



# Colby-Sawyer

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Department of Social Sciences

November 24, 1985

Ms. Elise Randolph  
Madison Town and School Library  
Madison, NH 03849

Dear Ms. Randolph;

Last year the New Hampshire Council for the Humanities' Program on World War II and the Granite State included the enclosed tapes from the oral history component. We felt the tapes should be part of your collection.

Sincerely yours,

*Allen V. Koop*

Allen V. Koop  
Chairman

AK/mb

Tape 1

Table of Contents

Side 1

Interviewer- Rachel Ward

Interviewee- Frank G. Ward, Jr.

Date- December 3, 1984

- 0-25 Induction and early flight training
- 30- Flight training for B-17
- 54- Squadron group formed, combat readiness
- 75- Direct flight to England
- 90- "The Wash", Alconbury, England
- 110- Disastrous first mission
- 156- Squadron Commander
- 160- Active German fighter resistance
- 170- No American fighter escorts
- 175- Concentrating on fighter bases
- 185- P-51, P-38, P57's arrive
- 195 Briefings by aerial photographers
- 200- Bomb loads and kinds
- 250- Crews, off-duty, weather, quarters, climate
- 310- Rotation
- 315- States-side, instrument school
- 340- Trained troops

Tape 1

Side 2

0-6

- 7- Return to Madison, NH
- 22- Anti-aircraft threat every time out
- 35- Daylight bombing American, night British
- 45- Bombing strategy
- 50- Peenemunde on coast of North Sea bombed  
where Germans were developing their atomic bombs
- 75- Targets- primary, secondary, tertiary, opportunity  
no bombs brought back
- 80- Over Germany
- 90- Favorite plane and crew
- 100- Chateau D'Un airport worst trouble because of German  
fighters coming out of it
- 110- Mannheim- oil refinery on Rhine River
- 125- Brunsbittel
- 130- First Crew
- 140- Second crew
- 150- Sweden aluminum plant which Germans took over, "milk run "

Tape 1 Table of Contents

Side 2

Interviewer- Rachel Ward

Interviewee- Christine Ward

- 175- Christine trained in New York City, then unit was formed  
of nurses, doctors, and a few dentists who decided to serve  
together
- 195- Landed in Belfast, Ireland. For 3 or 4 months ran a General  
Hospital there, then to Diddington-on-the-Hunts, England.  
For a year took care of Air Corps casualties, 8th Air Force  
before the Invasion
- 200- Into Normandy on D-6  
750 bed Evacuation Hospital attached to First Army
- 215- Backlog of 600 patients awaiting surgery at once  
12 operating room tables, 12-hr. shifts- 8 to 8, 24 hrs. a day  
Became anaesthesia nurse
- 230- In Army Nurse Corps, France, Belgium. Germany, then to  
Czechoslovakian border.  
All the time within 5/6 to 10/12 miles from front.  
Casualties were in Evacuation Hospital before the regular hospital
- 260- Battle of the Bulge, A black Ambulance Corps put in 4 hrs. more  
to help carry litters after already working 12 hrs.
- 275- Battle of Herten Forest- bad! Worst wounded of all. Worse than  
Battle of the Bulge. At a standstill so more wounded in bad shape.
- 300- In Battle of Bulge 101st Airborne wouldn't give up.  
Parachutists, snow on the ground, airforce couldn't get out to  
bomb supply lines. Day after Christmas, dogfights over hospital.  
Finally the Air Force did get out.
- 327 Frank had tonsils out in hospital in England, met his wife there.
- 345 Strategy
- 350 Lucky to be alive
- 355 American doctors in evacuation hospital trauma surgery
- 375 Common to have doctors make their own unit.

Tape 2

Side 1

- 0-10 Use of new drugs
- 10-18 Friend Alice Gabriel of Madison nurse in same unit.
- 20 - Discharged from Army, 6 months in Ohio

Tape 2

Side 1

Interviewer- Rachel Ward

Interviewee- Christine Ward

00-

30- To North Conway, NH Memorial Hospital

33- Description of K-Rations

56 - Description of winter in the field unit hospital unit,  
sleeping in tents

90- Extremely little civilian contact nor anything except sleep  
after 16 hr. days

110- During wartime no-one had opportunity to go into the towns.  
Cared for French townspeople for they had no hospitals.

Tape 3                      Table of Contents  
Side 1(only)              Interviewer- Rachel Ward  
                                 Interviewee- Ruth Loring  
                                 Date- December 2, 1984

- 0-15    Ruth loring was a clerk in the Office of Price Administration.  
         Typed, worked for people in distribution. Checked and  
         processed applications. Ration Board met once a week.
- 15- Tires- Allotment 2 tires a year. Truck tires saved for essentials
- 27 Gasoline issued by A, B, C, coupons every 3 months. Explanations  
    of categories.
- 43- Kerosene and fuel oil
- 49- Processed foods and meat.
- 55- Sugar.
- 60 Issued at schoolhouses, later at regular offices
- 70- Shoes
- 80- Security of books, coupons, and information.
- 88- Chief clerk had 3 girls working for her.
- 90- Transfer to Lincoln office
- 95- Transfer to larger board in Franklin office as tires and gasoline  
    clerk
- 100- When boards closed everything sent to Concord
- 105- Ruth was transferred as assistant administrator for state office
- 120- Carroll County had three boards
- 130- Price checking and price freezes: traveling to stores to check  
    prices
- 150- Refrigerators rationed by demand
- 175- Clothing- no elastic, no nylon
- 190- Red Cross volunteers sessions cutting and folding bandages.
- 205- Merchandise- no rubber products, no boots.
- 230 Saving stamps program in schools
- 255 Sugar for Canning
- 260 Government printing office pamphlets
- 280- Cars not being made
- 290-On-leave servicemen eligible for extra ration of gas
- 300- Home town activities
- 320- Deep feelings and social stigmas: CO's and 4-F's

## Table of Contents

Tape 4  
Side 1  
(only)  
White

Interviewer- Rachel Ward  
Interviewee- Donald Johnson  
Date- December 1, 1984

0-14 Conversation about release form  
15-35 Identifying Intelligence Reconnaissance Platoon  
35-45 Maneuvers simulating Combat training  
55-70 Unit transferred to Camp Atterbury, Indiana  
70-86 Job descriptions  
100 Comments on training  
112-135 Overseas to British Isles and the continent  
135- Battle of Bulge, Dec. 16, 1943 First time captured  
Describes heavy shelling, guard duty  
157 Return to St. Vith with Ptrl Ldr. Kroll  
164 At Or 15 miles advanced from St. Vith  
176 On returning to Reg. Hdqtrs about  $\frac{1}{2}$  way there, warned of  
danger but decided to advance anyway  
195 Stopped by American ambulance, but forced to surrender  
215 Capture and Captors  
225- Receiving small arms fire from Americans. Decision to zigzag  
from shooting of Germans to shooting from Americans  
260 Return to own outfit  
281 Scout to direct artillery fire to lead Americans back  
300 Radios from haybarn to artillery  
310 Div Hdqtrs orders them to break out of their trap  
340 Germans give them fire at St. Vith

Tape 5  
Side 1  
0-8 3 days Battle of Bulge  
8-12 Second capture- Dec. 19, 1943  
Entire regiment actually captured  
13 Colonel said surrender  
28 Look off in jeeps, tried to get out by themselves, decided to  
abandon and disable jeeps  
35 Returned fire but asked to stop  
40 Conference to try to get away regardless, then squad ldr. stepped

on mine  
45  
55

Interviewer- Rachel Ward

Interviewee- Donald Johnson

Tape 5

Side 1

50 Surrender  
60 Captured, put in courtyard under machine gun fire  
75 Marched 15 miles without food or water, til 9 pm to Geroldstein  
Took off again, hid in barn  
100 Fed by old German couple  
105 Swiss Red Cross interpreter with /german soldiers  
110 Return to Geroldstein  
120 Rations  
137 Loaded in boxcars on trains  
145 Christmas- Parked in R.R. yards with R.A.F. bombing them  
152 Stalag Bad Orb First prison camp  
175 Letter from prison camp to mother Jan  
200 Labels. Special package instructions  
218 Prisoner of war mailing requests  
240 Moved non-coms from Bad Orb  
290 No escape, weather and lack of clothes prevented  
300 Debilitation and malnutrition  
310 Zeigenheim Stalag 9A not listed as a P.O.W. camp, on any map  
345 Location of all P.O.W. camps

Tape 5

Side 2

4 Zeigenheim, had mumps, put in isolation ward, cared for by  
French and British Jews  
20 POW nurses were men  
25 Garden of nurses in POW camp; some British in prison camp 4/5 yrs  
40 Describes food shipped to Africa and returned Describes food  
50 Doctors at hospitals said all would have died if there 30 days  
more  
75 Red Cross package  
90 Showers  
100 Bunks  
105 Constant diarrhea  
110 Malnutrition, skin diseases  
114 Many did die of extremes  
125 Real abuse only at capture because of false information  
but actual abuse was in other ways

Tape 5

Interviewer- Rachel Ward

Side 2

Interviewee- Donald Johnson

144 Guards old men

156 German guard told his own son if opportunity, surrender  
to Americans not Russians

165 Liberated Mar. 30

180 In French hospital 6 wks

195 Camp Lucky Strike

220 Everybody gone

230 L.S.T. boat

256 Story of uncle and P.T. boat

295 Return to U.S.A

300-350 90-day delay-en-route; Lake Placid

360 Camp Lee, Virginia for reassignment

370 Points for getting out