

**Ralph Hedges audio log  
(with George Meimaris, Joe Januszkeiwicz in background)**

Narrator: Ralph Hedges (primarily)  
Interviewer: David Meyer (O'Shea)  
Date: August 2004  
Venue: Metz, France 2004 Anniversary of Liberation  
Victory Tour in back of a two ton truck through the city  
Transcriber: Carol Slezak  
Transcribed on: June 18, 2022  
Log compiled by: David O'Shea Meyer, July 2022

Ralph Hedges, Joe Januszkiewicz, George Meimaris ride with David Meyer in back of a two ton truck through the Victory Celebration in the streets of Metz. In some parts of the city the sidewalks are lined with French civilians of all ages hoping to catch a glimpse of the WWII veterans on this 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of the city. Veterans have gum and Hershey Bars that they sometimes give out of the back of the truck (covered with canvas) to the civilians.

For purposes of the 95<sup>th</sup> only portions of the recording that dealt with the war are included.

- 0:00 Hedges talks of coming across a US jeep that had been hit. Snow on ground covered. Metal detector goes off.
- 0:49 Found a hand with wedding ring on it. Sad.
- 4:00 Hedges talks of attempt to take a pill box on the Siegfried line. After Christmas time.
- 1:38 "A lot of the houses in town were pillboxes in disguise." His patrol comes upon a pillbox one night.  
Theory of how it should work and how it did work to capture.  
Beehive charge – 35 pounds of explosives with three legs – jam them in embrasure.
- 2:11 Mr. Hedges runs up with the beehive to the pillbox.
- 2:29 Hit by two bullets. Rolled into ditch played dead. Later carefully crawled in ditch. Forgot he had blasting caps in his pocket
- 3:35 ended up in "somebody's backyard." Got to the street.
- 4:07 Sirens interrupt.

- 4:15 Voice 2 (George Meimaris) Talks of making 20-pould “poles” to deliver explosives
- 4:38 Hedges continues to his story of the pillbox. Crawled from backyard to outpost. Gives password. Recognized. Had been called in as dead. Taken to medic. Medic couldn’t find anything wrong. Then discovered Hedge’s trench knife case torn up because German bullet had bounced off it.
- 5:50 Hedges gives company. Headquarters Company, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 378<sup>th</sup> IR. PFC
- 6:05 Taken to field hospital. Leg in cast. Trench knife stolen. Sent back to hospital in states where a veteran in from the South Pacific infected him with hepatitis. Stayed in hospital.
- 07:20 Only one month of active duty. January 1946 released. Title “Chaplain’s assistant.” Laughs
- 07:33 Began going to reunions in 1970. Lexington, Kentucky. Man in company started newsletter contacting. First reunion 40 guys and their spouses.

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08:16 Talks of hopes of owning jeep after war for \$100. Deal falls through.

End of recording 8:53.