

Audio and Video Recording Log

1. Name and address of collector or interviewer.

Name of Collector/Interviewer: **David Meyer (O'Shea) – son of Earl D. Meyer Co.H/379th Infantry/95th ID**

Address: **“Mardi Gras” 35 Harrington Sound Road, Hamilton Parish, CR 04 Bermuda**

Telephone: **(441)599-4826** Email: **osheadavid@sbcglobal.net**

Organization or Affiliation: **Veteran’s History Project; 95th Infantry Foundation**

2. Full name and birth date of the veteran or civilian being interviewed as it appears on the recording label and Biographical Data Form.

Name of Veteran/Civilian: **Jim Anderson** Birth Date: **October 22, 1924**
(deceased)

3. Recording format (please check)

VIDEO type: Betacam . VHS . 8mm . High-8 . Digital . AUDIO Reel .

Other: Audio **MP3 file**

If audio, is the cassette or reel recorded on both sides? **N/A**

type: 2 MP3 files. **18,399 KB (September 21, 2018) and 16,268 KB (September 22, 2018)**

Is item: **Copy**

4. Date of Recording: **September 21, 2018 & September 22, 2018**

Estimated length of recording (in minutes): **0:52:19 (September 21, 2018) and 0:34:41 (September 22, 2018)**

5. Location of recording: **September 21, 2018 - Board Room, Best Western Premier Hotel, Harrisburg, PA**

September 22, 2018 - Lobby, Best Western Premier Hotel, Harrisburg, PA

6. Corresponding materials (please check)

If so, please complete the Photograph Log and/or the Manuscript Data Sheet.

Have you included materials other than the recording? **Yes. Full transcription is included as print version as well as digital .pdf file (on same MP3 file as the recorded interview)**

7. Please summarize the topics discussed in the interview in their order of appearance on the recording.

Meter Reading Topics presented in order of discussion on recording or Minute Mark

(Continue on back or on additional sheets as needed.)

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Meter Reading Topics presented in order of discussion on recording or Minute Mark
Begin Track 1.

TR 1 0:00:00 Introduction. Interviewer: David Meyer, son of Earl D. Meyer, Co H/379th Infantry/95th ID.
Interviewee: Jim Anderson.

TR 1 0:01:12 – 0:05:14
Biographical Information.

TR 1 0:01:12 Jim Anderson was born on a farm in western Pennsylvania. The farm was established by his three times great-grandfather, who fought in the American Revolution. His three times great-grandfather brought his family – 5 children – and livestock to Butler County in 1789.

TR 1 0:02:15 Jim Anderson was delivered by grandmother's brother who was a physician.

TR 1 0:02:30 Receipt of a letter from his mother of the events of his birth date on his sixtieth birthday.

TR 1 0:03:00 First born on both sides of his family.

TR 1 0:03:27 Age today: Ninety-three years old.

TR 1 0:03:43 Branch of Service: Army. Drafted after one year at Swarthmore College. Attended Carnegie Tech (now Carnegie Mellon) after World War II. Received a commission after three years at Carnegie Tech and went to Korea for a year.

TR 1 0:04:30 "I met my wife on a blind date. Betsy, who I'm sure you remember. And 11 days later we were married, and honeymooned in Seattle. I went to Korea, she went back to Pittsburg for a year. And so it worked out. We had 65 nice years together. So – it wasn't a wasted date."

TR 1 0:05:15 World War II: ASTP – Army Specialized Training Program; Fort Benning; 87th Division; Fort Jackson, SC; Replacement

TR 1 0:06:07 Arrival in Europe, in Britain in September 1944. Spent one month in a town north of Liverpool. Crossed channel by landing ship (LST) to France, in Normandy. Crossing slowed by bad weather. Waited in France for one month "because Patton had to give up all his gasoline to support the British thing in Arnhem."

TR 1 0:07:21 Assigned to 95th Division on October 31, 1944. Age 19. 20th birthday in France.

TR 1 0:08:07 95th Division formed in 1942

TR 1 0:08:25 "lot of old-timers there" in the 95th Division.

TR 1 0:08:35 Received assignment as driver/bodyguard to a Liaison Officer. Metz.

TR 1 0:09:00 "We were in packages of two hundred enlisted men and five officers. So the package got up pretty close to the Front."

TR 1 0:09:59 Rifleman Replacement changed to Driver.

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- TR 1 0:10:00 – 0:11:21
Work as a Driver for Liaison Officers. Jeep. Metz. 90th Division. At and near the Front. 95th Division.
- TR 1 0:12:27 Where war became real. “Oh, every day.” Action in Saarlautern (now Saarlouis) when the Battle of the Bulge began on December 16th.
- TR 1 0:13:50 – 0:14:30
Driving Liaison Officer Van Fossan, “an old-timer”
- TR 1 0:14:47 – 0:15:34
Family history of men in military service. The son of his three times great-grandfather served in the War of 1812. The grandson of this three times great-grandfather died in Andersonville prison. Two uncles served as Captains in the National Guard in Pennsylvania in the 28th Division.
- TR 1 0:15:35 Invited in youth to spend two weeks in summer in Indiantown Gap in 1939 before the 95th.
- TR 1 0:16:26 Crossed the ocean on British troop ship Mariposa. Slept in hammocks.
- TR 1 0:18:09 – 0:19:25 Buzz bombs in England and Germany. Damage in London. Only thing standing was St. Paul’s Cathedral. V2 rockets. German jet fighters in Germany.
- TR 1 0:19:26 – 0:20:06
Crossed the Rhine. 377th Infantry attached to 2nd Armored Division as extra infantry.
- TR 1 0:20:14 Food. CK ration. British 52nd Division divided ration into five parts, instead of three, for tea. He often missed afternoon tea. Evening tea, too.
- TR 1 0:21:32 Driver vantage point. Two to three close calls. SaarLautern. Tracers.
- TR 1 0:23:29 Walk over mountain.
- TR 1 0:24:00 378th regimental headquarters.
- TR 1 0:25:40 Command car. Larger than a Jeep.
- TR 1 0:26:20 Drove officers to salt mine where German art was stored.
- TR 1 0:27:36 - 0:28:01
Back with 95th to Mississippi. Expecting Japan. “We got lucky when Truman dropped the bomb.”
- TR 1 0:28:02 Transferred from 95th Division to 2nd Division at Camp Swift for about three months before leaving service.
- TR 1 0:28:08 Korea, May 1951.

- TR 1 0:28:18 Carnegie Tech. ROTC commission. National Guard. 28th Division to Camp Atterbury (Indiana)
- TR 1 0:29:25 Volunteered for Korea. Father and father's friends helped get his commission.
- TR 1 0:30:07 "Then I met Betsy. That was the good thing that happened."
- TR 1 0:30:40 Punch Bowl, northeast near DMZ. 55 degrees below temperature.
- TR 1 0:32:10 No comparison between Korea and World War II.
- TR 1 0:32:20 "Grizzly work" looking for mines.
- TR 1 0:33:27 Coming home. World War II – moving on to Japan. Korea – no big deal. Arrived in San Francisco and on to Pittsburgh.
- TR 1 0:34:25 At airport homecoming, Jim and Betsy did not initially recognize each other.
- TR 1 0:35:09 Service in five branches: Infantry, Artillery, Engineers, Transportation Corps, Armored Cavalry
- TR 1 0:35:31 65th Battalion; 65th Engineers, Company A
- TR 1 0:36:04 379th
- TR 1 0:36:23 Camp Shelby
- TR 1 0:37:05 Promotion to G-5
- TR 1 0:37:25 Tech Sergeant National Guard
- TR 1 0:38:05 If Betsy was upset over Korea, she didn't show it. "I just didn't tell her everything that was going on, either, you know? No point in telling her I'm messing around with diffusing mines and that sort of thing."
- TR 1 0:38:20 Diffusing mines. Looking for wooden box mines. Anti-tank mines.
- TR 1 0:41:40 1962 – with National Guard. Time of Bay of Pigs in Cuba. Retired.
- TR 1 0:42:20 Still recommends military service. No more conscription. "Sorry my boys didn't have that experience, even the basic training part." "It would give a little different outlook on life."
- TR 1 0:43:00 Started a business in 1964. Children's (Sam, Susan, Joe, Tom) work and travels.
- TR 1 0:43:40 "I didn't do too badly."
- TR 1 0:44:25 "I'm still here."
- TR 1 0:44:30 1st Lieutenant – Korea. Captain – National Guard.

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- TR 1 0:44:41 Felt reverse discrimination (“quite an experience”) as the only white officer in an all black air battalion. “We got along, but it was there.”
- TR 1 0:46:05 Greatest adult challenge was for children to grow up right. They are respectable citizens. Family business. Children branch off and grow a piece of the business. Travel. Trips.
- TR 1 0:49:05 How did war change you? The war gave a better attitude for a lot of things.
- TR 1 0:49:42 Thanksgiving 1944. Metz. Had a good meal at the back of the Officer’s mess.
- TR 1 0:50:02 – 0:52:19
Saw General Patton almost every day on the highway. General Patton was no nonsense. General Patton’s Jeep had twin silver horns on the front and a sergeant with a thirty caliber machine gun in the back.

End of Track 1

Begin Track 2

- TR 2 0:00:00 Introduction. Interviewer: David Meyer, son of Earl D. Meyer, Co H/379th Infantry/95th ID. Interviewee: Jim Anderson.
- TR 2 0:00:33 – 0:17:47
Review of and follow up on a 2006 speech given by Jim Anderson
- TR 2 0:00:33 Division headquarters company. Being delivered to Division Headquarters by the mail clerk. First night in hayloft. Headquarters was in a barn.
- TR 2 0:03:00 Metz
- TR 2 0:03:12 Mouve Grande
- TR 2 0:03:36 MOS 345 truck driver light.
- TR 2 0:04:07 Driver test in a command car
- TR 2 0:04:34 106th Calvary
- TR 2 0:05:18 Swarthmore College
- TR 2 0:05:29 Meeting platoon mates. New guy.
- TR 2 0:05:46 PFC (Private First Class)
- TR 2 0:06:14 PFC
- TR 2 0:06:38 PFC

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TR 2 0:06:44 87th Division

TR 2 0:07:07 Koenig. The last name of the person Jim replaced.

TR 2 0:07:40 Description of cat-eye headlights on the Jeep fender. They are not used to see road. Driving at night.

TR 2 0:09:00 General Patton did not permit tops (roofs) on Jeeps.

TR 2 0:09:35 Friendly fire.

TR 2 0:10:16 Worked as both Driver and Shotgun in Jeep.

TR 2 0:11:04 Metz

TR 2 0:11:06 Floating bridges.

TR 2 0:11:26 Moselle river flooded. Floating bridges washed out.

TR 2 0:11:53 Pont A Mouson

TR 2 0:13:11 Saar Division Headquarters

TR 2 0:13:27 Headquarters moved to Boulay Moselle after the capture

TR 2 0:13:57 British 52nd Division

TR 2 0:14:22 “Toast and jam ain’t very filling for a young twenty year old.”

TR 2 0:14:45 Sharing rum ration with some evening tea.

TR 2 0:15:32 Presented with Bronze Star

TR 2 0:15:48 Captain Van Fossan

TR 2 0:16:00 Citation for meritorious service. Only Bronze Star given in the platoon.

TR 2 0:16:23 General Twaddle. General Twaddle’s nephew was the other platoon replacement.

TR 2 0:16:48 The Bronze Star gave five extra points towards earlier separation.

TR 2 0:20:54 Asked to tell a story from World War II or any time never told before. Silence.

TR 2 0:21:08 “I’m not sure I can think of one.”

TR 2 0: 21:25 “I just didn’t see any point in it, maybe.”

TR 2 0:21:44 “You know, I’ve had a good life. Exceptionally good for that matter. But I just – a lot of things didn’t turn out like I thought they might, you know. I wasn’t expecting to be in the military as often as I was.”

TR 2 0:22:14 Indiantown Gap

TR 2 0:22:59 Worked up to Sergeant First Class.

TR 2 0:23:07 Carnegie Tech. Five year program. ROTC.

TR 2 0:23:41 Fort Belvoir. Engineer Basic Training.

TR 2 0:24:11 Employment with Pennsylvania Department of Highways

TR 2 0:24:59 Correction to September 21, 2018 interview. Sailed to Britain on Mauritania.

TR 2 0:25:07 Returned on Mariposa.

TR 2 0:25:29 Separation papers.

TR 2 0:25:33 Indiantown Gap

TR 2 0:25:38 Camp Swift, Texas

TR 2 0:26:27 Indiantown Gap

TR 2 0:26:38 Department of Highways

TR 2 0:26:47 National Guard

TR 2 0:27:07 112th Infantry in 28th Division

TR 2 0:27:14 recalled in 1950 for Korean War

TR 2 0:27:29 World War II. T-5. Corporal

TR 2 0:27:35 “Two stripes with a ‘T’ under them.”

TR 2 0:28:48 Homecoming with Betsy at airport.

TR 2 0:30:36 - TR 2 0:33:21
Family history. The Anderson grandparents were Swedish immigrants in the 1890’s.

TR 2 0:31:20 His father was the first born. He went to Grove City College.

TR 2 0:31:30 His father met his mother, a farm girl from western Pennsylvania.

TR 2 0:31:39 The family homestead was still there 15-20 years ago.

TR 2 0:31:48 His grandfather died.

TR 2 0:31:50 His grandmother moved to live with her son.

TR 2 0:31:56 The homesteaded land had oil leases.

TR 2 0:32:09 His mother received royalty checks for \$2 or \$3. “Thought she was in tall cotton, you know. That was big money in the thirties.”

TR 2 0:33:33 – 0:34:41
Conclusion. Recap.

TR 2 0:33:47 World War II. 95th Division. Transportation Platoon Division. Headquarters Company.

TR 2 0:33:59 Korea. 65th Engineers, Company A. 25th Division.

TR 2 0:34:25 Retired as Company Commander of a light helicopter maintenance company in the transportation corps.

End of Track 2.