



Audio and Video Recording Log

1. Name and address of collector or interviewer.

DAVID(O'SHEA)MEYER-sonof EarlDMeyer CoH/379thInf/95thID
 Name of Collector/Interviewer "Mardi Gras" 35 Harrington Sound Road Hamilton Parish Bermuda
 Address Hamilton Parish na CR04
 City State ZIP -
 Telephone (441) - 599-4826 Email osheadavid@sbcglobal.net
 Organization or Affiliation (if any) VHP/95th ID Association

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

Anthony Vittiglio 01/01/1921
 Name of Veteran/Civilian Birth Date month/day/year

3. Recording format (please check)

VIDEO type: Betacam VHS 8mm High-8 Digital Other Note: on SD chips
 AUDIO type: Cassette Microcassette CD Reel Digital (DAT) (identify)
 If audio, is the cassette or reel recorded on both sides? Yes No
 Is item: Original Copy

4. Date of Recording August 9, 2013
 Estimated length of recording (in minutes) 77 minutes

5. Location of recording Hilton Hotel, Arlington, Texas

6. Corresponding materials (please check)

Have you included materials other than the recording? Yes No
 If so, please complete the Photograph Log and/or the Manuscript Data Sheet.

7. Please summarize the topics discussed in the interview in their order of appearance on the recording.

| Meter Reading or Minute Mark | Topics presented in order of discussion on recording |
|------------------------------|---|
| _____ | See summary of highlights on the next page followed by |
| _____ | the index itself. Recording was done on a Tascom recorder |
| _____ | with an Ipod Classic 160GB as a backup. |
| _____ | (Note: in the recording Mr. V drums his fingers.) |

(Continue on back or on additional sheets as needed.)

Meter Reading
or Minute Mark

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Summary of Highlights:

Mr. Vittiglio, a machine gunner with the 360th FA attached to the 95th Infantry Division - immigrated from Cassino, Italy. 70 years after his service in the war, Mr. V retains a strong Italian accent.

Mr. Vittiglio was interviewed during the 95th ID Association's annual reunion in Arlington, Texas in 2013. Mr. V's daughters brought him to the interview and contributed a few questions.

Mr. Vittiglio was known in the infantry division for shooting down two Messerschmidts with his 50 caliber machine gun. This story and its aftermath are related in minutes 24 through 32 of this interview.

Minute 42:00 - Encounter with General Patton.

45:30 - 48:30 - Mr. V relates the story he is most proud of. Going against orders by giving a starving German woman and her daughter food and thereby risking court martial. Reasons why.

One theme that arises throughout the interview is Mr. Vittiglio's struggles as an immigrant understanding English. Another is Mr. Vittiglio's deep feeling of duty to the United States for treating him so well.

Meter Reading
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0:00

Intro. Interviewer David E Meyer son of Earl D Meyer
Co.H/379th Infantry/95thID. Interviewee: Anthony Vittiglio
360th FA. Combat Machine Gunner.

2:28

Bio info. Louie/Philomena (father/mother) Cassino Italy
Emigrate from Italy when 15 knowing no English.

3:33

In US 4 year. Pulled in. Told if you want to become
a citizen go into combat. Thought the United States
was good to him so said yes.

5:40

Join Oct 28th, 1942. To Camp Upton, NY.
Life better here than Italy so wanted to go fight overseas
fight for the U.S.

7:20

Mr. Vittiglio doesn't speak English well so there
are problems. Was told by a friend to just say "Yes,
Sir" as an answer. So when he didn't understand what
he was asked he would answer "Yes, Sir" and he wouldn't
know what he was supposed to do. He wouldn't do it and
would get in trouble.

"Sump duty" (Digging latrines.)

Always punished.

Once when given "KP" thought he was being told to be
a policeman so he showed up dressed nicely. Told
" Get out of here and put on your fatigues then come back."

9:30

More funny stories of misunderstandings.

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24:55

Feldsburg, Germany.

Blow by blow account of Mr. Vittiglio shooting down two
109 Messerschmitts.

27:20

Fate of the downed German pilot from one of the
Messerschmitts.

Pilot had successfully belly-landed. He left the plane,
hands raised in surrender. Mr. Vittiglio wants to get
to the pilot to take him prisoner but "some guy in
Service Company" shot and killed the pilot before Mr. V
could reach him.

By the time Mr. V gets to him, the pilot's stripped to
his underwear. "That was bad... really bad."

28:35

Mr. V talks about his wound received during the fight.

Was up for the Silver Star and Purple Heart. "Never got
them." Looks at a picture in a book. Picture is captioned
"German plane shot down by Anthony Vittiglio."

32:00

Story - Americans visiting Germany are shown a picture
of the plane Mr. V shot down. A German archeologist,
Mr. Wilhelm, asks them if they knew anything about
the incident. The Americans call Mr. V.

Mr. V flies to Germany to meet the archeologist.

Mr. V is questioned by him and 4 others. They try to
trick Mr. V with misleading questions. Mr. V answers
with the truth.

36:00

Asked about the German pilot, Mr. V says, "good pilot -
didn't crash...hero. Defending his country like I was."

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36:50

Germans take Mr. V to the site of the shoot down. Mr. V remembers a hill that is not there now. Germans confirm the hill was removed in later years. They believe Mr. V. Give him bottle of Mirabelle and cheese.

39:15

Return to talk about the war. Saarlautern, Fraulautern (on the Siegfried line). Leipzig. 95th assigned from 3rd Army to the 95th. Meeting the Russians.

40:25

Who was most important to you in the war?

Mr. V lists names of buddies who died in the war.

41:25

Story of encounter with General Patton. Overheard the General cursing, "I want those G..D..guns taken!..even if I have to send a 2 1/2 ton truck to pick up dogtags." Good leader.. fighter. On the Patton Christmas card.

45:19

On food in the army. Liked Food - "Yes" K-Rations "No."

45:34

Story of what Mr. V - giving food against orders to starving civilians - the "most important" thing he remembers doing in the war - "more important than those planes." In Krefeld (the Ruhr pocket campaign). "Hot food came in and we lined up... I'm getting my coffee .. spotted a woman with... a little girl six or seven... You could see the kid's ribs." You couldn't talk to them because you'd get court-martialed. I say "What the hell, by tomorrow I'm going to get killed, I'm going to give (the food).. to her." He does. An Officer sees this and threatens court-martial. Mr. V says "reverse the situation." Officer says, "Get the hell out." No c-martial.

Meter Reading
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Topics presented in order of discussion on recording

| | |
|---------|---|
| 48:30 | Who was your best friend. "Joe Casarino" Mr. Casarino died. Mr. V remembers him and some other friends. |
| 50:25 | Story of a Captain who didn't like Mr. V and wouldn't let him go on leave to Paris. |
| 51:40 | On "liberating food" and giving it to the poor. |
| 53:10 | On liberating a concentration camp. Story of interpreting for Italian prisoners. Funny story of an Italian prisoner who pretends that he might be Mr. V's cousin. |
| 54:50 | Story of another Italian P.O.W. who been a policeman in the Carabinieri (King's Army). Prisoner asks Mr. V to get a letter to his mother in Cassino (Mr. V's original home in Italy). Mr. V is able to do so. Mother meets Mr. V later. She grabs him, kissing him. |
| 59:20 | Years later, my wife and I visited the former prisoner. (The prisoner had become promoted to an important man in the community.) The man entertains Mr. V and his wife. |
| 1:01:00 | "Would you recommend service to young people today?" Mr. V says, "Big time... if the war is right... not because I'm going to fight you." "This country has been good to me, I want to be good to it." |
| 1:02:20 | When did you become a citizen? In the army. If you want to become a citizen you have to go (overseas) to the war. |
| 1:03:10 | Talks about being in Germany during the surrender. On the celebration. On the brutal SS. |

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1:05:00

Life after the war. Still couldn't read or write English but got a job in customs (lucky when he took the test - made marks and passed.)
Talks about his family.

1:08:30

Talk about returning to Cassino after the war. "You don't see one building standing up." Tells story about his wife (who lived in Cassino during the war) and her dealing with the Germans in Italy.

1:12:35

Celebration when Mr. V got home from the war. "A feast."

1:14:45

What would you like to tell your great, great, grandchild is important?

"Be a good boy... don't get in trouble... do your duty.."

1:16:15

Closing

1:16:50

Interview ends