

WILLIE HALL: Some people don't believe they ever happened, you know, yet you could meet people on the street and say it never happened.

INTERVIEWER: And that's what we're going to talk to you about.

WILLIE HALL: I'm here to tell you it did happen.

INTERVIEWER: And that's what we want to talk to you about. I'm going to make it as comfortable for you as I possibly can. At any point that you want to stop, go back, if I'm not asking you something that you'd like to talk about, I want you to feel free to jump in. It's not that formal, we're just going to talk. We're going to talk a little bit about your family. I know you told me you grow up here. I want to talk to you a little bit about that, did you enlist or were you drafted?

WILLIE HALL: I drafted.

INTERVIEWER: OK. I want to talk to you about...are you Army?

WILLIE HALL: Army. I drafted when I was 19, the first group that was drafted from my hometown of 19 or 18-year-old males.

INTERVIEWER: Well, that's great. I want to talk to you about that. I know you were on the beaches of Normandy; we can talk a little bit about that. I want to hear about you said Nordhausen, right?

WILLIE HALL: Uh-huh.

INTERVIEWER: OK, I want to talk about that. What you saw, what you knew, what you had heard, all these things are real critical and I'd love for you to take...if you have trouble with dates, times, events, names, we can always talk later. I will be completely available to you by phone. At any point you want to call me and talk some more, offer more information, I want you to feel very comfortable to do that. When I get prepared to write it and put it together, I will call you back and we'll go over what I've written to make sure it's

presented exactly how you like it to be. OK. Before I leave, I'm going to have you sign a release which gives us a permission to do this.

WILLIE HALL: I think I have to do this.

INTERVIEWER: OK, that would be great. So let's talk a little bit about you said you were from here?

WILLIE HALL: Well, I was born over in **Overton County** about 100 miles east of Nashville and grow up there until the age of 19. Near *Dale Hollow* that's a big dam. Well anyway, I was drafted from Clay County. I went to a smaller county in the state in April 15th of 1943 and when **[unintelligible]** I started out to sworn in on the 9th of April and was called to active duty on the 15th and Franklin Roosevelt told my mother and dad and said, "Don't worry, all of you young boys has to be drafted will get 6 months training at home and then get **[unintelligible]** days training at home on **[unintelligible]**."

INTERVIEWER: Now, let me back you up for a second. You said you had 8 siblings...?

WILLIE HALL: Eight brothers.

INTERVIEWER: You have 8 brothers?

WILLIE HALL: Three sisters, but 8 brothers and there are 7 of us in the service during and after World War II.

INTERVIEWER: Wow. Amazing. That's incredible. Your mother had 7 sons in the military at war.

WILLIE HALL: That's right.

INTERVIEWER: And every one of you survived?

WILLIE HALL: Survived. I'm the only one that got injured...

INTERVIEWER: Now, that leaves a total of 12?

WILLIE HALL: Eleven.

INTERVIEWER: Oh, 11 all together 8 different boys.

WILLIE HALL: Yeah, girls [unintelligible]

INTERVIEWER: OK. I understand.

WILLIE HALL: And my...let's see. I left the Clay County in the 15th and Roosevelt says, "You'll never...you go get 15 days at home before you go in at work." Well, that was the 15th day of April.

INTERVIEWER: What year?

WILLIE HALL: The 15th of April '43. And the 20th day of August of '43, I was getting to the boat in Newport News in Virginia and they have an overnight pass with straight to Europe, went to [unintelligible] to Europe and I didn't get home for 2 and a half years. So don't believe everything that people tell you.

INTERVIEWER: That's good advice.

MALE: That's a long tour.

INTERVIEWER: That's a long tour. So you were overseas for 2 and a half years?

WILLIE HALL: I was overseas 2 years. But I have been in the service 2 and a half [unintelligible]. But I was in Europe 2 years.

INTERVIEWER: So that's a very long tour overseas.

WILLIE HALL: And we didn't know Saturday from Monday. We didn't even know when Sunday came because you didn't get [unintelligible] church every Sunday morning. I was in 8 countries starting in [unintelligible].

INTERVIEWER: When you were going overseas, did you know anything about what was happening in East Europe?

WILLIE HALL: Well, I'm following some, you know, of course we have...we knew what we were facing.

INTERVIEWER: What do you think you were facing?

WILLIE HALL: Facing to Hitler and all of his cohorts and we knew that it was a serious thing.

INTERVIEWER: What did you know that he was doing? What had you heard?

WILLIE HALL: Everything. He was very brutal. We knew that even at a young age of 18 and 19.

INTERVIEWER: Did you know that he was systemically killing Jews in camps?

WILLIE HALL: Oh yeah. Yes.

INTERVIEWER: You knew that before?

WILLIE HALL: I heard all of that.

INTERVIEWER: You heard?

WILLIE HALL: Yeah. But that's...I heard all [unintelligible] along and we see pictures on paper occasionally, you know. And we heard about Buchenwald. After I got a [unintelligible] in the human skins and offer their lampshades and one thing or another and I refuse to go to Buchenwald to view it after.

INTERVIEWER: OK. Tell me a little bit about what you were doing overseas, what was your job?

WILLIE HALL: I was in the [unintelligible] working with telephone, tele-tap cable and [unintelligible] wires and all kind of wires for communication.

INTERVIEWER: Was communication your MOS the whole time?

WILLIE HALL: Yes. The first 75 days we stayed in Normandy, in France near the beach, we put up...my unit put on 81,000 miles of wires and cables. Then we left Normandy and went to Cherbourg. And then we free Cherbourg and then...the battle of [unintelligible]. You've heard of that I'm sure. I believe it was 4300 [unintelligible] an airplane came over one morning and just [unintelligible]. When we got to [unintelligible] and that was in the spring of '43. And when we broke through St. [unintelligible] we just headed and fly into Paris and then just kept going and then we ended up in Belgium. We run out of supplies, our food, everything, mail. For weeks, we didn't have just...didn't have everything what you call it, we just run. Because Hitler took off and run when we got after him, probably broke loose. But that was [unintelligible] right now what we did when...to [unintelligible] without even taking twice, they paid all [unintelligible] and we [unintelligible] and we need white and black stripes where we can [unintelligible]. So [unintelligible] was very interesting, I think. But when they got too [unintelligible] while we were all together, they were [unintelligible] 300 took a part of that action, it was something else. But when we broke loose at [unintelligible]. So we had [unintelligible] we finally broke [unintelligible] and we just outrun everything. We're just very surprised we have what we have, what we got to do, we went straight across [unintelligible] on our way to Paris and without them [unintelligible] many scars in [unintelligible] everything was good. But we got to [unintelligible] everything because we had to have [unintelligible] supply catch up with us. And we spent part of the...Belgium [unintelligible] right on the German border seeking for time [unintelligible]. The line [unintelligible] around from Belgium, you now between Belgium and Germany and they have pretty much all over the place,

but when [unintelligible] finally when we went to Germany, I would go in Germany and then come back out and go in again and because I was in communications, when a troop travel they got to have communication [unintelligible] for that communication.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think your being a specialty...do you think that your communication, your specialty in communications was part of how you were privy to more information than other people?

WILLIE HALL: I thank God. I feel like so, yes because we're glad to keep abreast of what was happening much of what we do.

INTERVIEWER: No, the only reason why I say this is because a few of the liberators we've talked to had no idea. But they were doing communication, so I'm wondering...the fact that you were in communication had so much access to so much information.

WILLIE HALL: Well, most of my end of communication was the construction or the laying down of the telephone lines. You see, we had a machine that would...well to begin in Normandy, we took the telephone wires to come in let's say 1 mile roll and we take a splash, one spool to another, to another and later on we put them on a figure of 8 on their dock. Remember the army dock, so every time we have splats of water, it was splats, we hit the beach and keep rolling to [unintelligible]. So that was one of that is we have...but without communication you could never win a war because you don't know what's going on, but it was [unintelligible] of course I was a kid that didn't fear anything [unintelligible]. But an average kid, you take any person tell you they were scared in the war. I can [unintelligible] a little because [unintelligible] scared times. War is scary and [unintelligible] nobody won a war. Everybody loses at every war, you know.

INTERVIEWER: Tell me about the events leading up to the camp?

WILLIE HALL: Well, I went in [unintelligible] spent the biggest part in Belgium, our headquarters [unintelligible] we could spread out [unintelligible] go out with the first army, me to begin with. And we'd go out and do our communication work and then we'd come back here [unintelligible] to the headquarters, go back up, get orders and go to another direction wherever the [unintelligible] is the communication. And of course, I was in Germany in Aachen, if you've heard Aachen, Aix-la-Chapelle. And I was there the night the Belgium Bulge

broke through and that was a spooky time just the 17th day of December 1943 and we just bombed out German communication building because we use their equipment [unintelligible] and we got word that is...our friend is coming [unintelligible] and we are trying to watch our [unintelligible] I remember by [unintelligible] and we get upstairs and was with projector walls and about time we got up, here comes the German airplanes and we go back to basement, we don't know what was happening you see. And we took us all night to watch that film, but it was very interesting and [unintelligible] I guess you may remember that, but we watch it off and on, and then we got word that [unintelligible] German platoon come, [unintelligible] but they dropped them in Aachen and all around us, and we didn't know what was going on. You see that was the beginning of the Belgium Bulge and it was a terrible thing because [unintelligible] what you were doing, he run into somebody and you couldn't get past on guard and the folks are [unintelligible] he then ask you some question that you have to know [unintelligible] like who made [unintelligible] something like that, we have to go further. [unintelligible]. [unintelligible], but anyway that was a way to find out if we were really Americans or German soldiers in American uniform because they've [unintelligible], they can have a lot of our uniforms both [unintelligible]. So that's the way the Bulge started and it was a slaughter for a while. And you get 2 hours sleep [unintelligible] even though beginning to the [unintelligible], it didn't last from the sail date of December until...just after the Bulge really broke through in a big way, it started snowing, the fog come in, we couldn't use aircraft and then it started snowing. And we were just [unintelligible] more or less. We backtrack and there's [unintelligible] hey you go in that way and therefore to be going the other way. So, finally on Christmas Day, I believe, the sun broke out to the fog and the airplane began to come in a matter of [unintelligible] we have [unintelligible] for days at all, completely [unintelligible] Belgium Bulge. But it was a scary situation that Bulge. And then when we finally broke through and [unintelligible] we went on to the Rhine River and my brother was in the Army on the other side from Italy. He came in from the [unintelligible] and landed in south of France. So I have to...like you remember the [unintelligible] or [unintelligible] whatever they call them, but the bridge that cross Rhine a week after [unintelligible] they have a chance to blow it up. If you remember, General Hodges was our chief [unintelligible] after the war, he was the one that secured the bridge and took it over to keep it from [unintelligible] from the bridge is [unintelligible]. And we used it one way, to try to [unintelligible] and went to come by until they can build a [unintelligible] alongside that. And so that [unintelligible] lot of months off [unintelligible] having [unintelligible] because that bridge was [unintelligible] for General Hodges; he was my commander for the first army at that time. But General Hodges [unintelligible] along the [unintelligible] if you can remember the story by [unintelligible], we were [unintelligible] they are not trying to repair it, the German tried to knock it out and our brother came up and stood guard and just stayed under the bridge and he said he had never said the most [unintelligible] and he'd been to South Africa, North Africa and Italy and Sicily. But they tried everything they had to

[unintelligible] out and finally we had a bunch of men working on the bridge to repair them. We had just...it just collapsed on its own. [unintelligible] it took a week, it just failed...[unintelligible] and fell in the river. But something like that I'll never forget, but we're just fortunate that we got held that bridge.

INTERVIEWER: Tell me about when you got word to go into Nordhausen.

WILLIE HALL: Well, we got word about Buchenwald first, you know and then heard [unintelligible], but we got everything at Nordhausen and it was [unintelligible] he was saying [unintelligible] alive.

INTERVIEWER: Tell me about that. What was the first thing you remembered seeing him.

WILLIE HALL: The old [unintelligible] or the people. There's a big huge ball field like. We're just surrounded with the big buildings and they were just bombed out and everything. But they were full of straw, all just on the dirt, I mean thousands people in them and they were naked most of them. They got a few on some of my line [unintelligible]. I've got the pictures here if you want to see them, but the terrible stink that could ever be and the smell and I walk all through the warehouses, [unintelligible] peopled died worse than the livestock with just nothing to sleep on just bunch of straw or anything you can find in there and [unintelligible] one of the prisoners told us that they fed them potatoes and soup as long as they could produce anything, they're working. They got so thin that they started giving a little soup until they die and they just die by the thousands. And when I got there, there was over 5,000 that they took prisoners of war and [unintelligible] and they had to go in and pick [unintelligible] bodies out. And they took bulldozers and burned the body at one place where the bulldozers buried the body, thousands. Here's another one where they just talk about all the [unintelligible] without digging. Now, [unintelligible] was dead. I mean what story right here would you believe unless if you don't see it. But here what happened, they told us...the few people that [unintelligible] they're told we'll do anything that you want us do to officiate over the camp when you were there except when [unintelligible] nobody arm could beat them up or [unintelligible]. They make them get out on hands and knees and crawl over the bodies from one end to another, to see [unintelligible] crawling all over the bodies. That's the German officials.

INTERVIEWER: Back up for a second, I want to understand this. The Nazis had said that they would do anything?

WILLIE HALL: No. We told our prisoners, [unintelligible] well most of the people [unintelligible] we told them that we'll do everything you want them to do as long...we can't do no body hard and we make them on their hands and knees to [unintelligible] and make them crawl. You can see some of the old sheds where...they died back in there by the thousands and it was worse and [unintelligible] anybody ever treated. And you could just [unintelligible] the stink and I got all [unintelligible] that I had the time to close them. I couldn't swallow anything. The worse I've ever had to do in my life in Normandy was there was dead body everywhere. [unintelligible] animals and humans. And I was sitting on a stump trying to eat something, I think it was [unintelligible] pack, a can of cheese with bacon and you could imagine how [unintelligible] with. [unintelligible] the German bothers and [unintelligible] just run over them just repeatedly and you could talk about [unintelligible] in no way you could swallow any food like that. And it's something there.

INTERVIEWER: What happened after?

WILLIE HALL: This is the snow [unintelligible] where the Battle of Bulge after the...

INTERVIEWER: I want to still hear about Nordhausen. You had...the German officials had said...

WILLIE HALL: The German officials just...when they were liberated, what was that, you know with the Jews, Jewish people that when they got out, the people [unintelligible] were leaving, they told us about to get potatoes and soup and then they could work and got a little bit of potato water until they die. And he said that we [unintelligible], the army did the first [unintelligible] all the camp, do anything you want them to do.

INTERVIEWER: But we can't kill them.

WILLIE HALL: We can't do any bodily harm and beat them up, but we make them do anything the Jews suggest or they suggested that they crawl all over the dead people. And I mean you can see them hand and knees and you wouldn't believe it if you hadn't been there.

INTERVIEWER: So you saw them crawling over the dead bodies?

WILLIE HALL: They had to do it because they told [unintelligible] and they were [unintelligible]...

INTERVIEWER: How did you feel about that?

WILLIE HALL: Terrible. It's hard to express your feelings in a sight like that. [unintelligible] I guess you build a little bit of [unintelligible] to it, but you don't get...you see people die. And I believe that there are over 5 or 7000 there in that one camp and they just died in those sheds with just straw and filth and everything. [unintelligible] would live, but it was terrible. But by [unintelligible] I would never go to any camps, but we stayed for quite a while.

INTERVIEWER: How long is quite a while, do you remember?

WILLIE HALL: Well, no, but I just really...

INTERVIEWER: I mean a couple of hours or days?

WILLIE HALL: A couple of days I believe. I'll always have one day all day [unintelligible]...I think...

INTERVIEWER: How were the Nazis and German officials when you got there?

WILLIE HALL: Oh they were all...

INTERVIEWER: Did you have to apprehend them or shoot them or anything like that?

WILLIE HALL: No.

INTERVIEWER: They had surrendered when you got there?

WILLIE HALL: They surrendered. Well, I could capture several thousand if I want to, it's the end of the war, you know like I'm out of woods there were a bunch of them. But they were very overwhelmed.

INTERVIEWER: At some camps, the guards had to be shut down, so you didn't have that?

WILLIE HALL: No.

INTERVIEWER: You came in and they were surrounded...

WILLIE HALL: But sometimes, you know, a lot of things happened in the war. Sometimes you don't want to tackle it for 20 years or 30 years, I wouldn't even think about it. They treat me right now for nightmares that I've had. The VA's got some papers this week. I mean you don't forget something like that. So it's very...

INTERVIEWER: Can you remember talking to some of the inmates?

WILLIE HALL: Yeah. That's one [unintelligible] I talk to a few one or two that got out alive because [unintelligible], but they just...

INTERVIEWER: Do you remember talking...I mean talking to them about what was going on other than the food, do you remember? How were you able to communicate with them?

WILLIE HALL: I don't recall. It's been a long time.

INTERVIEWER: And if they spoke a little English or there was an interpreter or anything like that?

WILLIE HALL: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Were they able to tell you other than the food, were they able to tell you what was going on and what they've been through?

WILLIE HALL: Not that I recall because you see my mind was on the dead bodies above anything else. And you see just nothing with skin and bone on most of them and little babies.

INTERVIEWER: Is there anything you remember the most?

WILLIE HALL: I guess the one thing that I remember the most, although you've seen the pictures of little babies laying there. [unintelligible] for babies just dying for no reason at all, just because they were [unintelligible]. But Hitler was ruthless. There was no question it, but he was crazy. I'm thinking about it, I remember one [unintelligible] on the Bulge, a little town called Trois-Ponts in Belgium, which means 3 bridges, you see deux ponts means 2 bridges. [unintelligible] where we get the word pont from deux ponts. Well, there's stuff [unintelligible] they tell me doing the [unintelligible] at the height of it, those Germans [unintelligible] they're just crazy, they just shoot everything in the side. They kill men, women and children and everything and I look [unintelligible] just wipe it out, and I have to [unintelligible] that metals over. And they had come in [unintelligible] German prisoners and dig the bodies out of stone [unintelligible] and just stuck them up on truck to hold up just like [unintelligible] and babies, children, old ladies and [unintelligible]. Because they thought the [unintelligible] the German soldier was on some kind of medication or dope or something to act like them because that was [unintelligible] and just terrible. But I don't recall [unintelligible] coming at Trois-Ponts Belgium and then the whole amount just truckload.

INTERVIEWER: Do you recall talking to the other soldiers about what you'd seen?

WILLIE HALL: Oh yes, we've talked about that. I've got a friend in [unintelligible] we talked very often about it. [unintelligible] one of my army brothers, one of the few that have left. And we communicate once a couple of months.

INTERVIEWER: We have gentleman that we interviewed who is a liberator and he said that when he saw the bodies he found it hard to believe there was a God in heaven. Do you understand that kind of feeling?

WILLIE HALL: Yes because after all, you know God left the devil to punish Job [unintelligible].

INTERVIEWER: Right.

WILLIE HALL: And you see the enemy has just as much power as God will give them. You see Job didn't have any power except God give him so much power. Same way there, I believe. And Hitler, he thought he was going all [unintelligible]. He thought he was going to conquer the world because he was the greatest ever been. But I tell you what, like I say nobody won the war, we all lost and if you believe or one of you asked [unintelligible] mamas have murdered boys over there, they didn't want the war, so everybody lose in the war.

INTERVIEWER: You left Nordhausen, I'm sorry, you wouldn't go to Buchenwald?

WILLIE HALL: No.

INTERVIEWER: You left Nordhausen where did you go from there?

WILLIE HALL: I went back to my camp at Germany and then keep on with the [unintelligible] work of telling the war. You see, I haven't had even time off at all during World War II and not even [unintelligible] all through the war in Europe. So they sent me, flew me down to French Riviera for 8 days.

INTERVIEWER: Wow.

WILLIE HALL: [unintelligible].

INTERVIEWER: What did you do?

WILLIE HALL: Everything we wanted to do. You're on your own. Come to the hotel and eat some meals and just go...it was R&R, you know. And it was a lot [unintelligible] only all meat, [unintelligible] and Monte Carlo on the hill and then cars.

INTERVIEWER: You did gambling in Monte Carlo?

WILLIE HALL: Huh?

INTERVIEWER: You do a little gambling?

WILLIE HALL: No. I didn't. I was happy just to be there. And Cannes. [unintelligible] Cannes, I was there for a day or two. And I stayed at one big hotel there in Nice and some American [unintelligible] built it in the '20s for \$25 million these are [unintelligible] hotel, and for [unintelligible] and we took that whole hotel and [unintelligible], and in one [unintelligible] like I say [unintelligible]. So we enjoyed and then we go out to the country [unintelligible] in the daytime on tour buses it's like the war in the next week [unintelligible] and they serve us meals [unintelligible] hotels out in the mountains of Southern France. They had leek beans, they call them Riviera beans. I don't know if [unintelligible] they serve those twice a day, [unintelligible] Riviera bean. But some things just stick with you and of course...I forgot 5% of what I knew. But it was [unintelligible], but I was like I got back all right.

INTERVIEWER: You got, right? You came back to Tennessee?

WILLIE HALL: I come back to Tennessee and [unintelligible] got mad and [unintelligible]. So I met with [unintelligible] and come to...I met my wife...

INTERVIEWER: You said you didn't talk about it for 30 years?

WILLIE HALL: I couldn't. I couldn't even think about it much. I tell you I have chills thinking about it. I wake up my wife [unintelligible] what's wrong, I'll be in the battle, I mean it just come to you. And you take this rather [unintelligible] that no way you're getting out and if I believe...if you don't get out and wake up you're not...but that's just part of not [unintelligible]. You see I was in 5 major battles.

INTERVIEWER: Do you still think about those inmates?

WILLIE HALL: Oh yes.

INTERVIEWER: When you think about them, what do you remember the most?

WILLIE HALL: What I remember more than anyone thing is the terrible physical condition they were in before they died and the suffering they did for them. They feel the months and months before they died and [unintelligible] and be transported in the [unintelligible] and just abused beyond imagination almost.

INTERVIEWER: There are people right now who write books and do lectures that it never happened?

WILLIE HALL: That's right. Well, you tell them [unintelligible] and I tell them, I have lived a big life of 50 years. I believe it did.

INTERVIEWER: When people try to understand, when we educate high school and college students about what happened and it's so hard to understand what do we say, how do we explain it?

WILLIE HALL: You see, one generation...we'll wait just one generation where we won't even remember it anymore. And we got to keep reminding over and over.

INTERVIEWER: Why should we remind them?

WILLIE HALL: So it won't be repeated. That you just tell that nobody won a war. I'd like to meet the people that said they did. You went [unintelligible] but you don't win wars, and therefore if you're going that way then you're going this way too because [unintelligible] it advances sometimes. It's different when you retreat. You know it does something to you. It makes you think when you don't know where you're going to be in the hour or who you're facing in the next hour. So many bad things happen during the war too and every war bad things happen. But I'm thankful that I got back and settle in and like I say I can't talk about it now because, I guess my years are shorter than it used to be and I can at least talk about it. And I'm glad that I live to tell about it.

INTERVIEWER: Can I ask you a question about the signal corps?

WILLIE HALL: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Is the responsibility of the signal corps to come in right behind the infantry?

WILLIE HALL: In some places, you got to go further because you got communications out there. They got [unintelligible] when they get there.

INTERVIEWER: Is that where you were at [unintelligible] before the [unintelligible]?

WILLIE HALL: Yeah. So we have machines that...we had machines on a truck that would blow this kind of wire, blow it out of the machine, blow it over in the fields, they just, you know we can tunnel a telephone to it and we tunnel telephones on trees, damps or anywhere. And it was one of my duties to prepare the line out and then make sure tested back to where I was started to make sure it was going all the way by. The first in Normandy, I had to make sure [unintelligible] my battalion, I had a whole history book and a friend of mine gave to one of my brothers, [unintelligible]. One of the battalion history [unintelligible]. I mean we're saying [unintelligible] and I'm going to give it to you and I [unintelligible]. Anyway, but [unintelligible]

INTERVIEWER: Were you pinned down in [unintelligible] until after the Bulge?

WILLIE HALL: Yes. I was on the beach for quite a while and [unintelligible], when we did [unintelligible] when they broke through. But we did...you see the air force came over from England which is just across the channel, you know, and they just blew off the roof at [unintelligible] so to speak. So then it went nothing but just rubble. And then we made a breakthrough to Paris and because [unintelligible] we live without any battles at all. And then we went through straight through to across France and then Belgium. And then of course we have to stop at Belgium because [unintelligible] right on the German border they don't [unintelligible]. And that line didn't mean much they thought it was.

INTERVIEWER: No. I just think that's an extraordinary picture, I've never seen that before.

WILLIE HALL: My company clerk, you know every company had a clerk, and he did those photograph on me.

INTERVIEWER: Ever seen that photo before?

WILLIE HALL: [unintelligible].

INTERVIEWER: Say that again. Oh, the name of the clerk?

WILLIE HALL: The clerk [unintelligible]. His father owns the funeral home in Chicago. You know he's Jewish too, so he's really [unintelligible].

INTERVIEWER: Do you think that your experience over there change the way that you view people when you came back?

WILLIE HALL: I guess it did.

INTERVIEWER: Not being a lot of Jewish folks in Old Hickory.

WILLIE HALL: No.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think that it changed the way you looked at minorities and people that were different?

WILLIE HALL: It possibly did, but you know I've tried to be fair all the time because [unintelligible]. But I tell you what...

INTERVIEWER: How do you cope with the memories?

WILLIE HALL: Sometimes it's your own [unintelligible]. She can't live with [unintelligible] and like I say it comes through the night sleeping. Sometimes I don't go to sleep to 2 o'clock in the morning and I have to get away from it. And they treat me right now with Paxil if you know that drug, it's the kind...and Remeron and to kind of keep this going down.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think it's gotten worse as you gotten older?

WILLIE HALL: Oh yes. But Remeron, it just [unintelligible] me. I couldn't use this all now. I saw one doctor before yesterday and I'm on Paxil and it seems to me they're doing a pretty good job, but still at 2 o'clock in the morning [unintelligible] I'm walking in the floor, my wife said I yell at...when you get to play for the [unintelligible] you got to make a noise something that you're going to get something. So like if you're about to fall off a building if you didn't wake up before you hit the ground you will die and that's the way I feel about these nightmare sometimes. But they're more frequent than they used to be and I guess it will be as I go older.

INTERVIEWER: Is there anything you'd like to add that we haven't talked about?

WILLIE HALL: Well, I don't know I could talk for days.

INTERVIEWER: And you have my phone number so I can listen for 4 days.