

Mr. DeMartino

Date of Interview: Not Stated

Transcriber: Pamela A. Stipic

Transcription Date: July 7, 2007

MEYER O'SHEA: Do you remember where you were on, what is it, Pearl Harbor?

DEMARTINO: Yes, I was watching a football game. They still had minor league football game. And I ran all the way home when they announced it on the radio. And I was 15 at that time.

Q: Where were you living?

A: Valley Stream, New York.

Q: Valley Stream, New York. You were 15.

Did you know where Pearl Harbor was?

A: Oh, yeah, I know all about it because the army was in my blood even when I was a kid.

Q: Oh, so you knew all about it.

A: Then when I was 17, 17-and-a-half, I enlisted to the reserves but they wouldn't take me until I was 18. When I became 18, they took -- I had to go to Indiantown Gap.

Q: So you went straight from joining to Indiantown Gap.

A: I went to a basic training camp. I took my basic training with some of the sergeants and corporals in the

company.

Q: I heard about that. What was that like? Because you got quick basic training; didn't you?

A: Oh, yeah. And I still remember the training today.

Q: What was it like?

A: Oh, map reading and all the things that you... close-order drill and all that.

Q: Really? So you had to learn quickly.

A: Oh, yeah, and I never forgot any of that. In fact, the sergeant that was giving us our basic training had just gotten busted out in California, something he did out there, so he put us -- put him in charge of about 15 of us. And I joined the company there at Indiantown Gap.

2

Q: Indiantown Gap.

A: And after he got done training us, then he got his rank back, he got his platoon back. He was in the anti-tank platoon, I wound up in the -- he was -- I'm sorry -- he was in the A and P platoon, ammunition and pioneer; I wound up in the anti-tank platoon. In fact, I knew about the new guns before the platoon did.

Q: Oh, you did?

A: Because they trained us on those.

Q: Oh, no. That's great.

Let's see. You were 378th Headquarters Company Third. What does that mean, the Headquarters Company Third?

A: Third Battalion.

Q: Third Battalion of Headquarters Company.

And so -- but as Third Battalion of Headquarters, how does that work? You were anti-tank what?

A: What they did, there was three squads in the platoon. So when we got to Europe, then each one of the squads went to a different line company and the battalion, different rifle company. And we followed them in case any tanks came by or they needed us, then we were their -- supposedly their protectors.

And then after awhile, we -- then when we got pulled off the line around Metz and... there was a lot of things that happened; some things were funny, some things weren't funny.

Q: Tell me -- what's one of the funny things that you remember?

A: Well, when we on -- in the maneuvers in West Virginia, one of the trucks, we had to turn the trucks around and we had to take the guns off and it was in the middle of the night and you couldn't use any lights and there was a schoolhouse there and as the truck was backing up, he

3

knocked down one of the outdoor latrines that they had there. And all -- we all got a good kick out of that.

And another time in West Virginia, we had to put these guns, our guns out on a (?cliff?) and then we had a (?bip?)

like that, and then the truck stayed further in and we had to carry the ammunition for the guns, we never fired them but in case we had to.

Q: Sure.

A: And we pitched our tents, our pup tents -- this isn't that funny but we pitched our pup tents and we cut the branches off the pine trees to line the bottom for our sleeping bags and all that other stuff. And while it rained, we never thought about it and we went back to the tents and they were flooded. We couldn't even sleep in them.

Q: Awe.

A: We tried sleeping on the truck and then they chased us, the officers chased us off the trucks, so we couldn't go on the trucks. We're soaking wet and then decide to build a bonfire. And we built this bonfire and the officers yelled at us again because it was a tactical operation.

Q: Yes.

A: And then we met these two girls, they were going down the -- we were going down the hill, they were going up the hill. And we met them down at the bottom of the hill and we couldn't understand that, how they got down there before we did. And...

Q: So that's all basic -- how many of you were in your group of basic trainers?

A: There was about 15 of us. Took our basic training. All of them didn't get orders. Some of them they took out and sent them to different units because they weren't physically

4

fit. Now, I was only 18 at that time. And I didn't really have to go, I was the only son, I was 18. And I said I'll go with them because I'll go with somebody else eventually. So I stayed with them.

And the other thing that happened, when I first got to the company, first sergeant didn't believe I was 18. I had to send home for my birth certificate. After they saw the birth certificate, then they didn't bother me anymore.

And then the other thing is when you're taking this basic training, the corporal that was in charge of us told me to get a haircut. And I was in the chow -- I said okay. So I got in the chow line, I was the first one in the chow line, and he come walking by, he said you didn't get a haircut yet? I said no. They took me out of the chow line and marched me to the barber shop so I didn't get fed that day.

Q: Oh, no. Well, you know, you were 18. I would never have thought that.

A: That was the last time anybody ever told me to get a haircut.

Q: Yes.

Did you go -- what boat did you go over on?

A: We went over on The Mariposa.

Q: Different people have told me different --

A: There were two ships that took us over. West Point, which was the SS America, and then -- in fact, a few years ago, I was -- I'm in the VFW down on Long Island and we went to the Merchant Marine Academy for a -- they were giving out some New York state medals. We went into the museum there and there's a replica of the West Point. And it says USS America but it says also during war time, it was known as the America West Point. And that -- we went over on two

5

ships all by ourselves. Never went over on a convoy.

Q: What was the ride over for you?

A: That was the first time I was on a ship so it wasn't... we were the first ones that got on the ship. So we had a full field pack, a weapon, and a duffel bag and you're climbing up these small stairs and then down these small stairs. And we went up on the deck the first time. They switched people around. So we were up on the deck. And we slept up on the deck for the first couple days and then we went down in the hole a couple of days. And that was -- that wasn't so hot down there.

Q: That's what I heard, the hole wasn't.

A: Then when we got to Liverpool and everybody ran to the

one side of the ship and they yelled at everybody to move over to the other side of the ship because they were afraid they were going to tip it over.

Then we got our trains and then we went to -- I even to Wilsford in England and the house that we were in was over 500 years old. It was in the back of a bar. So we never had to worry about getting any beer because what happened is they restricted the company that one night, nobody could go out. We didn't have to worry about it because we were right into the back of the saloon and got all the beer we wanted.

Q: How many of you were staying in that house?

A: Well, our whole platoon stayed there.

Q: The whole platoon.

A: Was staying there and then when we moved to -- went to France, it was about 90 degree plus at that time and we left in July and then we stayed a month in England and then we moved on over.

Q: When you were in -- what did the beach look like when you got --

6

A: Well, the beach was mostly -- pretty well cleared when we got there. Then they had -- what they had us doing is clearing some head rolls and looking for anything we could find and we hit an apple orchard and there was a bunch of green apples there. And naturally I had to eat them and

then I wound up with a stomachache.

Q: Oh, no.

A: So I went to the dispensary. Doctor asked me what happened and I told him. He started laughing. They gave me a (?fizzic?) and that took care of the stomachache.

Then from there they put us on 40 and 8s which is the train and then they took us up to Mt. Metz and we held the position there on Metz and we relieved the Fifth Division.

Q: Somebody told me the 40 and 8s, that you couldn't sit?

A: No, it was either for 40 men or eight horses. And they put 40 men in them cars, you could just about have enough room in them cars. You couldn't do much of anything. You just about was able to lay out and go to sleep.

And then --

Q: So you get to the outskirts of Metz?

A: We got to the outskirts of Metz but before we got there on the train -- I'm going in jerks and drips.

Q: That's great.

A: -- and what happened is they told us we were going to go through Paris. So they had everybody shave because they wanted us to look clean. So we all shaved, cold water and all this other stuff, and we waiting to go through Paris.

Q: Yeah.

A: And next day we found out we went through Paris. They went through at night and we didn't even know about it.

Q: Oh, no.

A: So when we got there, got out, outside of Metz and

7

relieved the Fifth Division, then we went into a holding position and they put us out in the woods somewhere and we had to dig some dugouts to sleep in. We had the 57th. And I wound up being the odd man in the squad. Of course the driver stayed back at the battalion with the truck. So I used to pull the first trip to the bar.

Q: Yeah.

A: And so I used to get the squad leader and the assistant squad leader to relieve me. So they both smoked cigarettes. And I used to wake them up, all you hear is coughing and spitting because they had cigarette coughs and in the middle of the night, you're supposed to be quiet.

Then when we jumped off, when they did the attack on Metz, and then our squad got caught at a cross roads and what happened is you're not supposed to be parked at a cross road because the Germans had the cross roads zeroed in and every once in awhile they drew some shells in it.

So we were sitting there for about an hour and we decided to open up the sea rations and have lunch. Just as we sat down to start eating, they drew some shells in on us.

Q: Holy cow.

A: So we lost three men in our squad that day. And then we

got back to the woods where the rest of the platoon was and there was one guy laying on the ground and he's covering his head with leaves, trying -- as protection.

Q: Leaves.

A: We didn't know what else to put over him. I was pretty well shook up myself, me and this other guy got caught on the other side of the cross roads and a shell lit up right next to us. We ran like anything to get out of there.

Q: Sure.

A: And... after that everything started going -- after

8

while you didn't worry about it.

Q: Yeah.

A: You got used to it.

And then one time we were furriving, before they got to Metz, we were furriving supplies across the Moselle River and they slept on the boats and we got across, no problem. Got back, next thing I know, I was in the water. Somehow or another I got thrown out of the paddle boat there and I got soaking wet that night.

Q: No. When you were that wet, how did -- did you --

A: You just dried off.

Q: Just slept and waited until -- just tired enough that you just slept?

A: Many a times when you're sleeping out in the field and

you wake up in the morning, you're all covered with frost and everything else. This was the beginning of winter. You rolled up your sleeping bag, threw it onto the truck, off we went because we had to follow the line companies. Some nights you didn't get no sleep at all, you just kept on going. At that time they had the Germans on the run. They wanted to keep them on the run.

One time we stopped in this one house and there was no place else -- there was no place to sleep, there was -- there was a baby crib there. I crawled into that and went to sleep.

Q: Did you?

A: Because I was the shortest one in the company. And I just crawled in and went to sleep in there.

Q: That's smart.

A: None of the... then we took Metz. And we stayed in the Hotel Royal and we took Metz. In fact, I still have the key to the room at home.

9

Q: You do. Philippe lives in Metz.

This gentleman, when they took Metz, he stayed in the Hotel Royal in Metz.

A: And I have the key to the room.

Q: He still has the key to the room.

A: And after that, we just kept on going, went into the

Saar and all that other stuff.

[Interview interrupted by third person.]

Q: So you went -- did you go to Saarlautern and Fraulautern?

A: Yeah, we -- we were in a holding position in there with a pill box right across the way from us. And every morning they would shell it. The only thing they would knock off is the snow or the frost, they never put a dent in it. Then they pulled us back and that was just before the Battle of the Bulge and then they sent us back up and at one time I believe the 95th was holding the whole Third Army front at that time because they moved everybody up to the Battle of the Bulge.

Q: That's what I heard.

A: Then from there we went up to the Ninth Army, up in the Royal parking. Then we finished up there. And then we came home and we came back on the same ship we went over on.

Q: The Mariposa.

A: The Mariposa.

Q: Was it easier coming back?

A: It was easier coming back. But then when -- some of the guys had scratched their names on the bulkheads and when you saw the names, wasn't that happy that some of them didn't come back.

Q: Yeah.

A: We lost two people in our platoon.

10

Q: From the cross --

A: In our squad that we had lost during the whole thing. There were a few wounded I think. I think we had one or two killed.

Q: What was the name of the people? Do you remember?

A: One was Peenar (ph). He was our driver. And I forget who the other one was at this time.

Q: God bless them.

A: And then, you know, we came home, we went to... Camp Shelby before they broke up the division. And from there, I went to Camp Atterbury and I got discharged from Camp Atterbury in Indiana.

Q: Did you?

A: So -- because I had low points so I got transferred out of --

Q: Oh, sure. Low points.

Now, did you -- but you had trained a little on a tank destroyer, did you say? I mean, you had said you learned, when you were back in Indiantown Gap, you learned some of the new weapons.

A: Right. Well, they trained us on every weapon that the infantry had.

Q: Did you ever have to use any of them?

A: We used the .57 one time going across the Moselle. The colonel come down and said to fire three rounds into Metz, that's what we did, that was the only time we really fired them. And what happened is you have to dig the trails in and we dug the trail in on one side, put the other side against a brick wall. After we got done firing it, wanted to put the trails back together again, we had bent the trail and we couldn't get it back together again.

Q: Oh, no.

11

A: Then another time, up in the Royal pocket, we were out -- went past the infantry. The guy that was in charge of our platoon, they give him the map and they just kept on going. And we got into this town, there's a whole bunch of white flags hanging down and then all the sudden, the infantry came through.

Q: Holy cow.

A: Another time we got strafed and just before we got strafed, we had taken all these classes about the German planes and nobody recognized until they flew over us and we never got a shot off at them. One guy had a -- had a .50 caliber on one of the trucks and fired about five rounds and it jammed so he left that and by that time, they were gone. That was the day that they had knocked down some Piper Cubs. The artillery Piper Cubs that day. They were really

low when they flew over. We didn't recognize until they... were over us. That was one of the more hairier things that we had.

When we were in Ensdorf, we were in this house and it was already bombed out. We got hit a couple more times when we were in it. We were down in the basement. A lot of the homes over there were like pill boxes, the walls were very thick. So what we did was knock some of the wall down and that was about all.

It was... when you look back sometimes, you start to laugh but it ain't -- when it's not really funny. You say, well, we made it back.

Q: You made it back.

How did the war change you?

A: Well, like I said, I was 18 when I went in. I got out when I was 20. And I don't think I really ever grew up, tell you the truth. Because I still joke around and like I

12

say, I was the youngest one in the company and in my VFW post, I'm the youngest one there too. All of them in their 80, high 80s and I'm just breaking 80 so... but I went back into the service in '48 and then I, instead of going back into the infantry, I decided to learn something, so I became a mechanic and I wound up in Tokyo.

Q: Did you?

A: And worked in Singapore as a mechanic and then when the Korean war broke out, we got sent over there.

Q: You got sent over there?

A: We were supposed to drive but we never drove anybody.

Q: What did you do over there?

A: It was a little bit worse than it was in Europe.

Q: That's what I heard.

A: Because there was nothing you could live off the land. Like in Europe, you could live off the land. And in Korea, there was nothing you could live on. One time we stopped on the railroad -- what happened is they told us you only going to be there 30 days and 13 months later, we went back to Tokyo. Then we went home.

And what happened is we were on this train and we stopped, everybody jumped out to get some water and I had about two canteen cups full of water and the third cup, I'm looking in the canteen cup and I see all these little maggots floating around and I thought, oh...

Q: Oh.

A: And I was... there was a time that I couldn't even buckle my boots because my legs were all eaten up from fleas and everything else. I used to take the DDT and spray it on me and it didn't -- still didn't kill them. You could still feel them.

Q: Was it just the country --

A: It was just plain dirty, you know, it was very dirty over there.

Q: That's interesting. Like a lot of trash or...

A: Just the people. The way the people -- you know, it was their way of living, they weren't as sanitary as we were.

Q: Okay.

A: They used... the fertilizer was human waste and they grew carrots about like that and watermelon that were bigger than what you'd get here but you weren't supposed to eat it, which we didn't eat it.

Q: That's what I heard.

A: It was a lot different. And like I say, when we went over in the summertime, we were a unit by ourselves, and when wintertime come, we had no winter clothing because we couldn't get any. We used to go down to the black market to buy long underwear to wear. And some guys used to wear two uniforms trying to keep warm.

Q: Did you stay in barracks or tents or where?

A: No, we stayed in tents. We had these -- if you watched MASH, it was those type of tents. About a ten -- an eight to ten man tent at that time. And then we moved up, they broke the company up and I went one way and the other part of the company went a different way and we were rehabilitating the telephone lines is what we were doing.

Q: Okay.

A: Over there. And then I wound up driving for a colonel and I got up as far as Menyang, North Korea and at that time the Chinese came through and we had to get the heck out of there too.

Q: Holy cow.

A: So in the beginning when they had the Pusan Perimeter we didn't know whether we were staying or going and while I was

14

in Tokyo, I met a lot of guys from the 95th that had re-enlisted into the army and they were in the First Cab and some were in the Second Division. But I never seen them after that so... I don't know if -- how many of them were killed or captured in the Korean objective. And then when I came home, I got stationed up at West Point and I wound up being an instructor up there and I never instructed anybody in my life.

Q: What did you instruct?

A: Combat engineer equipment. That was on the truck. And we used to get the third year cadets and we used to get the first year cadets in the summertime. We trained them in the... on all the engineer equipment that the combat engineers had. It was only about a 15-minute class but they were the best students I ever taught because they couldn't say a word. Because if they harassed you, you turned them

into their tack officer and then they got punished so they didn't --

Q: Did you ever have to turn anyone in?

A: No, they were all pretty good guys.

Q: And how long did you stay there?

A: I stayed there a year-and-a-half. Actually I enlisted for three years in '48 and I didn't get out until '53. I got extended by Truman and then I got -- took a one year extension on my own. And had all the intentions of staying but then my father got sick so I had to go out because we had a family business, had to go back home and --

Q: What was your business?

A: A mom and pop grocery store.

Q: Where was it?

A: In Queens Village, New York.

Q: Queens Village is where?

15

A: It's in Queens.

Q: I know. I drove a taxi there for seven-and-a-half years. What street?

A: Right on Springfield Boulevard. Springfield Boulevard and Jamaica Avenue.

Q: That's way out.

A: I got out and then I went into the reserves at that time because I knew I was going to go back eventually.

Q: Yeah.

A: So I stayed in the reserves about four years. I told my mother I had had it, I have to go back. So I went back in, I went down to Fort Bragg and wound up going through an NCO academy after being out of the army for four years and this was an infantry training thing for -- the only way they were... to go to OCS or get a permanent ranking, I had to go to that. And I had to make a quota for this particular company so I was sent there. It was hard because I forgot all about the infantry at that time.

Q: Sure.

A: Then from there I went to Okinawa, stayed there for 18 months. Then I went back home. Then I re-enlist for Europe and I went there for six years then I got married while I was there and then I had my children, my two children were born in Munich. I wound up being an instructor there too so...

Q: When did you retire from it?

A: I retired in '70.

Q: In '70.

A: I had to retire. I didn't want to retire but my wife had got sick and I had already gone to Vietnam and I spent nine months there and she got sick and I had to go home. And the doctor recommended I stay home so -- because I had

to take care of the kids so...

Q: Was it a hard adjustment to come home again after...

A: No, nothing seemed to bother me. Nothing seemed to -- I seemed to adjust to everything. Right now on my VFW post, I'm the chaplain for four years. I just got elected as the corporation president. And everybody thinks I'm overworking myself. And I also work two days a week out at the VA hospital as a volunteer. So I just take it in stride and I don't feel any pressure. I feel more pressure at home than when I'm away from home.

Q: Sure. I understand.

What was your rank when you left World War II?

A: I got promoted -- when we got to Indiana, they were promoting everybody to keep them in. I got out as a buck sergeant.

Q: As a buck sergeant.

A: Then when I went back in the service, I had to go back in as a -- I think a PFC or something. Then when I got to Japan, I made corporal. Then when I got to Korea, then I made sergeant again. And then I got discharged as a sergeant. Then when I went into the reserve, I got to apply as master sergeant and then when I went on active duty, I can only go back as an E-5 so I had to drop three ranks for that. And I got two of them back before I retired. So I retired as an E-7 which is a sergeant first class.

Q: Okay.

A: Then right after -- I had gotten promoted for an E-8 but to take the E-8, there's a chance I would have to go back to Vietnam because I didn't finish the tour. Or whatever. And doctor said take your retirement and run. That's what I did. Then I lost that rank and thus the pay that went along with it. So I was kind of upset about that whole thing.

17

Q: Sure. Oh, sure.

A: That's a quick story about my...

Q: So would you advise military service for people now?

A: Oh, yes. I'm firmly... I like -- I feel they should bring the draft back for the simple fact some of these kids that come out of high school don't really know what they're going to do. And even if they go to college, they still don't know what they're doing. And I feel that two years in the military would be a good training for them and teach them a few things that...

Q: What they're doing. Sure.

A: If I could go back to the service, I would go back again.

Q: Yeah.

A: I'd love to go to Iraq, Afghanistan. And I know I can't make it but I can shuffle papers around.

Q: Sure.

A: I don't have to runaround but I just --

Q: Why do you think --

A: I miss it very much.

Q: I could tell.

Why do you think, you know, I mean, someone with all your experience, it would be -- is it just...

A: It's just imbedded into me. In fact, the first soldier I had ever saw was drunk and disorderly and everything else. And I was with my mother and I said when I go into the service, I'll never be like that. And I did it only once, I got drunk and that was the only one time I got drunk was in the service. I got high but I never got drunk any. I never...

Q: Yeah.

A: ... I never disgraced the uniform.

18

Q: Do you remember -- let's see.

Victory in Europe day, when Germany surrendered.

A: Oh, yeah. We were down -- well, that was right after Roosevelt had passed away and that was in April or May that that ended. Then they sent us to Camp Shelby and then when V-J Day came...

Q: When Roosevelt passed away, I'll talk to different people, did that mean a lot?

A: A lot of people took it a different way. A lot of

people were glad. A lot of people weren't glad.

Q: Yeah.

A: You know?

Q: How did you feel?

A: You can't satisfy everybody.

Q: No.

A: Those that have ingrown problems, don't want to let it go. That's why, you know, sometimes I get very upset about the political parties. I feel that people became -- become brainwashed into that particular party and they really don't know what they're voting for because they're told who to vote for. And that's wrong. As far as I'm concerned.

Q: I feel like the --

(Break in interview.)

A: -- high school alumni. In October I'll be the president. And I really don't like what they do in the high schools now at all. I was never a good student myself. But when I see some of the kids coming out and the disrespect that they have, I feel that there's something missing, whether it's in the family, whether it's in the school, somewhere along the line the kids today don't have the respect that we had, that we were taught.

Q: No. I don't know -- I did some substitute teaching in

Los Angeles, not that long, but, you know, first -- I knew

that their job was to lie to me. I thought, I know, I'm the substitute teacher but they would say... you know, you have like...

A: Yeah, you have a --

Q: ... a 10-year old just saying F-you, I think -- I had to stop the class. I said, now, what choice do you -- I'm an actor, I don't mind the word. I said I know the word. I said but the word means that I can't respect you. The word means that I have to send you downstairs. Do you want me to do that? All of a sudden, he's a kid. No. I said then don't say that word. What are you talking about?

I thought -- then one time, all the sudden there was a fight and I had to shove them apart and one kid went sliding across the floor and I said, oh, I'm sorry. And he says, that's okay, my daddy does worse than that every night. I thought, it's a whole...

A: I had respect for mine but... sometimes it didn't rub off but on my son it rubbed off on and he saw the respect for everything I do.

Q: Oh, good.

So if you had a chance, you'd go back tomorrow?

A: I'd go back tomorrow.

Q: What did you do after 1970?

A: After -- then I had to -- after I got retired, then I had to go to work. I worked in what they call E.J.

Korvette's, like a department store.

Q: Yeah, I remember E.J. Korvette.

A: And then... I also had taken the test for the post office. So I went there, worked there for about a month or two months. I was working starting at 10 o'clock at night going until 6 o'clock in the morning and the time I was

20

getting home, the kids were getting up to go to school and then she wanted to go shopping. I really wasn't getting any sleep. So I gave that up.

And what had happened -- well, before I retired, I went through an auto dealership to learn parts management.

Q: Yeah.

A: And I had gotten a call that they needed somebody in an air conditioning parts manager. So I wound up working in an air conditioning parts manager and I did that for... oh, about 20 years.

Q: Okay.

A: I did almost everything that was in there. They had no filing system, they had no way of setting up parts. I made up parts cards. I knew about it being in the service.

Q: Sure, being in the service.

A: I knew how to file, I made up files for them. And then this other friend of mine, that was my boss at that time, we were like in a re-build shop and we re-built compressors

from five ton up to hundred ton compressor. And -- commercial wise. And I got to work with him and I set up his parts department and his card file and his filing system because he didn't know how to file anything. We set up all that. And I worked for him for about ten years. And then when they started going to the computers and that was chasing me out.

Q: Yeah.

A: So one day I went home on Christmas vacation, I gave him the keys and I never went back. I was 62 at that time so I said that's enough. So he called me back and I used to work part time for him.

Q: Yeah.

A: I had enough responsibility.

21

Q: Now, so you volunteer at a veterans hospital now?

A: Yeah, at the North Point VA Hospital out at North Point. That's a big -- pretty big hospital.

Q: I have a friend who works in Los Angeles. Do you feel like the veterans --

A: I'm very upset with people in Washington, what they do to the veterans. It's really a sin, I know that they mean well but they don't really know what the whole picture is. That's what gets me upset.

Q: What would you like to say to them?

A: Lean off. Get off, get off our backs. Try to work with us and not work against us.

Q: You mean with all the red tape and paper?

A: You know, they make it so bad and not only, you know, a lot of the men, they'll blame the VA, when it's really not the VA's fault because they're only doing what they're told. And these people, when you, especially when you reject somebody, when you get -- his claim gets rejected and he wants to know why, you really can't give him an answer why it's rejected, they want us --

(End of disk interview.)