

Interview Log.

Veteran's Name: George Hauser
Interviewer: David (O'Shea)
Date of Interview: August 1st, 2008
Venue: Atrium of Holiday Inn French Quarter
Perrysville (Toledo), Ohio
Transcriber: David Meyer
Transcribed: May 23 – June 7, 2009
Log – July, 2025

- 00:00 Introduction. August 1, 2008 10:40 AM
Interviewer: D Meyerson of Earl D Meyer Co. H/379th IR/95th
ID Holiday Inn French Quarter, Toledo, Ohio
- 00:50 George Hauser Born in Vienna, Austria Dec 13, 1922
- 01:00 Early Life in Austria. Hitler's Anschluss takes over Austria.
Jews (like Mr. Hauser's family) know things will get bad.
- 02:15 On fleeing Austria. Uncle in Brooklyn gets affidavit of support
needed to come to USA. Quota system in USA means you have
to wait until they call your number.
- British embassy in Vienna gives temporary passport to go to
England. (Don't know who vouched for his family.) Left all
worldly possessions in Vienna.
- 3:48 What they were allowed to take to England. Ten German
Marks. One place setting of silver per person (had to turn in all
there jewelry)
- Travel in mid-1939. Mr. Hauser stays until Dec. 1939. Parents
stay through November, 1940.

- 05:19 In England, September 1st, 1939 when Germany invade Poland. Not a big surprise like Pearl Harbor.
- 06:34 December, 1939 American Visa number comes through. Moving to U.S. Talk of the unknown benefactor in England who guaranteed them and allowed them to go to England.
- 07:25 Where when you hear of Pearl Harbor attack?
In a cafeteria at Arizona State College in 1st year of college. A week before Mr. H's 19th b'day. week.
- 08:34 Summer 1943 Drafted into the Army Before that college deferment (1st year Arizona 2nd year Ohio State)

Sent to Ft. Benning, Ga. For basic and until the fall
- 09:01 Dec 1944 – March 1944. Sent to Army Specialized Training Program (ASTP) at Univ of Pittsburgh. Studied Elementary Engineering.
- 10:34 ASTP disbands (early 1944) shipped to Indiantown Gap, PA north of Harrisburg to the 95th Infantry.
- 11:23 Indiantown Gap. Old timers had gone through Louisiana Maneuvers, desert training, Camp Shelby and had been together long time

ASTP new kid on the block. But learned to do everything needed to be done. 25 mile hikes, etc.

to Camp Miles Standish, Mass – staging area for ship-out to Europe
- 13:38 Journey to Europe on ship USS West Point. Had been Holland American line.
- 14:15 On seasickness and chow line. Belly of ship stuffy. Glad to be on deck.

- 15:16 Arrival in England. Camp Barton Stacey Camp near Winchester
You found out when you are going some place – “two minutes notice” – pack your dufflebag – formation in 5 minutes
- 16:55 Crossing the English Channel and land in Normandy
Vague Memories of getting lost from his unit, pilfering peaches.
- 18:22 Advancing Through France in 40 and 8 trains.
- 19:33 Challenges in the Field.
Foxholes filling up from November cold rain. Putting in wooden crates the “projected this much above the water” and sleeping on those.
- 21:02 Combat: Attack up a hill firing at Germans, Germans firing back. Finds himself all alone going forward. Turned tail and ran fast to get back to his unit.
- 21:45 A week later injured near village of Woippy (France).
- 22:14 On Hearing Shells for the First Time 88s mortar shells and so forth
- 23:41 Can you tell me of a time you felt nervous or afraid?
Much of the time. Never knew what was coming.
- 24:16 Woippy. Early morning. Moved out..
Mortar or artillery Explosion behind to the left sends Mr. Hauser up in the air. Lands and toes of his left leg were by his ear.

Said to CO (named “Tiny” because he was big) “I’ve lost my leg.” Medics come quickly before Mr. Hauser “bleeds out.”

26:47 Hospitalization and Recovery

From aide station to field hospital, then to hospital in Paris, eventually to hospital in England. Until March of 1945

Mr. H tries to get records about injury and treatment. No avail

Shell fragment had gone through leg tearing skin blood vessels nerve bone. 14 bouts of surgery. Skin grafts, bone grafts, Close to amputation 3 times but Mr. H says no to it even though it would have shortened hospitalization. would have been a complicated prosthesis

32:19 Life in the Hospital. Pinochle. Reading. Day after day month after month.

Comes back to state on hospital ship in March, 1945 to New York. Then to hospital in Cambridge, Ohio for a month

32:26 then to Atlantic City. Army had taken over many hotels on the boardwalk transformed for hospitals, nurses' quarters, etc. Thomas M England General Hospital until April 1946 when boardwalk turned back to owners and Mr. Hauser transferred to

34:35 Valley Forge General Stays April 1946 to September, 1948

34:56 Daily Life at Valley Forge. Cycles of surgery, Bed rest. Wheelchairs Crutches.

35:21 Recreational Activities – nothing until you could use crutches then Red Cross takes to ball game, concert, summer theatre

36:40 Shows photos. Kate Smith giving autograph to Corporal George Hauser.

37:07 Photo of Mr. H watching the 1947 World Series at Yankee Stadium on new medium -Television. Holds nose in disdain for NY Yankees.

- 38:14 Show picture of himself wearing Military Ribbons for Purple Heart, Bronze Star, European Theatre ribbon, Good Conduct Medal. Combat rifleman.
- Photo from "The Forge" (Valley Forge Hospital Paper" on he and seven other "basking in the sun" and going to school in Collegeville.
"Ursinus" College
- Pushes to to be discharged by September '48 so can go back To college in the fall and not have to wait a year for courses
- 40:07 Returning to Ohio State Undergraduate in Chemistry.
- 40:38 Look at more photos. Choral Group in Atlantic City
- 41:35 In Army before wounded – what for relaxation?
- 42:35 Important People to Mr. Hauser in the service.
- 43:18 Saw Patton from a distance. On seeing Patton's granddaughter (Helen). Talked with Mrs. Hauser. Helen has home near Boston.
- Xs:s Mr Hauser following lead of 95th friend, Cy Schnurr, trying to get medal from France that is given toveterans who fought in France and had been awarded Purple Heart and Bronze Star. Calls France. Secretary blows hm off "Maybe waiting for me to die."
- 48:21 What did you feel toward the Germans
No great love. Lost 20, 30 family in the Holocaust.
- 48:34 Memory of father during early days of Nazis thinking restrictions on Jews would just "blow over."
Couldn't foresee the plan to annihilate groupd of people

- 50:38 Interrogating Prisoners because Mr. H spoke German.
- 51:33 How did the war change you?
On how one thing led to another. Immigration from Vienna. Injury leading to Valley Forge General where meets dietician who lived near Boston. Invited to see her, meets her sister and marries her
- 53:06 gives Boston address. Final rank Corporal Discharged September, 1948.
- 54:18 1st reunion was the 50th in 1999. Hadn't kept in touch. Didn't know the 95th Division Association existed. Wonders of there is a database to see how many of the 20,000 of the 95th (15000 to 16000 plus 4000 5000 replacements) are still alive. Guesses 20%
- 56:11 Would you recommend Military Service?
Service of some sort. Could be military or could be civilian at food pantry. In Austria, you can opt out of obligatory military service for other civilian service
- 58:51 Ken Burns' Favorite Question. Tell me a story you've never told anyone before.
- 01:00:37 Mr. Hauser on the Search Engine of Memory
- 01:02:06 Closing and farewell.
- 01:02:51 – Interview ends