

# 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/379<sup>th</sup> Infantry/95<sup>th</sup> ID

Address (at time of interview) 578 N. Gower Street

City Los Angeles State California ZIP 90004 - \_\_\_\_\_

Address (current) "Mardi Gras" 35 Harrington Sound Road, Hamilton Parish, CR 04 BDA

Telephone (current) (441)-599-4826 e-mail osheadavid@sbcglobal.net \_\_\_\_\_

Organization or Affiliation (if any): 95<sup>th</sup> Division Foundation Veterans History Project:  
American Legion Hollywood Post #46;

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

Name of Veteran/Civilian Jerome M. Schwartz Birth Date June 12, 1925

3. Recording format (please check)

AUDIO type: Original CD (Marantz CD recorder)  with a Digital – M-audio flash backup.  
For purposes of this submission. Two .mp3 files

4. Date of Recording : August 1<sup>st</sup> and 2nd, 2008

Estimated length of recording - 147 minutes = August 1<sup>st</sup> – August 2<sup>nd</sup> – 33 min  
Total length of interview – 180 minutes or 3 hrs

5. Location of recording: French Market Holiday Inn, Perrysburg (Toledo), Ohio

. Corresponding materials ( please check )

Have you included materials other than the recording? Yes  No  - Full Transcription

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

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Please see following summary and log  
(Continue on additional sheets as needed)

**Summary Explanation of VHP log attachments for JEROME M SCHWARTZ -**

*This interview was conducted at the 2008 reunion of the 95<sup>TH</sup> Infantry Division in Perrysville (Toledo), Ohio over two days - August 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2008. The recording was done on a Marantz CD recorder (3 CDs) with an M-Audio flash recorder as a backup.*

*A transcript was made of the entire interview and is included in the VHP packet and on a separate CD. The transcript was done by three transcribers – Lynn Hall, Paulina Indiana Laub, and finished by the interviewer – David Meyer (son of Earl D Meyer – Co.H/379<sup>th</sup>/95<sup>th</sup> Infantry.) Two people, Mr. Meyer and Steve Sheridan worked on the log.*

*Mr. Schwartz, a professor at Pace University, is a great observer and speaks with wonderful detail and humor about his time in the service – from his experiences with ASTP to his surprising enjoyment of Army food (“it was good to me -- my mother was a terrible cook”) to his experiences as a bazooka-man in combat, to his descriptions of the “noise of war.” Because of his eloquence, this log includes more detail than usual with parts of the transcript excerpted in entirety.*

*The interview is summarized here in log form with meter readings in one column and a summary of subjects covered in the second column. General headings (e.g. “Intro. Early life”) that precede a section of log entries are highlighted in blue. Sections that the interview wishes to point out are highlighted in yellow. Interviewer’s comments are bracketed and in italics.*

*The interview is given to the 95<sup>th</sup> Division Foundation as two files. The first was recorded on Aug 1, 2008 in two parts (the compact disk filled and a second was begun) which have been spliced spliced together to make a single- one hour and 47 minute track named “SchwartzJeromeFile1Aug12008”*

*The second file was recorded on the following night August 2, 2008, It is called “SchwartzJeromeFile2Aug22008.” It is 32:42 minutes long. The entire interview was 2 ½ hrs*

*Time code for “File1” is just listed with numbers (except at top of page where it will be listed “File1/number.” All time code in “File2” is listed as “File2/number”.*

**Total interview: approx. 2 hr 30 min**

Meter Reading  
or Minute Mark

Topics presented in order of discussion on recording

**File 1/0:00 – 06:23**

**Intro. Family. Early life. On hearing about Pearl Harbor attack. Joining the service.**

00:00

08/1/2008. Holiday Inn French Quarter, Toledo, Ohio.  
Bio information. Born in Manhattan. Grew up Crown Heights, Brooklyn. (3:17) Growing up. Father successful accountant. Had a road master. 4:04 – PS 210 Brooklyn. Experimental class grammar school Same kids from 1A to 6B. Two close friends today were in that class. High School – Boy’s High.  
Talk about Brooklyn and Lower East side then and now.

Meter Reading  
or Minute Mark

Topics presented in order of discussion on recording

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File 1/05:37

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[What were you doing when you heard about the Pearl Harbor attack.]

In a Chinese restaurant. Radio says PH attacked. We say, “What’s Pearl Harbor?” The waiter ecstatic – “Now you will be joining to help Chang Kai-shek.

**File 1/06:23 – 18:30**

**Life circumstances when joining the service?  
Join Army Specialized Training Program (ASTP): great description – purposes, requirements, what it did. Suckered. Basic at Infantry training school. ASTP disbanded. To to 95<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division at Indiantown Gap, PA. Treatment by old time veterans. IQ of 95<sup>th</sup> jumps. On initiative..**

6:23

[What was going on in your life when you joined the service?]

Enlisted before 18 because of the Army Specialized Training Program (ASTP).

Detailed explanation of ASTP (excerpted here):

“ There were a hundred thousand men in the ASTP at its height... two purposes: the first was, the colleges had lost all their men (no women went to college in those days, very few of course, and very few co-ed colleges), so when the men went off to war, a lot of colleges were in terrible trouble...

(and since) .. *nobody* went to college, a high school diploma was something of a rarity, so they had no officer material.. . And they decided to have this program to send soldiers (and sailors)...back to college to become officers.

07:32

Requirements:

“You had to have a high school diploma and take a three-hour test ... (which wasn’t very difficult – obviously, I passed it), and then if you had a high enough mark you were given a choice.

You could be a dentist, you could be a linguist, or you could be an engineer.” (AMA prevent doctors from being included. Nonsense)

I chose linguist. But gov’t wanted Russian, Chinese or Japanese, I had no interest so changed to engineer.

9:35:

“By the way, some rather well-known people, besides me, ha-ha, were in that program. Henry Kissinger. Bob Dole. Kurt Vonnegut. Johnny Carson was in the Navy equivalent.. “

Meter Reading  
or Minute Mark

Topics presented in order of discussion on recording

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- File1/10:04 First to basic – October, 1943 – Infantry School at Ft. Benning (Infantry School). Cadre were those who wanted to be infantry officers but didn't make it. We were going to be officer. They gave us a grueling basic ....Probably saved my life.
- 11:14 “When I got to the Infantry in the 95<sup>th</sup> “ I think I knew more about a rifle than my captain did.. wasn't an Infantry weapon that I didn't fire. How I became a bazooka man.”
- 11:33 Grueling 13 weeks basic. I was in Carnegie Then ASTP then program broken up and sent to the 95<sup>th</sup> in March, 1944 after only 6 weeks at Carnegie Tech. Went to Camp Indiantown Gap, PA.
- 12:30 Report to Indiantown Gap Pa. Early days as an 18 year old ASTPer with infantrymen who'd been together for over a year. Description of type of men put in infantry pre ASTP – “naughty.”
- 13:06 Ronald Reagan story. March 1944
- 15:09 ASTP young men arrive to the 95<sup>th</sup>. Raised the literacy rate of 95<sup>th</sup>
- Story of Sgt. Baker – not quite literate. Read letters from Sgt. Baker's wife to the Sergeant “a little embarrassing.” Not uncommon in those days run into people with low AGCT scores (Army General Classification Test equivalent of IQ today)
- 16:45 All ASTP men came in as privates. Thinks may have been a mistake because ASTPers were very young (19 yrs old was “old geezer,” well trained, and good soldiers.
- 17:36 On initiative. As bazooka-man had to learn on his own. We resented being peasants. Patton tells us we are “cannon fodder.”
- File 1 18:30 – 29:30** On Medals. October, 1944. XX Corps (Walker), 3<sup>rd</sup> Army (Patton). Being “blooded.” Story of Ms. Schwartz's purple heart. Story of Captain killing Germans on the Saarlautern bridge after we had captured it. Fraulautern.
- 18:30 The tale of the Purple Heart. 19:00 First time at the front. Oct. 1944 – XX Corp (Walker) 3<sup>rd</sup> Army (Patton) Everyone was inept – us and enemy (fortress troops). First batch of prisoners we took said they were Czechs.

Meter Reading  
or Minute Mark

Topics presented in order of discussion on recording

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File1/20:00

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On medals. In quiet sector, “being blooded.” Caught in a two-man fox hole during a mortar barrage (Oct. 1944).

On mortars: “The trouble with mortars is you don’t hear them until they explode – as opposed to artillery, which you can hear in the air.” Can’t duck a mortar shell. Tree bursts. “It’s horrific.”

21:02

(back to story) Shell explodes. Hit in leg – “streak of blood – two inches long.” Not painful. Didn’t want to be bothered.

Saw others (like Joe Panteya( were really hurt (holding his own broken jaw in his hand.)

22:48

Mr. S’s foxhole companion insists that he see the medic. Mr. S does. Mr. S doesn’t want purple heart, doesn’t ask for it but medic assumes he wants it and says, “You can’t have it.” Mr. S knows they’d have to notify his parents. “My mother would be hysterical.” (24:10) Captain says to Mr. S. “Sorry, you can’t get purple heart.” Mr. S says I don’t want it. Captain says, “You can’t have it. Besides if we gave it to you, a telegram would be sent to Mr. S mother and she’d get “hysterical.”

25:00

Story of 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 379<sup>th</sup> crossing Saar and then capturing bridge over Saar River in December. Two Germans killed. Unarmed German is bayoneted by a Gi.I. Official history of company says the Captian cut the throat of the men. No mention of enlisted man.

26: 15

Mr. S put in charge of bazooka team because he is the only survivor of the old bazooka team after Metz campaign. With raw recruits.

Watch road to Fraulautern. (German/France border). Gets wounded by shrapnel Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> (’44). 10 days in hospital. Capt. throws Purple gets Purple Heart anyway. Mr. S says “don’t notify my mother.” Next day Captain comes back, “I fixed it, We won’t sent the telegram to your mother.” Mr. S says, “I’ll take the Purple Heart.” Captain smiles. Sends telegram to Mr. S’s father instead.

**File 1 29:30 – 41:25**

***The Bulge through the Ruhr Pocket.***

***On strategic reserve during most of the Bulge. The movements of the 95<sup>th</sup> late ’44 into ’45. Sherman tank nickname “Ronson” (like the lighter.) Capturing 300 prisoners. On firing bazooka.***

Meter Reading  
or Minute Mark

Topics presented in order of discussion on recording

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File 1/29:30

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Returns to outfit about Dec 14<sup>th</sup>. Bulge starts 16<sup>th</sup>.

Pulled off bridgehead on Saar and put in strategic reserve.

30:08

To Liege “nowhere near the front” and stayed there most of the month. To Holland for a week, replacing 6<sup>th</sup> Scottish commandos then back to Liege. Then to the Rhine. Reached the bridge over the Rhine. Bridge was blown up with “our engineers on it.”

Transferred to a rifle squad. Person comes around asking if soldiers wanted a purple heart.

31:25

By time we got to the Ruhr, if you wanted a purple heart, all you had to do was ask for it. “There was a certain...disrespect is the only way I can put it, for medals” and why that disrespect was valid.

32:15

Point system put in effect. Each medal worth 5 points. “Should have gotten more medals (aka points).

32:45

After Bulge strategic reserve. Eben-Emael. (Where Germans split the Belgians from French at the Maginot line. Description of German battle – 16 Germans help capture 2000 men.)

34:15

Recap. Stationed in reserve and then tarded for the Rhine. The bridge we reached – the Germans blew up (with some our engineers on it). “I was nowhere near it.”

34:50

*[Were you in the Ruhr pocket?]*

Oh yes, the Ruhr pocket. “You never knew what was going to happen the next day..” Story of taking 300 prisoners and how it happened. On superiority of German weapons.

35:39

On firing a bazooka against a German tank. Only vulnerable in a few places. How the German tank was superior to the American.

On the German equivalent of bazooka – a shoulder weapon. A one-shot deal. Could knock out a Sherman tank.

37:10

In Bastogne, if you visit – most of the knocked out are Shermans with holes in the turret. We had nothing to put a hole in the German turret.

Nickname for Sherman - “Ronson” like the cigarette lighter. “Because if you hit the Sherman anywhere it would burst into flames.”

Meter Reading  
or Minute Mark

Topics presented in order of discussion on recording

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File1/38:25

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On time during the Ruhr campaign, we were supposed to have support of 10 tanks. We got four and they drove themselves into a ditch to protect themselves.

39:09

[*What was it like to fire a bazooka?*]

In order to load the rocket.. wire out of tube, wrap around end of bazooka. When you fired the tube, the wire would fly back and inevitably fly out and hit you in the mouth.

39:50

First thing you got rid of to show you were a veteran was your gas mask but kept the container (for Hershey bars or letters) and the goggles. Bazookamen kept the eye goggles. "Because when the wire flew back it might hit you in the eye. Experienced bazookaman had a black eye or something (from the wire).

40:45

Three men team. Only one fires it. One guy carries the tube. Other guys carry rockets. (Mr. S carries tube but would change off.)

**File1/41:25 - 51:55**

***On Commanding Officers: the C.O. who would kill German prisoners; the Regimental dentist. Exec officer. What did you do for relaxation? Profanity and smoking***

41:25

[*What did you think of your commanding officers?*]

The Commander (Captain) was an interesting guy. Just immigrated to U.S. Was going to be a cop. War started before he got to be. Gaelic scholar. Would take off shirt and fight with enlisted men. Enjoyed shooting prisoners. Thought it his duty.

42:38

Story of the bridge capture in Saarlautern.  
And then story of first fire fight.

At a turn in the road, baby carriage factory. A dozen Germans and 20 men from one of our platoons goes in. We win, take a lot of prisoners.

43:50

Lieut. in charge, Jim Hart, Texas schoolteacher, well-thought of and nice -- called the Capt. on walkie-talkie to see where to send prisoner. (Everyone could hear a walkie-talkie conversation) - "What should we do with them?" Capt. intimates shoot them. Lieut. Hart says" If you want me to shoot them, shoot them yourself."

Meter Reading  
or Minute Mark

Topics presented in order of discussion on recording

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File 1/44:40

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I was present when the Captain broke the gunstock on the head of the prisoner (killing him.)

We had captured farmhouse and missed a foxhole near the farmhouse. In this foxhole, German non-com in dress uniform, grenades ad pistol. Someone going out to take a leak, spotted him. German is captured and the Capt. was furious that this guy could have thrown a grenade at us so he killed him – out of sheer anger.

46:45

Regimental dentist during combat puts away his drill and becomes an aide man in the first aid station

After war, I looked him up. Harold Barsch (?). Became good friends. Got gossip from him. That's how I found out about the reunions.

When I stopped by often there were often visitors from the old outfit.

47:48

One time former executive officer Mr. Dumer visits Dumer canned by Capt. Leiden and transferred to C company. Dumer assumes Mr. S knew why and was cold to him.

49:35

*[What did you do for relaxation? Play Bridge? ]*

We did: bridge, crap games, poker.

Most men who played poker had no card sense. Drinking, smoking, cursing. Not used to this as an 18 year old. Learned to curse well in the army.

50:40

*[When you came back did you have to watch your language?]*

Oh yeah.. I still slip and use profanity. Now think it is more acceptable.

Didn't smoke until we got K rations and C rations. Because each meail had 4 cigarettes. Smoked until I had heart attack. (Talk about smoking)

**File 1 51:55 –1:01:25**

***On black market and cigarettes serving in the Army of Occupation. Robbing a German bank and the "worthless" marks. On the Browning Automatic Rifle (BAR). Shipping back to the U.S. (boat)***

51:55

On cigarettes.

After war ended truck pulls up filled with nothing but cigarettes. Driver announced we were entitled to a carton a week (as part of peacetime army) plus the cigarettes in our rations. We used the cigarette as black market barter

Meter Reading  
or Minute Mark

Topics presented in order of discussion on recording

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- File 1/52:40                      Guys in my squad robbed a German bank in the Ruhr Pocket.  
Nothing to do.  
Side discussion on cigarettes and D bars. Cigarettes better than money.
- 53:20                                Couldn't give civilians the D (chocolate) bar. Too rich for them.
- 53:45                                Back to the robbery We are in this town in Germany. My job for Sgt Baker is to protect gin warehouse.  
One of my squad – from Nevada - inveterate gambler – comes to me one day. "Let's rob a bank." Bank in town guarded by two little old men. One with shotgun (though German civilians were not supposed to have weapons)
- "We'll go in with the B.A.R. (Browning Automatic Rifle). "
- 54:55                                Army built around the BAR. Marvelous weapon but heavy.  
Bazooka was heavy for me. Rifle about 12 lb. BAR about 20 lbs.
- Not easy to carry. Infantry about the BAR. Each squad has one. So three BARs in a platoon – 9 in a rifle company.
- In Marines – last time I looked – 20 years ago – they had 3 BARs in a squad so 3 times as many weapons.
- 56:15                                Back to robbing the German bank. I say I'll be look out. Three or four go to the bank Two old geezers guarding were scared silly. They gave us duffle bag filled with Germany marks. Bring them back. Told they were worthless (we had scrip).
- 57:05                                We get them to Le Havre. Word gets around that blackmarketeers will trade perfume for cigarettes. I get perfume (Mrs. Schwartz still has her Chanell No 5) Black marketer – "Do you have anything else?"  
"Oh sure, German marks."  
"I'll give you ten cents a mark." But my friend (with the Marks) has to ship out before exchange. Has two duffel bags – one personal belongings, other the marks. Officer says, "Only one duffel bag allowed" so friend gives us all a handful of the marks and throws the rest in the ocean.
- 58:55                                While at sea, U.S gov't announced they will recognize the mark as ten cents per mark. I still had twenty dollars worth of marks I had the most. (Duffel in the ocean.)

Meter Reading  
or Minute Mark

Topics presented in order of discussion on recording

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File 1/59:18

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But my friend cleaned out the crew of the ship in a poker game.  
\$3,000.00.

59:45

*[Speaking of which – how was the boat ride across to Europe?]*

Boat ride to Europe was on the USS America. All right going.  
Came back on a troop ship and got sick. Didn't get on a ship for 40  
years. Disaster.

1:00:15

The room (coming back) we came into had three inches of what was  
for the most part – vomit. Stunk. Mal de mer. Inside of 24 hours  
almost every-body was sick to the point you couldn't get up. Lasted  
five days.

Never went on ship again until cruise ship until 50<sup>th</sup> wedding  
anniversary.

**File 1 1:01:25 – 1:07:21**

***On Food. Rumors when return to U.S. (Camp Shelby) on going  
to Japan and the truth. On who is most important to you during  
war?***

***Remember a time when you felt nervous or afraid?  
Wonderful description of the noise of combat.***

**1:01:20**

**On Food. "My mother was probably the world's worst cook. So I  
enjoyed army food. It was a step up."**

Towards end of war – competition among Mess Sgts. Because the  
army was going to consolidate and some would lose their jobs.  
So we got a chance to go from Company A's mess to Co. B's mess.  
(At Camp Shelby, Miss. Waiting to go to Japan)

Would make eggs anyway you liked it.

1:02:45

Rumors about Japan.

At Shelby we were told that Gen'l McArthur had asked for the 95<sup>th</sup>  
specifically to go to Japan. (Nonsense – we were in the second wave  
on the second island – wouldn't have seen action until March, 1946 –  
but we thought we were going to lead the charge ashore not knowing  
only the Marines did that.)

1:03:30

Roosevelt's death. Was in Germany. Didn't effect me particularly.  
Most were kinda sad. Father figure.

Meter Reading  
or Minute Mark

Topics presented in order of discussion on recording

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File 1/1:04:05

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*[Who was most important person to you in the war?]*

Don't think I can answer that question.

*[Most important people?]*

When I was in a rifle squad, it was the other members of the squad –  
You had to rely on them

“The idea “that you could rely on ‘x’ and not on ‘y’ was a very important thing.”

1:04:50

*[Can you recall a time you felt afraid?]*

All the time. Anyone how says different is crazy.  
Can't not be afraid.

1:05:05

“One thing they can't teach you in basic training is the noise –  
In basic, they may fire a few weapons at you - machine gun bullets  
over your head – (but) one machine gun.  
But on the front – the noise is endless – guns – rockets – rifles.  
In combat with the enemy right in front of you the noise is deafening.

*[Would you shout to communicate to friend?]*

Shouting, cursing. All sorts of stuff.  
To me what I remember about combat most is the noise

1:06:25

And when somebody gets hit, they yell for their mother. Nine times  
out of ten. Even if married. Ask for their mother. No idea why.

**File 1:07:30 – 1:10:05**

***Lucky charms. Close calls. Area around foxhole***

1:07:30

*[Carry a lucky charm?]* Oh. Yeah. A mezuzah. Around my neck.  
And prayed everyday (haven't don't that for a while.)  
Somehow came to believe that God would protect me because I was  
meant for better things. Talked myself into that. Really helps.

1:08:15

Once, walking along, the camouflage net on my helmet cut by a  
machine gun bullet. Walking along another soldier hears machine  
gun and saw bullet graze my helmet and my camouflage net falls  
down.

Meter Reading  
or Minute Mark

Topics presented in order of discussion on recording

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File 1/1:09:10

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[Asks about the the area around a foxhole.. was it less than agreeable?]

We were fairly careful about that. Whenever we could be.

There were things you had to do. But we all had little shovels. Went a “considerable distance away.” Area marked. Public latrine. You took your little shovel. And that’s where you went if you could.

**File 1 1:10:05 – 1:12:15**

**Recommend military service? Advantages of “being considered dirt.”**

**How did the war change you?**

**Reason I’m alive - those two days in 1944 (Dec 3/4<sup>th</sup>) when I went after a tank with a bazooka. (end of Aug 1, 2008 CD1) on to CD 2**

1:10:00

*[Would you recommend military service?]*

Yes. Important part of my character. “There’s a lot of good things you can get by being considered dirt” – Which is what we were. Cannon fodder if you prefer. On French Foreign Legion. Treated like scum. But attitude was “I’m the lowest thing in the world, so I will show them I’m the best.”

1:11:00

*[How did the war change you?]*

I gained weight. I did not have any psychological problem. Considered myself a good soldier. No interest in medals (but would like his second purple heart.)

1:11:45

**I think it’s accurate to say.. If I had to explain why I’m alive it was for one day – Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> (1944) ... when we crossed the Saar river and captured the first bridge across the Saar. After than.. it was anti-climactic. Everything after than..even 36 years of teaching.... Because I did what I was supposed to do..**

**I chased a tank with a bazooka.**

1:12:45

*End of first Marantz CD from Aug. 1, 2008 (1:12:45)*

*Continued on second CD. For purposes of this interview, the second CD has been pasted onto the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> so that all of August 1 2008 can be in one ..mp3*

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Meter Reading  
or Minute Mark

Topics presented in order of discussion on recording

**File 1/ 1:12:45 –1:18:03**

**(Beginning of August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008, CD2)**

**Story of trying to shoot the tank in Fraulautern.**

**Tries to shoot a German tanker. Misses. Leg shaking too much.**

1:12:45

[Was that the tank that you woke up the following morning and it was there.] Yes.

Up to night of Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> little contact with the enemy. 1:13:29 My bazooka team even slept through a counter attack. A column of German soldiers went right by us. We would have had an easy shot. We weren't awake.

1:13:49

Following morning when we woke, we saw a solitary tank going down the road. What actually happened. (Found out years later). There had been a column of tanks and infantry in Fraulautern. The German tank that we went to get was last of that column. (Stray).

This was the tank we tried to get but someone beat us to it.

1:15:15

Friends who are psychiatrists say I am in denial because I've had never had PTSD at all.

1:15:15

German in black uniform comes out of tank. (We were trained to believe only SS wore black) So I picked up my rifle intuitively and shot him. German ducks behind tank.

A Lieut. Asks me what I was shooting at. "A German came out of that tank." Didn't believe me. German came back. Lieut says "finish him off." I fire from 50 yards (I'm a good shot) seven rounds and I miss. "I was standing on a board and I heard a strange noise – *ba-dabadabada* – and it was my legs, shaking the board. I was obviously so upset subconsciously, I couldn't hit this guy at forty yards, and my leg was shaking – I was shaking to the point where you could hear the board rattling." 1:16:05

Felt bad about it. I embarrassed myself by not hitting him again.

In answer to question "How many people did you shoot?" I shot at four and they went down (doesn't prove anything) but I will say 'four.'

Meter Reading  
or Minute Mark

Topics presented in order of discussion on recording

**File 1/1:18:03 1:31:55**

**Words of wisdom. Anyone you want to remember? Incident with captured German soldier and C.O. Going to hospital. Overcoat story.**

- 1:18:03 *[Looking back, do you have any words of wisdom?]*  
“Yes, stay the hell out of the Infantry. Don’t be an enlisted man if you have to be in combat, be in charge of *something*. I think one of the reasons I was successful is that I was in charge of a three-man bazooka team, I was in charge of something!”
- 1:18:47 *[Do you have any friend, or anyone you want to remember?]*  
Mr. Schwartz was close to a man named Bill Cooper from I Co., who later became best man at his wedding
- 1:19:08 Tells story of trying to keep clean a magnificent overcoat he had gotten. Friend Bill Cooper wanted him to join him, but he refused to take shelter in a basement, that was “too filthy even for me.”
- 1:19:45 Story of hospital, carbine, overcoat. When Mr Sch. went to hospital- bandaged, hands and all – kept rifle because sharing the ambulance was a German prisoner.  
  
Back story – tank destroyer comes up to baby carriage factory TD hits a mine starts to burn. (Relates that “we had walked through a mine field but it had been rigged for tanks.”)
- 1:21:10 Most squad leaders run away from TD before it explodes. Jack LaCross who tries to retrieve high-grade army rations (“ten in one rations”) out of the burning TD.
- 1:22:30 Jack notices TD crew member with leg blown off. Skips rations and goes to report. Soldiers retrieve the wounded GI.
- 1:23:00 When TD blows up, we were at aide stations. Guys guarding prisoners went to see what happened. Prisoner 19 years old. lived in area. Heads out for home A G.I. shoots him in the cheek. Recaptured. Bandaged and put in the ambulance with me. A sergeant decides to kill him. American chaplain intervenes, gets story from the German kid-soldier – how he was from the neighborhood, etc.  
  
German kid kept saying “Alle soldaten Kamaraden” – we shouldn’t shoot him, “All soldiers are comrades.” American chaplain turns to Jerry, saying “He’s only 19!” And I said, “How old do you think I am?” The chaplain ignored me, of course.

Meter Reading  
or Minute Mark

Topics presented in order of discussion on recording

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File 1/1:26:00

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The first Sergeant of I Co. says to me, take your rifle with you and  
“if the this kid (*the German*) moves, shoot the bastard.”

1:26:38

Arrive at hospital with a rifle, and a prisoner and the poor guy who had leg blown off.

Treat me special. Get rid of my rifle, cartridge belt. Got a Hospital (regimental aid station) replaces Mr. Sch's uniform, but he refused to give up his combat boots, which were invaluable. Just got them after the Metz campaign.

Was given a carbine instead of an M1 at regimental HQ. Not as powerful as an M1 Garrand. But lighter and better fit for a man carrying a bazooka. Definition of carbine is a short rifle.

1:28:55

Gives interesting history of carbine in Civil War.

1:30:40

When Mr. Sch. returns to his platoon, his first sergeant takes the carbine away from him, saying he'd have to give a carbine to all his bazooka-men. Takes Mr. Sch's carbine and gives him an M-1

1:31:10

Sadly tells stories of Army stupidity. His new overcoat has camouflage buttons. Before that, coats had brass buttons. Joke made easy targets for snipers.

**File 1/1:31:55 – 1:34:15**

**Friendly fire. On promotions. Liberating a concentration camp.**

1:31:55

On friendly fire. Sometimes short rounds but often aiming at you. Describes how, through stupid neglect, C Company suffered a rocket attack by American P-47s towards the end of the war. Because of the signal paddles forgot to change the color and shape of signal paddles.

1:33:10

Went back to being a bazooka-man until February or March. Then was dumped in a rifle platoon and then a scout and eventually became a squad leader. “You get promoted to squad leader just by survival, not because you have more talent than the next guy, it's like, ‘Who's left?’”

1:33:41

On liberating a concentration camp. “It was full of Czechs – soldiers. Few civilians. Mostly Czech officers, Russians, Poles.” Enormous hill behind where bodies were buried. Germans put everybody to work, including American prisoners.

Meter Reading  
or Minute Mark

Topics presented in order of discussion on recording

**File 1/1:34:42 – 1:47:04**

**Anger toward Germans? G.I. booby-traps for Germans. The story of of the tank in Fraulautern recapped with new detail. Closing. End of August 1, 2008 recording session.**

1:34:42

*[Did you have any particular anger toward the Germans? (being Jewish)]*Mr. Schwartz answers, “Not for being Jewish... The only thing I decided was that I’d never be taken prisoner. But I felt as an American I had the right to kill these guys.

1:35:40

“And... one very mean thing our idiots did, when we were in Germany and we were moving from one town to another...” some G.I.s left hand grenades with the pin out - ready to go off – covered by upside down C-ration cans with grenade inside Booby traps.. Saw these left in at least 3 or 4 occasions. G.I.s knew German soldiers were not coming back, so most likely these would kill civilians.

1:37:08

Interviewer asks Ken Burns’ favorite question: ‘Tell me a story you’ve never told anyone before.]

1:38:00

Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> We had awakened. Seen the solitary tank story with greater details.

1:39:21

We came down in the morning. We saw a German tank 400 yards in front of us and behind us is a knocked out German tank from the night before.

(Story about how the first German tank was knocked out. Dispute over whether it was “knocked out” by a US 57 ml anti-tank gun or a Tank Destroyer – each claimed the knock-out. Mr. Sch sides with In front of German tank closer to bridge was “what was left” of a German non-com who had been leading the tank with a candle (from Pat Thorton.)

1:40:20

Now – ahead of Jerry is the still moving German tank. In an alley, Jerry sees an American tank destroyer hiding.

“If the Lieutenant in charge of this tank destroyer, moved it, 20 feet-30 feet he would have a clear shot at the tank. And I being a big-mouthed jerk said to him, ‘Lieutenant, why don’t you move your tank destroyer?’ and he in effect, told me where I could go. Which in retrospect was the correct position to take.

Meter Reading  
Minute Mark

Topics presented in order of discussion on recording

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File 1/ 1:40:54

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Because TDs were worse then Shermans. They didn't even have a turret and if the German tank sneezed at him he would be dead."

Lieut says to Jerry " If you are so anxious to get this tank, you go up to the baby carriage factory and get it. "

So Mr. Schwartz led his two raw recruits up to blast it with a bazooka. Has a great shot. And finds out that his bazooka crew forgot to bring the bazooka's rockets. (I don't tell this story too often.)

As Jerry runs back for the rockets but is running the wrong way. From roof of command post, his platoon leader, John Connelly, Capt. Marsh and says "Where are you going, soldier?" Jerry said, "I'm with the bazooka team with A company sir and I'm going to get more rockets."

"Oh A company, you are the guys who knocked out the tank." (from the night before – *a misassumption.*)

Not knowing of the screw-up, Connelly thought Mr. Schwartz was being gung-ho heroic going after another tank. It was only many years later at a reunion that Jerry told John Connelly the truth "John Connelly never believed that I did not knock out that tank, because I had been the hero" of that oft-told story.

He said he made a memo at that time that this soldier from "A" company had turned the tide. "No one ordered him to do what he did, go up to get another tank." Mr. Schwartz never could convince his friends that he wasn't a hero.

File 1/ 1:46:08

CLOSING: Day one interview 10:15 PM AUG 1, 2008. David Meyer son of Earl D Meyer Co. H.  
*Your company?* Co. A, 379<sup>th</sup>  
*[Final rank, sir?]* "Staff Sergeant. A CO. 379<sup>TH</sup>. But I joined the Air Force reserve 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant. Although the St. Louis office doesn't believe it.

Interviewer

*[And that's a fitting end. Thank you very much.] (My pleasure)*

**END OF "SchwartzJeromeFile1Aug12008.mp3" (Jerome M Schwartz - first day - August 1, 2008) 1:47:04**

Meter Reading  
or Minute Mark

Topics presented in order of discussion on recording

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**“SchwartzJeromeFile2Aug2nd2008.mp3” (Jerome M Schwartz – 2nd day - August 2, 2008)**  
**32:42**

*Mr. Schwartz drops by the recording table with a humorous set of stories about a fellow with whom he had shared a foxhole - Charlie Sussman.. (Russell Baker, the author, dedicated two books to this same Charlie Sussman.)*

**File 2/0:00 - 13:00**

**On foxhole buddy, Charlie Sussman. Good friend to Russell Baker (author). Great combat stories of “strange bedfellows”/combat buddies. What makes a good soldier.**

File 2/0:00

Mr. Schwartz talks of man he shared foxhole with. Charlie Sussman. Russell Baker (author) grew up with Mr. Sussman and dedicated a few books to him. Baker says Sussman converted him to the good things in life.

File2/1:15

To Mr. Schwartz , Charlie Sussman “was the world’s worst soldier. He had no business being in the Army. He never fired his weapon.”

File 2/1:30

Mr. Schwartz tells a great combat story. Very funny.

“Charlie and I were actually laying in a ditch with water and we didn’t dare put our heads up and Charlie crawls over to me in the middle of “Boom.. boom.. boom.. boom.” (and says) ‘What do you think of Henry James?’ Now you can’t make that up.

And you want to know what my reply was? “Charlie get the fuck away from me I’ll kill you.”

File 2/2:05

Everybody loved Charlie because he did whatever they asked him to do. Mr. Schwartz hated Charlie because inevitably they were put together, because they both spoke French. We were company translators (I had 3 year high school French, Charlie 2.)

File 2/3:20

But there were at least a half a dozen situations where Charlie almost got Jerry killed, although not intentionally.

Mr. Schwartz relays more absurd stories about Charlie Sussman. Hilarious – unless your life depended on him.”

Meter Reading  
or Minute Mark

Topics presented in order of discussion on recording

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File 2/4:00

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In basic, when we had to dig a foxhole lying down, Sussamn hit himself in the head with the pick and knocked himself out.

He would put his pack on upside down. And as he walked, he would leave a trail of things falling out of his pack. He put his boots on the wrong feet.

File 2/6:25

This drove Mr. Schwartz crazy for, “It is not immodest for me to Say that I was a good soldier, because I was.”

Charlie on the other hand was no Soldier. “Not that he ran away. Byt he wouldn’t shoot at anybody. And on occasion he really endangered my life.”

File 2/7:10

Mr. Schwartz offers a bitter funny reminiscence from a reunion.

“We fired mortars together, we fired anti-tank guns together. We then ended up in Company A together, we shared a fox hole.

Frequently I wound up working his radio... because we were part of Company Headquarters. When I first met him at the first reunion, It must have been in the 70’s.. And I said, ‘Charlie, you remember me. We shared a foxhole.’ Charlie says ‘To tell you the truth, I don’t.’ True story. Though later he remembered me.”

File 2/8:50

Mr. Schwartz relays his continued puzzlement at the paradox of Charlie Sussman and how others considered Mr. Sussman a good soldier.

“ ... what amazed me coming to the reunions was not only that he didn’t remember me, but everybody thought he was wonderful.”

“I remember talking to Max Steinbeck -- who was our 1<sup>st</sup> Sarge, he says ‘Now there’s Charlie Sussman... now there was a soldier.’ I said, ‘What’re you talking about.’ (He) says, ‘Now it you asked Charlie if there was a hole in the wall - no matter how many enemy soldiers were around – he went, he really did.’ And I wouldn’t go. If there were artillery coming in, I’d wait for the artillery to stop.”

“Stupid I wasn’t. I wasn’t there to commit suicide. But Charlie would go, sometimes I had to drag him back. ‘Where you going, schmuck? You’re going to get killed.’ He didn’t know.. he paid no attention.”

Meter Reading  
or Minute Mark

Topics presented in order of discussion on recording

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File 2/10:40

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On laying wire with Charlie. When Charlie went, he wouldn't take just what he needed, he would take a big spool and as he would with the whole spool, the spool would knock him down. 11:55 – Rather than repair, lets lay a whole new wire. Tripling the danger.

File 2/12:10

*[So he is constantly putting you in jeopardy?]*  
Yeah... and you couldn't explain to anybody. And of course when he would go and I wouldn't, then you're the villain.

**File 2/12:40 – 18:23**

**On packages from home and popularity. Dark frank admissions. Hating a giver. Also hating a sergeant who put others on double guard but didn't serve the duty himself.**

File 2/12:40

Packages from home make Mr. Schwartz a popular fellow.

“I had an aunt who was a rich aunt. And when she sent me candy it was... the fanciest candy from the... gourmet shops, wrapped by a professional. And of course it was ‘Schwartz got a box from Aunt Sylvia.’

And of course you had to dole it out. So I would ask my father to send me sardines. I hated sardines, (but his buddies liked them.) I wouldn't eat sardines, So when the package would come, I'd say, ‘You take the sardines and I'll take the chocolates.’”

File 2/13:50

*[When was last time you saw Mr. Sussman?]*  
Illness have kept him from reunions for at least 5 years.  
Basic training story with Charlie. Puts his boots on the wrong feet and groans during a march.

File 2/15:35

Mr. Schwartz makes a bracingly honest admission: hating a “genuine giver.”  
“And then of course there's a guy in basic training named Schulty whom I also hated. This guy was an evangelist.. who believed that God would take care of him. So if you got your socks wet and you didn't have another pair he would give you his last pair of socks. He was a genuine giver.  
And I hated him because I would never give up my last pair of socks. And he would. And I kept thinking ‘This guys a better man than I'll ever be.’ And I really didn't like him. I was a better shot than he was, stronger than he was, more masculine than he was, but he was a better man than I'll ever be. And that bothered me (faint). He got very sick and he didn't finish basic training. I don't know what happened to him.

Meter Reading  
or Minute Mark

Topics presented in order of discussion on recording

2/17:32

Mr. Schwartz describes a communications sergeant who exhausted his men out of fear, but wouldn't share their burden:

File 2/17:31

“And I particularly hated the communications sergeant because he took advantage of us... he would get nervous so he would double the guard.”

“Now doubling the guard meant that you would be up two hours and down two hours, rather than.. Two on, four off. It wasn't that the Captain said “I want a double guard.” Sergeant did.

File 2/18:06

In any other outfit...and when I was a sergeant, if you were doing that you had to take your turn. But he didn't. He was a sergeant... Sergeant's don't pull guard duty. So I began to hate him too.

**File 2/18:23 – 29:48**

**On survival. On cowardice. (didn't hate cowards – had sympathy) On deserters (different story). On the fear shown by new recruits. On reluctance to shoot. The urge to kill.**

File 2/18:23

“I think that's how you survive. This is the good guy, this is the bad.

*[Interviewer tells story of friend – WWII bombardier – and how he said he survived.]*

File 2/20:40

“You have to develop your own logic. That's my quote... you can quote me.”

File 2/20:54

Mr. Schwartz shares attitudes on cowardice.

“More interesting. There's something you should work on.. it is publishable ... the attitude toward cowards... there was no real... dislike of cowards..

Deserters were a different matter though.

File 2/21:13

“One of the guys who was vice-president (out of the first group than ran the re-union) was a guy from my Company named Frank (XXXX). Scum of the earth.” “One of the things I had to do was guard him because XXX would desert whenever we were going to the front. They would put him in chains but would not court martial.

File 2/22:06

Saw him at a reunion and I told him where he could go.

The man was a coward...and worse, whenever we needed him he would desert.

Meter Reading  
or Minute Mark

Topics presented in order of discussion on recording

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File 2/23:25

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Mr. Schwartz remembers a clear illustration of irrational cowardice.

His platoon was on patrol looking for Germans. “About 30 of us at this point. We take a house and word comes along we’re going to stay. We had some guys out-posting.

And one of them comes running back, “There’s a Kraut coming.....”

Six or seven of us, go take up positions, outside of the building or at a window. And the rest of them run to the basement.

Now what’s interesting is – you don’t resent that, you don’t say, ‘Gee, these guys are deserting me.’

File 2/24:26

You say, ‘I understand why they’re running away, they don’t know, they don’t have combat experience.’ We had a lot of guys transfer in after the Battle of the Bulge.”

**Mr. Schwartz’s fascinating response to some of his men’s fear.**

File 2/24:55

“Because we ran out of infantry and these guys weren’t infantrymen. But they tried, some of them. And some of them ran into the basement. And... you could tease them, you could say, “One soldier, and you ran?”

File 2/25:50

Story of German soldier we shot at, fell dead, but no mark on him. (Scared to death.)

File 2/25:55

**“I would say that of the thirty men (U.S. G.I.s), certainly twenty went into the basement.**

**I remember talking to the guys in my squad, ‘What are you accomplishing... I mean be logical.. If the enemy is coming, what good are you going to do in the basement?’**

They’ll throw a hand grenade down there and they won’t even have to bother to shoot you. Aren’t you better off up on top?

But you never resented it. I don’t think anybody resented it.

File 2/26:54

Mr. Schwartz reads S.L.A Marshall on the Korean War. Marshall pointed out that twenty percent of the American infantrymen in the Korean War never fired their weapons. “Which is true in my outfit.”

Meter Reading  
or Minute Mark

Topics presented in order of discussion on recording

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File 2/27:08

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Mr. Schwartz explains his reluctance to shoot.

“I was in combat a month before I fired my weapon. And it was difficult to fire. I thought “I don’t shoot at them, they won’t shoot at me.” Then you think, “Well that’s stupid, they’re shooting at you anyway.”

Interesting revelation from the interviewer’s questions about combat:

File 2/27:19

*[Do you remember the first time you fired? And what prompted that?]*

Fear. I figured that I’d feel better if I fired my weapon. Patton had developed ‘march and fire.’ Just keep shooting and the enemy will duck. So you are better off shooting at nothing, than not shooting at all. And we did that a lot. Shoot at buildings.”

“The first thing I shot at was a building. I hit it.” *[laugh]*

File 2/27:50

“Charlie Sussman he’s not even shouldering his rifle he has no intention of firing. But you don’t resent anything.

File 2/28:05

**Mr. Schwartz reveals an interesting urge to kill.**

The only guy I resented was Hxxxxx. Maybe because I had to guard him.

He was nasty. He made anti-semetic remarks. I wanted to kill him. I had greater desire to kill him than to kill Germans. Uh... I felt he was the scum of the earth. And I once chased him with a bayonet. I tried to kill him, I actually tried to kill him. But he ran away.

File 2/29:10

*[Interviewer talks about how some interviewees do not give the “ring of truth” but Mr. Schwartz and Mr. Madden do. ]*

**File 2/29:48 – 33:11**

**Mr. Schwartz is back from the War. Talk to family doctor. not adversely affected by combat. Attitude you have to develop. End of interview.**

File 2/29:48

*[How was it coming back (home) for you?]*

For me... it was great. First day I came back, the war in the Pacific was still on, we were given a thirty day pass. I was living with my parents. I was nineteen years old.

Meter Reading  
or Minute Mark

Topics presented in order of discussion on recording

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30:07

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My father was sick and we lived in an apartment house in Brooklyn. And as I get to the house, my father's doctor is walking out...

30:50

“And he said, ‘You’re the first man I’ve met who doesn’t seem to have been adversely affected by combat.’”

“I said, ‘There were a lot of us.’ And I said, ‘We weren’t all crazy. But it will make you crazy.’ I said ‘You have to develop an attitude, you have to convince yourself that you’re something special. Even if you don’t really believe it, you have to say ‘I believe I’m something special.’” And he thought I was the cat’s meow. And I remember when I went upstairs I said, ‘Boy, I’m the cat’s meow.

File 2/31:45

The doctor led me to believe that I’m, frankly ... terrific... I go tell my girlfriend what a great guy I am. The doctor told me.”

Goodbye.

*[Goodbye, Have a good night, I'll see you tomorrow]*

You bet.

Tells interviewer that he (interviewer) should write a book on Charlies Sussman in the war. “You can’t do it now because he’s still alive... we’ll have to kill him.” *[Laugh]* Goodbye. *Leaves*

File 2/32:30

*[This is David Meyer, son of Earl D Meyer, Co. H/379<sup>th</sup> .. My God, I don't know how long I've been talking.*

End of File 2: 32 minutes 42 seconds End of interview.

Total interview: 2 hr 19 minutes 37 seconds (File1: 1hr:46m:26sec. plus File2 33m: 11 sec)