

OREGON HEALTH SCIENCES UNIVERSITY HISTORY PROGRAM

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

INTERVIEW

WITH

Cliff Morris

Interview conducted April 1, 1998

by

Joan S. Ash

SUMMARY

In this interview, Cliff Morris discusses his time in the service of the 46th General Hospital during WWII. The interview also includes additional commentary from Cliff's wife, Irene Morris. Morris begins with biographical information, such as his childhood in Denver, Colorado, Omaha, Nebraska, and Portland, Oregon. His father moved the family to Portland to take a job with an industrial scale company, but eventually he started up his own company, The Morris Scale Company. Morris worked for the family company until he sold it in 1985.

Morris graduated from high school in Portland and went on to obtain a degree in business administration from the University of Portland in 1941. In 1942, he enlisted with the Reserve Corps rather than wait to be drafted. In the interview, Morris describes learning about the 46th General Hospital from a friend and his interview with Colonel J. Guy Strohm, who hand-picked the enlisted men to make up the 46th General Hospital.

Much of the interview focuses on Morris' reserve duty with the 46th General Hospital, including drilling on the University of Oregon Medical School (UOMS) campus in front of Mackenzie Hall and classroom study of the jobs enlisted men were to perform in the overseas hospital. Upon being called to active duty, members of the 46th General Hospital were transferred to Fort Riley, Kansas for basic training. Morris remembers that he received basic medic training while at UOMS. While at Fort Riley, Morris applied for Officer Candidate School. He was sent to the University of Nebraska in Omaha where he chose an operating personnel position in an Army Specialized Training Program (ASTP). He eventually received orders for overseas duty, and joined the 97th Reinforcement Battalion as its chief medical corpsman. He remained with that unit until his discharge from the military in October, 1945.

Morris goes on to provide further information about the 46th General Hospital describing Colonel Strohm, a typical day in uniform, basic training at Fort Riley, work in a dispensary at the station hospital at Camp Whiteside, and attending medical lectures. He explains that the hospital at Camp Whiteside consisted of approximately one thousand beds housed in tents along a long boardwalk and that the patients were military personnel at Fort Riley—since they numbered from 300-500,000, the hospital was always full.

The topic then shifts to the 97th Reinforcement Battalion's actions on various fronts in Europe. Morris explains that this unit would follow a front line, staying behind two or three hours. They processed troops going to and returning from the front, transported the wounded to hospitals, or treated them within the unit themselves. Morris recounts how his medical unit rescued a large group of injured soldiers stranded in a mine field, administered morphine and performed amputations of limbs before building make-shift rafts on which to float the casualties down the river to safety. A discussion follows regarding medic training and response to trauma, types and availability of medical supplies and drugs, and treatment of prisoners of war.

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Interview with Cliff Morris
Interviewed by Joan S. Ash
April 1, 1998
Site: Joan Ash's office, BICC
Begin Tape 1, Side 1

[Editor's note: Irene Morris, the wife of Cliff Morris, also participated in the oral history interview.]

ASH: It's April 1, 1998, and I'm interviewing Cliff Morris in the BICC in my office. This is Joan Ash.

We're on tape, and I would like to say on the tape that Irene Morris is here, as well, and we're going to be asking her to fill in some gaps every once in a while.

Let's start at the beginning, and I'd like to ask you where and when you were born.

C. MORRIS: I was born in Denver, Colorado, June 4, 1918.

ASH: And you grew up there, or did you move fairly soon?

C. MORRIS: We moved to Omaha when I was probably four or five years old. I started school in Omaha, started kindergarten and first grade, and then we moved back to Denver, and I went in the first grade to school in Omaha, and then two schools in Denver, and we moved to Portland that same year, and I went to Kerns School here, Sunnyside School here, and Richmond School here, all in the first grade.

ASH: How did that happen?

C. MORRIS: We just moved around like that. My father was in transit looking for a different job. He came out here to work for Fairbanks-Morse.

ASH: What's Fairbanks-Morse?

C. MORRIS: A scale firm, manufacturing—leading manufacturers, of industrial scales.

ASH: And is the Morris...

C. MORRIS: Morris Scale Company.

ASH: That's your name?

C. MORRIS: That's my name. I sold the business out in 1985, after I had bypass surgery here in the hospital.

ASH: So you were in three different schools here in Portland?

C. MORRIS: I went to six schools in the first grade, in three cities. Believe it or not, I failed first grade (laughter).

ASH: You failed first grade? Then, however, starting in the second grade, what happened?

C. MORRIS: Well, I went to Richmond School all the way through, Franklin High School, and then I got my degree at the University of Portland in business administration. I graduated in 1941, just about the time the war started, and I enlisted in the Enlisted Reserve Corps in 1942. Looking at Mackenzie Hall, I went to classes twice a week over there for about four or five months. And we used to drill a lot on that lawn.

ASH: And this was when you were in the Reserves?

C. MORRIS: This was when we were in the Enlisted Reserve Corps.

ASH: How did you get recruited into the Reserve Corps?

C. MORRIS: Well, Colonel [John Guy] Strohm required everyone that found out about him to come up and have an interview, and he hand-

picked all of us. So I came up—I heard about the Forty-sixth General Hospital.

ASH: So you were drilling in front of Mackenzie Hall. I want some more information about this. You had heard from someone—you had just graduated from college...

C. MORRIS: Yes. A friend of mine told me about the existence of or the possibility of this Forty-sixth General Hospital being activated, which was the Forty-sixth Base Hospital in World War I, and that if I would come up here and see Colonel Strohm, he would consider me as an eligible enlistment, which I did. He hand-picked each one of his enlisted men. Every single man he picked had at least one or more college degrees, with the exception of one man, and that was his barber, Walter Arent. I've kept in contact—or, saw Walter Arent until just a few years ago.

ASH: So once he recruited you, was he recruiting you for a particular job? Like Don [Devlin] was already, I think, trained as a court reporter. Did he recruit you for a particular job?

C. MORRIS: Administration. And I was to be in the receiving and disposition office and the registrar's office, so that was what we came up here to school for. We came up here at least once a week for about six months and had classroom studies, studying the particular position we were going to fill in the hospital. And as I recall, I don't know—you probably know, but there were 51 doctors, 118 nurses, and 98 enlisted men from the Portland area. That would be born out in this little book, here. At that time we were enlisted reserve status until the time we were activated, and when we went back to Fort Riley, Kansas, the rest of the personnel in the enlisted reserve, enlisted men, were increased, I think, to five hundred, and that was the table of our organization.

ASH: When you were in training here, did you wear a uniform?

C. MORRIS: No. We were just Reserve Corps. We didn't wear any uniform.

ASH: But you had to march, you said.

C. MORRIS: We had to march. That was Colonel Strohm's idea. He was military from the Forty-sixth Base Hospital in World War I, you know. He was the commanding officer of that hospital.

ASH: So you would take classes, and, then, after the classes you would go outside here?

C. MORRIS: Right.

ASH: And did you have a rifle or...

C. MORRIS: No, just marched.

ASH: You just marched in your civilian clothes?

C. MORRIS: Um-hmm.

I. MORRIS: To learn left from right foot (laughter).

ASH: And this went on for how many months?

C. MORRIS: From January to June, till late June. I wasn't in it, though in January. I think it was probably February. Was I? Possibly January I was in it, then. I don't remember just the exact date. But until June, when we went up to—late June or early July we went up to Fort Lewis for processing.

ASH: When you were taking your classes here, were you working someplace?

C. MORRIS: Yes. I had my own business.

ASH: You did. So this was sort of an extracurricular activity?

C. MORRIS: I owned and operated Morris Scale Company with my father.

ASH: And then they called you to active duty?

C. MORRIS: Yes. That would be—I think it was early July, because it was quite warm.

I. MORRIS: June.

C. MORRIS: June? Okay.

ASH: It could be warm in June, too. Were you excited about that?

C. MORRIS: Not particularly. I didn't want to leave. The reason a lot of us enlisted in this Reserve Corps was to avoid the draft. And by avoiding the draft, I don't mean to avoid the draft, but looking for a better position than just going into the general duty artillery, infantry. We looked at a better group of people, we thought. Educated people.

ASH: And you probably also wanted to be with people from your own area.

C. MORRIS: Exactly, from our area. When I came up here, I had hoped that I would be selected into the group. Not that I ever wanted to go into the Army, because I didn't, but...

ASH: And they told you had to go up to...

C. MORRIS: Up here for training.

ASH: So you moved up there to live in barracks?

C. MORRIS: No, we stayed at home—oh, when we were up at Fort Lewis? Oh yes. We were in the Army then. We had uniforms. No arms, though, because I was a medic.

ASH: You had been trained, then, as a medic?

C. MORRIS: I've got to think on this, you know, because there's a

possibility—I was in three different outfits. Where did I receive my medical training? Oh, I guess I received some of it up here, yes, in classroom studies. Where did I go into the medics? Right here, I guess.

ASH: That would make sense.

C. MORRIS: Oh sure, because it was the general hospital. I was a medic—everyone in the general hospital was in the Medical Corps, of course.

ASH: Well, Don Devlin wasn't.

C. MORRIS: Don Devlin was in the medics, though. We wore the caduceus, and he did, too, because he was doing work administration, but it was still in the hospital. So everyone in the hospital...

I. MORRIS: ...Red Cross.

C. MORRIS: And we carried the Red Cross Geneva card.

ASH: But he didn't say anything about getting any clinical training. It sounds like you got clinical training.

C. MORRIS: I got some clinical training, yes. And then, when we went to Fort Riley, I worked in a dispensary and also medical records in the station hospital there, which was equivalent to a general hospital. So I was doing the work that I was going to do in the general hospital, and that was medical records and admissions and dispositions.

ASH: So was that when you left the Forty-sixth?

C. MORRIS: No.

ASH: Because you went to Fort Riley and you were with the Forty-sixth at Fort Riley.

C. MORRIS: Yes, I went to Fort Riley. I received my basic training at

Fort Riley, Kansas, and I guess we were there for approximately a year.

I. MORRIS: About eleven months.

C. MORRIS: Eleven months?

I. MORRIS: And that—explain how it was that you left the Forty-sixth.

C. MORRIS: Oh yes. Well, in a group of men like this, with education, they weren't satisfied to be privates in the Army, especially one I know had three college degrees and was a professor. He was not satisfied to be a private. So we had a lot of enlisted men that applied for Officer Candidate School, and when they applied for Officer Candidate School, they got transferred out of the organization, which was my circumstance. I applied for Officer Candidate School and to the Enlisted Reserve Corps and to the Medical Administrative Corps, and I got sent up to the main fort, then, and I spent the next two weeks in ranger training. I was going to make a parachute drop the day I got transferred out, which I was not looking forward to. It wasn't my wish then, but, then, my orders came through the night before I was to make the parachute drop to go to the University of Nebraska, but the orders didn't read for what.

It was a new program that was opened at the University of Nebraska we had the Medical Corps, engineering, area and language. For training, it was a three-year course, where they got their medical degree, but it was a fast-paced course. They went to school the year around, and long hours. When I got there, I was offered to either go to school or be cadre operating personnel of the Army Specialized Training Program. I had just graduated from the University of Portland, so I thought I kind of didn't care to go back to school right then, so I stayed there and I was chief correspondence clerk. And other duties, too. I was also the medical officer of the group at the University of Nebraska. And that lasted one full year. That's when I married my wife. I was sitting at my desk one night—they called it Officer of the Day—watching the teletype. And I took my own orders to be transferred overseas immediately. So that's when I went into the Ninety-seventh Reinforcement Battalion, which was made up of a group of men—actually,

some of them were from here and followed all the way through into the Ninety-seventh Reinforcement Battalion.

ASH: They were from the Forty-sixth?

C. MORRIS: Some of them were; not all of them. It was a very small group of men. I think there were forty-four in the cadre, and nine medics. I was chief medical corpsman, then, in the Ninety-seventh Reinforcement Battalion, which I stayed in until I was discharged. We went through England, Germany, Holland, Belgium, Luxembourg.

ASH: And so when you were doing that, you supervised other medics?

C. MORRIS: Yes.

ASH: Were you on the front?

C. MORRIS: Yes—well, actually, it was the Remagen Bridgehead at the time it was captured and recaptured about ten times.

ASH: So you and your other medics treated the injured troops?

C. MORRIS: Yes.

I. MORRIS: The Battle of the Bulge.

C. MORRIS: Well, at the Battle of the Bulge is where (inaudible), at Liège, Belgium.

ASH: Were the other medics mostly from the Forty-sixth?

C. MORRIS: None of the medics were from the Forty-sixth, as we ended up, then. No, none, except for myself. I believe that's right. I was the only medic that ended up from the Forty-sixth. I was discharged from the Ninety-seventh Reinforcement Battalion in 1945. October '45.

ASH: You came back here? You were here, Irene?

I. MORRIS: Well, I was in Omaha, and then we both came back here and started our life together.

ASH: And you went into your father's business at that time?

C. MORRIS: Yes.

ASH: So you left the medical area behind.

C. MORRIS: Yes.

ASH: And now Cindy is...

C. MORRIS: Now Cindy is into it. It's ironic, really, and I'm so proud of her.

I. MORRIS: Well, our grandson worked here for about five years in transportation, also at OHSU.

C. MORRIS: He was the dispatcher in transportation here.

I. MORRIS: He later went to law school and is now a deputy district attorney for the county. But he's familiar with the whole area, too, being in transportation. So there is a family connection.

ASH: So you had more than one connection with OHSU—more than Cindy.

I. MORRIS: Yes.

ASH: Then, let's get back to Fort Riley, if we could, because now you were with the Forty-sixth, but there were others added. In other words, there were five hundred people, but you were still...

C. MORRIS: No, actually we got most of our enlisted personnel at Fort Riley, that's true. Just from the general draft.

ASH: But you were still together with the other people from Portland?

C. MORRIS: Yes, right. All those that didn't get transferred out. Colonel Strohm didn't particularly like for his men to transfer—to apply for Officer Candidate School, because he'd hand-picked us. And I didn't blame him a bit, and he had to refill those vacancies. And, then, it was kind of a waste of all our training up here. But you can't blame the men, either, for wanting to get ahead. Colonel Strohm was quite a military man.

ASH: Now, I think you told me, when we talked on the phone, didn't you have an office next to his?

C. MORRIS: Yeah. Actually, Don Devlin and myself worked right next to his office.

ASH: So can you describe him in a little more detail?

C. MORRIS: Kind of stocky, short, kind face, smiled all the time, stern, military type; and, of course, that's why he wanted the Forty-sixth activated from the Forty-sixth Base Hospital. He liked that type of life, or I believe he did. Of course, he didn't like war any better than the rest of us, but as long as it was there, he wanted a piece of it. He was a good man. Ran a tight organization. It was amazing how fast the hospital seemed to know where it was going and what it was going to do. We had a lot of dry runs at Fort Riley, Kansas, where we would pack up—the whistle would blow at night and the horns would honk, and we'd get all packed up and ready to go overseas for shipment. It was a false alarm; go back to bed again.

ASH: Did you all believe that it was true?

C. MORRIS: Oh, we had to, because one of them was the real thing, then, pretty soon. So you get out of bed at three o'clock in the morning and pack everything up, get on a truck.

ASH: What was your day like at Fort Riley?

C. MORRIS: Oh, we went for bivouacs, long hikes, and then we would have our regular assignments, like I worked in a dispensary every day, and I worked in the station hospital. I'd get up and take the bus up to—we were at Camp Whitside, which was the hospital part of the camp. There are seven camps at Fort Riley, and we had—there was segregation between the blacks and the whites, and we were not allowed in their area, and they weren't allowed in ours, which seems very strange today, doesn't it?

ASH: It does. But the hospital...

C. MORRIS: Was at Camp Whitside.

ASH: ...had its own separate spot?

C. MORRIS: That's right. The station hospital there was made out of pyramidal tents put together with a long boardwalk. It was a huge hospital, you know; one thousand beds. But it was a tent city.

ASH: And who were the patients?

C. MORRIS: Well, anyone that got sick. We had 300- to 500,000 soldiers at Fort Riley, Kansas, which is a city within itself. And there were accidents and everything that happens in an area that big. It was full all the time.

ASH: And there were nurses who came from the Forty-sixth, also, is that right?

C. MORRIS: Yes. This list, here, is broken down. The first section are the nurses, and the second section are the doctors, then the enlisted men. The first pages are the nurses. There were a hundred—I counted them. There were 118 nurses listed there, although the table of organization, as I recall, only called for a hundred. But very possibly some of those nurses were transferred out and others transferred in so there were not duplications.

ASH: So everyone who drilled with you here on the campus went to Fort Riley with you.

C. MORRIS: Yes.

ASH: But, then, there were other staff in the hospital there as well, or was it pretty much a hospital run by Portlanders?

C. MORRIS: No, we didn't—that's—I don't know how many. The doctors all worked in the station hospital, and, of course, the nurses did. I think it was possibly one hospital in training right after another hospital at Fort Riley, Kansas, although they had their regular personnel there, too.

ASH: What do you mean, a "hospital in training"?

C. MORRIS: Well, like we were a hospital in training there, to see how a general hospital performed and operated. And, then, we had people there to train us, their jobs, and they were permanent personnel with the station hospital at Fort Riley.

ASH: Now, Don Devlin gave me a list of lectures that the physicians—he had typed it—that the physicians, while they were at Fort Riley—lectures they had gone to, and, then, I understood that he came back and gave lectures on those subjects; tuberculosis, and all sorts of fairly exotic diseases as well. So I was a little unclear, and I thought I'd ask you.

C. MORRIS: Also lectures on diseases of—tropical diseases.

ASH: Yes. They came and gave them to all of you, is that what they did?

C. MORRIS: Yes.

ASH: So they went somewhere and they learned about this disease, and then they came back and they lectured to all...

C. MORRIS: Well, they were knowledgeable about it, yeah.

I. MORRIS: Well, as I understand it, there had been—they had no idea where they were going to go, but there was speculation that it would be to North Africa, so they kind of...

ASH: Got ready.

C. MORRIS: Oh yeah, you all train for the area you're going in to.

I. MORRIS: But it was never confirmed that that's where it would be.

C. MORRIS: But that's where they ended up.

I. MORRIS: That is where they ended up.

ASH: So you went to lectures on all these...

C. MORRIS: Yes.

I. MORRIS: Classes.

ASH: ...to get yourself ready to go.

C. MORRIS: Yes.

ASH: I see. So part of your day was in the dispensary, and you would go to academic lectures about medicine, and you were also in administration?

C. MORRIS: Yes.

ASH: Which is why you had an office near...

C. MORRIS: That's right.

ASH: And so what were your administrative duties?

C. MORRIS: Receiving disposition—while I was there, Don Devlin and myself and Alan McNaught worked for quite a while, possibly two weeks solid, on the special regulations of a hospital. Now, the Army has a set of general regulations for a hospital. The hospital must be run under the general regulations, which would be different than a civilian hospital. But, also, the hospital would have its own special regulations, which would be dictated by the department heads and Colonel Strohm, and this was a huge set of regulations. I guess it was about that thick. Don Devlin took all the dictation from the doctors and Colonel Strohm for the special regulations. Alan McNaught and myself published it, then. We reproduced it and bound them. So that kept us busy for a couple of weeks. I think it was a couple thousand pages.

ASH: These were regulations about...

C. MORRIS: Under which the hospital would operate.

ASH: Wherever it was?

C. MORRIS: Wherever it was.

ASH: And what kinds of regulations were they?

C. MORRIS: Well, telling you what to do under certain circumstances. Orders for the personnel of the hospital, how they were to react under certain circumstances; rules and regulations for the nurses and the doctors. Just special regulations. Colonel Strohm put one—every hospital had this right to write up their own special regulations in addition to the general regulations that the Army imposed on you. This hospital has special regulations...

I. MORRIS: Like rules of conduct, for one thing.

C. MORRIS: Rules of conduct, yes, and treatment, and so forth. How each office would be run. That's why—Captain Short was in charge of receiving and disposition, so he wrote up all the rules and regulations for his specific department.

ASH: Receiving and disposition of materials?

C. MORRIS: Patients.

ASH: Oh, of patients. I see.

C. MORRIS: Of course, the patient either goes back to the States or he goes to—after he's discharged from the hospital, or he's going to go for R and R or he's going back to duty or he's going back to limited duty or he's going to be reclassified from general service to limited service, or some nature like that. When you were discharged from the hospital, if you'd lost a leg, you'd probably be discharged from the Army and go home. But if you could regain full health, you'd go back to duty, and so forth.

ASH: That took two weeks for you to put together. What did you do the rest of the time, the rest of that year for your administrative duties?

C. MORRIS: Well, I actually worked within the station hospital in receiving and disposition, and mostly while I was there I worked in medical records, just like medical records. You'd work—it would be a full-time job for you. I'd get up at five o'clock and get myself up to the hospital.

I. MORRIS: But you also had regular, like, Army duties.

C. MORRIS: Right, we had our regular Army duties to do, too.

ASH: Now, all right. You mentioned that before, and I want to—thank you for bringing it up—I wanted to ask you what your regular—what do you mean by that? Is this where you get to march in uniform?

C. MORRIS: We had to drill, we had to get up and stand in formation for roll call, we had to stand in formation for reveille, we had to be at those meals on time...

I. MORRIS: Take exercises and that sort of thing.

C. MORRIS: Yeah. I was an instructor for the exercises for—oh, we rotated duties so that we all got a little taste of something.

I. MORRIS: Even KP.

C. MORRIS: Yeah, I even peeled potatoes.

ASH: When you say exercises, what kind of exercises?

C. MORRIS: Physical exercises. Knee bends and pushups and things like that.

ASH: Did people work out fairly heavily, then?

C. MORRIS: Yeah. As a matter of fact, it was very, very hot when we got back to Fort Riley, and a lot of our formations, where we'd line up for inspections and things like that, us Oregonians would pass out from the heat. They dropped like flies.

ASH: Were you wearing wool uniforms?

C. MORRIS: We were wearing wool uniforms, and also—during the day, we were allowed to wear fatigues. Unless I was working in the hospital, which I was required to dress in formal military uniform.

I. MORRIS: Kind of like (inaudible) dockers, you know.

ASH: The fatigues were cotton, at least?

C. MORRIS: Yes.

ASH: But you didn't have any cotton uniforms, like khakis?

C. MORRIS: Oh yes. That's what you call fatigues. Those are Army fatigues.

ASH: Oh, I see.

C. MORRIS: Those are your work clothes.

ASH: So you had sort of two outfits. You had these Army fatigues which were cool and comfortable, but then you had...

C. MORRIS: Well, they weren't really cool and comfortable (laughter).

ASH: But you had to wear the wool uniform when you were on duty?

C. MORRIS: Yeah.

ASH: In an unair-conditioned hospital?

C. MORRIS: Well, in the hot summertime, we did go to khakis. Yeah, we went to khakis, but usually it was regulated by date rather than by climate outside. They didn't get up and say, "Well, it's ninety today." It wasn't the right day to wear them. So there were cut-off dates for each uniform you were to wear.

ASH: I want to follow this up, but I better answer that page. [Tape stopped.] I need to get this on tape. I'm sorry we missed it.

So we were talking about what happened after you left the Forty-sixth and you were seeing the action, and I was asking—actually, what brought it up was, we were talking about you sit around and wait, and then it gets very active.

C. MORRIS: Yeah. We always followed the front line fairly close, we'll say within maybe two or three hours of the front line...

[End of Tape 1, Side 1/Begin Side 2]

C. MORRIS: ...and the Army such that every branch of duty has a number, like an infantry rifleman has a number, and we'll say that it was

3607, and they called down for 2,040 of this particular number, infantry rifleman. We would fill that number to the combat unit that called for it. We would receive the wounded back into the Ninety-seventh for disposition, then, back of the line; go home, hospitalization, whatever, R and R, whatever was required of that particular group. We also processed troops from the United States with their shots, and various things that they need processing. If they were short any equipment or anything, we made that up.

But we received the troops back as well as putting the troops forward, so we always had a huge amount of men. I figured we handled as many men in the Ninety-seventh Reinforcement Battalion as there are people in Portland, about that many in population.

ASH: And you didn't have any computers to keep track.

C. MORRIS: We had no—well, we had machine records then.

ASH: What do you mean by that?

I. MORRIS: The forerunner of computers.

C. MORRIS: The forerunner of computers. Like, we would give examinations—when I was at the University of Nebraska, for IQ testing we gave examinations that were machine-record graded. There were such large numbers that we had to have something better than manual, or we had an awful lot. They were where you filled in a square, a multiple listing, you fill in a square, and the machine graded it and would kick it out into right and wrong.

ASH: We still do that.

C. MORRIS: We still do that.

ASH: But how did you handle the incoming patients and patients leaving with...

C. MORRIS: We had methods of transportation back to hospitals. We would transfer back to general hospitals for treatment, or in some cases we took care of the people themselves. We started out with nine enlisted men and a doctor and a dentist. We grew to four doctors and four dentists and thirty-six enlisted men after a short time. However, that was not our table of organization, and we couldn't keep them. We only did that as an emergency thing. Then we were actually operating our own hospital. I made amputations myself, traumatic amputations.

I got sent out into a mine field once—this is kind of an interesting story. I went to mail call to pick up the mail, and I picked a letter up...

I. MORRIS: A telegram.

C. MORRIS: ...a telegram up...

I. MORRIS: A cable, actually.

C. MORRIS: Yeah...and I stuck it in my back pocket. When I got back to the dispensary, we'd been called out into a mine field, our medical group. So we went out into the mine field, and we got—all of us got through the mine field all right without getting blown up, but a whole regiment had been blown up—or a battalion, I think it was, had been blown up in that mine field. There was a river running through it. And there was only one doctor and nine enlisted men. And there were men suffering, and the doctor was giving us authority and permission to sever the wound, the leg or the arm or whatever needed to be done. (Inaudible) because he couldn't take care of all of them; there were too many. We had quite a pile of limbs before the day was over.

ASH: You were in a tent?

C. MORRIS: No, we were in a woods, in the open, with a river running through it. This is what the medics consisted of. We had kits, we all had medical kits.

ASH: And you gave them anesthesia.

C. MORRIS: Morphine, a quarter grain of morphine. And they just—if we didn't—when we ran out of morphine, they just had to suffer through it if they wanted to live. It was brutal. And we were afraid, after we got everyone treated that was going to live—we had quite a pile of dead. We built a raft and floated them out, and ourselves, on the raft through this little river. So I was several days getting back before I opened my telegram. I got back, opened the telegram, and it says: "Linda born on my twenty-first birthday."

I. MORRIS: That was our first daughter.

C. MORRIS: That was our first daughter.

ASH: What a time. So you spent days out there, then?

C. MORRIS: We spent three or four days.

ASH: Were you able to sleep at all?

C. MORRIS: No, no. We worked. Well, I suppose we got some rest, but it was very, very little. We were too busy. You couldn't sleep with someone crying for help. It was a mess.

I. MORRIS: And the reason he went on the raft was to avoid going through the mine—land mines.

C. MORRIS: Going back through the land mines. And it was—certainly, some of us would have been blown up, because carrying—we would have had to make multiple trips with stretchers, carrying them.

ASH: Well, how did you get everyone down the river? You couldn't go up the river on the raft, could you?

C. MORRIS: We went down the river. No, we went down the river. We floated out.

ASH: The raft was big enough for all the injured?

C. MORRIS: Well, I think we made several rafts. I forget some of the details.

ASH: Oh, you made the rafts?

C. MORRIS: Yeah, we made the rafts. Cut the trees down and made the rafts. Actually, we just—we worked like heck. It was a poor situation.

ASH: Were the people trained to make rafts? This was a...

C. MORRIS: No, you kind of improvised when it was necessary.

ASH: Did you have the supplies that you needed?

C. MORRIS: No. We didn't have enough medical supplies, either. We didn't really know what we were getting into when we left the dispensary. We should have had more help, but no one knew, until we got in there, what we were up against.

ASH: So you couldn't do the surgery in a sterile environment. What about sterilizing your instruments?

C. MORRIS: Well, I suppose we had alcohol and stuff like that, but not hospital or dispensary supplies, really. We had our medical kits, that we carried at all times, provided us.

ASH: Had you been trained for this?

C. MORRIS: No. We had medical—we had received training up to a degree, but not for amputations. Of course not. But a traumatic amputation would be a limb just maybe hanging by the skin or something like that. It wouldn't be—and, of course, if there's an explosion or something that blows the limb off, that limb doesn't bleed, usually, because it sears the vessels—the veins—the arteries are seared at the time.

ASH: So they weren't lying there bleeding to death when that was...

C. MORRIS: Some of them were.

ASH: Some of them were. With other injuries?

C. MORRIS: Head injuries and such.

ASH: And what battle was that?

C. MORRIS: Oh, I don't know as it was even classified as a battle. It was just a...

ASH: What country was it?

C. MORRIS: Holland.

ASH: You were in so many different countries, it sounds like.

I. MORRIS: And they didn't always even know where they were.

C. MORRIS: Actually, it was at Roermond. I often thought I would like to retrace my steps, make a trip back over there. I can't remember where we were. Sometimes we'd go in and clean a building up; we didn't know where we were at the time. We were going to be headquartered in there for a while. But tomorrow morning, they moved us up. That happened time after time. Twenty times, thirty times. So I couldn't—and I never really did know, half the time, where I was. In the countryside, you don't.

ASH: How did you get from one place to the next?

C. MORRIS: I either walked or rode on a—we had eight ambulances assigned to us, so we had transportation, but not always, we didn't have transportation. We went into Omaha beachhead, and I walked a hundred and some miles off the beachhead before I got a ride. I mean, I slept under trucks, and things like that, at night. Fun (laughs).

ASH: I'm going to turn this off. [Tape stopped.]

C. MORRIS: Well, the training you get in the medical corps is pretty light. They teach you how to take a person's temperature. Just basic things, you know. But, no, they—unless it's a surgical technician, one of the assistant surgeon things, they don't go any deeper into medical corps training.

ASH: How was what you were doing different from what the nurses were doing?

C. MORRIS: Not too much different, really. Of course, we had no nurses with us. All we had was enlisted men.

I. MORRIS: You mean—you're mixing the two organizations up. Are you speaking of the Forty-sixth?

C. MORRIS: I'm speaking of the Ninety-seventh Reinforcement Battalion. We did no work like that in the Forty-sixth General Hospital. We weren't allowed to. But a medical corpsman out in the field—see, they're not going to have—at that time they didn't have women out there treating the wounded on the spot and taking hot fire themselves.

ASH: I see. And so all nurses were women, so there weren't any nurses in the field then.

C. MORRIS: Right.

ASH: That had never occurred to me.

C. MORRIS: So, of course, it was the medical technician going out in the field, with very limited training. Training was good, prepared him for it, and he had to be of pretty stable mind and body to do it, too. I've seen lots and lots of them go into shock and just run off screaming.

ASH: What about that day when you entered that mine field? How big was your group, did you say?

C. MORRIS: Nine, and one doctor is ten. That's what we went in with. How big was the group that was wounded? I don't know what a battalion was, but the whole battalion was there.

ASH: Pretty big.

C. MORRIS: A couple hundred.

ASH: Well, what I wanted to ask you about, the ten of you, the ten of you treating all of these wounded, how were you reacting to that?

C. MORRIS: Terrible. But, you know, you steel yourself.

ASH: And everybody pretty much did that?

C. MORRIS: Yes. It's a period of time—one incident I'll never forget. You know, it makes an impression on your mind. You maybe don't remember the things you did, all the things you did, but it had an effect on you, sure.

ASH: It makes those days when you were training back here look like pretty happy days.

C. MORRIS: I'll tell you how bad it was. Several of us didn't eat for a couple of days after that. We couldn't take food. So it has an effect on you.

ASH: Did you have any counseling available?

C. MORRIS: No. We were the counselors (laughter).

ASH: So you were the ones that had to be the strength.

C. MORRIS: Right.

ASH: When you got the wounded back, where did you take them?

C. MORRIS: We took some of them into civilian hospitals in Roermond, and the bulk of them we took into a field hospital outside of Roermond. A field hospital is a smaller hospital. I think a field hospital is set up for about five hundred. I'm not sure. We took several of them into a field hospital; the bulk of them. If they'd let us use a civilian hospital, which was up to the individual hospital themselves, and then, on occasion, we did—if it was close and an emergency, we would use a civilian hospital. The hospital would not supply the nursing staff or the medical care for them. We had to supply the help.

ASH: And the supplies, probably.

C. MORRIS: Definitely. But that was okay, because they did not have supplies. They didn't know what penicillin was. They didn't—of course, penicillin and sulfa drugs were pioneered at that time. We kept special records on sulfa drugs and penicillin when it first came out and reported to the surgeon general's office the results of it. So actually, we were pioneering—I'm not too sure whether it was known or was used in civilian hospitals yet or not. I think we pioneered it altogether. Especially penicillin. Sulfa drugs I think was out in '42.

ASH: Did you have a good enough supply?

C. MORRIS: Yes. We made a couple of trips a week to the nearest supply depot and had a requisition made up. As near as I can remember, we drew—I suppose we did run short on some things, but we never really had any shortage. We got what we wanted.

ASH: Did you ever treat prisoners of war?

C. MORRIS: Yes. During the Belgian Bulge we had five- to ten thousand paratroopers dropped on us in our compound, and most of them were suffering from frostbite and malnutrition—these were Germans—and we treated all of them. I remember walking up the steps to our dispensary one morning. I had to wind my way through a whole—I don't know, it must have been hundreds of them on those stair steps that morning wanting

treatment in the dispensary, and we treated them, sure. We actually did surgery on—our doctor did surgery on several of them.

ASH: So you treated them like you would treat your own troops.

C. MORRIS: Exactly.

ASH: Oh, I know what I wanted to ask you was, had you had language training?

C. MORRIS: No.

ASH: So none of you really...

C. MORRIS: Yes, some of them. Some of them—oh, we had four or five who spoke German fluently.

ASH: Oh, I see.

C. MORRIS: I had the wrong language in college. I had Spanish (laughter).

ASH: Because they were college graduates, then, and some of them had training in German?

C. MORRIS: Well, one of them never came home. She asked me about him the other day. He loved Germany so much that he remained in Germany after the war, took it up as his homeland. I could never see that, but after what he saw—he saw the same thing we did, and he wanted to remain there. So the Army let him, some how or other.

ASH: Did you ever have time to pay attention to your surroundings?

C. MORRIS: Oh yes. We had two-day and three-day passes. I went to Paris any number of times.

I. MORRIS: That was the end of the war, though.

C. MORRIS: Actually, that was at the end of the war.

I. MORRIS: In fact, after the...

C. MORRIS: But during the war, yes, I remember one night I ended—I had a pass, I think it was just a one-day pass, to Brussels—or was it Liège? One of the two. Bumming rides coming home, coming back to our camp, he and I didn't speak the same language, and I asked him if he was going someplace, and he said yes. I got in, and he went the wrong direction, and I rode with him for a couple of hours, and finally I decided that we're not going right, and we got together and found out that he was speaking of a town that was similar to the town that I was speaking of, and I got out of the car. I sat in that little, bitty German town one night, and it wasn't fully taken by the U.S. government, by the troops yet, and all the lights went out, and people's heads poked out the window, and I was really, frankly, scared. And pretty soon I saw a Jeep coming down the road—that was maybe after an hour or so—and I could see that it was one of our Jeeps that was on patrol, and I got into that Jeep. I stood out in the middle of the road, and he had to run over me or let me in (laughter).

But that town didn't look good to me, and it was getting dark. Of course, we had quite a few towns like that where our troops had passed through and hadn't left any troops behind and had just pushed on ahead, and that's what that was. We had taken that town, but we left it intact. And, then, they didn't like that, either.

ASH: So when you were doing your R and R and you had your passes every once in a while, it sounds like it was a pretty tricky thing to...

C. MORRIS: Yeah, you were on your own. And I look at it today, how did I have enough nerve to do this. But that's what youth is. You'd never get me anywheres near that stuff anymore (laughter). Yeah, that's what youth is.

ASH: You partly saw it as an opportunity to see the sights?

C. MORRIS: Well, yeah, that's true. Europe's a very interesting place,

and I wanted to see as much of it as I could. I befriended a person in the entertainment corps; he'd go from camp to camp showing movies at night to our troops. I befriended him, and we'd go with him to where he was showing a movie that night, and while he was showing the movie, I'd examine the countryside around where he was. I found some old mills and things like that, where they ground the wheat with stone. It's interesting. You can educate yourself a little bit.

ASH: And that was a safer way to do it. At least you had transportation.

C. MORRIS: Right, yeah.

ASH: I think when I was on the phone you were prompting...

I. MORRIS: Oh, it's just a little side comment, but when they were stationed at Fort Riley, especially right after he went there...

C. MORRIS: First of all, we were a pretty well-known group at the time and had a lot of publicity about the Forty-sixth General Hospital...

I. MORRIS: And all the doctors and the nurses.

C. MORRIS: ...and it was talked about and written about and everything, and the merchants all felt that, you know, they should contribute something to us. So they would send us, like, shipments of fish, salmon and things like that for our Army mess to cook. And she came up there one time when we were having a big Oregon duck dinner, and the merchants here were always sending us...

ASH: All the way back to Fort Riley?

C. MORRIS: All the way back to Fort Riley.

I. MORRIS: It was a patriotic thing, showing their support.

C. MORRIS: Oh, and that's true. That was another one of my duties, was to—a lot of them wanted their names changed. Some of those born in the Tennessee hills didn't have any name but Bill, or something, and they wanted a last name too. Or they had some name that you couldn't pronounce. Once a week I'd go to court and have their names changed.

ASH: Really?

C. MORRIS: Uh-huh.

I. MORRIS: Right in the middle of the war.

C. MORRIS: I would have maybe a list of thirty or forty or fifty of them at a time that wanted their name changed.

ASH: Was it that sometimes their names sounded German, or something, and they didn't want to have a German-sounding name?

I. MORRIS: I don't think so.

C. MORRIS: No. They had some names that you wouldn't believe, and I couldn't believe what they wanted them changed to.

I. MORRIS: Some were worse, he thought.

C. MORRIS: They were worse (laughter).

ASH: So what else did your correspondence corps do, because you said the military—this was military correspondence, but you were at the University of Nebraska?

C. MORRIS: Right. And we had—this was called the Army Specialized Training Program—it was equivalent in nature to the Navy V-12 program—where we would accept anyone that had the IQ of 115 or over into the program, if he accepted the program and wanted to become a doctor, and with proper recommendations from his commanding officer. We would accept soldiers into the University of Nebraska, into their program.

ASH: Into their medical school?

C. MORRIS: Into their medical school, dental school, engineering program, and what we called Aryan training, Aryan language. And that was to help us—Aryan language was to help us when we were occupying a particular country afterwards, that they would know the surrounding area, they would speak the language, and they would know something about the country.

So we had, as I say, thirty thousand troops attached to us going to school at the University of Nebraska. Of course, they were all accelerated courses because of whom they were, and the Army wanted to use them. As a matter of fact, my two doctors, Dr. Willis Irvine and Dr. Harry Irvine...

I. MORRIS: Personal doctors after the service.

C. MORRIS: Personal doctors...received their training through the Navy V-12 program...

I. MORRIS: And they went someplace in California somewhere.

C. MORRIS: ...and they had to be assigned to the military, then, afterwards. That was a prerequisite of the training. But both of my doctors—these kids I was raised next door to. They grew up in my neighborhood.

But that's what we were doing, we were training doctors and dentists. And at other universities throughout the country—the University of Oregon, I think, was a part of it. Almost all the large schools in the country were a part of the Army Specialized Training Program. And if they were a master sergeant and of high rank, enlisted men, we would break them in grade to the grade of private when they entered the school, accepted their school, and then they would live on campus and they would have room and board, and everything, furnished and be working towards their degree. And, as I say, an accelerated course, because they wanted all these out of there in three years so they still could use it. But the program

broke up before it was—neared completion. We never graduated any students.

I. MORRIS: Some schools did.

C. MORRIS: No, we never graduated any students. It didn't go three years.

I. MORRIS: Oh, not even at other schools?

C. MORRIS: Huh-uh.

I. MORRIS: I thought...

C. MORRIS: And that's why I took that trainload of soldiers back to Arkansas, to a camp in Arkansas, because the program was breaking up. We were putting them back in the military, then, as privates again, even though they had had some rank.

I. MORRIS: I thought Willis and Harry Irvine got their degrees.

C. MORRIS: That was Navy V-12. That program was in effect about five or six years before the Army.

I. MORRIS: I see. But the Army program didn't...

C. MORRIS: Yeah. The Navy program worked, and the Army program didn't.

ASH: Well, if they wanted to stay for their final year of medical school or dental school, could they?

C. MORRIS: No. Now, when they got out, they could probably get their transcript transferred to a school in their state and continue.

ASH: And pay for it.

I. MORRIS: They had to pay for now.

C. MORRIS: Yeah. I don't doubt but what a great deal of the medical students did, and dental students. I would imagine that they did, because they were maybe one year from graduation, one year from being a doctor then.

ASH: When you were at the University of Nebraska, then, you were testing the incoming students. You were like a recruiter or a...

C. MORRIS: Um-hmm. I was giving them IQ tests, I was IQ testing. I'd have sometimes two thousand at a time. We'd put them in the auditorium. You know, the University of Nebraska is a big school. I don't know what the enrollment is there now, but it's a big campus.

I. MORRIS: Much larger now than it was then.

C. MORRIS: Yeah. We were back there two years ago. I visited the building where I was headquartered in, and it was—we occupied Love Memorial Library at the time, and it was just built. It was a million dollar library building, which doesn't sound like much now, but it was then, and it's a beautiful building, and we were the first to occupy it, and my office was in the Love Memorial Library. I thought I was in heaven.

ASH: Were there books there, too? Was it being used as a library...

C. MORRIS: No, no, no. We just occupied it as a building. But now there's books in it. It's about three times the size. They've added on to it, and I took Cindy into the office where I used to work, which was interesting.

ASH: What were the living conditions like at Fort Riley? Were they barracks or were they apartments?

C. MORRIS: They were barracks.

ASH: They were barracks.

C. MORRIS: Oh yeah. Fort Riley was one of the—it was the largest cavalry post in America, and there were a lot of barns, too, where they kept the horses. But it's a huge camp.

I. MORRIS: Was.

C. MORRIS: Was. It was stationed between Manhattan, where the Manhattan—Kansas State College is at Manhattan. It's a college town, and Junction City, which we used to call Junk Town, on the other side, and Fort Riley was compressed in between the two, a distance of some probably fifteen miles or better. It was way, way bigger than Fort Lewis was.

ASH: But you lived in the barracks right there...

C. MORRIS: Right, right.

ASH: So that it was handy for you.

C. MORRIS: We lived in the hospital at Whitside Camp. There was Republican Flats and Funsten. That's pretty good that I remember that, Whitside.

ASH: I'm about out of questions, but let me find my list.

C. MORRIS: I don't know whether this information is what you want.

ASH: Something that we're asking everyone who might remember is the effect of the [Great] Depression on your family and on your education.

C. MORRIS: Well, the Depression—see, I graduated from college in 1941. The Depression—we were hit very, very hard by the Depression. My dad lost his job.

I. MORRIS: At the beginning of the Depression.

C. MORRIS: At the beginning of the Depression. What money he had, of course...

[End of Tape 1, Side 2/ Begin Tape 2, Side 1]

ASH: This is Tape 2 of Joan Ash's interview with Mr. and Mrs. Morris.

C. MORRIS: The question, actually, Joan, was how did it affect my education?

ASH: Um-hmm.

C. MORRIS: I don't think it affected my education at all. As a matter of fact, I think maybe it enhanced it. I went to school during the Depression, had a very difficult time paying my tuition. As a matter of fact, my name was always up in the main hall of West Hall...

I. MORRIS: University of Portland.

C. MORRIS: University of Portland...that I was arrears in my tuition, but everybody else's name was there, too.

ASH: Were your parents paying for it?

C. MORRIS: Well, I was working in my dad's shop at the time and trying to earn my own way. I would get behind in my tuition, but I could go out and maybe collect from some of our customers. It was a tough go, but it was...

I. MORRIS: It was a family thing.

C. MORRIS: ...a family affair.

I. MORRIS: His family helped him.

C. MORRIS: And my dad said I had to graduate from college, that's all there was to it. He always had an inferior complex that—because he didn't have the education, and he became a businessman, and he felt that he had an inferiority complex. But he wasn't inferior at all. He was a great

man.

ASH: He started the business.

C. MORRIS: He started the business, and it's existed to this time. Right now, it is probably—since I've sold out, it's probably the largest scale business, independent scale business in America today. They built a new building out here this last year at Tualatin. They've got branches in Alaska; Washington, two in Washington; two in Oregon; and now they're going into Los Angeles. So I feel very happy that it's been such a success.

ASH: And he started it.

C. MORRIS: And he started it. My dad just [said], "You got to go to school, and you got to get out in four years, you can't go any longer than four years, and you can't quit, and you got to work." So that's the way it was. It worked out real well.

ASH: We talked about your recruitment. Your progression through the ranks. I didn't ask you about that.

C. MORRIS: Well, all the soldiers, whoever they are, are into a table of organization. Whatever organization they're in has a TO. That allots so many sergeants—so many first-class privates, so many sergeants, corporals, sergeants, staff sergeants, tech sergeants and master sergeants. Those are the grades, and every organization has that TO. In the Ninety-seventh Reinforcement...

I. MORRIS: No, go back to the Forty-sixth.

C. MORRIS: The Forty-sixth General Hospital? Colonel Strohm—normally, these ranks are just passed out among the enlisted men as the commanding officer sees fit to do it. Colonel Strohm didn't see fit to do it. Colonel Strohm gave an examination for a PFC. It was a written examination and an oral examination to see if you were qualified for PFC. Well, I think I got to be a PFC in the Forty-sixth General Hospital, maybe corporal. I'm not too sure. But in the Ninety-seventh Reinforcement

Battalion, I got to be a staff sergeant, which was the lead noncommissioned officer in the group, in the medical group that I was in. Of course, you see, the Ninety-seventh Reinforcement Battalion was not all medical. There were people that just handled the men, filling requisitions, rounding them up, and so forth. They were not administrative, really, they were men handlers. It was like going out to the parking lot and getting a car from a used car dealer and bringing it in, and that's what we were doing. And with the three-hundred-plus soldiers, we had a heck of a time keeping track of everybody and what they were trained for: artillery, infantry, or whatever.

ASH: Did you ever make mistakes?

C. MORRIS: Sure. Of course. I'd be the first to admit it. But I was a staff sergeant in that, and I had already applied, when I was in the Forty-sixth General Hospital, for Officer Candidate School, but when I got overseas, I applied for a direct commission, and I became—I was doing the duty of a warrant officer. A warrant officer has the same pay grade as a lieutenant and first lieutenant. There are two grades: junior warrant officer and senior warrant officer. I was doing that duty in what was called the depot, and that was consolidating all the medical detachments in the area on a reporting system and sending those reports to the surgeon general. So I applied for a direct commission, because that job was entitled to at least a warrant officer's job commission or—a warrant officer is a noncommissioned officer who is between—it's a strange creature. It's between enlisted men and officers. They wear an officer's uniform, they receive officers' pay and do officers' work, but they're noncommissioned. And I thought that would be maybe one of the easiest ways to get in. But I did receive a direct commission from the surgeon general's office as a second lieutenant.

I. MORRIS: An offer of one.

C. MORRIS: I received the commission. All I had to do was to go pick it up. I had to go to the surgeon general's office. I forget where it was located at the time. But the condition was that I would stay in the Army two more years, and I was ready to go home. I was waiting for assignment to go home. I was in a pool to go home.

ASH: This was 1945?

C. MORRIS: Early '45. I knew that I was going to get the commission maybe, oh, three or four months before I got it, but it was a pool that I was in, and I just had to wait till my name was drawn. But I refused the commission and came home instead, because I had a little daughter at home.

This Kraxberger, he went through—he got direct commission—field commissions is what you call them. He got up to the rank of colonel while he was in the service. That picture I showed you, you know? He was the superintendent of schools. Of course, you can't let a man be a private out in the line that's got that kind of a background. He went up through the ranks fast.

ASH: And what was his name, again?

C. MORRIS: Kraxberger, Walter Kraxberger. It's a pretty familiar name around this town. There's a lot of Kraxbergers. You couldn't mention that in Oregon City or...

I. MORRIS: Yeah, in Clackamas County...

C. MORRIS: ...West Linn and Clackamas County without...

I. MORRIS: After he came back from the war, then, he went back to—I don't know whether he taught any or he came back as a principal of a school and then went on from there, and he became so well known that...

C. MORRIS: They named a school after him.

I. MORRIS: ...in time, after he retired, they even named a school after him.

C. MORRIS: A very nice fellow.

ASH: I also wanted to ask you about your reunions. You said you had been to two reunions?

C. MORRIS: I've been to all of them.

ASH: Who organizes those?

C. MORRIS: Well, Alan McNaught and Calvin Smith, who are both dead. Alan McNaught was living in—was a friend of Don's in Bend, and he—I think Don had something to do with that, too. But Calvin Smith and Alan McNaught usually organized those.

ASH: And the last one was how long ago?

C. MORRIS: It was the fortieth reunion, so..

I. MORRIS: It was about '75.

C. MORRIS: Seventy-five, I guess, yeah.

I. MORRIS: I'm guessing, but I think that would be...

C. MORRIS: Actually, they're remiss in not putting that in here. I don't think they did.

ASH: So does that mean there won't be any...

C. MORRIS: No, this—the last one—the thirtieth reunion was July 15, 1972. So the other one was '62. Every ten years.

I. MORRIS: But, then, nobody's picked up the reins since '72.

C. MORRIS: It was '52 that we had it out at Frank Purpra's place, at the night club.

I. MORRIS: So there have been three, actually.

C. MORRIS: But I seem to remember going to four.

I. MORRIS: I don't think so.

ASH: And it's been a long time, then.

I. MORRIS: Yes, it has.

ASH: You haven't heard any rumors that they're doing it again?

I. MORRIS: No. You know, all these people are getting along in age. It's a lot of work.

C. MORRIS: There should have been one in '92, and how many of us are still alive. We all have to be up in our eighties now.

I. MORRIS: And the people who organized some of the others are not living.

C. MORRIS: See, Colonel Strohm died July 20, 1972. Let's see if I've got anything here that I'd like to say, that I can put on the tape.

ASH: How about other people you'd like to talk about that you remember especially well?

C. MORRIS: Let's see, Franz Albrecht.

I. MORRIS: Albrecht.

C. MORRIS: He owned Columbia Brick Company. He was a...

I. MORRIS: His family did.

C. MORRIS: ...good friend of mine. I kept in touch with him after the war for quite a while. We'd go to lunch together once in a while. Once, we drove out to Kraxberger's school in West Linn and had lunch in his cafeteria.

ASH: You met with him there?

C. MORRIS: Yeah, Franz Albrecht and myself. Who else? Well, most of us were pretty good friends because we were from Portland.

I. MORRIS: Well, Cal Smith, Calvin Smith. I think prior to enlisting in the Forty-sixth Cal was a detail man for pharmaceuticals. I suppose that's how he happened to hear about the Forty-sixth being organized.

ASH: And Marcel Empey you mentioned.

C. MORRIS: Marcel Empey, as I say, was an enlisted man. I think he was as surgical technician, and after the war he went back to medical school. I don't know whether he'd gone to medical school. I think he'd had some training before the war. I think he'd gone to medical school when he was drafted. But that doesn't ring right, either.

I. MORRIS: I don't know about that. All I know is...

C. MORRIS: But anyway, he went to medical school after he got out.

I. MORRIS: ...he got his degree after the war. Here. I would guess that he's probably retired, because of his age.

C. MORRIS: Well, it's about two years ago we saw him. We saw him at the Country Kitchen restaurant. We knew each other immediately.

I. MORRIS: He'd be another good one to...

C. MORRIS: He'd be real good. And he's a nice guy, too. He'd readily agree to it.

ASH: Do you have any questions for me? I don't want to leave anything out. If you have anything else in your notebook, there...

C. MORRIS: No, I think, actually, you've done a very good job.

I. MORRIS: Your questions are good.

ASH: Thank you.

C. MORRIS: That's why I wrote this out, so I wouldn't be at a loss, and you've just about got to everything.

ASH: Well, let me thank you, then.

C. MORRIS: Well, one other thing I might add is when we went—this is in the way of bragging a little bit.

ASH: That's all right.

C. MORRIS: Not for myself, but for the organization. When we went through Fort Lewis and we took our Stanford Binet IQ test and the mechanical aptitude test, we, as a group, had the highest grade ever to go through Fort Lewis to be tested.

ASH: The Forty-sixth General Hospital Group?

C. MORRIS: The Forty-sixth General Hospital. I don't know whether Don mentioned that or not.

ASH: No, he didn't.

C. MORRIS: I even remember Don's IQ.

ASH: Colonel Strohm must have done a really good job when he hand-picked you.

C. MORRIS: He hand-picked his people.

ASH: That's pretty amazing that he was that accurate in assessing everyone.

C. MORRIS: Yeah. He knew what he wanted, and he got it. I imagine it was a very successful hospital, but I can't attest to that, nor can Don, either, because Don just wasn't there.

ASH: But Marcel...

I. MORRIS: Empey, E-m-p-e-y.

ASH: He would be a good person to talk to, and, then, this Dr. Burns.

C. MORRIS: Oh, I'm going to leave this with you, all this stuff.

ASH: And I'll be sure to get it back to you.

C. MORRIS: I'll tell you what you can do, you can just give it to Cindy.

I. MORRIS: Yeah, that would be easier.

[End of Interview]

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