Dick Lewis was born 8 June 1922 in Faribault, Minnesota. He was raised in the town by his grandparents, and graduated from Faribault High School in 1941. After some months working in an aircraft manufacturing plant in California, Dick enlisted in the US Army Air Corps in 1942.

In the Air Corps, Dick was trained as a waist gunner on B-17 Flying Fortress four-engine heavy bombers. He was assigned to 544th Bomb Squadron, 384th Bomb Group, 8th Air Force, and sent to Grafton Underwood, England, a large base. Prior to leaving the US, Dick was married (June 1944, wife Elayne).

On 7 November 1944, his seventh combat mission, Dick's B-17 was shot down over Germany. He bailed out, but had been badly injured when the plane was hit by German anti-aircraft fire. After capture, the Germans sent Dick to a German military hospital for POWs, Lazarett IX-C Meiningen, then to a recovery facility, Obermassfeld. He remained here until the end of February 1945, when he was sent to a POW camp near the city of Nuremberg. This camp was evacuated in early April, with US forces closing in; the POWs, Dick included, were marched south to VII-A Moosburg. This overcrowded camp was liberated by US forces on 29 April 1945.

After evacuation to the US and discharge in late 1945, Dick used GI Bill benefits to attend the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. He graduated with a degree in architecture, and spent a career in the field with various firms in the American Upper Midwest.
Tape 1, Side A. Counter begins at 000.

T: Today is the 4 May 2005. This is an interview for the Prisoner of War Oral History Project; my name is Thomas Saylor. This evening I’m speaking by telephone with Mr. Dick Lewis, to his home in Northfield, Minnesota. First, Mr. Lewis, on the record this time, thanks very much for taking time to participate in this project.

D: Thank you for having me.

T: For the record here, you were born in Faribault, Minnesota, on 8 June 1922, and you grew up, went to school in Faribault, and graduated from Faribault High School. Class of ’41 it was, right?

D: Yes.

T: Then I believe you said you worked briefly in California.

D: After graduating from high school there were people coming around hiring young guys to go to California, to work for Lockheed Vega Aircraft. There were about five us got together in an old clunker car and drove out there.

T: You drove all the way from Faribault?

D: Yes we did (chuckles).

T: That sounds like an experience in itself.

D: It was. It really was quite an experience. We really enjoyed that, and stopping from place to place. Anyway, we got there and had to get into a hotel, and then we went to work for Lockheed Vega Aircraft and were there for...I don’t remember how long it was. It wasn’t too long. While there in California, while I was out there, I wanted to enlist. I wanted to get into the Air Force. I wanted to get into that branch of service, so I enlisted while I was there. I had a problem of [not] weighing enough, so I always had to eat and gain...eat a lot of food. I always ate bananas and drank a lot of water, and then would go in for weigh ins.

T: So you were slight of stature.
D: Yes. I was very slim, a very slender young guy. Anyway, they finally accepted me into the Aviation Air Force Cadet Program. Then after that, then I had to go home. That’s where I entered the service, was from Faribault.

T: So you had to go all the way back to Faribault.

D: Yes. I had to go all the way back to Faribault and entered into the service through Fort Snelling.

T: Now, to continue with this, by mid to late 1944, to move ahead with our story, you were flying with the Air Corps in England from Grafton-Underwood as a member of the 8th Air Force, 384th Bomb Group.

D: Right.

T: Specifically, you were a waist gunner on B-17 Flying Fortress aircraft.

D: That’s right.

T: And our story is going to start here. I’ll ask you to go back to 7 November 1944, which was your seventh mission, I believe you said.

D: Correct.

T: Describe how it was that on that day, from your perspective, that you became a POW of the Germans.

(1, A, 31)

D: Okay. That was our seventh mission, and it was very similar to what all our previous missions had been. It seemed like we always had engine trouble of at least one engine. This was no different. Anyway, we had a bombing raid on an oil refinery down at Merseburg; I believe it was near southern Germany. We went in there and were able to do our bombing and we left, and the pilot didn’t think we’d be able to get back to England, so we thought we’d try to get over to Belgium. We left formation, headed toward Belgium, had a fighter escort for part of the way. Soon they left us, and then not too long after that we flew right over some big city. I have no idea what it was, and I don’t know why the navigator took us that way. Anyway, we went right over a city, and everything in the town opened up on us. At that point our pilot had put the plane on automatic pilot. All those in the front of the plane bailed out, and we in the back of the plane had no idea that they had bailed out until the radioman came back to the waist and looked out the window and saw all the chutes down below. So we knew that they had gone and did not notify us. Either the intercom was shot out or...anyway, we had no notification.
He [radioman] went over and pulled the pin on the door, and dove out. Then I was hit [in the leg] by flak previous to that, so I just crawled over to the door and slid out, and then the ball gunner came, and then the last one was the tail gunner.

As I came down I realized I was going to land in a vineyard. It was terraced with brick walls and wire fences. I thought, I’ve got to try to protect my leg the best I could. So I held it up in the air and kind of landed on my bottom and one leg. There was a fellow working in that vineyard, so he came over towards me, and here I was, like a stupid kid. I had out a pistol and I had my map out and trying to figure out where I was. That was probably one of the dumbest things I could have done.

T: Why was that a dumb thing to do, as you think back?

D: Because a soldier was coming from town too. He could have shot me right on the spot, seeing that I had this pistol out. Anyway, I put it away and then when he came out, this peasant told him that I had it. He relieved me of that and my map and whatever else I had. He saw I was bleeding. He had a bicycle, so he put me on his bicycle and wheeled me into the town. Heading into town you’re going by these rows of old people who are cussing at you and swearing at you.

T: That’s one of those things that I suppose could be pretty frightening. I want to back up just a second to actually on your way down in your parachute—what was going through your mind? What was foremost in your mind as you were coming down in that parachute?

D: First of all, I had never made a jump before and so I pulled the cord and here I saw this little chute shooting off into the distance and I thought, oh my, I’m going to have to pull my parachute out by hand. So I was doing that, pulling it out with my hand. Not realizing...evidently that’s a pilot chute that in turn is supposed to pull your parachute out of the pack. As I came down it was deathly quiet and I thought, well, I’ve got to try to land somewhere. I could see where I was landing and, like I mentioned, I tried to try to protect myself.

T: Before that particular day, Mr. Lewis, as a bomber crewman, a pretty dangerous business, how much thought had you given to the fact that you might become a prisoner during the war?

D: I really hadn’t thought about it at all. No, I really hadn’t given it any thought at all, although I knew a lot of the planes went down. I guess we always thought we’re going to get in our twenty-five missions and we’re going to head home. Little did we know that we were going to have this trouble and be shot down out of the sky. I had never really considered becoming a prisoner of war.

T: Even though you saw planes go down. You knew guys that didn’t come back.

D: Right. Absolutely.
T: Now on the ground there, the Germans have been the enemy since you joined the service. At this point you've got Germans right in front of you, I guess.

D: Oh, yes.

T: What was that experience like?

(1, A, 76)

D: This peasant who was working in the vineyard was speaking German, I would assume. I know he certainly couldn't speak English and I couldn't speak German. I had no idea what he was talking about. I tried to keep him away from me. I was poking my gun at him. I thought he had a pitchfork or something. I thought he might be coming after me with that. And it wasn't too long before this soldier came out from camp, and that settled everything that was going on there.

T: Did that soldier threaten you?

D: No. No, he didn't threaten me at all. He was very calm about it and I acted very calmly. I knew I had no choice except to surrender, and just hope that all went well. That he would treat me fairly, and he did.

T: Did you come down in an area where you could see any other members of your crew?

D: I saw the tail gunner go down and land into a river right down below the vineyard. But after that I didn't...I guess they may have picked him up, but he wasn't with me very long. I don't know where the ball turret gunner was. He landed and cracked his ankle. So the two of us were in the hospitals together for a while. The tail gunner, evidently they took him and took him back with the other members of the crew...they had landed back a long ways from where we were.

T: They would have if they got out of the plane even a few minutes before you.

D: Right.

T: Now to pick up your story. You mentioned as you were going to town there were German civilians there.

D: Oh, yes. These old folks lining up on either side of the road and cussing at you and shaking their fist at you and spitting at you. That was a very scary thing for me to go through, not knowing what these people were going to do. We had heard so many stories before that, that a lot of times they would take the airmen and hang them to telephone poles with their parachute lines.

T: So you had heard rumors about this.
D: Yes. And that was the thing that was going through my mind all the time. I was most concerned about that. But fortunately this was a better bunch of residents.

T: It sounds like the German guard may have actually protected you from them.

D: That very well could have been. Yes.

T: Where did he take you?

D: He took me to...it must have been a warehouse of some sort, because he took us in there and there was just big bales of...I don't know what. I laid down on those and I was beginning to see spots in front of my eyes. I'd lost so much blood. I probably slept or passed out or something. I guess I was there until they finally came and then hauled me off to this hospital. I don't remember if I slept or passed out or what. But I remember being in this warehouse, and this guard was there and watching over me.

T: It doesn't sound like you were too much of a threat to him.

D: No. I was no threat at all.

T: And it sounds like you're not too sure about the passage of time here, either.

D: No. I wasn't sure about the passage of time. Although I know it was getting to be night, because when I went to that hospital it was nighttime, and it was nighttime when they operated on me. And the German doctor seemed to be...he was a military man or appeared that way, and very sophisticated, upright, distinguished. I thought he was a very distinguished doctor.

(1, A, 116)

T: How did you get to the hospital?

D: I don't know. I don't know that.

T: So your memory moves from this warehouse, or this facility, to the next stop, which was this German hospital.

D: Yes. And actually it was the operating room. I remember coming...I don't know if I came into or out of...I had been out and then came to in the operating room. I remember being on the operating table and these people around me. One nurse, I was trying to motion to her. Nobody could speak English and I couldn't speak German, and I wanted to know, are they going to cut off my leg or what are they going to do? By hand motions. She convinced me that no, they weren't going to take my leg. They were just going to operate on the wounds on that leg.
T: How would you describe the injury to your knee? What had happened?

D: A hunk of flak. When I was standing in the waist, a hunk of flak came up through the floor and came up through the bottom of my knee and came out the top of my knee.

T: Oh, boy! So right through the whole thing.

D: Fortunately it was through the side part of my knee, and if my knee had been over one inch more it would have gone right through and probably might have taken my knee, my leg right off. I was so fortunate in that regard. Like I said, after they operated, I came to and had a great big cast around my leg. All the way around my waist. What was interesting to me, too, is there were two holes in my wound. They had put gauze in both of them so it was sticking out top and bottom. It must have been a week later they came back and pulled out all that gauze and I thought, how wonderful. In doing that it took any foreign matter or any fragments of anything that were left in there. It came right out with the gauze. Then it started to heal from the inside out. I thought that was a wonderful way for healing.

T: Were you in this initial facility for some days then?

D: I'm sure. Yes, we were. The ball gunner came along. I don't know where he was. Because they put us in a room together and they put in an SS soldier in there. I don't know why—I couldn't have moved if I'd wanted to. He was in there overlooking us, looking after us. Would bring his girlfriends in now and then. But we were in that hospital for a while. I don't know exactly how long. I suppose some of this...letters and dates on my literature here would indicate that.

T: How would you describe the treatment you got from the German staff at that hospital?

D: Very good. Yes. In fact, all the hospitals, wherever I was, I always had good treatment. Couldn’t complain about it at all. No one abused me. They fed me well, or as well as they could with what they had. It was interesting in being in these different hospitals. In my diary I mention, too, about a lot of the infantrymen that were brought into this hospital. The Germans had picked them up in the winter, and they had been on boxcars, so they came in and were in very poor shape. In fact, one of the fellows, the flesh had dropped off his foot and the bones were just sticking out, so we knew he was going to have amputation. I’m sure they amputated a lot of feet. A lot of these guys, their feet were black. I felt surely they were going to lose their feet. They were frozen. The Germans were taking care of them as well.

T: It’s tempting to say that, even though your knee was in bad shape, you could see yourself as more fortunate than those other guys.
D: Oh! I was most fortunate. I was very, very fortunate, when I look back on the whole thing (with emphasis). Since then I often wonder if the good Lord had a hand in all this, this whole thing. I look at it that way. Ever since then I’ve been able to get my one hundred percent disability claim, which has helped with my income. And so many things along the line that in a way this has been a blessing, even though it was kind of a traumatic experience to go through.

T: Sure.

(1, A, 168)

T: You mentioned faith there and one of the subjects that would have come up later is religion. Let me ask you now: at the time you were in the service would you have considered yourself a fairly religious person?

D: Oh, absolutely.

T: So it’s something you grew up with.

D: There again, like I said in my life story, and I’ve written more about that. I don’t know if you want me to get into this or not. I came from a…I don’t know if you’d call it a dysfunctional family. My parents divorced when I was little, just a small child. So I was raised by my grandparents. I don’t know if my grandfather was the one that saw to it that I had some religion. Anyway, I’ve always felt I’ve had the Lord in my life. From the very time I was a child. In fact, I even just wrote a nice long letter to my grandson who is having problems right now, and I mentioned to him how I felt the Lord has worked in my life. All through my life. From the time I was a child, even through my being a prisoner of war.

T: How would you describe the way that you think your faith helped you when you were a POW?

D: I always felt praying to the Lord, that he was going to look after me and I just didn’t think anything seriously was going to happen to me. I had that much faith that I thought well, he knows my situation and I’m praying to him for guidance and direction and protection. He’s the one that’s going to take care of me through it all.

T: So for you it was something that you felt was very much a help while you were a POW.

D: Oh, absolutely (with emphasis). If I hadn’t had religion to fall back on I don’t know... Well, I know it was a very, very strong part of my life, and that part of my being a prisoner.

T: That’s something that you’re quite certain about too, which is also very interesting.
D: Oh, certainly.

T: Let me ask you now: from this particular facility, you were up on crutches when you arrived at the Dulag Luft facility.

D: Right. Right. And that was the problem. The crutches were too long and I really had trouble with those. Maneuvering around with these crutches. Then especially when they put me in the cell [at Dulag Luft] and I tried, I had to lay down on this straw mat. Having these crutches, that was a real problem. Then trying to get up again with it. That leg was so stiff with that great big cast on it. It was a real problem for me to maneuver with the crutches.

T: Right. Nonetheless, you were put into a cell like any other arrival there.

D: Yes.

T: Now were you questioned, or we might say interrogated, there at Dulag Luft?

D: I don't remember being interrogated to any extent at all. They seemed to know all about our crew and where we came down, and they seemed to be more interested in my personal figures or data or information than anything else.

T: Really? Like what?

D: They wanted my name and my numbers and of course, there again, they're able to... I don't know if I gave them my wife's name or where I came from in Minnesota. There was nothing related to the military that I can recall.

T: Point of clarification: were you married when you were a POW?

(1, A, 218)

D: Yes. In fact, we were married in June [1944]. Our crew, we went over... gosh, when did we go over? We went in the fall of that year and were shot down in November.

T: And your wife's name?

D: Elayne.

T: That's right. So while you were a prisoner, your wife was back here in the States.

D: Yes. She and her sister went to Chicago to live with an aunt that they had there. The two girls got to work in some munitions factory and spent the time there. And that's something else that's most interesting. We had never heard of this before. My
wife found out about my being a POW far before the American Red Cross. She heard from a radio operator in South America. I don’t know where he got her name, her address or anything else. I suppose he heard from a short-wave radio from Germany. A listing of the prisoners.

T: Is that right?

D: Right. We just couldn’t believe that this had happened. We read about it afterwards.

T: Yes.

D: And she told me this radio operator in South America wrote her a letter saying that her husband, Richard Lewis, was a prisoner. He was alive in Germany.

T: Now had your wife previous to that received an MIA telegram?

D: I think they had, yes.

T: She was not in the dark for at least too long, it sounds like.

D: No. And that I was alive. I don’t remember if they said I was injured. This was another marvel that we feel the good Lord has had a hand in as well.

T: Yes. Now were you able to correspond with anyone back in the States while you were a prisoner?

D: Yes. We had little letter forms that the Germans issued to us. In fact, I have some copies of them. It’s a little fold-up type.

T: Yes. With three panels on it.

D: Yes. Right. I would write from time to time. Write a brief little note either to my wife or to my dad.

T: Did you get any correspondence?

D: No.

T: So you were able to send, but you don’t remember getting any.

D: No. I don’t remember getting any.

T: How did that affect you? Not getting any kind of word from home about how things were going?
D: I suppose I was concerned. Would love to have had word. But I guess my main concern was my being alive and being well, and trying to take good care of myself and praying that one of these days I’d be back home. Here we were newlyweds and were looking forward to establishing a home and raising a family. So I had all of that to kind of look forward to.

T: Yes. You’re a young man of twenty-two years old at this time, so you’ve got a lot ahead of you.

D: Yes.

(1, A, 261)

T: Were you the kind of person, if you think about yourself, would you consider yourself more optimistic or more pessimistic in nature?

D: (chuckles) I guess then I was very optimistic. I would have to be.

T: Has that changed over time?

D: Over time I know I’ve gone through phases of being pessimistic. I don’t know why that is. I guess right now in my older age I’m very optimistic.

T: How did your sense of optimism help you when you were a POW?

D: I always felt, like I said, the good Lord is looking after me. We’re short of food now, eventually we’re going to be getting something. Some of the officers that were involved with us were doing their best to get food for us. Fortunately, being in the hospitals, I probably had it a lot better than a lot of the other fellows. Because it seems like I was in hospitals more than I was in prison camps.

T: Yes. Judging by the evidence we have here it seems that you definitely were. Did you notice guys around you who seemed less optimistic and less able to sort of take the daily routine?

D: Yes, I think so. In fact, because every now and then I’ll mention these guys are getting...some of these guys are getting lousy. Their lice. They’re not keeping clean, they’re not taking care of themselves. And I always felt, there’s no excuse for that. We have washing facilities and you could keep clean. If you had to wash your clothes...I frequently was washing my clothes. So I just felt they were just kind of letting themselves go and weren’t trying to make the most of it and take care of themselves. Having a better outlook.

T: So some guys, it sounds like, very definitely in your mind, were down in the dumps and stayed there.
D: Oh, yes (*with emphasis*). Oh, absolutely they were, yes. There were a number of them down in the dumps. I don’t remember what camp we were in. Nürnberg? Yes, it was Nürnberg. One of the officers had a nervous breakdown. Now I don’t know what the cause of that was. But I know that.

T: So some people were just less well equipped to take the stresses, it sounds like.

D: Right. Absolutely. It seemed that way to me anyway. I always believed in keeping myself clean and as healthy as I could be.

T: Now were you a noncommissioned officer when you were captured?

D: I was a staff sergeant.

T: You were a noncom, as opposed to enlisted.

D: Right.

T: At Dulag Luft there, to go back to that location, the questioning sounds like it was perfunctory if anything. Not really serious. Not in detail. Can you estimate how long the Germans kept you there?

D: Oh, gosh, I don’t think it was long at all. I’m not sure if it was only maybe a day or two. I don’t think it was any much longer than that. Because here I was with this big cast all the way around me and walking around on crutches. I think they got me to the hospital as expediently as possible. Because I had nothing to offer them that they didn’t already know.

T: Yes. And it had to have been a number of days at least since your plane had been shot down anyway.

D: Right. Absolutely.

T: And you say you still saw, was it your ball turret gunner, at this time?

D: He was with me at the first hospital. He had cracked his ankle. I guess it healed up pretty good for him, because I remember him leaving. He was never with me at any of the other hospitals, or he was never with me in any of the camps. So I was pretty much away from all the rest of our crew.

(1, A, 324)

T: Did you see anybody else from your crew when you were a POW?

D: No. Not until the end of the war, when they took us out to Camp Lucky Strike.
T: So you were, at least as far as your own crew, on your own here.

D: Right. Yes.

T: The two hospitals that you went through, Meiningen, which is IX-C, the IX-C complex, and also then Obermassfeld. Looks like, again from your record there, from 13 December [1944] to 28 February [1945] total, which is two and a half months or so. Certainly the longest period of time. What do you remember about those hospital facilities?

D: I wish I had written down more about that. I was telling my wife, I said, “Gosh! All I'm writing is the weather, how beautiful it is. About these planes flying over and bombing nearby, and the lack of food, or what we've got to eat or thinking of things that we would like to eat.” I also, somewhere, I took up spool knitting. I have no idea where I even...I got it at one of the hospitals. Had to have been. But where in the world did I ever get the yarn? I could have gotten that at the hospitals. I don’t think I unraveled any socks or anything. All I mentioned in my diaries, spool knitting, which is sure different.

T: Sure. Something you didn’t do before.

D: No. Had never done it before. Helped occupy the time. These hospitals, I thought, were pretty nice. Although the last one, Obermassfeld, I remember we had a bombing right outside of the hospital. There was a bridge nearby and they blew that out. So the water supply for the hospital, we had to go down to a river and make a chain gang of bringing water up and filling up tubs and everything else. I suppose to have water for washing and that sort of thing. They seemed to be pretty decent hospitals. I remember in particular, I think it was Obermassfeld, next door to it must have been a mental hospital. They said they had all these old people who had just lost their minds and gone crazy from the bombings. I heard of that. Now I never actually got to see that. I know that seemed to have occurred.

T: Were the quarters where you were kept larger rooms or smaller rooms or...

D: It seemed like big dormitory rooms.

T: And the people, the other prisoners in there, all Americans?

D: No. I think we had quite a mixture. Gosh, I should almost get you a copy of my diary.

**End of Tape 1, Side A. Side B begins at counter 382.**

T: Thinking back, you remember the rooms being dormitory like, or dormitory size.
D: Yes. Or wards. I guess you’d more or less call them wards in a hospital. And yet you know, I mention a number of times in my diary about having concerts. We had musical concerts. The hospitals had their own orchestra or bands. At Christmastime we had a Christmas celebration and lots to eat. Quite a pleasant time.

T: So at Christmastime you were in one of those two hospitals.

D: Right.

T: So there were things to pass the time? The Germans provided things to pass the time, or was boredom a problem?

D: I don’t remember ever being bored. I kept this diary. I was doing spool knitting. I tried writing poetry.

T: You mentioned you worked in the library at one of these locations, too.

D: I worked in the library. I did some bookbinding. I was able to make my own book. So I was able to keep busy.

(1, B, 394)

T: Do you remember the work in the library being something you volunteered for?

D: Yes. I’m sure I must have. I remember when I left there I took a knife with me, which was kind of a stupid thing to do. Because if anybody had caught me with that it really could have gone bad for me. I realize, when I look back on it, a kid twenty-two years old, I thought boy, how immature I was as a kid there. But it’s amazing how good it was at the hospitals.

T: Were you surprised by, really, how good the treatment was?

D: Yes, I really was. Very surprised. Yes. I never had any bad treatment. Even in the camps. The treatment wasn’t bad. They couldn’t help that we didn’t have enough food. And yet they seemed to try to give us food from their own supplies. Or even when we were marching from Nürnberg to [Stalag VII-A] Moosburg. We would stop at these little farms. Farms all along the way. They would ask the farmer to provide some food for us, which was mostly potatoes. They seemed to be very accommodating, and were very good to us all the time too. It was at the end of the war. So I think they were all trying to be as good as possible.

T: It sounds like...your description is that the Germans, from the way you describe it, kind of did the best they could with a bad lot.

T: And you don’t recall any bad treatment from them.

D: No. Never had any bad treatment. I don’t know of anybody that did.

T: In the hospitals there, did you strike up a friendship with anybody in particular?

D: Yes. In my notebook I mention one fellow. I really can’t...I don’t know if I’ve got his name down as a listing of the others. I must have gotten friendship with him. We seemed to be together even at the camps, at Nürnberg and at Moosburg. One incident I might mention to you, in one of the hospitals. I don’t know what it was. Everybody had eaten something or we had overeaten. Anyway, everybody got diarrhea. So here everybody was going to the bathroom and having diarrhea, and they were using everything they could use. They were using old casts. They were using cardboard boxes. They were using the sinks and the toilets. It was the most comical thing. I don’t remember that I had diarrhea. Either had some cheese that maybe others ate and I didn’t eat. But that was one of the most comical incidences that I remember in one of the hospitals.

T: Again, this was a mixture of nationalities. Not just all Americans.

D: Yes. Right. I know there were a lot of Englishmen especially.

T: How did prisoners seem to get along with each other from the way you observed?

D: I don’t recall seeing any problems. There might have been. There might have been some friction at times. I know the guys always like to play cards, in the barracks. I don’t recall fights. There might have been.

T: Were you a card player yourself?

D: No.

T: So there’s other ways to lose money, right?

D: We never had money. What we used for money was cigarettes.

T: Were you a smoker at the time?

D: No. In fact, the Red Cross parcels...we’d get cigarettes and candy and Klim, which is powdered milk. I would take all of my cigarettes and trade them for food.

**(1, B, 430)**

T: And how much were cigarettes worth? In other words, what could you trade them for?
D: I traded them for potatoes and candy. I know that we had some candy from time to time. I don’t remember what else we had. I remember I used all of mine for trading for food.

T: It sounds like the nonsmokers were at a distinct advantage.

D: I think so, yes. Right.

T: So you could trade that for additional food from those who were interested in cigarettes.

D: Yes. I even, in my diary, I mention making iron rations. I don’t know what in the world I made iron rations out of. We must have had vitamin pills from our Red Cross parcels as well. So I had all of that too.

T: How often do you remember getting Red Cross parcels?

D: Not too often. Now there again, that in my diary, it differs. It differed from time to time. Sometimes we would go a long time...I think at Nürnberg. We were down to very little. In fact, the officer went to the Germans and said, "Can we march them over to Switzerland? Get close to Switzerland, so we can get Red Cross parcels?" Shortly after that trucks came through. We’d get a few and we’d divide it up. Depending on how many parcels there were, you divided it up and maybe four guys, six or eight guys, or if we got bread from Germans it would be divided up, too. I remember commenting on eight to ten guys on a loaf of bread.

T: So Red Cross parcels, bread, both had to be divided up that you remember.

D: Yes.

T: Do you remember getting Red Cross parcels both in the hospitals and the camp?

D: No. I don’t recall that. I don’t know that we did. I don’t remember talking about that at all in the hospital.

T: Now, in either the hospitals or the camps there, especially at Nürnberg, how much news do you remember getting of how the war was going outside?

D: We seemed to be getting news. I mentioned that in there also. There was comments about, Patton is so many kilometers away from Frankfurt or—news came through somehow. I don’t know how it came through. But we were always getting news.

T: So there was news, but you’re not sure how it arrived.

D: No. But it’s in my diary, too.
T: Right. So you can definitely trace the fact that you were getting it.

D: Yes.

T: How much interaction did you have in either the hospitals or the camps with the Germans?

D: I don’t recall any interaction at all in the hospitals or in the camps. No, I don’t recall it...let me see. I’m just trying to think of if I had...I had therapy. Yes. In those two hospitals. So I must have had some interaction with somebody in the therapy department. That would have been the extent of it.

T: What kind of therapy were you getting for your leg?

D: Trying to lift, to bend it. It was stiff as a board and it would not bend. I think we just put weights on it and had whirlpool baths and stuff like that. But the best thing for it was when I had to walk from Nürnberg to Moosburg.

(1, B, 464)

T: What kind of shape was your leg in when that walk started?

D: It was stiff as the dickens. It ached. It would be achy. But the more I marched, it loosened up and the better it felt. Like I say, I think that was the very best thing that could have happened for it.

T: Although it may not have felt that way at the beginning.

D: No, it wasn’t. At the beginning it was really...it was hard.

T: So it sounds like you were less than mobile in hospitals or in camps.

D: I was able to hobble around in camp. With a stiff leg. You can manage with one stiff leg, and get around. I had no problem getting around. Up until they got rid of the crutches...they took those off too soon, because there was displacement in the bones, the ball and the socket. I found that out later. Because when I got back to the States I had an episode of material getting caught in between the bones, and they had to operate on it again when I was back here in the country.

T: So the problems followed you back.

D: Yes.

T: I see. So you were able to get around, but not particularly well.
D: Well, no. I didn’t get around too well. I remember going to a shower. Taking a shower. I was able to go to the latrine building, which was way up most of the time from the camp. I was able to maneuver.

T: There must have been guys worse off than yourself.

D: Oh, always. Always [guys] worse off than myself. Especially some of these English paratroopers. They came down...some of them were shot. I remember bullets going through the back of their head and coming out below their eye. Their eye had dropped out. Then when they would eat or drink everything would come out their nose. I remember wrestling around with one of them at one time and bumped his head on the bed and knocked him out because he had a problem...concussion to his head or something. So yes, there were many people. Then these guys losing their feet. Oh, and airmen. I remember one hospital they had a whole ward of these airmen who had been burned. That’s terrible. They smell. Burned flesh smells so bad. And they had a whole ward of these guys that had been badly burned. I think most of them had been in B-25s. They weren’t B-17s.

T: So really, I hear you saying you get more than one opportunity to see yourself as fortunate.

D: Oh, absolutely (with emphasis). Most fortunate. The good Lord was looking after me.

T: Now what about the march here? How much advance warning do you remember getting that Nürnberg was to be evacuated?

D: We had advance notice. I think over a period of a week, I think it was. It kind of dragged out. They kept saying we’re going to be going, and going, and going. Finally, when the day arrived, we were ready to go. It was a period of time that we anticipated, because we heard of all the...Patton and his tank group, I guess it was, that were getting closer and closer all the time.

T: So there was the news and the rumors that kind of follow along with the events outside the camp.

D: Right.

T: Now you mentioned your knee was...you were able to get around, but the beginning of the march it didn’t go so well.

D: It was difficult. Marching out on the road with it, because most of the time I’d been pretty sedentary, sitting pretty much around in camp. Here we were out on the road and expecting to go so many kilometers per day. It was hard to begin with, but I realized the knee and the leg was loosening up the further I went.
T: Do you remember marching along there, walking along, pretty much by yourself or did you have someone else that you walked with?

D: There were just loads of guys on the road. I don't remember if I was with one individual or not. I may have been.

T: That was my question, whether you had a friend that you walked with every day.

D: I think I did, because it seems to me when I look back at my diary he and I would, when we would stop, we would make fires. We would do our cooking together. So I must have been buddying along with him.

T: So again, it was easier to do things with someone else than do things by yourself.

D: Yes.

T: What are your memories about that march south through Bavaria, there, from Nürnberg?

D: One thing. I marveled about it, and I told my wife and kids how beautiful the countryside was. I just marveled how gorgeous and beautiful the German countryside was. It looked like fields...the peasants would go in there and glean them by hand almost. And the forests were gorgeous and everything was kept so neat and clean.

T: Did you write that in your diary too?

D: Yes. I did.

T: So it even struck you at the time.

D: Oh, yes. It struck me how beautiful the country...in fact my wife keeps saying, "Wouldn't you like to go back and see the country? You keep saying how beautiful it was." (chuckles) And I say, no, I really have no interest in going back at my age now.

T: Let me pick up on that thought, because I would ask you this later too. You haven't been back to Germany since the war?

D: No.

T: How come?

D: I just had no interest in going back.
T: Is it something you thought about but wasn’t convenient, or you just don’t want to go back to Germany?

D: I don’t know. I guess I just never cared to go back.

T: Some people have been back and other people don’t want to go back.

D: Oh yes, I know. I have a friend in town here who was a prisoner. He’s been back there a number of times. Especially to Belgium, where he got acquainted with some people. I don’t know if you know Bill Cupp?

T: Yes. Sure.

D: Bill wrote a book. He and I are in the same chapter [of the American Ex-POWs], Hiawatha Chapter.

T: So for you it was a case of, once you left Germany no interest really in going back.

D: Right.

T: Was your column of marchers there from Nürnberg, to the best of your memory, strafed by Allied aircraft?

D: We were afraid of being strafed, because fighters would come by every now and then and everybody would hit the ditches. Some of the guys would run up on the hill and write with toilet paper, POW. To let them know that we were POWs. So we were always scared that they were going to strafe us. But they never did.

(1, B, 541)

T: So you remember a fear of that happening, but it never actually did.

D: Oh, yes. There was always that fear. Especially when we saw the planes coming around.

T: How did the Germans handle the overnights on the march?

D: They would expect us to go a certain distance. But oftentimes we were so tired and we didn’t want to, and people would stop and then they would get mad at us and, I don’t know, poke us with their guns or shoot their guns in the air and say, you’ve got to go farther. You’ve got to go farther. Then we would pack up and move on even farther. Until we’d get to a farm. Then they would negotiate with the farmer to let us come in and sleep in their barns.

T: Now do you remember spending more nights inside or more nights outside?
D: I think inside. It seems to me just about every night we were able to sleep in a barn.

T: Did the Germans manage to supply food about every day?

D: We had a lot of our own food, and yet each time we’d go to a farmhouse we would get some food. I don’t remember if the Germans...I don’t know or recall that they supplied us food.

T: So that’s not something that specifically sticks in your mind that they did.

D: No.

T: How many days do you remember the march lasting?

D: That’s interesting. Because I watched a TV program the other night on B-17s. There was a guy on there who made the same march that I did from Nürnberg to Moosburg, and he said it was eighteen days. I thought it was about a week. I’ve always said it was a week. But he made the comment it was eighteen days.

T: There are a number of different groups that left Nürnberg, and they took different routes. There are a number of different accounts of very different lengths. Your diary might be a source there, too, for the number of days.

D: I always kept thinking it was one week.

T: And when you got to Moosburg, what impression did that camp make on you?

D: When we got there, there was no place for us. It was such a huge place. It seemed to me we just stood around for the longest time. I don’t remember where they put us actually. Eventually they had to put up big tents and put us in these tents. In the gravel pit. And there we slept in the gravel pit, in this big tent. Then, as new guys came in, they kept crowding them into the tent as well. I’m sleeping in the aisle where everybody’s walking. To have room to even sleep.

T: It sounds chaotic.

D: It was chaotic. It was quite chaotic. Yes.

T: Do you remember the mood of people around there? Do you remember a sense of people realizing it can only be...it’s got to end soon?

D: Well, yes. I think that was the general feeling. This can’t last forever. I mean, they’ve moved us here and the news we kept hearing about Patton and his group coming. Getting closer and closer. Most of the news was encouraging.
(1, B, 585)

T: So that, in a sense, you could start counting down the days almost.

D: Yes.

T: The Americans do arrive at Moosburg. I think it’s April 29.

D: Yes.

T: What are your memories of that particular day?

D: The tank group came in. There were some little rifle shooting or tank shooting. I thought, my gosh, the Germans had all left, and they must have left one or two guys, and why in the world were they there. They probably got killed. The tanks came in and rode right through the gate. A soldier went and pulled down the German flag and ran up the American flag.

T: So you could see all this stuff in the compound.

D: Right. And we were really elated and happy about that.

T: How was your personal health by this time?

D: It seemed to be good. I think I was about as good as I’d been all the time. I don’t think I had deteriorated any. I tried to take care of myself and keep up with food and keep myself clean and all of that.

T: So you didn’t have any complications with your leg that put you back in the hospital or anything.

D: No. None at all.

T: That was fortunate. Now at the end of the war there as the Americans arrived, it was a number of days before prisoners were cycled out of Moosburg.

D: Right. They kept taking different groups out all the time.

T: Was yours one of the first?

D: No. Ours was one of the last.

T: So you had a chance to enjoy Moosburg a little longer.
D: Well yes, right (both laugh). And the thing of it is, once we’d been opened up to the city, a lot of the guys would go into town. They’d go into town and they’d get German clothes and get German cars, and rob and take anything they wanted in town. I guess even women. You could hear women screaming in the town.

T: Holy mackerel. It sounds like a nightmare.

D: Yes, that was. I didn’t think that was the greatest thing.

T: It sounds like no one was really keeping order.

D: No, there wasn’t. No one seemed to keep order for quite a while, although we had officers, regular officer compounds there. I think, according to my notebook, they took the officers out first. I don’t know why that would have been.

T: Sort of left a lot of enlisted guys there by themselves.

D: Right.

T: What do you remember about those days? Did you leave camp yourself, or were you content to stay in until you were evacuated?

D: I stayed. I didn’t want to go out of camp. No way (with emphasis). I didn’t want to get involved with any of that chaos.

(1, B, 621)

T: Was it fearing for your safety kind of thing at that point?

D: Yes. I suppose it was to some degree. There were so many different camps or compounds of different soldiers. I didn’t want to get involved with a lot of others, and I certainly didn’t want to get into the town, that’s for sure.

T: It sounds like a good place to avoid, really.

D: Yes. I stayed where I thought was the safest place to be.

T: Inside the camp.

D: Right.

T: Now let me ask you to move to Camp Lucky Strike, in Le Havre, France. When you got to Lucky Strike, did the Army provide any kind of debriefing about your POW experience?
D: You know that’s funny. That’s one thing, I don’t remember anything about Camp Lucky Strike other than that’s where we met the rest of our crew and confronted them with this...where all those in the front of the plane [pilot, co-pilot, bombardier, and navigator] had...[bailed out]. Our bombardier, his chute never opened when we bailed out, and they never did find him. I don’t know if he was hit or shot or what happened to him. But I think he just sailed out and landed in a swamp. He was the only one that perished, and I was the only one that was hit. Like I said, the ball gunner cracked his ankle when he landed. The only thing on Camp Lucky Strike is, there I met those guys and confronted them.

T: What was that like?

D: Oh, they denied it and just said, no, it couldn’t have happened. Well, anyway...

T: How was that resolved? Because you’ve got a pretty serious situation you’re confronting them with.

D: Yes, right. It was a very...we could have court-martialed that pilot, I think. Anyway, I guess we were getting nowhere. They were saying one thing and those of us in the back [of the plane] said another thing. It just ended up that way. We were just lucky to get to Le Havre, France, where they put us on a ship to head us home.

T: Have you seen or did you have any contact with the people in the front of the plane after the war?

D: Oh, yes. Yes, we did. In fact the co-pilot is in Dassel, Minnesota. Dick Johnson. In fact, we had a reunion, a crew reunion, out at his house one year, and then we had a reunion at the pilot’s home in Lexington, Kentucky. I still have these hard feelings, but after that, we’ve just had no contact. I’ve kept up in touch somewhat with the engineer. He lives in Wisconsin and we’ve sent Christmas cards to each other. He used to stop by once in a while going over to Dassel to see Dick Johnson.

T: You know Dassel is not that far from where you live.

D: No, it isn’t.

T: And is the co-pilot someone you have kept in contact with now?

D: No. No (with emphasis). The engineer is the one I kept in contact with. He lives in Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

T: So the co-pilot is somebody that, even today, you wouldn’t really know what to say to him.

D: Well, no. No. I don’t have anything in common with him at all.
(1, B, 671)

T: Boy, it’s one of those situations that you’d think...sometimes time heals wounds and sometimes not.

D: Right. That’s true. Although I know we had those two reunions. Everything seemed to go well, but there was still that friction and after that we never got together.

T: When were those two reunions? Pretty soon after the war?

D: You know, I’ve got some pictures of that around here somewhere too. I really don’t remember when they were.

T: Would you say they were more like the ‘40s or the ‘70s?

D: Oh, no. They were probably closer to the ‘40s or ‘50s.

T: So a long time ago now.

D: Right.

T: When you got back to the States, and we’re going to again move ahead with our themes here... You got back to the States. How soon was it before you were able to get back to Minnesota to see either your grandparents, your wife, et cetera?

D: I seem to have gotten back right away. I don’t know if I was...that is still kind of a blank in my mind, from the East Coast getting back to Minnesota. But there didn’t seem to be much of a delay at all. I know I got to Fort Snelling, and I think that I was discharged there.

T: Now, did you spend any time at either Hot Springs, Arkansas, or Miami, Florida?

D: Oh, yes. Thirty days in Miami, Florida. I’m glad you mentioned that. I’d forgotten all about that.

T: Let me ask about that. Now first, before we get too far ahead of ourselves, you got a chance to see your wife when you got home to Minnesota.

D: Yes.

T: For our purposes the question is, how much she asked you about your POW experience.

D: She really didn’t (chuckles). I don’t remember her asking me anything. Really. I think she was just so glad to see me and see that I was well and all in one piece. We
really didn’t talk much about it. We talked about what our future, what we were going to do for the future. That I wanted to go back...I wanted to go to college and get a degree and get a profession. So I guess that was the main thing on our minds then.

T: How and when did your wife find out about your POW experience? How long did that take?

D: I don’t know. She knew I had this diary. I guess we briefly talked. She said just going through this and typing it has been real refreshing for her, because I don’t think she ever read it before. She thought it was really enlightening to read through this and to see what all I did.

T: So it sounds like she’s learned something even now about the details.

D: Oh, she really learned about it. A lot about it. Like I said, she wonders how I can stand to have potatoes *(chuckles)*—our main food over there.

T: Sure. Your dad, you saw your dad when you got back too?

D: Yes.

T: Was your dad a World War I vet, by chance?

D: No. No, my dad was not. That was another kind of a sore spot in my life too, with my father. Like I said, he and my mother were divorced when I was little, and of course, awarded my sister and myself to my father, but he in turn gave us to his parents, my grandparents. They raised the two of us until we got out of high school. Then I left home out of high school. They could never quite tolerate my sister, because they were so much like my mother, and so they had my dad farm her out elsewhere. She eventually went to our mother down in Kansas City and lived there and married down there and has died there since. I never was close with my dad. One of the things that hurt me especially, the money I was sending home. I thought it was going to my wife. It went to him, and he took and spent it all.

(1, B, 742)

T: You’re kidding!

D: No. He spent everything that I ever sent home. So that was a sore spot with me. I really felt bad about that. Little children. They were his grandchildren. So he was trying to make things up through them a little. But he had so many emotional problems of his own because of the way he lived. He died at an early age, about sixty-two I think it was.

T: You mentioned a couple of kids. Of your own kids.

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D: Oh, yes. We have two boys and one girl.

T: When they were growing up, how much did they know about your POW experience?

D: Not a lot. They knew that I had been a POW. I thought if I brought it out to them, especially at mealtime: clean your plate, because I know what it's like to go hungry. Not much.

T: So they did hear that from you.

D: They heard that from me. Maybe too much. But no, we never really got into it to any degree at all.

**End of Tape 1. Tape 2, Side A begins at counter 000.**

T: Now kids sometimes ask questions, whether we’re really prepared to answer them or not. Did they ever sort of ask you, when they were younger, what was that about?

D: They may have, but surprisingly the ones that are interested in it right now is my daughter. She wants to have copies of this diary. She wants me to get pins on regarding POWs. She’s interested in everything. Our older, well, both the boys want me to make up letters for them and give them all this information. They’re all interested in it now. They feel it will be, down the road for our grandchildren and great-grandchildren, something for them to be interested in.

T: So your daughter, it sounds like it took her a lot of years to get interested though.

D: Yes it did. It really did. I don’t know why. I know I mentioned it to all of them from time to time, and maybe they just felt I didn’t want to talk about it or something. Now they all have quite an interest in it. Maybe it’s because here I’m nearing the end of my life, and this could be information for them to pass on to their children and their grandchildren.

T: How does that make you feel, that your family has taken an interest in this now?

D: I’m tickled about it. I’m very pleased. Very pleased.

T: So in other words, when they ask questions or want to see things now, you’re happy to show them.

D: Oh, absolutely (with emphasis). Yes. I’m going to see to it that they each get a copy of my diary. I’ve also made a story of my life. We made that up. They’re going to get copies of that and this POW literature that I’m going to send to you. I’m going
to give them copies of that as well. So they’ll have it and can...maybe someday my
great-grandchildren will want to know about it.

(2, A, 18)

T: I hope so. Now when you got back from the service, how often did you have
dreams that had images from your POW experience in it?

D: I don’t remember having any. I don’t recall having dreams at all regarding my
POW situation. There may have been, but I certainly don’t remember it. That’s one
of the things...I seem to have locked so many things out of my memory through the
years. I don’t know if that is so good.

T: Memory...we’re all human, and memory is a funny thing.

D: Yes. It certainly is.

T: Yes. Sometimes it works really well, other times it’s puzzling.

D: Yes.

T: What line of work did you go into when you got back to the States?

D: I went to college, and I thought I was going to be chemical engineer, but I got out
of that right away and went into architecture and graduated from the School of
Architecture at the University of Minnesota. When I got out of there I worked for
various firms, and then through the early years I worked on getting my Architecture
Registration Degree. I got that and then I was able to...when we did work in Iowa,
Wisconsin, I got registered in those states as well. Enjoyed architectural work.

T: Did you keep a home base in Faribault, or did you move around?

D: The last I was in Faribault was when I got out of high school and left. Never went
back to Faribault. My wife and I went to the [Twin] Cities and we rented a room in
one home and we had a baby. Our first baby we lost. That was a tragic situation,
especially for her. I was going to school at the same time here and she wanted to
have another baby, and we had a son while I was going to school. So we got housing
through the University, first on Como Avenue, and then later got a barracks up on
the golf course by the [St. Paul] Farm Campus. That was beautiful and wonderful.
We’d take the trolley line from there down to the main campus and go to school.
Then we had two boys in school and then I had part-time jobs at the University. I
wasn’t too smart about this whole situation, but we got through it. Ended up with a
beautiful family and we moved into a new home after graduation. Then we had our
daughter. That was our family. Two boys and a girl.
T: As you were going to school or later as you worked as an architect, how much did people, fellow students, co-workers, know about your POW experience? Did they know you had been a POW?

D: I don’t know. I don’t know that I ever mentioned it to anybody. I may have, but I don’t remember getting into any discussions with anybody about it.

T: Is that something, Dick, that you might have responded to if somebody asked you, but not volunteered the information?

D: That could be. That could be too. That I just had no interest in talking about it, I imagine.

T: Now you’re a member of American Ex-POWs?

D: Yes.

(2, A, 53)

T: When did you join the organization?

D: Oh, golly, let’s see here. A couple years ago, I think it is. Right now I’m in the Hiawatha Chapter. I mentioned to you Helen Tucker was our commander, and I was the senior vice commander. Now I’m going to her funeral Saturday, and that makes me the commander of that chapter now.

T: Right. Let me ask you what American Ex-POWs has meant to you as an ex-POW.

D: You know, for the longest time I didn’t even want to get into it.

T: Why is that?

D: I don’t know. I just maybe thought...I had a session of POWs. All they do is get together and talk about their experiences. I’ve gone through that. I don’t want to relive it all over and over and over again. Then once I finally decided, thought gosh, maybe I better get into this, and thankfully I did. I got into the chapter, Hiawatha Chapter, and got to know Paul Schuster and, like I say, he got me going through here on the state level and changed my whole life.

T: What brought you to the point where you turned the corner and said, I want to join, from all those years when you didn’t want to?

D: (chuckles) Good question. I really can’t give you a good answer on that. I just don’t know what it was that...I thought maybe in these latter years of my life...all these guys have gone through the same thing I’ve gone through. We’ve got a lot in common. Maybe I just should be in fellowship with all of them.
T: As a member, has that been the case?

D: Yes. Right. It has been. It's been very good. I've appreciated it so much. Like I said, my relationship with Paul Schuster and getting to know the [2004-05 state] commander, Dick Carroll. Knowing him. Then Bill Cupp. Lives right here in town. Gosh, I didn't have anything to do with him for years. Now we're pretty close. Yes, I just thought I have the same experiences, same problems that all of them have, and we can be in fellowship together.

T: Do you attend your meetings fairly regularly?

D: Oh, yes. Now I’m the commander (*chuckles*), I have to be.

T: Yes, I guess you do, don’t you? That’s one thing keeps you going to your meetings. Just a couple more questions here, and one is about the Veterans Administration. Now you've been [classified as] one hundred percent [disabled] for quite some time?

D: Yes. I would say a couple of years, I guess.

T: And did you have a percentage of disability as soon as you got out of the service?

D: Yes. As soon as I got out of the service, I think they gave me ten percent, if I remember rightly. Back in about 1945, I think it was.

T: And did that go up over the years?

D: Oh, yes. It progressively increased until...I went through this whole program that Paul got me into where...tried to get your compensation. Actually they ended up, from what I remember, they gave me sixty percent disability, but one hundred percent unemployable disability. So they pay me on the basis of the one hundred percent unemployable disability.

(2, A, 88)

T: That’s pretty good then.

D: Yes it is. I'm happy for that. It made a tremendous difference in our lives.

T: The last question that I have is this then: when you look at your experience from the time you bailed out of that plane until the time you ended up at Camp Lucky Strike, how would you describe the way that that experience changed you as a person, changed your life.
D: I'm sure it helped mature me to some degree, although I always felt I was a rather immature kid. I think because of not having any parental guidance or direction throughout my life. I guess it made me want to be married and have my own family and to have a foundation of a family, which I didn't have when I was growing up. I think that made a big difference for me. I wanted to get home and get through this whole ordeal of being a POW and start a whole new life with my wife. And go on from there. And maybe that's why I didn't want to look back over all of this until the last number of years here.

T: Yes, you've described a number of times wanting to look forward and not look back.

D: Right. Right.

T: And that's changed in the last couple years, you mentioned as well.

D: Oh, yes. Right. Absolutely. You know you're in the end of your life. All these veterans are dying off. And you know they're all of them around your age and there in the same situation. But thank the Lord, I'm in wonderful health, or good health. I take no medication whatsoever. In fact, I don't even go to the VA except for dental and eye glasses and hearing aids and that sort of thing. I have perfect blood pressure and the clinic over here is amazed. I have an awful lot to be thankful for.

T: And it sounds like the POW experience was one of those things that helped you put the good stuff in perspective.

D: Right (with emphasis). Absolutely. It did.

T: That's the last question I have as the part of the interview, so on the record I'll thank you very much again for your time this evening.

D: Well, thank you, Tom. I appreciate your spending the time with me, and I'll get these copies of my diary and these pictures to you as well.

END OF INTERVIEW