

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE
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AN INTERVIEW WITH DONOVAN ENOS

FOR THE
VETERANS ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF WAR AND SOCIETY
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INTERVIEWED BY
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AND
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CYNTHIA TINKER: This begins an interview with Donovan E. Enos at his home in Jefferson City, Tennessee on February 13th, 2012. My name is Cynthia Tinker and I'm with the Center for the Study of War and Society at UT. And also accompanying me today is one of our interns, go ahead and say ...

RACHEL PRIVETT: Rachel Privett.

TINKER: Okay, I want to go ahead, we've already been chattin' a little bit, but we'll try to get in a time machine and go back. We usually start by asking about your family background, how your parents, how you grew up.

DONOVAN ENOS: Yeah, sure, I can do that for you. Uh, I was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan. And my parents were Patty Enos and Otis Enos. They were—my dad was born and raised on Kalamazoo River where it empties into Lake Michigan. Some of his big interests were hunting and fishing and that sort of thing. And he worked his whole life for the Michigan Bell Telephone Company. And he had a high school education but he was able to progress much further than that in the working world, and so on. And my mother was—I think she met my dad at the telephone company, she was, I think an operator of some sort. But then she devoted the rest of her life as a housewife, raising the family.

TINKER: What was her maiden name?

ENOS: Dingman, Dingman.

TINKER: Do you know the origin of that name?

ENOS: I think it's English of some sort.

TINKER: Okay, and what about Enos?

ENOS: Enos is a little more of a mystery. Although, we don't have anything to trace it other than a few of the family members have tried to create a little more accurate history. But it supposedly it goes back to a gentleman that settled in Virginia and made his, had a Indian wife, Native American Indian wife. So there is a good possibility that I am part Indian, you might say, but I don't know.

TINKER: But you've had other family members kinda do the genealogy trace?

ENOS: Yeah, I've never gotten into that sort of thing myself. My mother got into it quite seriously. Not necessarily being able to do anything herself, but more in contacting other people in the family that had. And supposedly from Virginia they migrated up thorough Indiana and finally into Michigan. Southeastern Michigan or southwestern Michigan I should say. I haven't run into very many people, you know, with that name.

TINKER: Yeah, I've never heard of it either.

ENOS: I did, when we first moved into the area, down, do you know where Townsend is?

TINKER: Oh yeah.

ENOS: I ran into a mailbox there that had the name on it.

TINKER: Did you stop and knock on the door? (Laughter)

ENOS: I should have but I didn't, no.

TINKER: You know, you're probably related.

ENOS: Yeah, but the other thing that kind of goes along with that is that, uh, the tribe of Indians that my, uh, this wife of—his name was George Enos, was—her history goes back to the Cherokee group that's right across in North Carolina here, you know.

TINKER: Mm hmm, right.

ENOS: And so there's lots more family history of course, but uh ...

TINKER: Was your mother—your mother's family, were they in Michigan for a long time?

ENOS: Yeah, yeah, her—as far as I can remember she, uh, she claimed that she was more Pennsylvania Dutch and most of the Pennsylvania Dutch came from, uh, course there's a lot of Dutch in that part of Michigan, on the western side there. It's very, very Dutch.

TINKER: Really? That's interesting.

ENOS: Unfortunately, my dad died when he was just over fifty years old. So she had to go back to work. And she was in the first class of practical nurses that graduated in the state of Michigan.

TINKER: Oh, wow.

ENOS: She worked until she was, I can't recall exactly, but it was in her late seventies.

TINKER: Did your father just fall ill, or ...

ENOS: No, he had cancer.

TINKER: He had cancer? That's sad.

ENOS: Yeah, and it ...

TINKER: And she was in the first class of nurses?

ENOS: Practical nurses. She worked at one of the larger hospitals there in Grand Rapids. Like I say she actually retired in, uh, probably around '75, '76. And then, she lived until '94. She was ninety-four years old, I should say.

TINKER: She worked a long time

ENOS: It could have been in '94, in 1994.

TINKER: And it was just you and your brother, no other—did you have other siblings?

ENOS: No, that's right. Just the two of us. Right, yeah.

TINKER: And he was older you said, when we were talkin' earlier.

ENOS: Yeah, when he was killed he was twenty-three, he would have been twenty—he was killed in March, in March 17th, and he would have been twenty-four in September. September 25th, yeah.

TINKER: It says here in your questionnaire that your dad was in World War I, but he never went overseas.

ENOS: Right, yeah. He was in a couple of camps that I remember him telling me about, in Virginia, and—but he never ...

TIKER: Was it just the timing of it, or ...

ENOS: Yeah.

TINKER: Oh, okay.

ENOS: I'm not sure whether, uh ... Well, that's the answer to your question, I guess. He did—he wasn't in long enough ...

TINKER: He just didn't go. Did he ever say anything to you about it? About the training ...

ENOS: Not ...

TINKER: ... About joining, or anything?

ENOS: No, nothing that really sticks out in my mind. Other than, uh, probably if I pondered it long enough I might be able to think of something, but, uh ...

TINKER: Well what do you know about his time at Michigan Bell? My dad has been a phone man his whole life.

ENOS: Oh, yeah?

TINKER: Yeah

ENOS: Yeah

TINKER: So I'm interested to hear what you know about his time at Bell.

ENOS: My dad right from the start was in, more or less, the planning end of it. When planning was never, never any kind of—they didn't have a department that did it. But he did a lot of ... estimating, you know, of what to buy to keep up with the growth of the industry, really, the telephone industry. And he, when I was twelve years old, he was transferred to the Detroit office, which was the main headquarters and so on, and with kind of the understanding that it was gonna be for his benefit of eventually, why, he would grow in his job to the point where the Detroit experience would be valuable. And they were—he didn't have to go and try to convince somebody that he didn't like it in Detroit, it just wasn't his thing, you know? And so in five years, it would have been 1941, they transferred him to Saginaw [Michigan] and he was delighted even though it meant I'd—when we left Grand Rapids I was just going into junior high

and my brother was just going into high school, see? Those are tough times to make moves like that, I don't know if you ever ...

TINKER: So the time he spent in Detroit you all weren't with him?

ENOS: Oh yeah, yeah. We moved ...

TINKER: Oh you did go with him?

ENOS: Oh sure, we moved there and we lived in Royal Oak as a matter of fact, a real nice area, Royal Oak.

TINKER: Oh okay, yeah.

ENOS: And, uh, I ...

TINKER: So what—how was the switchin' to city livin' from ...

ENOS: Well, uh ...

TINKER: You said that your dad like to hunt and fish a lot.

ENOS: Yeah, but, uh, it—there was enough things going on that I soon forgot, you know, all of the reasons that I wanted to stay in Grand Rapids, you know? (Laughter) And, uh, and see it's a lot easier to get over something like that. The next one was tough, when we had to move to Saginaw I had one more term to finish-to-finish high school. So I had to go to—we had a home in Saginaw, and I had, I finished up at Arthur Hill. I'm sure you never heard of it, but it's a good school. And, uh, but while we were there, why then, my plan or my goal was always to go to school, I mean go to college. And go to—and it all fell along with my brother's progress. He was at Michigan State so I went to Michigan State, you know. I never thought about anything else. But, uh ...

TINKER: Well in Saginaw, was your dad still doing the same kind of work?

ENOS: He finally got a title; Division Commercial Engineer, see?

TINKER: So for the work he was doing, they never actually had a title or department for him?

ENOS: It was new, it was new see. It was always an area of work that was ...

TINKER: So it took until ...

ENOS: ... it had no history to it at all, if you want to put it that way.

TINKER: And when—like you said he had to figure out all the things, do you mean like literally all the things Michigan Bell would need to buy?

ENOS: No, no—yeah, yeah.

TINKER: To purchase like wires, poles, phones?

ENOS: Poles, yeah.

TINKER: Switchboards?

ENOS: Yeah.

TINKER: All of that?

ENOS: Yeah, and in order to keep up with their growth.

TINKER: He would have to keep up with the companies ...

ENOS: Yeah.

TINKER: ... the best place to get these things from.

ENOS: Yeah, right. There was, like I said, estimating was a good part of it, but there was also a lot of projection, of “guess-timating,” so to speak of the things that were going to have to happen. I’m not sure—of course the whole industry through electronics was, well almost, you could say, wiped out. The telephone company of today is zero like the telephone company of those days, you know? It kind of led the whole communications industry. But it, uh, when electronics came along, it was just like the elevator business, you know. It was all mechanical until electronics came along and changed everything.

TINKER: Well what was it like—well it sounds like your dad had a pretty good job so maybe the Depression didn’t really hit you all too much?

ENOS: I grew up in the Depression, but I grew up not really knowing—I was aware of things, see I’d a been probably, in 1929, I’d been five years, four years old, see, or five years old, yeah. So I didn’t know what was really going on, but I do know my mother had several sides of her family where they were totally out of work and we would, every Saturday or twice a month, we would buy them staples like beans, and potatoes, and salt, and sugar, and stuff like that.

TINKER: Right, so you sorta knew what was goin’ on then, but ...

ENOS: Oh yeah, yes, I could see that you know, I think I comprehended the area where ... we had it good, not super, but things were good. And in that there wasn’t, you know, the fear of where am I gonna get the next bag of beans or the next bag of potatoes and all that sort of thing. That’s what I see today, a little bit, is that people do not really know what being out of work, not having a pay check is really all about because we’ve got nine, what is it, ninety-nine weeks of unemployment and all that sort of thing. I’m not against it, that’s wonderful, that’s a marvelous piece of progress, if you want to call it.

TINKER: Being poor now is not what being poor then was, is what you’re saying right?
(Laughs)

ENOS: Much different, ya know, much, much different.

TINKER: Were your parents very active in the community or the neighborhood where you lived?

ENOS: Well, not, not—mainly because as time went on we never really settled in one place long enough to have the things that make up—we weren't hermits or anything like that. We participated in whatever.

TINKER: It says your mother was Lutheran, y'all went to church?

ENOS: Yeah, my mother's side of the family was quite consistently, you know, Lutheran and that sort of thing, yeah.

TINKER: Is Lutheran a very ...

ENOS: But we didn't as a family, if you are asking this—we were not, you know, we went to church but not religiously, you know what I mean. And, uh, if I had to—if someone said well what, you know, denomination were you, why I would have to say that it would be Lutheran I guess.

TINKER: What did you and your brother do for fun as little kids?

ENOS: Well we hunted together, we fished together, we swam together. All of the fun things that kids can do. He was much more of an outdoor, you know, enthusiast than I was. Although ... I think I—there were many characteristics that were different ... I always thought. I was an extravert and he was an introvert, really. Although he was the type of introvert the more he matured, he was a good leader, you know. Usually introverts don't wind up as leaders but he was definitely a leader. And able to lead, I guess that's—there's a lot of leaders, but not a lot of leaders are, you know, able to lead. You know what I mean?

TINKER: Yep, well that ...

ENOS: 'Cause they're too much of an extrovert I guess.

TINKER: Well that's true. (Laughter)

ENOS: Too much, too extraverted.

TINKER: Did y'all both play sports in school?

ENOS: Well ...

TINKER: You said when y'all moved to Saginaw you were just going into ...

ENOS: ... yeah. We both were swimmers, really. He was a better, he progressed more in high school swimming. He was a—I don't know if you know much about swimming, you know you got your three basic strokes, your freestyle, and, uh, breaststroke, and backstroke. The individual medley you have to be able to do all three of 'em. And there's—it used to be, it's probably changed a lot now. I follow Auburn; Auburn is the real swimming school.

TINKER: Oh really?

PRIVETT: Yeah.

TINKER: I didn't know that, oh I thought Tennessee was. (Laughter)

PRIVETT: No Auburn is really good.

ENOS: No, no, you're not even close.

TINKER: I guess I thought one of the California schools were.

ENOS: No, no, Auburn.

TINKER: Auburn?

ENOS: Auburn.

TINKER: Wow.

ENOS: But any rate he was, his part of the swimming deal was he was a—he swam the individual medley. And I was struggling with free style. (Laughter) But in answer to your question, why, sports, if you had to pick any one—I didn't play football, I was never big enough and heavy enough to get too far outside of the uniform, and that was about it, you know.

TINKER: What about your studies, did you enjoy school?

ENOS: Yeah, I did, I did very well until, until, uh, college, in other words. I'm kinda jumping ahead of myself here but, uh, probably, I had one term in at Michigan State when the Army Air Corps, I was in the Army Air Corps, what did they call it, the Aviation ...

TINKER: Cadets.

ENOS: ... Aviation Cadets Program.

TINKER: Aviation Cadets, yeah.

ENOS: They had promised me (Laughs), deferred me until—all of us, you know, there was a whole, I forget, thousands and thousands of guys that were part of this Aviation Cadet thing, and deferred. And then all of a sudden in January of '43, uh yeah '43, they called all of them in. Said no you gotta come in, get your basic training, and I still haven't to this day ... I think it was one of those quick decisions, but it was probably the right decision. Their only competitor was the Navy, they had their own program there, I think they call it V8 or something like that [V-12 Navy College Training Program].

TINKER: Yes, I've heard of that.

ENOS: The circumstances for me were, I think, worth repeating. I had graduated from high school and my first job was, unbeknownst to my dad, I went down, I heard, one of the guys told me they were hiring, see. He and I went and applied, and they hired five guys out of this bunch. I think they probably knew I was Otis Enos's son and that mighta had something to do with it. But any rate, they hired me so I went to work ... it bothered me because I didn't know whether they knew this was going to end in September when I went to college. Somewhere along about February, March, somewhere along in there the traveling recruiting board came to Saginaw for the Army Air Corps. Some guy told me about it and he said, "let's go down and see what happens" ... we did this on our lunch hour, so we went down. We went through the written, mental part of it, and we both passed, you see. But there was one thing, you had to have your

parents' permission to go on and finish the rest of the test. I don't think it was about finishing the rest of the test, but ultimately before you left the door, if you made it and they signed you up, you had to have you parents' permission see, if you were seventeen. That's the shape I was in so I couldn't take the final end of the thing, the final, the physical.

TINKER: You didn't think your parents would sign for you?

ENOS: I don't think so, I don't know. Hey, I never found out. (Laughter)

TINKER: So you didn't ask them?

ENOS: No, no, no, they didn't know about any of this, that I was doing this. So anyway, the time went on and I started the fall term at Michigan State. I will never forget this, I was listening—I was sitting in one of these amphitheater type, we were waiting for the first chemistry lecture. ... classes hadn't started so. There was a guy sitting next to me and we're sitting up on top of this thing looking down, nobody else in the room hardly, you know, it was too early. So he says, "Hey, did you hear that they've closed the enlistments?" I said, "What do you mean they closed the enlistments?" He had a newspaper and he showed me this article. And sure enough the Army Air Corps had closed the enlistments for their Aviation Cadet Program, see. But there was a paragraph that said if you had previously made ... some move towards getting into their program, why, you could continue it and finish. So, I got on the first bus I could get from East Lansing to Lansing, downtown Lansing, where the board was. And I got off and went in their office there and said, "I would like to complete my—take the physical and if I pass I get signed up." And they were happy, 'course, they were after me. ... this was their job you know, so they couldn't refuse me. Any rate, so I took it and passed, I was eighteen also. I called my dad that night that I finished up and he was surprised, but he saw the wisdom in it when I told him, they're gonna defer me anyway. And then in January they called everybody in, all these Aviation Cadet guys in. I'm not talking not just Michigan, but all over the country, coast to coast. So anyway ... that was the circumstances of my choosing that particular branch and what happened and so on.

TINKER: Well, what made you think Air Corps? Had you already thought about flying way before that?

ENOS: No, not really. Not seriously or anything like that. I was just like any other kid or guy, like, if I saw an airplane or something like that, I might think about it but otherwise, not really. It wasn't like I was born ...

TINKER: Born to do it. (Laughter)

ENOS: No, it was a convenient progression step in my life. It was a lesser of many evils, we'll put it that way.

TINKER: Do you remember where you were when Pearl Harbor was bombed?

ENOS: Yeah, we were at the cabin. My dad had an interest in a cabin on the Au Sable River, which is one of the world famous trout stream, up in the ...

TINKER: Trout stream?

ENOS: ... River, I should say.

TINKER: Oh, okay.

ENOS: It crosses the upper part of the Lower Peninsula. Goes from Grayling to Oscoda I think. Anyway, he had. through his continued interest in hunting and fishing and all that sort of thing he and another four or five guys built this little one room cabin on Au Sable River. And we would use it more than anyone else, I think. And we were up there, I think—I don't know whether my brother—no my brother was going to Michigan State, so probably my brother. I usually had a friend along and we were up that particular weekend and it was very mild, no snow to hinder you and all that sort of thing. The roads weren't too good so it took a half day to get from Saginaw up there. And so to answer you, that's where we were. We were on our way back and I think it was somewhere along the way we stopped to get gas and the guy had a radio on, or something like that, and we heard that Pearl Harbor had occurred. But there again, I can still remember that it was days before the real, uh, you know, effect and so on really ...

TINKER: Really hit you.

ENOS: Yeah, a better understanding of the whole thing.

TINKER: Right, did your dad, do you remember your dad saying anything about it?

ENOS: No, well he was pretty up to date on ...

TINKER: So he kept up with the politics and all that?

ENOS: He was, my dad was a Republican, but he was not—he was also, he's like I am, he is more of an independent than he is a Republican. There were a lot of things that he did not agree ...

TINKER: What did he think of FDR [Franklin Delano Roosevelt]?

ENOS: Well I was just going to say, there was a lot of things about FDR that he was not—that he didn't agree with you know. In fact, I don't know if he had continued to live if that would have changed. I have a better understanding and a greater appreciation of Roosevelt then I did when I was in that growing up period. I hate to get into that subject because it's ... it's just better that I don't. Not Roosevelt, necessarily, but I'm talking mainly, if you want to isolate it to politics, that's the way it goes.

TINKER: Don't worry I've heard—we usually ask people what they think of FDR and you just—everybody has their own opinion, you know it's fine.

ENOS: I think he was—I don't say he was way ahead of his time or anything else. And he was a very liberal guy and I think for the times he is the person that we needed, that's all there is to it. I can remember Hoover and a few of the other guys that were around, actually I can't remember too many of the 'em, but they were clearly not the people that would—and there again if Pearl

Harbor had not—if we hadn't gotten involved in World War II I think Roosevelt would have been gone much, he wouldn't of had—what did he die in his third term, I think it was?

TINKER: I think it was actually after he got elected the fourth time.

PRIVETT: Fourth time.

ENOS: Fourth time, the fourth term, yeah. Yeah, just think of that happening today.

TINKER: Which is actually, to think today it's mind-boggling. To imagine having a president that long seems bizarre. (Laughs)

ENOS: Yeah, you couldn't. It just wouldn't—the circumstances ...

TINKER: Can't even wrap your mind around it now.

ENOS: No, no, huh uh. But in answer to Roosevelt, why uh, I think history has been a lot kinder to him than they will be towards some of the other guys that have come along since then.

TINKER: Well when, kinda switching topics, I was thinking about when you all, you know ...

ENOS: Ask me when I learned about when Roosevelt, you know, dying.

TINKER: Oh, why? You specifically remember that?

ENOS: That's pretty interesting to me, see.

TINKER: Oh okay.

ENOS: We were—this was the last mission I was on, or had, as a pilot in World War II. It was the 13th of April. He died, I think it was the 12th. The time situation—I didn't find out about it. We were taking off to go on this particular mission and, as a fighter pilot, we were going through what you call a joining up process, which is where you get into formation, see. We were using an airfield in Belgium, Northeast Belgium. It had been constructed about two weeks before we got there, or something like that. It was really a, one of those, whip-it-together-as-quick-as-you-can type of fields; metal planking for runway, it was bad. But at any rate, we were just in the joining up process, and we had our radios all to the same frequency, and there was a guy at the end of the runway that was there all the time, almost a twenty-four hour deal, in a pickup with a big glass to keep him out of the weather and all that sort of thing. And he controlled traffic, traffic control that was it. (Laughter)

TINKER: Some poor guy, in a shack, at the end of the runway.

ENOS: Well the only reason he was there was because it was his turn. (Laughter) So anyway he gets on the radio and he says, "Say guys," he says, "you got a brand new commander in chief." So everybody, I would assume, individually they were listening to this thing, he says "yep," he

says. And what is going through—who, what do you mean, a new commander in chief? He said, “President Roosevelt died at such and such a time, and now,” he says, “the new commander in chief is Harry Truman.” I don’t remember him saying anything about the Pice Vresident or anything else. And I thought, and I know everyone else thought, who is Harry Truman? (Laughter) Can you imagine that, who is Harry Truman? It is like these two kids, who’s Wolf Biltz, what’s the guy’s name?

TINKER: Yeah Wolf Blitzer.

ENOS: Wolf Blitzer. It’s just exactly like, you know. The little kids says who, who’s Wolf? So who’s Harry Truman? That’s how I found out. As it turned out, there was nothing negative about the whole thing, it was just some information, you know.

TINKER: But nobody had a clue who the Vice President was? (Laughs)

ENOS: Well, not necessarily who, yeah ...

TINKER: Yeah, ’cause who was Harry Truman.

ENOS: The Vice President was Harry Truman, see? And that’s exactly the way it was. Roosevelt didn’t take him into—he didn’t know anything about the atomic bomb when they told him, you know. Roosevelt’s died and you are now the President, and so on.

TINKER: And by the way we have this project goin’ on.

ENOS: Yeah, yeah, that you might be interested in ... (Laughter)

TINKER: Yeah, well what I was going to ask you about was growin’ up, as far as like entertainment did you and your brother—well I’m assuming you had a radio in your home, right?

ENOS: Oh yeah, always.

TINKER: Did y’all listen to the radio a lot?

ENOS: Do you know what I can still remember when we—you’d change radio’s many—well there was a lot of progress. We’d all get around in the living room and lay on the floor to listen to whatever the next radio was gonna be that they wanted us to buy and two or three times there was two or three of ’em sittin’ around all playing at the same time.

TINKER: Did you have a favorite show?

ENOS: Yeah, let me think. Uh, there was a show called *Vic and Sade* [Radio Show] and it was ...

TINKER: Vic and...

ENOS: Vic and Sade.

TINKER: How do you spell that last one?

ENOS: Sade, S-A-D-E. It's a woman, Vic was the ...

TINKER: Okay, Vic and Sade.

ENOS: They were like your aunt and uncle or your grandma and grandfather, something like that. It came on in the afternoon and it was all—part of it is that—trying to give you a little background. They lived in the house half way up the next block or something. It was just really—it all had to go in your head and you get a picture. Part of the sound was the screen door closing, in the summertime. It was just homey stuff that's all there was for it, that's all there was to it. And Sunday night, [we] used to listen to, what were some of the big comedians? George Burns and, uh, what was the guy, he never did get into—Jack Benny. There was half a dozen of 'em, four or five of 'em, you know. I think those were the type of programs that I could remember that were ...

TINKER: And your whole family would get around and listen? Your parents enjoyed it too?

ENOS: Yeah we would watch—yeah Sunday night was the time; lay on the floor.

TINKER: That's nice.

ENOS: Yeah.

TINKER: That's nice. Did y'all go to the movies?

ENOS: Some, uh, not nearly the interest in them that you see now. I had an aunt that was, my dad's sister, who had polio from the big polio epidemic in the late teens. And we used to take her to the movies either Saturday or Sunday. I would ... ride in her lap, as a matter of fact. It was kind of neat. And, uh, you know my brother would help push the wheelchair from home to the movies and they were always ...

TINKER: And this was in Grand Rapids?

ENOS: Yeah this was before we moved from Grand Rapids to—I would probably, that was right during the heart of the Depression, I was, like I said, I probably wasn't over five, six years old. And so movies just didn't have the—they were there and you needed to get a weekly, or monthly dose, or something like that. There again they weren't worth watching.

TINKER: (Laughs) You think so?

ENOS: Back in those days, yeah. There was no real talent or, what do you call it, expertise that went into producing ...

TINKER: What about when you got older, in high school? Did you take dates to the movies, did you go then?

ENOS: Oh yeah, a little bit but ...

TINKER: I mean in Saginaw is that where you went ...

ENOS: Until I met, met my wife I really wasn't too serious about movies ...

TINKER: I mean was that like the popular thing to do in town? Or was there some other activity that was?

ENOS: When I was in high school, the big thing, we lived in Royal Oak, and on the east side of Detroit there was a big, a couple of big outdoor music things where ...

TINKER: Oh, that's nice.

ENOS: I saw, when I was still in high school, I saw Frank Sinatra at the Fox Theater in Detroit.

TINKER: Wow!

ENOS: Yeah.

TINKER: That's when he was a skinny kid.

ENOS: Nobody knew who he was. (Laughter) This is a fact, I can still remember. He sat at the end of the stage of the which a lot of the famous—that's the way they did, until their turn came up. You're absolutely right, he was nothing but a big skinny kid, not big either. But even then, you could tell, this guy can sing, he's going somewhere.

TINKER: Right, all the girls were going crazy for him.

ENOS: I don't know, they, the girls weren't quite as ...

TINKER: 'Cause you know, you always see the pictures from back then.

ENOS: ... they appreciated the same things, but I don't think they were nearly as demonstrative about things like that.

TINKER: Well, good. (Laughs)

ENOS: They were able to ...

TINKER: Hold it together.

ENOS: ... kinda keep themselves in, yeah.

TINKER: Do you remember anyone else that came to town that you saw?

ENOS: Celebrity?

TINKER: Well I mean just ...

ENOS: Oh, here's one. It's pretty good. I met—this was after my dad died and we were, my mother and I were staying with my uncle and aunt. He died when we were in Saginaw.

TINKER: And what year was that? That he passed?

ENOS: 1948, yeah. I just finished at Michigan State, I graduated in 1948. But any rate, he—or we were ... my uncle, my mother's sister's husband was a good buddy, a very, very, very good buddy of my dad's. Did all kinds of fishing with him; hunting. They came from a family in a little town north of Grand Rapids and they had a general store, in fact between the family most—owned most of the businesses in that little town. So my mother and I were—he said “Don, I got,”—he was very active in the VFW [Veterans of Foreign Wars] 'cause he had been in World War I. He'd been in the Air Force as an ambulance driver, you know, on an air field. And so, he was a, he really was a great, great person, next to my dad I think he was probably the ...

TINKER: And what was his name?

ENOS: His name was, Lole Saur, Lole Peter Albert, something; he had two or three names. Albert, Peter Albert Saur, S-A-U-R, Swedish. Any rate, he said, “If you're not doing anything,” why he says, “we're having a meeting.” And the VFW, their store, he had a room, up on the, kinda up on a mezzanine floor deal and they had meetings up there. So I went to the meeting and he said “There's a guy I want you to meet.” He said—his brother, not him, but his brother was very active in politics in that area too. So anyway the guy was starting to campaign for congress, and, uh, so and he was just out of the service, I think he was in the Navy, yeah. He was just out of service and ... he got up and made his little talk; it was Gerry Ford.

TINKER: Oh, wow.

PRIVETT: Oh, wow.

ENOS: Yeah, so I got to meet him. In fact he grew up in a neighborhood very close to where I grew up in Grand Rapids, see. See, he went to the University of Michigan, I don't know if you remember. He went to South High School; I would have gone to that high school. My brother went to it, my cousin went to it. In fact, he was very close; he was within about a class of one of my cousins ... it was Gerry Ford, yeah.

TINKER: Did he make a good impression?

ENOS: Never saw him again, really, in person. (Laughter)

TINKER: Never saw him again.

ENOS: In person, you know.

TINKER: You know, once they go to D.C.

ENOS: But any rate, you asked anybody else, see, so I'm giving you Gerry Ford.

TINKER: That's nice. That's nice that it sounds like having the outdoor concerts, that is such a nice atmosphere. I wish we had more of those today. I mean that's kind of a thing that went away. You know before that they had the open air, outdoor fans, and ...

ENOS: I saw, I'm trying to think, I think, I think I saw Tommy Dorsey, and a couple of others, but ...

TINKER: That's a good one.

ENOS: ... one of 'em I saw was at the Peabody in Memphis. Peabody Hotel?

TINKER: Um hmm.

PRIVETT: Um hmm.

ENOS: In nineteen, think the year was about 1935, somewhere along in there. For years I could remember but I can't—he was, he never got the real fame that say Jimmy Dorsey or Benny Goodman, or Harry James, or somebody like that. But it was good, it was at the Peabody Hotel. I had a cousin ...

TINKER: What were you doin' in Memphis?

ENOS: ... well I had a cousin that lived there. And he used to visit us in the summertime, see. So one time he came up, in fact I think it was the last time. We were just kids, like I said, but he—so the folks got to thinking he's always coming up, why don't you go down there with them? So I rode back with them to Memphis, I think I took the bus back. But ...

TINKER: Was that your first big trip?

ENOS: Away from Michigan? Yeah, yeah, definitely, yeah. And I can remember a few things about it. It was on—I think they lived on Central, which is one, I don't know if you know—I know I haven't been back to Memphis since, really. And ... the thing I do remember about it though, people during the day just pull the shades down, and if you didn't have to go to work, that was it. And when the sun went down at night you know, you could let the shades come up and get a little air circulation, but I don't know how people really could get through without air conditioning. Just poor, I mean, it was difficult.

TINKER: Oh I'm sure it was unbearable.

ENOS: At one of the projects I had in my working career was in Joplin, Missouri and Joplin is a—I built the hospital that got wiped out in the tornado.

TINKER: Really? The hospital in Joplin was your project?

ENOS: Yeah, I was a project manager for it and, uh, of course the ...

TINKER: Pretty much the whole city got wiped out.

PRIVETT: Yeah.

ENOS: Well, yeah. If you cross the—almost follow the center of the city and drew a line, on both sides of the line, once you got maybe a mile north of the line—I've talked to a few people, neighbors, and so on. We lived in an area that was not in the path of that tornado, see, so there was not too much damage. But if you were in the path of that tornado, why ...

TINKER: You got wiped out.

ENOS: Yeah, yeah.

TINKER: How long did it take—well let's see, you went in the Aviation Cadets at Michigan State, right? While you were in the Cadet Corps.

ENOS: Well no I was not in it, it was while I was in my first term of freshman year. Which would have been '40, 1942. And they called everybody in, in January of '43.

TINKER: Okay, January '43. Where did they send you straight away from there?

ENOS: We had to report to Chicago and then we got our travel—from then on we were their property you might say. We left Chicago, by train, well there was no other way. It took five days to get from Chicago to Miami Beach. They sent us—we were probably the first, the Army took over a lot of housing or whatever you want to call it in Miami Beach. And they used it throughout the war as a ... basic training.

TINKER: When you left—or when did you find out you were going to be training on fighters?

ENOS: Oh boy, that was in, um, let me think what month would that be, by about June of '43.

TINKER: So it wasn't until you got to Miami Beach that you found out?

ENOS: Oh no, no it was way—I went through, here's their program, I mean, I can—first, you, the Aviation Cadet Program was changed because they had all these guys, see? They just didn't have the facilities to process them in the same manner that they had before. So it put about a two or three month plug, or delay, in the program, you might say, to absorb this whole thing. And, so normally, the normal program was that they separated you and then you went to preflight.

TINKER: Okay, so Miami Beach was just your basic training?

ENOS: Basic Training, just ...

TINKER: Okay.

ENOS: You were no better, no worse than any of the rest of the guys goin' into the service.

TINKER: What did you think about that?

ENOS: It was great, great. (Laughter) You were living in facilities that you couldn't possibly afford, or ... you didn't know anyone that could. Yeah, we were right across—walked across [to] the ocean, there's the beach, the ocean, the whole works, except you were their property. You didn't have—couldn't do it unless you had somebody's permission.

TINKER: I guess it was a big change from Michigan.

ENOS: Oh hell, weather wise, oh it was the opposite end of the whole spectrum, yeah. Oh yeah, yeah the train ride down there was, the guys improvised as much as they could. They just tore the whole train apart, you know. (Laughter) To make beds out of, you know, or something you could lie down on, you didn't have to sit down. And you endured that whole process for five days, to get there. And when you got there though, it was just—I remember, if you went anywhere in the service, you had to go through Atlanta. It was just like a big circle ...

TINKER: It's the hub, yeah.

ENOS: I don't care where you were going, you had to go to Atlanta, and make the switch that would put you on the track that took you to wherever your ultimate destination, you know.

TINKER: Well during all this, during the like, '41, well after Pearl Harbor, through '42. Were you following what was going on?

ENOS: No intently or, uh, the information—you didn't know that much about what was going on ...

TINKER: Just seeing the headlines, and ...

ENOS: ... until two or three months later.

TINKER: Yeah.

ENOS: There was no, that was the huge difference. Now you know seconds later, you know.

TINKER: But just generally ...

ENOS: We knew ... Whitney Houston, we knew she died seconds, almost seconds after ...

TINKER: Just a little later.

ENOS: And all that sort of thing. But, uh, ...

TINKER: Do you have any distinct memories of basic training? Was there anything that stands out?

ENOS: Not so much, other than a lot of marching, lot of marching. And a lot of calisthenics, physical training. I'll tell you one that would be really interesting to you is that in this program of taking up the slack time, when they sent us back to school. Once you finished your basic training, which took a couple months, why, uh, and it was all alphabetic. The D's and the E's and a few of the F's, we got off the train and we were programmed for Clemson, in South Carolina. We were the first guys that went. I think there were several different groups that eventually went. Once they got through with this big backlog, got the system revised, why I think they eliminated it. They called it CTD, College Training Detachment. And Clemson was where we wound up, or this—the E's and so on. And I was very impressed, not with the idea that, I'm sure you're aware, in those days Clemson was pure male, no, it wasn't ...

TINKER: No, I didn't know that.

ENOS: ... it wasn't coeducation at all.

TINKER: So it was male only?

ENOS: Yeah, and strictly military, nothin' but military.

TINKER: Wow, I didn't know that.

ENOS: Yeah, and very good. Of the officers that—back in the old military days, your officers were always college educated. The officers, I'm not talkin' about whether it was infantry or it was combat engineers or whatever it was, the Citadel, and Clemson, and West Point, West Point—almost 100%; they were from one of those three schools. Like I said I think West Point may, we'll just pick numbers out of the air, but West Point probably first maybe 60%, then the other 40% was kinda split between Clemson and the Citadel. So we got to go to Clemson, this group. The big thing I can—it was good, I mean, the food was terrific, which is always way up there in the top five. (Laughter) They treated us great. They let you know that you're not in the next school up the line, a girls school, at all. You're here at Clemson, you're in a military school. And the guy that gave us our PT, which was Physical Training ... his name was Frank Howard. I don't know whether you heard of him or not, probably not?

TINKER: Frank Howard?

ENOS: Yeah, he was the guy that made Clemson what it is today from a sports standpoint. He coached until he was 85. And at that time, he was probably in his early 40's. And he was desperate to get, he would've been in the service had he, you know, had he been younger. And he was a great guy, he had, he probably had two or three classes during the day. The first thing

he did was have the carpenters build him a stand that he could get up on so he'd be higher than the group he was leading, as far as the exercises were concerned. Next thing, so he would get up on the stand, he would take his teeth out of his mouth, he had all false teeth, set the teeth down on the side and for an hour, or whatever the duration of it was, he would lead the guys. He was very strict as far as you out didn't mess around at all. He was right there, you know, to watch you. He could point you and he could really nail you if you were trying to conceal the fact that you really weren't puttin' one hundred percent in for it. (Laughter) So anyway, that's kind of a thing that I've never forgotten. If you know somebody who's followed football for a long time ...

TINKER: They know who Frank Howard is.

ENOS: ... in this area, why, you say Frank Howard and you really get their attention.

TINKER: Oh wow.

ENOS: Yeah.

TINKER: That is a good story.

ENOS: It is, yeah. That and Gerry Ford, and all of ...

TINKER: How long were you at Clemson? Couple of months?

ENOS: About three months.

TINKER: Three months.

ENOS: Yeah, then from there ...

TINKER: What kind, did you take other classes?

ENOS: Yeah, yeah they had some ground school and stuff. Don't remember anything about that. (Laughter)

TINKER: Because you never used it again, right?

ENOS: No, no, no. No we had to get, no matter where you were before you got your wings and your commission, they divided it. You had a half-day of ground school and half day of flight training. Except flight training didn't come into the picture until I started, I think they called it, primary and I took that at Albany, Georgia. And these were schools that, uh, were scattered all over the country, really. But they were in areas that had good weather and so you weren't sittin' around all the time. At any rate, going back to the ... center where they tested you and decided whether you were going to be a pilot, or navigator, or bombardier, or none of the above, and so on. That occurred ... just after you finished this ...

TINKER: This time at Clemson? The ...

ENOS: Yeah, right, the college.

TINKER: After that? Okay.

ENOS: Right, it was all done at Nashville.

TINKER: Okay.

ENOS: They did it for ...

TINKER: I think that was—everybody went through Nashville for that, didn't they?

ENOS: Yeah, right, right. Yeah, and I think that took two or three weeks. You weren't, they weren't test you all that time.

TINKER: You were waitin'.

ENOS: Yeah, right. Waiting to be tested.

TINKER: Waiting to be tested.

ENOS: Or waiting to ship out to wherever, where you wound up at. The navigators went to, most of them went to Louisiana, and the, I don't know where the bombardiers were trained. And then the pilots were scattered around to where ever these ... no I'm sorry I was wrong. They went to Montgomery, Alabama. That's where they had their, what they called, pre-flight training.

TINKER: That's where you went?

ENOS: Yeah, mm hmm. I went to—after I went through the classification process, I went to Montgomery. And in fact, Montgomery is still where all of the historical material is kept for the various Air Forces. Second Air Force, First Air Force, Seventh Air Force, Eight, Ninth, and so on.

TINKER: Well did you know at the time what it was that got you classified as a pilot?

ENOS: I didn't understand then but I think I have a better understanding of it now. Age had a big factor, uh, your—they tested you pretty good. It was nothing like, if you're going through it today the stuff there'd be stuff that would be far, far more accurate. But one of the things that probably got you out if you couldn't, in other words ... the navigators came from a bunch of guys that really knew their math, very, very sharp guys. And the bombardiers, I don't know the criteria they used for them. But there was certain things they put together. And then there was a bunch that wound up and went to, like mechanics, or gunners, you know, for bombers and so on. But the big thing, I think, that came to me that, you had to have a lot of good coordination, eye coordination, between your legs and arms. Then you have to have some coordination between

your legs and arms and all that sort of thing. But it was mostly—and you had to have a certain, one of the things that helped me, when they decided I guess, “oh this guy he can be a pilot,” was—then they separated you between a multi-engine and a single-engine, see. Fighter pilot or bomber pilot, see. Or multi-engine or cargo planes, or C-130’s [military transport craft]. (Laughter) So was age, and I was in the young, I went in when I was eighteen, and I was still eighteen when I went through the classification process, and so on. But I think that was ...

TINKER: So the older ones probably were more likely to be bombardiers ...

ENOS: Well, responsibility goes with age. Not that you’re—not the younger you are the more irresponsible you are, not that. But you cannot, in leadership ... it’s harder to lead if you’re nineteen when you got everybody else is say, twenty-two, twenty-three, twenty-four, something like that.

TINKER: To lead a crew.

ENOS: Yeah, so that is kind of ...

TINKER: I’ve wondered too if, if its had a little something to do with the fact that the younger guys, um, you know when you are younger you are just less likely to second guess yourself ...

ENOS: You mean you’re more responsive to discipline.

TINKER: Yeah, or you’re just ...

ENOS: Or that ...

TINKER: ... less likely to have second thoughts like, oh, should I really, should I be doin’ this? You are just like, just going.

ENOS: That’s very true, that’s very true. I think you’re able to take chances that you wouldn’t, when you’re eighteen ...

TINKER: You just get more risk adverse as you get older, I think.

ENOS: Yeah, that’s true too. Right, yeah. I know one of the things I always, I didn’t excel at it or anything—air acrobatics. I was more at home doin’ that type of flying than I was just sitting there straight and level. (Laughter)

TINKER: Well what do you think now when you look back at that? The things you did in the plane?

ENOS: I think, I think one of the things that I—I never did feel that I took any chances that I couldn’t handle, you know, emotionally, or mentally, or anything like that. There’s a line, there’s a line you know, of just doin’ something just to impress somebody else or impress yourself.

TINKER: That makes me think of the movie that just came out recently about the Tuskegee Airmen. There's a—one of the characters in there is kinda like that. He was a—you know there's the hotshot character ...

ENOS: Yeah, right, hot dogs and ...

TINKER: Yeah. It kinda was good about covering the different personality types in the squadron.

ENOS: I'll tell you, he was an actor wasn't he?

TINKER: Oh, yeah, yeah.

ENOS: Well under the real, I say combat conditions, those guys separate themselves in a hurry.

TINKER: Oh, I'm sure.

ENOS: Yeah, it's like what's the ... movie, the young guy, he's white, and he's—he's still very popular today. But it's almost about fighter pilots ...

TINKER: It was about fighter pilots ...

PRIVETT: Oh, um, Tom Cruise.

TINKER: *Top Gun*.

PRIVETT: *Top Gun, Top Gun*.

TINKER: Oh yeah. Maverick, that was his name in the movie.

ENOS: I don't know if I've ever watched it all the way through or not. Usually I get to the point where I can't watch it anymore it's so ridiculous. (Laughter) It's not even entertainment it's so bad.

TINKER: Well what about that movie, while we're talking about movies, 'cause I always, I liked that movie, *The Right Stuff*.

ENOS: I don't know if I ...

TINKER: Um, and it covers a lot about Chuck Yeager in it and, you know, how he got turned down for the space program he wanted to be an astronaut really bad.

ENOS: I really never ... I didn't see it.

TINKER: Yeah, that might be one you would enjoy. But, uh ...

ENOS: Yeah, if they are realistic I might say yes I'll—but I wouldn't waste my time on it otherwise.

TINKER: Yeah, it covers the beginnings of the space program. It's really good.

ENOS: I've got a lot of uh—the only thing I don't like about the space program is that they have out priced themselves and nobody can afford what they are able to achieve. And that's too bad, that's too bad. It really is. Because it puts such a break or ...

TINKER: It's like it stopped for the last twenty years. It's just like nobody did anything.

ENOS: They priced themselves out of business. Or, you know, it goes back to politics. We haven't got any; these guys are eating the money up before it's ever ...

TINKER: It can't even get to NASA.

ENOS: That's right, yeah.

TINKER: Can't even get to NASA. Yeah ... that kind of bothers me about NASA a little bit.

ENOS: Yeah, we need 'em too, you know what I mean?

TINKER: Yeah I ...

ENOS: If you stop ...

TINKER: The Chinese now are, you know, their eye's on the Moon. I mean that's a fact, they eye's on the Moon. So, you know they may have a base up there one day.

ENOS: I hope they let us, when we finally get there ...

TINKER: Participate. (Laughs)

ENOS: ... I hope they say—they're not out there with a bunch of pitchforks or something. (Laughter) That's, it's too bad, that's all.

TINKER: It is, it ...

ENOS: But it's not just restricted to NASA either, as far as that's concerned. Everybody's just ... lost all their common sense.

TINKER: I agree. How long were you in Alabama for your flight training?

ENOS: Well let's see, I started ... each step you took, took two months.

TINKER: So by the time you got to Alabama it's summer? Fall?

ENOS: No I started in, uh, let's see, October, go back, uh, September, August. I started the Montgomery, Alabama the pre-flight part of it in August, yeah August, yeah.

TINKER: It says on your questionnaire it was at Napier Field, is that correct?

ENOS: Yeah, that was Dothan, Alabama. That was advanced.

TINKER: Oh, so you went to Montgomery before you went to ...

ENOS: Yeah before I started ...

TINKER: ... Napier Field?

ENOS: Okay so here we go, I went to Montgomery in August and September and from there I went to Albany, Georgia for primary, which is, what'd I say? That was—September and October and I went to ... Greenwood, Mississippi for what they call basic flying.

TINKER: They really shuttled you all around to a lot of different places.

ENOS: Oh yeah, yeah. Two months and then you're gone for the next step.

TINKER: Just a whole pipeline.

ENOS: Yeah, Greenwood Mississippi was next, that was December and January. And then went to Dothan Alabama, December and January—February and March.

TINKER: Of '44?

ENOS: Yeah '44. And then in March I went to—in March, there was about a first week in April, I think, we graduated.

TINKER: Wow.

ENOS: We got our wings, see? Okay then, then we started—they gave you a ten-day leave, including travel. So you had about seven or eight days at home, depending on how far you had to go. When you got back from that you went right back to Dothan, Alabama, Napier Field. And we flew P-40's. That was our first, what they call tactical, or operational, or combat type airplane.

TINKER: What was the very first—what was the plane that you—the very first single engine plane that you ...

ENOS: Oh, Stearman PT-17. PT-17

TINKER: And what year were those ...

ENOS: That's the two winged jobby.

TINKER: Oh really?

ENOS: Yeah, yeah. One of the greatest air—well as far as, if you could fly that you could fly anything in the world. You could fly a B-29. (Laughter) With a little help, you know, with a little—with a little ...

TINKER: Now what makes that plane so special? (Laughs)

ENOS: Because, one of the—well there are a lot of special airplanes, if you want to—the AT-6, that was the plane that flew in advance. AT-6, that was kind of special too. Most of it is the fact that it reacts to your hands, and your feet, and your eyes I guess.

TINKER: And you can just feel it immediately?

ENOS: Not only immediately but it kinda, it forces you more or less to say well—it depends on what you are trying to do with the airplane and so on. I think it's—you have a better feeling as far as control is concerned. You feel, well if something doesn't go just right I have to fix it and you do. And say like, I never did fly a jet. I never got, after I got through, out, and back in school I flew some light planes. But any rate there's—an inline engine is much different than a say the radial engine. Because I'm sure you can visualize, C1-30's have got radial engines. Unless they didn't, maybe for a time they used the prop jet type. Can you remember?

TINKER: No.

ENOS: But the point was in a radial engine, it's easier to start with the inline engine. Inline engines are where you got, two cylinders, two cylinders, two cylinders, two cylinders, two cylinders depending on how much horse power you got. (Gestures with hands) They had, the problem or the problem they came up with that you don't have in a radial engine is torque. There's a lot of torque. To give you an idea of what they torque is all about, when you're taking off you're, you have to compensate for that torque by using one of your rudder, your right rudder really is what it boils down to. Because the torque has a tendency to push your airplane to the left and use some rudder to keep it straight. The more horse power it's got the more torque it'll have ... once it get in the air then it loses the ability to have enough force to effect that left to right situation. Whereas, in your radial engines, like P-47 had a radial engine, the torque effect is much—I won't say slight, but it's negligible. Now when you get to jets, no torque, nothing, just all downhill. (Laughter) But you got a lot of other things that enter into the picture there, that need to be dealt with you know, to accomplish what you want to do.

TINKER: So the P—so in the advanced ...

ENOS: So anyway we're back from our ten-day leave and we're check out in P-40's see. And Then after you've accomplished all of that, why we went down to, you know where Eglin Field is in Florida?

TINKER: Oh yeah.

ENOS: Heard of it? Yeah. So they sent us down to Eglin Field and we took gunnery, aerial gunnery and so on. But they used AT-6's. And you got through that and let's see—went back to Napier Field and there were some other courses that we took there, but the next step was to—they assigned you to either the First Air Force or Third Air Force in this area. First Air Force operated out of Richmond, Virginia. That's where they trained you in P-47's. And once you got there you knew pretty much you were, well not necessarily I don't recall, you knew about how far away you were from being shipped overseas ... but there again in the, I should go back to the advanced part. A lot of the guys were held back, not held back, but were stopped and they picked the best would be instructors and they were distributed throughout the whole training system, see? So if you really wanted to get into combat why that's one thing you wanted to avoid.
(Laughter)

TINKER: Was being so good.

ENOS: Being held back as an instructor, yeah. And I'll never forget, I told you about this guy that I was sittin' with when I—that told me they were closing the enlistments in the cadet program.

TINKER: Oh, yeah.

ENOS: His name was Wayne Edinboro, last name was E. He was from Benton Harbor and so on and he was with me all of my training up through the point and then we got through with advanced and they made him an instructor. Yeah.

TINKER: Was he upset?

ENOS: He was disappointed, yeah. But there again, you get that age and you learn to take things like that. You don't sit down and cry. But any rate, so they made him an instructor. And later on when I was shot down I spent some time in the hospital. And I was anxious to get back to my outfit; we were overseas then. The war had ended, the war ended while I was in the hospital. And at any rate to kind of get to the point. In my—I finally got released from the hospital, got orders to go back to my group, my group and squadron that I hadn't seen since April 13th. And I—so I had my orders and I had to go to London to catch an airplane to Frankfurt, Germany. I had to stay overnight in London and I went to the—there was a big what they call USO Red Cross facility in London, Grosvenor Square I think they called it ...

TINKER: I've actually heard of that.

ENOS: Have you?

TINKER: That used to be somebodies personal estate that they I think let ...

ENOS: Grosvenor Square, huge place.

TINKER: It was like an estate, wasn't it?

ENOS: Well it was, it was right downtown.

TINKER: Okay, well I'm thinking of somewhere else then.

ENOS: So they—I walked in the place, I'm all alone see. In fact that was the real tough part of getting shot down was the fact that it isolated you—I mean a lot of the other guys went through the same experience and all that sort of thing. It wasn't anything unique but it's a terrible thing that when you get isolated under those circumstances, and I can tell you how all that took place too, but any rate to go back to this Wayne Edinboro thing ... I walked in this big USO [United Service Organization] club. They got the longest bar I've ever see in my life. (Laughter) Plus you can eat there and it's a great place and that's it, or it was a great facility I guess is a better way to put it. And here's two guys, Warren Edinboro is standing—the war is over see and he's there and the guy standing next to him is our old basic instructor, flying instructor. He'd been held back. I walked up to them and—I still had bandages on my head and I forget what was said to one another, but it was just a coincidence of great consequence or great not importance either. It was just a great coincidence that's all. He we all three of us, I had to get up about four or five hours later to catch the airplane see. And so, Edinboro had been assigned to the Eighth Air Force in P-51's which is a great thing. They escorted the big bombers for—P-47's did too but they were ... used more efficiently and effectively. As they were in the Ninth Air Force for fighter-bombers. So anyway here's Warren Edinboro, it's like the perfect circle. Here I am sittin' next to this guy ...

TINKER: Well the chances of that happening are pretty ...

ENOS: ... as a freshman at Michigan State in ... chemistry lab. Yeah, yeah. So ...

TINKER: Here you are all alone separated from your unit.

ENOS: Yeah, yeah and we were happy to see one another.

TINKER: Oh I'm sure I can imagine.

ENOS: More, but the important thing was that I had really fulfilled the whole thing. I went through all the training and I got the good fortune to get through the whole thing and get to combat and get through combat, see. That was always the whole essence of my military, and any guy that was in the same situation, you know. And these guys, these guys before they were—they had to serve their time as instructors and got held back and they got—they sent them overseas ...

TINKER: And they still got

ENOS: ... and it was a little too late.

TINKER: Yeah.

ENOS: And in fact the guy, the basic instructor, I can't remember his name, but he was—when he got over there, there was just time enough left they used him as a co-pilot on a B-24 droppin' leaflets. You know the leaflets ...

TINKER: Yeah. For the Germans.

ENOS: The thing that instructed, uh, POW [Prisoner of War] Camps and Concentration Camps and all that sort of thing. But anyway, I wanted to get that into the situation.

TINKER: No, that's ...

ENOS: That's a good one.

TINKER: Well the chances of it happening are—it's like out of a movie.

ENOS: It is, it's a coincidence thing.

TINKER: The chances are so slim.

ENOS: In fact, any of these big events that I bring up, that are big to me, obviously, are "that's life." Life is a bunch of chances, that's all it is.

TINKER: Well when did you find out you were being sent to England?

ENOS: To—okay that was while I was at Richmond, Virginia training in P-47s. Right there everything was kind of cut and dry in terms of what you were headed for if the war lasted long enough. At that time there wasn't too much doubt that it would—wouldn't, you know, last that long so you kind of were breathing a little easier 'cause you knew we're gonna get there. And so that's when I found out which was, probably in the summer, July or so of '44. We had, the training we got there was pretty good except it wasn't—you could have used more time, say hours in the air to get everything down to the point where you thought you were ready, you know. The rest of it you kind of had to stick in the back in your mind and say well I'll find a way to do it when I get there, you know, or need it.

TINKER: And by this time, you all already know about D-Day and ...

ENOS: Yeah, but of course that would have happened while I was in Richmond. And yeah we knew, you know, that—nobody knew, the huge question was how prepared was Germany? And how effective has our training been, you know, to adapt ourselves to the type of war we were trained to fight? And I think it was about as—there's a lot of holes in the whole thing as far as that's concerned but ...

TINKER: Well how was the trip ...

ENOS: But that's what war is all about. War is nothing more than putting together a series of mistakes and hope that it's gonna to come out alright. You've got very little control over it. But

you know, it's—when you stop and start to tear some of these things apart you find that, hey shouldn't have done that. It still lines up as the first guy that gets there with the most wins. Whatever you've done before that why, you don't want to miss it, but isn't quite as important as you thought it was as far as that's concerned. And there again, I have often thought are we, do we really know—we've had the pleasure or the satisfaction of knowing that we participated in World War II and we had a significant—do you want some coffee, or ...

TINKER: I'm okay, do you need somethin'?

ENOS: No, nuh uh.

TINKER: We can pause it if ...

ENOS: We have—like I said again, I don't want to lose this one, but I probably already have. We knew we had a significant part in World War II, but, uh, and I don't have—but do we really realize that Russia was the difference, you might say. It wasn't us that was the difference it was Russia that was the difference. I don't have a lot of respect for Russia because they—but they had a hell of a lot more to lose than we did too. I think that was the significant difference between—what Germany didn't really realize was that they had the whole thing to themselves if they wanted it if they'd stopped to consider there was a limit to what they could tackle and defeat. The Nazi part of the whole thing got in the way. So anyway where does that leave us?

TINKER: I was going to ask you about your trip over, across the Atlantic.

ENOS: Lots of significant things. The boat we took was a—a lot of guys got to fly, you know, but uh ...

TINKER: But you didn't. (Laughs)

ENOS: Not the fighter guys. (Laughter) There was—I don't remember but I would imagine there six, seven, eight thousand guys on it. There was—and it was made up of replacement pilots, like myself.

TINKER: Do you remember the name of the ship?

ENOS: Oh boy ...

TINKER: (Laughs) It's okay if you don't.

ENOS: Actually it had done the same damn thing in World War I, you know. (Laughter)

TINKER: Oh really?

ENOS: Yeah, but it was—I wasn't affected as far as seasickness was concerned. A lot of guys were, but I was just lucky, you know. I forget how many—but it was made up of 8th Air Force guys that had finished either one or two tours and were going back for their next tour. And they

had options too. They could have gone to the, when they finished their tour in Europe, they could have elected to—a lot of them became instructors in the training program—a lot of them elected to go to the Pacific Theater. Because up until the time they won in Europe they couldn't concentrate—they were concentrating but not as optimistically and so on, on the Pacific Theater. But anyway there was the 8th Air Force and the ... 9th Air Force replacement guys. And they were not only replacing pilots, they were replacing ground crews and all that sort of thing. We had an awful lot of guys on this one boat. And everybody got to know ... you stayed within your own group of guys as far as that's concerned, so they either played cards, or there wasn't much, or read or wrote letters and all that sort of thing. And—one of the most really significant things that I saw was a lot of the guys returning from the 8th Air Force, which was totally bombers, that's it, oh, no, and they had fighters within the 8th Air Force that did the escorting and so on. But a lot of these guys, I would look at a guy and he was a major, you know officer, major rank. And I'd look at him and I'd say, my God you're what nineteen? eighteen?

TINKER: (Gasps)

ENOS: They were.

TINKER: Really?

ENOS: Yeah. Because they were able to progress because of, uh ...

TINKER: Their accomplishment.

ENOS: ... time and accomplishments, and experience, and so on. And I couldn't get, I couldn't get over that, you know. Here I am just a second lieutenant, you know. But then when you thought it through and so on. But it's amazing to see that and it would still be amazing to see that.

TINKER: You mentioned writing letters. All this time had you been, were you pretty good about writing home or ...

ENOS: Not super.

TINKER: (Laughs) Not super. Did you parents write you a lot of letters?

ENOS: Eh, quite a few, yeah. Yeah, I think we communicated enough to, you know, to know each other knew ...

TINKER: What was goin' on.

ENOS: ... what was important was, yeah.

TINKER: And were you staying in touch with your brother?

ENOS: Not much, no. See my brother got married before, as soon as he and his wife finished at Michigan State, see. They met there and after about a year, of course then—so he was pretty busy, you know, getting adjusted as far as—of course there was no adjusting to married life under those circumstances but she—so, so anyway to answer your question I didn't, we weren't good correspondents.

TINKER: So when you're headed overseas ... did you know where he was?

ENOS: Uh, yeah.

TINKER: At the time?

ENOS: There's a real big one here that I haven't gotten into. But um, yeah he went into the combat engineers although he was in his ROTC [Reserve Officers' Training Corps] program, but the branch that had what they call the Coast Artillery. And they while he was going, but everybody went through pretty much the same what they call OCS training, Officer Candidate School. So he, he was going through, I think he was going through the OCS part of it and he still had to do all of that after 4 years ...

TINKER: Of ROTC.

ENOS: ... yeah. But there again that's, that's what they wanted, you know. So anyway he, uh, he went through the—just about the time—could've even been well during, they eliminated the Coast Guard, or Coast Art ...

TINKER: Coast Artillery

ENOS: Coast Artillery, right. They had their option of okay what else, but being a civil engineer and all that sort of thing, he picked combat engineers. So anyway, then he had to go through all of their officer training set up too. And he went through Fort Belvoir, you ever heard of it?

TINKER: Oh yeah.

ENOS: In Washington D.C. That's where he got his training. Then they sent him to as like this replacement thing he joined an existing battalion that was getting ready to train to go overseas as so on. And that was at Muskogee, Oklahoma. And so anyway I saw him and his wife. We met when I was on my way back, I had graduated with my commission wings, and we, my folks came down to see the ceremony, or whatever you want to call it. And then on the way back we stopped at Nashville and we all got together and that's the first time I'd met her. Well no, I had met her back at school, but as his wife. And so anyway he—his battalion shipped overseas in December of '44 and they were ... let's see December, oh, and so their first combat experience was in the Battle of the Bulge ... and then everything kind of shut down a little bit. And weather was bad we weren't doing much flying so the ... 9th Air Force started a program when they would take the pilots, a couple at a time to these what they call forward observation posts. And that's the forward ... pretty familiar with what they were all about. They were directing artillery primarily, but they also, they had started a program where they linked the fighter-bomber

squadrons directly by radio to these forward observation posts. And if one of these forward observation posts had a target that they felt was something they could effectively use aircraft why they, then they worked together on it. So then, the next step was that they were—they wanted the pilots themselves to become familiar with this, this part of the combat situation. So we were—they didn't give, it wasn't something you could say no I don't want to mess with that at all. You kinda had, they said well ...

TINKER: So this is the beginning, literally, of combat controllers.

ENOS: Pretty much, yeah, right. In the 9th Air Force, yeah.

TINKER: Yeah, wow.

ENOS: Yeah, so anyway myself and two other guys were, we weren't the first but we were right in there. And the weather was bad and so they said you three guys go down and see this, this forward observation center. So we did. Anyway, did you ever see what they call a command car?

TINKER: Command car?

ENOS: Yeah, it's like a jeep except it's big, they're big. It's just an automobile, God they were built to win contests to be uncomfortable, see. So anyway, they furnished a driver and the three of us went down and we had to leave, I don't know, it was four or five hours before daylight, you know. And we had to ride this command car and we got to the, this forward observation thing and they showed us. We could see right from this—they used, very often they used old churches. Or churches that were, you know, because of the war they weren't operating. So anyway, they always had the steeple and you could get up in that and they'd knock out a few 2 by 4s and put a window in or something. And you see the guys, they were all in foxholes. And they were maybe a hundred yards a piece, uh, apart, and so on. But the war itself—I mean their orders were just stay there until we tell you to move up or retreat or what. So we went through that exercise of, or actually it happened during that, why, they got a message through that my brother, all the message said if you want to see your brother you better get back as quick as you can. So we did. We started back. And we got back there probably about two o'clock in the afternoon, something like that.

TINKER: Do you remember what town this was near?

ENOS: In the forward observation post?

TINKER: Just where you all were ...

ENOS: Oh the area?

TINKER: Yeah.

ENOS: It was probably, did you ever hear of Liège? It's in Belgium.

TINKER: Okay.

ENOS: Uh, yeah it's in Belgium. It was in that part of the front.

TINKER: Okay.

ENOS: In fact, our base was in Hasselt, which is in Belgium. In fact there was a big meeting between—the only other, the only real reason Hasselt gained any importance, and so on, Eisenhower met with Montgomery in Hasselt ...

TINKER: There. Okay.

ENOS: ... and told him, if you don't get off and get moving why you're history from the standpoint ... (Laughter)

TINKER: This is where there tellin' y'all, telling you to get back to right?

ENOS: No, no, no. Hasselt was where our base was, I was just giving you an idea where we had to leave from, see. We had only moved there maybe a month or two before that.

TINKER: Okay.

ENOS: First base I—when I joined the 405th group, 509th Squadron. They were operating out of, uh, a little town called St. Dizier which is in France, north-east France. And, uh, so anyway, but it got, they had to waste too much time gettin' from there to the front so-to-speak. Where ... where a lot of our missions were directed towards. So anyway we—they said if you want to see your brother, I had no idea that he was there, that he'd even elected to try to find me. So anyway, we got back there about 2:30, 3:00, something like that. And he was there, he had a jeep and a driver and was just sittin' there waiting. And I was worried that, you know, he either wouldn't have time enough to wait or get, you know, say the heck with this. I think it was a Sunday too. And we were living in—previous to this in France we lived in tents. Just right out in the—just like you were camping, you know. When we took—when they sent us to this base in Belgium, why, we lived in—it was a coal mining town. The whole town, nobody did anything except mine coal. Well there are a lot of places in Kentucky that are the same way. But it was kind of like a government coal mining operation, you know. And we lived in one of the intermediate, it was a school is what it was. And of course they couldn't operate the school because of the war. So they just said pick a classroom and four or five guys would stay in a classroom. And that was where you spent your time, instead of in a tent, you know. So anyway my brother ... first of all he'd went to where the field was and he had to obviously go through the security set up and find out, you know, yes, he is here somewhere, only right now he's not right here. So he talked to a few people in the intelligence department and I don't know, I never did find out what they talked about or anything. But then ... when I got back there I showed him where we were livin' and I'd had a few letters from home. He hadn't, he hadn't been there long enough that, and they'd been moving so often that he hadn't had any mail from the states at all. And of course it was right after Christmas and finally a few boxes caught up to me so I gave him a bunch of cookies and stuff. And so we didn't talk about anything except home and what was going on and so on. And

so he had, obviously, he had to get back. He was on what they call TD, temporary duty. And, uh, so, uh, another thing I gave him, is that I had, they just issued us some, uh, some kind of like a sweater jacket, I don't know. And it's still kind of popular. They got an elastic band around the waist, you know, and the cuff, the cuffs are elastic ...

TINKER: Oh yeah, it's real, it's kinda thick. It's thick.

ENOS: Yeah, it's kind of a woven fabric and so on. And he liked the looks of that and I said, "Take it, I can get another one." I never could though. (Laughs) But I said this is your chance to be good, to be nice and so I gave him the thing. And one of the pictures that I've got—did I show you that book of the 276th [Combat Engineer Battalion]? They put out a book after the war was over and there was a couple of pictures of him in that. In fact, one of the pictures is taken from that book. So he took that. The other thing he did while he was there that I remember was—we had a shower in the—of course it's a coal mining town and all the schools had showers in addition to maybe around their wherever their athletic program was or whatever it was. Why they had a shower just sittin' out in the hall. The kids could go in there and take a shower if they wanted to. So he saw one of those and he says, "Is it okay if I use that?" I said, "Sure, no problem." So he did and he went and got his driver and had him come in so he could take a shower too. First time they'd had a bath since they left home, since they left the states, you know. They ... and that was in early, so you're talking about three months almost. Of course these guys, that was one of their duties was to build you know showers and toilet facilities for the infantry and other branches of the service. In addition to that though, their biggest job was to detect and remove, and de—mines, you know, land mines. So, as a group, as a combat group, I would put them; don't go near it. Because they got the tough jobs, they got the really tough jobs.

TINKER: Combat engineering is tough.

ENOS: Once they did their job then the infantry could go ahead. You can talk about it, but realistically that's the way it was. So anyway that, uh, like I say that's the last time I saw him.

TINKER: You gave him your sweater. Well I'm sorry. We can talk about the bridge a little later.

ENOS: It's okay.

TINKER: We don't want to get you too upset right now.

ENOS: No, no, no it's alright.

TINKER: Do you want us to pause for a minute? Take a little break? Get a drink of water?

ENOS: No, just edit it out, that's all.

TINKER: Okay. Well ...

ENOS: What's your next question? That's the best thing to do.

TINKER: Okay. Let's just talk about what your day to day life was like. Like what type of missions did you typically do, day to day?

ENOS: Oh well yeah ...

TINKER: Or how often did you fly?

ENOS: Well, I got, I've still got my books and stuff on it. Not my, no diaries or anything like that, but why they kept was in the way of records and so on. When we first, when I first got there they were ... the big place that the group was and the squadrons were, see we had three squadrons to a group. Each squadron pretty much operated on its own. You didn't see them on a day to day basis at all. There were a lot of guys that I never saw, you know, that were in different squadron.

TINKER: 'Cause your squadron—yeah I totally, yeah—it's like your squadron is your immediate family. Then the others are your extended, like they're your cousins you never see. (Laughs)

ENOS: Yeah, that's kind of—it's amazing you know? But everybody got along pretty—if they had parties, you know, why one squadron would hear about it, they wouldn't have to invite 'em they'd just drop in, you know. (Laughter) They always knew what was goin' on. And, uh, in each one we kept track ... I can remember some, I just guess at them now. There was a certain amount—the only competition between the squadrons [was] to see who could shoot down the most enemy planes, you know. Other than that, why, there was not much going on between them. So anyway ... well, uh ...

TINKER: Well do you remember the first, the first mission you were on where you shot, shot a German plane?

ENOS: Yeah, pretty much yeah. Uh, oh I know now, we were trying to—Metz, I don't know if you've ever heard of Metz? It's a town on the border of Germany and France. And they were having a big problem with—Metz was one of the first areas that Germany was, they really dug in and said well, you know, we've let these guys come far enough, you know, they're running out of gas anyway. You know how the whole thing developed when they broke out of Normandy and that sort of thing. So I think the first missions were basically trying to loosen up the resistance that the Germans were putting up. See, like Metz, it's in France but most of the people ... they speak German, so to speak.

TINKER: 'Cause it's right on the border.

ENOS: It's all—yeah, yeah, yeah. A lot of them are related, you know, and that sort of thing. So anyway, that, that, we were working on that. And, uh, I know, uh, one of my—we had ...

TINKER: What—Were you just—some of your missions just targeting trucks, buildings ...

ENOS: Anything you could find.

TINKER: Anything you could find?

ENOS: Anything you could find, yeah. There was a—trucks were a big item, railroad trains were a huge item, railroad, you know, locomotives, and ...

TINKER: Did you ever hit one of those?

ENOS: Oh yeah, not—I don't know personally. I shot at 'em, so. (Laughter)

TINKER: Yeah, it's not like it instantly exploded but you know you probably hit it right?

ENOS: Yeah, yeah, right. And that's a good thing, you know, really. And I would have gotten to this one sooner or later too. But one of the missions I can remember in Metz, on this part of the war. It was within the first—I would say, I had ten missions that were just in that particular area I would say. The squadron may have had, you know, twenty-five or so ... but you flew usually one or two, at the most two missions a day. That's about all you had time to get ready for and so on. And that's about all, there weren't more than say a couple of missions flown that day. Very rarely could you get more than two missions in, you might say 'cause it took you maybe ...

TINKER: I'm actually surprised you could get two in most days.

ENOS: Oh most days you could, because you only had ...

TINKER: You weren't goin' far.

ENOS: That's right, you didn't have to waste a lot of time. And, uh, it didn't take long, either, to refuel and re—if you shot your guns and so on. Or if you were going to carry a bomb, that was the—we had two or three different things. You would either carry a 500 pound bomb under each wing and if you were really going a long ways you had a 150 gallon belly tank. And then, uh, sometime very rarely would you have nothing, you know. But you had those various options that would kind of determine how long it would take you to get ready for the next missions. And usually there were enough pilots; that was the big thing. We usually had maybe 25 to 30 pilots. They kept, you know, very seldom would they run short on pilots. They wanted to keep it not more than that because it was hard—one of the big things the intelligence people had to do was to try to keep the rotation of the new pilots and the older pilots so that they progressed at a rate where you weren't losin' or, you know, where you wouldn't be losing say 10, 15 pilots at a time because they'd finished their tours. Many times, many times the guys, they wouldn't limited it to say 50. They didn't quit when they got to 50, they kept flying. If they were still there and they hadn't said—they knew they were eligible to go home or to go, to take whatever their ...

TINKER: But they weren't goin'—saying “hey, hurry, send me home, I'm done.”

ENOS: A lot of guys, a lot of guys didn't—our, uh, we had one commander, uh, commanding officer that we lost, our squadron commander. And he had finished his first tour, was it his first tour? I think, first, or — anyway, he'd finished one tour and he went—he was from Oklahoma—went home to Oklahoma, had his leave, came back, and in fact he was squadron commander. He

advanced that far. He was with the original outfit when they were formed in Walterboro, South Carolina. So anyway ... he finished that tour and he came back and he was part way through his second tour and he got shot down. And he'd had 141 missions, which is very, a lot.

TINKER: That's a lot!

ENOS: But not, you know, not terribly unusual I would put it that way.

TINKER: How was he shot down?

ENOS: Well, I was in the same flight and we had a series of missions that were against German airfields. They'd been—here this is in the latter part of '44 and early ... ['45] and they'd been bombing, the 8th Air Force had been bombing Germany for a year and a half by that time. And ... there wasn't much left of the German air force of course. What was left they couldn't fly because they didn't have any gas. They'd virtually eliminated their oil and gasoline supplies. And so anyway we had a series of missions where we went in and tried to, uh, see how much was left of these. [To see] if there were anything left to try to bomb or strafe, you know. And a lot of 'em—we never did figure out exactly what, but I think it was what they called—they started puttin' these decoys up, you know. They looked like a fighter, a German Messerschmitt, or whatever it was; Focke-Wulf or bombers. They put these up and I think ... that's what we were goin' after when they, uh, when they got him. It was too much, anyway they—he, I'll never forget he—he got on the radio, and he said ... how did he put that, any rate, he had to crash land. And don't—he said “good show Schooner Squadron.” Each Squadron had a name, uh, you know code name for the radio. Ours, 509th was Schooner. 511th was Brownie, I can't remember, I lost track of what the 511th was. But any rate, that's all he said. After they took that area, they found his airplane. They had, they had to almost assume that he did, he got out of it alive, as far—and the civilians killed him.

TINKER: Oh, the civilians?

ENOS: Yeah.

TINKER: Wow.

ENOS: Yeah, at that particular period in the war, if you were a pilot, and you got shot down, why your best bet was to try and find military to, you know if you knew you couldn't escape or you couldn't avoid 'em, surrender to military, yeah. Because and there's a lot of logic to ...

TINKER: Wow that's, I don't think I've heard that very often.

ENOS: You haven't?

TINKER: No, not a lot.

ENOS: Well here's the thing. The bombing of the ...

TINKER: But he crash lands, German civilians killed him.

ENOS: Yeah, yeah. Yeah, not unusual that if a guy got shot down and a guy and couldn't evade; couldn't avoid being captured that ...

TINKER: So better to be captured by the German military?

ENOS: Oh absolutely, yeah. If you're going to get a break, if someone is going to let you surrender alive, that was the way to do it. Because I mean, here's the thing, and I hope it clears up any question you might have. Your big towns in Germany—it didn't, I mean I'm not talking just big towns, but the country as a whole was so ... devastated in terms of—by bombing, by the 8th Air Force and the English Air Force and so on. And at the same time there was a huge loss of life and so I don't think I'm wrong in kind of assuming this is where the hatred came from. We'd do that same thing, I'm sure. There are some times you—there aren't any of these Geneva Convention ... that worked a hundred percent of the time. A lot of them didn't work hardly at all and so on ...

TINKER: I guess it's because I already knew that the Germany military, like you know, I'd met a Tuskegee Airman who'd been a POW and he said the German military treated him like as an officer and a gentleman.

ENOS: Oh yeah, once you could get to a POW camp ...

TINKER: And he was fine, I mean, he didn't suffer any, you know.

ENOS: You're right, I think we're talk about two really different set of circumstances. Our POW, you know, huge numbers of our POW's were—during the latter part of the war though ... their humane treatment things ...

TINKER: Fell away.

ENOS: 'Cause they were getting so hungry themselves, and that sort of thing.

TINKER: Yeah I've—one of our graduate students is actually working, his dissertation is about the treatment of German civilians by the Nazis and the German military, towards the end of the war. And it was not so great.

ENOS: Oh there's a lot of things I was tellin' you about ...

TINKER: I guess when they just psychically, you know you just around you just feel like everything's unraveling it's all falling apart.

ENOS: Yeah, a lot of it was the Russian's were so brutal. They were out of control or whatever you want to call it. That the German, not only the DP's, the dis—I forget what ...

TINKER: Displaced persons.

ENOS: Displaced persons, or the civilians that had been used, you know, as slave labor and all that sort of thing. Why, uh, they were just desperate to get out of ... out of the way of the Russians. And that was one of the things that affected what my experience was. They kept moving me from hospital to hospital mainly because they wanted to make room for other people who needed treatment and the other people treatment were the people—it was almost like the Tsunami effect, you know, the people are constantly moving in order to stay out of the way. That's the worst part of the war, is that. Nothing good about it. But the effects that it has in the latter stages, you know, are worse than any part of it and it's all bad, so to speak.

TINKER: Do you remember how many missions you flew before you were shot down?

ENOS: Fifty.

TINKER: Fifty, so it was on your fifty-first or on your fiftieth?

ENOS: Fiftieth, on the fiftieth.

TINKER: So on your fiftieth is when you got shot down?

ENOS: Yeah, I had fifty—you know what an abort is? When you have to, you can't finish the mission is a good way to put it I guess. I had two aborts out of the fifty, not—no, no, no, not out of the fifty. In other words, in addition to the fifty. Yeah, it was, like I said the fiftieth, and I didn't even, I didn't realize it at the time I don't think. In other words, you know about [how many], you know. But I don't think ...

TINKER: I'm sure you probably didn't know at the time. (Laughs)

ENOS: But the other thing you mentioned I wanted to ... If you can, if you, for instance, if you get through the first ten missions, why your chances of goin' right on through the rest of it are much, much better than—a lot of guys that I, that I remember, not a lot I shouldn't of said it that way. But like P-47s; they, you don't know how to kind of—you get so over focused, I guess is a good way to put it, that you don't pull out of your diving mood, or mode I ... and the P-47 is such a big airplane and so heavy that it doesn't, you know—we're talking about in a fraction of a minute and really small spaces of time, that it doesn't—you have to over anticipate pulling it out of the dive or else, you'll, you won't clear whatever you're trying to shoot. I don't know if I made myself clear or not? But any rate, I found, you know, a lot of guys had—you just stick that out of your mind for a minute and you've made the mistake that you shouldn't have made. I didn't have the problem, but I could of. One of the, I can, these are just little bits and pieces that I can remember. Every time you fired your guns you took pictures—and about once a month the armament guys, I forget, they had to send stuff away to some central place to get it developed and that sort of thing. And so once a month, or not on a regular basis, but every once in a while they would get everyone together and they'd show all of the pictures that they had of the various guys. And usually, some of them they didn't identify, but some they did. One of my earlier

pictures or whatever you want to call it was on one of these missions against the facilities in ... the name of the town I can't remember now, but any rate you could see the shingles on the roof, you could see the—and that was too low because you'd—but like I say ...

TINKER: But at the time you're on the mission you didn't realize you're that low.

ENOS: It was—no, no I didn't.

TINKER: But when you saw the photos, you were like ...

ENOS: You're over focusing, yeah.

TINKER: Well ...

ENOS: That was kind of scary, yeah. That's one thing. The other thing I remember from films and so on or if you were talking or bring up the subject of shooting individuals or whatever. The only one I can remember and, uh, is on one of these earlier missions I, uh—the German's had a lot of horse drawn artillery where the horses would pull the—and there are a lot of different reasons for it. One of the biggest reasons they didn't—it was a lot cheaper to pull with, and a lot of time they didn't have gas enough to have trucks to pull 'em. So this particular mission was—we were shooting at these horse drawn artillery and it was in country where you couldn't of moved those guns if you had trucks, there's no roads. And that's another reason they were using horse drawn, 'cause they could get, they could move their guns with horses where you couldn't ...

TINKER: That just seems so—I mean that's almost thirty years since World War I. And they're still pullin' ...

ENOS: For good reasons. We could never have accomplished a lot of the things that say the enemy did because, uh, we'd just say hey, you can't do that. But they said there ain't any other way to do it, so they did it. But, uh, so anyway horse drawn artillery were—and, uh, I can remember watching the horses. And I ... what I remember the most; they were standing up on their back feet, you know. To—it wasn't that they were being hit necessarily, but they were frightened. They had nowhere to go or nothing else to they could do, that was their only defense is to—and, um, like I said ...

TINKER: So you tried best you could just to target artillery ...

ENOS: I tried to hit the gun. I tried to hit the gun. And that obviously, hey, they could always get another gun but they can't—they had a lot more trouble to get more horses, you know. And, uh, so but ... I never talked to anyone about it really. I mentioned it to a few people now and then. That's probably the worst moment of the whole thing, in terms of trying to shoot and what was it like to shoot somebody. But I never did ...

TINKER: Yeah, did you ever have ...

ENOS: Go ahead.

TINKER: No, uh, did you ever have interactions with any civilians?

ENOS: hmm-mm, no, we left, you mean German, you mean enemy civilians? Is that what you're talking about?

TINKER: Yeah, yeah.

ENOS: Okay, no—when we, the last base we had in, in Germany that is that the squad, the group had we wound up, I guess is a good way to put it—over in, in uh, right along the Danube River. Right across the river I think is Austria, yeah. And that's where, when the war ended, why that's ...

TINKER: That is where you were.

ENOS: Yeah. I wasn't there. (Laughs) 'Cause I was back in the hospital, you see. But that's where the outfit wound up. Now from then until, until the end of the war in the Pacific we were going through the process of getting re—set up to go to the Pacific, from Europe, see. And, uh, so when the war ended, let's see we were in, uh, it seems to me—they were, I should say they were ... we were on our way from this base in Austr—or, uh, Bavaria, that's where it was, it was in Bavaria. And we were going to a series of places in—did any of these guys ever talk about the cigarette, what, they had cigarette camps. There was Camp Lucky Strike, and there was two or three others. And they were up in around Le Harve in France and that's where they were gonna—well no, from there they went to Marseille. And, uh, anyway the day that we, that we moved from this place in Bavaria to, I guess we'll just say to Camp Luck Strike, they lifted what they call a ban on fraternization. And from then on if they caught you—up until that time if they caught you, you know, fraternizing or talking to civilians it was an offense; a military offense. They could court-martial you. But that particular day ... in other words there was no opportunity to talk to or have any kind of I guess you call it, intermixing with Germans. And I never had any. So the answer to the question is no.

TINKER: (Laughs) Well I notice you haven't really told us the story of when you got shot down.

ENOS: Oh, well it, uh ...

TINKER: Do you remember the day?

ENOS: Yeah. Well it was the thirteenth of, Friday the thirteenth, in April of 1945, you know.

TINKER: Friday the thirteenth.

ENOS: Yeah, and uh, not that has anything to do with it.

TINKER: No.

ENOS: No we were, and that was the day, remember I told you about the, the guy, the ground controller at the airport.

TINKER: Mm hmm, mm hmm.

ENOS: He, uh, told us that we had a new Commander-in-Chief, yeah.

TINKER: Oh, that was the same day.

ENOS: Yeah.

TINKER: Oh.

ENOS: Yeah, it was all on the same day, yeah. So anyway ...

TINKER: Another coincidence. (Laughs)

ENOS: Yeah, yes, in a way yeah. But the nuts and bolts of the whole thing ... we'd just arrived at the target. I can't ever remember what the—oh yes I do remember what the target was. It was the bridgehead that was created by the, by when the uh, they took possession—captured the Bridge at Remagen. And that created a—they used the bridge and they put several divisions across the bridge, you know, before it went down, and while it was being repaired, and while they put up some temporary bridges too. The combat engineers did. And my brother had a big part in all of that. And, uh, and then—but the Americans had established a bridgehead. Where they were, they were on the other side. They were on the other side of the Rhine River; that was the real significance of it. And the Germans had desperately tried to knock the bridge down. In fact, we tried to knock it down two or three times before the war, you know, before the war had progressed that far. So anyway, we were goin' into that area. That was one of the targets. And I don't know, I think it was a target of opportunity situation where we didn't know exactly what we were going to find. But we knew that there was a tremendous amount of Germans, German infantry, and artillery that was trapped there, you know. So, so anyway, the first flight I was, I was, what they call, my set up was Schooner Blue Three. And I was the element leader in the blue flight. That was the second flight.

TINKER: And how many ...

ENOS: The first one is red, the second one is—and each flight is four planes.

TINKER: Okay.

ENOS: Yeah, see, so if we've got sixteen planes well you're gonna have, red, white, blue, and yellow. So anyway, I was Schooner Blue Three. Before you went in ... you went in to what they call a line of stern where one plane may be here, (Gestures with hands) and then you get almost

behind him. But it's spaced out so that there's no problem. You're not going to hit him because you kept that alignment true throughout the, uh, pass I guess they call it. I'd just gotten into the position where we were all in line of stern like that and we were in the—started the dive. And we knew there was eighty-eight millimeter flak. But, uh, I felt something and my first thought was “propwash.” You've heard of propwash, I'm sure?

TINKER: Mm.

ENOS: The thought was kinda still hangin' in my mind, why my wingman called me. He says, he called me Blue Three, Schooner Blue Three. He called me and he said, “You're losing your oil.” We had these bubble canopies, you know, so I turned in my seat and I could see the rudder. And I could see that it was real shiny and black. About that time, I realized that I'd been hit. I had no other real evidence other than that. About that same time, the ground control came on the radio and said, “Schooner Blue Three, switch to D channel. Give us a long count.” We had, I think, still VHF, which [was] invented by the English. Very High Frequency. And we had four channels. And so I reached over and I heat D channel and I gave 'em a long count. I knew what the reason was. They wanted to make sure that I knew, uh, what direction to head, what heading to pick up. They get back to me and they said, “This is the heading you should have to get the most distance”, uh, whatever else. I had probably 10,000 feet. So anyway, I can remember the big concern. It was very, very rough country. Not mountainous, but there weren't many flat spots. I had the opportunity of bailing out, too. I reached up and I pulled the canopy release. It was just a ring. It had rubber around it and you grabbed it and pulled. It came right off. I'd never done it, obviously.

TINKER: Did it just pop off?

ENOS: No, it didn't.

TINKER: Just came loose and you had to push it?

ENOS: Yeah. I didn't push it right away. It just didn't come off. I wound up with this thing in my hand; (Shows hand) I put it down. So anyway, the next thing I was trying to do ... I'd lost enough power so that—to keep up the airspeed I had to keep it angled towards the ground. 'Cause one of the things—they said the P-47 had the same glide angle as a streamlined brick. Very accurate, but, any rate, or less [than a brick] the other problem that I had in terms of trying to do any kind of planning was that there was a layer of haze at about 4,000 feet, which was not unusual, but it was because of the activity of the war that was going on, you might say. I thought I saw a, what do they call 'em, a German Autobahn. I could see [the Autobahn at] the angle that I was at and the amount of altitude I had. [It] kinda circled around me like that. (Gestures) I thought, “That's what I'm gonna shoot for.” But I didn't have near enough altitude to reach it. I ran outta room. And the last thing I remember, was I was trying to get into a farmers; it was agricultural ... They say that—when I hit, I hit bad. I hit hard, as far as the airplane was concerned.

TINKER: Right.

ENOS: Throw me outta the plane, which was good in case it burned. I had the magnetos, everything shut off. I was ready for it. The first thing I remember though, I was in an ambulance. They'd found me and I talked—somewhere along the line the drivers, they really saw me. In other words, they weren't out lookin' for me at all.

TINKER: They saw you coming.

ENOS: Yeah. First thing I remember, they were askin' me if they could have my gun and my parachute. I don't know whether I said yes or no.

MAXINE ENOS: Did you guys want any coffee? Or a cookie?

ENOS: Yeah, I can stand some.

-----END OF TAPE ONE-----

ENOS: Who makes that anyway?

PRIVETT: Um, Olympus.

TINKER: It's an Olympus.

ENOS: Who?

TINKER AND PRIVETT: Olympus.

ENOS: Oh, yeah? They make cameras.

TINKER: Okay, I think this is starting the part two. So I'll just say, this continues an interview with Don Enos on February 13th. We were just talking about your crash landing. They've asked you for your gun and your parachute, which you're probably pretty powerless to resist their request. (Laughs)

ENOS: Yeah. I shouldn't have, but I did. But, at any rate ... it was part of the good luck that I had at that particular time. I almost think that maybe they were out looking for souvenirs because at that particular time half the combat efforts were to find souvenirs. But any rate, It was the 320th holding hospital. It was a MASH [Mobile Army Surgical Hospital] type hospital or just a first aid station I guess is what it was. I can remember a few things that, uh, they—I remember, looked up at the light and so on. But I could hear these foreign—these guys were talking in foreign language. I didn't put all that together, but it didn't bother me at all. They're gonna help me. They're gonna fix me. But what had happened is that a lot of these hospitals—there was a lot of these displaced people [who] were very skilled in terms of hospital work. They would volunteer. These people were workin' awful hard. "Well sure, c'mon, you can help." And they

were from Cook County. The 320th holding hospital was made up of mostly people who had been at Cook County hospital in Chicago.

TINKER: What were your primary injuries?

ENOS: Just lacerations [on my] arms and legs. The big thing was a concussion. I got hit. I must have hit the windscreen of the airplane or something. I had, for a long time, I don't know if I've got 'em, the people who are in charge of picking up wrecked airplanes, they took some pictures. You can clearly see the seat. The bolts that held the seat to the airplane were sheared, and so when I came out of the airplane and hit the ground I was still sitting in the seat. Which was a big help, too. Somewhere along the line, either when I hit the ground or in the process of the seat leaving the airplane. Altogether, myself and the seat would've been 350, 400, maybe 500 pounds. Because the seat had a ...

TINKER: Can you find the pause button? I think that's gonna ...

(Tape Paused)

ENOS: You had a big heavy piece of armor plating right behind the seat and the seat was kinda fastened to the armor plating. It made a big, uh The rest of the story, as far as the crash, really is a matter of the—I think it was the following morning that they put me on a, uh, remember the old C-47's [transport aircraft]?

TINKER: Mm hmm.

ENOS: That they had fixed up to carry gurneys, patients that were on gurneys. So they put me on that and moved me to Paris.

TINKER: And you said someone had taken a picture of your crashed plane.

ENOS: Yeah.

TINKER: And you have that?

ENOS: I don't know if—I don't have it. That is, uh, I may or may not have it. In fact, you asked me once before if I got any stuff. 'Bout the only thing I've got left, I got an old clock that I took out of our P-47 military clock. Although I had it mounted. I kept my oxygen mask, a bunch of stuff like that, but over time and the kids messin' with it. That's my plane. (Showing photo) We turned our airplanes in. This is after the war was over. My, uh, crew chief says, "Is there anything you think you want?" I says, "I don't know." And the guy, he said "What about the clock?" So he gave me a screwdriver and I started to take the clock out and then I didn't have time. We had to get going. We had to turn our airplanes in at a depot, or whatever they call it, in Paris. ... I stuck the screwdriver in my pocket. On the way there, the guy that was kind of doing the navigating and so on, he got down pretty low so I really didn't have much a chance to work

on the clock. Besides that, I blew a tire. First time that had ever happened to me. The tire blew out all by itself. And I thought, “My God, they’re shootin’ at me.”

TINKER: (Laughs) They’re not finished with you.

ENOS: When we got there, it gave me time because I couldn’t taxi the airplane. I just had to let it roll to land so I could be on the side. I wasn’t holding people up behind me. So they came out with a tow truck and towed me in. While they were doing that, I finished taking the clock out. They made me sign a paper and say that I hadn’t taken anything out of the airplane. (Laughter) But any rate, it’s just one of those many incidents that came along. But I think along ... This is back to when I got hurt. They took me to this hospital in Paris. It was the first time—I remember the feeling—the first time that I’d been in a room that had been painted in a long time, you know, many months. And I thought, uh, it was an old hospital but very, very—it was a hospital. [It] wasn’t a military hospital but they’re using it, you know. And there was a nurse, she couldn’t speak English, but very attractive, and she said, “Can I get you something to eat?” I said, “Yeah, that’s not a bad idea.” I was in this room all by myself. [I thought,] “This is not gonna be too bad.” I’ll be darned, I never saw her again. I never saw the—in that length of time they said, “No, we gotta move ya. We gotta make way for more people that’re a lot worse shape than you are.” Back in an ambulance and they took me to a, kind of a—I think it was the train station or something. I’m still on this gurney, see, and, uh, I could see guys around me. These guys were—all looked like they were in pretty bad shape. They were a lot worse than I was. And, uh, somehow I found out they had just been liberated from a, uh ...

TINKER: POW camp?

ENOS: Yeah. They had been captured at Dunkirk. If you remember in the war, that was when Germany first took France, or actually all those European countries there. They made a last ditch stand at Dunkirk. They got about half of the British infantry and many others. These guys had been in a prisoner-of-war camp all that time. Just to proceed with this segue, I went from there to, I remember going through, uh, by boat across the [English] Channel and into, uh, somewhere’s around London and then out towards Birmingham. All the time we’re on this train. I wound up—it was an American hospital there. Most of the things I remember about that is that that’s where the war ended. I was at this particular hospital. Then they sent me to a rehab deal and I ...

TINKER: So you were just cut up and stitched up? You didn’t have any broken bones, though?

ENOS: Nope. Hmm mm. It was amazing. It really was that I wasn’t hurt. I think most of their concern—I was always around guys that were in much, much worse shape than I was. They didn’t have to waste their time.

TINKER: Did you have any effects from the concussion?

ENOS: Well I don't—I never ...

TINKER: Dizzy spells after that?

ENOS: No. Huh-uh.

TINKER: But the care you got was pretty good?

ENOS: Yeah. I was really—see it was during that period of time that I found out that my brother was not only missing in action but he was killed.

TINKER: When you were in Paris you found out or in England?

ENOS: No, in England. The whole mail situation and so on. I finally heard from home and so I, my whole emphasis—I knew the war was over and all that sort of thing, but I wanted to find out more about what happened as far as his situation was concerned.

TINKER: So your frame of mind just completely changed after, like you stopped thinking about yourself ...

ENOS: Yeah. Well, yeah. I was, uh, so, uh ...

TINKER: Did you find it—I'm sure it must have hit you like a ton of bricks that Remagen was your last mission.

ENOS: Yeah, well.

TINKER: And that's where he had been killed.

ENOS: Yeah. Well, there was a lot more to it than that.

TINKER: There you were flying over and you didn't even realize.

ENOS: Here's something, too, that goes with one story or whatever you want to call it. I had another, what they call R and R deal. I had a couple of 'em during the active part of the war for me. And one of them was we always went with two or three other pilots that we knew and so on. It was at the French Riviera. You've heard of Cannes?

TINKER: Mm hmm.

ENOS: They had a program set up for that.

TINKER: It's where the rich and famous people go. (Laughs)

ENOS: Yeah. But there again, good things like that the military they seize on them in a hurry. So anyway, we had a—I forget the name of the airplane but there was a—You got on the

airplane, you spent your time seeing the country. The airplane I got on—you've heard of the *Stars and Stripes*? The newspaper?

TINKER: Oh yeah.

ENOS: There was an old issue of that. Not an old issue, just an issue of it, I didn't know whether it was old or not, but I picked it up. Spending your time flying from where we were to the French Riviera. And the article was written by Andy Rooney, you remember him?

TINKER: Mm hmm.

ENOS: He had given—so I read it, you know. And here it was about the second or third or maybe fourth day after they had captured the bridge [at Remagen]. And the story was about him capturing the bridge. But he didn't mention any battalion numbers or anything like that. I thought to myself at the time, "I wonder if that's got anything to do with my brother?" It was just one of those things. So here I go with this coincidence type thing. So, uh, as it turned out he was, but I didn't know it. It was just...

TINKER: When was this that you went to the French Riviera for your R and R?

ENOS: It would've been, uh, about—it had to be about a week after the bridge itself. Maybe even several days after the bridge had collapsed. So two or three days, why he'd lost his life there while I was on this so called R and R deal.

TINKER: 'Course you just pieced all this together later?

ENOS: Yeah, right. Most of what I really told you I've pieced together so-to-speak is a good way to put it. But I remember that article; reading the article that Andy Rooney had written. In fact, I tried to get ahold of Andy Rooney a couple times. I wrote him a letter two or three times and I just never got to the point where I ... I don't know the questions I had for him or anything like that, but, uh, it would've been nice to talk to him 'cause he was, he was there.

TINKER: He was there.

ENOS: And he gave the—I don't know if you've ever heard anything about the story. He took some film of the bridge.

TINKER: See, I didn't know Andy Rooney [was there]. Did you read that in your research?

PRIVETT: Uh uh.

TINKER: You never came across that? 'Cause she was—before we came here last week she reading about the bridge. I never knew he was there and actually taking film.

ENOS: He wrote about it. He was there and he gave it to some member of the 276th Battalion because he knew that they were in better contact than he was with the, I forget ...

TINKER: Like a Signal Corps or somebody?

ENOS: Somebody that could get it to the *Stars and Stripes* people so they can publish it. Yeah.

TINKER: Were you able to go back later and find that original article that you had read?

ENOS: No. I betcha if you have access to the *Stars and Stripes* it's probably in there somewhere. No, I remember it so distinctly. But yet, really, all it did was trigger my thinking in terms of trying to put together what had happened as far as my brother is concern.

TINKER: Right. You were notified with a letter or telegram?

ENOS: No, no. My folks were, but not me. They wrote me and told me.

TINKER: Oh, they—your parents wrote you?

ENOS: Yeah. That's how I found out, yeah. But in other words, when I read what they had to say, why I kinda felt that I really knew about this already. But I didn't. But any rate, uh, this time period that I had to spent in the hospital situation, why I kept—they had a specific amount of time and I think it was because of the concussion that they were hanging onto me. I played golf. I remember I played golf while I was in this rehab deal and they had a big croquet deal that the guys spent a lot of time playing on. It was pretty boring as a whole. So anyway, all this time I was trying to get back to the outfit, why, when I finally did I asked—I found that most, there was only about six or eight of the pilots that I was with when I got shot down that were left. The rest of them had gone home or had been transferred out and that sort of thing. And their mission was to go to the Pacific Theater, continue with the war situation. So I went to the—he wasn't the squadron commander but he was, he was good. I had known him very well. I said, "I need to find where the 276th is and borrow an airplane and go to see somebody there." So I worked with our intelligence people and they found out where they were. They were up around Frankfurt somewhere.

TINKER: When you were doing this had you officially been released from the rehab?

ENOS: Yeah. This is after I got back to the ...

TINKER: Okay. Back with your unit?

ENOS: Yeah. So he was happy to give me the use of an airplane, a P-47. And so, I—they told me they had made contact with somebody to set up a date and a time, see. So I flew up there and landing the airplane—it was at an old German airfield. And there wasn't anything else. It was a completely abandoned airfield. The fellow that I—in fact he's in that one picture—he was another platoon leader. He met me. I got one wheel in a bomb crater that had been filled in with a bunch of ashes and stuff. It dropped the nose and the propeller, just tipped; it tinged a little bit. Not much, but I didn't know. When I got out I looked in and of course the engine heats up when you're on the ground, and you don't have the airflow to keep it cool. So I called back. I called

the guy that I worked with to borrow the airplane and helped him. He says, “Well.” He says, “I’ll come down in the morning and we’ll look at it and run the engine up.” Everything was okay. It hadn’t hurt the airplane that bad but you could see where it took about that much off the tip of each blade, you know. So I spent the night there and I talked to this one fellow, but he was not—it wasn’t because he didn’t want to but he ... About 70% of the whole battalion was out on leave. I couldn’t find anything out, really. So most of what I found out was stuff that I’d learned, you know, from reading.

TINKER: That just sounds like bad timing that when you got up there most of them were gone.

ENOS: Yeah, right. Of course, the whole thing—as I put it all back together, if I’d have actively pursued my search to find people to talk to, why, I think I could’ve got the medal situation. The actual award could’ve been made.

TINKER: Who made the initial recommendation? His battalion commander?

ENOS: Yeah, it’s in the book. I got the book from when my mother had it (Gets up to get book from bookshelf). I had never read it. Let’s see if I can find the honors section. This is his battalion historical, uh, whatever you call it. Here’s the Purple Heart, decorations and awards, Silver Star. (Reading from unit history in book) It was actually awarded to Captain Herman L. Shapiro. He was the doctor for the whole battalion. Recommended but confirmation not received. Course this is written—there were still confirmations going on and all that sort of thing. Second Lieutenant Gene C. Enos, posthumous. And then there’s one other guy that—I don’t know whether he was ... Don’t misunderstand this medal thing. I didn’t want to do ... I went to the efforts that I did only to honor his memory. I had no other motive in mind.

TINKER: I guess your parents were pretty upset.

ENOS: About his loss?

TINKER: Yes.

ENOS: Oh yeah, my dad especially. Although they never—we didn’t talk about it. It was one of those things that got pretty well pushed in. We avoided it.

TINKER: ‘Cause it’s so painful.

ENOS: Yeah, just like his wife. I never lost track of her but I couldn’t ... She never remarried. She never got over it.

TINKER: Bless her heart.

ENOS: Yeah. She died here [on the] 26th of September last year, ’10.

TINKER: Did they ever have children?

ENOS: No. No, it's just one of those, uh, war's a difficult thing and some people get hurt worse than others.

TINKER: In the years since, have you talked to anybody in the battalion that knew him or that was good friends with him?

ENOS: One or two guys, yeah. Nobody, though, that was in his company—he was in B Company, we haven't been able to—most of those guys that were killed or went down with the bridge [at Remagen] were in his company. He was in the platoon that were actively—what they were trying to do, uh, and there again, I've pretty much pieced it together. The bridge was—there was some longitudinal, uh, there were beams to support the deck system of the bridge, in other words, the roadway of the bridge. Of course the roadway over the bridge was supported by the, uh, tresses of the bridge itself. What they were trying to do was put the bridge back in shape where they could use both sides. When it was the demolition by the Germans, of course, to try to bring it down occurred, why, they ran out of dynamite or explosives. They wanted a thousand pounds in order to place it properly. They had people that they didn't really care whether they came down or not.

TINKER: Right. (Laughs)

ENOS: It was just kind of a total failure in their attempt to destroy the bridge, to keep it out of the Allied hands. The thing that Gene's battalion was trying to do was to re-support the deck system. But it was the outside suspension system that really failed and put too much of a load on it, too heavy.

TINKER: Right.

ENOS: What they were doing was they were using wood blocking. They even had confiscated or took over a German sawmill to cut the material that they put underneath there to take up the space and also help carry the load. All of a sudden, why these outside suspension members started to fail. And it was just like a domino situation. When you get enough of 'em fail, the whole thing came down. And of course, one of the problems was they were working underneath it. No way to get away from it. When the bridge hit the water and the water's moving at seven or eight miles an hour ... the forces that were generated, nothing anybody can do. If you didn't get out of the way and if you couldn't get out of the way that was it. That's the way it happened. But if I—of course, there gain. I can't really blame myself too, you know. I blame myself but if I'd have taken action sometime during the period that was fifty, sixty years ago. Before everybody had ...

TINKER: Went their way.

ENOS: Yeah. It would've been an easy thing to have make happen. But of course, I didn't find out about it either until my mother—it was in the '90s before she died. When she died this was in the kind of stuff that she left.

TINKER: So you didn't even see that unit book until she passed away?

ENOS: Right, yeah. It was in the stuff that she had when—she might've, I don't know, had a lot of stuff, you know letters that he'd written and so on, that I never got a chance to see. It's just the way everything transpired or whatever they call it.

TINKER: Right, well, when did you—how much longer did you stay in England before you came back stateside? When did you come back?

ENOS: Well, we were actually left from Marseilles. We never did go back to England, not on our way back to the States. I got back in, uh, like I say, it took a month or so to move the whole group from where they wound up after the war was over, through the process where we went to Marseille. And we sat there for several weeks.

TINKER: Yeah, because they're thinking you all are gonna go to Japan?

ENOS: Yeah, right. Right.

TINKER: So you're just kind of in limbo.

ENOS: We knew almost shortly after we went to Marseilles that this thing is gonna unwind real quick and it's gonna ...

TINKER: What did you think about France during your time there? I mean, did you get out and about a little bit more?

ENOS: Oh yeah. Here's a good—it was in December of '44, I, uh, there again, we were about ninety miles I think from Saint-Dizier, the field that we were using, from there to Paris. We got some time and two or three of us went to Paris. Now, here's something. I'm sure you didn't know the guy but there was a Broadway producer. He produced *South Pacific*, as a matter of fact. You remember the play, *South Pacific*?

TINKER: Mm hmm.

ENOS: He had a number of plays. *By Jupiter*, I can't list them all. I can't remember 'em all, but he ... was the public relations officer for the group, the whole group, but he lived in our squadron. Not while I was—in other words, he'd already gone because he went to Paris as soon as they had taken Paris, and kind of oversaw the entertainment potential. It was planned out, in other words. He was kind of the head of it. He was Josh Logan. You've probably never heard of him. But anyway, he went on even after the war to—you've heard of Dick, uh, they wrote songs that were in these various Broadway musicals, I guess. When we went to Paris on this trip I was

talking about, why we looked up this Josh Logan guy and he said, “Well, let me give you ...”—he wrote a note out and it was to all. I don’t know why he didn’t do it for each guy. But some of the guy that was with us, he wound up with the note. I didn’t care one way or the other, really not that interested. The point of the whole—Rodgers and Hammerstein. You ever heard of them?

TINKER: Oh, yeah.

ENOS: He said, “If these guys get back before I do,” he wrote it to Dick Rodgers I think. He says, “Do ‘em a favor.” He didn’t specify exactly what. So anyway you asked the question about Paris. I was there a couple times but I was not impressed, we’ll put it that way. There was no heat. Oh, and this was during—we went to see, thinking that we could see, uh, not Tommy Dorsey, who’s the guy that had the band ...

TINKER: Benny Goodman?

ENOS: No, not Benny Goodman. He was killed.

TINKER: Artie Shaw?

ENOS: No. uh uh.

TINKER: I can’t really think of any other ...

ENOS: Oh, hey, he wrote some of the most popular music of the area—era, I should say.

TINKER: Johnny Mercer?

ENOS: No, but he was in that same band for a while. Yeah. Who wrote, uh—not Tommy Dorsey.

TINKER: I can’t think of anybody else right now.

ENOS: He played, what instrument did he play? ... But any rate, we went to see him. His band was there. I remember they were playing in overcoats.

TINKER: Mm hmm. ‘Cause it was so cold. (Laughs)

ENOS: Yeah. What the heck is it?

TINKER: It’ll come to you. When it pops in just blurt it out.

ENOS: I wish it was that easy.

TINKER: (Laughs) Well, what did you—what was the first thing you did when you got back home?

ENOS: Well, let's see. I was discharged at Indiantown Gap in Pennsylvania, which is somewhere close to Harrisburg. You know where Harrisburg, Pennsylvania is?

TINKER: Uh uh.

ENOS: I took the train from there to Chicago. I think my folks picked me up when we got to—not Chicago, but Detroit. They picked me up in Detroit. I don't know. Nothing really earth shaking [happened].

TINKER: Were you already thinking of what you wanted to do?

ENOS: Well, what I wanted to do was get back [and] finish school.

TINKER: You knew for sure you wanted to finish school?

ENOS: Oh yeah. 'Cause I wanted to get it out of the way. It wasn't that I was really eager to get back to studyin' and book learning and all that. That wasn't the reason. That's what I ...

TINKER: Had you already decided on civil engineering before you left for the war?

ENOS: Yeah, mm hmm.

TINKER: Okay, so you just stuck with that when you came back.

ENOS: Yeah, in fact I remember the engineers had a system where most of their time was pretty much scheduled. You didn't have too many electives that you could [take]. There were some but not too many. Scheduling—there was a gal that ran that department that knew my brother very well and I, uh, you know, because when she works with a student for four years, why, she knows 'em.

TINKER: Yeah.

ENOS: And at any rate, Michigan State had instituted a new system. I can't think of the name that they called it, but if you were re-enrolling, so-to-speak, you probably took a couple steps backwards as far as the amount of time it was gonna take you. You didn't get credit for what—see, I had that term and part of another. And they did though, they worked it out so that I got credit for almost the whole freshman year and I started more as a sophomore than as a freshman.

TINKER: Right.

ENOS: But at any rate, there was a little short period of time there where I was in the process of starting back to school. So I went to, her name was Agnes McCann, and I said, it does say in the big master book that lists all the courses that you need to get your final degree and so on. And it did say that if you had previously enrolled you had the option of going back under the old system, so-to-speak. So I went to Agnes and I said, "Look at this, this is what it says." She said, "Yeah, okay. All you gotta—if you just run over to the administration and see so-and-so who

was the president of the college and get his okay, I'll arrange your schedule accordingly." And so I [said], "Hey, that sounds like something that would be worth my time." So I went over right from the administration office of the engineering school to the president's office. And, uh, I walked in and I saw his secretary. I think Agnes McCann, the gal from [before], had previously called. So she said, "Yeah, there's his office. Go see him." Or she did warn him I was coming. So I went in and he says—he was a real politician from way back and so he okayed the thing and I thanked him. He pointed out, he says, "You see that?" He talked to the opening, the door opening between his office and his secretary's office. He says, "First thing I did when I got this job was I took that door off and threw it away." (Laughter) I'll never forget that. Sure enough, the hardware, you know, was still there, but the door was gone. So, I never had any real arguments with myself as far as...

TINKER: Right. What you were gonna do?

ENOS: What I was gonna do.

TINKER: Had you already met your wife?

ENOS: No, I didn't. Maxine and I met in 1954 and I'd been out of school, uh, it would've been— well, I graduated in '48, so I'd been ...

TINKER: Six years later.

ENOS: Six years, yeah. I'd had a couple of jobs and I was in the process of changing jobs. I was working for a couple of big contractors, they were big for the area. They—I got an idea that I'd like to try some other field of engineering; sales. I got into my head that I wanted to see what sales engineering was all about. You don't even hear about it anymore. But I went to a, uh, oh ...

TINKER: This is still in Michigan, right?

ENOS: Oh yeah. I was still in Michigan. I had left the company that I was with for purely—it was kind of a family organization. It was a good outfit, very, very good. Time will tell if it was a mistake to leave or stay there or what. But at any rate, I left and it was during the period I got the idea I'd try this sales engineering thing and I wrote a bunch of letters to different equipment manufacturers. Most of 'em said, "Stop in and see us. We'll talk to you." One of them was Caterpillar [Incorporated]. So I took a trip down there. This Caterpillar is a thousand percent bigger than they were then, but even then they were very big. I spent two days there, or we spent two days. They were showing me through and also talking to me, and so on. They explained that their policy in hiring people of that type was that you had to have unanimous approval by the various people that you talk to. They said, "No, we can't hire you, but we have," then they explained that somebody didn't say, "Well, we want that guy." They said that if—Caterpillar sells totally through dealers and the dealers are independent.

TINKER: Right, like a franchise.

ENOS: Yeah, right, yeah. And they're very strict. They said, "We'll contact you—you've got a branch right in Grand Rapids [Michigan] if you want to follow through and talk to the people, the main offices in Detroit." Anyway, to make a long story short, we talked to 'em in Detroit and sure enough I got a job working for the branch in Detroit, or in uh, Grand Rapids. They had a little school that they let me take part in and I did a lot of repair work and all that sort of thing. Just learning how they're put together. It turns out though, and it didn't take me long to figure it out, that they gave me a territory that there was no potential in it at all. Hardly any contractors. Nothing but county road commissions and so on. It wasn't a deliberate thing but it was what was available. If everything went all right, why maybe I could struggle through. So anyway, but I did. I went to a lot of highway lettings in Lansing and I got acquainted with other contractors that were in the, basically the earth moving business. And one of them was—I went to work for them in Alpena, Michigan. That's where I met Maxine.

TINKER: Oh, okay.

ENOS: We went together a couple of years and then got married.

MAXINE: Turn a light on in there.

ENOS: Okay. But any rate, through the years I've kept track of what's going on as far as Caterpillar and they've done very well. They should. They're one of the best run companies that there is out there.

TINKER: Have you heard of Stowers Machinery in Knoxville?

ENOS: Yeah. They're the dealer here.

TINKER: Eugene Stowers, he was a combat—he's the one that started it. Well, him and his brothers. He was a combat engineer in the Marines in the Pacific.

ENOS: Is that right?

TINKER: Yes. I've interviewed him.

ENOS: Have you?

TINKER: Yeah.

ENOS: Is he, uh, still alive?

TINKER: Yeah. He's a good ...

ENOS: He's a millionaire, too. Did you know that?

TINKER: Oh I'm sure he is.

ENOS: Many times [over].

TINKER: I went out to his house. Now his nephew, Wes Stowers, runs the company. And ironically enough, I can edit all this out if I need to but, my cousin, Scott Tinker, was in the Marines and he works—he's one of the managers down there. I've never told Wes that.

PRIVETT: "That hey my cousin works for you."

TINKER: Yeah, this engineering thing is very—like I think it's one of those fields where you'll always have some work.

ENOS: Well, yeah. Except that's one of our big problems now.

TINKER: Except lately.

ENOS: One of our big problems is that it's—and there again I go back to what I'd mentioned when we first started out. It's self-inflicted. But I've always had a very, very—and I know through my experience having worked for a Caterpillar dealer that it's extremely, uh, but here's the bottom line is that it doesn't make any difference if you are color blind and you don't know what yellow looks like. It don't make any difference as far as selling Caterpillars is concerned. And that's true of sales in general.

TINKER: Right.

ENOS: We had in Michigan—the dealer there had been a sales—his territory was Manhattan the whole city...

TINKER: Like all of Manhattan?

ENOS: New York. So he didn't, uh, Jack Frost was his name. After the war was over he took his many, many barrels of dollars that he'd made working for the Caterpillar dealer there and he went to Michigan. In other words, he would have bought a dealership just about anywhere but the one in Michigan was available, I guess, at a price. That's where he got his start. I got acquainted with all of the salesmen and they all had a certain territory which is composed of so many counties. That's how it was divided. Some of 'em had—like the guy that had Flint [Michigan]. It was a good county because they had big contractors. Although, the biggest problem was that Caterpillar was always on what they called allocation. They never got over, like the Korean War. They were still suffering from that when I was workin' there. You couldn't get a D8 [bulldozer] unless you wanted to wait six months or so for it. The same ole thing. The guy in Flint was a cigarette salesman before he went to work for the dealer in Michigan. The guy in Monroe that had that territory in Michigan sold storm windows before he worked for...

TINKER: That's funny.

ENOS: They're all good, you know. They all had—the difference whether you succeed or don't is the amount of dollar volume you're able to generate. You get part of it and the dealer gets part of it. He gets most of it. But it's an interesting ...

TINKER: Oh yeah.

ENOS: There isn't a guy that can own a Caterpillar dealership that has to be owned—well now you gotta be a millionaire to start with. Back in those days...

TINKER: Yeah, it'd be a real investment now.

ENOS: Yeah. Well there's lots of reasons for it, too because you gotta be able to pay for your parts, I mean the parts that you turn around and sell at a huge profit. Why, you've gotta be able to pay for those in a limited length of time. Caterpillar won't fool around with you. That's the point. That's the bottom line right there. They won't fool around with you if you haven't got lots of money to run your business.

TINKER: Right.

ENOS: But, nevertheless, when you put their product against any other, why, they're just not in the same ballpark.

TINKER: Um, where did you and your wife end up settling? Settling down for most of your early-married life?

ENOS: Oh, well there again, we lived in Alpena. I worked for this contractor.

TINKER: So you stayed there?

ENOS: Yeah. No, not for—we stayed there until—we left in, uh, '66. So we lived there about ten or twelve years. And I could see that it was kind of a dead end there, you might say.

TINKER: Dwindling.

ENOS: Although I liked the hunting and fishing and outdoor setup. By that time, we'd had three of the five children. I told them, "we probably should get out." One of the jobs that—the contractor that I worked with the rest of my time had a project in Alpena. You don't know anything about [it] but at the time they had the largest cement plant in the world. In Alpena, see.

TINKER: Wow.

ENOS: They had a big project there so I—winter was coming on and most of the work that I was doing with this other were dependent on better weather. I think they ran an ad in the paper and I went, walked in, and they were looking for field engineers. A field engineer is, you gotta pretty much have a civil engineering background or education to do that, so. There was two guys there. One was the superintendent and the other was his assistant, and they both weren't having

too much fun in Alpena. They were from the Detroit area, see. So I walked in there and I said, “I saw that you’re looking for a field engineer. I’ve had experience.” They just tossed me a roll of plans, “Hey, here look at this; tell us what it’s all about.” They knew but that wanted to see if I knew. So I looked through it and I gave them a good explanation. They hadn’t started on it, yet. I’ll never forget the younger, not the superintendent but his assistant, looks at him and says, “Gene,”—Gene Beret Irard was his last name and they called him “the Bear”. The other guy says, “We need this cat.” (Laughter) So I got a job. When I walked out the door, why...

TINKER: Too bad it’s not that easy now.

ENOS: No, no.

TINKER: They’re always, like, fill out this form or you gotta see, ya know, all these obstacles.

ENOS: Oh yeah. Well, these guys—so I did. I went to work and I finished, with them, I finished a couple of the projects. Like I said, they were spending most of their time at the bowling alley or something like that.

TINKER: (Laughs)

ENOS: So I stayed on. I finished up the work that they had there. Then the boss that kept track of what was going on there, he said, “If you wanna go to work in Detroit, we’ll find a job for ya.” When we finished up, we moved down there and bought a house. And then I—the company, they developed a new delivery process...

TINKER: And what was the name of the company?

ENOS: The name was Barton Malow. B-A-R-T-O-N and another guy M-A-L-O-W.

TINKER: Okay.

ENOS: And they’re right now—everybody’s kind of stalled out as their growth of the company, but they grew from, uh, when I started with them they were still one of the top three in the Michigan area. But they’re up there and they’re about ten or fifteenth in the whole country now. It’s a very well-run organization and, uh, they treated me good.

TINKER: How long did you stay in Detroit?

ENOS: We stayed—it’s about from 1964, or 1966 to uh, 1966 to ... We left in ’78. The reason we left, the occasion was that we got a job in Rochester, Minnesota rebuilding one of their hospitals there. See the picture there? (Points to photo on wall)

TINKER: Oh yeah.

ENOS: Okay.

TINKER: Oh, the Mayo Clinic.

ENOS: Yeah, that's the Mayo Clinic. That particular building was my first assignment there.

TINKER: Wow.

ENOS: Yeah that is—you've been there?

TINKER: No, but everybody has heard of the Mayo Clinic. (Laughs)

ENOS: Oh yeah. Well the building on the right is the main clinic itself.

TINKER: And the one you did on the left, that's—what building was that?

ENOS: They called it the Harwich building. It was mainly for, uh, storing medical records building. By they also, when they built it—really it's an addition to another building.

TINKER: Yeah. So you were over the whole thing?

ENOS: Yeah, by the time—see I'd already been with the ... I went from there to the project in Joplin, Missouri.

TINKER: To build a hospital there?

ENOS: Yeah. I had maybe three or four other assignments, so-to-speak.

TINKER: 'Cause each assignment for you is years long?

ENOS: Yeah.

TINKER: Wow.

ENOS: This one I was on for three years.

TINKER: Now, when you do these big buildings like this are you working for the same company or are you just kinda like an independent?

ENOS: No, I'm working for—there's kind of a triangle. One is the owner. You're working for him.

TINKER: Okay, yeah.

ENOS: Another is the architect and engineer. They're working for the owner also. But you gotta be able to work with him too. Cause you're building what they have designed and so on. So you've got those three individuals. That setup a new mold or way of handling the—and the company I worked for was one of the first into that sort of a situation. A lot of its done now, but the contractor, the construction manager, only provides his services during the construction part

of it. When we started into it, we worked with the architect and the owner prior to—in other words, as soon as the owner finds out he’s got enough money and can find the money, he hires the architect and the construction manager.

TINKER: Mm hmm. And what company were you working for during the Mayo project? That was Barton. Okay.

ENOS: They did probably ... this is the second project they got. Before we left—not before I left—we had a series of ‘em, see. They probably did upwards of a billion and a half or two billion dollars.

TINKER: Wow.

ENOS: For the Mayo Clinic. Like I said, they’ve done a lot of—oh for General Motors, this was back in the 70s, they did three large assembly plants. One was just outside of St. Louis and then there’s two in Michigan. Each one of ‘em was a billion and a half dollars.

TINKER: That’s a lot of money.

ENOS: They’ve come a long way. They’re a big outfit.

TINKER: What year did you go to Joplin to do the hospital?

ENOS: 1980. Well it was—yeah, it was fall of 1980.

TINKER: Did the whole family go with you?

ENOS: Yeah, oh yeah. Wherever I went the whole family ...

TINKER: Did they like that?

ENOS: Uh, they didn’t like changing schools and all that sort of thing. Although, when we went to Rochester, there was just Carrie, Eric, and Gene.

TINKER: Oh, okay. Your oldest two.

ENOS: And Gene stayed there. He met a girl who is now one of the leading nurses in Rochester. After a couple years, they got married. He stayed there—he’s still there, you might say. In fact, he is still there. And then when we moved to Joplin, Carrie and Eric—let’s see where were they. Carrie was in high school. She’s up there somewhere. She’s in several of the pictures. She got into broadcast journalism, see, and, um, she worked there, right in Joplin at the station there. And then she went to University of Missouri. I don’t know if you know, University of Missouri’s got probably, at one time they had one of the best journalism schools in the country. I think they’re still good.

TINKER: Hmm, didn’t know that.

ENOS: Yeah. If you were really into journalism...

TINKER: How many years were you in Joplin?

ENOS: We were there from 1980 to, uh, was it '84? About 1984.

TINKER: And you had another couple jobs after that?

ENOS: Yeah. I moved from Joplin to Columbia, Missouri. Or we moved.

TINKER: Wow. Got a good friend from there.

ENOS: Have you?

TINKER: Yeah.

ENOS: Well, Columbia is where the University of Missouri is.

TINKER: Okay.

ENOS: We had a—I was a project manager for a big renovation slash project there. From there we—that lasted until '85 or '86, uh, that lasted til '87. They had a project in Michigan I went back and did. You can't see much but that's the town of Petoskey, Michigan. They got an intermediate school there that I—well, in fact, just before I did that there was another big hospital in Traverse City [Michigan]. I don't know if you've ever heard of Traverse City, but I had a big project there. Then from there we went to North Carolina.

TINKER: Did you like Missouri?

ENOS: Yeah, I did. I liked all ...

TINKER: You liked all the places you lived?

ENOS: Yeah. There wasn't any place that we weren't able to, ya know.

TINKER: Make it home?

ENOS: Yeah.

TINKER: Where did you go in North Carolina?

ENOS: You know where Fayetteville is?

TINKER: Oh yeah. My brother was at Fort Bragg.

ENOS: He was? Yeah, okay. That's where we went next. That is after the projects in Michigan, yeah.

TINKER: Right.

ENOS: But before that I had been scheduled for a project in, uh, boy I don't know if I can think of the name of that. You know where not Raleigh, but Charlotte? It's a little bit outside of Charlotte. In fact, we were—they had trouble getting me to the point where I could get away from the projects I had in—I was easy to sell.

TINKER: (Laughs)

ENOS: Which is nice, you know. Maxine and I took a break and we went down through North Carolina. We stopped at the place where they had me scheduled to go next. The job wasn't ready to start for quite a long period of time there. And while I stopped in there the office called and said, "We want you to stop around Fayetteville. There is some interest in a pretty good sized project there." So we stopped around there and I talked to the administrator and some of the people who would be knowledgeable in terms of the project. When it came up to the point where we interviewed for the job, why, we got that job. And that's where I decided—I was sixty-eight and I wasn't getting along very good with the guy that was representing the hospital. He was doing a lot of things. And I couldn't get the help that I needed from our company to step in and say, "Well, ya know, it's either my guy or your guy."

TINKER: Right.

ENOS: They wouldn't. They said, "Well,"—it was just one of those very, very a lot of politics. The guy was ... He didn't like general contractors because he wanted to run the show himself. He was doing things that were deliberately making me look bad.

TINKER: So you got out of there?

ENOS: I said, nah, I didn't want that. I was sixty-eight why should I...

TINKER: (Laughs) Put up with that.

ENOS: If my company had stepped in and said, "Well, yes. You're the boss. We'll back you up." But they didn't do that. They just kinda danced around it you might say.

TINKER: So that got you thinking.

ENOS: That life was too short.

TINKER: Yeah. (Laughs)

ENOS: But that's pretty much what I did.

TINKER: So how'd you end up here, in Tennessee?

ENOS: Well there again. We had finished—I had already retired in North Carolina. We knew that we wanted to stay somewhere in the area, not Fayetteville.

TINKER: Right. No.

ENOS: They called it “Fayette-nam” there, ya know. It’s still—nothing wrong with Fayetteville. But any rate, in other words, we could pick anyplace as far as that’s concerned, so we thought that Knoxville was a good—it was right on I-75. It would be reasonable to think that it would be, uh, the kids wouldn’t feel like we left ‘em. Not that they cared too much about the whole situation anyway. But at any rate, from a geographic standpoint it was good; we liked it. Everything else—I’m glad we made that decision to stay there. There was only one reason is that we’re getting too old. It’s just too hard to support this place. Doesn’t make sense.

TINKER: How long have you been here in Jefferson City?

ENOS: We started the house in—we bought the lot in ’97. We started the house in ’98 and we moved in in ’99.

TINKER: Quite a time.

ENOS: Hey, it’s longer than we’ve been any other place.

TINKER: (Laughs) Yeah.

ENOS: But we, uh, there again, we lived in Farragut for ...

TINKER: Did you? Few years?

ENOS: Yeah. Well we moved in ’93 and we moved to Farragut. We knew that we really didn’t wanna—we were lookin’ for something like this, but we couldn’t find it at that time. It took several years to find it. And it took several years to buy and sell a house in Farragut.

TINKER: Well, out here you don’t have to put up with all that traffic.

ENOS: No.

TINKER: It’s pleasant.

ENOS: That’s what I say. It’s good. If the kids were here we’d probably stay there forever. But the way the market for houses like this is zilch. Just non-existent, so to speak, which goes back to the economic problems that we’ve got and so on. Put it all together and we’re here. (Laughter)

TINKER: And you’re here. And don’t know when you’re going back to Michigan. Was there anything—I think we’re about ready to wrap up. Is there anything that—I know I’ve not left you much room to ask a good question but...

PRIVETT: Um it's okay. Um, I guess, kind of going back to World War II. How did you view—I guess, you kind of talked about it a little bit with the Germans, but how did you view the other German soldiers or the civilians?

ENOS: Uh, they were our enemy. That's it. I think—there again, I don't have much to go on in terms of making any meaningful comments.

PRIVETT: Right.

ENOS: But, uh, I think, and there again, the problems were ... They had the choice of electing or letting—really there was no election—it was just letting somebody else take control of their government and their policies and the whole works. And they were happy. Anybody that tells you that they ever had any sympathies for the Polish or the Jews and so on, it's not right; it's not correct I guess. They never had any. They let it all happen. In the end, why—they got what was coming. I don't know if that has any bearing on the question that you asked.

PRIVETT: Yeah, it is.

ENOS: That's something you should—you and your generation and your peers should not forget, either. And I hate to say it, but certainly I think everybody understands we're not on the right track. The need to get on the right track is pretty ... We need to act quickly, as quickly as possible. Not just sit around. We need to pursue it a lot more actively. I don't know. Start doing things more from common sense than political. I don't see any common sense in this political system that we're, uh, that's in control of us I guess. But, there again, you've got to get many, many people besides, you know, your peer group to do it. Everybody can do their part. It isn't something that's out of control.

TINKER: Mm kay. Is that it?

PRIVETT: Yeah.

TINKER: Okay, alright. Well.

ENOS: Or if there's anything that comes up don't hesitate to call.

PRIVETT: Okay.

TINKER: Well thank you for your time. I know we didn't mean to take up your whole day but thank you.

ENOS: No, no really. I think we covered a lot more ground than I thought.

TINKER: Well I hope your family will appreciate it when we get the transcript finished.

ENOS: Oh they will. (Laughter) I'm very grateful to you guys. I have one of the, uh let's see where is he?

TINKER: Well let me go ahead ...

ENOS: He's one of the grandkids. But the point is that I had thought many times of having him come down and sit down with me.

TINKER: Oh, yeah. Well we like to think of it—to me it's sort of like a family heirloom. So many people would like to have but they don't often realize it until it's too late that they think, "Oh, I wish I would've asked my granddad this or that." Things like that.

ENOS: It's hard to get—it's a much more efficient way than ... I welcome the whole situation. If you ever—just keep in touch.

TINKER: Oh we will. We'll keep in touch. Well this concludes the interview with Don Enos. Thank you very much again.

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