did have a staff sergeant who had been in for about fifteen, twenty years ... —he had been with the WACs and had been transferred over. And then the tech sergeant was, had about fifteen years in, so he was about thirty, thirty-five years old.

GOINS: Did you ever have the feeling that you wanted to get to Europe just to get out of there?

MCINTOSH: Yeah. Yes we did. Yeah. Yeah. It was real funny, as I was telling you, the first time we had a twenty-mile hike as we got into Camp Van Dorn—we knew what the record was, how many hours and minutes and so forth, but we were on schedule to break it by minutes, I mean a lot of minutes. And we had an Italian named Captain Pilla who was a tough SOB here in the States and he turned out to be that way overseas too—but he wanted to be, he wanted to have the best, he wanted to have the best company and have the best record and so he challenged us. We got about a mile and the sun was coming up and some of 'em were still sleeping or it was just about time for reveille and he got us to kinda close ranks. We were stragglin' to close ranks and ... [some were] riding trucks, I mean, everyone didn't make it, you know. This was a company of about 264 men ... something like that. We got in there and we had full field packs, and had rifles, steel helmets—and we went in there jogging after twenty miles. You think my butt wasn't dragging? (Laughter) And every—we all were, I mean—foot and seat were hurting, you know, back were hurting and sweating and heat rash was terrible. First time I ever had heat rash was in Van Dorn, Mississippi. The first day I was there and so a lot of times that prickly heat on your back, you know, it's pain. We broke that record almost by twenty minutes and that was almost equal to, you know, almost a mile or so, you know. It wasn't quite twenty minutes, but it was pretty substantial. And as far as I know we held that until—you got to remember everybody is

eighteen years old. There were very few—pops was some guy maybe who was thirty-five years old, you know. And there weren't many of them really.

GOINS: So that gave you sort of a sense of cohesion and camaraderie ...

MCINTOSH: Yes. Yeah it did. It did. It was real funny. I've only told this to one or two other people ... that particular day, they gave us off the day after we got in. We didn't have to clean the rifles or anything. About 1:00 I decided I'd go over to the gym and shoot basketball. So I walked by the guys—the first sergeant's office and he said "Where you goin' Mac?" And I said, "Well, I thought I'd shoot a little basketball." And I thought he was going to faint. He said, "Wasn't that twenty mile hike enough for you." And I said, "I'm not planning on doing any running. I'm just going to shoot some." You know. But, I remember that to this day. He said, "Didn't you run twenty miles?" I was afraid he was going to say let's go back and do it again.

GOINS: Let's do it again. (Laughter) Indeed. Indeed. So then, when you got to Europe, did you reflect on thinking how tough it was at Van Dorn and think you'd like to be back?

MCINTOSH: Yeah. I was glad for it. Yet, there was nothing that could prepare you for it. When someone's shooting at you or when you know that your life is on the line or you're going to take someone's life, they can't teach you that in the States. It's just something that you've got to come ... and people say well how can you as an eighteen year old boy find it in your heart to kill someone. But believe me, during that stretch of time, all the classes you were in, talking about how the Germans had killed and how they're going to kill you if you don't kill them. And, you know, I'm sure the same thing was going on in the South Pacific. You've got to hate those people on the other side, you know, to a passion that you'd do something that you wouldn't do in your wildest dreams. And you only hope that during that period of time as you get older—during that period of time that your reasoning as you grew up, with your parents, your family and your background, will somehow release you from doing something more abnormal. And that's one thing that you've asked me about today ... my background. For me, there were things that I could have done very easily, but my conscience wouldn't let me do it.

GOINS: I see. So the strength of your raising, the particular things that you did ...

MCINTOSH: I had no qualms about killing anybody, you know, I don't mean that. But I just, there were things that I could have done that I wouldn't have done because of my church background, because of my school background, more or less school background. The school had more ... touch with me than the church did I guess. But maybe they did—maybe not. The school, even in the time I was in high school, taught me the difference between right and wrong.

GOINS: Did you encounter chaplains in Europe?

MCINTOSH: Nah. ... I went to church a few times after the war was over. Of course, they were like community churches We had the organ playing, had a couple people who were in robes and this and that and so forth, which is all foreign to the Church of Christ But, I went anyway to listen to the sermon and take communion if I could. But, no I didn't see many of those guys, but I am sure they were there. I just didn't see 'em.

GOINS: Sure. So did you rely pretty much just on what you had been taught as a child and what you knew in your own heart and whatever guidance you got ...

MCINTOSH: Well, the government, too, they put restrictions on you, too. There were certain things they didn't want you to—there's no raping, you know, and things like that. And they let you know that pretty much if that happened you were on your own, you know. And they didn't want you to do that. There's a lot of things between right and wrong and the government taught you and, you know, some just weren't enforced more than others, you know.

WEED: So you arrived in Europe and you're in Marseilles, right? How long—you were there for two ...

MCINTOSH: About a week and a half, two weeks. We had a lot of 40&8 on up through France and to ... finally into Germany.

WEED: When you're traveling through France, what were you thinking, what did you see, how was the landscape?

MCINTOSH: The landscape ... sometimes it was clean and clear and nice ... others you'd see dead horses they'd never moved, you didn't see people laying anywhere 'cause it probably had been—I don't know what the time table, but it probably would have been a couple months, maybe a month or so, since the war had been through there. But you'd see machines that had been blown and burned up. You'd see the cars in ditches. You'd see carts turned over. You'd go through towns and you'd see where some or all of the town would be ... as they say in Germany, *kaput*. There wouldn't be anything there or it would just be walls standing. It was real funny. I'll mention this to you too. I don't remember ever telling anyone this and this is digressing a tad. As you leave Germany by plane, and that's the only way I did—I flew to London, and ... you fly over Germany and it's just like the top of this table. And as soon as you hit the French border, it looks like you're in downtown Nashville or Knoxville [Except France is] ... not neat. They're just not, they're not clean. Streets are not clean, toilets are not clean, houses are not clean. As soon as you hit the line in Germany, it's just as if someone had gotten an eraser and that's true. I don't care where you went in Germany. You went to the poorest house and everything was swept out, everything was neat and clean and so forth. It wasn't that way in France. They just had a different life. They were hippies. (Laughter) They were hippies. Like on D-Day—I mean on V-E Day, man, everything was free. ... that was my first day out from the hospital and ... I went out and had a couple of drinks at the bar there and couldn't pay. Everything was free to us and the next day everything was double. (Laughter) I'm serious. I'm serious. But at that particular bar everything was double the next day. But ...

GOINS: So did you encounter very many French except, as you said, when you'd get off the 40&8?

MCINTOSH: No, not going into France, no we didn't. We just saw civilians from time to time ... we were to have no contact with civilians at all, French civilians. I had some contact with Germans as we got down that far. In France I had no contact with any French civilians other

than buying bread from them or something like that. I didn't smoke at that time, so I had no cigarettes with me. I don't smoke now. I never did smoke. But, uh, I didn't have the cigarettes to sell. So, you know, I didn't—most of the other guys were doing all the trading.

WEED: So on your way to France, or on your way to Germany, you were with the 63rd ...

MCINTOSH: Yeah. We were actually the regiment that was going all at one time, then another regiment would follow us, you know. I thought they were all going the same time but I don't think we were. I think if you read the book here, you'll find out that our regiment was going and then another regiment was coming right behind on the train. But ...

GOINS: So the 253rd was ...

MCINTOSH: 253rd, 254th, and 258th.

GOINS: Okay.

WEED: What ... and this is made up of mostly eighteen year olds—young men ...

MCINTOSH: Yeah. Yeah, most of them.

WEED: What kind of weapon had you been issued?

MCINTOSH: Well, of course it depends on ... what position you were in the squad and what platoon you were in. If you were in a combat squad like I was, you were issued an M-1 rifle, and shot a clip of eight bullets and that's the one you had to learn with in the States and you had to clean it and you had to know the number on it because you didn't know when some officer might ask you what your rifle number was so you had to give it about like that, you know. And if he wanted to inspect it you had to give it to him and that rifle couldn't drop and you had to, while [he] you was looking at it you had to give him that number. So, the rifle became your friend. You lived with it, you slept with it, you didn't leave it. You didn't lay it down anywhere ... in combat or in the States. You took it to the latrine with you. There were times you didn't take it when you ate in the States, but I mean you took it everywhere with you during combat. I don't care if you walked five feet away, you picked it up and put it over your shoulder and you carried it with you. If you were a noncom you might have a carbine, which is a smaller, carbine 'bout this long, small and really light. Officers usually used those and they usually had also a pistol on the hip. Some noncoms that were able to req[uisition] and order us some things sometimes had pistols on their side, but they weren't issued them. But as we got into combat more, you found more things that people had that they picked up from different places. But ... if you were in the heavy weapons platoon—wait, I take that back. If you were in a squad you might have been a BAR man. That's a Browning Automatic Rifle which shot a clip of I think twenty. I'm not sure. It was a heavy thing. Usually the biggest guy in the platoon carried that. The biggest guy in the squad carried it and then he had a guy that carried the ammunition with him. Then if you got into a squad of, a heavy weapons squad, then you had mortars and you had machine guns and things of that nature.

GOINS: Did you, as you went through combat, procure any weapons other than the standard issue?

MCINTOSH: Yeah I did procure an Italian handgun and I took it off of a guy that I shot and I was wounded about six or seven days later after that and someone appropriated that from me so I didn't have it long. I had it about two or three weeks maybe and it passed on. When I woke up from being operated on, it was gone. I hid it in my shoe and put my socks on it but it was gone when I came back. (Laughter) But I never did use it. Never did use it. I asked the German, "*Pistole*," and he said, "*Ja wohl*." And he told me where it was, and I reached over and got it. He had some ammunition with it, and I carried it with me, but I never did shoot it.

GOINS: So where then did you actually go into combat?

MCINTOSH: Well the very first thing that I remember was ... I think it was the 1st Platoon and now remember this is the 2nd Battalion of the 253rd Infantry Division and we were in the 2nd Battalion which was E Company and, E Company is made up of four groups—1st, 2nd and 3rd Platoon and a kind of weapons platoon. And the 1st Platoon, which was made up of thirty some odd men, were going that night across a large airfield which we had seen to take prisoners, but didn't really realize, you know, why we were there. We were just there and we knew that we would cross [an airfield]. We were on one side ... of the airport which was over here and the Germans were on ... [the other], and we had to relieve a division who had been there before us. And ... I can't remember who it was. The book might say. We relieved them and as I said our captain was kinda gung ho about everything, so he volunteered one of his platoons to go on [the other] side and look and see what was going on. We had heard some noises, and they heard some noises over there. Well the snow was up to your knee, if not higher, ... and the moon was fairly bright. It wasn't snowing when they made the decision at that particular time, but the snow was already down and the 1st Platoon was supposed to go out and make contact with the enemy and the idea was that if we made contact we would take prisoners and so the three of us that were in the 2nd Platoon, the first, well I wouldn't say the first time, but it was the last time we volunteered for anything. We volunteered to go to tag the prisoners of all things. To get the prisoners and bring them back, you know, while the others stayed out there and did whatever they had to do. Well, this table being the field—we all start out like you always do when you're infantry, kind of like a diamond formation, so you'll be protected all the way. But the snow was so deep and it's so far across that darn field as we got down there everybody was going by like this and whoever the first four or five guys up there, ten guys there, they were knocking all the snow out and the rest of us were walking almost behind, so we were almost in a single line, almost anyway. And we left about 12:30, 1:00 as best I can remember, and we were at the very tail end. And as they got near the woods there was actually four or five guys got in the woods before they heard people talking and before they found out that we were there so they started shooting machine guns and—the Germans did—raking back and forth and they killed three or four guys in there and there was almost a squad of ... guys that went in that were ... left behind ... —they began to work their way this way, and they got kind of a little dip [in the ground] over there and the bullets were flying over their head. Every other shot ... about every third shot the Germans were using, was using a—well my memory's gone blank. It's lights up as it goes.

GOINS: Like tracers?

MCINTOSH: Tracers. So you knew where it was coming from, you could see the tracers and—but where we were back in here the trajectory of the machine gun was about like that, so it couldn't go like this and it couldn't go like that so it kept spraying the same area and the three of us were about probably fifteen or twenty feet away from where the bullets were hitting trees or going over trees, it wasn't the trees, but it was going over the mounds of snow where we were so there wasn't much chance of us getting hit unless they moved the machine gun and did something differently. And so we laid out in that snow the three of us and we laid out in the snow, we laid there and about 4:00—both of these guys were about ten feet from me and I pick up a little snowball and throw it and said [whisper] "We'd better get out of here." [Louder] "We'd better get out of here!" And the guy said, "Yeah I was just thinking about that." Well the sun was getting ready to come up. Well there was no cover out there except the snow, so I said, "You know, we're attached to these guys and no one's giving up," but I think self preservation and said let's get out of here. So we start going back and about that time we look up and we see a bunch that have gotten up and were also coming out of there and the Germans don't want any more trouble and we sure don't want any more trouble, but undoubtedly this ten or eleven guys over here in this little—what's the word I'm looking for

GOINS: Like a depression?

MCINTOSH: Depression of land there, they got in there and they were safe and they were afraid to get up and get out of there, and so the crux of the matter was the two or three that were captured, three or four killed, and there was a squad left out there. And we froze our rear end off out there. I mean it was cold, the wind was blowing, lucky it wasn't snowing. We got out of there and got back and found out that the squad was left there, so division artillery threw in smoke screen over there where the Germans were right in that area there, and they threw in so much smoke it gave the time for them ten or eleven guys, twelve guys whatever it was, to get back to their outfit. I talked to one of the guys that were captured in the meantime—and I've just done that in the last couple years. He called me on the phone, saw my name in one of the magazines and he called me ... and I didn't realize I had forgotten—time plays tricks on you. I remember us going over there, but then I don't remember him being there, you know. And ... he said he was taken captured. He was captured there and he told about all the places they took him and interrogated him. He said that he wasn't mistreated, he was just all hungry all the time and he ate soup and black bread. And he mentioned all the places he had gone, matter of fact they had to go all the way back to Heidelberg at one time. I don't know where he finally wound up.

GOINS: Do you remember his name? It's not important ...

MCINTOSH: I don't have it on the tip of my tongue right now. [Yes, Elton Rogers]

GOINS: Yeah. That was your first combat?

MCINTOSH: That was the first time I volunteered for it and when we did that ...

GOINS: And the last?

MCINTOSH: Why we volunteered for that was that you got combat pay and we didn't get combat pay after that time.

GOINS: I see.

MCINTOSH: And that was the first time—that was like giving, like you go with the kids to the store and give them ten dollars, you know. [They would say], “We’re going to give you ten dollars more a month combat pay if you start now, see, rather than next week.” So, anyway, that’s really the—[We thought], “Oh, we're gonna get ten more dollars, we'll go out there,” you know. Lay out in the snow for four hours. We're lucky we didn't get killed.

GOINS: What kind of correspondence were you having at this time back home? Were you writing letters back?

MCINTOSH: Yeah. You wrote email.

GOINS: Email or V-mail?

MCINTOSH: V-mail, excuse me. V-mail. And if you've ever seen V-mail—have you ever seen it? Well it be about that size you would write and ... any time they made a picture of it, it wasn't any bigger than that. Everything you wrote was censored. It was some officer's job in the company ... to read everything that was mailed out and take words out or areas out—you say we're in Sarreguemines today and we're going to blah, blah, blah, and they'd strike through that, you know. There were sometimes ways to get around it. You'd say, well—I know one particular time I was near Heidelberg and I couldn't say I was in Heidelberg, but I said something about the *Student Prince*. I said we're near that area now. So mother and dad knew that I was in Heidelberg and knew about where I was at that time. Sometimes you wrote in ways that—the way you had written something before and they read in the paper about the Seventh Army. We were in the Seventh Army. The Seventh Army was in Southern France and it was probably—I'll have to admit of all the areas in the, in the United States Armed Forces in Europe—that was probably the quietest of the four. The First Army and Third Army caught all the flack ... I mean big time combat, big time combat—like Malmedy, when the Germans made the rush to go to Brussels, you know, in December. By the way that was on television last night on the history channel. [Joachim] Peiper was in charge of the SS that killed the Americans and they had his picture. And I didn't know ... what he had done. He was condemned to death along with about thirty-five or forty other Germans for that. He got off, or got the death part was off, and he got like twenty years and then Joe McCarthy during that period of time was one of our senators and he had found out that some of our— ... [boys had mistreated some German soldiers] and he played that up and finally they just released them all. I didn't know that 'til last night. And Peiper lived about another ten or fifteen years after that, and he moved to France, and one night his house burned and he was in it with a couple of bullet holes in him.

WEED: You were talking about you—the correspondence. How often did you find that you were able to write home?

MCINTOSH: Oh, I wrote every day. Man, I ... and I got letters from home. I had mail call. My mother would write me every day and my dad would write me once or twice a week. Marty wrote me, my wife [-to-be] wrote me, we ... were engaged before we went overseas. She wrote me every day. So I sometimes [had many letters]—we didn't get mail every day. We'd get it maybe two or three times a week, so I always had fifteen or twenty letters and usually two or three boxes, you know, and so everyone looked for different food from me 'cause I always had food. Cookies or something else. And, but ... I wrote most every day.

GOINS: In your correspondence back to them, and I know you've said it was censored, but did you try or feel compelled at all to tell them what it was like in combat or did you try to spare them from worrying about you or did you think about it in those terms?

MCINTOSH: You know, I guess I gravitated back and forth. There were sometimes I underplayed certain things and didn't want them to worry 'cause I'd get a letter back from my mother and you could tell that she was worried. So I might tell Marty something, my wife [-to-be] something that I wouldn't tell her or something like that. She was the only one I was really coy with in my writing sometimes. I wrote to dad just as much as I could ... they said they didn't have much I had put in that was ever taken out, so I was glad of that.

WEED: You were talking about the captain who was real gung-ho

MCINTOSH: Captain Pilla.

WEED: Did you have any other officers that you remember real well?

MCINTOSH: Well, I tell you, officers didn't stay with you long. They got shot. Uh, uh, help me come back to that story for just a moment. But I was only nineteen years old, but I had a chance to be an officer and the captain came to me and asked me did I want to be an officer and I said, "I'm too young." I said, "I don't want that responsibility. I was just a buck sergeant." Then he went through all his other letters and he said, "Well I think you can do it and then you've got the education for it." And he said, "I want you to go." And I said, "No, I'd rather not." He said, "Well I'm not going to argue with you." So he went and got someone else. So he got this other guy and he went back and they made an officer and gentlemen out of him for about two weeks, came back and he was attached to our platoon and we were in the area that was already cleared. We had been in that area for almost two days and he was standing out there getting us all lined up, giving us some orders and so forth and a sniper got him right in the head. And I thought about that. That could have been me just as big as him, you know—here he thought everything was safe at that time, you know.

GOINS: So did the officers then continue to wear their markings?

MCINTOSH: Well, you had it on your helmet sometimes. They carried—it was so cold sometimes, all the insignias was always covered up. But, you know, if you had been in, you could tell who was running ... [the show]. ... [Using field glasses from a distance you could tell the officers from the noncom and the regular soldiers mainly by their conduct.] So ... but anyway he got shot and was killed right then and there. And I think to this day, you know, that

could have been me. I never had another shot, and I was too young to be anyway. He's about a year older than I was But your question was about officers. We would have an officer ... a captain, you had an exec [officer] ..., a first lieutenant who was the second in command. Then each platoon had an officer and then had sergeants and then had privates attached to each squad. So, you didn't get to know them too well. Now I got to know ...

----- END OF TAPE ONE, SIDE TWO -----

MCINTOSH: He [Sergeant Wentworth] was our tech sergeant of the platoon. And he was the one that I mentioned who came over from the WAC unit. I guess you might call him regular Army even, 'cause he had been in for some time. But he took a liking to me and I took a liking to him and ... his name was Wentworth and we had a lot of good times together in combat and we had a lot of foxholes together, same foxholes together and everything, and he had a chance to be an officer. They promoted him and I don't know why, he had probably turned down other promotions in due time, but we were getting ready to go to Heidelberg about that time and things were getting kind of hot and heavy and he had a chance to get away for a couple of weeks and he came back as an officer—and if I hadn't lost him I would have wanted him in my wedding, because he and I were the closest of friends and yet there were probably ten, twelve, fifteen years difference between us.

And ... but one story about him when he left, he said, "George, take my M-1 rifle." Well he had the prettiest M-1 rifle if you can call a rifle pretty. His stock, his rifle stock was unusual. It looked like it had never been used. It had been in a glass case or something—just the way they're made, to take care, you could take care of it so well and so good that he had had that rifle stock with that rifle all these years and so he said, "I don't need it anymore." [He] says, "Gimme your rifle. Take my rifle and I'll get it changed or something in the records." So he got it changed and about three or four days later, we were going through Heidelberg and Heidelberg was an open city. They had blown all the bridges and occasionally they threw a shell in just to let you know that they were there And there's a picture in here I think, of Heidelberg ... as you go down into the town, getting ready to go into Heidelberg, you have to cross a river which is Neckar River. I think it's the Neckar River and it's got bridges over it and the bridges are all torn down. They're blown up. And so you walk down to the river, walk down to the bridge and take a left like that and another x and you go down to the water and there were some boats down there. We went across in boats. But on the way down there ... we had just left the main road, had taken a left, walking down the street and there were houses both, high houses—well I guess they were buildings more than houses, on the left side and right side of the street, and [shells] ... like coming down here and then you're going across that way and hitting the buildings. That wasn't there at that time. But ... I had a guy in front of me who was partially deaf. Good 'ole country boy from Kentucky—he was a man. He wasn't no boy, he was a man from Kentucky, and he turned around to me and said, "Sarge, you hear those birds." And I said, "Birds, hell, that's shells coming in." And they had thrown enough shells in over the river there to hit that side wall and then ricochet the shrapnel. It came across there. The guy in front of me got hit right here and tore this part [gestures to his foot] out completely. A couple of guys behind me got hit in the buttocks.

GOINS: First guy, down near the ankle?

MCINTOSH: Yeah, this part right here. It just clipped it about like that. You know, I don't know whatever came of him, but I could just see it went right through his shoe. And that pretty rifle that he had given me—when I heard it I used it as something to stop the force as I hit the ground, so I fell like this with my rifle down with the butt of my rifle hitting the pavement [first] and when I did a piece of shrapnel came in from over here and went right through that rifle butt and went right underneath me and went right on out. Didn't hit me at all. Nothing hit me. But it tore a hole in my rifle about that big. And, so I saw Sergeant Wentworth, who had become an officer not long after that, and I showed it to him and he said, “I knew you couldn't take care of that rifle.” (Laughter) Here I had it all these years. I just give it to you for two weeks and you've torn it up.” You know, but ...

GOINS: Two weeks later it's got a three-inch hole in it.

MCINTOSH: Yeah. That would have killed me ... if I had just gotten down a little faster. If I had gotten down faster, it would have just hit me. As it was I was a little slow getting down I guess. But ... so your question was about the officers.

WEED: Whatever happened to him?

MCINTOSH: Well, Wentworth, I don't know what happened to him. I find his name in here as a sergeant and as an officer. I've just completely lost—he never comes to any of the meetings. He is not a member of the Sixty-Third Division and my guess is he just, he's probably died. He was older, you know, he was like thirty something at that time. He'd be ninety-something now. He's never been to any of the meetings.

GOINS: So most of your time though was not really in combat per se and being fired on or firing

MCINTOSH: Well, from about January ... [1945] on—what would happen one day you'd be right on the front line and you'd be bang banging and they'd be shooting at you or you'd be doing things so you could do something the next day. When you woke up the next day, the Germans would have retreated three miles, or four miles. Well you didn't find that out sometimes 'til you got started and the tanks started up and you started your [attack]—they may have shelled some. We may have shelled some, then you come across there and they're not there. They've gone back to another place three or four miles. But ... I think it tells you in there that from January to ... about January 1st to about April 28th or 29th they were pretty much on the ... at the front all the time fighting. We were only relieved, if I remember correctly, one time during that where we could take a shower. I only remember taking one shower during that time. And I think they cover that in the book too. That's where we were relieved to take a shower. Now I tell you one thing I did. I don't care how cold it was. I shaved most every day if it wasn't no more than from here. I might have a black neck because you couldn't shower, couldn't do anything, but I'd shave from here. Being an eighteen year old I had the pimples, you know, and if I didn't shave I had 'em. So just for the cleanliness, that's the only reason, everyone laughed at me, but I was clean from there. But, I was white there and dirty everywhere else.

WEED: So on a daily basis, did you just kinda like, were you constantly watching, thinking that Germans were right in front of you?

MCINTOSH: A lot of times you didn't see 'em. Sometimes you saw 'em. You were worrying about eating all the time. Seldom did I ever eat out of a mess kit. You know, you'd think being a soldier you'd eat out of a mess kit, but it was hog heaven when you got to eat out of a mess kit. That means the Germans wasn't anyplace near you. What they were—they thought you were pretty safe. They'd bring food up to you. Then when you ate out of your mess kit most of the time you'd get sick because it wasn't as clean as it ought to be, you know, you just supposed to clean your mess kit, but what do you clean it with, snow or water. So, a lot of times—I always hated having a mess kit. Sometimes I'd have to wash my mess kit and most guys would wash it before they ate, you know. But ... we didn't get to eat out of mess kits very much. Most of it was K-rations, and K-rations was a package about like that long and about that wide and it had like two cigarettes in it. It had a can—if it was breakfast, it had about a can of eggs and ham about like that. Like a key in a can sausage, except maybe a little bit larger and a little bit wider. Then you'd have a couple of crackers that would be in cellophane, [a spoon] to eat ... [with]. It had usually a chocolate bar that was bitter, it was sweet chocolate, well, it was dark chocolate normally. Sometimes it was—might have been a raisin bar or plum or something that had some fruit in it and usually had two cigarettes in it. Then for supper, instead of having cheese, you have cheese and eggs. Sometimes you could heat that cheese and eggs up and sometimes you couldn't. You just ate it cold. So, depending on where you were was what you ate, and most times our food was K-rations. We got to eat ... I forgot what the other rations were called now, but ... the field rations. And like Thanksgiving and Christmas, that was unusual where you got to eat turkey and all that good stuff.

GOINS: So then there was pretty much the way of doing—and during this time of combat, as you said, you were pretty much on the front there. Did you get leave at all? Did you ever get R&R for a day or two or were you just constantly there?

MCINTOSH: Like I said from January to April we would get relieved maybe one day and then get in a truck and go somewhere else. Maybe thirty or forty miles away even. There's a story that came out—I don't know whether you want to hear it or not.

GOINS: Sure.

MCINTOSH: It's a personal story. And I guess maybe I ate out of my mess kit when it wasn't clean, but in any event—it was during the Battle of the Bulge and we were not part of that, but our platoon ... maybe was put in a holding area and they took us in trucks about thirty miles away to dig foxholes—and this is covered in the book too. It's not covered by E Company, 253rd, but it is exactly the same thing happened to us and we got to dig the foxholes and we couldn't dig the foxholes. The snow was too deep and the ground was too frozen. And, so we had to find engineers to come drive in the ground holes where they put the dynamite in there deep enough where they could blast it and then we would real quick dig before the hole would freeze. And boy, steam would come right out of it when they would do that see and we would have to dig the holes. Well, during that time we were—they had about twenty or thirty trucks and only one truck didn't have a top on it, and, of course, I caught the truck that didn't have the

top on it. Man, my teeth was chattering when I was out there and hands were frozen. I was looking forward to digging because I wanted to get warm. And then as we finally got the guys to come and dig ... I mean to blast the foxhole for us—we were digging, I was trying to get warm, then all of a sudden the GIs hit me. The GIs were just bowel movements and I had already taken off my overcoat And you had a field jacket underneath that. I don't think I had an Ike jacket but I had a field jacket, I had a sweater, had an OD shirt and then I had long johns ... and then down here would be the pants and long johns and the pants were—I guess I think I had ... I think they were khaki, I believe they were ... not khaki but the woolen stuff that you wear. And then the boots. And I had to go to the bathroom. Snowing. Wind was blowing. It was freezing and no place to go unless I undressed. So, I started—most everything when you built something like that you usually build a hole just for a latrine if you can get to it and there was one built about ... it hadn't been dug over two feet into it and they just quit 'cause it was too much work and went to work on their own. So I get out of the hole that I'm digging on and I go over to it and I take it off ... do a striptease. And, of course, everyone is yelling at me. They're making fun of me, you know. And I get down and I can't get it off fast enough, so I just [go] in my pants and I'm telling you it's all over me. It's just as runny as it can be. And then they start laughing all the more 'cause they know all the pain that the sarge was having. And so, anyway I do a completely 360 out there. I took every stitch off. I have to take it off to get down to the long johns and used the long johns as toilet paper and covered back up and then re-dressed. By that time everyone has just died laughing at me, you know, and I'm joining the group by that time because you know I'm too old to cry and so I don't want to be razzed anymore so I was kind of laughing along with them. Anyway, that particular day was a day that I remember that's where I had to undress a 360 right in front of everyone and then a [snow] shower, I mean that was ... I didn't get to take a shower for probably two or three weeks after that, maybe longer. And so it's one of those things that you think about. You know after you get away it's kind of funny, but it's pretty miserable at that time. (Laughter)

GOINS: So when did you end up crossing the Rhine?

MCINTOSH: That was on ... about March 29, 1945. That was the date or one or two days on the other side and—one of the pictures I have over here in the magazines shows a picture of Heidelberg and I couldn't find the building that we stayed in, but we stayed in a town building that was like a courthouse and had a picture of Hitler up there. A big picture, it was probably three or four feet wide and fifty feet down this way. So we all took our knives out and bayonets and threw it and see how we could do at it as kids will do. But we only stayed there one night and there's nothing there except tables and chairs, big old chairs and big tables and so forth. We didn't hurt anything except that picture and we didn't stay long. The next day we started out of there and that was one of the places—I can't remember whether it was a couple days before or a couple days right after that, but we left town and undoubtedly there must have been a lot of prisoner of war camps where they had a lot of Czechoslovakians and Slovaks and just all other kind of people there and they had gotten out [of the prisoner of war camp] and they had beaten on their German captors who had been overly mean to them and they had just beaten the snot out of them and we just didn't do a thing. We just kept on watching them because we knew what they ... [had] going through all this time.

But if I remember correctly, a day or so out of Heidelberg we went to this small town and the word came in that we'd probably spend the night there. It was about 1:00. We were going to spend the day there. Maybe move out the next day and we just happened to stop at a [gasthaus]—we'd call it a beer joint here, but it was a gasthaus there and it was where they had wine and beer and so forth. Well it didn't take long for 200 men to find where that was. (Laughter) It was of course down in the basement and everyone bought up schnapps and ... wine. I guess out of our platoon—thirty-five, forty men, I guess maybe half of them were about three sheets to the wind. And I hadn't learned how to drink at that time, but I had had a couple of shots. There wasn't any beer. There was just wine and schnapps and schnapps is too strong for me and wine was ... I just hadn't created a taste for it. And ... but I had a few drinks and then they said, "We're moving out." And so everyone moves out. We didn't have [a way to carry the wine]—we had gas mask covers at the time ... we'd all thrown our gas masks away by that time and we used it to carry our shaving equipment and other stuff that was important, you know, and luckily the officers never looked to see what we had in there. I'm sure they had the same thing. So everybody put a couple of bottles of schnapps or wine in those bags and as you walked down the road you could hear the rattle, rattle, rattle of you know, ... you could hear glass on glass. And finally ... [the officer] said, "We're going up this way." And when we went up that way, we went up a hill and that's where I got the pistol. The hill was about forty-five degrees and—in Germany, maybe you've seen pictures of it, but they do a lot of woodcutting and when they cut wood they stack it between trees. And there's a tree there and a tree here and everything cut down like we do here in the States about that long to go into a grade or something. Then they stack them up like that in between two trees. And they know how to stack wood. I mean when they stack wood they stack it. It's just as beautiful as, you know, anything. And so we start up this hill and the hill is so sharp—even if someone shoots at us ... you hear guys, "Gurgle, Gurgle." Throwing the bottle away, you know. They don't want to throw it away, but it's too much weight to carry along with everything else you've got.

And so we go up about a fourth of that way and then we started getting shot at—in our group at that point in time there were three or four of us that were I guess a little bit better athletes than some of the others and ... we didn't have any more sense we start up that hill, I thought the guys were behind me, but it turn out they wasn't. But we started up the hill ... the three of four of us. We thought we had our squads behind us and we started up the hill and I get about almost half way up and people are shooting and we're shooting and I'm looking down to the side down here and here's a German down here laying down, like from here maybe 150 yards away which is no distance with an M-1 rifle and he has the wood on this side and this side, but this side is wide open so it's like shooting fish in a barrel. And there's so much noise you can't yell at him. And everybody was shooting, "Crack, bing," things going through the trees and stuff like that, so I turn around and I shoot this guy, and I know that I've shot him. Don't know whether he's dead or alive, but I walked that 150 yards down that way. I ran down it. I slide down it. Get down there to him and he's alive, and that's when I asked him, "*Haben sie Pistole?*" And he said, "*Ja Wohl.*" And I asked him if he had a pistol, and he said yeah. He showed me where it was, and I took it away from him. I said, "*Nicht gut,*" and he said no "*Nicht gut*"—that means "not good"—where he was shot. And so ... I tried to get an American medic, you know. He knew what I was talking about. So I do yell for a medic to come up to him. To my knowledge he's not dead—and anyway I put the gun in my gas [bag] cover and started up the hill.

Well, by that time the squad has joined me and we start and we push the Germans off the top of the hill and as we're laying on top of the hill, we're looking out this way and we could see a bunch of 'em going across, maybe 800 yards away, maybe further going from a woods lot to a house way down there. So we thought well that's nothing for an M-1 rifle, we ought to be able to make it exciting for 'em so six, seven of us start shooting at 'em. We don't want to hit anybody but we come close enough to 'em where they start running to get to the house. And so we must have stirred up a nest at that time 'cause they threw shells in on us ... mortar shells on the top of that hill. So we got off the top of the hill, went back down just to—not quite far down as where that guy was shot, but stopped and went back up real quick. And ... that particular day where I was when I went back to the top of the hill there was a straight shoot for me. There was a wide open lot, big lot, and then there was a tree line and in this open lot was probably 150 yards, maybe 200 yards. And I was in a prone position. I had the rifle. There were three ... [Germans] and so I let the first one get all the way to the ... [end of the opening]. By that time the second one was over half the way and then the third one had left [the clearing] and he was about probably twenty-five feet or so away. And so everything was going like in slow motion to me, but they were running. They had their gray coats on like we did ... and they had their helmets on and they were carrying their rifles and so forth, and it was like shooting fish in a barrel. I mean, and I got all three of them, bang, bang, bang. This one here turned around and just as he turned around I got him head-on coming back into the area where the fence ... was. If I killed [the first] guy down here and I don't know that I did ... [maybe just] wounded him. ... [I went down the hill and saw the three Germans I had shot.]

And when we got on the next hill we got into a little town where there were about ten houses and everyone in that town spoke English fluently with an English accent, or a New Jersey accent, or a New York accent. And they began to tell you how they had gotten over there and they couldn't get back and this and that and so forth, you know. One guy tried to tell us about "Joisey, you know, and he tried to play it up a little bit, you know, he started using his "Joisey" and "Long Island, you know, something like that, you know, but we didn't pay any attention to them. The rule was at that time that Germans—we considered them Germans, you know, they could speak English and speak it fluently. They could not stay in the same building or in the same area that we were in if we took a house over. And one of these houses I took over for my platoon headquarters. And I met a guy there that now's about my age, about seventy-four years old, and his wife and two kids—and this was one of the times that I lost my cool, and perhaps it could've been worse though if I hadn't ... if I hadn't had the background that I had. I tried to tell him nicely that he had to go to the basement, and he began to tell me he couldn't, that was his house, and blah blah blah blah. And I said, "I'm telling you for the last time. You and your wife and the kids are going to the basement." And he began to open his mouth—oh, I forgot to tell you, I had two guys killed on that hill that I was telling you about. One of them was a close guy, we were ... I was real close with, and the other one was a pretty good friend, so I wasn't in any mood just from that ... and they were killed. I found out that one of them was killed and the other guy I thought was killed was just wounded, but I didn't see him anymore. But, in any event, he started giving me some lip again, and I hit him with the butt of my rifle ... underneath his chin and his teeth came out like popcorn. And I've been ashamed of that to my day, but I said, "I told you. I've had all I want!" And so the wife picks him up, and I pick him up, and we drag him downstairs, and the kids crying, and blah blah. I felt bad about that, but he wanted to argue with me and I wasn't in any mood to argue after what we'd been through that day. And

that was one of the times that I guess my breeding did let me down a little bit, but by the same token it could've been worse. So, I guess the good Lord forgave me for that particular day. Then a few days later we went down towards Stuttgart. We were on our way to Stuttgart when I got wounded.

WEED: What happened that day?

MCINTOSH: Well, on April 3rd, which is almost fifty-five years ago, we came into this town and we marched into it. The day before we'd been riding a tank and doing some fighting. And, as we went into this town you could see the Germans digging foxholes on top of the hill. And I'd say it was like from here to—I'm not sure where the stadium is from here. How far are we from the stadium?

GOINS: Nearly a quarter of a mile.

MCINTOSH: Okay. It was about a quarter of a mile away from us, maybe a little more than that. They were on a high hill. The hill ... [was steep]. And we could see 'em with glasses by going to the top of a house that we were staying in—we stayed in houses that night at Untergriesheim. We could go up to the top and look out the window with our glasses and we could see 'em clearly digging foxholes. And our officers told us at that time they were digging too many foxholes. By the time we attacked the next day they would've gone off that hill—like happens often, and they would've fallen back to ... [another town]. Well, that night—and I was acting kinda platoon leader that night, as an officer, we didn't have one at that time. You know, I was a buck sergeant.

GOINS: Had the officer been killed?

MCINTOSH: Yeah. Or wounded or something, I can't remember. He didn't last long, whatever it was. But he—I remember going to the briefing and it was really the first major briefing that I had gone to where there was only one or two noncoms. The rest of them were officers. So, some things they were talking about I didn't understand. But the point was that we were going to level that hillside the next day. A battery was coming in and they were going to have it blasted like from 4:00 to 6:00, or from 3:00 to 5:00, or something like that and when they started doing that then we would come out and go down the hill and get down to the water and then the engineers would have boats for us to get across. And we would be across the river and running up that hill before the sun came up. Well, the best plans of mice and men go astray. We started blasting that hillside and everything. We got down to the river and only about half the boats were there, and so instead of having the whole platoon over at one time we had—instead of having maybe three platoons over at one time there's only one platoon got over, and then another one came, and another one came. So instead of being up that hill while it was still dark, we were caught going up the hill in broad daylight.

Little did we know at that time that we were fighting the 17th Panzer Division, SS, and little did we know that we had fought them previously. I didn't know that until I read the books, and so forth. We had fought them on three or four other occasions. But they were like we were. They had so much manpower problem that there's always people coming in and out and they were

probably worse off than we were. But one SS man was worth about three or four Wehrmacht. I mean they fought tooth and toenail, and you knew that when you were fighting them that you were fighting a tougher level. And so we start up that hill, and we were in the diamond formation ... my platoon was in diamond formation and I had H Company to my left, the heavy weapons company, attached to our left on the left hand side, and then we had another platoon ... [to the left], and another platoon ... [to the right], and we were starting up the hill. And we started taking small arms fire real quick, heavy arms, more than we should had with all the shelling of that hillside. And, so, we got so far up the hill I gave the order to dig in—and Captain Pilla was still with us at that time and he had a choice of language. His mother and father had been killed by the Germans in Italy. The family came from the old country. And so he had no love for the Germans, and had we been the losers of this war, he might have well been on the list of people to look up because sometimes we would capture prisoners and he would interrogate them and that's about the last time you ever saw them. And he came up to me from a far distance away yelling, he had a high-pitched voice, "Sergeant, Sergeant, Sergeant, what the hell are you stopping for?" And he said another few choice words other than that. And I yelled back to him that I had to ... dig in, [and] that we were pinned down. And he said a few more choice words. He said, "If you can't lead 'em, I'll show you how." So, they let him get up and I told the guys to dig in and keep digging. And so he gets up and he runs two or three times, maybe fifteen, twenty yards, hits the ground—all he's got is a carbine and nothing on his back, you know, so he can run fast. He doesn't have anything with him. And they're already digging his CP back up there—we had already captured one or two Germans, and they're digging the CP back there for him. Digging a big hole in the ground. And so he comes up and they let him run two or three times. And then as he runs they put a bullet through his rifle stock and they hit his canteen and the water comes out of it just spewing out of his canteen. And that time he says, "Hey, assume what you're doing, Sergeant, dig in." (Laughter) He does a 180 [degree] turn and runs off that hill, you know. Yeah, he saw them—by the time he got up there he looked pretty darned scared.

And they began to start using machine guns and we were using machine guns, and we could see 'em up there on top of the hill, but we just didn't have good shots at 'em 'cause they were on the ... [top] of the hill. So they would come bang, bang, bang, and then run back off and unless we could throw mortar we couldn't hit 'em. Well, our own people couldn't throw mortars in because we were too close to the top of the hill ... I mean, like a quarter of the way up the hill and so they couldn't throw anything in. Well, I turn around—I'm laying flat on the ground, this guy's shooting at me. He's shot at me about twenty times. Dirt's kicking up all around me and I figured I'm low enough to the ground in a little area ... I thought maybe I'm low enough where he could shoot over me since he's kinda shooting that way and I turned this way to talk to Sergeant Rajecki—and his name's in the book too, I never saw him after that day—but he was in charge of the heavy weapons. And I'm telling him to move a little bit this way and a little bit that way. ... I'm laying there ... [flat when] a bullet comes in and hits me here in the shoulder ... hits me in the right shoulder right there, comes out right here, never hits that collar bone at all. And I do like they do in the movies when somebody gets shot. He turns around two or three times and falls out of a ten-story building. Well, I was laying flat and that thing set me up just in a standing position. Now I don't know how you—just the reflex, and I fell back down and my arm was numb. And I didn't know where I'd been hit or whether I'd been hit I just didn't know at that time. But I knew that something had happened that wasn't right. And Sergeant Rajecki

yelled at me and said, "Did you get hit?" And I said, "Yeah, I think I did." And he yelled, "Where?" And I said, "I don't have any idea." But I said, "My right arm is numb." And he said, "Kinda turn around and let me see it." So I kinda turned around, and he said, "Yeah, I can see a small bullet hole back there in your jacket." So by that time I'm beginning to look at it, and I see a little blood coming out down here, and then a little bit more blood, and so ... he yelled for a medic and a medic comes up to me and he puts a [bandage on]—this guy's still shooting at us, and by that time I have my jacket and my shirt off and—sulfa was the big thing then, sulfa powder it'd just been invented. I don't know, do they use sulfa on anything now?

GOINS: I don't think so.

MCINTOSH: But that was the miracle drug, like penicillin, and so he sprays that on and puts a bandage on both places. It makes a hole like that coming in, and it makes one like that coming out, big hole. And, as I said, it didn't hit that bone at all, it just ... it was a million dollar wound was what it was.

GOINS: Which is a reference to getting out of battle and ...

MCINTOSH: Yeah, yeah. I was going home and wouldn't have to go probably back into combat. But, of course, I didn't know that at that time. And Rajecki yelled at me and said, "Who you got in charge ...?" And I said, "Well, I yelled at so-and-so to take over." And he said, "Let me know when you get up and I'll start the machine gun." And we were like this and there's a little area that I could get over where they couldn't shoot at me, and so I said, "Well, I'm gettin' ready to go now." I said, "I'm leaving' my rifle and I'm taken' my little Italian ...pistol with me." So I leave my rifle there, which is—you don't do that, but I did. I didn't want to put it, I couldn't put it on ... I don't think, the shoulder I could put it on was over here, and I didn't want to carry it. And so ... I wanted to run is what I wanted to do. So I got up and started running and Rajecki started the machine gun, and I must have fainted, from fright and nothing else, I guess ... but it couldn't have been over five or ten seconds. When I woke up I was just like—everything was the same, but I hadn't gone over that little rise where I'd be safe. And so he said, "Let me shoot again." And so he shot his machine again and I got on the other side where I could walk down ... to the bottom of the hill and get out of there. To my knowledge I was the first man out of that company that was wounded that morning. Now there may have been others that I wasn't aware of it, but to my knowledge I was the first one. So, out of 264 men, or whatever our strength was at the time, I've been told that all but eight were either killed, captured or wounded.

And as I passed Captain Pilla—he's there with his Germans digging this foxhole, [He said], "Hey, Sergeant, where in hell you think you're going?" I said, "Well, I got hit in the shoulder, Captain so I'm going to the Battalion Aid Station, they've sent me back." [He said], "Go get it fixed and come on back." Well, of course, I never did see him anymore. I think he's still living in Louisiana. A lot of people used to go see him occasionally. I never did, but just because I didn't have ... I just haven't been down that way. But, he was a tough son-of-a-gun. And he was that way 'til he also got shot by something bigger than a thirty caliber. I don't know what it was, but it affected him in some ways, mentally and other things too. But, to my knowledge, he

was living until about two years ago. I think he died about two years ago, since we're talking about him.

But I went from there to the Battalion Aid Station and cleaned the wound. You know, some things you do and you don't know that you're doing it. The next morning—they didn't operate. They were going to do that in Paris, and the captain of the nurses came to me the next morning she said, "Sergeant, where did you get such a foul mouth?" And I didn't think that I used well bad language too extreme, surely not as bad as the rest of 'em. I mean I just didn't. I did occasionally say we don't give a damn, or hell, that's the sum of it, but you know, but she said, "Where did you have such a bad mouth?" And, of course, I was under the influence of the shots when they were cleaning the wound out, and I don't remember anything about it. I don't even remember them—I remember them giving me a shot that knocked me out, before that I hid my pistol and, you know, I remember having a gown on when I came back. But I don't remember anything about it. But, you know, that's how your subconscious, I guess, that—my grandmother who was 100 years old her worst words were "Shaw" and boy, when she got to be about ninety-two or three in a rest home, she would've made a sailor ashamed. (Laughter)

GOINS: It's not uncommon.

MCINTOSH: It's just ... I guess it happens.

GOINS: Is that where you lost the pistol?

MCINTOSH: Yes, that's where I lost the pistol, right there. I woke up the next morning. I reached over there for it and it was gone. And then I stayed there for two or three days and flew from there ... within about twenty-five miles of there. I went on a truck, a Red Cross truck with the cross on it, to an air field and flew into Paris, and then went to the 198th General Hospital, which is down in the Saint-Cloud area, and stayed there for four or five weeks. Stayed there a little bit longer than I normally would, the guy asked me if I wanted to be a rehab sergeant for a few weeks extra and, of course, who wouldn't want to stay in Paris? So I stayed in Paris a couple of extra weeks ... got to see the sights.

WEED: What did you think of Paris?

MCINTOSH: ... big city. I mean, when you can't speak the language ... it's tough. And I just knew the few areas, like where Saint-Cloud was, and Pig Alley downtown and the Champs-Élysées [Avenue des Champs-Élysées]—had the pictures taken at Champs-Élysées with me on it, you know, with a buddy, and so forth. It's a big town, and, of course, has a lot of history. It was real funny, I saw—I went to the Folies Bergère one night ... one afternoon and I met a guy from Nashville sitting two rows in front of me. I thought I recognized him. And so, even that far away, you meet people that you knew.

GOINS: He also had been wounded and was at the hospital when you ...

MCINTOSH: No, he was in Paris, and I don't know what he was there for I've forgotten it if I did know. His dad worked in National Life also, and he was a cashier. His dad was a cashier

in the district office there in Nashville. And his house during the war was an FBI house. They took the house and had a transmitter in there and undoubtedly there must have been some things going in that area, and they used that house as a listening post. I don't know for what distance, but right there on Leland Lane and Glendale.

----- END OF TAPE TWO, SIDE ONE -----

GOINS: So, we'll continue this interview with Mr. McIntosh, and you were talking about running into the gentleman in Paris from Nashville who also worked with National Life Insurance, and then your general feelings about Paris.

MCINTOSH: Paris is, again, the same feelings I had about France are very much like Germany, only one's clean and one's dirty. They didn't keep the streets clean. The people were not as clean and dressed as nice. I guess the people in Germany didn't have to take the pain and anguish, you know, that the French did for all those years. I can't explain it, and you talk to a hundred different veterans, and you'll probably find out ninety-nine will say the same thing. It's just two different countries. And yet Germany was the one that was fighting us and the French was pretty much our allies.

You know, it's funny about seeing people that you know wherever you go. This is after the war was over and I went back to my outfit from Paris, so it was kind of a continuation. I went back there, and they were in the process of [processing] everybody ... [by] points. You got one point for every year that you stayed in the service, and then you got five points for a Purple Heart, and you got five points for a Bronze Star, and I think maybe you got ten points or something or other for the Seniors Flying Cross, or other things above that. I'm not sure about that, but I know I had a Purple Heart and I had a Bronze Star. So I had ten points plus the time that I had been in. Well, I wasn't any place near ready to go home, and so while they were bringing the people in, new people in, and taking new people out like me and moving them to other divisions—they were bringing in ones that were older that were like thirty-six and thirty-four years old and had like 100 points, you know, and they were putting them with the 63rd Division, so when they went home all that old group would go, and probably only 20% of them were really 63rd Division.

Well, when I went back, ... they had a 63rd Division tennis tournament right there where we were at Bad Mergentheim. And so I entered the tournament, sore shoulder and all, and it wasn't much of a tournament. But I won the tournament, and the Colonel and I won the doubles. And that qualified us to go to Mannheim and play in the Seventh Army championships ... tennis championships. They have quite a complex there, I don't know, sixteen to twenty-four clay courts ... the real old clay courts. Nothing like the clay we call today, but these were like dirt courts, but they were clay. This would be how most of us learned, in most places, that or asphalt. While there, one of my good friends from Nashville was there. He had done the same thing with one of the divisions he was in, and he had qualified to play there, and his name was Leonard Stamps, and Leonard and I became close friends. We were already friends before and after we got back into Nashville we played doubles together for two or three years. And then when I started with Nashville Life as an agent myself, his house was on my area that I worked at, and the tennis courts were only about six blocks away. So, from the area that I worked in

Nashville—every day I wound up at the tennis courts from my agency. I ... [walked up to the] front doors (knocked on table several times) and sold insurance and collected money and all that kind of stuff. So I wound up every day at the tennis courts and he worked with the Corp of Engineers ... no TVA. He worked with the TVA. So he had a lot of free time and so a lot of times we would play every day from 11:30 to 1:00. There where the boss I knew wouldn't be looking for me. Then I'd take a shower at his place and then work. So, actually I played tennis while I was supposed to be having lunch.

GOINS: And you first met him in Paris ...

MCINTOSH: No, I met him first in Nashville. We were friends here. We didn't play any tournaments, but he was about ten or fifteen years older than I was. But, anyway, we became close friends and I wrote some insurance on him and his family, his wife and kids, and everything. So, I had some business with him. Anyway, here I was though, miles and miles away, and there was someone right from Nashville.

GOINS: There's more we want to know about the tennis, but I'm going to drop back a little bit when you were wounded. Do you know how your family was notified and what kind of correspondence did you have there?

MCINTOSH: The first letter I got from anybody was from Rufus Fort that I was mentioning [earlier]. Way back there, they wrote a policy on me when I was just about two or three months old. He was Adjutant General of Tennessee ... [later], which is more of a political thing than anything else. Anyway, his letter—Adjutant General of Tennessee, came to me before anything else from my mother and dad or my girl I was engaged to. It beat it almost by a week. But they ... [received a] telegram that I had been wounded and that I had gone to the 198th General Hospital in Paris, and the shoulder was wounded and I was recovering. Then I began to get letters from them a few weeks later. So after two or three weeks I began to get letters from them. It took them a little bit longer to get to me because by the time they'd go out to the outfit and then coming to Paris ...

GOINS: They caught up with you.

MCINTOSH: Yeah, they'd have to catch up with you.

GOINS: So you were wounded in the right shoulder. Are you right handed?

MCINTOSH: I'm right handed.

GOINS: So the recovery period was pretty quick and you ...

MCINTOSH: Well, it was, what I did ... I didn't hit any serves. I didn't hit any hard serves and I hit very few overheads. And, when I went to Mannheim and played there I got to the quarter finals ... there were 128 players and I got to the top eight, and that qualified me to go to Wimbledon. In my last match, though, I forgot and I went back and hit the overhead and I did hurt my shoulder. But that didn't keep me from going. They let me go and I got to play at

Wimbledon, but I didn't get to play, I don't think, to my potential because I just ... it was hurting. And it hurt me 'til I came back. I played basketball for [three] years at Lipscomb after I got back, and someone could slap me on the shoulder, or tell me a joke, or I could be playing basketball, and if someone hit me [on my shoulder], my legs would get weak. But it finally [got better]—while I'd be serving, and I'd serve only about half or three quarters speed, and I'd wear a sweater all the time to get real hot and wet. It might be 100 out there, but before I started to serve I wanted to be completely hot and wet. So, yeah, it bothered me. It bothered me three or four years after I got back, but if I had to make my living using my right shoulder I could've been disabled. But, as it was, that's not the way I had to make my living, so—I don't have any trouble with it now.

WEED: From your letter, you said that you were transferred back to the 63rd and most of them were sent back.

MCINTOSH: Yeah ...

WEED: ... And then you were transferred to the 100th?

MCINTOSH: 100th Division of Stuttgart.

WEED: What was that?

MCINTOSH: The 100th Division was exactly like the 63rd, but the 63rd was going home and the 100th still wasn't quite ready to go. So they sent some people down there to just, to fill up the division again 'til they got ready to go home. I went to a Cannon Company and I was the only infantryman there that knew how to drill. My deal every day was to have revelry in the morning, everybody count off to be sure everyone was there, and then take the guys out in the woods, about a mile out, and lay in the shade for an hour or so. You had officers with us most of the time. The ones that didn't want to go to school—that's what we did with the rest of them. Took them out there. Sometimes we did close order drill, but most of the time we didn't do anything. And then about 11:30 we'd march back, eat lunch, and then the guys were on their own. So I didn't have to have retreat. So Degerlogh was like Farragut is here, outside of Stuttgart. It was kind of a little—it also had a sports plaza with like sixteen or twenty beautiful courts. And the pro there was named Zahn and his daughter—he was about seventy-four years old and his daughter Troda was generally known in the free world as a tennis player, and she was about eighteen. And so, I got to play tennis with her every day while I was there.

And then the same problem happened. They [the 100th Division] went home and I still didn't have enough points. And so then they shipped me to the 3rd Division which is the—which probably is the patch that you've probably seen more often than any other—the blue and white patch. ... If I've got a picture of it in here or not ... don't think I've got a picture of it, but it's the blue and white patch. I again went to a cannon company outfit and ... I was pulling guard with the Russians by Jeep. They were on one side of the ... [fence] and we were on the other side, and we rode a Jeep up every night and checked them out, and they checked us out, and it got cold and miserable. And I did my first—as a sergeant I took my first flag down. I'd never done that before—in a twenty-mile gale, trying to take it down with two other guys, you know,

and fold it. You talk about [being scared]—I say that's worse than combat, trying to get that flag angled with couple of officers were watching you. (Laughter) They only taught me how to do it five minutes before I went out there. But learn how to do that flag like this, you know, and—I thought, well man, I need to get out of this joint.

WEED: What's the date of this ... when you're pulling guard with the Russians?

MCINTOSH: That was in about October, September, October, November of '45.

WEED: What was the reaction or the treatment that you received from the Germans at that point, from the everyday German soldier?

MCINTOSH: Oh, every day Germans, they had known that they had gotten beaten. They knew we were the conquerors and you seldom ever got any argument. However, when I was in Stuttgart there were three or four Americans with their throats cut down there. And they made them put a time limit on us at night, where we ... [were to be in barracks by] 12:00. Quick story ... that German girl I was telling you about. Her sisters taught English at the University of Stuttgart, and so they asked me to come over one night to the house to talk to the mother and father and talk to the sister. So I get some canned goods and some fruit, and so forth, and I take it over there. I'm able to ride a streetcar about half the way, and the other way you have to walk through the dark. In Germany trees are like this, so you can't see the road from the air, and it's pitch dark. You can't see your hand in front of your face. I go by the tennis courts, go down the hill, and right down at the bottom of the hill is their house. Well, I take them the canned goods, I talk to the girl, talk to the sister, talk to the mother and father. I take a luger with me. I don't carry a rifle or anything like that. I carry a luger with me, and I take the luger off while I'm there and lay it down and take my jacket off—I have an Ike jacket on and I'm dressed up a little bit ... laid it down there. When I was ready to leave and put it back in, put my jacket on, and then started back. But it was too late to ride a streetcar—you've got to walk that way. So, it's about a mile and a half or two miles, and that's not much for somebody that's in the infantry. I walk up that hill and I go by the tennis courts and I walk about another quarter of a mile down the way and I think I hear something behind me. This is right after those three guys had been killed ... [in Stuttgart]. And also I'm playing tennis with this girl—this girl that we were playing doubles with, Troda Zahn—her boyfriend is one of the guys on the other side, so I don't know whether he's jealous or not, you know, whether I'm down there seeing her and seeing the family. So anyway, I'm thinking all kinds of things. I stop and I hear someone still walking.

So I walk a little bit faster, and whoever's behind me walks a little bit faster. So I get down into the corner, and [as] I round the corner, and here comes a jeep after 10:30 at night. And I can't get caught at 10:30 at night a mile and a half away ... from where I live. So I come back and I get in the bushes right over here. This guy comes in behind me, and he comes and he sees [the jeep], and he jumps back into me. He didn't get far enough out there where they saw him. And he jumps back, and he jumps right back into me. By that time I'd already gotten my pistol out and the jeep just passes on. I said, "*Verstehen Sie das Pistole?*" He said, "*Ja wohl, mein Herr.*" And I said, "*Schnell!*"—that means go fast, run. And so he starts running that way and I start running this way, and I don't stop running 'til I get to where I was living. So I jog about a mile and a half before I stop. I don't know whether he's out to get me that night, or whether it was

that boyfriend of hers, or whether it was someone that just said, "Boy, is it going to be easy pickins or what?" That was after the war. (Laughter)

But normally speaking to them—for example, we did a lot of deer hunting over there and you could give the woman next door, the Frau next door a bar of soap, a package of cigarettes, and you could have the best feed you ever wanted. A ... [carton] of cigarettes was worth about \$300 I went to Berlin, and that's what a package of cigarettes was worth when I went to Berlin. And from there I went to play on the 3rd Division basketball team. I got tired of pulling guard with Russians and see if I could get permission to try out. Guy says, "Well, if you don't want to get promoted." And I said, "Well, I'm goin' home. I don't care about getting promoted." [He said], "Well, you won't make the team, you're too small." And I said, "Well, I'll try it." I'd already played four or five years of ball ... and I did. I made it. Out of fifteen guys I was about number eight or nine and most of the guys that were ahead of me were officers and they were all older. Two played for St. John's. One played for Oregon State, and one played for ... Santa Clara. One played for Missouri. These were all officers. They were all older. Learned what a "give and go" was, didn't know what a "give and go" was at that time. So, you learned a lot of basketball.

GOINS: In your contact with the Russians, did you gain a sense of what it must have been like for them in the war, or did you really have enough contact to ...

MCINTOSH: I didn't have that much contact with them, but as much as I've read—I've probably read 200 or 300 books on World War II history. And some of the books I've enjoyed reading more were Russian books written by Russian writers from platoon level or company level, and the pain and anguish they went through in that snow, I mean, I read a book, it was called *The Forgotten Soldier*, and I don't remember who wrote it, but it was so bad and so cold for so long, the only way that they could warm their hands was to urinate. They'd urinate on their hands. The hands were cracked because it was so cold. They couldn't keep warm enough. Now I tell you, when someone does that you know it has gotta be miserable. And, where they had crossed lakes, they were just frozen, you know. Most of it was that when they were fighting the Germans and neither one of them liked each other, and so, if you ever ... [get caught] your dead

GOINS: Most of your contact, then, was just in the guard?

MCINTOSH: Yeah.

GOINS: You mentioned several times not taking prisoners. That was common, as far as your knowledge ...

MCINTOSH: No, that was the exception rather than the rule.

GOINS: To take a prisoner ...

MCINTOSH: Yeah. We took a lot of prisoners. I don't know whether that he ever killed anyone. All I know is a lot went to him and never came back. Now, you know, I'm not around.

I'm maybe a quarter of a mile away when he gets through, so I can't say that he did, but I think that he might have. But, I don't know that.

GOINS: And that sentiment was still there this late in the conflict ... in '45 even? You were still—had you begun to sort of change towards that?

MCINTOSH: Yeah. Everyone kinda mellowed. 'Cause we all thought we were going to the South Pacific. I mean, when it was over there [Germany], I mean, that's the reason we thought that we would be going to the South Pacific. They said we're just going to jump into one frying pan into another. And we all felt, most of us felt the same way, at least I did, strongly. What I knew about the South Pacific then—I didn't know much about it, but I know now I was in a gentleman's war compared to the South Pacific. The South Pacific was ... it had to be just hell every day. Everybody I've talked to. Most of them were Marines. In my day, I don't care how bad it was in the snow or the rain or the sleet or what we had to sleep on. It was nothing like the South Pacific, or Korea, or Vietnam. One of my wife's nephew was in Korea and the stories that he's told about there, just unbelievably cold. He was up around the [Chosin] reservoir when they had to come out of it. It's hard to believe people are like that, you know, Americans anyway.

WEED: You said that you were in Paris on V-E Day, and there was a celebration and everything was free. What was it like to be in London on V-J Day?

MCINTOSH: Well, I don't remember much. It was—the tennis tournament was going on at that time. I do know that the day after V-J day someone stole my pants which I had all my papers and my billfold. The officers all slept in one place, and the enlisted men slept in another. We all celebrated and went back to our individual rooms, we had individual rooms—couldn't lock the doors. And I woke up the next morning—I had taken my pants off that night. I woke up the next morning and the chair and pants were all gone. (Laughter) And luckily I had a guy who was about thirty-five years old from Texas, who was a major, he kind of adopted me and gave me money, and he said, as we left England and I had arrived in Germany, he said, "Just stick right next to me," and says, "Stay to my left." Of course, you would do that anyway with an officer. He said, "You won't have any problem." And he was a—what do you call Army professional ... the college, the university ...

WEED: West Point.

MCINTOSH: West Point. He was a West Pointer and he had an air about him that was a little bit different than the rest of 'em. (Laughter)

GOINS: Just to draw back and fill in a gap that I realize we didn't do. When you were awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart—is that right? When were you notified that you had received these?

MCINTOSH: Well, the Purple Heart was of course, not much problem to that, you know, I think I got it over here. The Bronze Star, I hate to say it but, it was more of an afterthought. When you—once got back to your outfit and you're with your own people that you knew real well and they said, "Sergeant, we need to get you home." I said, "Yeah!" [They said], "Well,

let's get your information. Let's write you up for a Bronze Star." And that's what they did. You know, they wrote up a true story, but if you had a list there of ten things that I did, that'd be number ten. But they had a tank involved. They had me directing some men, and making a tank retreat, and all that kind of stuff. That happened, but that wasn't the big ... that wasn't anything compared to it, but it was five points that I got. I hate to say it, but they did that to a lot of people. They got Bronze Stars, but it'd get him five points, and it might've gotten him home a month earlier, or two months earlier, maybe. I don't know. I had forty-nine when I left, forty-nine points, and ten of it was Bronze Star and the Purple Heart. I got hit one other time. I was digging a foxhole and I had my shirt off, had my long johns up to here, and a piece of shrapnel hit me like this on the arm, rather than ... [the side of the head], or if it had been like that it'd killed me. But it hit flat, and it was about as big as three fingers right there. And it was just hot, it was just like it'd come out of a fire. And I squeezed that ... like that trying to get blood out of it. And I thought I saw some blood one time, so I called the medic to come over and look at it. He said, "Sarge, you don't have any blood in there. I can't say you got blood there." (Laughter) I mean ... it was like a frog or someone hitting you there.

WEED: Well ... you came back in May of '47 ... May of '46. What did you do then?

MCINTOSH: I got married in June. Started school in August. Graduated in three years. That one year that I went in got me a little, a few hours. That one—we went by quarters then, so I got one quarter in, and the other quarter I guess I got written off. I don't remember. But I got married on July ... 18. (Laughter) My wife's birthday is on the 20th. And then I went to Lipscomb three years and went three summer schools, and graduated in three years.

WEED: And then you went to Nashville?

MCINTOSH: I went to Nashville.

GOINS: You did that on the G.I. Bill?

MCINTOSH: G.I. Bill. And that was a wonderful thing at that time. Since I was wounded ... I was at camp in Indiana ... Atterbury. I was at camp Atterbury, naked as a jaybird, and just had tests, short arms, and other things, and as we were leaving and the guy was matching names ... bare buttocks I guess with names. He said, "You McIntosh?" And I said "Yes, Sir."

And he said, "Don't call me sir. I'm just a sergeant." And I said, "Okay." And he said, "Who do you want to make power of attorney?" I said, "For what?" He said, "Well you got a through and through wound." [He said], "It's not going to get any better." He said, "You might be able to get some compensation for that." I said, "Well, will it keep me here any longer?" He said, "I oh no, oh no you'll leave at the same time." So ... I made the American Legion as my power of attorney. After I'd been home about two or three months they arranged it for me to go to a doctor and ... give the VA a report on it. And he gave me a report on it and they gave me a 30% disability. And, as I said, if I had to make my living with my shoulder I couldn't have done it. It bothered me for almost fifteen years after that. And has been bothering me, you know, since that time. And I'm still drawing compensation. I guess I—don't know if I should be ashamed of it

or not. But really I'm not. I felt that I kinda earned it a little bit. But it's real funny, it's grown from \$34.00 to \$289, tax free.

MCINTOSH'S GRANDSON: Where did some of that money go? (Laughter)

GOINS: Yes, we have Mr. McIntosh's grandson here with us who is attending UT.

MCINTOSH: But ... we ... but its come in handy a lot of times. I wish now I'd saved it over the years and put it in the stock market, but, you know, sometimes that kept, you know, my wife had to go to work to allow me to get through a year—GI Bill that just got you through. And I worked ... during the summer. I worked at a job and ... during basketball season we'd get through basketball practice, I'd referee basketball. And I'd do Phys-Ed and I got a place on campus which was just a barracks, like an army barracks. There were twenty people that got in the barracks ... twenty families, nineteen preachers and me. I was the only one that wasn't a preacher. (Laughter) And ... so, but that was a little tough. But anyway, I got my rent free, which was about \$40.00. I was getting \$34.00 from the government which is big bucks then. And they were paying that and my wife was working ... and she was working at the telephone company. And we saved money. Didn't have a car. And when I bought a car, I bought it in 1948 ... a Kaiser—you never heard of it, have you?

GOINS: It's a big adjustment then in coming back from having been with other grunts in the field and living with nineteen ministers in the barracks I guess ...

MCINTOSH: Well of the nineteen we were all married.

GOINS: ... Yeah okay.

MCINTOSH: We were all married. It's one of those things where you had one bedroom, had a little kitchen, a little living room, and a cement ... it was all cement typical barracks. And it had a bathroom and a shower, and you heated by coal and oil. You did have running water. But the walls were so thin, you know, you had intercourse and number one ... you could hear it. (Laughter)

GOINS: Part of what I was getting out here too, of course, is how big of an adjustment was it, to come back to ...

MCINTOSH: It was a lot of adjustment for me ... a lot of times I'd be out of town by myself maybe and ... my mind would be wandering and a car would backfire and I'd catch myself hitting the ground. I never did, but I'd catch myself doing like that, or crouching or something like that. I did have a hard time sleeping at night. And even today I don't sleep much more than four hours. Once you've slept in a foxhole with some guy and you sleep two on and two off, four hours is a luxury. There are some days I sleep five and six, but most of it's more like four and five hours even today, and I feel rested.

GOINS: You said you subsequently married after you came back. How much did you share with your wife and family about how hard it was—did they ask questions, did you sort of put it behind you and move on or

MCINTOSH: I don't think they were much interested ... didn't seem to be. Dad was in the war and that was it. I can't remember them ever asking me any questions and—I shared a few things with my wife, but again, she didn't want to hear about it either. And so, a lot of things have been welled up, you know, and I've been able to mention 'em, you know, here to you today, and to others, and so forth.

WEED: When you see movies today such as *Saving Private Ryan*—I don't know if you went and saw that or not ...

MCINTOSH: Three times

WEED: Three times. What are your thoughts about that?

MCINTOSH: That's about as realist ... is that a word, realist ...

GOINS: Realistic yeah.

MCINTOSH: ... that I ever saw. I mean it came as close to it as you can think about it. The tanks, the squad, the platoon—'cause I wasn't on D-Day, so I can't tell you how bad that was. That had to be hell. But once they got inland, those types of fire things, you know, I did go through the Siegfried Line and ... went to a special school to learn how to blow the thing up ... but luckily didn't have to. But ... then there's a story about that ... but they didn't ask about—I tell you what I really saw right after that was *The Thin Red Line*, and I tell you, I don't know, now that's going on the other side—did you see that?

GOINS: No sir.

MCINTOSH: *The Thin Red Line* is on now mostly on HBO and some of the movies ... but it's pretty—gosh, that's why I say I was in a gentlemen's war compared to that. That kinda makes you think whether you want to ever do anything like that again, or even start.

WEED: Do you ever talk to any other veterans you served with?

MCINTOSH: Beg pardon?

WEED: Do you ever talk to or see any of the other veterans that you served with? Since ...

MCINTOSH: Well ... this magazine that I bought today ... we get it once every month and I'll find in here peoples names that I was in service with. They'll write me or call me as the case might be. I think I brought a picture of one of the guys today, played basketball with. I don't remember him being in the division, but he was, but I don't remember if I knew ... him from basketball. And he called me. And we send pictures and we talked to each other a few times.

Got a guy that's supposed to be coming into town from Wisconsin this ... spring, sometime in the next maybe eight weeks. [He] said that he'd be going on his way down to Florida and that he would stop by. I guess I've only been to two meetings. When Marty and I went and she didn't enjoy, you know, she didn't know anybody. A lot of old people there, you know. (Laughter) And ... so she didn't know anybody and all old people do ... they all sit around and drink. And so that wasn't a big deal as far as Marty is concerned. But ... yeah, I hear from 'em. I've heard probably from a dozen or so.

GOINS: So then you were able to go back to Nashville and other than these contact with veterans over the years sporadically—pretty much returned to life as normal?

MCINTOSH: We had the division. The division came to Nashville one time. I was working for American General at that time, which is the old National Life—American General bought National Life, and the tall building there now that the state now owns next to the capital ... I was in charge—one of my areas in charge at that time was all the buildings that American General had all over the world, and we were able to put ... “Welcome 63rd Division” in the lights and we were able to do that on all four sides. So, we went that time ... and my wife had just had a mastectomy at that time and was having cancer and she didn't enjoy that time. I mean she ... the radiation just really, you know, it kinda tore her up. But we went to St. Louis once and Nashville.

GOINS: So I saw from this—your father, what was it, forty-three years he had spent with the same company?

MCINTOSH: Forty-seven.

GOINS: Forty-seven. And then you come back and you basically stayed with the same company and retired when?

MCINTOSH: I retired in 1990.

GOINS: Yeah. As what, vice president, I think ...

MCINTOSH: I was senior vice president right before that and they knocked out a whole level of management and knocked everybody down a notch, which was alright. But ... my mother had twenty-five years with National Life. She stayed with National Life and was also ... a secretary to him [Rufus Fort] I think all the time she was there. My son worked for him [at National Life] for a while, but ... that wasn't his cup of tea.

GOINS: You have two children, right? Linda and ...

MCINTOSH: And John.

GOINS: Okay then ... couple of other questions and finishing up. One was, that's on our list here is How do you think, not just your part, but the war itself ... America's involvement in

World War II in relation to the United States, how do you see that? Do you think that was good war, absolutely necessary, all that sort of thing ...

MCINTOSH: Oh yeah. There was never ... any doubt in my mind. I felt the right thing going in. I could not—I was dove shooting the day that ... Hitler marched into Poland, which was on a Saturday. It was September 1st. On September 1, 1939, I believe it was. My dad and I always hunted a lot and—this is the picture of the guy that’s coming to Nashville [showing picture]. See him pretty soon.

GOINS: These are some pictures of ...

MCINTOSH: Yeah ... I was telling him when we came in here this was a list of questions that someone had given me who’s son is a very smart young man, but he’s confined to a wheelchair with Spina Bifida. The mother’s a doctor and the father, her husband, is a lawyer. She must have drafted these questions and, as you read ‘em, I was wondering, you know, why she drafted some of those questions, you know. “How do you feel?” Not like you did, “about being in the war?” “About shooting people?” You know. It’s ... and how she words some of those questions there, you know. I thought it was kinda unusual.

GOINS: So you’ve done several interviews.

MCINTOSH: I’ve done three... I’ve done three. Two high school and one college. And I’m glad I had the opportunity to come up here and talk to ya’ll today and I hope in some way it’s helped.

GOINS: Indeed. Thank you very much. Anything else you want to share with us or do you have more questions David?

WEED: No I think I’m good. Thank you very much.

MCINTOSH: And if anything I can do after you get it typed up ... any clarifications just let me know.

GOINS: Thank you very much. We do appreciate it.

----- END OF INTERVIEW -----