

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE  
KNOXVILLE

AN INTERVIEW WITH ANDREW DOLAN

FOR THE  
VETERANS ORAL HISTORY PROJECT  
CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF WAR AND SOCIETY  
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

INTERVIEWED BY  
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AND  
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CROSSVILLE, TENNESSEE  
APRIL 6<sup>TH</sup>, 2005

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KURT PIEHLER: This begins an interview with Andrew M. Dolan at his home in Crossville, Tennessee on April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2005 with Kurt Piehler and ...

DORIS BARNWELL: Doris Barnwell.

PIEHLER: And you were born in Haddonfield, New Jersey in 1918, could you talk a little bit about your parents.

ANDREW DOLAN: Both of my parents came from Ireland. They came over around 1916 I think, I forget the exact date, anyway, but they're, well they're both Irish.  
(Laughter)

PIEHLER: Do you know why they came? Did they have family already in the states?

DOLAN: No, no they just, I guess they, uh, they immigrated from Ireland at that time and before because there was not much work or anything over there. They were like a lot of Europeans, or Western Europeans particularly. They heard of American, you know, the streets paved with gold probably, but at least the opportunity and they just came for that to get away.

PIEHLER: Did your parents, did they know each other before they came to Ireland—came to the United States?

DOLAN: Uh, yes.

PIEHLER: Yes, so did they come over as a married couple?

DOLAN: No.

PIEHLER: No.

DOLAN: Well, they were married when they got here, yeah, right after they got here.

PIEHLER: Right after they got here, so they didn't meet in the states?

DOLAN: No.

PIEHLER: Now, your mother was a Protestant?

DOLAN: Yeah.

PIEHLER: And your father was a Catholic?

DOLAN: Right.

PIEHLER: What part of Ireland did they come from?

DOLAN: Uh, my mother came from County Fermanagh and my father from uh—from, they call it the (Irish) Free State, they still do over there from the Republic of Ireland. And Sligo, it's up in the northern part of the Republic of Ireland. Close, not far from Enniskillen actually.

PIEHLER: Did—how did your parents, do you know how they actually met?

DOLAN: No.

PIEHLER: 'Cause they came from two separate—my understanding is that the Irish and Protestant are very separate in Ireland.

DOLAN: Yeah, unusual but, yeah it's still that way. (Laughs)

PIEHLER: Growing up which church did you attend to?

DOLAN: Episcopal Church.

PIEHLER: Episcopal Church.

DOLAN: Yeah.

PIEHLER: And both your parents attended?

DOLAN: No, my father didn't, just my mother.

PIEHLER: So—did your father attend church growing up?

DOLAN: No.

PIEHLER: No, no. But your mother took you.

DOLAN: Yeah, correct.

PIEHLER: And which church do you go to?

DOLAN: Lutheran Church now.

PIEHLER: It's a Lutheran.

DOLAN: Yeah, I gave up on the Episcopalian, started back in Vietnam era where the, uh, a lot of the priests would demonstrate in the street and I didn't approve of that and I don't approve of the liberal philosophy of the Episcopal Church, so I just, uh, I dropped out. (Laughs)

PIEHLER: But growing up what church did you attend, in ...

DOLAN: Episcopal.

PIEHLER: Do you remember the name of the church in ...

DOLAN: Yeah, it was uh, Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Haddonfield.

PIEHLER: Mm hmm.

DOLAN: No it wasn't Holy Trinity; that was the one in Collingswood (New Jersey).

PIEHLER: Collingswood?

DOLAN: Yeah, originally in Haddonfield I guess it was just called the Episcopal Church, but then Collingswood was the next town over. Actually when I was very young my mother changed to that, they had some disagreement with the pastor at the time there and I don't recall now what it was, but she went, left the church, that one, and went to Collingswood. So we actually, growing up, we attended the Holy Trinity Church in Collingswood.

PIEHLER: Mm hmm, and um, how often did you go to church growing up?

DOLAN: Every Sunday.

PIEHLER: Mm hmm, were you involved in any other church groups growing up?

DOLAN: No.

BARNWELL: Did you enjoy going to church or did you feel ...

DOLAN: Not particularly no. (Laughter)

PIEHLER: What did your—your father was a teacher?

DOLAN: Yeah.

PIEHLER: Where did he teach?

DOLAN: At the Bancroft School in Haddonfield. It was a school for feeble-minded they called it in that day; I forget what they call them today, what do they call them today?

PIEHLER: I think mentally retarded.

DOLAN: Yeah, somethin' like that. But it was a private school.

PIEHLER: And how did, do you know how your father got the job?

DOLAN: No.

PIEHLER: And he had been there since—did he work steadily throughout the 1930s?

DOLAN: Yes. No I don't know how he got it. But there were other Irish people there and they, he may have known somebody.

PIEHLER: Mm hmm. Did, did he have any friends that came over from Ireland?

DOLAN: He had a brother that came over a little bit later, and a sister.

PIEHLER: Mm hmm, do you have any idea why they sorta settled in Haddonfield or had they ...

DOLAN: No, no I think he probably knew somebody at the Bancroft school or some other Irish that were there and, uh, that's how they got there, but otherwise I don't know.

PIEHLER: Yeah I should also say, your parents were married in 1916 and you were born two years later. Your father, did he, um—he didn't serve in World War I, do you ...

DOLAN: No.

PIEHLER: Did he—was he drafted, or do you know?

DOLAN: No. Maybe ...

BARNWELL: Did he have any type of military history, or ...

DOLAN: No. Maybe on the account of being married at the time you know it was—I don't know.

PIEHLER: Yeah you don't—he never mentioned it?

DOLAN: No.

PIEHLER: Where did you live in Haddonfield? Did you, um, did you live in a house or ...

DOLAN: Yeah. Roberts Avenue if you want the exact street. (Laughter)

PIEHLER: And you lived there your whole time growing up or did you move around?

DOLAN: Oh, after, uh, we live there 'til about seventeen. I guess and then we lived in a couple of places in Haddonfield and in Collingswood.

PIEHLER: Mm hmm, so you then moved to Collingswood?

DOLAN: Yeah.

BARNWELL: What do you remember the most about your childhood, if you could—is there a particular story or ...

DOLAN: Well I don't know any stories particularly off hand, but I enjoyed being out in the woods. I spent all my time in the woods, down at the lake fishin'. I never hunted, but I liked to fish. And, uh, I was quite interested in birds and animals and I was a bird watcher at the time.

PIEHLER: Were you a Boy Scout?

DOLAN: No, I had a Boy Scout manual; I probably knew everything the boy scouts did maybe more. (Laughter) But my parents couldn't afford the uniform and, uh, well you needed that and so all I had was the book.

PIEHLER: Did your parents own their home or did they rent?

DOLAN: No, they owned it.

PIEHLER: They owned. Did your parents have a car?

DOLAN: No.

PIEHLER: How about a telephone?

DOLAN: We had a telephone, yeah. I don't know when we got it, but—I recall when we got it, but I don't know when it was ... so we didn't always have it, but we did eventually have one.

PIEHLER: What else did you—growing up what else did you do for fun?

DOLAN: Play football, baseball, (Laughter) hockey. All sandlot stuff, I was never engaged in organized sports through school, but after school activities.

BARNWELL: Did you have a lot of friends that lived around you to where you guys could organize?

DOLAN: Oh yeah. We had our own gang. (Laughter) It just wasn't like the gangs today, we didn't go around shooting up the place. (Laughter) We just played together, associated together; had a good time, when we were growing up.

PIEHLER: What were some of the things your gang would do, besides play sports?

DOLAN: That's all.

BARNWELL: That's all.

DOLAN: Yeah, a couple of us would fish, but we'd just sit around and talk and we never engaged in any other activities.

BARNWELL: Did you guys ever camp out or ...

DOLAN: No.

BARNWELL: What was your level of education?

DOLAN: High School.

BARNWELL: High School.

DOLAN: Graduate.

BARNWELL: Okay.

PIEHLER: Did you, did your family take vacations growing up?

DOLAN: No. Well we really did have a vacation because the Bancroft School had a camp in Maine; Owls Head, Maine. So we went to Maine every summer.

PIEHLER: Really, with the camp?

DOLAN: Yeah.

PIEHLER: How many weeks would you be up in Maine?

DOLAN: From—the whole summer.

PIEHLER: The whole summer from ...

DOLAN: As soon as school let out in June and back in time to go to school in September.

PIEHLER: So ... growing up, your summers were in Maine?

DOLAN: Yeah.

PIEHLER: Did you ever work in the camp?

DOLAN: No.

PIEHLER: No. You just were there with your mother and you had one brother or ...

DOLAN: A brother and a sister.

PIEHLER: Mm hmm, so you would all go and ...

DOLAN: Yeah, with the dog. (Laughter)

PIEHLER: How did you get to Maine?

DOLAN: By driving. It used to take three days from New Jersey to Maine.

PIEHLER: Did you ever go to the Jersey Shore at all growing up?

DOLAN: Occasionally, not too often. But after the war I did. I spent a lot of time down there.

PIEHLER: What about Camden and Philadelphia? Where did you do your shopping?

DOLAN: Well, in Haddonfield first, ah we'd go to Philadelphia for the department stores. If we needed a new suit or a new pair of shoes, why, we went to Strawbridge and Clothier in Philadelphia.

PIEHLER: Mm hmm—What elementary school did you attend? Do you remember?

DOLAN: In ...

PIEHLER: In Haddonfield, yeah.

DOLAN: Yeah.

PIEHLER: Do any teachers stick out in your memory?

DOLAN: Only, uh, well yeah there was several. One ... I don't know her name anymore, but I guess I was in about the first or second grade; I did something wrong and she used to tell us to put our hand on her hand with the palm up and she'd tap it with a ruler. Whatever I did to displease her one day she called me up, and said, "Put your hand there," and she did that (Gestures) with the ruler and I pulled my hand away. (Laughter) I remember her lookin' at me funny, but I don't think she did anything after that. I mean I didn't get any further punishment for doing that. I really forget. She probably told my mother.

BARNWELL: Did you have a favorite subject while you were in elementary school?



DOLAN: Uh, no not particularly. But uh, I had a high school teacher, like we talked about elementary or high school. High school, his name was uh—what was his name. I don't know I lost my ... anyway he taught history and I think social science and he was a socialist. And his favorite person was Norman Thomas. But he didn't teach us—I'm a conservative now and I guess I always was. Dykeheusen, his name was; Mr. Dykeheusen. His influence about the feeling for Norman Thomas didn't rub off on me (Laughter) as a particular young person.

PIEHLER: But he sounds like he was a very good teacher.

DOLAN: Yeah, I would say he was. Teachers were all pretty good. I don't have any complaint about our teachers, growin' up.

PIEHLER: Did you like biology? 'Cause you mentioned being very interested in the outdoors?

DOLAN: No, I took a commercial course. I was a typist. Typing, and shorthand, and all that stuff.

PIEHLER: Growing up, what did you think you wanted to do when you graduated, high school?

DOLAN: I didn't really have any idea. Most of the kids didn't. A few of them did, but I didn't have any—go out and get a job. At that time it was graduate from high school, get a job. And that was just get, a job.

PIEHLER: I'm curious 'cause I know, I think now today, students from Lawnside, a nearby town, go to Haddonfield. Did students from Lawnside go to Haddonfield when you were going to high school?

DOLAN: Yeah.

PIEHLER: How did the two groups get along, the people, students from Lawnside and the students from Haddonfield?

DOLAN: Well, I'm trying to think of, there had to be some from Lawnside. We got along fine, but we called them "from down the line". Berlin kids use to come up too and I think if you lived within two miles of school you had to walk. And otherwise, but they were all same. At Lawnside had a lot of black people at that time, I guess they still, today. But I'm not sure now that you mentioned Lawnside that we had, they could have gone to ... Haddon Heights High School, one of the other ones. I don't think ...

PIEHLER: You don't remember any from, students from Lawnside ...

DOLAN: No. No, now that you mentioned it I don't...

PIEHLER: Cause I know today and I don't know what it was in the 1930s and uh ...

DOLAN: Yeah, there were a lot of black people there and there were some in Haddonfield and outside Haddonfield; they came to Haddonfield High, not too many, but they—we treated them all the same. There was no—, even thought about racial stuff at the time.

PIEHLER: Mm hmm, what did your parents think about Franklin Roosevelt growing up? Did they ever ...

DOLAN: I don't really know.

PIEHLER: Yeah, 'cause your parents were both Republican.

DOLAN: Yeah. They didn't vote for him I don't think. I voted for him. (Laughter)

PIEHLER: Which was ...

DOLAN: One of the big mistakes of my life. (Laughs)

PIEHLER: Which election?

DOLAN: Well the first time that I was able to vote when I was twenty-one. Which would have been, uh, what—he was the first person I voted for anyway ...

PIEHLER: It was either ...

DOLAN: ... I voted for him three times

PIEHLER: Then, was it 1940? I can't calculate quick enough to see if you were twenty-one in 1940.

DOLAN: Well I was, uh, in '38 I was ...

PIEHLER: Yeah you would have been, yeah, so yeah, so 1940 you could have voted in '44.

DOLAN: No, I couldn't have voted for him three times, 'cause I wasn't old enough to vote for the first time.

PIEHLER: In '36 ...

DOLAN: Yeah, but anyway he was the first person I voted for.

PIEHLER: Were you active in any other clubs or groups, you mentioned you couldn't afford, at the time, a uniform for Boy Scouts. Were you in any other clubs or organizations ...

DOLAN: No.

PIEHLER: The Y, or ...

DOLAN: No.

PIEHLER: Any high school clubs ...

DOLAN: No.

BARNWELL: Did you ever consider playing sports in high school?

DOLAN: No, I was pretty small, I was a 'lil guy. (Laughter) But I enjoyed all sports.

PIEHLER: Did you follow any teams, like ...

DOLAN: National teams?

PIEHLER: Yeah like the Phillies, the teams in Philly ...

DOLAN: Yeah, the A's at that time. Rather than the Phillies. The A's moved out, then the Phillies.

PIEHLER: You mentioned going up to Maine every summer and occasionally going to the shore, but more that was more you went to the shore after the war. Did you travel anywhere else outside of the sort of Philadelphia ...

DOLAN: No.

PIEHLER: ... southern New Jersey ...

DOLAN: No.

PIEHLER: So the farthest north you ever went was Maine?

DOLAN: Yes.

PIEHLER: What's the farthest south you ever went, besides ...

DOLAN: Not far out of Haddonfield.

PIEHLER: Yeah, and west, was the farthest west was ...

DOLAN: Philadelphia.

PIEHLER: Philadelphia. So it's really Maine and that was ...

DOLAN: Yeah. Uh huh.

PIEHLER: You graduated in, um 1936, what was your first job out of high school?

DOLAN: I worked at the *Philadelphia Record*, in the promotion department. I got that, the publisher of the *Record* lived right around the corner from us, Dave Stern [Publisher 1928-1947]. He got me a job there in the promotion department.

PIEHLER: And what did you do in your first job?

DOLAN: Sort of like a secretary, 'cause I could type and it was a—actually it was ... it was an advertising marriage of the *Record* and he had a label saving program called the *Wattis Plan* and the organization saved labels of food products for cash prizes. And I worked for him; he was my boss. I wanted to be a newspaper photographer 'cause I was an amateur photographer, at that time.

BARNWELL: Did that develop from where you liked to watch birds and did you ever take pictures of the birds that you watched?

DOLAN: No, because I didn't have a good enough camera to take pictures of birds. (Laughter) But I had a Speed Graphic which was a 4X5 camera that the newspaper men used at that time. When they, when the photographers were under the art department, when one of the photographers got a new camera, they would sell the old one. So, I bought a used Speed Graphic for fifteen dollars, when I had it. So, I used to take a lot of pictures with that.

PIEHLER: Did you ever try to get a job in the photography ...

DOLAN: Well I was waiting, I had applied for it you know and they knew I was interested in it, and then the war came along. So that ended that.

PIEHLER: Were you involved with your high school's yearbook at all?

DOLAN: Yeah, I don't know what I did, but I did work on it, now that you mention it.

PIEHLER: What about the school newspaper did you ...

DOLAN: We didn't have one.

PIEHLER: I'm curious, and I should have asked this earlier, did you have any high school fraternities?

DOLAN: No.

PIEHLER: No.

BARNWELL: Did you have any other jobs before the war or ...

DOLAN: Well, I delivered newspapers, not newspapers. I delivered orders on my bike for the local hardware store, Jim Lamont.

PIEHLER: Oh, okay. How old were you when you started delivering for the hardware store?

DOLAN: I don't know, maybe ten or eleven. I used to get two dollars a week after school. And a-half on Saturday.

PIEHLER: How long were you with the *Record*?

DOLAN: Up to the time when I went in the Air Corps with the National Guard on January, 1940—not January ...

PIEHLER: You listed January 20<sup>th</sup>, 1941.

DOLAN: Yeah.

PIEHLER: When you—did you enlist or were you part of the draft?

DOLAN: Well, I was a draft dodger. (Laughter) People tell me I shouldn't say that, but I had a pilot's license. I had taken flying lessons and I had a license, a private license and I couldn't get in the Air Corps. Flying Cadets required two years of college and twenty-twenty eye-sight and I didn't have either of them. So when the president started the draft my number was the first one out of the eight pound ball when they picked it out. So I knew I would be called pretty quick. So I went to the recruiting office, 13<sup>th</sup> and Market in Philadelphia. I talked to the sergeant there and I asked him, if it—I told him ... I had a license, but I couldn't qualify for flying cadet. And was there any other place in the Army Air Corps where I could fly an airplane? And he said, "Oh sure," he said, "you sign up and we'll send you to Montgomery, Alabama." That's where the mechanic school was. And then he says, "There you'll learn to fix airplanes and you'll get to fly them to make sure they're okay before the lieutenants fly them." So, it sounded pretty good to me. (Laughter) So I said "Well let me think about it." This, in the meantime, one of the advertising solicitors at the *Record* [Philadelphia Newspaper], Max Kahn, was a Captain in the Pennsylvania Air National Guard and he had been talking to me, he says, "Why don't you join the National Guard?" He says, "We're going away for a year's active duty," and he says "You'll go away for a year" ...

PIEHLER: And you'll come back ...

DOLAN: Yeah, “You come back after a year and you’ll have one night a week, one night a month, I mean, on a, what do they call it, a meeting, it’s not a meeting, like a training session.” And then two weeks in the summer time at camp and he said, “You would be away for a year, if you like it, if you like the military then you can transfer to the regular Air Corps at the end of the year. If you don’t like it, then all you have is that monthly drill, drill they call it yeah, and then the two weeks and you won’t be stuck for four years.” So, I was still leaning towards this sergeant down there, what he told me, and I went home that night and there was a letter waiting for me from the president to report to Fort Dix the following Tuesday this, I think this was like on a Wednesday, to report the following Tuesday with clothing for two days. So, I quick ran in and saw Max the next day and said can you still get me in the guard and he said, “Oh yeah, no problem.” (Laughter) So he says “We’ll take care of it, notify your draft board,” so I got into the National Guard and then ’course that was the end of that, for five years.

PIEHLER: Before we talk about your year in the Guard and then what becomes a longer period, where did you take your private lessons, where did you start your private ...

DOLAN: With a Flying Dutchman, Ernie Buehl at Summit Airport in Philadelphia.

PIEHLER: What— when did you start your lessons? How—you graduated in high school in ’36 ...

DOLAN: I guess I was twenty, nineteen or twenty.

PIEHLER: And, where were you liv—when you were working in Philadelphia where were you living?

DOLAN: In New Jersey.

PIEHLER: With your parents or ...

DOLAN: Yeah.

BARNWELL: Was there a particular plane that you focused on learning or one that you really liked?

DOLAN: Well, the one I learned in was a Piper Cub, J3 Cub.

PIEHLER: And your interest in aviation was that a more recent one or do you always ...

DOLAN: No, I always was. I’d made model airplanes, but I’d forgot about that, you asked me what we did as kids. I spent a lot of time building model airplanes.

PIEHLER: Did you often, would you go out to the airport as a kid to watch ...

DOLAN: Yeah, to watch 'em land and take off and land. That was one of the sports of the day. There wasn't much else to do. (Laughter) There weren't a lot of activities, but, oh yeah, anytime there was an airplane around I was there.

BARNWELL: Did your whole group of friends go to watch or was it just you?

DOLAN: No, no I was the only one.

PIEHLER: Were you old enough to remember the Lindbergh Crossing?

DOLAN: Oh, sure. He was my hero.

PIEHLER: What about the, um, what about the Hindenburg?

DOLAN: Yeah, I have a picture of it, burning. When I was working at the *Record* at that time because it was uh ...

PIEHLER: Yeah that's right ...

DOLAN: It was at that period, then yeah. And the photographer that took the picture out there, he gave me a print of it.

PIEHLER: I'm curious what did you think of the sort of debates of America's entries into the war 1939, '40, and '41?

DOLAN: I don't really recall much of that.

PIEHLER: Did you, did you sort of, for example, support this sort of idea of aiding the allies ...

DOLAN: Oh yeah.

PIEHLER: In '40 and '41?

DOLAN: Yeah, I did then. I don't—the people at that time, I don't—well the kids didn't anyway, we didn't really—we knew that the war was comin' on and didn't think much about it really.

PIEHLER: When you, it sounds like you—did you really think you'd be coming home after a year?

DOLAN: Oh, yeah.

PIEHLER: Yeah. You didn't think this was ...

DOLAN: No.

PIEHLER: Did, um, ... also, did you ever go back to visit Ireland and visit your parents?

DOLAN: It wasn't until, um, well, we went over once when we were growing—I was five years old at the time. My mother took us over, in the summer time. And I remember a little bit about it.

PIEHLER: Your father didn't go, but your mother went to Ireland to visit ...

DOLAN: No, he never went back.

PIEHLER: He never, never ...

DOLAN: No, my mother went back to it, but she didn't go very often because we couldn't afford that, but she did go back several times.

BARNWELL: Did they have family living over there, your father and your mother?

DOLAN: Yeah, well you asked if I'd gone over. I went over in—during the war, in Germany I tried to get over, after the war. And it was either, the weather was bad on the continent or it was bad over in England and Ireland. And the guys who went over there they'd get stuck there for sometimes like thirty days and I really didn't want to (Laughter) get stuck in Ireland for thirty days. I did want to go over and make acquaintance with my cousins. I waited and waited and then I had a chance to go the Riviera. And, I thought well I better take that or else I might not get anything, I never did get. But I went over about eight years ago. And I met some of my cousins on my mother's side and one on my father's side in Scotland.

PIEHLER: You had, you enlisted in the National Guard, ... how soon did you go with them? They were being called up for a year ...

DOLAN: They'd already been federalized ...

PIEHLER: So, so ...

DOLAN: ...and we left February the 16<sup>th</sup> for a year's active duty.

PIEHLER: So you enlisted on the 20<sup>th</sup>, January 20<sup>th</sup>, 1941 and then in February ...

DOLAN: Its actually January 7<sup>th</sup>, I guess. I just noticed that on some record I was looking at the other day.

PIEHLER: Okay. And then next month, where did they go? They were federalized, where did they ...



DOLAN: Harrisburg, Pennsylvania (Harrisburg Air National Guard Base/Olmstead Airbase).

PIEHLER: And did you have any type of basic training?

DOLAN: Not much.

PIEHLER: So in a sense, you learned on the, as one might say, learned on the job?

DOLAN: Yeah, I was assigned to the photo lab, which I was familiar with, because I had my own laboratory in the house. I developed my own film, and prints, and everything.

PIEHLER: So they put you in this ...

DOLAN: In the photo, yeah, photo lab.

PIEHLER: And ... they were based in Harrisburg. What ... what was their initial mission?

DOLAN: Training. But, with an observation squadron. So we did photo interpretation and they'd take pictures of sites around the states, you know, refineries and stuff like that. It was just strictly training.

PIEHLER: And when you say training, were you taking in new members in the unit or was it just really taking the existing unit?

DOLAN: Well, at that time it was the existing unit and then as soon as Pearl Harbor came along we started to get some draftees in.

PIEHLER: But until Pearl Harbor ...

DOLAN: Yeah ...

PIEHLER: It was the Pennsylvania Guard ...

DOLAN: Yeah, mm hmm

PIEHLER: How ... was this the 33<sup>rd</sup> Photo Reconnaissance?

DOLAN: No, 103<sup>rd</sup> Observation Squadron, Pennsylvania National Guard.

PIEHLER: And who was the ranking officer?

DOLAN: His name?

PIEHLER: Yeah, do you remember?

DOLAN: It was, uh, Edgar Scattergood, Major.

PIEHLER: And was he from Philadelphia?

DOLAN: Yeah, that area ...

PIEHLER: Yeah. The person who sort of got you into the Guard, what was his rank?

DOLAN: He was a captain, he was an observer, a flight officer.

PIEHLER: Was he a pilot or just ...

DOLAN: No.

PIEHLER: Just a flight ...

DOLAN: An observer, which meant the cameras and stuff, you know ...

PIEHLER: And did the unit have its own aircraft or was it strictly Observation Reconnaissance?

DOLAN: No, we had our own planes.

PIEHLER: And a cadre of pilots?

DOLAN: Yeah, uh huh.

PIEHLER: But all National Guard until Pearl ...

DOLAN: Oh yeah.

PIEHLER: How old, roughly, how did you fit in in terms of age in this National Guard Unit?

DOLAN: Overall you mean?

PIEHLER: Yeah.

DOLAN: Oh, there was a whole range with no particular, uh, there was a few young people. There was some that were seventeen up to about forty I guess. I know that in that year, that first year, the law was changed that anybody over twenty-seven could get discharged if they wanted to, and we had a number left. And that was before Pearl Harbor. And as soon as Pearl Harbor the younger ones got called back again before the older ones. The man who was in charge of the photo lab, (Cao?) Brown, he did not come back. He was a master sergeant.

BARNWELL: Did you feel comfortable in what you were doing since you had past experience with taking photographs?

DOLAN: Oh yeah.

BARNWELL: And you enjoyed it?

DOLAN: Yeah.

PIEHLER: What was a typical day like before Pearl Harbor?

DOLAN: Well, we would get up (Laughter), and we'd do some exercises some days and then report to our sections. And the planes would fly and take pictures and go back and we would process them. I remember the first day we were in Harrisburg, the first day we were operating, I made a print and I took it to Sergeant Brown and I said, "Is this print good enough?" He says, "Can you make a better one?" I said, "I think so." He said, "Well it's not good enough then." (Laughter) So I always remember him for that. He is one of the people I kind of say that made an impression on my life. 'Cause it didn't just reflect on making a print, but on everything. If you can do something better then its not good enough, no matter what you do.

PIEHLER: And then how late would you work 'til?

DOLAN: Usually about five o'clock.

PIEHLER: And then would you, was your time your own or did you have ...

DOLAN: No, we were off duty then. So, we head for town. (Laughter)

PIEHLER: You head for ... (Laughter) you head for Harrisburg?

DOLAN: Yeah, Peanut Joes. (Laughter)

PIEHLER: How ... how spit and polish was your unit or how loose was your unit, the National Guard?

DOLAN: Oh, we were pretty well regimented. Yeah, there was no foolin' around. No, it was a good unit. I mean, they're all—basically everybody knew their job because they had been in the guard for a while, some of them a long time and It didn't require much training, but it was just repetition of the same thing I guess and it gets more regulated to regular army life.

PIEHLER: And where did—you lived in a barracks?

DOLAN: Yeah.

PIEHLER: And how rigid were inspections?

DOLAN: Oh, they were, it was spit and polish, I mean ...

PIEHLER: Oh, you did have ...

DOLAN: Yeah, there was no fooling around. I mean ...

PIEHLER: Did you ever like lose a weekend pass because or a pass because of a ...

DOLAN: No.

PIEHLER: A foot locker or ...

DOLAN: No, I don't really remember much of that kind of stuff going on.

BARNWELL: When the draftees came in was it more stressful around the barracks or in your unit?

DOLAN: Well, it was a little more exciting for a while because we were on maneuvers in North Carolina [Carolina Maneuvers, 1941] at the time, or on the way home. And we were in Northern Virginia, Camp A.P. Hill [Fort A.P. Hill, Bowling Green, Virginia] when we heard the word.

PIEHLER: Of Pearl Harbor?

DOLAN: Yeah.

PIEHLER: How, when you said you were on maneuvers was it, did you only do one maneuver before Pearl Harbor or ...

DOLAN: We had one in Virginia before that too. A shorter one, but we were down in North Carolina for a couple, or three weeks I think.

PIEHLER: And the maneuvers, how big were the maneuvers you were involved with?

DOLAN: I don't really recall. It was a regular Army down there at Fort Bragg (North Carolina) and ...

PIEHLER: And so you were ... part of a very large, in terms of an Army maneuver ...

DOLAN: Yes. But we camped out in tents. And I was in headquarters at that time. So we just did our normal work and the airplanes flew and I took cooperation with the Army on maneuvers taking pictures you know and exactly what went on I don't know.

PIEHLER: Did you ... you didn't really go through basic trainings, so I guess, what were the things you had to learn? And how were you taught them? Besides the sort of very specific job, but sort of how to be—the various Army, everything from saluting to, did you get any small arms training, rifle range?

DOLAN: Yeah, rifle and pistol.

PIEHLER: Was that at Harrisburg?

DOLAN: Uh, yes ... I guess we did everything the Army did, except we didn't, I don't know what goes on, really in the Army basic training. You just learn ... the rules and regulations, how to behave and it sort of was ongoing all year, it was like an ongoing basic training if you want to call it.

PIEHLER: Did you for example, I know in Army basic training, and I know its different than the Air Force, but the Air Force sort of an interesting relationship in this period because it's still part of the Army. Did you do any marches?

DOLAN: Long ones?

PIEHLER: Yeah.

DOLAN: No. I don't recall doin' any.

PIEHLER: And when you were in the maneuvers you were in vehicles?

DOLAN: Yeah, well I was in headquarters down there so I never left the ...

PIEHLER: Never left the headquarters ...

DOLAN: ... where it was.

BARNWELL: What types of pictures did you take when you were doing the maneuvers? Was it specific things you guys were looking for?

DOLAN: No, I don't, uh, at that time I wasn't in the photo lab and I don't really know what they did with them, but they apparently had operations where the Army was moving here, and the Blue Army, or the Red Army. I think they might have taken photos of the, one or the other you know, then used that to counter attack, whatever, but I'm not really, I don't really know what they did with it.

PIEHLER: Was your unit, before Pearl Harbor, shaken up at all, was there any new officers put in or did you stay with the same?

DOLAN: No, I think there were pretty much—'cause I was only there like a month before we were activated and the ones that were there were the ones that went and I don't remember any new people coming along until of the time of the draft.

PIEHLER: How long did you stay with the unit after Pearl Harbor?

DOLAN: Oh, until '44, January or February of '44.

PIEHLER: And you were based, you were on maneuvers when you heard about Pearl Harbor, where specifically do remember where you were?

DOLAN: I was at Camp A.P. Hill in Virginia.

PIEHLER: Do you remember what you were doing, or?

DOLAN: Yeah, digging a slit trench. (Laughter) Or supervising the digging of a slit trench.

BARNWELL: How did you feel whenever you heard of Pearl Harbor?

DOLAN: Well, we were pretty much excited I guess. I mean, it came as a shock really. Kind of expected, well, weren't expectin' it, but when it happens, you know, it made a whole, more of a somber attitude I guess. As soon as we got back to Harrisburg then, the next morning we were transferred out to Rhode Island for anti-submarine patrol.

PIEHLER: And so your, your planes in your squadron were flying over the ocean ...

DOLAN: Yeah.

PIEHLER: Looking for submarines?

DOLAN: Right.

PIEHLER: And were you developing images?

DOLAN: We didn't, never saw a submarine. (Laughter)

PIEHLER: Yeah, you didn't have anything to develop?

DOLAN: No. I was in headquarters at that time still.

PIEHLER: Yeah. So when you were staying in headquarters you weren't developing anything?

DOLAN: No.

PIEHLER: What were you doing then, what was a sort of a typical ...

DOLAN: I was headquarters Sergeant Major. But when I was in the photo lab I was a sergeant and that was the highest there was because the Tech Sergeant, Master Sergeant were all above. And the Staff Sergeant in headquarters went to OCS (Officer Candidate School). And so I had the background of office and I got myself transferred to headquarters so I could become a Staff Sergeant.

PIEHLER: How quickly did you become a sergeant before Pearl Harbor? I mean ...

DOLAN: It wasn't long.

PIEHLER: Yeah, so you had rank pretty early.

DOLAN: Yeah.

PIEHLER: So by Pearl Harbor you were master?

DOLAN: No.

PIEHLER: You were ...

DOLAN: I was—a staff sergeant.

PIEHLER: Staff sergeant. But then by early '42 you got promoted when, when the Master Sergeant went ...

DOLAN: No. I was sergeant in the photo lab ...

PIEHLER: Yeah and then ...

DOLAN: Then I left the headquarters to become staff sergeant ...

PIEHLER: Sergeant ...

DOLAN: But that was as high as I got.

PIEHLER: Okay, okay. But you also said the Master Sergeant left for ...

DOLAN: Oh, at twenty-seven when you were able to get out for, uh, the age twenty-seven he elected to leave. And it may have been at that time I got promoted to sergeant because everybody had moved up.

PIEHLER: Moved up.

DOLAN: Yeah, the Tech Sergeant became a master.

PIEHLER: And how long were you in Rhode Island on the anti-submarine [duty]?

DOLAN: Well we were ... there from December 8<sup>th</sup>—which was the very next—the 7<sup>th</sup> we get back [from Camp A.P. Hill], and we left the 8<sup>th</sup> and we were up there probably for a couple [or] three months. Early spring we went—got transferred to Hyannis Port [MA]. Summer time we're up in Hyannis Port doing the same thing and then along, about the end of summer, I guess, sometime, why, to Fort Devens (MA).

PIEHLER: And still doing anti-submarine ...

DOLAN: Yeah.

PIEHLER: Were you ever more successful in locating submarines?

DOLAN: No, I don't recall ever have had sighted one. Any of our pilots ...

PIEHLER: Yeah, so a lot of patrolling but no ...

DOLAN: Yeah.

PIEHLER: And what would be typical days for you when you were now in headquarters, particularly during this anti-submarine?

DOLAN: Well, it is just like going to the office every day. (Laughter) Personnel things, you know, to take care of.

PIEHLER: When you were in Hyannis—when you were in Rhode Island and Hyannis Port where were you based? Where was your unit?

DOLAN: At the airport in Hyannis.

PIEHLER: And was that, was the Hyannis a military or was it a civilian airport ...

DOLAN: Civilian ...

PIEHLER: Civilian.

DOLAN: Yeah.

PIEHLER: So where do you ...

DOLAN: Rhode Island was too. Hillsgrove-Providence Airport, Fort Devens was the military base.



PIEHLER: Yeah, that, where were you actually living in these two when you were based at these two civilian airports?

DOLAN: Hillsgrove was a, I was in a firehouse (laughter) they uh ...

PIEHLER: Converted into a barracks ...

DOLAN: Yeah they just, a bunch of cots put in there. Any of those type of buildings, firehouses or legion posts, or whatever, they were all commandeered by the military and in Hyannis we lived in tents.

PIEHLER: And did you have a mess or did you get a per diem to just go out?

DOLAN: No, no we had to, each firehouse, or whatever it was had to—no there was one that was a kitchen and that's, and we'd go there every day for our meal.

PIEHLER: In some—in a sense because you were land based in a civilian airport in many ways you were very much, even though you were in the military you were still at home, I mean you're still in, you're not even on a military base.

DOLAN: Right.

PIEHLER: How did that sort of, you know ...

DOLAN: I never gave it a thought.

PIEHLER: Yeah, no I just ...

DOLAN: I was still in the Army ... (Laughter)

PIEHLER: You were still in the army so ...

DOLAN: Still in barracks or a tent or you went to the firehouse.

BARNWELL: Did the civilians react in a certain way since, with you guys being there?

DOLAN: No. They were all—military was pretty well respected. With the war going on and everything there was never any anywhere. We never experienced any anti-war, backlash or comments.

PIEHLER: How often did you get invitations to people's homes? Did you ever get them?

DOLAN: Oh yeah, lot of times. You'd go into a bar, if they'd buy you a drink, it was pretty nice. (Laughter) Yeah, we, I guess as often as anybody wanted to go out, but we got invited over nights sometimes, to places too. People had big homes up there; they'd invite a bunch of GI's out for a weekend.

PIEHLER: And how many days were you on particularly when you were doing the submarine, were you on every day or did you have ...

DOLAN: Oh, yeah.

PIEHLER: So you had a seven day ...

DOLAN: Oh yes, it was always seven days in the Army.

PIEHLER: Yeah, was that the case before Pearl Harbor?

DOLAN: Yeah, same thing.

PIEHLER: Actually let me just, we're almost ...

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

PIEHLER: Did you, you occasionally got weekends, weekends peo—you mentioned people inviting you, did you ever make it up to Boston?

DOLAN: Oh yeah, every weekend (laughter), yeah we had all weekends off ...

PIEHLER: So you did ...

DOLAN: Practically every one, yeah. Saturday, Sunday so, we'd go to Boston and stay overnight.

PIEHLER: Where would you go and where would you stay? Do you, any place...

DOLAN: Either at the Y or one of the hotels over at the marina.

PIEHLER: And you mentioned a bar out in Harrisburg, any places in ... Massachusetts, in Boston in particular that stick out that you use to ... (Laughter)

DOLAN: No, Scully Square was ... the place where all the main night clubs were or the bars.

BARNWELL: Did you develop any close friendships while you were within this unit or

DOLAN: Oh yeah, sure. Some even after the war. This how I got to Tennessee, one of the—Mario Grasso who was a master sergeant communications and he moved down here, I kept friendly with him all through the years. He moved down here, so we'd come down to visit him and this is how we got to come down to Tennessee.

PIEHLER: And did he retire to Crossville?

DOLAN: Well, no, he had already retired, I guess in Philadelphia.

PIEHLER: But he then moved ...

DOLAN: He moved down here because his wife had a niece, I guess, or a cousin. His wife had a cousin that lived down here and that's how they got down here. But yeah, oh, there was a number of fellows that I was with and we remained friends over the years.

PIEHLER: You didn't stay with this unit, why did you leave the unit?

DOLAN: Well the observation squadrons, or a lot them around and the Army changed them to reconnaissance squadrons. But all of the time, right after Pearl Harbor, they kept picking personnel from the squadron. We'd get a request to send this MOS (Military Occupational Specialty) or this one and they always say this is a nucleus for a new squadron, so send your best qualified personnel. Well, we didn't want to get rid of the best qualified personnel. (Laughter) We always sent the worst ones and the least qualified, a lot of times. Which wasn't really the right thing to do because they went off and became a nucleus and they probably got, a lot of 'em, a lot of ranks that they didn't justly deserve, but they were new so they got 'em. But as time progressed after Pearl Harbor they picked more and more and we'd get replacements draftees. And finally in ... '40 near the end of '43, they took the—there was a tech sergeant in charge of photo intelligence, they just called it intelligence at that time I think. They took him away, so he disappeared. So that left it open for a tech sergeant, so I applied. And, I was already at the headquarters so I didn't have any trouble getting my word in. And so I transferred to photo intelligence so I could get the next rank. When the transfer went through, then I went to MacDill Field in Florida for six weeks, PI (Photo Interpretation) school. I was taught photo and combat intelligence. And at the end of six weeks when I came back, I just got back to the airport in Reading, Pennsylvania, was where at that time. And I got back to the squadron and they busted up the whole squadron, they transferred everybody out. We all went to, a lot of us went Birmingham, Alabama, and some elsewhere. But they all went to other squadrons or other places that were being formed. And we got to Birmingham, Alabama, Mario Grasso, we were still together then, at the same time and Ed Singer. We went down to Birmingham for a few days; we'll all get transferred to Oklahoma City. There they were forming four new photo intelligence squadrons: 33<sup>rd</sup>, 34<sup>th</sup>, 35<sup>th</sup> and no I think 30, 31, 32, 33. Or was it 34, 32, 33? Anyways four, four or five, new squadrons. So, we could of got into any of them and fortunately for me at the time, I figure even now, I get into the 33<sup>rd</sup>. At that time I was a PI in photo intelligence. And Mario Grasso got into the one that went to China—Burma Theater, CBI (China, Burma, India Theater). I went to England with the 33<sup>rd</sup>. So, to me it was much better deal going to England than going to CBI.

PIEHLER: When you two exchange stories, I mean when you said it was a better deal, what has he told, what did he tell you about his experiences?

DOLAN: Well actually he seemed to enjoy it over there ...

PIEHLER: Yeah.

DOLAN: It wasn't too bad, but it didn't appeal to me at the time. But I had no choice of really, the way they—the luck of the draw. But one of the other squadrons, the commander we had at Fort Dix (New Jersey), Captain Alden, was assigned to that squadron and they were on a troop ship in the Mediterranean and it was also on the munitions ship, and it was torpedoed in the middle of the Mediterranean and there were several thousand troops on board and there were only two survivors out there. So, I could have been in that squadron and I'd be in the bottom of the Mediterranean now, instead of here. But it seems to have all worked out pretty good.

PIEHLER: How did you, after Oklahoma City, the units were formed up, how long were you in the states before you were shipped out?

DOLAN: It wasn't long because, I forget now but, after Oklahoma City we went to Texas on some maneuvers down there and then in April, lets see 18<sup>th</sup>, we left for Europe. So, sometime between that early part of the year that I was transferred out there before Oklahoma. It wasn't too long we headed for Europe.

PIEHLER: And how did you get over to Europe, how did you make it?

DOLAN: On the *New Amsterdam*, (Laughter) a luxury liner.

PIEHLER: And how luxurious was your journey? (Laughter)

DOLAN: Well, it wasn't very nice, but it was, uh, the *New Amsterdam* was a large ship and it went unescorted because it could out run the submarines. And there were about 8,000 troops on board. We left New York and the first night, in the middle of the night we left sometime, and I was assigned down below, a couple of decks down in a little room that you couldn't standup straight in and there were mattresses on the floor and cots over top of that hanging from the walls. So, I took a spot on a floor mattress and that night I heard the water splashin' against the hull, so I knew that we were at just about the water line. (Laughter) And this was in April. So the next morning I went up on deck and I never went down again. I'd just go down for a shave in the morning and I brought my sleeping bag up and on the deck and I slept up on the deck because I figured if we got hit by a torpedo it could've been right by my ear. (Laughter) I thought I'd have a better chance on deck than I would down there. So, it was kind of a rough ride, but we went south for a while and it was warm and then up the North Atlantic in April, it's pretty chilly and rough. Got off at the GoreLoch, Scotland [U.S. Naval Base GoreLoch]. But it was a bit crowded and dirty and it had a lot of little Indians from Asia ... worked on the mess hall and they were all greasy and the place smelled terrible. (Laughs) Only good part about it is when some guys got KP (Kitchen Police/Patrol) they had to go way down in the ship some place and bring up these crates of oranges, and apples, and stuff, but they always managed to, the ship lurched and the box bounced against the wall and broke open. (Laughter) So we'd wait for them to come back up because they always had as

many apples and oranges and bananas or something they could stuff in their pockets.  
(Laughter) But it was a, it wasn't too nice a trip.

BARNWELL: How long was your trip, how long was ...

DOLAN: Eight days, I think, uh, yeah eight days. It was ... a lot of gambling going on, big gambling, so. But I never gambled when I was in the military. There was always somebody waitin' to take your money. (Laughter)

PIEHLER: After you landed in Scotland, what happened next?

DOLAN: Well, they hustled us on a train and we went right down to Chalgrove, England. About... ten miles from Oxford, England.

PIEHLER: And then what did your unit do next after ...

DOLAN: Well, ... they started right off with taking pictures.

PIEHLER: And what were their, what were some of their missions when they were based in England, what were they, what was their photo reconnaissance?

DOLAN: Well we use to—I guess we started right off in England. We'd have, we worked closely with the First Army and then the Third Army. And we would cover a certain part of the front every day. Our squadron was assigned a certain area to photograph and also we had some individual targets; airports or marshalling yards that we were assigned to that we took pictures of every day. And we would look at them and interpret them and see any changes in troop movements, or train movements, or activity at the airports or the marshalling yards. And in overall area photographs, we would look for the same thing. Maybe trains underway, you tell by the steam or changes in airport heavy activity, any troop movements, any kind of activity, military activity. And that would be relayed immediately to the Fighter Bomber Squadrons where they would go out and hit those targets if anything that we had ...

PIEHLER: It sounds like you've, part of your job, in taking these photographs, is to assess damage from raids. Is that? Or was it more to identify potential targets?

DOLAN: Yeah, we didn't do any damage assessment that was all done—we did what was called first phase and that was look for activity at the time, any activity. And after we did the first phase they would go to group headquarters where they did second phase and it would go to SHAEF (Supreme Headquarters of the Allied Expeditionary Force) I guess or one of the upper headquarters they did third phase and each one was more precise, more long range, but they kept track. They tracked day by day everything that was going on.

PIEHLER: And your—were you still at headquarters in this new unit or were you doing ...

DOLAN: No, I was Photo Intelligence.

PIEHLER: Photo Intelligence, so you were ...

DOLAN: The whole time in the 33<sup>rd</sup> I was Photo Intelligence.

PIEHLER: And so you would actually interpret?

DOLAN: Yeah.

PIEHLER: ... What did that involve?

DOLAN: ... Well, looking at pictures. (Laughter)

PIEHLER: I mean, how much did they teach you and how much did you sort of start figuring things out or looking ...

DOLAN: No, in six weeks we got pretty good training down in the MacDill Field.

PIEHLER: And MacDill Field was in ...

DOLAN: Florida.

PIEHLER: Florida.

DOLAN: Tampa, Florida.

PIEHLER: When did you have that training?

DOLAN: Just before I went to 33<sup>rd</sup>.

PIEHLER: 33<sup>rd</sup> okay when they broke up ...

DOLAN: That's when I left the 103<sup>rd</sup> [Observation Squadron].

PIEHLER: Yeah, when they broke, you had six months of training ...

DOLAN: Six weeks.

PIEHLER: Six weeks.

DOLAN: Yeah.

PIEHLER: Who trained you?

DOLAN: Well, the military trainers.

PIEHLER: Yeah, so it was all military ...

DOLAN: Some officer or officers or something like that. They taught us a lot of stuff we never used. How to make, which somebody did, I know that we didn't, models of terrain for an area using coffee grounds and plaster of Paris making the mountains and the roads and everything. And that was used by the Army I guess, or other people, but we never did it in the squadron.

PIEHLER: You never did it ...

DOLAN: Identification, aircraft identification and what to look for. But we had stereos and we'd just look, on it would give ya a 3-D dimension, 3-D dimension. And we would just look for activity, you know to see something like the aircraft on the ground whether it was damaged or undamaged and stuff like that. And then we'd plot them all, first we have to plot them to make sure the pilot's stuff is in the right place. We had some pretty good maps and, uh, my terra-plotted area was covered in the photographs were often plotted.

PIEHLER: When your unit, your older unit was broken up and you joined the 33<sup>rd</sup> how many of your old Pennsylvania National Guardsmen were with you?

DOLAN: Nobody.

PIEHLER: You were the only one?

DOLAN: Yeah.

PIEHLER: Where were people from in this 33<sup>rd</sup>?

DOLAN: A lot of them were from the South. Uh, the nucleus for that 33<sup>rd</sup> was ... I think Missouri I'm not sure now, it was a National Guard Squadron down in this part of the country anyways, still had to carry over a lot of the personnel from there.

PIEHLER: Who was your commander do you remember?

DOLAN: Yeah, the first one was, uh, McCurdy.

PIEHLER: And he was a Major?

DOLAN: He was a Major, yeah.

PIEHLER: What do you remember about him?

DOLAN: Not too much but I never, we never had much contact with the pilot. When I was in headquarters in the old squadron, you were more in contact with everybody, but once you were in a separate department like that outside you don't really—like most of the time we were separated. Actually from the airplanes, the squadron, we needed—we were always in the photo lab. The photo lab and PI were together. And we needed a place for water for the lab and so often, more often than not, we were away from the squadron a little bit. So I never had much contact with anybody outside the photo lab people or our own PI people.

PIEHLER: In terms of the photo lab and the PI's, your area, who was the senior officer?

DOLAN: Captain Worndorf, Tim Worndorf.

PIEHLER: And what do you remember about him?

DOLAN: He was a, he should have been in the German Army. (Laughter) He was a perfect Prussian general. He was immaculate to the T and he was big and he was strong and he was a stickler for discipline. He was an okay guy I guess, but I think he was, I always think of him being arrogant. He didn't associate with the enlisted men.

PIEHLER: And other officers had before him, that you'd served with?

DOLAN: Oh yeah. Most of them, but he was kind of aloof. I'll tell you a story, it don't make any difference now, probably everybody's dead. We got off a landing ship at Omaha Beach (Normandy), it was August of ...

PIEHLER: Of '44 ...

DOLAN: '44. And at that time, the path going up there that the poor GI's had to climb by the rope to get up. The well-worn trail going up there and things were moving up, but it was still steep and long. We get off that landing craft and I looked at that hill there Captain Worndorff, he gets everybody lined up there to go up the hill and I looked at him and everything he's got on his back, I have on my back except the overcoat. His overcoat was maybe a few ounces more weight than mine. But everything else was the same, the weight. And I'm 130 pounds, five foot six, and he's six foot two and 210, or something like that. He struts off there up that hill like he's going for a walk down a boulevard. And I said, I'm gonna keep up with that guy. No matter what if it kills me, I'm going to stay right behind him. And I did up until we got about seventy-five percent I guess I started to drop back a little (laughter) and he got up there ahead of me. Years later, it was after the war, Mike Sparrow, you know was another staff sergeant in my section, he was a civil engineer. I was repeating that story to him and he got his slide rule out and he sent me a letter. And he figured out that my height and weight against Captain Worndorff, that I deserved a handicap (laughter). He had it mathematically all figured out. I had beat Captain Worndorff by twenty-five yards (laughter). Oh, but I had all those figures for a while but I don't have anymore. Anyway, no that was—he was ok, but he was just aloof, different from ...



PIEHLER: It sounds like he ...

DOLAN: He was a good officer.

PIEHLER: How often did you move once you got into France?

DOLAN: Oh, we moved a lot. Because we were working with the Army directly, and, well, we were stuck in England longer than what they had expected because the Germans had everything bottled up at Saint-Lô (France) and there was no room for anybody else on the continent 'til they broke out at Saint-Lo. But we were supposed to be there the second week in June. 'Cause they expected to go right in once they cleared the beachhead. So we didn't get there 'til August for that reason. And but once we're there then we moved all time. As fast as the Army moved, we were right, as close as possible behind them. The engineers would build a landing strip if there was no airport available, and they were good at that. They could put a landing strip down overnight. Bulldoze through the trees or the fields, you know, just level, and put metal plates down there with mesh. Metal plates and put for a landing strip. And we'd move right along behind them.

PIEHLER: And where did you do your developing and the work? Particularly the need for darkness? Did you have tents or did you have vehicles that ...

DOLAN: We had like a Quonset hut type of buildings ...

PIEHLER: That you would assemble ...

DOLAN: Yeah.

PIEHLER: ... Quickly and then disassemble.

DOLAN: Yeah, or put them together quick then move along. They're pretty large type Quonset huts.

PIEHLER: In many ways you were much more like the Army than a lot of air force units, because of your direct connection.

DOLAN: Yeah, well at that—before it was just the Air Corps and then they got tactical and strategic. And the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force was the strategic and the 9<sup>th</sup> was tactical Air Force. They worked right along closely ...

PIEHLER: Yeah.

DOLAN: They didn't have the heavy bombers that the 8<sup>th</sup> had, or the fighter squadron.

PIEHLER: Um, were you always far enough behind the line, did you ever have any contact with German ...

DOLAN: No.

PIEHLER: The Germans.

DOLAN: No, I never saw a German soldier 'til towards the end of the war and they were all prisoners headed back towards Germany. (Laughter)

PIEHLER: So that was the only contact you ...

DOLAN: Yeah.

PIEHLER: Particularly when you were in France, how was the food and other civilian ...

DOLAN: We always had good food.

PIEHLER: What about showers? How often did you get a shower?

DOLAN: Uh, well, regularly. We always had somebody build a shower.

PIEHLER: So you never went like weeks without a ...

DOLAN: No, the longest we ever went was on the ship coming over eight days.

PIEHLER: That was your longest stretch.

DOLAN: Yeah.

PIEHLER: What about—did you have a chaplain assigned to your unit? To either of your units, the Pennsylvania Guard unit or the 33<sup>rd</sup>?

DOLAN: No.

PIEHLER: No.

BARNWELL: Did you ever get to communicate with your parents back in the states while you were overseas?

DOLAN: Only by letter.

BARNWELL: By letter.

DOLAN: And a little email. (Laughter) But it's not email, the emails today. Anyway they were little foldup things ... quick messages, like.

BARNWELL: Do you remember, within the 33<sup>rd</sup> unit, do you remember having a newsletter?

DOLAN: Yeah, I use to put one in.

BARNWELL: I actually found one online. Right here I made copies of it (Hands copy to Dolan). And it was one of the only ones that was saved. It was saved by Staff Sergeant Bob Kincses.

DOLAN: Kincses, yeah ...

BARNWELL: And ...

DOLAN: Everybody saw it at the reunion two years ago.

BARNWELL: It's just I made a copy of it with all the comics in it and some of the news that was ...

DOLAN: This was down in, before I—Gainesville (Florida) is where we went to. What's the date on it? Oh, November '43. Yeah that's before I joined them—I never saw anything like this. We didn't do it in the afterward, I don't think—I would like to have a copy of this. Can I make a copy?

BARNWELL: You can actually have that one if you want.

DOLAN: Oh can I?

BARNWELL: Yeah.

DOLAN: We have the son of one of the, his name is Chris Davis, his father Elwood Davis was in engineering. And his son now is secretary of our reunions. He does a good job, he may not have that, and he'd like to have it.

BARNWELL: Mm hmm.

DOLAN: What were you asking before that? Oh, about the news.

BARNWELL: Yes, did you get a ...

DOLAN: Yeah, I use to, but I called it Nomad News. We had a radio, I don't know where we got a radio—but we had a radio, I'd pick up the BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation) newscast every day. And then I'd just type up several copies of the current news, what's going on, and tack them on the bulletin board. And everybody looked forward to it. It had a little news from home and where the action was, the military action of the day. 'Cause we didn't have the facilities for everybody, here like radios or no

TV's or nothing like that where you could find out what was going on in the world. We didn't really know too much outside of the BBC.

PIEHLER: Did you ever read *Stars and Stripes*?

DOLAN: Oh yeah, yeah we got that regularly. You asked about the food before too, we always had good food.

PIEHLER: Yeah, so you ever had ...

DOLAN: No.

PIEHLER: Did you ever trade with civilians in France or in England or ...

DOLAN: Yeah, I traded my bicycle, we had bicycles in England, and we got to France and they flew the bicycles over there. The Army does funny things. (Laughter) And we had to go by boat but they flew the bikes over (laughter) because there was no transportation. So we get over to France and the roads are all bombed out and there was no place to ride a bike. So we all traded our bicycles for Calvados. And then after the war, there was still a little black market. Because we hadn't been paid and we'd go in to Marseilles (France) and take a pair of trousers or shirt or underwear or stuff like that. And then we'd meet the guys down in the basement of some building locally and sell 'em. Probably not a nice thing to say, but I wasn't the only one, it was kind of common. We all had a lot of clothes and didn't know what to do with them anyway. And no money and look you're in Marseilles, if you could have a little bit of money (Laughter). But other than that ... I use to take food to a French family and we use to take oranges and eggs and stuff to them. Whatever I could get from the mess hall and grab for them.

PIEHLER: Where was this in France?

DOLAN: It was in Châteauroux just south of Paris about 30, 40 miles.

PIEHLER: It sounds like your work was very—though you were moving a lot, was very routine. Is that a fair way ...

DOLAN: Yeah, I'd say so.

PIEHLER: I mean were there any variation in your work load?

DOLAN: Well yeah, it would, if the weather was bad then we had time to just loaf. But when the sun was out and the airplanes could fly then there were times we'd go three days with no sleep. We'd just get a cat nap on the table in between waiting for photographs.

PIEHLER: So in other words, bad weather meant more time?

DOLAN: Yeah.

PIEHLER: But clear weather meant you might be ...

DOLAN: Then the planes flew all day. We would fly from sun up to sun down. When we were in England it took a little bit longer, they had to go across the continent, but once we got on the continent, then we were close at hand and they would have to take off backwards to go and get altitude before they getting over enemy lines and they'd be up and around again.

PIEHLER: Were any of your planes ever shot down in your squadron?

DOLAN: Yeah, we lost three.

PIEHLER: Did the pilots all, did they make it out or did ...

DOLAN: Um, no.

PIEHLER: No.

DOLAN: We lost other pilots because of an accident, I guess a couple. One was shot down over Berlin, where he wasn't suppose to be.

PIEHLER: Literally, he wasn't ...

DOLAN: Yeah. The ... toward the end of the war the—Hitler called all these—they had the jets operational and he pulled them all back around Berlin to protect Berlin. The pilots were warned not to go there, some got curious and wanted to see Berlin.

PIEHLER: And he ...

DOLAN: Yeah, one guy got curiuser than the rest.

BARNWELL: What was the atmosphere like in Europe whenever you were there?

DOLAN: Where?

BARNWELL: Like in France, what was the civilian atmosphere like and ... ?

DOLAN: Oh well, it was friendly if that's what you mean. Well we were liberators so ...

PIEHLER: What about when you were in Germany?

DOLAN: Well, we were warned not to fraternize with the Germans. And I didn't, so I knew if we left the base I wouldn't unless it was with a group something like that because

you never knew who might be lurking around the corner. I wouldn't be very happy if I'd just been conquered. Knowing there were a lot of people over there, it was like the Iraq today, not as bad, but you never heard about it. But there was a lot of sabotage and Germans wouldn't give up. I have an interview with a German girl here if you'd like to see it. Where she said Germany would never quit, they'd be fighting in the hills and the trenches, you know, and would never be conquered.

PIEHLER: When was this interview done?

DOLAN: Right after the war.

PIEHLER: It sounds like when winter came the number of missions your squadron could fly diminished because of the weather and also the days are shorter, is that ...

DOLAN: That's right yeah.

PIEHLER: Towards the end of the war, what kinds of missions were you—say in March, February, March, and April, how many, were you still flying?

DOLAN: Oh, the same thing ...

PIEHLER: All the way to VE Day [Victory in Europe, May 8, 1945].

DOLAN: Yeah, right up to the last.

PIEHLER: Last, so about—the work load doesn't diminish as the war's winding down you're still ...

DOLAN: No. We did the same thing day in and day out.

PIEHLER: And what about—where were you when VE Day occurred? How far east?

DOLAN: Brunswick, Germany.

PIEHLER: And then when the war ends, what did your squadron do?

DOLAN: They split them up. First they re-did everything. Everyone had points that you needed—I forget how many points to go home. And the ones with lesser points got first preference. We just sat around and didn't do anything. We just had to wait our turn. The ones that were not eligible for discharge, they were rushed back to the states for reassignment over to the Pacific Theater. And they got home and got out before we did. (Laughter) They were there at the end of the war you know and there was nothing to do, so. It was really boring after the war.

PIEHLER: So you didn't have any role in military government or occupation forces?

DOLAN: No.

PIEHLER: You literally sat ...

DOLAN: ... Yes. Yeah I ended up in—from Brunswick it wasn't long after that, but everybody was transferred. I must have gone to—I went to Kassel. I was in some kind of an office, had to do with, I don't know what it really had to do with. Recreation or something, arrangements for the GI's or they had books there, a library. Sometimes my mind is a little bit fuzzy about that period in time I don't want to say it was—I was in charge of the office when I got there and they had a young German girl there—I guess she was about eighteen years old and she spoke perfect English. And she asked me what I wanted her to do and I said, "what have you been doing?" She told me something and I said, "you just keep doing what you've been doing." (Laughter) I had no idea why I was there or what I was suppose to do. And one thing I remember, she used to tell me "one day that the next generation of Americans are going to be born without legs, because they won't need them, they're driving and get automobiles every place they go." And I wasn't there very long fortunately and I got reassigned to my... still some of the old squadron was down in Eschwege, Germany. It was right near the Russian zone. And I was back there again with the people I knew and then I stayed there until when we got assigned to Camp Chicago and eventually come home. But we didn't do anything ...

PIEHLER: So how would you pass the time particularly in, towards the end when you really didn't have any ...

DOLAN: I don't know. When I got down to Eschwege, I was in charge of the Enlisted Men's Club. Which was—it gave me something to do. I only got that because when I got there, a corporal that was in, he was... I think he was in communications ... he was in charge of the Enlisted Men's Club. It was an old German's Officer's Club ... So he told me, "You wanna take over when I leave?" I said "yeah," so he told whoever the officer that was in charge that I was in put in charge of the Enlisted Men's Club. It was pretty good because every Friday we went to Kassel to the brewery to get beer and we would stay at the brewery and drink a lot up there before we come home (laughter) and it was all free up there. And we knew that once we got back at the Club we had to put it on tap and the guys all lined up with their mess cups. But there wasn't really much to do. And there I was the news editor of the *Recon Reporter*, which was a mimeograph newspaper we used to put out every week. So it gave me something to do there.

PIEHLER: You mentioned you tried to go to Ireland but you didn't want to get stuck because of the weather, but you did make it to the Rivera. Did you do any other traveling?

DOLAN: I went to Paris, twice went to Paris.

PIEHLER: It sounds like you liked France quite a bit ... during the war?

DOLAN: Well it was in war time any other place. Yeah probably did.

PIEHLER: Did you, um, did you think of re-enlisting?

DOLAN: No.

PIEHLER: No.

DOLAN: The only thing that I look back, if I'd thought about it at the time, I should have stayed over there and gone to college. I could have gone to a school over there, they had some good schools. But I wasn't homesick, but I just wanted to get out of the Army. I just had enough of it and I just wanted to go home and get back to work. I wish now I had stayed over there.

PIEHLER: You left Ger—Europe in October '45?

DOLAN: Yes.

PIEHLER: And how did you come home, what ship?

DOLAN: Came home on the *Frederick Lykes*.

PIEHLER: It sounds like that was a captured ...

DOLAN: That was a Navy cruise ship. It was nice and clean.

PIEHLER: Really? Much better than the ...

DOLAN: Yeah, it was the Navy. It was just like the Navy every day, it was immaculate. (Laughter)

BARNWELL: You had a better living space, a better room this time. You weren't in the bottom of the ship?

DOLAN: Oh yeah, I really forget where we slept or whatever it was. It was nice, it was October, and it was a nice calm voyage all the way home. But I'll tell you a funny story. I'll tell you two stories about that ship or the connection with the ship. When I was at Camp Chicago there was a master sergeant from Tennessee and he asked for volunteers to type the departure list. He said, "the sooner we get the list typed we can go home." So I could type, I volunteered. We typed and we typed and we typed, day after day, we'd change it and change it. He use to tell us, "anybody who volunteers won't have any duties on the way home." Cause once after the war is over there's no rank, everybody is the same. So I wanted to get home so I volunteered. Eleven, twelve o'clock at night, day after day, re-typing and typing. We finally get down to Marseilles (France) and join the ship and it's a nice day, I get up in the morning or that day on the way out I go down and look at the bulletin board and there's a duty roster for the next day and who do you thinks on KP? Staff Sergeant Andrew Dolan, the first name on the list. So the next morning I



get up and I went up to the bow of the ship and I laid down with a book in the shade and was reading the book and they paged me three times. (Laughter) Report to the mess hall, I never went. Cause I knew they couldn't do anything to me then. (Laughter) So I never heard anything, but the first name on the list and there was two or three thousand guys on the ship. Oh, the other thing when we were at Fort Devens there was a—you got enough time for me?

PIEHLER: Oh yeah, no no no take your time, no no no ...

DOLAN: I was a headquarters Sergeant Major at that time at Fort Devens and there was a draftee there, I won't mention his name because it might come up some ways, not really important. But he was like a First Sergeant ... he was a college graduate, which was unusual at that time. And he thought himself superior and he was always crying. And they saw a first sergeant's delight, but he was the kind of the guy—if you been on KP the day before you don't like to put somebody on the next day again, but if you needed a substitute he was the perfect one. Put him right on there. So, this particular time he was, he applied for OCS (Office Candidate School), he was going to artillery school of OCS. Eddie was—Joe Calimiri was the corporal, the sergeant at the time, And he said, "I need another KP for tomorrow. This guy had just gone the day before so I put him on again the day he's leaving the next morning for OCS." And I said, "Sure you put him on." So he puts him down there. So the next morning about eight o'clock Joe Calimiri, he comes up to me. Well Eddie calls first, he says, "this guy hasn't reported for KP." So I got the Sergeant of Arms, Joe Calimiri, so I said "Where's this, first name was Jerome, where's Jerome." He said, "He's in bed, he won't get up." I said, "What do you mean he won't get up?" He said, "He said he's leaving for OCS tomorrow and he's got to get ready." So I said, "You go down and tell him he's on KP today, he's going to the kitchen today." Joe comes back and he says he won't get up. So I get down there and there he is laying on the cot with a blanket over his head and I pulled the blanket off and I said, "You are supposed to be up in the kitchen." He said, "I'm leaving for OCS tomorrow." I said, "You are not leaving for anything or any place unless you get up in the kitchen in ten minutes." I had no authority to stop him from going to OCS. Well he hops out of bed and heads up to the kitchen. So, Joe's the captain and we use to call him Joe-Joe. He was the officer of the day, he came around—well I was acting first sergeant that day because Jones was on leave. Joe-Joe comes around, he says, "You ready to make the rounds?" And I said, "Yeah." So we go down to the kitchen and Eddie Brewer says ... , "I just baked some raisin pie, would you like a piece?" and Joe said, "Sure I would." So we head across to sit down. Jerome asked if he could speak to Captain Lee so Joe-Joe goes over, gets back and he tells me, well he tells me that ...

PIEHLER: ... We can take that out, (Gestures to someone) you can take that out of the transcript when you see it ...

DOLAN: Yeah you might erase that. "And so I told him he could get off early." So I told Joe-Joe what happened so he goes right back and tells him. He says, "you stay here 'til you're done." So that afternoon Eddie Brewer, he's the mess sergeant, he calls me and says, "I've got some dirty field ranges that haven't been cleaned." He says, "Can I

put him on?” And I said, “Look, he’s on there to do anything you want him to, you put him on.” So he’s out there in the field cleaning off those dirty old ranges. I walk by in the afternoon and he’s out there in the hot sun. And that’s the last I saw him. And I thought, boy I hope I never get under his command because if I ever did you know that would be the end of me. Well if it were my place I wouldn’t feel very kindly. So I go over there and it was ’43 or ’42 yeah, October 1945 and I’m coming back on the *Frederick Lykes* and the first thing I did when I got on a ship or any place I look for a way to get near the mess hall and into the line ... I’m not really a chow hound, but I hate to stand in line. So the first thing I did I surveyed the ship. So I found out that I could get down one level of that mid ship and there was an alley way or companion way or whatever they call it, right down to the—they don’t call it a mess hall, what do they call it on a ship?

PIEHLER: Galley.

DOLAN: Galley yeah.

PIEHLER: Actually hold that thought cause we’re ...

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

PIEHLER: This is an interview with Andrew Dolan on April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2005 in his home in Crossville, Tennessee with Kurt Piehler and ...

BARNWELL: Doris Barnwell.

PIEHLER: And unfortunately the tape was running out just as—in a mid-story and you were saying when you were on the ship coming home you were looking for a ...

DOLAN: ... Quick way to the ...

PIEHLER: ... Quick way and you found a ...

DOLAN: ... To the Galley ...

PIEHLER: The Galley and you found a little ...

DOLAN: Where I could get there so around—try to eat there every day lunch, and dinner time. I would be near this to a little spiral staircase went down, two levels down, I’d be near there and as soon as they’d ring the bell I’d hit that spiral staircase and head down the hallway or companion way or whatever they call it on a ship and get right there up at the head of the line there. So the second day or third day out to sea, I’d do it at lunch time, get down that spiral ... right down that spiral staircase and there was somebody at the bottom waiting to come up. So I get down and I hit the bottom deck there and who’s looking at me in the face, but Captain Roller. (Laughter) Right in the middle of a ship in the middle of the ocean, two years later. The odds of that, I don’t

know what they would be. There's sixteen million people under arms in the military all over the world and there, we would meet there. He looks at me and I look at him and he said, "Don't I know you?" And I said, "No. I don't think so Captain." He said, "Yes, yeah, the 103<sup>rd</sup>, Dolan right?" I said, "Yeah, that's right. Yeah now I recognize you." He said, "How's Jonesy?" He was the first sergeant, and Jonesy didn't like him either. And I said, "Oh, I don't know where he is, I haven't heard from him." He asked about three or four other guys. And I said, "Well we all separated you know and I don't really know what happened to them." He said, "We got to get together well before we get to New York and sit down and talk." I said, "We sure do." ... and I headed down the companion way and he went up. I never looked for him or he didn't look for me. And I don't know to this day whether he really realized at the time or whether it didn't make that kind of an impression on him.

PIEHLER: But it sounds like you thought, "Oh no this is it!" (Laughter)

DOLAN: Yeah, I probably would've punched the guy right in the nose. (Laughter) Imagine that—what are the odds of that happening, in that circumstance. They must be tremendous. Anyway that's life I guess, you never know ...

BARNWELL: It's a small world.

PIEHLER: You gotta be careful.

DOLAN: You never know.

PIEHLER: Let me just hold ...

(Tape Paused)

PIEHLER: So in some ways this meeting, and you never saw him again on the ship ...

DOLAN: No.

PIEHLER: And you weren't looking for him either. (Laughter)

DOLAN: No.

PIEHLER: Where did you land, where did your ship—Where did you land?

DOLAN: New York.

PIEHLER: I also take it the food was better on the way home.

DOLAN: Oh yeah, it was good.

PIEHLER: Because you described it was not very appetizing on the way ...

DOLAN: No, not going over.

PIEHLER: Did you actually even get a shower on the way home?

DOLAN: I don't remember, probably did.

PIEHLER: Where did you land coming home?

DOLAN: In New York, then we went to Camp Shanks (New York City) and then from there to Fort Dix (New Jersey).

PIEHLER: And is that when you got out?

DOLAN: Yeah.

PIEHLER: And, when did you actually get home, when did you make it to Fort Dix?

DOLAN: It was, I got discharged on October 21<sup>st</sup> and then I only lived thirty miles from there.

PIEHLER: Did your parents pick you up or did you, how did you get ...

DOLAN: No, I was thinking about that recently, I must have taken a train to Philadelphia and then a bus over to Collingswood.

PIEHLER: Did you ever use the 52 and 20 [An unemployment benefit of \$20 a week for 52 weeks]?

DOLAN: No.

PIEHLER: Did you ever use the, did you ever think about going to college on the GI Bill?

DOLAN: No. As I said, over—I wish I had now. Over ...

PIEHLER: At the time you didn't ...

DOLAN: I got home on a Wednesday and the next Monday I was back to work.

PIEHLER: At the *Philadelphia Record*?

DOLAN: Yeah.

PIEHLER: Back in the newspaper promotion?

DOLAN: Yeah.

BARNWELL: Did you ever get the job that you were wanting before?

DOLAN: No, because I probably lost a little bit of interest, I'm not sure now but also the news guild was a union and you had to belong to the union. I had thirty days to join the union, and I'd never wanted to belong to a union. So I left the *Record* and went to an advertising agency.

PIEHLER: Pretty shortly after you'd returned?

DOLAN: Yeah. You'd asked about the 52, 52-20 wasn't it?

PIEHLER: Yeah.

DOLAN: There was about eleven or twelve guys, I told you we grew up together, and I was the first one to join the military because my draft came up and of course you heard that story before, and no one else joined until Pearl Harbor. But the day after Pearl Harbor, every one of them was in the service. A couple of them, my brother and another fellow joined the Merchant Marines, some joined the Navy, and some the Marines. Some were in the Army. Out of the—I guess there was twelve of us—we all came home and only one out of the twelve joined the 52-20 Club.

PIEHLER: Only one.

DOLAN: Yeah, everybody else went back to work shortly after they got home.

PIEHLER: Did any of the gang, you mentioned this gang—did any of them go to college on the GI Bill?

DOLAN: Ah, No.

PIEHLER: Did you use the mortgage on the GI Bill?

DOLAN: No.

PIEHLER: So you never really ...

DOLAN: I didn't use anything.

PIEHLER: Do you ever use a VA Hospital (Veterans Affairs)?

DOLAN: Yeah, I do now yeah. But at that time the state of New Jersey or shortly after that they had a referendum up for a 500 dollar bonus for returning veterans and I voted against it. It was voted, it did not pass. But I didn't figure the people owed me anything.

You know it's my country too, so why does anybody need a bonus for defending their country.

PIEHLER: Had you remembered the first bonus march?

DOLAN: Yes.

PIEHLER: Cause there was some ...

DOLAN: World War I, yeah ...

PIEHLER: ... Because some of the Camden (New Jersey) was very active in the bonus march. Do you remember ...

DOLAN: No, no I can just remember them going down there.

PIEHLER: Um, you went to an advertising agency. What was the name of the ...

DOLAN: Al Paul Lefton.

PIEHLER: And you were there for two years?

DOLAN: Uh no, I don't think that ... did I say two years there (on the pre-interview survey)? I wasn't there two years I don't think.

PIEHLER: How long were you with?

DOLAN: I did the production work there. It wasn't two years. It actually wasn't too long, it was, I don't know, seven or eight months. It was less than a year. It was short.

PIEHLER: And then after the advertising firm, where did you go to next?

DOLAN: Food Fair Stores.

PIEHLER: Oh okay, and how long were you at Food Fair?

DOLAN: Eighteen years.

PIEHLER: And what did you do for Food Fair?

DOLAN: I was in the advertising department and eventually was the advertising manager for the Philadelphia branch.

PIEHLER: Did you know a good friend of mine, his father worked for Food Fair, Harry Barron, did you know?

DOLAN: Harry Barron, yeah he was in advertising. Was he too?

PIEHLER: Yeah, he was advertising ...

DOLAN: Up in north Jersey?

PIEHLER: Yeah.

DOLAN: Yeah.

PIEHLER: So you did know him.

DOLAN: Yes. Jim O'Connor was, uh, the advertising manager for the North Jersey branch and Harry Barron worked for Jim, was under Jim.

PIEHLER: Yeah, it's a small—it's a very small word. I haven't talked to ... I haven't talked to Andy in years, but I remember, you know, being at his home and meeting his father more than once.

DOLAN: That was a good company until the sons took over and then it was just terrible what they did to it.

PIEHLER: I remember when I lived in Queens we use to shop at Food Fair and I remember in New Jersey we started shopping there ...

BARNWELL: What was your pay rate compared to the other jobs that you had before the war.

DOLAN: The pay?

BARNWELL: Yeah.

DOLAN: Oh it was a lot better.

BARNWELL: It was a lot better?

DOLAN: Yeah.

PIEHLER: What kind ...

DOLAN: ... I was getting sixteen dollars a week I think, before the war or was it twenty dollars a week, which was more than before the war.

PIEHLER: ... How long were you with Food Fair?

DOLAN: Eighteen years.

PIEHLER: And why did you leave?

DOLAN: I got fired. That's enough reason to leave no? (Laughter)

PIEHLER: Was this from the management ...

DOLAN: No, I had a disagreement with the branch manager, who was the brother of the executive vice-president. Myer Marcus and I came out second best. They wanted to hire somebody that I didn't want them to hire for a position that we didn't need. The company—it just wasn't necessary. I told him that we could handle it. Myer, wanted to—nepotism is what destroyed that company. He just insisted on it. And being an efficiency expert then, he was a little guy and nobody liked him. He came down to check my department, 'cause I was in charge of the Philadelphia branch. And I told them—I got everybody together and I told them, I said “if Jerry comes down here he's going to ask you some questions and to answer them honestly. Don't volunteer anything. And just answer what” ... I said, “I don't think anybody is gonna lose their job because the work we're producing and what we're doing there's no way to.” So, Jerry had come in to talk to me and I got to like him. Cause nobody else did and I felt sorry for him. He'd come in and sit for an hour and talk to me, we'd just talk about nothing. And then when I had this disagreement with Myer, he came in one Monday morning, it was a bad day, Monday if the Phillies or the Eagles lost the day before then you couldn't talk to Mark, the branch manager. It was a sort of bad day. But anyway, Jerry came in—and well I talked to the executive vice-president before that in charge of my department. I told him we didn't need anybody and so he called me back a couple of days later and said I took care of that and everything is okay. But anyways Jerry came in that morning and said Myer is looking for some reason to fire you. He can't find anything so he's making things up. So Jerry said, “I think if you let it drop yeah you'll be okay.” So I knew I wouldn't be okay. So I immediately started looking for another job and he called me in on that Friday and I asked him why they are firing me. And he said, “Well, we got the word from up town,” that's where the headquarters was, “That your work is not satisfactory.” This was in September and just the month before that I got a 10% increase. (Laughter)

PIEHLER: In salary?

DOLAN: Yeah. I said “how come I got an increase last month, and now work's not satisfactory.” He said, “Well I had to fight for you to get it.” I said, “Myer, you know that's not true.” And I said, “But I'll leave.” He said, “Well I'll give you a chance to resign.” I said, “No.” I said, “I'm not resigning. You're going to have to fire me, but I'll leave.” So I said, “But I'll be able to walk down the street and look everybody in the eye and you won't be able to.” And that's the last I saw of him. So, I got fired. (Laughter)

PIEHLER: And you were in charge of the department, one of the things I think with newspaper, with food supermarkets, you think of the circulars?

DOLAN: Yeah.



PIEHLER: Was that one of the key ...

DOLAN: Yeah, yes.

PIEHLER: What other advertising did you do?

DOLAN: Newspapers.

PIEHLER: Newspaper.

DOLAN: And other promotion stuff ... Advertising and sales promotions

PIEHLER: So it was also sales promotions, in store sale promotions?

DOLAN: Yes.

PIEHLER: How big was your department?

DOLAN: I guess we had twelve or thirteen people.

BARNWELL: Did you enjoy this line of work?

DOLAN: Oh, yeah. Yeah.

PIEHLER: And then after leaving Food Fair where did you go to next?

DOLAN: I went back and worked for the, became a partner with a man I worked with at the *Philadelphia Record*. He still had a program going. I went to Weis Market up in Pennsylvania. I was offered a job there, I met the president and his son. Very nice market chain, Weis Markets. And I told him at the time I had an opportunity to be in business for myself with Phil Laudeson, and they had contacted me a few years before, had one of these head hunters contact me. I said, "I just came up to talk to you, you know and I appreciate it, but ... and I'll let you know." And so I left there. After the interview and he offered to pay my expenses for going up there and I said, "No you don't owe me anything, you don't owe me any money, it was a nice day, I enjoyed the trip." (Laughter) Regardless, but I had just about made up my mind 'cause I didn't want to work for anybody again, after that you know. If I get fired because I did something wrong I'd understand it, but under those circumstances, no more putting my life in the hands of anybody again. When I had an opportunity to not to, so I did and it worked out pretty good.

PIEHLER: And how long were you in business with a partner?

DOLAN: Until we moved down here.

PIEHLER: When did you move down here?

DOLAN: Seventeen years ago this June.

PIEHLER: And so you've been retired since.

DOLAN: Yeah.

PIEHLER: I guess one thing to follow up on Food Fair, it sounds like you weren't surprised when the company ran into real trouble, I mean in the '70's.

DOLAN: No. The painting was there all the time, on the wall, whatever you want to call it. It was a shame just the way they were going. And then when Jack Freidland took over, apparently not qualified for the job, he didn't know an apple from an orange hardly, his brother was much better, the store operational kind of guy, Hal, but made Jack freely—he wasn't gonna, Old Sam wasn't gonna let it out of the hands of the family. Myer Marcus should have been the president. He always wanted to be, he was well qualified. The only person I really respected there, I mean more than anybody else. He had a lot of— well good character, he and presented ... more than some of the other people, were ok but there I guess, I am trying to think of a nice word to say, a little rough-some you know, but one the guys that were kind of rough with the, were the most honest I knew if he were still there with Martin Rosenberg that would have never happened. But I admired Myer Marcus, the fact his brother came in there, you know disappointed me that he would do that.

PIEHLER: Where did you, when you were, when you still living in the Haddonfield-Collingswood area when you were working for Food Fair?

DOLAN: Cherry Hill.

PIEHLER: Cherry Hill okay. And, uh, how did you meet your wife?

DOLAN: We met in a restaurant down at the [Jersey] Shore. The manager, the owner—it was called Tony Mascolo, its Jimmy's Restaurant now. He introduced us one time, when we were both in there at the same time.

PIEHLER: What was, what year was this? You were married in 19' ...

DOLAN: ... It was twenty-six years ago, or twenty-eight years ago.

PIEHLER: Because you were married in 1978, how'd long had you known ...

DOLAN: Two years.

PIEHLER: Two years.

DOLAN: Yeah.

PIEHLER: So 1976.

DOLAN: Yeah.

PIEHLER: 'Cause it sounds like you, you mentioned after the war going to the Jersey Shore, a lot. What—there was a question I just—when you came back did you join any veterans' organizations?

DOLAN: I joined the [American] Legion and have been a member every since.

PIEHLER: Were you active at any of the local postings in South Jersey?

DOLAN: Yeah, Haddonfield.

PIEHLER: Did you hold any offices?

DOLAN: I was junior vice-commander.

PIEHLER: And you remained active all through the time?

DOLAN: Not really, but more or less. I dropped out a while and then I came back and have been pretty active up 'til the time we moved here with the Legion.

PIEHLER: And did you join the Legion Post down here?

DOLAN: Yeah, I transferred when we got down here.

PIEHLER: What about the VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars), when did you join?

DOLAN: I just joined them after we moved to Tennessee. I don't know why I never joined before. We didn't have a post in Haddonfield, I guess probably that was it. We came down here looking, we came to Tennessee looking for—I guess it was the year we bought this place. It was a hot day in the summer time and we're driving down 127 [Highway] and I saw the Legion Post there and I didn't have a membership, I thought so I'll go in because I really felt like drinking a nice cold beer. (Laughter) So I went in and there was half a dozen guys playing cards in the back and I told them I said, "I'm a member of the Legion but not the VFW." And I said, "I'd love to have a beer is it a possibility?" He said, "Oh sure!" So I called Yvette, and she came in and he got a couple of cold beers out of the cooler. It was one of the best beers I'd ever tasted. (Laughter) So I said as soon as we moved down here I'll join ya, so when we moved down I joined.

PIEHLER: Now, you mentioned you had an old Army buddy, Air Force buddy who lived in Tennessee. Did he live in Crossville?

DOLAN: Yes, the other side of town.

PIEHLER: Is he still alive, or.

DOLAN: No, he died. I guess maybe about five years ago.

PIEHLER: But he's the one who discovered Crossville.

DOLAN: Yeah.

PIEHLER: Had you thought of retiring elsewhere from?

DOLAN: No, but if you told me I was coming to Tennessee, I'd say you're crazy. Mario tried to get me to—well a couple of times, he said, “You want to move down here and get away from the rat race up here?” And I thought me meet back here in the sticks?” The shore was my thing you know, to go down to the shore every weekend. We bought a couple—had bought a couple of lots in Florida a couple years before this trip down to Tennessee thinking maybe, I don't like Florida, but in case we might want to retire there the chance to get a new development, new section, get them cheap. And then we come down here and the first day we got here and Mario said, he knew I carved birds and decoys and stuff like that ...

PIEHLER: ... So you've carved these decoys?

DOLAN: Not these ones, but the ones over there in front of you I did.

PIEHLER: How long have you been carving?

DOLAN: ... And this one here (Gesturing to decoys). Since we moved here.

PIEHLER: Oh okay, so this is a hobby you took up in retirement?

DOLAN: Yeah, I made some before, but nothing like I do now. So Mario brought us out here to meet a man that lived here, Jim Bullocks that carved birds and he said, “He had this nice little house that was immaculate. When they were here, they worked outside all of the time in summertime it was blossoms and everything was blooming. We don't keep it near as nice as they did, and I told Yvette I said, “You know maybe we out to look around here and see if we can find a place like the Bullocks have, it might be a better place to retire to. We get back, we got a real estate agent—Colonel—I'm trying to tell you his name, Raper, Lloyd Raper. And we just happened to get him and told him what we were looking for and he took us around, but there was nothing that we liked or attractive. Went back that night to Mario's and he said, “The Bullocks are moving back to New Jersey to be near the grandkids.” So I called him on the phone and I said, “Are you moving to New Jersey?” He said, “Well we're thinking about it.” And I said, “Well if you decide give us a call.” The next day he said, “Are you serious?” And I said,

“Yeah.” He said, “Well come on over.” So we come over here and he showed us around and he asked us, he told us what he wanted and I said, “Okay.” And we shook hands and I said, “See you next year.” And we did. They had to go up north to find a place and we had to make settlement up there. Well first what happened was we were going to rent it. Because I still wasn’t keen on moving to Tennessee. And Lloyd Raper, I called him and I said, “Can you handle the rental for us?” and he said, “Sure.” And he called that night and said, “I went out and seen the property.” He says, “I won’t handle the rental for you.” He says, “I don’t want the responsibility because anybody I rented it to would destroy it.” And he says, “I don’t want that on my conscience.” Boy I thought it was pretty nice for a real estate person. So we decided just like that and said yeah, he’s right, let’s go home and pack up and come on down. So we didn’t talk about it and maybe or not, we just—well we’re here. (Laughter)

BARNWELL: And you’ve liked it ever since?

DOLAN: Oh yeah.

PIEHLER: How has your wife liked it?

DOLAN: Oh, she likes it yeah.

PIEHLER: Besides being involved with the veterans’ groups, the VFW and the American Legion in town, are you active in any other organizations or groups?

DOLAN: We have a carving club here and that’s about it.

PIEHLER: You mentioned you now go to a Lutheran Church, when did you switch from the Episcopal, was it in the ‘60’s?

DOLAN: No, after we came down here.

PIEHLER: After you came down here.

DOLAN: Yeah.

PIEHLER: Did you remain active in any church while you—after the war?

DOLAN: No.

BARNWELL: Does your wife have family overseas still?

DOLAN: Not now, not much no. There are, got some cousins, but all of the immediate family are all gone.

PIEHLER: You mentioned that you are in Crossville in part because of someone you knew, I mean, an old war buddy. How many people did you stay in touch with over the years that you served with?

DOLAN: Um, there was quite a few from the National Guard. From the 33<sup>rd</sup>, there are still some, still a few today, but there's not many left, they're dying all the time. At least half a dozen from the 33<sup>rd</sup>— There's still two guys that were in my section, or three, we still in contact with.

PIEHLER: You've also mentioned reunions, have you gone to reunions of your units?

DOLAN: Yeah, I didn't go for a long time. The first one I went to was probably about six years ago. They were every two years and last three years we have to have them every three years now because, I mean every year now. You don't know in between two years how many will be left. But out of 340 or 50, last year in Washington there were only, fifteen I think. There were four enlisted men, and, I guess thirteen. Six officers, four enlisted men, I guess it was ten or eleven now, uh ten. Out of the four enlisted men, three of them were from the PI section, myself and two other guys that I worked with there.

BARNWELL: I found a picture online of your (Shows photograph), your squadron there ...

DOLAN: Yeah that was a mean one.

BARNWELL: Do you recognize any of these faces as close buddies or are any of them those men, some of them that you keep in touch with?

DOLAN: Yeah, there's Mike Sparrow, and McRay, and Fred Schaller here. Mouser's dead, Fobes is dead, Pierce is dead, Harvey Moore is dead. I don't know where Yurkowitz is or where Stephens is—You must have looked at the site then, 33<sup>rd</sup> ...

BARNWELL: Yes, there's a ...

DOLAN: Yeah, Chris Davis, he's done a good job of that. It's kind of gratifying that a couple of the kids would take over and do that, you know, and keep it going.

PIEHLER: What, um, is there any movie or novel or other work that talked, that describes your war, that you could think of?

DOLAN: Well, I'm not much of a movie fan ...

PIEHLER: ... Yeah, so yeah, you know I just ...

DOLAN: I guess Privates or ... Saving Private Ryan. I never saw that.

BARNWELL: Have you read any books that mentioned your war or?

DOLAN: Yeah, I probably have, but I can't think of them. There were some other movies that were good. Like the "Twelve O'Clock High," was a good movie. There were the other ones but...

BARNWELL: Did you ever think about writing about your experience yourself?

DOLAN: Yeah, I thought about it but it's—I don't know it's kind of daunting task. I guess you wonder if it really, who cares you know, but they're saying now you know that's the wrong attitude to have. You never know, everybody has a little bit of knowledge. Kind of like what you folks are doing.

PIEHLER: Yeah, I mean essentially you'll have a transcript, we'll eventually have a transcript.

DOLAN: Talk here for a couple of hours or whatever it is or more. And maybe there's nothing in there that anybody really cares about.

PIEHLER: No, no. You had a very good interview.

DOLAN: Maybe I did something.

PIEHLER: Did you ever go back to any of the places you served in?

DOLAN: Yeah, I went back to Chalgrove in England the first time I was over there. I went to the airfield, its still there, but it's a private company airfield now. A few of the remnants are still there; Some of the buildings. But Schaller, here, (in the squadron photo) he and his two daughters they went two years ago, they went across there and followed the whole path that we took up through Belgium. Some of the other guys have done that, but no I didn't.

PIEHLER: Any more questions?

BARNWELL: No, thought that I had more.

PIEHLER: Is there anything we forgot to ask you that you'd like to talk about? It's a pretty open ended...

DOLAN: No. I'll probably think of something after you leave. (Laughter)

PIEHLER: Yeah, no, and as I said you can always add to the transcript, but, and we really appreciate you allowing us to come to your house and particularly so early in the morning. 'Cause I, we have class, I have class. My oral history class is this evening.

DOLAN: I might add just one little thing because it's pertinent to what's going on today I think with this war in Iraq which I support fully. Too many people though they don't understand what's going on. They don't understand the impact. And I talk to these kids, the Junior ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) a couple of weeks ago. And I told them, "We're in greater danger today than what we were in World War II. Because in World War II we knew who the enemy was and where he was." And I said, "Today we don't know either of those, where they are, or who they are, and the enemy could be living right next door to you today. And be able to inflict more damage on the country than what was done in World War II, or the possibility even in World War II." And I'll relay a little story when we came home, I met a fellow named Mike Maccelli when I was in Camp Chicago, didn't know him before then. He lived in Brooklyn and we met in there and were kind of buddies waitin' to come home. When we were in Marseilles, he liked to gamble, and like I said earlier, I never gambled in the military. He got me, we didn't have too much money. I had thirty dollars and I don't know how much he had, but he got in a crap game and he lost everything. And he convinced me if he could get his hands on the dice one more time, he could win, if I would bank roll him for ten bucks. So, I gave him the ten bucks and he lost it. (Laughter) No time flat. That was a bad investment. So he's broke, flat broke, and when we get back to Camp Shanks (New York). And we're told, "Don't leave the base because you are going to leave in the morning for Fort Dix." Well after five years of hearing you are going to move the next day or the next week, we found it pretty improbable. So he was anxious to get home to Brooklyn, just to get back there.

PIEHLER: Yeah.

DOLAN: So he asked me to loan him money for the train fair, he said he'd get it from his sister when he got to Brooklyn. It was around two dollars, so I gave him the money for the train fair. He came back the next morning. Low and behold we did leave the next morning. (Laughter) He got back barely in time to make the train. And all he could say was, "they don't understand." He says, "they just don't understand." And we were pretty near to Fort Dix before he could say anything but that. That's all he could say, "They don't understand." And we get to Fort Dix, where he was so anxious to go home the day before, he was not anxious. You know he wasn't particular anxious to go home. So I had twenty dollars, so I said, "Well lets go to Philadelphia." So again we were cautioned not to leave 'cause we'd be discharged momentarily. (Laughter) So we ignored that one also. And took a bus to Trenton (New Jersey), got on a train and went to Philadelphia. I knew a bartender who was one of the 103<sup>rd</sup> Observation guys, Frank Calamia, worked at the Bellevue Stratford [Hotel] Bar. So we happened to walk right into him. And then that maybe took a big expense out of, part of the expense out of it. We stayed there for two nights and three days and spent my twenty dollars. 'Cause I had twenty bucks left, buy the hotel I think was like three dollars a night or something like that. The food, and we ate pretty good, but anyway we celebrated. Went to the burlesque show. He had never been to a burlesque theater. We went down to the Troca (Trocadero) and saw the burlesque. Went back to Fort Dix and as soon as we get back there they tell us, they say, "Where you been, they been calling you for three days." (Laughter) We went down to the discharge center and the sergeant there and he said, "Where you guys been?" And Mike



just with a straight face he looked at he said, “well, taking a shower.” (Laughter) He said, “Oh.” That’s all he said there was nothing else. He gave us our papers and we were off, off home. Mike was feeling a little better then, but he still—it was devastating to him. It was bad for the morale and the people today say they support the war, they support the troops, but not the war. You can’t do both, you can’t do it you’ve got to support it the whole way. So when you say that there’s a lot of them;—it is demoralizing to their spirits. During World War II we didn’t have that. They—everybody was gung ho and that. You knew you were doing what had to be done. I’m sure the soldiers today they’re better in class and better educated, and they’re better all-around trained, they’re good. I’m sure a lot of them though, have that feeling that they are not appreciated and that can be a real devastating effect on some of them. I try to get that story out to whoever I talk to. We’re in danger.

PIEHLER: Your friend from Brooklyn, did you stay in touch with him?

DOLAN: Not long after that, he invited me over, he was Italian, of course Maccelli, and he invited me over to have dinner at his sister’s ... I’m not a big eater. Italians, they got eight courses you know seven or whatever it is. All she did was bring out food. Spaghetti in a big bowl and I never cared much for spaghetti. The little nine year old son of hers, he ate a big bowl and I was just looking at mine. (Laughter) I ate a little bit. The chicken was the final thing, but by the time we got down to the chicken—the little bit that I ate, you know, it kind of spoiled my appetite. I really felt bad. She thought the meal, she had done something wrong and I tried to tell her that it wasn’t, you know, it was delicious, but I just didn’t eat much. I’ve always felt bad of not being able to eat. Anyway, we did, and we kept in touch for a while but then the years went by and we haven’t. I think about him a lot though, because I tell that little story about him now, particularly about demoralizing.

PIEHLER: Mm hmm. Well that was a great addition to your interview.

DOLAN: You satisfied with all that?

PIEHLER: Oh yeah, no, no that was really, we really appreciate you taking the time.

DOLAN: Oh if there is anything else ...

PIEHLER: I can’t think of anything, but you know, we could stay as long, if you have other things to say we can stay as long as you want so.

DOLAN: No.

PIEHLER: But I don’t think you, don’t feel—it’s your interview, we don’t want to make you feel like you have to keep talking. But no we really, we also don’t want to leave the impression that we are eager to get out so, so that’s why I said ...

DOLAN: No, I just want to make sure you got something worth while.

PIEHLER: No, no. It was a very good interview.

BARNWELL: It was wonderful.

DOLAN: But just, ah, well if you looked at that site, if you want to contact Chris Davis anytime. You know I think he'd be more than happy to help you with anything. I've got some pictures and stuff here (Brings out Pictures)

PIEHLER: Well, actually before I guess, why don't you ...

(Tape Paused)

DOLAN: This is the American Museum in Britain, I guess you know about that.

PIEHLER: Yeah I've heard of it. Did you go to the official opening of the American Air Museum (Britain)?

DOLAN: No, but when I was over there eight years ago or something, whatever it was. I went to Scotland and Ireland. I went over with—we were distributors of Nikken and we are Nikken magnetic products. And we won a free trip to Europe to the world convention ...

PIEHLER: ... Oh, okay.

DOLAN: ... That was in London and that's how I got over there. And I stayed afterwards and went to Scotland and Ireland. But I had it all planned that I would go to Chalgrove, where the airfield was and see that and meet a man there, that I knew was there. And then rent a car and go to Duxford (England) over to see this, then go to Scotland. So, we get to Chalgrove and I wanted to rent a car and John Godfrey, his name was, he took me around. I was seventy-eight years old at the time, so it was nine years ago now. And they wouldn't rent me a car because I was seventy-eight. So he took me to his daughter who worked for a Ford dealer in another town. They'd rent me one. But driving over there with him, going around those roundabouts, they call them backwards. And the little narrow streets where you got to pull on the sidewalk when cars coming the other way. I lost my zest for driving. After I get over there I said, "John", I said, "I don't really think I want to rent a car." So then I get back to the hotel and I start checking, I had to take a bus to Duxford, and the time I had to get to Scotland—there's a wife's cousin there. I couldn't make the connection, it was an all day trip, it was only about 30 miles, but it would take all day to change to get over there, so I never got to the airport which I had wanted to see because of the museum ...

PIEHLER: ... Museum.

DOLAN: This is a ...

PIEHLER: ... This is the photo recon ...

DOLAN: The Cherbourg [France], yea

PIEHLER: The Cherbourg, this was a photograph from the, from the war.

DOLAN: Yeah. I use to have a stack of them like this of bomb damage photographs and all that stuff, but I gave them to a museum out in Boise, Idaho ...

PIEHLER: Oh okay.

DOLAN: ... Air Museum [Warhawk Air Museum, Nampa, Idaho]. I don't have anything left now. But that's that same picture. (Showing Photograph)

PIEHLER: Oh okay, this is the picture that's on the web.

DOLAN: This is ...

PIEHLER: ... This is a report on the Russian treatment of U.S. airmen in Hungary.

DOLAN: Okay. What's that one there?

PIEHLER: Counter intelligence bulletin number five. Hilda Martin.

DOLAN: This is the one ...

PIEHLER: ... This is the one that you, this was circulated.

DOLAN: ... Yeah the girl that said they'd never give up.

PIEHLER: Yeah, it was from headquarters air tactical command. (Reading) "Hilda Martin, age twenty-four. He was employed by the Luftwaffe. You mention your brother was a volunteer. Certainly. Is he as fanatical as most SS. He often said he would die fighting rather than surrender, I can tell you now he is disappointed when he was dropped from the group of paratroopers picked last February, to land in General Eisenhower's headquarters. For some reason it was planned, but it was never carried out." If you think. Wait. "Why don't you engage in sabotage efforts now? No, you see if I did that I would be hurting other Germans because you inflict tighter restrictions, exercise more care and administration of Germany after war. In that event people who think like most of us wouldn't get anywhere in the new government. We love Germany, not the Nazis. I couldn't live with any other country, I'd die of homesickness. Why? I can't explain that I just feel that my brother and my fiancé were always fighting for Germany, not for the Nazis. The first soldier subject was engaged to was killed in a plane crash," the section is missing on the—I think that's cut off—the Russian western front. But, so these were some of the—oh here's a picture of Nomad News.

DOLAN: Yeah.

PIEHLER: This is what you edited.

DOLAN: Yeah I got these from the radio.

PIEHLER: And are these your cartoons?

DOLAN: No. These are Rush Schaller, one of the guys in my section. He made the cartoons. He was a pretty good cartoonist. This is the one after the war. The *Recon Reporter—Recorder*, that I was the news editor of.

PIEHLER: And this was your home in, Haddonfield, Pelham, Pelham Road?

DOLAN: No. Not at that time.

PIEHLER: But that was after the war that ...

DOLAN: Wonder how, wonder how I got that on there.

PIEHLER: Yeah.

DOLAN: Huh, I never noticed that. I probably gave it to somebody or sent it to them. But no this was ...

PIEHLER: (Looking through papers) Oh here's your orders to a seven day recreation ...

DOLAN: ... Riviera.

PIEHLER: Riviera. And, um, let's see—this is your, the hotel desk clerk.

DOLAN: I guess that was a Beaurivag Hotel we stayed in.

PIEHLER: Beaurivag ... B E A U R I V A G. That was your mess coupon. And then this is the ...

DOLAN: There are some pictures there.

PIEHLER: Are these ...

DOLAN: They were French people. It was a stony beach, they had these wooden platforms on the beach there, not like our Jersey Shore beach with the sandy.

PIEHLER: Yeah ... I, it's sort of funny. My wife and I, we went to Cape May this past summer, last summer for vacation because we wanted the Jersey Beach.

DOLAN: Yeah, Cape May is nice. If any of this stuff you want copies, go right ahead. This is some cartoons that Schaller made over there.

PIEHLER: We would, if you, we would love to have copies of the newsletter and of the cartoons if you would be willing to make copies or.

DOLAN: That doesn't mean anything to anybody except ourselves. (Laughter) But they all have a story behind it. You still got that tape on?

PIEHLER: Yeah.

DOLAN: I'd like to tell you about Tom Pierce.

PIEHLER: Yeah, actually ...

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

DOLAN: ... That year I had a bicycle in England and the pubs at the time, got very limited amounts of beer. They'd get deliveries at different days of the week and different hours, and it was always a bunch of GI's waiting as soon as the delivery man got there to drink it. So Tom Pierce was kind of a character. It was a long day, like a double work time, like eleven o'clock it was still light enough to peddle a bike. But if we started out in the night, in the evening, we'd go into Stedham or some place and if you got there and he got the delivery three hours before that you were sunk by the time you got there and you'd probably have to travel fifteen miles in the other direction. So Tom made a map and a survey of every pub within bike distance, what time and what day, what time of the day, what day they got deliveries. So we when went out at night we knew where we were headed and we were going to get there at the time for the delivery guy. He probably made the biggest contribution to our recreational welfare while we were in England. (Laughter)

PIEHLER: This one seems like a joke about short-arms inspection.

DOLAN: I don't know what that ... but Mike Desmingus, he was a big guy and Yerpi he was, that's Pierce there, this is Yerpi here, he was a little guy. A lot of these things have to do with. (Looking through photographs) This, we were looking for a new insignia for the squadron. And, uh, gold brick, you know what a gold brick ...

PIEHLER: ... Oh yeah ...

DOLAN: ... And a brown ass (Laughter), no a brown nose and a brown ass.

PIEHLER: And you made the beaver. The gold brick and the ...

DOLAN: ... I didn't make this but I designed this. Smelley, Colonel Smelley was the group commander. And we use to call ourselves Smelley's Stinkers. And Belgium Buzz

Bomb Alley was where we were in the winter of '44 or '45. We were in chateau, the Buzz Bombs would fly all day and night right over top, headed for London. That's why we called it Buzz Bomb Alley.

PIEHLER: But they never landed nearby? You could just ...

DOLAN: Sometimes ... you'd hear them stop.

PIEHLER: ... Did you ever have any close calls with the Buzz Bombs?

DOLAN: No.

PIEHLER: But they ...

DOLAN: ... If they quit or malfunctioned or anything before they got to London we'd hear. And so anyways, he didn't like it. He had his name changed after the war to, I forget now but, he had it changed. He didn't like it.

PIEHLER: Yeah, because it's actually spelled S M E L L E Y.

DOLAN: Yeah, Smelley's yeah, his name was Smelley. And, so anyway, he came over one day for like an inspection and I had shown this to our Captain Worndorff and he said, "Show it to him when he comes over." I thought it was great and it didn't go over at all. (Laughter) But this (Gestures)...

PIEHLER: ... This one ...

DOLAN: ... When I was at the *Record*, the assistant legal cartoonist was Glenn Warren and he later went to the Cincinnati Enquirer at that time. So I wrote him a letter and asked him to—if he would design this with an eager beaver, you know where he's trying to get ahead, with a gold brick and a brown nose and a red ass on a Buzz Bomb. So this is what he made. I thought it was pretty good. But anyway it didn't go over. (Laughter) This is a Belgium Fourragère ... that the squadron received in Belgium. And I guess these are just some more of this stuff (Gesturing).

PIEHLER: This is, um, to certify you finished the Photos Reconnaissance Course (Gesturing).

DOLAN: And this is the (Gesturing) ...

PIEHLER: ... And this is the campaign. And this ...

DOLAN: Had to do with a map and hills of a press release.

PIEHLER: Mapping of the Siegfried Line.

DOLAN: Yeah. We got two presidential citations, I think, for that and the Normandy invasion where the planes flew low, flew low level along the beaches photographing the German defenses.

PIEHLER: Yeah, you received this unit citation in April of 1945. It's stamped. (Reading from paper) "An enlisted man has not been before, enlisted subject EM has performed duties of photo interpretation section since May of 1944. These duties call for indexing and filing of maps and target information, maintenance of files on enemy installations, equipment, the interpretation of aerial photographs, and the viewing of film in conjunction with the pilots. The work involves little drafting and places stress on general intelligence work." (Looking through papers and photographs) And this looks like you're getting a decoration. Is that you ...

DOLAN: ... No that's Mike Sparrow.

PIEHLER: What decoration was he getting?

DOLAN: He was, he was one of the civil engineers that figured out the reason I beat Captain Worndorff on the way up (Laughter). He devised a plotting method to make a—locating the pictures much quicker, than normal. The executive officer of our squadron, nobody cared much for it, but he liked Mike because Mike was kind of spit and polish kind of guy and he was kind of tough you know. And Vance liked him and he pushed for him, and he got a direct commission, gave him 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant. So that's ...

PIEHLER: ... And that's him getting his 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant?

DOLAN: Yes, uh huh.

PIEHLER: And this is actually pictures of you at work, your unit at work (Gestures to photographs).

DOLAN: Yeah.

PIEHLER: And you were hunched over little desks with a big lamp.

DOLAN: Yeah. It was a stereo—this is Fingus here (Gestures). This is me back there (Gestures). He's probably looking at the stereo viewer.

PIEHLER: Mm hmm. And you were also, here you're working with—it looks like you're charting and mapping.

DOLAN: Yes, locating where ...

PIEHLER: ... Where exactly. (Gestures) And then this is your actual discharge from Fort Dix on—dated 21<sup>st</sup> of October 1940, '45. (Looks through papers) And your date of enlistment 6 January, 1941 and then activated 17 February of '41. And then separated at

the convenience of the government. (Gestures) And then this is the Junior ROTC creed. This is the group?

DOLAN: Yeah, I had that over there last week. Or two weeks ago, three weeks ago. It was all ... (Gestures to photograph). This is the first aircraft we had in the National Guard.

PIEHLER: It's basically, it's open cock pit.

DOLAN: Yes. That was one of them, we had another one. This was the main one.

PIEHLER: There's significant bomb damage.

DOLAN: Yeah.

PIEHLER: Which town was this again?

DOLAN: This is some place around Chalgrove.

PIEHLER: Now, I mean there was quite a bit of—I mean this is quite a bit of bombing.

DOLAN: Yeah, in London particularly they had ...

PIEHLER: How often did you make it to London when you were?

DOLAN: I went there just once. The fellow that taught me to fly was in A-20 Squadron in Northern England. And he was a pilot of an A-20. I got in touch with him and made arrangements to come up and visit overnight and when I got to London I come up out of the station and a Buzz Bomb had dropped down the street and they were still poking through the rubble poking for people and pulling it apart. I went in a pub down the street about a 100, about a 100 yards. A brick apparently or a rock had knocked the door knob off of the pub. That's all it didn't break any glass or anything but the they had the door knob laying on the bar, knocked off. And I walked around London, I met a man, a typical Englishman with an umbrella and bowler hat. He took me around Buckingham Palace and around town a little bit, which I probably wouldn't have found, I know I wouldn't. They're a very stoic kind of people. Every time we'd hear a Buzz Bomb stop, he'd pull me into a doorway, and wait for it to hit and we'd go on again. I get back the station and the schedule had been changed and I couldn't get to where I wanted to go and back by the next day. So I had to go back, I never could get to see Ken. But that was the only time I was in London, during the war.

PIEHLER: (Gestures to photographs) And these are pictures you took of you—these are really good photographs.

DOLAN: Most of these I didn't take.



PIEHLER: Yeah.

DOLAN: They were taken by one of the photo lab guys who had a Speed Graphic which came with a flash ...

PIEHLER: Yeah, I mean these are really stunning.

DOLAN: But I got prints of them because ...

PIEHLER: Yeah, there's a picture of Notre Dame and of the Arc de Triomphe. And of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, French Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and of the Eiffel Tower.

DOLAN: But now look at these (Gestures). This is in Belgium now ... there's a shower, Wade Betters and Mike Sparrow, the engineer, they built a shower, but there were, all winter long in Belgium, we had them.

PIEHLER: You had showers.

DOLAN: With stuff, just scrounged around the area, an old boiler and stuff.

PIEHLER: So you had warm water?

DOLAN: Oh, yeah. (Gestures to photograph) We stayed in this building, this chateau in the winter time. There were four of us had this room. And two of us and one other guy Warren Harnish was Sergeant Major in headquarters, he'd come over and stay with us on the weekends. There were like five of us and the last year, three of them died. So there's two of us left that spent that winter together.

PIEHLER: And these are some of the hotels you were in in Brussels

DOLAN: Yeah, we went there on a weekend to Brussels. If you really want to, I took, I got a whole bunch of them right there. Still never made decent size prints.

PIEHLER: This Nazi, in the tree, where was that?

DOLAN: I don't know.

PIEHLER: Was that in Germany?

DOLAN: No, it was probably in Belgium. This is still in Belgium or Holland.

PIEHLER: And this is, there's quite a bit of destruct—do you remember where this destruction was?

DOLAN: That's in Germany.

PIEHLER: Mm hmm. No, I mean it's completely flattened.

DOLAN: Yeah, this is, these are holding ships ...

PIEHLER: ... Refugees ...

DOLAN: ... for displaced labor ...

PIEHLER: ... Displaced, okay ...

DOLAN: Italians or Poles. This was in Nördhausen [Germany] where they manufactured, assembled the V-2 rockets. They're the ones that went straight up and ...

PIEHLER: ... When did you go to Nördhausen?

DOLAN: After the war.

PIEHLER: How much after the war?

DOLAN: Right afterwards. We were in Brunswick and that was ... We could never locate where they were made, but they built a factory back into the mountains. It was all done back in the hills there. But this was stuff that they hauled out in the yard. (Gestures) It was back in there.

PIEHLER: Mm hmm, that's Nördhausen. Who were these for?

DOLAN: They were Italians, I think they were slave labor.

PIEHLER: Here it looks like you're developing. Is that, that's a developed film?

DOLAN: This is in photo lab.

PIEHLER: Captain Mouser.

DOLAN: He was PI. He was an enlisted man out of Pearl Harbor, he was a B-17 Gunner.

PIEHLER: And then got—this is from Nördshausen, this is the ...

DOLAN: No it's Buchenwald [Concentration Camp, Germany].

PIEHLER: This is Buchenwald. How close were you—these were images you took?

DOLAN: No, somebody in the photo lab went there, the day I went to, I had a choice to take a truck to Nördhausen to see the V-2 site or to go to the concentration camps and I liked to go to see the ...

PIEHLER: ... So these are from your photo lab?

DOLAN: Yeah.

PIEHLER: So other people in the unit got images.

DOLAN: Yeah.

PIEHLER: What was this of, this group here, do you remember?

DOLAN: No.

PIEHLER: Yeah, 'cause it's a sign sort of (Reading from photograph), "the fight against fascism, must not stop at" and it doesn't look like it's completed. But you weren't there these are just images, so you ...

DOLAN: No, this was one of the lab guys took these.

PIEHLER: Yeah.

DOLAN: I was lucky there because we could get photographs nobody else could get.

PIEHLER: (Gestures) Here are inmates showing there tattoos. So some of the people with you went to Buk—which camp was it again.

DOLAN: Yeah, Buchenwald.

PIEHLER: And others went to Nördhausen?

DOLAN: Yeah. I wanted to see the V-2's.

PIEHLER: Was this one of your planes?

DOLAN: Yeah.

PIEHLER: Haystack Annie?

DOLAN: Yeah.

PIEHLER: With some tail out? What, for people who went to Buchenwald what else did they tell you about going, particularly the person who took the pictures?

DOLAN: I don't remember anything, his actual comments.

PIEHLER: Yeah.

DOLAN: This is the (Gestures), that the chateau we stayed in in the winter.

PIEHLER: It looks nice. How comfortable was it?

DOLAN: Well it was an old building.

PIEHLER: Was it drafty?

DOLAN: Yeah, we had a potbellied stove to burn coal in it. You could always tell where the GI's were because there were smoke stacks coming out the windows. (Laughter) I'll show you a story I wrote about that night. These are gliders. Just before I went PI school and before 103rd was busted up, I kept looking for the, years went by and they kept lowering the qualifications for pilots. And I kept looking for something I would qualify for and it came to glider pilot, training in Arizona. They trained with J-3 Cubs which I had learned to fly in. So I said, "Oh, there's something I can fly." So I applied for a transfer to glider school. Luckily before the orders went through, I got transferred to down south into Oklahoma City. And when I saw these pictures that we—our pilots took, how the gliders, how they were mangled and torn up, I thought boy how lucky I was not to get into glider school.

PIEHLER: Yeah, you really wanted to fly though.

DOLAN: But these were some, not too bad but some of them were terrible.

PIEHLER: Yeah, oh yeah.

DOLAN: I don't understand these are wound up they must have been afterwards, they must have pulled them all together, to like a marshaling area because they could never land like that.

PIEHLER: No.

DOLAN: (Gestures) Here's a good picture of Paris that one of the pilots took.

PIEHLER: These are aerial. Was this Paris after it surrendered?

DOLAN: Yeah, but the ...

PIEHLER: ... Oh okay. (Looking through papers and photographs)

DOLAN: And I ...

PIEHLER: ... took a course ...

DOLAN: ... took journalism.

PIEHLER: After the war?

DOLAN: No, during the war.

PIEHLER: During the war.

DOLAN: Yeah.

PIEHLER: And was this something the Army encouraged you to do or you could do as part of the ...

DOLAN: Yeah, it was available. If we wanted to do it, so I took it.

PIEHLER: So you took a course from Indiana.

DOLAN: I was looking for ...

PIEHLER: And this was in 1945 that you registered for Journalism C211, Instructor Wright. (Looking through papers) This is the story about the chateau?

DOLAN: Yeah, one night.

PIEHLER: It was an evening—can I read this into the...

DOLAN: Yeah.

PIEHLER: (Reading) “It was an evening in late November. It was damp and it was cold. A ground fog settled with darkness and the rain fell lightly.”

(Someone comes into the room and interrupts) (Tape Paused)

PIEHLER: “A ground fog settled with darkness and the rain fell lightly. Inside the chateau it was warm, but hard for one to lose that lonely feeling. There was plenty of time to think. One of those nights when you could give a month’s pay for a ham on rye and a bottle of good American beer or an American girl to talk to.” New paragraph. “A faint smoke haze hung over the room and the flickering lamps threw their dull glow over a noisy group on one side of the room embroiled in a card game. Two others were battling noisily over a game of chess in the far corner. While still others, singly or in pairs talked about various topics of the day or scanned the latest issue of “Stars and Stripes.” A *cortège* at the bar would break in the time with their own versions of *mairze* doats.” And I should spell out *mairze*, M A I R Z E. “Two.” New paragraph. “Two guards coming off duty stepped into the room, looked around, wiped rain and mist from

their eyes, squinting in the dull light after coming in out of the night. Their shoes were covered with cold sticky mud. Stepping to the bar, they quietly downed a couple of shots of brandy in effort to shake the chill from their body. After which, they left as quietly as they came.” New paragraph. “The room itself was large, drab and unpretentious with a high ceiling and dark plastered walls. Finished off with imitation mahogany, which was chipped and scarred in many places. High French windows, blacked out with dirty card board and paper lined the wall on one side. In years long passed it was undoubtedly the site of gaudy parties and banquets where fine ladies in lace dined with their noble gentlemen or danced to lighthearted music. Rich Napoleonic Era tapestries would have lined the walls, heavy furniture and glittering chandeliers would have lended gaiety and finery.” New paragraph and concluding paragraph. “But tonight the room was furnished with a few unpainted wood tables, a few wobbly chairs and a bar made from boards stretched between two boxes. Light was furnished by black globed kerosene lamps. The back bar was another box, upon which rested a half a dozen dusty bottles of wine, brandy, and cognac. The heavy oak floor once covered with heavy expensive carpets where only the elite trod, was now covered with a thick layer of dirt and scuffed by the shuffling feet of men, now occupying the room.” You wrote this during the war itself?

DOLAN: Yeah.

PIEHLER: Well thank you for sharing it with us. And you’d shown us earlier a picture of a very substantial chateau and of the room you stayed in. Well this is—we have to thank you again.

DOLAN: Glad I could, do something maybe for your studies?

PIEHLER: Yeah. No, thank you, thank you very, very much.

BARNWELL: The pictures were very interesting.

(Tape Paused)

PIEHLER: Oh, I put that on. So you talked about—how many—let me ask, even though I feel like this interview, that we keep ending it because you keep come up with new, good—how many returning, how many displaced persons did you encounter?

DOLAN: At Brunswick after the war, there was a bunch of them there. Russians and some Italians and Poles. Either at Yalta (Ukraine) or Tehran (Iran) I think it was Roosevelt at Yalta if I remember right and Truman at Tehran. I may be wrong there, but either of those places. An agreement was made with Stalin to return all nationals, Russian nationals, after the war. It was called, I believe, Operation Keelhaul afterwards. And these people were sent back, thousands of them to instant death. And the Allies knew it at the time. And it was a terrible thing. I don’t have all the details for that, but that’s part of history. And these Russians—Joe Fobes was a member of my section and he spoke fluent German and French. He helped me for the interviews, some of these Russians internees that were there. And they were begging us—they spoke German and

he was able to converse with them in German—they were begging us to tell the authorities not to send them back because they said anybody that had left Russia and been in the outside world, they didn't want them coming back and telling the people how things were out there. So they knew they were going to be executed. And nothing could be done about it. I went to see the officer in charge of the camp there with the letters and he had a sort of an affidavit that I signed. These people were begging not to go back, but I'm sure they went back. This interview I had here was with some of the ones we talked to on how life was like in Russia and what they felt and stuff like that, it's pretty interesting probably. So maybe you'd like copies of that.

PIEHLER: I would love a copy, yeah that would be a great. You weren't doing this as part of your official duties were you?

DOLAN: No, this was part of the correspondence course for lessons.

PIEHLER: Oh so this was ...

DOLAN: Those were assigned special lessons that had something to do ...

PIEHLER: ... And these were the lessons you were working out.

DOLAN: ... Working ...

PIEHLER: ... So that short story about the chateau was part of that ...

DOLAN: ... One of the lessons.

PIEHLER: ... Indiana School of Journalism.

DOLAN: These are all on original paper. (Reading) When the Germans first overran Russia they were very careful to pick out young healthy men to be deported to Germany. This applies to the Russians—when picked out the healthy ones to go back to work because it was about the rations that they had, forbidden to write letters. Oh, there's a lot of stuff here. Working day lasted six hours for children, eleven to thirteen age and six to ten hours a day for those fourteen to sixteen that they were forced to work. The older men and women worked ten to twelve hours a day. So that's all. I'd have to kind of sort it out a little bit.

PIEHLER: Yeah, but we would really love to have copies.

DOLAN: Okay, I could do that. There's some other ones, I don't know where they are now. Some of them disappeared from here. Okay, I can do that.

PIEHLER: Well again, I keep, as I said I keep feeling there's never an end and there's going to be another treasure coming out, but we really, again, thank, thank you for such a wonderful interview.

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