

# Audio and Video Recording Log (Required)

## 1. Name and address of contributor or interviewer.

Name of Contributor/Interviewer: David E Meyer (aka O'Shea) son of Earl D Meyer Co H/379th IR/95th ID

Address: US Mailing 7095 Hollywood Blvd #840

City: Los Angeles

State: Ca

ZIP: 90028

Telephone: 001 (357) 97 760 448 (Cyprus)

Email: osheadavid@protonmail.com

Organization affiliation (if any): 95th Division Foundation; Mob Rule, Inc.

## 2. Name and birth date of the veteran being interviewed as it appears on the Biographical Data Form.

Name of Veteran: JOSEPH JANUSZKIEWICZ

Birth Date: 09/13/1922

## 3. Recording format (please check)

Video type

Audio type

Digital Video (MiniDV, DVCAM, DVPRO)

Cassette

DVD-R Video

CD-R

USB (thumb/flash) drive

USB (thumb/flash) drive

OTHER (identify): ORIGINAL ON TASCAM TRANSFERED TO CDS

## 4. Digital File type (please check)

WAV

MPEG2/MPG

MOV

MPEG4/MP4

OTHER (identify):

5. Estimated length of recording (in minutes): TRK 1 75 MIN; TR 2 51 MIN; TR 3 1 MIN; TOTAL 127 MIN

*Recordings must be at least 30 minutes in length and unedited*

6. Date of recording: 08/07/2010

7. Location of recording (City, State): CAMBRIDGE, MASS. - HYATT REGENCY CAMBRIDGE

8. Please log the topics discussed in the interview in sequence. You may estimate the minute marks. Providing this information ensures that key interview topics are readily identifiable and will greatly increase access to the collections for researchers (see next page).

Audio and Video Recording Log (Please print, complete and submit with the collection)

## **Joe Januszkiewicz audio log**

Narrator: Joe Januszkiewicz

Interviewer: David Meyer (O'Shea)

Date: August 7, 2010

Transcriber: Carol Slezak

Transcribed on: May 11, 2014

Log compiled by: Teresa Bergen, July 2022

### **Track 1**

- 00:00 preparing for interview, getting water
- 01:42 introduction. Recording at Hyatt Regency in Cambridge, Massachusetts
- 02:23 Januszkiewicz was born September 13, 1922 in New Castle, Pennsylvania; grew up in Ellwood City, Pennsylvania.
- 02:54 served with Cannon Company, 379. Volunteered to join the service in October of 1942
- 03:17 Januszkiewicz had just finished high school and got a job as a crank shaft grinder for airplane engines in Ellwood City; working 11 hours a day seven days a week
- 03:49 heard about Pearl Harbor attack on radio
- 04:45 parents were Samuel and Amelia; he was the youngest of four children
- 05:17 his two brothers went to war; one was drafted in 1940 before war started
- 05:51 Parents were from Poland, only spoke Polish at home; Januszkiewicz still speaks Polish, but his children didn't learn
- 06:42 his mother lived to be 97
- 07:10 joined Army with his friend Fred Homer after talking his parents into signing for him, since he was under nineteen
- 08:34 older brother Stanley played a quasi-parental role since he could read English and understand daily tasks of life more easily than parents
- 08:57 he wanted to join the Air Corps, but his brother said they'd only sign if he joined the chemical warfare service
- 09:38 was shipped to Fort Meade, Maryland, then to Camp Sibert, Alabama
- 09:45 Camp Sibert only had tents, no barracks; description of camp: latrine, tents, road

11:00 He was at Camp Sibert in October 1942

11:12 one of the other soldiers in his tent got in trouble because he refused to walk up the hill to the latrine, and would go right outside the tent; Januszkiewicz declined to rat him out when questioned by the First Sergeant

13:17 for Thanksgiving, soldiers given option of going to eat with local families

13:55 tore a ligament in his leg during physical training; got sent to heart ward in hospital

16:35 tested into ASTP program, but was in the hospital when people shipped out for that training

19:10 later sent on a bus to Auburn, Alabama to train with ASTP program at Auburn College

19:53 if he hadn't been called to ASTP, he would have shipped out to the Pacific with his company at Camp Sibert

20:20 at that time, he was with 93<sup>rd</sup> Chemical Composite Company, which dealt with germ warfare and chemical warfare; involved undergoing tear gas experiments

21:26 first gun training used fake wooden guns, then training on firing range with 1903 Springfield rifles, which were used as sniper rifles in World War II

23:35 spent a brief time at Auburn College, then sent to Penn State College, where they lived in fraternity houses

25:20 Air Corps, Navy V-12 program and women who were learning drafting and working at Curtiss-Wright factory were also at Penn State

25:54 curfews and fraternization rules while at Penn State

26:58 description of accommodations: six men in each room, bunks stacked three high

27:28 describes marching from fraternity row to main campus for classes in engineering

28:41 spent nine months at Penn State, from June of 1943 to March of 1944

30:00 most of his comrades have gotten too old or died off, so aren't at reunion

30:17 General Archer met a mutual acquaintance in a rest home recently, that guy was also in ASTP training and is at the reunion

31:23 to get into ASTP, you had to be a private, even if it meant relinquishing a higher rank; everybody at the same level

32:03 ASTP at Penn State was a tough program, only three out of the six in his group graduated; recollection of one guy who flunked out and returned to Air Corps

- 33:00 Manhattan Project was also training some people at Penn State; Januszkiewicz took exam to work on Manhattan Project but never heard back
- 33:35 Januszkiewicz also took merchant marine exam while at Penn State; he was accepted, but wasn't allowed to go because he was needed in his division
- 34:21 Tried to follow up on Manhattan Project test, but still no news
- 34:56 his first day at Indiantown Gap, he saw a group of guys returning from an infiltration course "muddy as all hell"
- 35:45 learning to throw a hand grenade while training in Boston so he could qualify to go overseas
- 37:13 new guys at Indiantown Gap got the worst jobs, such as cleaning out grease traps and pots and pans in kitchen; "And at the end of the day, I remember I had steel wool stuck in my hands. It hurt."
- 39:04 assigned to keep a furnace fire burning all night at Indiantown Gap; it went out
- 40:09 guard duty at Fort Meade, before he went to Camp Sibert
- 41:15 while on guard duty, could rest between shifts on a bed that was springs, no mattress, with "bare light bulbs staring you in the face;" still resents rooms with harsh overhead lighting
- 42:50 when he came back from war, he tried to forget everything about it
- 43:15 later, he started attending reunions and wanted to remember the other soldiers; got inspired to collect stories from the 95<sup>th</sup> Division after attending a high school reunion in Ellwood City
- 45:02 Meyer talks about how Januszkiewicz's book on the 95<sup>th</sup> Division inspired his own oral history project
- 47:52 cards were a popular pastime, but Januszkiewicz had an aversion to cards because he never enjoyed his father's buddies loudly playing pinochle; preferred reading
- 49:15 would tear out book pages and throw them away as he read to lighten load
- 49:57 homesick when he first joined up
- 50:25 during mountain training in West Virginia, he met his buddy Chet Stanko; first experience camping, learning to set up pup tent
- 51:42 another soldier threw a jagged can at him for saying "biscuit" instead of "hardtack;" he still bears the scar on his right leg
- 55:20 after West Virginia maneuvers, went to Myles Standish Camp in Massachusetts

55:38 hearing about D-Day while still in West Virginia, thought maybe they wouldn't be going to Europe after all

57:13 shipped out to Myles Standish in August 1944

57:34 went into Boston once. Tried to find a place to eat Boston baked beans; is still looking for them

58:30 a friend who was delayed getting shipped overseas due to a hernia

59:20 boarded the USS West Point for Europe; seasick and vomiting all the way across the Atlantic Ocean

01:01:42 was so sick he didn't notice if other people were vomiting, too

01:02:02 also got airsick; recounts later story of flying in Washington, DC; is pretty much over his airsickness now

01:03:39 landed in Liverpool, England; had hard time understanding their English

01:03:58 remembers being impressed by socialist propaganda he read

01:04:27 took train to Barton Stacey, which had straw mattresses and Italian POWs on kitchen duty; could hear warplanes overhead

01:05:31 visited town of Winchester once, remembers a cemetery there; visited village of Barton Stacey for chips

01:06:08 liked to stay at camp and read his philosophy books by Nietzsche and Schopenhauer

01:07:40 always carried a small bible; Januszkiewicz and Meyer recite 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm, which Januszkiewicz sometimes recited during wartime

01:09:45 learning to be a truck driver on the Red Ball Express, trying to keep up with other trucks in the convoy; "I was a horrible driver. But I caught up to the other trucks finally."

01:12:40 drove at night without headlights, just following small reflectors called cat eyes on the truck in front of them

01:14:02 after driving on Red Ball Express, he got on a crowded 40&8 boxcar to be shipped to the front lines; "At night, you're sleeping with your feet over other guys."

01:15:11 the train trip was long and slow

01:15:24 took over from Cannon Company 3 of the 5<sup>th</sup> Division on a hilly position; ran into a guy he knew from Ellwood City there; learned that a mutual friend had just been killed at Saint Lo

**End CD 1. Begin CD 2.**

- 00:00:00 explanation of cannons and howitzers; six cannons in his company
- 01:49 description of his job preparing shells and inserting them into cannons
- 02:36 getting his hand caught in a breechblock when the cannon was loaded with live ammunition
- 04:37 arriving by train and getting their assignments to join the 5<sup>th</sup> Division
- 05:28 story of 5<sup>th</sup> trying to take Metz and getting “pretty well slaughtered” at Fort Driant
- 06:22 joining the 5<sup>th</sup> and the 90<sup>th</sup> after the Fort Driant stalemate; soldiers extended from Metz to north of Thionville
- 06:55 originally the plan was for Januszkiewicz’s company to hold their position to psyche out Germans, but not to actually attack
- 07:16 describes fiasco of battalions knocking out bridge, getting stuck on other side of Moselle River
- 09:03 story of visiting what they thought was a deserted German village, only to be shelled by German soldiers: narrow escape
- 14:02 “Bedtime Charlie,” the German airplane that would fly over at night
- 14:27 came down with a high fever, sent to a tent hospital; snuck out and hitchhiked back to the 95<sup>th</sup> because he was afraid he’d be reassigned elsewhere
- 16:50 firing cannons from their position above Fort Driant or Jeanne d’Arc while being divebombed
- 18:03 movements of A and B companies around Jeanne d’Arc
- 19:03 staying in a beautiful chateau when they found out Metz had been taken; dead German popped up at bottom of stairs
- 20:00 doing guard duty with his buddy on an extremely dark night
- 20:35 a close call when their position was shelled just after they left
- 22:07 since leaders never told them where they were, he has no idea, except from what he gleaned from seeing road signs
- 22:31 a fellow soldier shot himself in the ankle to avoid fighting; “I mean, why would he do it? You’re going to be crippled the rest of his life. You’d better take your chances than to do something like that. It’s crazy.”

- 23:34 arriving at Felsberg at night, it was so cold they didn't even try to sleep, just walked back and forth trying to stay warm
- 24:20 road to Felsberg known for Germans shelling it; one soldier killed close to Januszkiewicz
- 25:00 he's traveled back to area, but doesn't recognize anything
- 25:12 trying to shoot a German airplane down with a machine gun, and not knowing it had to be double cocked to work; jumped in hole instead
- 26:24 almost got shot when he was riding around on a found bicycle, reminded him of "the lesson that I learned at the very beginning: Don't stick your neck out."
- 26:59 raiding a deserted home, finding a clean shirt since he could seldom bathe; almost getting shot on way out
- 28:07 spending a night in a chicken coop and waking up with lice; "We all got sprayed down with DDT or whatever." No bath
- 28:50 rarely shaved
- 29:10 trying to keep his single pair of socks dry
- 29:42 on front lines, slept in foxholes; getting stuck in a foxhole because it was so tight
- 30:45 he and his buddy Chet having to lay wire while Germans shooting
- 32:58 seeing a guy jump in the water to avoid shells
- 34:05 remembers seeing a bunch of truckloads of Germans driving by, but nobody else noticed so they didn't shoot them
- 35:05 another time, a colonel ignored Januszkiewicz' warning about a suspicious looking civilian—maybe a spy—then they were shelled a few minutes later
- 36:33 there should have been more training on how to handle situations like shady civilians popping up in odd places; no clear rules of engagement
- 37:17 a sergeant accidentally shot soldier Joel Dodd in the chest while examining a captured German automatic; Dodd survived, with bullet lodged near his spine
- 40:46 he and his buddies offered a three-day pass to Paris if they'd fire a bazooka on a German tank; no one accepted
- 42:30 his buddy Chet Stanko volunteered him for duties, which resulted in him almost getting blown up while guarding a bridge
- 44:07 trying to find time to read during war
- 44:40 remembers watching a Deanna Durbin movie in a house, not realizing they were being shelled

- 46:54        took a correspondence course in psychology from Penn State while a soldier in Europe
- 48:31        Januskiewicz has collected stories from other soldiers, but doesn't like to talk about his own experiences
- 49:20        Meyer talks about how Januskiewicz inspired him to collect stories of the 95<sup>th</sup>
- 50:52        end of CD2

**End CD 2. Begin CD 3.**

- 00:00        making notes for the interview
- 00:51        final rank was private first class
- 01:35        end of CD 3