

Interviewee: Ernest Gall

Interviewer: Thomas Saylor

Date of interview: 17 February 2005

Location: kitchen table, Gall residence, St. Paul, Minnesota

Transcribed by: Kimberly Johnson, March 2005

Edited by: Thomas Saylor, March 2005

Ernest Gall was born 13 January 1918 on a farm located eight miles outside of Turtle Lake, Wisconsin. He entered the US Army in December 1942. After completing Basic Training as a heavy weapons specialist (machine gun crew), Ernest was assigned to the 28th Infantry Division and shipped to France. He arrived in June 1944, one week after the D-Day invasion of 6 June.

Ernest's unit was involved in the German Ardennes offensive of December 1944, known in the United States as the Battle of the Bulge. It was during this action, on 1 January 1945, that Ernest was taken prisoner by the Germans. Ernest was at II-A Neubrandenburg, and from there was sent on a work detail near the town of Zittau, some 150 miles southeast of Berlin. Near war's end, with Soviet forces close, this work camp was evacuated; Ernest ended up near the Czech border when liberated by Soviet troops in the first days of May 1945.

After repatriation to US forces, Ernest was returned to the United States and, in late 1945, discharged. Again a civilian, Ernest was married in 1946 (wife Gladys) and raised two boys. He had a career in the auto collision repair business, in St. Paul.



Interview key:

T = Thomas Saylor

G = Ernest Gall

[text] = words added by editor, either for clarification or explanation

(*) = words or phrase unclear**

NOTE: interview has been edited for clarity

Tape 1, Side A. Counter begins at 000.

T: Today is 17 February 2005. This is an interview for the Prisoner of War Oral History Project. My name is Thomas Saylor. Today I'm speaking with Mr. Ernest W Gall, at the kitchen table of his home on Seminary Avenue in St. Paul, Minnesota. First, Mr. Gall, on the record now, thanks very much for taking time this evening to be part of this project.

For the record, you were born on 13 January 1918, on a farm eight miles northwest of Turtle Lake, Wisconsin. I remember you telling me that now everybody knows where Turtle Lake, Wisconsin is.

G: They're going to the casino *(laughs)*. That's all they know about it. I've been in the casino once, and that's all. I don't believe much in gambling, so... *(trails off)* It's throwing your money away. I worked too hard for my money.

T: Mr. Gall, during the war you served with the United States Army. Were you inducted, or did you enlist?

G: I was inducted.

T: That was after Pearl Harbor [information from pre-interview conversation]. You served with the 28th Infantry Division. You arrived in France, after a trip across the Atlantic, in June 1944, and were at the liberation of Paris [in August 1944], I think you mentioned before we started taping.

G: Yes.

T: I'd like to go to December of 1944, because at that time the Battle of the Bulge begins and your life is going to change. I'm wondering if you can describe the circumstances surrounding your capture by the Germans. What happened on the day you were captured, Mr. Gall?

G: *(sighs)* Oh, let's see now. *(pauses five seconds)* Now when I should think, my mind doesn't work so good *(chuckles)*. See, we fought all the way across France, with the 28th Division, and then we got into, through Belgium, and we were completely surrounded by Germans. My division was. I have a picture of it someplace of it, where we were completely surrounded by the German army. Well, we couldn't do anything, so we just had to give up, that's all.

T: How much thought had you given, before that day, that you might become a prisoner during the war?

G: I never had an inkling.

T: So it was never anything that you thought about like, hmmm, if I'm a POW it will be like this.

G: See, this kind of came as a surprise over there. You know, [US General Dwight D.] Eisenhower and [British Field Marshal Bernard] Montgomery figured that they were going to close the war down for the winter, and come back in the Spring. Now we knew for three weeks before that the Germans were making a push into Belgium, but Eisenhower didn't do a thing about it. They just sit there, and we lost a lot of men that way.

T: The day you were captured [Mr. Gall estimates this to be some days before 1 January 1945], do you remember the first time you came literally face-to-face with the Germans?

G: *(chuckles)* Yeah, it was kind of scary.

T: Talk about that.

G: *(pauses four seconds)* There was a little town. We were fighting, and I was in a foxhole, and the Germans were trying to take the town. And they were shooting at us from every direction. *(pauses four seconds)* I wish I could remember the name of that town. My mind isn't working tonight for some reason.

T: From that foxhole, could you see the Germans yet?

G: Yes, we could see them. They were shooting. They weren't too far away from us. And this was a little town, and when we went through, we liberated this town first, and then when the Germans made that push then they took it away from us again. Pushing us back.

T: Instead of getting pushed back, though, now you got captured.

G: Yeah.

(1, A, 48)

T: Did you surrender individually, with a small group, or as part of a larger group?

G: We were quite a large group. See, they surrounded the whole division. Because we had lost a lot of men from Paris to Germany, so... *(trails off)* There wasn't much we could do.

T: When you surrendered, did you march out then, or did the Germans come to you?

G: They came to us. When they hold a gun to your face, you know, you can't do much about it.

T: That first time you had a German as close to you as I am now, what was that feeling like?

G: *(chuckles)* It was kind of scary. *(pauses three seconds)* I didn't know what to do.

T: Were you in charge of other men at that time?

G: I was a corporal at that time. No, I wasn't in charge. We all got it the same time, though. They completely surrounded us, I got a picture of it somewhere.

T: When the Germans first came to you, did they search you?

G: Yes.

T: What was that like?

G: They took everything away. I had a couple of guns, small guns, that I picked up along the way, as souvenirs, and my billfold and everything. They took it all away.

T: They went through your pockets?

G: Yes. I was with another guy, and he had a big family. The Germans had gone through, and we were hiding behind the German lines, this kid and I. He had a big family, and I didn't want him to get captured either, so I stayed with him. We tried to escape at night, and first thing we did we ran into an ambush, you know, and some [German] guard, he could speak English, and he knew that we were Americans, you know, so... *(trails off)* They just took us, and took us away. We were traveling at night, we thought if we tried to get away at night they wouldn't see us, see? But we walked into an (***)

T: So your actual capture was at night, with this one other fellow?

G: At night, in the dark. It was awful dark.

T: And just the two of you.

G: Yes.

T: From that point, you were moved away the front.

G: Yes.

T: Did you march away from the front, with a group of Americans?

G: *(pauses three seconds)* Let me see, what did they do with us then? They took us in the group, yes. Of course most of them were gone already, but this guy that was with me, we kind of stayed back and, of course the German that captured us he could speak perfect English, better than I could. He says, "You know what you are now? You're going to be captured." So, I says, "I can't do anything about it." I don't know whatever happened to the other guy that was with me. I don't remember his name. He got lost in the shuffle there somehow, and I don't know whatever happened to him. I never saw him again.

T: As you moved away from the front, with a group, were you questioned or interrogated at all by the Germans?

(1, A, 92)

G: Some, yes, by the Germans. This German that could speak English, he tried to, he asked us quite a few questions. I don't remember what they were anymore. *(pauses three seconds)* I was kind of scared, so... *(trails off)*

T: Were you scared of what was going to happen, or scared of what had happened, or what?

G: I was scared of what I thought was going to happen. We didn't know if they'd shoot us or... *(trails off)* Because they'd killed a lot of people, you know.

T: So you had heard rumors that the Germans were sometimes shooting prisoners.

G: Yes. They killed a lot of prisoners. So we didn't know if that was our last trip or what.

T: From the time they captured you there, were you mistreated at all, hit, struck at all?

G: Not at first. But when we got into a camp, then they made us work. We had to work. They didn't try to beat us up or anything, but *(pauses three seconds)* they tried to find out all they could. That was typical—we'd have to do the same to them if we captured them, you know.

T: You marched away from the front [you said before we began taping]. Did they take you to a camp location then, or were you put on to boxcars?

G: We were marched into, I think it was, yes, through Belgium, and on New Year's Day [1945] we were locked into a boxcar for over a week. That boxcar was full. Of American boys.

T: Did the boxcar move, or sit?

G: No, the boxcar stayed right where it was at. And this was in, they said it was Berlin, I'm sure it was. We understand that they had a plan... *(trails off)* See, our fighter planes used to strafe all the boxcars, if they had anything in there it'd destroy it, see. *(pauses three seconds)* And of course that's what we thought about when we were in the boxcar. Is the American Army going to come and strafe these boxcars?

T: And it's not moving.

G: No, it's not moving. It's sitting there right on the street, or wherever it was.

T: Did you, or the guys around you, talk about that, worrying about what's going to happen, are we going to get strafed?

G: Yes, we talked about it. But we never knew if something was going to happen. But we were there for a week, I'm sure it was at least a week. We had no food, no nothing. We were in the boxcar, and finally the Germans come back and took us out of there.

T: So you got out of the boxcar the same place you got in the boxcar.

G: Yes, the boxcar never moved.

(brief pause—machine off)

T: So you remember that you were marched away from the front and ended up in a boxcar that sat for a number of days. Sounds like you were just stored in that boxcar, and you got off the same place you got on.

(1, A, 135)

G: See, what I think they planned on, our fighter planes would strafe these boxcars, and maybe they figured the Americans [aircraft] would come over and they'd get rid of a bunch of us. But the weather was bad. We had snowstorms and everything. Rain, and it was cold. So the fighter planes couldn't fly. And that saved our skin. I don't know if they figured that our fighter planes would come over and kill us all in those boxcars, but... *(trails off)*

T: But the train wasn't strafed, as it turned out.

G: No. No, it wasn't.

T: But there was a sense of worry among the men, yourself included, that there might be.

G: Oh sure. Yes.

T: You also mentioned that you were kind of a transit prisoner, that you moved from camp to camp.

G: Yes, I moved. And I'm sure I walked. But I was good at walking, I was off of the farm and I was used to walking. Thank goodness. 'Cause I saw a lot of guys that couldn't make it. *(pauses three seconds)* They'd even shoot them.

T: Is that something you witnessed?

G: Oh yes. I saw them kill one guy. This guy, he was, he just couldn't go on anymore. I don't know how long he had been in the service or anything, so he was kind of weak you know, so... *(trails off)* So they tried to get rid of him *(with emotion)*. I don't know... *(trails off)*

T: How did that make you feel?

G: Well, you don't know if you're going to be next or not.

T: Let's go back to your experience. From the number of camps you were at, you do remember being at II-A, which was Neubrandenburg.

G: I don't remember the names of the camps.

T: Well, after being at a number of camps, the place you stayed the longest was on a work detail, at Zittau [on the Neisse River, forty miles east of Dresden].

G: Right. It was an old army camp, I think. It was a big barracks, you know, and there was a lot of us in there. We were there for a long time. They'd get us up in the morning, and we'd walk a ways, then get on a train and go into town and work.

T: Let me ask you about the camp itself. You mentioned a barracks. Was there more than one barracks at this work camp, or just the big one?

G: I think there was mostly a big one. And it was big.

T: Describe the inside.

G: It was just like a building, is all it was. They had little places like that where you could lay down.

T: You slept on the floor?

G: No, there was no beds or anything like that, no. *(pauses three seconds)* I didn't tell you about the guys that tried to get away from this work camp. We had five guys that tried to take off from there [the work camp]. They thought they could get back to the American lines. Well, they were gone a couple days, and then they brought them back. And they left them lay in front of our barracks for two weeks, in the rain, in the snow and everything.

T: Had they killed them?

G: They were dead, sure. They thought they could get back to the American lines, you know. But they never made it. They brought them back and they left them there so no one else would get the idea to take off. I didn't know the guys. We had just been living together in that big barracks. In fact, I don't remember the names of any of these guys, even in my own division.

(1, A, 192)

T: We often hear stories about POWs and escape. Is that something you ever thought about?

G: We thought about it, but when we saw something like that, well, we changed our mind. 'Cause we knew what would happen if they ever caught us, you know.

T: In the barracks there, did you have food there in the morning before you went to work?

G: We never got any food in the morning. You put your clothes on, if you took any off, and we had to walk to the train and get on the train and go to work. Then in the evening we got a little bowl of soup, potato soup. That's all we got all day. One meal a day.

(1, A, 205)

T: Let's go to the work you were doing. Because you left that camp in the morning and had to walk to a train, right?

G: Yes, we walked to a train and we got on the train and the train took us into town [Zittau]. Because the camp must have been quite a ways from town, I don't know. But we'd go into town and then we'd have to shovel dirt there all day, or whatever we were going to do, you know.

T: When you got into town, to the work place, did you always work at the same place or did you work different jobs?

G: It was always the same place, we went back to the same place. They were trying to build what they called a synthetic oil plant. I don't know what that pertains to, but that's what they said it was.

T: And all the men [from camp] went to work at the same place?

G: Yes.

T: Sounds like you were kind of a work detail that went out—

G: We were a work detail and we went into town there and worked in that place.

(knock at door, arrival of several people)

T: Did you do different jobs over the course of days there?

G: No, mostly shovel, working. By that time we were so weak that the shovel would turn in our hands, from hunger. No, that's about all I did.

T: The shoveling, were you digging a hole or what?

G: They were going to build a building there, and they called it a synthetic oil plant. But I don't know what that pertains to.

T: Did you see other men from your camp doing other jobs, or was everybody doing pretty much the same thing?

G: We were all doing pretty much the same thing. The ones that were able—a lot of them weren't able to even leave the camp, you know, so they'd stay right there and lay in their bunks all day.

T: So some guys were in even worse shape than you.

G: Oh yes. I was off the farm, so I was pretty tough in those days.

T: Were the guys in the camp all Americans, or were they mixed?

G: There was a few others, but I don't know what they were. They weren't all Americans; there was a few others.

T: Let me ask about the Germans at the camp, first of all. What kind of men were the guards there, do you remember? Younger guys, older guys?

G: Most of them were older guys. They had the young ones out with the guns *(chuckles)*. They were older, some of them were older than I was.

T: What kind of treatment did you get from them, good, bad, or indifferent?

G: Well, as long as you did what they told you to, they didn't do anything to you. But if you crossed you, they'd strike you with the rifle or something. They all carried rifles.

T: When you took the train into town, into Zittau, did you see or come into contact with German civilians at all?

G: I don't remember seeing any civilians. I never worked with any German civilians, just the boss we had there, he was about seven feet tall, he was a big German, and when we couldn't work hard enough, why he'd get so mad and he'd swat us and flatten us out (*chuckles*), knock us down and everything.

(1, A, 255)

T: Would you say you were fairly optimistic that this would come to an end some day, or were you not so optimistic?

G: I was hoping. I didn't know when but I was hoping.

T: With the difficult conditions you've talked about, how did you keep your spirits up on a daily basis?

G: (*sighs*) Oh, I don't know. (*pauses four seconds*) I tried to hold up the best I could. What I was worried about was trying to get something to eat. Food was on my mind most of the time. And I think it was on everybody else's mind, too.

T: Was it possible to find things to eat, besides what the Germans gave you? Because from what you described, that's not enough to live on.

G: You mean potato peelings?

T: Well, whatever.

G: (*pauses four seconds*) Wherever we found a garbage can, we... (*trails off*) I hate to talk about something like that, but that's the truth. When you're hungry you'll do most anything. When you saw a garbage can, you checked it out. You bet you did.

T: In town there, was there ever an opportunity to acquire, whether it's bartering or stealing, food from anywhere?

G: There was nobody to steal from, I don't think. We didn't see very many civilians; they stayed away from that camp there.

T: When you rode the train every day to work there, was it just the prisoners on it that you remember?

G: Yes.

T: They kept you away, it sounds like.

G: Away from everything else, yes. We just had our guards, you know, we'd have three, four guards and they each carried a rifle. We had to do what they told us to do.

T: Was it possible for you, in a camp like that, to get any news of how the war was going?

G: No. We had no outside line at all of any kind to find out anything.

T: Never heard anything from the German guards?

G: They wouldn't talk to us anyway (*chuckles*). Well, we couldn't understand it anyway, they talked German.

T: Now in the absence of news, often times people will fill that with rumors. What kind of rumors did you hear about what was going on?

G: I don't believe there was any rumors that anything was going to happen to us.

T: Nevertheless, you didn't end the war in that camp—you were moved from there.

G: Yes, to Czechoslovakia. See, the Russians were coming and they were getting closer all the time.

T: How did you know that?

G: We could hear the artillery. The Russian artillery. We were in a camp, and we were there for quite a while, for several weeks. About three or four weeks. And you could hear the artillery, from both sides. And they were getting closer all the time.

T: So you could hear the war getting closer.

G: That made us feel better, you know, because we knew we had help coming.

T: Were you concerned at all that, if the Russians came, of what the Germans might do to you?

G: We never even thought of anything like that. And when the Russians got too close, see they liberated us, and when they got too close, one morning we got up and the guards were all gone. From that camp [in Czechoslovakia].

T: You moved from this labor camp to Czechoslovakia. How did you get from the labor camp to this final location?

G: I think it was Shanks ponies most of the time [reference unclear]. I don't remember if we went by train or... (*trails off*) I don't remember how we even got from Zittau into Czechoslovakia, but it wasn't too far.

T: And that final location, was it a bigger place or a smaller place?

(1, A, 330)

G: No, that was quite a small place. It looked like, it was on the edge of a small town. And we had about two hundred Russians and I bet you, how many Americans were there, about twenty-five to thirty of us. And then there was some British. There was more British than there was Americans. But the largest group there was the Russians.

T: Was that a camp where there was any work details?

G: No, they were just holding us, that's all they did. That was the place where we finally got a Red Cross parcel. The last place. The only one we ever got. The only one we ever saw. We heard that they had Red Cross parcels, but we never got any before that. Then of course we had to divide it between two men, one Red Cross parcel. There was candy in there, and cigarettes, and a few other things which you could eat.

T: Who did you split yours with?

G: I don't remember who I split mine with. Some guy. If I met him again I wouldn't know who he was. But I split it with one other person.

End of Side A. Side B begins at counter 000.

T: Let me ask about the liberation, because it was the Russians that came. Do you remember that?

G: Yes. We were so glad to see them [the Soviets] that we could have hugged them. We stayed there a few days.

T: What happened to the Germans?

G: The Germans were gone. They just disappeared that night, and the next day the Russians came in. They came into camp. And they went out to get food. They found a hay wagon from someplace, like the farmers had, and they went and they got that filled up with bread, in town. I don't know how far they had to go into town or anything, but they came into camp with that bread, and they fed us (*chuckles*). They had plenty of rotgut [slang: liquor], too, and they tried to stuff us with that. We couldn't, boy, vodka, that would have been the end right there (*laughs*).

T: Now you had been a POW for a little more than four months. What kind of condition were you in by the time the Russians got there?

G: Well, I weighed 103 pounds when I come out.

T: How much was your typical weight in the service before you were captured?

G: About 175, 180, something like that. I weigh 180 right now.

T: So you lost about everything you could lose.

G: Yeah.

T: Were you sick or suffering from any illness at the end?

G: No, I was just weak from hunger.

T: You stayed at that location for a while before you were evacuated out, right?

G: Yes. But it was just a few days though, a couple days I think it was, three days. Then they took us back to Le Havre, France.

T: Did the Americans come into this camp and get you, or did you leave the camp?

G: Wait a minute. I think the Russians took us. I don't remember how we got back to that camp, but they took us clear back to Le Havre, France. Camp Lucky Strike.

T: Let me ask, once you were liberated, how did you explain to yourself how it was that you made it through this, and other guys didn't?

G: Well, I was a tough farm kid, and I was used to hard work. And a lot of walking. My dad, he farmed with horses, and we didn't have no tractor. He farmed with horses and you had to follow them all day in the field, you know. I was used to walking and working hard.

T: What I hear you saying is you really think that helped you get through.

G: That helped me, I know. 'Cause I saw a lot of these city boys, they couldn't take it. I noticed that when I was first in for my training. We had some city boys that came into the camp, and the first thing they did was take us on a forced march (*chuckles*). Well, they didn't go very well with these kids from the city, because they were little fat boys, you know, and they couldn't take it. They'd go a mile or two and they'd have to sit down. I could tell right away who was off the farm and who wasn't (*chuckles*).

T: How much do you want to attribute your survival as a POW to religion, to faith?

G: I don't know. I prayed a little when I was a POW. If it helped... (*trails off*) Maybe it did. Because at that time I never belonged to a church or anything. My parents joined a church after I was a prisoner.

T: Did you get any mail as a POW, from home, from anybody?

G: Absolutely nothing. I sent a couple of times. They used to give us this, it was specially made up for prisoners. The little postcards. You write right in there, and then it's supposed to go back to them. I think my folks got one. One from me, that's all they got, while I was a prisoner.

(*brief pause—machine off*)

T: Moving on, I hear you say you took a ship back to Hampton Roads, Virginia. How soon when you got back to the States did you see your folks or any members of your family?

G: I was back a short time, probably a couple weeks, and then they give us a furlough. I got a month's furlough to go back to my folks. And then after that they sent me to Hot Springs, Arkansas. I was in that place for a month.

T: Let's go back to when you first got back to the States, and you first saw your folks, and your brother or sister. Were they at home when you got home?

G: Yes, I guess they were. But my folks, see, we had been on, lived on a farm, and my folks moved to town and my brother took over the farm. They were living in town, in Turtle Lake.

But when I came home, I came home in the evening, and it was raining, and my folks had decided to go to a movie that night. So there I stood until eleven o'clock at night until they got home from the movie (*chuckles*).

T: You know, we want some kind of melodramatic welcome home, and there you are standing in the rain outside your own house (*laughs*).

G: (*laughs*)

T: When you saw your folks, how much did they ask you about your POW experience?

G: I don't remember if they asked me much of anything. I suppose they did ask me some things, but they never talked too much about that. I don't know if they figured it would bother me, or what.

T: Do you remember wanting to tell them about it?

G: I suppose I told them some things about it, how they treated us and how we starved and everything else but... *(trails off)*

T: With your folks, or other people there after the war, was it easier for you to talk about your combat experiences or your POW experiences?

G: *(sighs)* I don't think I really talked about either one of them *(pauses five seconds)*. I tried to forget it. That was the attitude, I think.

T: Now you and Gladys were married in 1946.

G: Yeah.

T: When you got married, did Gladys know you had been a POW?

G: Yes. Because she was writing to me when I was in prison camp, and in the Army, too. But she never asked me too much.

T: *(to wife Gladys, in room)* How much did you ask him about his POW experience?

Wife: I really didn't. I didn't think he wanted to talk about it. We were just all glad to see him home. I suppose, I maybe asked him a question or two, but we didn't go into kind of detail or anything. He was just glad to see us all, and hear what we had to say, I think, and see how things had changed at home.

T: Did you tell her that, that you really preferred not to talk about it?

G: Maybe I did.

(brief pause—machine off)

T: What line of work did you go into when you moved here to St. Paul [in 1946]?

G: Body and fender work. I worked on cars. I took my training in Chicago. I worked in a body shop down there for a while, and I even worked for a guy that had a bunch of race cars. He used to take them out to the Indianapolis Speedway and race them every Sunday just about. I worked for him a while, he had a body shop.

(1, B, 110)

T: Did guys at work there know you had been a POW?

G: Did I tell them? I think they knew, yeah.

T: That's nothing that you kept from people.

G: No, I didn't keep anything from people. I didn't really talk much about it, but I'm sure most people knew about it. But I didn't want to go into detail.

T: Did that change over the years? Did it become easier to talk about it?

G: No, I still don't care much about talking about it.

T: Well you're sitting here with me tonight.

G: Yes, I'm sitting here with you tonight.

T: How come?

G: I don't know (*chuckles*). I think because you asked me. [My wife] has never heard this before (*wife, now in room, laughs and agrees*). See, I don't talk to her about it, or anybody else.

T: What about your two sons, born 1951 and 1955. When they were growing up, how much did they ask you about things?

G: I don't think they ever talked about it either.

T: Not about being a combat soldier or being a POW.

G: They knew I was a POW, you know, and that I had been in the service for two and a half years, or whatever it was, but there was something, I didn't, I don't think anybody really talked about.

T: You joined American Ex-POWs a number of years ago.

G: Yes.

T: What led you to do that?

G: Everybody else did, so I suppose figured I should, too.

(brief pause—machine off)

T: One of the last questions I have is to ask, after your POW experience, how often did you have dreams or even nightmares about that, specific to your POW experience?

G: *(sighs)* I still think about it. But it's in the past, so I try to leave it there. But you think about it once in a while.

T: Sometimes images come into our minds whether we want them to or not. What kinds of images come to you, images that come more than once or things that happen again and again?

G: *(sighs)* It's things that I remember. *(pauses four seconds)* Oh, I don't know. *(pauses four seconds)* I saw a lot in the war. I saw things I don't even care to talk about. I saw men in tanks, burned to death in a tank, and that isn't a pretty picture.

T: What about specific POW images?

G: I don't like to think about those either. *(pause seven seconds)*

T: The last question is this: when you think about Ernest Gall before being a POW and Ernest Gall after, were you a different person because of your POW experience?

G: I probably am. *(pauses four seconds)* I don't know how to explain that. *(pauses five seconds)* I don't know, I can't think of it. That's something, it's out of the ordinary, you know, and you try not to think about it. *(pauses three seconds)* We never talk about it.

T: You've been married nearly sixty years. Has it always been something that you don't talk about?

G: *(pause five seconds)* No, we never talk about the war.

T: Well that's the last question, so let me turn the machine off. Mr. Gall, thanks for your time this evening.

END OF INTERVIEW