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AN INTERVIEW WITH RICHARD AND NADINE BARRICK

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GREGORY KUPSKY: This begins an interview with Mr. Richard Barrick on January 8th, 2004 in Ballwin, Missouri with Greg Kupsy. First of all I'd just like to thank you for meeting with me today to tell your story. To start, I wonder if you could tell me a little bit about growing up. Where did you grow up?

RICHARD BARRICK: In St. Louis, up until I was sixteen. Then I moved to Kansas City.

KUPSKY: Okay, and where in the St. Louis area did you live?

BARRICK: Oh, let's see ...

NADINE BARRICK: All over.

BARRICK: Yeah, uh, pretty much all over the southern part of the city, the southern and western part of the city. Seemed like every year we moved up a notch.

N. BARRICK: Well his mom was a widow and that's where she lived.

KUPSKY: Had your parents grown up here as well?

BARRICK: Mm hmm—well, Illinois.

KUPSKY: Okay, on the Illinois side.

BARRICK: Well my dad on this side, my mother on the Illinois.

KUPSKY: Oh, okay. What was your father's family background, do you know?

BARRICK: For—I think mostly farms.

KUPSKY: Okay, farmers?

BARRICK: Uh huh (Answered Positively).

KUPSKY: And were they—what nationality was your father's ...

BARRICK: German.

KUPSKY: German? Okay.

BARRICK: And Scotch-Irish.

KUPSKY: Oh okay, German and Scotch-Irish. And they had been in the St. Louis area for a few generations?

BARRICK: Oh yeah. Uh huh (Answered Positively).

KUPSKY: Okay. What about your mother's side of the family?

BARRICK: English.

KUPSKY: What part of Illinois were they from?

BARRICK: East St.—Not East St. Louis ...

N. BARRICK: Edwardsville ...

BARRICK: Edwardsville.

KUPSKY: Edwardsville, okay. And they had been there for some time as well, as far as you know?

BARRICK: Yes they had.

KUPSKY: Okay. So what would be your earliest memories be of in St. Louis?

BARRICK: My earliest memories? (Laughs) Well I can remember going to the Bryan Mellamphy Grade School, but how old I was I don't know. I must've been about eight, seven, something like that, but that's my first memories, was Bryan Mellamphy School.

KUPSKY: Did you have brothers or sisters?

BARRICK: Had a brother—I still have a brother.

KUPSKY: Older or younger?

BARRICK: Older. Two years older.

KUPSKY: So you were both in school at the same time then?

BARRICK: Uh huh, right.

KUPSKY: Do you guys get along pretty well?

BARRICK: Oh well, when we see each other. We don't see each other that often (Laughter), 'cause he lives in California.

KUPSKY: Oh I see.

BARRICK: But we get along fine.

KUPSKY: What about growing up?

BARRICK: Yeah we always got along well.

KUPSKY: Sort of the same friends and ...

BARRICK: Uh huh, well, not really the—no we didn't have the same friends, but we got along well together. In fact, he'd fight for me all the time.

KUPSKY: All right. Good brother then. (Laughter)

BARRICK: Yes he was.

KUPSKY: Okay. Did you work at that age? Or help on the farm?

BARRICK: Oh well we didn't really live on a farm.

KUPSKY: Your father didn't have a farm at this point?

BARRICK: Nah, nah. That was beyond that—no, when I was a kid yeah, I worked as a—you know when I went to junior high school and high school. I can remember working at, used to be Glazer's Drug Store. I used to work there.

KUPSKY: Where was that located?

BARRICK: They were all around the city. They're—Walgreen's bought all of them.

KUPSKY: Which one did you work at? Where was that one?

BARRICK: Fillmore and Midland.

KUPSKY: What did your father do for a living?

BARRICK: Well my dad died when I was a baby.

KUPSKY: Oh he did?

BARRICK: Uh huh, he was a CPA [Certified Public Accountant]. I was a year old when he died.

KUPSKY: Did your mother work outside the home then?

BARRICK: Oh yeah, she was a buyer for Edison Brothers stores, Burt's Bakers, Chandler's Shoe stores. She was a head buyer.

KUPSKY: I would imagine you probably had to help out around the house quite a bit if it was you and your brother ...

BARRICK: Hm, yeah well—as much as my aunt could push me into, had an aunt that lived with us and raised us while Mom was out workin’. But she’d have us working on Saturday. Usually Saturday morning we had to work around the house until it was cleaned up. Then we were free.

KUPSKY: Had your aunt lived with you since your father died?

BARRICK: Oh she lived with us ‘til she died, until she died yeah. That was after the Second World War. She was with us a lot during the Second World War when my brother and I were in service and she was with us afterwards. When did Aunt Mable pass away, honey?

N. BARRICK: Jackie was a baby but I wanted to put my two cents worth in here because I think it’s kind of cute. His aunt came to spend the weekend with them and ended up staying something like forty or fifty years or whatever it was.

KUPSKY: Oh wow.

N. BARRICK: She died when Jackie was a baby ...

BARRICK: Yeah that’s right ...

N. BARRICK: So that’s probably 1949 or something like that?

BARRICK: I was gonna say it would be about forty years ago when she passed away. Sure doesn’t seem that long though.

N. BARRICK: No.

KUPSKY: You got along well with your aunt then?

BARRICK: Oh yeah, sure. We could get away with anything with her.

KUPSKY: All right. (Laughter) All sorts of mischief.

BARRICK: And she’d protect us.

N. BARRICK: Even to go as far as not telling the truth about how they broke their arms or legs or all that kinda stuff. She was good to them.

KUPSKY: Mrs. Barrick, had you grown up in St. Louis?

N. BARRICK: No, I didn’t. But I’ve just heard that story so many times that I feel like I was right there.

KUPSKY: Sure. What sort of things would you do when you were kids, you know in sort of your past time for fun?

BARRICK: Well, with me it was mostly sports. Football, baseball and that was about it. I was interested in sports. I played on the junior high school team and high school teams at U-City, University City. So that was all I was interested in, was sports.

KUPSKY: Was your brother athletic too?

BARRICK: Not too much, he wasn't— except for swimming. He was a good swimmer, but he didn't have a lot of activity. He and his friends just sorta hung around and that was about it. They were about the youngest I know that got cars, you know. They got them when they were about fifteen years old. As soon as you were allowed to drive he had a car, because he had always saved his money. Where I spent mine, he saved his. (Laughter)

KUPSKY: How did your sports teams do? The ones you were on.

BARRICK: Oh pretty good, pretty good. U-City, we did well. We won the ... well I guess it was called the community championship. U-City was a city by itself, and just the one high school. But we played within the, what, Maplewood and Richmond Heights and Clayton. The suburban league, it was a suburban league, I guess. We won the suburban league the three years I went to U-City.

KUPSKY: Okay, what about class did you enjoy classes?

BARRICK: Yeah I never minded classes. I was a pretty good student. I didn't have to study much. I just absorbed it in class and that would be about it, but I did pretty good in school.

KUPSKY: What were your favorite subjects?

BARRICK: Sports. (Laughter) Oh, I guess English and Math were my, you know, of academic studies were my most popular.

KUPSKY: Are there any teachers that stick out in your mind from U-City or from the grade school or junior high?

BARRICK: Well the only one I can remember actually was home economics, a home economics teacher and woodwork. You know, in woodwork class. But I can't even think of his name. And then I had a ... a little after that ... the head of the music department because I was interested in the chorus and sang in the chorus in the choir. He came to our church as our church leader as well, for the chorus, for the church. Those two teachers are about the only two I can really remember.

KUPSKY: What do you remember about them? Or what sort of sticks out?

BARRICK: Oh just that they were just good teachers and, uh, they seemed to know how to get along with teenagers. Which is a good thing, if you're a teacher.

KUPSKY: Very much so, yeah. (Laughter) What about other past times or activities? Did you go to movies?

BARRICK: Oh yeah, every weekend we'd —as kids, we'd go to the movies. Fact, that was a—in those days every Saturday was set aside at the theatre for matinee for kids. We'd have a serial and a movie and cartoons. So you know, you knew what you were gonna see. You didn't know what it was, but you knew the type of movies you were gonna see. In fact, I think that even when my kids were young we used to take 'em to the theatre in Kansas City on Saturday and they'd—on Saturday or Sunday and they'd have that line up, comedy, movie ... chapter three of the serial or whatever it might be.

KUPSKY: Sure, uh did your family have a radio?

BARRICK: Oh sure. Uh huh. (Answered Positively)

KUPSKY: What programs did you listen to? Do you remember?

BARRICK: Well let's see, as a kid I used to be—they used to ... Jack Armstrong.

N. BARRICK: Who was he?

BARRICK: He was the All-American boy. Jack Armstrong, the All-American boy. Let's see ... Mandrake the Magician. That's about the only two I can remember, but they were both pretty good as a kid.

KUPSKY: Sure. I think you said you were in junior high when you started working, was that about when you got your first job?

BARRICK: Mm hmm, at Glazer's Drug Store. I worked as a soda jerk. And it was Gaze's—no it was Glazer drug store. Glazer's Drug Store. What's the matter Nadine?

N. BARRICK: Well I'm—that doesn't seem to fit right, I dunno. I'm thinking you might be thinking of Kansas City's drug stores. I don't know what the old Walgreen's stores used to be.

KUPSKY: I can look that up if you want.

BARRICK: I think it was Glazer's Drug Store.

N. BARRICK: Could've been, yeah. You have better memories of that than I do.

KUPSKY: So what do you remember about your boss there at the drug store?

BARRICK: Oh he was ... they, well I can remember two of them, cause I worked at two of the stores and they were both pretty good guys. You know, pretty good managers. They knew how to get along with teenagers, because they all had teenagers working for them. Every night it would be loaded with teenagers working, so they knew how to get along well with kids. Worked

out good.

KUPSKY: Did you like working there?

BARRICK: Oh sure.

KUPSKY: It's a pretty good job I'd imagine.

BARRICK: Yeah—well there wasn't a lot of money with it, a lot of free ice cream, (Laughter) malts and shakes, but yeah I enjoyed working there. Before that though I worked at a filling station and my brother had the job at the drug store. And then when he quit that job, that's when I quit the filling station and went to work in the drug store.

KUPSKY: Oh so you worked at the filling station, that would've been your first job then? The filling station?

BARRICK: Yeah. The filling station was. And uh, I kinda followed my brother. He had worked at the filling station and then when he quit working at the filling station and went to the drug store I went to the filling station. And just on up the line. I guess I was a pretty good copier.

KUPSKY: Followed in his footsteps?

BARRICK: Uh huh. (Answered Affirmatively)

KUPSKY: Did that continue then after that job?

BARRICK: Oh no, after that was about the last job I had in high school, working in the drug store. And uh, let's see here. Yeah I guess that was the last job I had in high school.

KUPSKY: And what years were you in high school, just out of curiosity?

BARRICK: Well I graduated in '43, so that would've been '39, '40, '41, forty, thirty, wait a minute, '40, '41, '42 and '43. 'Cause I was thinking of it as a four-year ... It was a three-year high school cause I went to junior high school, but I figured those last four years are all high school.

KUPSKY: And you worked at ... you said you worked at the drug store until you graduated?

BARRICK: Mm hmm, yeah. And went into service within weeks after I graduated high school...

KUPSKY: Graduation. Sure. In high school, your History teacher or Social Studies teacher, do you remember the teacher talking about what was going on in Europe, you know even before the U.S. entered the war?

BARRICK: Nope. Sure don't. I don't remember it now. I know they did, but I sure don't

remember it.

KUPSKY: Oh okay, what about from the radio, even through the '30s and things like that, do you remember hearing about what was going on in Europe?

BARRICK: No, I really don't. I really don't. I knew what was going on—I don't think I worried too much, even thought much about the war until I had to go in. I was, I just, to me it was—I never thought I'd get into the service. And little did I know that within two weeks, after graduation, I'd be in. Or drafted anyway. I wasn't in, but I was drafted.

KUPSKY: What do you remember about December 7, 1941?

BARRICK: I was laying, well; I was at a friend's house ...

N. BARRICK: In Kansas City.

BARRICK: In Kansas City and they had a radio about that size (Gestures with hands) and it was hollow at the bottom with a speaker underneath there. I remember under it with my head under the speaker and that was when I heard about Pearl Harbor. So that was very vivid.

KUPSKY: What was your reaction? Do you remember your reaction?

BARRICK: Not very much, really. We hadn't thought about the war or anything so it didn't mean a lot. I figured eventually we'd get in, but that was about all I thought of it.

KUPSKY: Sure. To back up just a little bit, what were your memories of the Depression? Did that affect your family?

BARRICK: No, my mother was pretty well off. Not well off, but in good shape. We were in good shape. She worked for Edison Brothers Stores. She was the head buyer for Burt's Bakers and Chandler's Shoe Stores. So she had a good job during the Depression. We were very lucky during the Depression because of her job.

KUPSKY: I see. Was she involved in politics at all?

BARRICK: No.

KUPSKY: Was she a member of a party or anything like that?

BARRICK: She wasn't involved in politics. Well, she was a Republican, but she wasn't, you know, she wasn't active.

KUPSKY: What was her opinion of Roosevelt? Do you know?

BARRICK: Didn't like him.

KUPSKY: Really? And the New Deal ...

BARRICK: Didn't care for him.

KUPSKY: She didn't like it too much?

BARRICK: Uh huh (Answered Negatively). She thought it was too much giveaway.

KUPSKY: Did you have an opinion at that point? Did you pay much attention?

BARRICK: Well no, I kind of followed her because it was her opinion.

KUPSKY: Sure. (Laughter) Right, what about your aunt?

BARRICK: No, she was a—my aunt, she was just sort of a Caspar Milquetoast. She was not real active in anything.

KUPSKY: She didn't pay as much attention to politics?

BARRICK: Oh I think she probably did, but she didn't say much.

KUPSKY: Oh I see. To clarify, did you move to Kansas City then before high school or during high school?

BARRICK: During high school. I went my freshman and sophomore year here and my junior and senior year in Kansas City.

KUPSKY: What were your first impressions when you learned you were moving to Kansas City?

BARRICK: Probably didn't like it at first, because, you know, my friends—didn't want to leave my friends. But once I got to Kansas City everything was fine. Matter of fact, one of my friends from St. Louis had moved to Kan' City before we had by a couple of years. And uh, I met him about the first day we got to Kansas City and everything was fine. Got in with a big ... crowded high school. He was very happy with that school.

KUPSKY: What was the name of the school in Kansas City?

BARRICK: Southwest High School.

KUPSKY: Southwest? What sort of things did you do there for fun?

BARRICK: Oh, football mostly. And basketball—well no, I didn't play basketball, I played football and baseball and that was about it.

KUPSKY: Okay, and movies on the weekends?

BARRICK: Oh sure. Absolutely.

KUPSKY: Did your family take any trips?

BARRICK: As a kid? Yeah we used to go to Colorado or we would go to California. But you know, just summer trips, vacations.

KUPSKY: What were some of your favorite places that you went?

BARRICK: Colorado.

KUPSKY: Colorado?

BARRICK: Uh huh, that was my favorite place.

KUPSKY: Where in Colorado did you go?

BARRICK: Uh, Evergreen. We had a cottage there. It was nice. We enjoyed it. I think Evergreen is still probably, even now, the most popular spot in Colorado.

KUPSKY: It's up there, yeah.

BARRICK: Mm hmm, especially if you like to ski.

KUPSKY: Well before we get into your military service, are there any other memories that stick out from St. Louis or Kansas City?

BARRICK: No, not really. Not really.

KUPSKY: Had you just graduated when you received your draft notice?

BARRICK: It was in thirty days I got my draft notice. Within thirty days—no, sooner than that, because within thirty days I was in the service. So it must've been within about two weeks after graduation.

KUPSKY: Did you know it was coming?

BARRICK: Oh I knew. I knew I'd go in, but I didn't know I'd ever go in that quick.

KUPSKY: What was your reaction when you got the actual notice?

BARRICK: (Response drowned out by background noise)

KUPSKY: What was your mother and aunt's reaction?

BARRICK: Well of course they hated it I'm sure. They didn't want their children all going off to—and my brother was already in one, he was in the Marine Corps already ... so uh, they figured that with the baby being gone they wouldn't have anybody.

KUPSKY: So you got your draft notice and then where did you have to report?

BARRICK: Uh, Louisiana. Lee. Fort Lee I think it was called—no, Polk. Fort Polk.

KUPSKY: Camp Polk?

BARRICK: Uh huh. (Answered Positively)

KUPSKY: How'd you get to Camp Polk?

BARRICK: Train.

KUPSKY: You just took the train from St. Louis to Louisiana?

BARRICK: They had an Army, the whole thing was an Army group going down to Fort Polk and that's what we did. We went down to Fort Polk together. I guess we must've had 200, 300 people on the train. Something like that.

KUPSKY: So you did your basic training then at Camp Folk?

BARRICK: Uh huh.

KUPSKY: What do you remember about basic training? Could you describe that a little bit?

BARRICK: Oh I hated that. I hated it because of the fact that it was so swampy down there and it was in the summertime and uh, we were always wet just from perspiration. So I really hated that part of the country.

KUPSKY: Can you describe the base, the training, and the people you were with?

BARRICK: Oh there were just, there were people who were from all over the country. You know, from New England and California and everyplace in between. But... it was a—they had done a pretty good job of building the base. I think most of those bases were built by the CCC [Civilian Conservation Corps] and they did a pretty good job building the barracks and everything. So we had pretty good living quarters. The thing I hated about it was just it was swampy land. We were always perspiring, always wet. Just always wet. Winter and summer.

KUPSKY: What was your training like?

BARRICK: Basic training?

KUPSKY: The activities, the daily routine, you know.

BARRICK: All I can remember as far as basic training was exercise in the morning and exercise and then lunch. Then we'd have classes, and most of the classes we didn't even pay attention, but it was different things about tracking and different warfare type things. But most of us didn't even remember that. We'd try and sleep during class. (Laughs) Because usually classes were outside under the trees.

KUPSKY: What about your drill instructor? What did you think of him?

BARRICK: Oh well I had a couple of them that I liked and some I didn't like. Had one who had been a garbage collector and when he went into service he became a corporal and he thought he owned the world because he was a corporal. (Laughter) The rest of them I thought quite a lot about. Most of the other sergeants and corporals were pretty good guys.

KUPSKY: Did you make any friends right away with the people you were with?

BARRICK: Oh sure, with all of them in the group. We had—in our barracks we had probably, on our level, probably had a hundred, more than that, probably 200 people and every one of us were good friends. We knew each other well. Occasionally there'd be a few fights, but not many.

KUPSKY: Are there any stories you remember from basic training?

BARRICK: From basic training? (Laughs) No, not really... I can't think of any.

KUPSKY: What was the next stop after basic training?

BARRICK: Specialized training, I went to the ... to the desert. We got to join the 80th Infantry Division out there and we got our special training out there. Then we went from the desert overseas to Europe. D-Day, we got over there D-Day plus sixty I think.

KUPSKY: How did you find out you were going to be in artillery?

BARRICK: No, Infantry.

KUPSKY: You were in Infantry?

BARRICK: Well, that was my fault. Because when we were selecting areas we wanted to go into, they had them on the wall. It was an A-I-R. Well I thought that had something to do with Air Force and it was Armored Infantry Regiment.

KUPSKY: Oops. (Laughter)

BARRICK: So I went into the 49th Armored Infantry Regiment instead of the 49th Air Force.

KUPSKY: Where were you at that time?

BARRICK: That was in Louisiana.

KUPSKY: You were in Louisiana, and then they shipped you off to join the 80th?

BARRICK: Right.

KUPSKY: Where did you meet Mr. Wilson (Edgar Wilson)?

BARRICK: Well it was when we met as a division, or when we formed as a division. He was the artillery officer for our battalion. And I was attached to Headquarters Company, of the Battalion Headquarters Company as a scout. He was attached to the—he was in the artillery, but he was the forward observer attached to our battalion. So that's where I knew Mr. Wilson.

KUPSKY: So it was a while before you met him?

BARRICK: Well it was pretty soon, yeah. It was pretty soon. We thought he was an old man 'cause he was about ten years older than all of us and we were all kids. But he must've been about thirty-two or thirty-three years old, so we thought he was an old man.

KUPSKY: Sure. (Laughter)

N. BARRICK: Shame on you.

BARRICK: Huh?

N. BARRICK: I just said shame on you.

BARRICK: (Laughter) Well that's right.

KUPSKY: What camp were you at for specialized training?

BARRICK: Polk. Polk. It was Fort Polk first and uh, in Pennsylvania it was... I can't even think of [the name], we were just there a short time before we went overseas. So basically Fort Polk was the one I think of all the time, basic training and specialized training. And then we went to um, what the heck was that base in Pennsylvania?

KUPSKY: Was it Indian Town Gap maybe?

BARRICK: No, we came back to Indian Town Gap but it was near Indian Town Gap. It wasn't Indian Town Gap, Pennsylvania. There was another base right near there and that's the one we were in. If I'm not mistaken the two bases were joined. Gap and the one that I was in, but I can't think of it.

KUPSKY: Were you waiting after you were finished in Pennsylvania?

BARRICK: No, went there—I guess we were gonna have specialized training, but instead of giving us specialized training they shipped us to England. Then we finished our training in England and I guess we were in England, oh, thirty days, thirty-five days before we went into France.

KUPSKY: What was your port of embarkation from the U.S.?

BARRICK: Indian Town Gap, Pennsylvania.

KUPSKY: So that is where you left from?

BARRICK: Yeah.

KUPSKY: What do you remember about the trip across the ocean?

BARRICK: Well it was real quick. We went over on the *Queen Mary* and the weather was calm so it was just kinda like sitting in the living room, you know. Big, big boat... But I can remember the size of the boat more than anything; it was just a huge boat. At that time it was the second largest boat floating. Excuse me, I think the *Elizabeth* was number one at it was number two so far as size was concerned.

KUPSKY: When did you leave?

BARRICK: To go overseas?

KUPSKY: Right.

BARRICK: Would've been '43, no '44. 1944. Probably July or first of August, something like that.

KUPSKY: How did you hear that the D-Day invasion had started, you were still in Pennsylvania at that point?

BARRICK: Yeah we were still—no I was at Fort Polk I guess, yeah I was at Fort Polk when D-Day invasion started.

KUPSKY: Oh, okay.

BARRICK: Between that time and sixty days I went from Polk to Pennsylvania and England and then into France.

KUPSKY: So did you have a smooth ride over there?

BARRICK: Oh yeah, we had a good, enjoyable ride. Course it was a big boat. You'd have to have to have a horrendous storm to have a problem with a boat that size, but um, no it was a pretty nice trip over. I know we all enjoyed it.

KUPSKY: What did you guys do on the boat?

BARRICK: Played cards, shot craps ... that was about it.

KUPSKY: How much time did you spend above deck versus below deck, or on deck?

BARRICK: Oh, I spent all the time above deck, up on deck. And um, my quarters... let's see, I'm trying to figure out if my quarters were, yeah I think quarters were below deck. So when we didn't have to sleep we'd all get up on the deck and get that fresh air, 'cause it was nice when we went over there.

KUPSKY: Was the still *Queen Mary* zigzagging on the way over?

BARRICK: No, it was so fast they didn't worry about that. It was the fastest ship afloat. Could do thirty-some odd knots. And a submarine could do maybe twenty-two, twenty-three, twenty-four knots. So they just opened her wide and let her go and we went straight on.

KUPSKY: Did they do any drills or anything on the way over?

BARRICK: Oh you mean aboard ship?

KUPSKY: Right.

BARRICK: Yeah, we had lifeboat drills, you know. Simulation of dropping the lifeboats in case we were gonna have a problem. And that was about it.

KUPSKY: Did you go through any simulated attack drills?

BARRICK: Well of course you had to remember, over there those guys were in more than one invasion. You know, they'd go from island then another one then another. We knew we were just gonna do one invasion in Europe and that would be it.

KUPSKY: Sure. It wasn't as amphibious of a theatre.

BARRICK: Right.

KUPSKY: So where'd you come into England?

BARRICK: South Hampton I think.

KUPSKY: South Hampton? What do you remember about coming into South Hampton?

BARRICK: Very little. I remember very little about South Hampton. I remember very little about England other than the fact that we were stationed, oh probably five miles out of the city. We were in the woods. We had a camp in the woods, but we were five, six miles from a city, and

I don't remember what city it was, but I know when we were off duty on weekends we'd hike into the city. And we'd usually eat there and later on we'd go on back to the base.

KUPSKY: How did you get along with the civilians there?

BARRICK: Oh great, no problem. Yeah I thought they were the greatest people in the world, I really did.

KUPSKY: So did you make friends there?

BARRICK: Uh huh (Answered positively)—no. No long-time friends, but maybe some friends. A lot of good friends while we were there.

KUPSKY: Do you remember specifically the circumstances of any of them. How you met them or what you did with the people you met?

BARRICK: Well, we'd meet them in a tavern usually, 'cause you know, we were like everybody else. Buncha kids away from home, what are you gonna do in your free time? You're gonna go to the bar. (Laughter) So we'd go to a tavern and that's where we'd meet the people. We'd talk in there, they were, I just thought, real good people.

KUPSKY: How did their attitude seem different from Americans as far as the war and things like that, do you remember?

BARRICK: Hm, I don't think there was any difference at all. We all had one thing in mind and that was it. But they were good people. They were just real good people.

KUPSKY: What about the V-Bomb attacks while you were in England, do you remember them?

BARRICK: I can remember them going overhead, but none ever came down close to where we were, but I can remember seeing them in the air and hearing them and then hearing the motor turn off and you'd see them coming down and you'd see them crack up. But we never had one real close to where we were. Not to our camp anyway.

KUPSKY: Had you been told what to do if you saw one or how to prepare for one or anything like that.

BARRICK: Well they just said, you know, watch it and if it looked like it was gonna get close to you, why, get down. But usually they'd be far enough away to where we wouldn't even get down and we'd just watch it land and there hit the ground and that would be it.

KUPSKY: Are there any other stories that stick out in your mind? Things you did in England? You know people you met and things like that.

N. BARRICK: Now didn't you always tell me you met a girl in England?

BARRICK: Well I did. I met a girl and we were gonna get married until I got back and met her (Gestures to wife). And she stopped that. (Laughter)

N. BARRICK: I didn't have anything to do with it. I didn't stop it.

BARRICK: But they were, I liked the English people. They were just real great people.

KUPSKY: Well if you don't mind me asking, how did you meet this girl in England?

BARRICK: In a USO (United Service Organization). We used to go to the USO every weekend and she was, she came there. She was in service. She was a nurse. English. She'd come on to the USOs on weekends to help entertain the boys. It was nice.

KUPSKY: Did you guys go to the USO fairly often there in England?

BARRICK: Every weekend, every weekend. There was nothing else to do.

KUPSKY: What sort of training did you do then while you were in England?

BARRICK: We were there just a short time. We just, I don't remember much by way of specialized training, but I do remember we still had to drill, which we all hated. We still had to drill. (Laughs) We took classes in map reading and we took classes in surveillance, you know, behind the line surveillance. But that, those were the only two I can remember. But we did a lot of training in my outfit, of course, a lot of behind the lines scouting and nighttime scouting.

KUPSKY: Were you writing home at this point?

BARRICK: Oh sure. Every day I'd write my mom. (Laughter) Don't think I missed a day.

KUPSKY: I guess you probably found out later, how well were the letters getting to her? Pretty frequently?

BARRICK: Oh, no problem. They'd come, you know, two or three at a time. She said there'd be, every week she'd have mail, 'cause I would write a letter every day regardless of where we were just to let them know that everything was okay. And V-Mail was free then, it didn't cost us anything so we could write a letter and drop it in the mail and that was it.

KUPSKY: Did you get letters from her fairly often?

BARRICK: Oh yeah, uh huh. Get 'em two or three at a time. Maybe four or five. She used to write, not every day, but she'd write, you know, two or three times a week. And my aunt who lived with us, she would write all the time too. So I had plenty of mail.

KUPSKY: You were in this city in England, was it sort of in the countryside or was it a bigger city?

BARRICK: No it was in the countryside. We weren't in the city, we were actually in the—we had our base in the woods, but that was about five miles from this little city. I don't remember the name of this city to be honest with you.

KUPSKY: So was your unit, your battery already together at this point then?

BARRICK: Yeah we formed in the United States before we ever went overseas. We formed as an infantry division.

KUPSKY: The division that your unit was in?

BARRICK: Our regiments and battalions and companies, uh huh.

KUPSKY: So you had been with Mr. Wilson for some time then at this point.

BARRICK: Oh yeah, uh huh.

KUPSKY: Did you spend much time with him during training?

BARRICK: Well yeah, we didn't—we spent quite a bit of time together because I was a forward observer scout and he was a forward observer for the artillery. So we would share foxholes, not foxholes, but observation posts. And uh, so if we were in the attack we always had an observation, forward observation post and that's where we would be, in the observation post. I was lucky I was not in a rifle company.

KUPSKY: Right.

BARRICK: I was very lucky. (Laughter)

KUPSKY: When did you go over? You said it was D-Day plus sixty? Was that what you said?

BARRICK: Uh, I was in service by D-Day plus... 'bout D-Day plus thirty. Then overseas 'bout D-Day plus sixty

KUPSKY: When would you say you landed in France?

BARRICK: In France? It was, to the date, sixty days after D-Day. D-Day plus sixty.

KUPSKY: And where did you land?

BARRICK: At Cherbourg.

KUPSKY: Cherbourg? What do you remember about the French civilians you ran into in Cherbourg?

BARRICK: Oh, didn't see too many civilians because even though our troops had landed on D-

Day, they never got off the beach. They were still on the beach on D-Day plus sixty and it wasn't until D-Day plus sixty that we started going inland. So they were still on the beach when we got there, they hadn't made any progress at all.

KUPSKY: So was there still artillery fire coming in and things like that?

BARRICK: Oh yeah, uh huh. And we were still firing from the ships inland, but once we got a couple of divisions there, ashore we were able to get started pretty well.

KUPSKY: Yeah, once you sort of broke out.

BARRICK: Right.

KUPSKY: What do you remember about the day you arrived? You know, what thoughts were going through your head?

BARRICK: Arrived where?

KUPSKY: In Cherbourg.

BARRICK: Oh. Well, "I'm ready to go home," I think. (Laughter) I don't—you know, we were just kids. We didn't—you know, it was just a great big adventure, because we hadn't been in combat yet. But once you got in combat then it was a different story. But before then it was, you know, it was a lark.

KUPSKY: So you landed in Cherbourg right around the time of the breakout?

BARRICK: Uh huh (Answered Positively). We were in the breakout.

KUPSKY: You were part of the breakout? What do you remember about the first time you were in combat; I guess it was probably fairly quickly after that?

BARRICK: Yeah I remember we were going down a hill in France and I remember seeing one of our guys get a leg blown off about there. (Gestures) And uh, when that happened I got down to the bottom of that hill as quick as I could. And ... but that was my first real big remembrance, was watching this guy get his leg blown off, or part of a leg.

KUPSKY: Was it someone you knew fairly well?

BARRICK: Not, no, he was in a rifle company and I was in Headquarters Company, but we were in the same battalion. I didn't know him but I remember seeing him. Boy that was horrifying to see that.

KUPSKY: I would imagine that probably quickly switched your whole outlook eh?

BARRICK: Oh yeah. Be careful, watch out, don't—because up until that time it was a lark, but

not anymore. I knew bad things could happen.

KUSPKY: So were you in the battle that ensued from there at that moment?

BARRICK: Uh huh. (Answered Positively). From there until—we were on the line, let's see, 300 and, I had it figured out the other day. I think it's 306 days we were on the line and uh, at least our battalion was on line that many. In other words, so many rifle companies and battalion headquarters companies were on line that many days at the beginning of the war. And the war lasted—from the time we landed the war lasted another 300 and 18-19 days and of those 318 days we were on the line 306. So we saw a lot of combat.

KUPSKY: Were you always in the forward observer position through all this?

BARRICK: Uh huh (Answered Positively). A lot of night patrols.

KUPSKY: Where did you go from Cherbourg? Where was the next point of advance? Do you remember a town name?

BARRICK: No I really don't. I just—town after town after town. Nance. We took the town of Nance which was a big town in France. And ... that's the only big town I can remember. It was always a series of little villages and, you know, they're just filled with villages. Every three miles there'd be a village 'cause it was all farmland. And you'd have a farm village and so every five square, every square mile maybe five miles apart there'd be another little village, but I can't think of the name of them.

KUPSKY: Oh okay, none that are ...

-----END OF TAPE ONE, SIDE ONE-----

KUPSKY: Just to continue, you had your first experience in combat and seeing this other guy get wounded?

BARRICK: Uh huh. (Answered Positively)

KUPSKY: Were you acting as an observer at that point? What were the circumstances around that event?

BARRICK: I just remember we were going down a hill and, um, and the hill came under artillery attack and that's when this fellow had his leg blown off, but I can't remember if we were in the attack or what. I don't think we were in the attack that day, I just think we got caught on a—in an open field. And that was it.

KUPSKY: As you went across France, what do you remember about the civilians you encountered?

BARRICK: Didn't see too many of them. I liked them in the country, they were ... the French

people who were out in the country, in the little towns, they were really great people and very happy to see us. And it wasn't until later that we got into Paris that I got to where I didn't like the French people. And they were just, they just didn't think we had to be there, in Paris. They thought they could've taken care of it themselves, they didn't need us. (Laughter) And that's the kind of the attitude you get about the French people in Paris, very aloof.

KUPSKY: But out in the countryside were much more friendly?

BARRICK: Oh yeah, they were friendly as can be and very tickled that we were there, because we freed 'em as we kept—as we'd go farther we'd free a little a village and free another one and then another one. So naturally they were happy, but when you got to Paris they figured that even though they, even though we freed Paris they figured that they didn't need us. That they could've done it themselves later on. That's just the way they felt.

KUPSKY: Do you remember specifically any civilians or any people that you maybe befriended as you came through? Or anyone you interacted with?

BARRICK: Oh I can remember, I can't remember their names or anything, but I can remember some of the people in their little villages. We were never in a village very long, so we didn't befriend too many people.

KUPSKY: Sure. What about nighttime? Were you normally in foxholes or were you in villages?

BARRICK: No if we could be in ... a house we'd rather be in a house. It felt a lot safer than just out there in a foxhole because of artillery. Artillery, you could get hurt in a foxhole. Indoors, you know, it's pretty hard to be hurt unless it came inside.

KUPSKY: How often were you able to be in a house or a structure?

BARRICK: Hm, I'd say, if we had taken a town we'd always stay in a town, but we'd put some out in the foxholes at night, you know, as guards, but the majority of us would be inside. But then you'd pull your guard duty night and you'd be out and you'd be in a foxhole.

KUPSKY: Sure. What other memories do you have as you were taking these towns? You know, memories of close calls that you had and things like that?

BARRICK: Well I can just remember, you know, lot of times getting caught in, you know, a crossfire of weapons and artillery, but I never really got hurt.

KUPSKY: Are there any specific stories that come to mind?

BARRICK: About artillery and that? Nah, it's been a long time ago. Those things sorta pass away. Right after the war I could've told you a million of them, (Laughter) but as time goes on they drift away.

KUPSKY: Were you getting to know the people in your unit pretty well?

BARRICK: Oh well yeah, 'cause we had been together since basic training so we knew each other, right after basic training, so we're talking two and three years later now. So we still got the same people in there except those that were, you know, killed and replaced by others. A new guy would come in and within two or three days he was as good a friend as anybody.

KUPSKY: Were you always in the role of a forward observer scout?

BARRICK: Uh huh. (Answered Positively)

KUPSKY: So you were always out ahead.

BARRICK: Right.

KUPSKY: Were you with Mr. Wilson then more often than not?

BARRICK: Well, if we weren't moving. If we weren't moving we were in an observation post. We would pretty much be together. Now if we were attacking, no. He would ... he might be with another, even with one of the rifle companies.

KUPSKY: And what would you do when you were attacking?

BARRICK: Same thing. I'd be out with a rifle company somewhere.

KUPSKY: Out a little bit observing?

BARRICK: Pardon? Forward, uh huh. (Answered Positively) When we'd stop then at night, there were six of us in my group, and we'd go out behind enemy lines at night to find out where they were. They would come back in and the next day, why they'd be able to lay artillery on them.

KUPSKY: What do you remember about doing that, specifically? Are there any stories that come to mind as far as going out at night and getting behind enemy lines?

BARRICK: Not really, it's because it was such a routine thing. Going out and getting behind their lines and we never got caught. In fact we never even got close to being caught. We were just too careful. So nothing really comes to mind of that.

KUPSKY: When you and Mr. Wilson were out there were you able to talk?

BARRICK: Oh sure, absolutely. And ... you know, we'd be in a, we could be on a ridge, have a hole up on the ridge and we could look out over the land and we could see the Germans out there in front of us. We'd be up there and we'd talk about 'em and pretty soon he'd say, "Well I think I'll lay some artillery in on those guys down there," (Laughs) and he'd call back to his headquarters and he'd lay artillery in on them. As a matter of fact, um you talked about artillery. When we took Heiderscheid, Luxembourg, this was shortly before Christmas of '44. When we

took Heiderscheid we got a counter-attack the next morning and the Germans were gonna lay in and just really give it to us. He just called back to his headquarters and he told, he was a forward artillery observer, he told 'em to lay the artillery in on this city and just bomb the heck out of the city. And in the back they said, "Well aren't they gonna lose all of your people?" He said, "No, we're in the basements! The Germans will be outside." So they just laid artillery in and we got out the day afterwards. Boy there were dead Germans all over the place.

KUPSKY: When you were on the ridge, were you able to have any light-hearted conversation?

BARRICK: Oh well, yeah. We were always pretty much light-hearted when we weren't under attack. When we were under attack that was a different story, but we weren't under attack. We were up on the ridge and we could see down below and we knew we were gonna lay it to them.

KUPSKY: You had the drop on them.

BARRICK: Oh yeah, we did. (Laughs) We sure did that night.

KUPSKY: Now when you would be there with him and he was calling in artillery, were you calling back reporting positions?

BARRICK: He would be calling positions in.

KUPSKY: As the forward observer scout how was your role different from his?

BARRICK: From his?

KUPSKY: Right.

BARRICK: Because I would go out with a rifle company at night and we would ... I would go with a rifle company at night and go behind the lines and see where the troops were.

N. BARRICK: Where the Germans were.

BARRICK: Yeah. And we'd give Wilson those positions and he'd call it into his headquarters and they'd lay the artillery out there.

KUPSKY: When you were on this ridge, what was your role? Would you be calling back also?

BARRICK: Not too much. I wasn't the radio operator. I was just a forward observer. I didn't really have any kind of a title. I wasn't a—I didn't have any group under me or anything, I was just a soldier out there. That was it. I was eighteen when I went in and I felt like I was eighteen when I came out. No, I felt like I was forty, but I was about nineteen when I came out.

KUPSKY: I want to get to the Battle of the Bulge in a minute but do you remember cases where you were the forward observer and a counter-attack came all of the sudden?

BARRICK: Well, at that one spot specifically where I saw the guy that lost his leg going down the hill, we were at, it was an attack that day I guess. But um ... okay you know since I was not in a rifle company, now if I had been in a rifle company and I was always on the attack I could give you that information, but being in a headquarters company and being away from the actual attack except—oh occasionally I'd be with that group. I can remember going up through woods and everything and through a plain with woods on both sides. I never hiked, we'd always try and get as close to the edge as we could so that we wouldn't get caught out in the plain itself. But it was ... I was lucky. I was just real lucky that I wasn't a rifleman in a rifle company.

N. BARRICK: He was in what they call the I and R.

BARRICK: Intelligence and Reconnaissance.

KUPSKY: In your role, how often would you have been out on the front lines? How often would you be behind the lines?

BARRICK: Probably fifty-fifty. There were six of us in my group and usually three of them would be at battalion headquarters and three of them would be out.

KUPSKY: What was your routine when you were behind the lines?

BARRICK: Drink all the cognac we could find. French cognac we could find. (Laughs) And uh, just typical kids. And then we would meet with—usually the battalion officers would come in and we'd give them directions as to what was going on and what they should do and where they should attack the next day. And normally they would follow our directions as to what to do.

KUPSKY: Did you have a regular schedule of off duty and on duty hours? Or did it vary?

BARRICK: The only hours off and hours on were if you were on guard duty. The rest of the time it was, you were just moving or still and we didn't pull so many hours. You were just on all the time.

KUPSKY: You rotated with the other people in going out and coming back?

BARRICK: Yeah more or less.

KUPSKY: Where were you during the Battle of the Bulge?

BARRICK: Heiderscheid.

KUPSKY: That's when you were in Heiderscheid?

BARRICK: Uh huh. (Answered Positively)

KUPSKY: Was that in the actual battle that Mr. Wilson called the artillery into the city or was that before the Bulge?

BARRICK: Oh it was during the Bulge, but at Heiderscheid there was a ridgeline and Bastogne was one end of the ridge and Heiderscheid was on the other end. And the Germans came across this ridgeline, across Heiderscheid into Bastogne. That's why we took Heiderscheid. When we took Heiderscheid we stopped anymore German troops from going across that ridgeline into Bastogne. And um, but Heiderscheid, that's not a big town. Probably five, six, seven thousand people. Something like that. But that was the, Heiderscheid was just as important as Bastogne.

KUPSKY: Where had you been when the big counter-attack started? Were you on the line at that point?

BARRICK: Uh huh, but I—where were we? We were probably twenty miles out of Heiderscheid. And when the counter-attack started we just went right on into Heiderscheid.

KUPSKY: What do you remember about the Germans attacking?

BARRICK: Well I remember we woke up, it was cold. I remember that, it was below zero. And we had a tank destroyer with us, with our group. I remember we were—all of us except the guy that had the tank destroyer, this was a mobile tank destroyer, not just a gun. But we were in a building and the tank destroyer was outside. We could see it from outside of our building. When the Germans came across that field that next morning, Tory, who had the tank destroyer, knocked out about three tanks. Boom, boom, boom. And we never saw any more tanks during that battle because he was that good with the ninety millimeter gun.

KUPSKY: It sounds like it. That's pretty impressive.

BARRICK: (Laughs) It was. I'll tell you. He was a, I'd say he was a college professor after the war at, did I say Utah? Or where was that?

N. BARRICK: I don't who you're talking about.

BARRICK: Oh, Tory. I met, remember I said, oh years later I met Tory out in California and he was a college professor at the university in Utah I think.

KUPSKY: He disabled three tanks? Were you actually fighting to hold the line at your position?

BARRICK: Uh huh. (Answered Positively) We just held the line right there. And then I guess we went into the attack probably two or three days later and pushed them back.

KUPSKY: What do you remember about all that transpired while you held the line?

BARRICK: Just artillery shells coming in, and more artillery shells ever than rifle bullets.

KUPSKY: What was your role when you were on the defensive?

BARRICK: You'd be up in a—well it depends on where you were. If you were in a building

we'd probably be up on the first or second story looking out with a rifle up there and if the Germans came in you'd start shooting and that'd be it.

KUPSKY: What were you doing at the time?

BARRICK: Well I was a rifleman.

KUPSKY: Were you in a building then?

BARRICK: Oh absolutely. Everybody was. Nobody wanted to be out in the street. (Laughs)

KUPSKY: Right.

BARRICK: But I remember Wilson called in the artillery and he said, "Lay it on the town." And boy they really laid the artillery in, and when they did that, why most of the Germans got killed. And we had no problem 'cause we were down in the basements.

KUPSKY: So then it was a day or two before you counter-attacked?

BARRICK: Yeah, but I forget where we went from there. We went in and relieved Heiderscheid ... I mean Bastogne, we relieved Bastogne, surrounded. The 4th Armored Division was with us so there was two battalions of our division plus the 4th Armored Division, we went into Bastogne and relieved it. And from there on in it was no problem. We just—if we wanted to go thirty miles in a day across Germany we'd go thirty miles. If we wanted to go sixty, we'd go sixty. And we didn't have much in the way of competition.

KUPSKY: Did you come across any German prisoners?

BARRICK: Oh we captured a lot of them.

KUPSKY: Did you talk or interact with any of them?

BARRICK: Nah, I never really had a lot of time. We'd always send them back to our rear to a prison camp somewhere. We never maintained a prison camp of any kind. We didn't have time for it.

KUPSKY: Right.

N. BARRICK: How about the one you were guarding and somebody shot him?

BARRICK: Oh that was a one nighttime deal. We were observing, we had a—that was just one prisoner. But we had set up our command post in a building and there was, we had one German prisoner in there that night, because we couldn't send him back. And then that night he started causing problems and somebody shot him and later on (Laughs) we had a little guy, a little German Jew with us, he said, "You know I think all he wanted was to go to the bathroom." (Laughs)

KUPSKY: How often did you or the people you were with capture a prisoner? Was that the only time you had to guard one?

BARRICK: Oh we didn't, we guarded prisoners only usually on a one day basis or something at battalion, because they would be brought in that day and we might have to guard him until the next day and then we would put him on a truck the next day and ship him back to a prison camp.

KUPSKY: How frequently were you guarding people?

BARRICK: Not that often. Not that often. Because we'd always, before the day was over we'd always ship 'em back in a truck back to a regular prison camp.

KUPSKY: What do you remember about the prisoners? What did their attitude seem to be?

BARRICK: Most of them were pretty quiet. They knew the war was over for them. They were glad that the war was over for them. There were a few Nazis in the group, you know, but they were afraid to give you trouble cause they didn't know if we'd shoot them or what. So we never really had a lot of problems with any of the prisoners that I can remember.

KUPSKY: Were there any that spoke English that you remember?

BARRICK: Oh yeah, sure. If they didn't we couldn't communicate with them, because hardly any of us spoke any German. We had one guy in our battalion headquarters who spoke German 'cause he was German, he himself was a German Jew, and so he was our go-between. But very few other people spoke any German.

KUPSKY: The one who got shot didn't speak any English?

BARRICK: No he didn't speak any English (Laughs) and none of us could understand his German.

KUPSKY: He was just yelling and screaming.

BARRICK: Yeah. I'm sure there was a lot of that that went on. But that's the only innocent one that I can think of that we ever shot.

KUPSKY: Were there cases where your headquarters company was in very close small arms combat?

BARRICK: Oh yeah, sure. Um, there were a lot of times where, you know, we'd be in the middle and we'd be completely surrounded by the Germans. Aside from that, with our section, the reconnaissance section, we'd be out with the rifle companies. We'd be in the rifle companies.

KUPSKY: Were there any close calls there that you remember when you were with the rifle companies?

BARRICK: Oh sure, I can remember, you know, a lot of times where a bullet hit within that far from you somewhere (Gestures) in the ground. Or a guy that was next to you would get shot, but um ... all you could do was just get back out there and stay at it.

KUPSKY: Did you ever feel like you were in danger of being captured? Did that ever seem like a real possibility?

BARRICK: Yeah, uh huh. At—where was it? Heiderscheid was one place where we thought we were gonna be captured, ‘cause they took Bastogne and then it looked like they were gonna try and take us but we wouldn’t let ‘em take us. We knocked them off and went over to Bastogne and relieved them. And in France there were a couple of places where we thought we were gonna be captured, but we got into the woods and got away. You never settled out in a field. You always got into the woods. That way you could always see if anybody was coming across that field.

KUPSKY: Which army were you attached to?

BARRICK: Third. Third Army.

KUPSKY: Do remember ever seeing Patton from afar, him inspecting you?

BARRICK: Uh huh. (Answered Positively)

KUPSKY: What do you remember about that?

BARRICK: Well, he was a good soldier and all that, but he was real funny. He just...I can remember (Laughs) we had one guy that had just made sergeant and he was on a machine gun looking out over a plain. There were woods over here and woods over here (Gesturing) ... but that plain must’ve been out there a thousand, fifteen hundred yard. And Patton came up and he got in behind one of the guns and he said, “Sergeant, come over here.” Sergeant came over and he said, “Look down that sight, what do you see?” And he said, “Woods?” And he said, “You’re busted! You should be looking out there over that plain because if the Germans are gonna be coming they’re gonna be coming across that plain.” So that was the one funny thing about him that I can remember. But he was still a good general. He was a good general.

KUPSKY: Was he inspecting your division?

BARRICK: That day? Yeah, uh huh. But that—he was just looking at where the gun emplacements were.

KUPSKY: Were you able to talk to him at all?

BARRICK: Ah, I talked with him a little bit.

KUPSKY: Do you remember anything specific?

BARRICK: Nothing, he was just asking, you know, what it was like out there and had we seen many troops out there in the woods. Things like that. But he wasn't there long, he was, you know, from there somewhere else. He had, he really had more important things to do than sit around and talk to us.

KUPSKY: What about Eisenhower? Did you ever see him?

BARRICK: Oh I saw him in England and he spoke to us. Matter of fact, he spoke to us the day ... that we were gonna go into France.

KUPSKY: Do you remember what he said?

BARRICK: I don't recall. You know, just "God Bless You" and "Be Careful" and all that.

KUPSKY: Sort of a pep talk?

BARRICK: Yeah, well he was a fatherly figure. He was a fatherly figure and everybody liked him.

KUPSKY: As far as your battle experiences up to the Bulge, were there other experiences that come to mind?

BARRICK: Nothing real big, nothing real big. 'Course as I said I was not in a rifle company. If I'd been in a rifle company I'd had ... I could give you a lot of 'em. But after the Battle of the Bulge there wasn't much at all. The war was just pretty soon over.

KUPSKY: You were moving pretty quickly at that point?

BARRICK: Yeah, uh huh.

KUPSKY: I've heard other people who were in the infantry or in the army say that occasionally you'd come across a small pocket of resistance like a SS (Schutzstaffel) unit or something like that, did that ever happen to you?

BARRICK: Yeah that would happen occasionally.

KUPSKY: Do you remember any specific instances of that happening to you?

BARRICK: Okay I could—I can't remember the name of the little village. It would always be in a village somewhere. They wouldn't do it out in the woods or anything, but it would be in a village. But then I can remember a couple occasions of coming across them and we'd finally have to just lay the artillery in on them and either kill them that way or we'd have to send enough troops inside the buildings to kill 'em all so that we could, you know, continue on the direction we were going.

KUPSKY: Do you remember capturing any of the people in those situations like the S.S. troops?

BARRICK: Mm hmm.

KUPSKY: And what was their attitude like?

BARRICK: Docile.

KUPSKY: Really?

BARRICK: Mm hmm.

KUPSKY: Once they were captured?

BARRICK: Once they were captured. They were happy the war was over for them.

KUPSKY: Hm.

BARRICK: Yeah, well most of them knew that they couldn't have won the war anyway. So they were tickled to death to be out of it. And they knew that they were gonna be taken care of.

KUPSKY: Even the ones in these SS units?

BARRICK: Sure, oh yeah.

KUPSKY: Oh wow.

BARRICK: They knew we were gonna take care of them. Um, see most of the guys that were in the SS were not volunteer SS, they were drafted into the SS and they were really no different than the other German soldiers. Unless they were one of the old, original SS divisions. By that time there were none of them left, most of them were dead.

KUPSKY: Was it fairly soon after the Battle of the Bulge that you crossed into Germany?

BARRICK: Either that or up into Luxemburg. No, I guess it was in to Luxemburg. Yeah we was in ... it was Germany, but I don't remember where. It was down in southern Germany and then we went up across the north until we got up into Heiderscheid and Bastogne.

KUPSKY: Once you crossed over into Germany, what do you remember about the civilians?

BARRICK: They were docile, they were pretty quiet, they um, they were afraid that if they made too much noise we'd shoot 'em. (Laughs) And I'm sure there were a few of them that were, but we never shot any of them. But it was, they were pretty docile, they really were. And um, most of them knew they shouldn't have even been in a damn war.

KUPSKY: Do you remember specifically meeting any individual civilians and speaking with

them or having conversations with them?

BARRICK: Well I could remember meeting some of them, but so far as conversation was concerned I don't remember a lot of conversation, because most of them didn't speak English and I didn't speak German. So it was ... but they were pretty quiet, pretty calm. They knew we weren't gonna hurt them.

KUPSKY: But they were pretty passive as you said?

BARRICK: Uh huh, right.

KUPSKY: What about the cities and the towns you went through in Germany? Was anything left or were they pretty well demolished?

BARRICK: Well some of them were pretty well demolished, but you'd, you know, fight through the rubble. And even though a town might have been bombed, well we thought like crazy, there would still be a lot of buildings standings. There was always a place for people to live. They didn't have to live out in the open. They could live in a building or a basement or on the first floor or something like that. Very few of them would live up on the second or third floor, but they'd live on the first floor or the basement. Yeah there was a little damage to the buildings. There was a lot of damage.

KUPSKY: Did you come across any concentration camps or labor camps?

BARRICK: Uh huh. (Answered Positively)

KUPSKY: Do you remember which ones?

BARRICK: Well we relieved the one in Austria, which was a subordinate of Dachau, and there was one in Germany, I forget the name of it, it wasn't Dachau, that we relieved as well. And then the auxiliary to Dachau in Austria, we relieved that one.

KUPSKY: And what do you remember about seeing those for the first time?

BARRICK: Oh, terrible. Skinny, skinny people and they were hungry. And a lot of them hadn't eaten for a long time. We gave 'em our ... those darn chocolate bars we had. Hell, we probably killed more of them with those heavy chocolate bars than, you know, it was just too rich for their blood 'cause they hadn't had anything to eat, some of them for years. But oh, they looked terrible. Thin, very, very thin, eyes, big eyes ... bulging. You're not sleepy are you Dini?
(Laughter)

N. BARRICK: Mm hmm just a little ... nap time.

BARRICK: Nap time, huh?

KUPSKY: What were your reactions when you came to these camps?

BARRICK: Oh, more of just being horrified more than anything to see the condition of what these people were in. We had heard it, but we certainly couldn't believe it. And I can remember that we, at one of the concentration camps, we made the people of the German city that were down there come up and see what it looked like. And some of those people, they knew there was a concentration camp, but they didn't know what had gone on up there, and they were as horrified as we were to see what had occurred.

KUPSKY: Did you believe that they never actually known that this was going on?

BARRICK: Well they knew it was a prison camp, but they didn't know that it was a concentration type camp. The villagers didn't know.

KUPSKY: How close was the village to the camp?

BARRICK: Might be three, four, five miles. Mm hmm.

KUPSKY: Did you put them to work up there, or did they just stand there and watch? I've heard of cases where they had to help bury the dead or ...

BARRICK: Oh yeah, we had them—any of them that were dead had to be buried, we made the Germans take care of that. We made 'em clean up the camps and everything. We just told the mayor of the city what we wanted done and that's all you had to do, because then "boom," they'd take care of it. We didn't have to oversee it or anything.

KUPSKY: Within Germany, do you remember children, and the soldiers giving them chocolate?

BARRICK: Oh sure, they did a lot of that. Kids are kids.

KUPSKY: I actually interviewed a woman recently who had been a kid in Frankfurt and she said that the first thing she learned to say in English was, "Do you have chocolate?"

BARRICK: Uh huh, uh huh. (Answered Positively)

KUPSKY: What were the big cities in Germany that you went through? Were there larger cities once you got going after Heiderscheid?

BARRICK: Well, went to ...

N. BARRICK: Munich is a ...

BARRICK: Pardon?

N. BARRICK: Isn't Munich a pretty good-sized city?

BARRICK: Mm hmm, Munich. I was trying to think before we went through Munich. Was

trying to think of some cities, but I can't really think of the cities. Munich was the largest city that we were ... that we encountered, 'cause we never got into Berlin. The Russians took Berlin. We were just outside of Berlin and we were getting ready to take it and the English and the Russians and the Americans made an agreement that they would let the Russians take Berlin. So we just backed off and we were about twelve miles out of Berlin and we just stayed there and let the Russians come in and take it. And they were—I'm glad they did, because there was a hell of a battle I think. I think there was a lot of people killed in the taking of Berlin. There probably wouldn't have been as many killed if we had taken it as the Germans were afraid of the Russians and the Russians didn't give a damn about the Germans. They wanted to kill all of them that they could. And they did.

KUPSKY: Did you ever come into contact with any of the Russians or were you ever near any of the Russian units?

BARRICK: Oh yeah, after ... near Berlin. The war was over 'bout the time we got to Berlin and I went, see they transferred me to a division chorus, cause I had been in a chorus in high school, and our group went to one of the cities in Germany, well I guess it was near Berlin, where the Russians were. And we made contact with the Russians up there and talked with them, as best we could. But they were pretty nice people.

KUPSKY: Did you have trouble communicating with them?

BARRICK: Oh yeah, absolutely.

KUPSKY: But they seemed like pretty nice people?

BARRICK: Uh huh. (Answered Positively)

KUPSKY: What do you remember about them?

BARRICK: How European they look, you know, they look just like all Americans, just as European as could be. Oh there were a few Asians in the group, but not many. Most of them were European.

KUPSKY: Did they seem pretty well behaved or mild mannered?

BARRICK: Oh yeah, sure. As well behaved as we were. And as wild as we were. (Laughs)

KUPSKY: They were in the same predicament. Young kids.

BARRICK: Absolutely, absolutely. But they were good people.

KUPSKY: Did you spend a lot of time together once you were in the same place?

BARRICK: No, uh huh. (Answered Negatively)

KUPSKY: Just in passing?

BARRICK: Yeah, that would be about it because we stayed with our own group and we didn't stay anywhere near the Russians. We were probably eight, ten, twelve miles away from where the Russian group was. And ... we stuck with our own group. We didn't even have a lot of the English around us. They pretty well stuck with themselves as well.

KUPSKY: So you were just on the outside of Berlin when you met them?

BARRICK: Uh huh, right.

KUPSKY: And that was before or after Munich?

BARRICK: That was after Munich.

KUPSKY: After Munich.

BARRICK: Mm hmm.

KUPSKY: Munich to Berlin. From there you went to Austria or you had already been through there?

BARRICK: No, from there we were, we went to Austria and I don't think we had to do any fighting in Austria. The whole area was just taken over. We just took it over with no battle. And we liked Austria, it was really nice.

KUPSKY: Was the war largely wrapped up at this point?

BARRICK: It was, it was. It was over.

KUPSKY: What was the attitude of the Austrian civilians that you came across?

BARRICK: Well they were just—'course these Austrians really are Germans, but they were tickled that the war was over, they really were. And they had no resentment towards us, because they felt that we had relieved them from the Germans, even though they themselves were Germans. But no problem there at all.

KUPSKY: Were there any people you were with who were sort of hostile to the Russians or were there any Russians who seemed hostile?

BARRICK: Oh no, they were our allies. They were just like the English, they were on our side.

KUPSKY: Were you in Austria when you heard that Germany had surrendered, and that the war was over?

BARRICK: Uh huh, right.

KUPSKY: How did you hear about it?

BARRICK: I don't know, I really don't know how I heard about it.

KUPSKY: Through the grape vine or something like that?

BARRICK: More or less. Somebody just came down and just said, you know, the war is over and we were just relieved as we could be, knowing there'd be no more fighting. But yeah, I think it was just somebody coming down the street and said the war was over, that the Germans had surrendered.

KUPSKY: Were you in occupation duty then?

BARRICK: Mm hmm, for a while.

KUPSKY: In Austria?

BARRICK: In Austria. For, what, thirty days?

N. BARRICK: I don't know.

BARRICK: I think about thirty days, about thirty days. We came home on a point system. And I had enough points to where I was sent home within thirty days.

N. BARRICK: I thought you went from Austria to England.

BARRICK: All right, I had enough points to where I was sent to England. Right. And I was in England before I came home. Yeah, you're right. I went to England.

KUPSKY: When you were in Austria on occupation duty, what did you do on a daily basis?

BARRICK: Ah, just walk around more or less during the daytime carrying a rifle. We had no fear that anything was gonna happen, we had no fear that anything was gonna happen. Cause the war, the Germans knew the war was over and the Austrians certainly didn't want to get involved.

-----END OF TAPE ONE, SIDE TWO-----

KUPSKY: I had a question before we switched tapes and now I can't remember what it was. Uh, well during your experience kind of coming across France and Germany, did you come into contact with the Red Cross very often?

BARRICK: Not very often. Occasionally if we were in the rear there'd be a Red Cross donut wagon or something like that, but that would be about it.

KUPSKY: What was your opinion of the Red Cross? Did they seem to be pretty helpful?

BARRICK: Oh yeah, sure they were good people. We loved those donuts.

KUPSKY: What about the USO? Did you see other USO shows once you were in Europe?

BARRICK: Saw a couple of USO shows and they were very enjoyable. Most of them people you'd never heard of, but they were good entertainers. They were good entertainers.

KUPSKY: Do you remember what any of their names were?

BARRICK: No I don't, I really don't. Not overseas. In Europe yeah—I mean, in the U.S. I can remember Bob Hope came to one out in California and Bing Crosby came to one and Guy Lombardo came to one, 'cause we'd have a USO show every weekend. And they were enjoyable, but the ones I enjoyed most were the ones overseas with these people you'd really never heard of, but they were good entertainers.

KUPSKY: Were they generally musicians or comedians?

BARRICK: A variety. You know, one would be a musician, it would usually be a group, maybe five to ten people and you'd have comedians in there and you'd have musicians and you'd have soloists. But that was what I enjoyed, was the ones over in Europe. The ones you'd never heard of.

KUPSKY: What about movies? Did Special Services bring you movies now and then?

BARRICK: Mm hmm. Yeah ... but I'm trying to think. You'd have to be pretty far behind the lines, though, to have movies going on. Because usually it was always done outdoors.

KUPSKY: Once the war ended, since you had been sort of involved in several different sports in high school, did you get a chance to play football or baseball?

BARRICK: Oh we had a chance, but I didn't, because I went back to England fairly shortly after the war was over and when I got there I just you know, kept hoping to get home in a hurry.

KUPSKY: Had you gotten any commendations or medals or awards in Europe like a Bronze Star?

BARRICK: Got the Bronze Star.

KUPSKY: For what?

BARRICK: For heroic achievement I think they call it, something like that.

KUPSKY: What was the specific event? You know normally they kinda write up what the circumstances were.

BARRICK: Oh it was at, uh, I think it was at Heiderscheid. Up and down the hills at night, we went into an attack and we had a lot of men that were injured. And several of us, rather than crossing the river, we spent the night going up and down that damn hill taking injured up and down the hill. Under artillery all that time. And I guess all of us that stayed behind to do that were given the Bronze Star.

KUPSKY: Did your unit get a citation?

BARRICK: Not for there, I don't think. We got one somewhere, but I don't even remember where it was.

KUPSKY: I know that the Bronze Star adds points, but would a unit citation then add points to everyone within the unit? The points to come home?

BARRICK: Oh yeah.

KUPSKY: The point system.

BARRICK: Well I think so. I'm not—unit citation yes. No I don't think so. I think you had to have either the Bronze Star or the Silver Star.

KUPSKY: Okay, yeah I knew those things.

BARRICK: Yeah.

KUPSKY: So I would imagine that you and Mr. Wilson and a lot of the people you were with probably had enough points fairly quickly to go home.

BARRICK: Oh yeah. Uh huh.

KUPSKY: How long did you say you were in occupation duty? Was it a month?

BARRICK: Very short time.

KUPSKY: And you would walk the streets just policing basically?

BARRICK: Yeah, uh huh. Just policing the area.

KUPSKY: I know Czechoslovakia was turned over to the Soviets, but was any part of Austria turned over?

BARRICK: Yeah I think it was split three ways. I think it was split three ways.

KUPSKY: In the part you were in, did that remain part of the American zone?

BARRICK: Uh huh. Yep.

KUPSKY: I was just curious if you remembered if the people in Austria expressed any opinions about the Russians?

BARRICK: Well, I don't know, but I can remember meeting the Russian people there, the soldiers. And, uh, you know we just thought they were great people. We really did. Even though we didn't speak the same language we thought they were great people. And we drank a lot of vodka together, I can remember that. (Laughter) And we had a lot of good meals at night, you know, banquets at night together. That was where I learned to drink vodka, was at those Ger—those Russian banquets.

KUPSKY: Well it sounds like they were very friendly then?

BARRICK: Pardon?

KUPSKY: Sharing the vodka. It sounds like they were very friendly.

BARRICK: Oh yeah.

KUPSKY: At this point did you think you were then be going to the Pacific?

BARRICK: Yeah, uh huh.

KUPSKY: Oh okay, and sort of ...

BARRICK: Sure did. Lot of us thought we were gonna have to go to the Pacific.

KUPSKY: Like you'd get a small leave then you'd have to go to the Pacific.

BARRICK: Uh huh, but wound up I had enough points where I didn't have to worry about it.

KUPSKY: Really?

BARRICK: 'Cause we didn't know exactly how many points you were going to have to have. So a lot of us in our group—but we had been in combat long enough to where we had plenty of points, so there was no problem with that.

KUPSKY: So then were you were you transported by trucks from Austria to a port in France or something like that to go to England first?

BARRICK: Yeah, I don't remember. It was Cherbourg I guess, back to Cherbourg and then up into England.

KUPSKY: And where in England were you this time. Do you know?

BARRICK: No, let's see ... I'm not really sure where we wound up, but I think it was up in

northern England, up near Scotland.

KUPSKY: And how long were you there?

BARRICK: Less than thirty days.

KUPSKY: Oh okay, very quick. Did you get to interact with civilians at that point at all?

BARRICK: Oh yeah. Mm hmm.

KUPSKY: And what do you remember about that? I guess they were probably pretty happy?

BARRICK: Yeah, I remember I got engaged.

KUPSKY: Oh really?

BARRICK: Uh huh.

N. BARRICK: You must've been eager beaver. That's all I'm gonna say.

KUPSKY: Oh wow.

BARRICK: Well she was a nice girl, she was a real nice girl. But we met at the USO. And most of us would, you know, go to the USO every night 'cause it was nothing else to do. And I think the German soldiers were the same way. And she was a German soldier, er, German nurse and she'd be there every night, and I was gonna marry her until I met this lady.

N. BARRICK: No, Dick. That girl you're talking about was an English girl, well at least that's what you told me before. She wasn't German.

BARRICK: Honey I'm not talking about Germany.

N. BARRICK: You said she was a German girl.

BARRICK: Oh no, I'm sorry. She was an English girl. English nurse.

KUPSKY: Had you met her the first time you were in England or had you met her this time?

BARRICK: This time.

KUPSKY: The second time?

BARRICK: Mm hmm.

KUPSKY: How did you meet her, or what were the circumstances?

BARRICK: Just at the USO. Met her at the USO.

KUPSKY: And got engaged pretty quickly then?

BARRICK: Oh yeah. We fell in love. (Laughs)

KUPSKY: Or so you thought, right. (Laughter) So then what was the plan? That you were gonna come back to the U.S.?

BARRICK: She was gonna come back over and we were gonna get married. And then in the meantime I met her, and that changed everything.

N. BARRICK: Oh Lord, help me. (Laughter)

KUPSKY: Well how did you guys meet?

N. BARRICK: He was working in that drug store that he told you about in the beginning of the thing. I used to stop in there on my way home from work and I would either stop and have a coke or stop and get stamps, you know just various things. And I had noticed him for a long time ... but I think it was—there was another guy that worked in there, and this is the story I hear anyway, and he was gonna ask me out, then Dick was afraid I might have to fight the war all over again if I went out with him, so he asked me out. (Laughter)

KUPSKY: Well there you go. Where did you come into the U.S. when you came back over?

BARRICK: You mean where did we land?

KUPSKY: Yeah.

BARRICK: Well I was aboard the USS *Harry L. Glucksman*, which was a little victory ship, and it was near Boston, but I'm not sure. It was near Boston.

KUPSKY: So I would imagine it was a bumpier ride back then if you were on a liberty ship?

BARRICK: Oh yeah, yeah. It was. In fact we got sick.

KUPSKY: Oh you got seasick on the way back huh?

BARRICK: Both of us were sick coming back. It was in the North Sea and they had North Sea storms that year. And so we were just like this. (Gestures with hands)

KUPSKY: So were you able to spend most of your time on deck on this ship?

BARRICK: We had to. (Laughs) We were sick.

KUPSKY: Yeah it sounds like it. You probably would have to.

BARRICK: It was either laying down in the bunk or up hanging over the rail for about five days.

KUPSKY: Not the most pleasant trip.

BARRICK: No it wasn't. But we came back pretty slow, I think we were ...oh, something like eight, ten days coming back. Where going over on the *Queen Mary* we got over there in a couple of days, but this thing was about eight or ...

N. BARRICK: You couldn't make it from New York to England or wherever in ...

BARRICK: ... about three days, honey. We did it about three days, on the *Queen Mary*.

KUPSKY: On the *Queen Mary*?

BARRICK: But on the little ship it was, I don't know, nine, ten, eleven days.

KUPSKY: Dragged out a little bit?

BARRICK: And sick the whole time. I really, I mean sick, all the time. (Laughs) 'Cause that year they had big storms in the North Sea. And that's how we came back, was through the North Sea rather than coming down south. And I don't know why. I guess they wanted everybody to be sick.

KUPSKY: So was you unit still together or had you been split up by then?

BARRICK: No, we were, let's see, we were split up. The company I think was still together, but I wasn't with them 'cause I had separated with them, uh huh.

KUPSKY: What about Mr. Wilson? Had he left when you left.

BARRICK: Yeah he was gone.

KUPSKY: Did he leave before you?

BARRICK: Yeah, he left before us. In fact, he came back before the war was over.

KUPSKY: Okay, when did he leave? Where were you when he left, do you remember?

BARRICK: We were in England, I think, somewhere if I'm not mistaken. But he came back before the war was over.

KUPSKY: Oh okay.

BARRICK: That was the thing about—if you were an officer, and he was an officer, if you had

so many days of combat they would send you home. They didn't do that for enlisted men.

KUPSKY: So when was it roughly that you got back, do you remember? Would it have been late summer?

BARRICK: Uh huh, yeah.

KUPSKY: July, August, something like that?

BARRICK: I believe it was August.

KUPSKY: So had the war with Japan, had it ended when you got home? Or was it still going on?

BARRICK: It was still going on, but it ended shortly after we got back into the United States. And that was the first that I knew I wasn't gonna have to go to Japan or to the Pacific.

KUPSKY: Sure, right. When you first got back to the U.S. did you call home from where you were?

BARRICK: Oh I'm sure I did. I'm sure I did. And I can remember the payphones lined up Fort Dix?—that's what it was, Fort Dix. But I can remember the payphones lined up and how everybody was lined up to get on for a few minutes and say they were home and then get off so that somebody else could talk.

KUPSKY: So you called home?

BARRICK: Yeah, but the phone company made a lot of money from those phone booths, I tell you.

KUPSKY: I believe it. So then you probably took a train from there back to St. Louis? Or to Kansas City?

BARRICK: To Kansas City, yeah we took a train. It was a military train and we had, I forget how many, Pullman cars we had, probably fifteen Pullman cars filled with soldiers. And we'd—some got off in St. Louis and some got off in Kansas City and other cities, Tulsa I remember we stopped at Tulsa.

KUPSKY: Then when did you receive your discharge? Would it have been once you got back?

BARRICK: August the ... third.

KUPSKY: How early in August?

BARRICK: Yeah, I got a pretty good, a pretty quick discharge. I had enough points to get discharged.

KUPSKY: How did you hear about, you know, the atom bombs being dropped in Japan? Do you remember how you heard about that?

BARRICK: I really don't.

KUPSKY: What about the news that the war ended?

BARRICK: I don't remember where I was, but I remember hearing it, but I don't remember where I was. But all I knew was I was tickled to death because that way I knew I wouldn't have to go to the Pacific.

KUPSKY: Now had your brother been sent to the Pacific?

BARRICK: Yeah, uh huh.

KUPSKY: And where was he?

BARRICK: He was in the Marine Corps. Iwo Jima, Bougainville, Guadalcanal. And one more, I forget what the island was.

KUPSKY: So he was in quite a bit as well?

BARRICK: Uh huh.

KUPSKY: Was he home when you got home?

BARRICK: Mm hmm, he was home when I got home.

KUPSKY: Okay, so he'd already been discharged?

BARRICK: Yeah.

KUPSKY: So you came back to Kansas City once you got out and your family was still all there?

BARRICK: Still Kansas City, same house.

KUPSKY: So you met in Kansas City then?

N. BARRICK: Mm hmm.

KUPSKY: Did you get a job right away at the drug store in Kansas City?

BARRICK: Well I went back to college. And I was working at the drug store part time.

KUPSKY: Which college was it?

BARRICK: Uni—well it was Kansas City University then, it's the University of Missouri of Kansas City now.

KUPSKY: Oh okay. I know right where that is; my brother went to Rockhurst College, right across the street.

BARRICK: Oh, that's right across the street. Yeah, right.

KUPSKY: So I know that part of Kansas City pretty well right there on Troost Avenue. What was the name of the drug store in Kansas City?

BARRICK: Gayson's ... Glazer.

N. BARRICK: That sounds ...

BARRICK: Gayson's Drug Store, I think.

N. BARRICK: That sounds kinda like it. I mean, it changed in later years. In fact I'm not even sure it's there anymore.

BARRICK: I'm not sure either.

KUPSKY: Well Mrs. Barrick, had you grown up in Kansas City then?

N. BARRICK: Actually, I grew up about sixty-some odd miles from St. Louis, but I, you know, went to school in Kirksville after I got out of high school. And then decided that I just didn't want to go. And I want to Kansas City, I had a sister living there, but at the time I was living with her when I met you. I had moved out into south Kansas City with a friend. That's how I met Dick.

KUPSKY: And had you worked during the war?

N. BARRICK: Yeah.

BARRICK: At Massengill's, wasn't it?

N. BARRICK: Mm hmm.

KUPSKY: Okay so you guys met then fairly quickly after you got home?

BARRICK: Uh huh.

N. BARRICK: In about '46.

KUPSKY: So a few months later?

N. BARRICK: Yeah, right.

KUPSKY: And then you wrote off this person, the woman in England by that point? Had you stayed in touch at first, with this girl?

BARRICK: Uh huh, oh sure. Sure had, I was in love with her. (Laughter)

N. BARRICK: I remember his momma; she was a real cute and sweet lady. She said, "You know, I was so glad when I heard Dick was dating someone," she said, "I didn't even care if you were black or white." (Laughs)

KUPSKY: Oh wow.

N. BARRICK: She didn't want that English girl coming over here.

KUPSKY: So the English girl never made it over here?

BARRICK: No, never made it over.

KUPSKY: Did you just send her a letter?

BARRICK: Uh huh.

KUPSKY: Just said, "Never mind" basically? (Laughter)

BARRICK: More or less, more or less.

N. BARRICK: Forget the whole thing. (Laughter)

KUPSKY: Did you hear back from her again?

BARRICK: No, oh no. Uh huh. (Answered Negatively)

KUPSKY: I thought maybe she would've sent an angry letter or something like that.

BARRICK: No.

N. BARRICK: She was probably happy. I bet she was. Probably she thought, "Oh I got myself into something, how do I get out?"

KUPSKY: Yeah, that's a long way to go for something like that. So then, did you guys get engaged fairly quickly after you met then?

N. BARRICK: Yeah, we met I think in ... it was late summer and we were married the next

March.

KUPSKY: Oh okay, March of '46 or 7?

N. BARRICK: '47.

KUPSKY: '47, okay. Oh I see. So how long were you working at the drug store then once you—just through the rest of college I guess?

BARRICK: Uh huh, just through the rest of that semester, I guess.

KUPSKY: What did you get your degree in?

BARRICK: I never got my degree.

KUPSKY: Oh you didn't.

BARRICK: Never got my degree.

N. BARRICK: He was just about that close, about that close. (Gestures with hands)

BARRICK: Yeah, but I didn't—I was gonna have to, where was it? I was gonna have to come back here to the University and we were in Kansas City, but I was gonna have to go somewhere to take my exam and take some exams. And I figured, well what do I need a degree for, I've already got the knowledge, so I just forgot about it.

KUPSKY: Oh, what had your major been? Or what had you studied?

BARRICK: Business, mostly. Uh huh.

KUPSKY: Business? That's interesting, so you would've had to come to St. Louis to take the exams?

BARRICK: Uh huh.

KUPSKY: That's kind of a strange system.

N. BARRICK: Yeah that it strange.

KUPSKY: So what did you do then after, you know, after you finished taking classes and working?

BARRICK: I just kept on working.

N. BARRICK: Well that's—he went to, we had a friend who is now deceased, who worked for what they call Central Radio.

BARRICK: Radio and Television School. Central Radio and Television School?

N. BARRICK: Yeah, right. And they trained people who were interested in joining the thing to fly. 'Cause those days were really the beginning of a heck of a lot of flying compared to today.

BARRICK: Yeah we had airline training school.

N. BARRICK: That's what it was.

BARRICK: Yeah we had an airline training school. And then we had a telegraph school. Teach girls telegraphy. So we had the two schools.

KUPSKY: What was your job at the school? Your position?

BARRICK: Just a sales representative.

KUPSKY: Oh okay.

BARRICK: A sales representative.

KUPSKY: Still based in Kansas City?

BARRICK: Yeah.

KUPSKY: How long did you do that for?

BARRICK: I can't tell you. Wasn't long.

N. BARRICK: I know when we came back we went to the west coast and did that. Sorry that we didn't end up staying, but when we come back to Missouri he knew it was time to get out of that.

BARRICK: The school business.

N. BARRICK: It was gonna be a fluke anyway after a fashion. And then he went temporarily he worked for a furniture store. Then eventually he went to work for Pet Incorporated.

KUPSKY: Was this a trip to the west coast? Was that what you meant?

N. BARRICK: A working trip.

KUPSKY: Like a business thing.

N. BARRICK: No, uh selling this schooling.

BARRICK: Selling education.

KUPSKY: Oh okay.

BARRICK: And if the truth is known, if I'd have stayed at that we'd have probably done real well.

N. BARRICK: Well I thought they eventually closed down? Maybe not, I don't know.

BARRICK: They may have, but I mean I think I would've done real well on the west coast.

N. BARRICK: Oh I see what you're saying, yeah.

KUPSKY: How long were you out there? Just a couple weeks?

N. BARRICK: No it was probably, well we left Texas and went out there in March. After we were married and probably came back, maybe—cause we went all the way up to Portland, Oregon, I remember that. Um, we probably came home late summer. I would just call it guessing 'cause I don't really have a thing to, um, something like a bookmark where I really remember it distinctly.

KUPSKY: So late summer of '47? That would've been about the time?

N. BARRICK: Yes, yes it would've been.

KUPSKY: Were you staying in touch with some of the people you'd been in the service with at this point?

BARRICK: Oh yeah, still am.

KUPSKY: Well I know Mr. Wilson; I saw he gave us a list of sort of a couple of the names.

BARRICK: McHale, O.E. McHale was one. And we stay in touch.

N. BARRICK: Billy Hicks.

BARRICK: And Bill Hicks is another one. And that's about it I guess.

N. BARRICK: And they're all gone except for him.

BARRICK: Pardon?

N. BARRICK: They're all gone except for him.

BARRICK: Yeah.

KUPSKY: And how often do you see the other guys?

BARRICK: Well up until this year we've seen everybody at least once a year. We tried to get together.

N. BARRICK: It's been about two years, Dick.

BARRICK: Been about two years now?

N. BARRICK: Mm hmm.

BARRICK: But we used to get together at least once a year.

KUPSKY: All of you would get together somewhere?

BARRICK: Uh huh, we'd pick a spot and take off. Florida, one time, didn't we?

N. BARRICK: No, we never went to Florida, Dick. I mean you and I've been ...

BARRICK: We went to Louisville, or we went to Nashville.

N. BARRICK: We went to—well you did, I didn't. Knoxville, of course. Um, Norfolk, Virginia. We were in that area a couple of times. And Baltimore, Maryland. Those were the big national get togethers.

BARRICK: The division meeting.

N. BARRICK: It was nothing to have a thousand people at one of those. And we decided one night that we didn't really enjoy this big, huge get together, because the head honchos were going to do exactly what they wanted to do regardless of what the rest of everybody felt. So that's when we decided the next year we'd just together in each home town of the people involved. And they would plan where the people would stay and, you know, things to do while they were there. Do you know where Westport Plaza is?

KUPSKY: Oh yeah, yeah.

N. BARRICK: When they came here, which was maybe five or six years ago, we stayed up there. That's where we had our little get together.

KUPSKY: Who is the man who lives in Madison, Wisconsin? Isn't one guy up in Madison?

N. BARRICK: Not in this group.

BARRICK: Not that I know of, no.

KUPSKY: Maybe it's someone else. Mr. Wilson said ...

BARRICK: Oh. His driver, I think, was from up in ...

N. BARRICK: Oh you mean Murphy?

BARRICK: Uh huh.

N. BARRICK: That was from back in Pennsylvania.

BARRICK: Is that where Murphy was from?

N. BARRICK: Well back in the East, anyway.

KUPSKY: He put another grad student I know in touch with somebody who's living in Madison now, and I thought it might be someone from this group.

BARRICK: Not that I can recall.

N. BARRICK: Not from this group.

KUPSKY: Okay, I thought I would check. So you lived in Kansas City then for some time, at this sort of job?

BARRICK: Uh huh. (Answered Positively)

KUPSKY: And how long were you in Kansas City?

BARRICK: How many years were we there, honey?

N. BARRICK: I don't know, from Kansas City we moved to Texas. From Texas to Oklahoma and then back to Kansas City. To Joplin, Missouri. And then back to Kansas City, and from Kansas City to Florida. Florida to California, and we lived in Fresno and Southern Cal. And then from California here.

KUPSKY: Were these all for a job, or was it different jobs at each location?

N. BARRICK: Well it was the same company, just different jobs.

KUPSKY: So you were being transferred then within the company?

BARRICK: Uh huh, uh huh. Promotion here, transfer here, promotion here, transfer here.

KUPSKY: And what was the name of the company again?

BARRICK: Pet Milk Company. Uh huh. Pet evaporated milk.

KUPSKY: So it sounds like they took pretty good care of you then.

BARRICK: Oh yeah. Good company. And I had a good job with them, so it, you know, worked out well.

KUPSKY: Mm hmm. Uh, when did you retire?

N. BARRICK: Are you looking for me for this?

BARRICK: Uh huh.

N. BARRICK: About 1988 I think, January the first.

BARRICK: January '88. Right.

N. BARRICK: 1988.

KUPSKY: And where were you at that point? Where were you living at that point?

BARRICK: Here.

N. BARRICK: Here.

KUPSKY: Oh you were back here. Okay. When did you come back to St. Louis?

N. BARRICK: We moved back to St. Louis in 1966—wait a minute, no, yeah 1966.

KUPSKY: So you've been here since '66.

N. BARRICK: Oh yeah we've been here forever. Never, ever thought I'd be in one place so long. But I had also forgotten that this was headquarters for Pet.

KUPSKY: So you did a big loop and ended up back in St. Louis.

BARRICK: Right back in St. Louis.

KUPSKY: How would you say St. Louis has changed since you grew up here? For better or for worse, what are some of the main changes?

BARRICK: I just never get into the city, so I don't know too much about the city.

N. BARRICK: You worked in the city, Dick.

BARRICK: I don't know too much about the city today, the way it is. But as I recall, when I worked it seemed very much the same as when I was a kid.

KUPSKY: Really?

BARRICK: Uh huh, it didn't seem a lot different.

KUPSKY: You were in University City for a while, but did you get into downtown and that part of the city much when you were a kid?

BARRICK: No, not as a kid.

KUPSKY: Not really?

BARRICK: University, we lived in University City, and as a ...

N. BARRICK: Not always, Dick, cause I can remember you talking about going to the movies in the downtown area. So you must've lived close to downtown.

BARRICK: Well we lived on Detaughty a long time.

N. BARRICK: I don't know where that is.

BARRICK: I used to remember, but every year we kept moving a little further west. And we lived on Forest Park boulevard. And that was the last place we lived in the city, was on Forest Park boulevard. Then we went to U-City and we stayed in the county after that from there on in.

KUPSKY: Did you use the streetcar when you were younger?

BARRICK: Oh sure, nickel. Nickel to ride the streetcar, go down to the theatre on weekends. And if I went shopping during the week with my aunt why we'd always take the streetcar.

KUPSKY: When you lived really close to the loop right there, too.

BARRICK: Yeah we weren't too far, we were about, we were at 7200 and the loop is 6900, I think. Something like that. So it's not very far. It's about six blocks. Sixty-ninth, sixty-ninth terrace, seventy, seventy terrace. 'Cause you get a terrace in between there all the time for a block. So it was about six blocks. But I can remember on a weekend I used—on a Sunday I used to think that was a long walk, those six blocks, I don't know why.

N. BARRICK: U-City is really a favorite of young people living.

KUPSKY: Yeah that whole area where the loop had been. The streetcar, right along there. Very much so.

N. BARRICK: We used to go down here to Chili's a lot, that restaurant, and about half of them in there lived in U-City.

KUPSKY: Yeah I have a few friends who live in that area. Where else in the county had you lived when you were younger? It was U-City and then was there another stop before you left?

BARRICK: Uh huh. (Answered Negatively)

KUPSKY: Did your mother just continue to live in U-City then? After you had left?

BARRICK: No, once we—we went to Kansas City.

KUPSKY: She moved to Kansas City? She moved to Kansas City. I'd forgotten. She stayed in Kansas City then?

N. BARRICK: Yes.

BARRICK: Mm hmm.

KUPSKY: What about your brother?

BARRICK: California. He's out in California.

KUPSKY: Oh okay, so he's been out there.

BARRICK: Uh huh.

KUPSKY: When you first were discharged, was there any appeal to you to stay in the reserves or stay in the army?

BARRICK: Well I stayed in the inactive reserves.

KUPSKY: Oh really?

BARRICK: Uh huh, but then I got my discharge to the reserves about a month before the Korean War broke out. So if I had still been in the reserves I'd have been in Korea.

KUPSKY: Yeah, close one.

BARRICK: But I got discharged about a month before the Korea War broke out.

KUPSKY: Oh wow.

N. BARRICK: You told me they'd never find you. (Laughter)

BARRICK: No they wouldn't have found me. (Laughter)

N. BARRICK: He'd head for the hills.

BARRICK: I'd have been gone. (Laughter)

KUPSKY: Once was enough, huh?

BARRICK: Yeah, you betcha.

KUPSKY: Did you have sons?

N. BARRICK: No, daughters.

BARRICK: Two daughters.

KUPSKY: I was just curious if you have had another generation of draftees, but I guess not.

BARRICK: No. (Laughs) No thanks.

KUPSKY: Right, enough is enough.

N. BARRICK: Even his brother had three girls. It's so strange, nothing but girls.

KUPSKY: What had your opinion been of the Korea War? Did you know when it happened, what was your opinion of it?

BARRICK: Oh I don't think it should've ever been there, the Korean War. I don't think we should've gone into Korea for anything.

KUPSKY: Did you know people that you had been in with who ended up having to go or people you were in the reserves with?

BARRICK: Went back in? No. Very—I don't think, I didn't really, because most of them were like me. They were out and they weren't gonna go back in. We'd had enough during the Second World War. So I didn't, no, have any friends that were in the Korean War.

KUPSKY: It sounds like you were pretty opposed to the war?

BARRICK: The Korean War? Yeah. I don't think we should've been there at all.

KUPSKY: What about Vietnam? What was your take on the Vietnam War?

BARRICK: Oh, I think pretty much the same. I don't think we should've been there. You know we—no reason to get involved in those darn things anymore. You know, let the people in that part of the country, let them handle it. If they're Asian, let the Asians handle it. If it's in Europe, let the Europeans handle it. We don't have to get our nose in every war there is.

N. BARRICK: Tell that to the President.

BARRICK: Well it isn't the President, it's industry. Industry, you know that's where the money is made is in war time. And industry has a lot to say about what this country is gonna do, which I

understand. Which I understand. I just disagree with it.

KUPSKY: So when was the first time you actually went back to Europe and got to see it all again? You said that you had been back.

N. BARRICK: Back in 1982 was our first trip back.

KUPSKY: Could you find spots where significant events that had happened to you, or been a part of?

BARRICK: Oh yeah, oh sure.

KUPSKY: What were some of the places you were able to find? Do you remember?

BARRICK: Well, Munich, Luxembourg, Heiderscheid, Luxembourg, Paris, which I hated (Laughs).

N. BARRICK: Dick, we didn't go to Paris. I got news for you, we didn't go. You and I didn't go.

BARRICK: Okay. But I remember ...

N. BARRICK: We went to southern Germany. We went up, you know, Hitler's nest or Eagle's Nest.

KUPSKY: Eagle's Nest. Sure.

N. BARRICK: Yeah we went up the mountain to that. We had a good guide though. We had some friends that lived in, um, Heidelberg. And he took off ten days on that first time we went over and they went with us and toured a lot. They weren't with us when we stopped off in Luxembourg, but in Germany they were. So we saw a lot in Germany, because of having them with us.

BARRICK: Oh yeah.

KUPSKY: And you had been back to France on a separate occasion? You went back, or?

N. BARRICK: Well we—on one, in 1990 when there was about four couples that went over to do this whatever we were doing over there, we went over to, I'm trying to remember the name of the town that we went to there. There was a cemetery there. And we went there specifically to find the gravesite of one of the men who was killed and that's where he was buried.

BARRICK: I don't remember the name of it either, but it was just below the ... it was right on the border practically of France and ...

N. BARRICK: It would've been Luxembourg.

BARRICK: Luxembourg, right. Right.

KUPSKY: Up in northeastern France?

BARRICK: Uh huh, right. Right.

KUPSKY: And when you went back did the people seem the same. Were they friendly in the countryside, but not in Paris?

BARRICK: Well the people in the little towns seem nice, but I never could just never get along with people in Paris.

KUPSKY: It sounds like that was true in the war and then it was true when you went back even. That was still the case?

BARRICK: They just, um, they're a different breed of Frenchmen, the ones that live in Paris. They're just different.

KUPSKY: They're not very nice it sounds like, not very friendly?

BARRICK: No, uh huh. (Answered Negatively)

KUPSKY: Was that how it seemed when you went back, that the people in Paris were fairly unfriendly.

N. BARRICK: Well, I was never in Paris.

KUPSKY: Oh, would—oh okay you guys ...

N. BARRICK: And we—the first time we went over, I was trying to think, we made sure we were in France, because there was a church real near like the German border where they used as a lookout point.

BARRICK: Yeah we used to use it as a lookout. That was at ...

N. BARRICK: But we couldn't go up into the church because they were remodeling it.

BARRICK: I can't remember the name of the city, but it was right on the border.

N. BARRICK: Well it wasn't very far over or anything, I know that.

KUPSKY: Oh okay, and you would use the church tower for an observation post?

BARRICK: Uh huh, right.

N. BARRICK: And their coffee was as bitter, as all get out, you know I think a lot of the way I feel about—he doesn't like the French people at all. He said they were rude and they're not clean and a whole bunch of other things. They weren't particularly nice to the G.I.'s. And of course after this last bit with Iraq and Germany, not Germany, well Germany didn't go in either, did they and help us out? France. You know there's this little restaurant down here that we go to and they would never say "French fries."

KUPSKY: Oh, yeah I'd heard of people doing that. Sure. Well let's see, I'm trying to think if there are any other—let's see where we are on the tape. Well are there any other stories that come to mind about your war experience, any anecdotes or memories about different things?

BARRICK: Not really, not really.

KUPSKY: Any other memories of Mr. Wilson and, you know, time you'd spent with him either over there or since?

BARRICK: Not really.

N. BARRICK: I love the story that he tells, and I think he told us this when we were in Oklahoma, must be Oklahoma or Tulsa. He was allowed to go home once, I guess he had enough time and he went home. And he actually called them up and asked him if he couldn't come back. He missed all that action and, you know, I can just see him doing something like that rather than being at home where it's nice and safe and all that. He went back early.

KUPSKY: Wow, so that he could?

N. BARRICK: Tend to his duties.

KUPSKY: You're right. Be there with everybody else who has to go through it.

N. BARRICK: Uh huh, right.

KUPSKY: When was the last time you saw him? You said you saw him fairly recently.

N. BARRICK: It was a couple of years.

BARRICK: About two years.

N. BARRICK: Well you saw him, no, it wasn't last summer, was it? The summer before.

BARRICK: Summer before.

N. BARRICK: The fellow that lives in.

BARRICK: Oklahoma?

N. BARRICK: No, Fort Worth.

BARRICK: Forth Worth, oh. Mac?

N. BARRICK: Mac. Drove up to Oklahoma , picked up Billy Hicks. And then drove up here and picked up Dick. And they get in the truck the next day and they head for Knoxville. And the three guys went down and spent mmm, well I think they left here Thursday and came home on a Monday. It was, the only time that I remember that the guys got together without the gals.

KUPSKY: Just drove down to Knoxville?

BARRICK: Yeah, we got together down there.

N. BARRICK: One thing, Mac probably learned a lesson. He got a five hundred dollar ticket.

KUPSKY: Whoa.

N. BARRICK: Well I think he'd been warned and he was going ninety miles an hour in this white truck with Texas license plate. (Laughs)

KUPSKY: Yeah, out of state plates.

BARRICK: Yeah, the ticket was in Illinois. They'll get you in Illinois.

N. BARRICK: No this was in Tennessee, Dick.

BARRICK: Oh, was it? Okay, but, that's right we came up to Tennessee into Illinois, right. But that's all I remember was that it was a high-priced ticket.

N. BARRICK: Oh yeah, can you imagine five hundred dollars?

KUPSKY: Yeah, that is a steep one.

N. BARRICK: That'd take a bite out of your budget wouldn't it.

BARRICK: Oh yeah, I had warned him that he was going to get a ticket. And since I had warned him several times and he got the ticket, I didn't put any money down on it. Now if he had just been caught and we hadn't said anything I'd help him pay for his ticket, but not under the circumstances since I'd warned him several times. 'Cause I knew what it was like over there.

KUPSKY: Yeah, and he just went rip-roaring through Illinois?

BARRICK: Oh yeah. (Laughter)

KUPSKY: Oh man, yeah they'll get you. That's something I've always worried about when I drive back there. Well I think those are all my questions, unless you can think of any other

general topics.

BARRICK: Nope, nope. And I appreciate you coming by.

KUPSKY: Well I appreciate you meeting with me.

-----END OF INTERVIEW-----