

Video Recording Log
Veteran O.B. Streeper

1. Name and address of collector of interviewer.

Name of Donor/Interviewer: H.F. Williamson
Address: 300 N. Goodwin
City: Urbana
State: Illinois
Zip: 61801
Telephone: 217-353-7300
Email: billw@illinois.edu
Partner organization affiliation (if any): WILL AM-FM-TV

2. Name and birth date of the veteran or civilian being interviewed as it appears on the Biographical Data Form:

Name of Veteran/Civilian: O.B. Streeper
Birth Date: 08/07/1923

3. Recording format

VIDEO type: Mini DVD

4. Estimated length of recording (in minutes): 60 minutes **Date of recording:** 04/03/2008

5. Location of recording: WILL AM-FM-TV, 300 N. Goodwin Ave, Urbana, IL 61801

6. Please log the topics discussed in the interview in sequence.

00:00 Introduction
00:30 Beginning of war—working as machinist—Draft—lied about occupation—in Rangers, transferred to air crew in Florida
01:15 Push for Air Force to go destroy Europe, 1943
01:30 Sent to armament school—gunner school for B-24s—flew in ball turret with 250 caliber machine guns—hearing loss as a result of guns
02:00 Crew formed in Mountain Home, ID—went to Fresno, CA—phase 2, 3
02:15 Went to Africa, then Italy—Rome had just fallen
02:30 Practice in Africa—crew had its own airplane—named it Miss Carriage
03:30 Living different life—1st mission to Yugoslavia—dropping 20-lb frags—40 clusters, 6 bombs per cluster—lost 2 B-24's, 20 men on 1st mission, a milk run
04:15 Losing men, replacements
04:25 On base between missions—6 enlisted men per tent—social clubs—didn't want to know other crews because they won't be there tomorrow
05:45 Briefings on target—line of flack—fighter attack—cover by air fighters—P-47s, P-38s—P-51s practically non-existent

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- 06:40 Might see 10-50 planes in sky—if you stayed in tight formation fighters wouldn't bother you because too many 50-caliber guns—if you started smoking they'd come after you
- 07:25 Never knew who shot down what aircraft
- 07:40 Hit target—go in from 1900 to 2100 feet—nose gunner would yell “bomb bay doors open”—bombardier opens doors—bombed following lead airplane's sites
- 08:45 Flack—on target meant a lot of flak—fighters
- 11:05 Missions—fly 2 days, off 1—sometimes off because of weather—primary and secondary targets—target of opportunity
- 11:50 25 missions for one tour—life expectancy was 16 missions—rare to get anyone out of airplane that was shot down
- 12:30 Shot down on 23rd mission
- 12:50 Bombing near Nice, France—Ju-88 Air Drone—expected to be easy mission—nose gunner saw flack—started getting hit—fire on wing
- 13:30 # 4 engine caught fire—tip of wing blew off—75-gallon fuel tank spewing gas—lost tail
- 14:05 Plane got to land—got 10 men out, which was rare—hit in hip and side of leg
- 15:30 Caught updraft, dropped on other side of mountain away from Germans—morphine, bandages, piece of steel in hip
- 16:30 45 automatic—first aid kit—escape kit—knife—jacket—cut nylon off of parachute
- 17:15 La Tasca, France, a little village—going to give himself up—older French woman and child pushed him into bushes to hide him from German convoy
- 18:10 La Tasca—Pommier—underground agent—tried to speak English to him, but he was very spooked
- 18:37 Moved to La Masque—Pologne—underground—Marquis—splinter groups
- 19:00 Cut flack out of hip with no anesthetic—sutured with dirty fishing string
- 19:30 Motorcycle with machine gun—Edward, Frenchman had stolen German motorcycle—took him for a ride to hide him—certain French people you couldn't trust
- 20:10 Rest of crew—one POW immediately—another 2 days after landed
- 20:50 Left French group—Germans raided place—would have killed him because no dog tags
- 21:37 Edward—knit organization—blew up bridges—did a bridge with Harold Steel
- 23:05 Bridge blown when his pack was on the other side—Germans got it—had billfolds, watches, souvenirs from German Army, and his camera
- 24:00 Joined with Pommier—several places he would hide—families risked their lives to help
- 24:48 Courier—he would be told to follow an alpine bag—some were very young people, very young girls
- 26:00 Wore gray knickerbockers, hobnail boots, wool shirts, sports coat—signs to communicate
- 26:52 Radio contact—getting radio from Algiers—string wires into trees
- 27:15 French tried to hand him off to submarine in bay—hid him under fishing nets in a boat
- 28:10 Missing in action—family knew nothing
- 28:45 Stayed in little stone house—mile away from town—safe place—if there was laundry hanging in window, supposed to get away and hide
- 29:23 Got on train—supposed to be Swiss—had T.B.
- 30:50 Other missions—sniping cars, blowing things up

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- 31:40 If French girl caught fraternizing with Germans—head shaved, beat up, sometimes shot
- 32:20 Pomier brought someone to see him—supposed to get him out—they found out he was a German collaborator, paid to get him—when he came to get him, Streeper shot him in the face
- 34:00 Invaded N. France, S. France—went down and came out around (indiscernible, sounds like “Pugitenne”)
- 34:14 Taken prisoner by Americans—challenged him—asked him baseball questions
- 35:30 Jumped in jeep—thought they were going to shoot him—ATC
- 35:50 Flight to Italy
- 36:05 Arrived in Naples, went to Red Cross to send telegram to wife—no money, argument, scene—nurse paid for telegram—wife got it on her birthday
- 38:30 30 days later government notified his family he returned to active duty
- 38:45 Long interrogation with Air Force regarding time in France, photographs
- 39:00 Nurse took him to stay at hotel—next day sent to Barry, Italy—interrogated about a week
- 40:00 Troop transport U.S.S. James Parker—interrogated again
- 40:43 Camp Shanks, NY—wanted to see Hackensack, NJ
- 41:45 After Vietnam—one son did 2 tours with 133rd CB Battalion—had rocks thrown at him when he got back—GIs treated like dogs
- 42:00 Came home—flight engineer on modified B-25 for General—Sioux City, IA, Wichita, KS
- 42:40 Couldn't go back to Europe—couldn't go to South Pacific—classed as a spy, would be shot if captured
- 43:15 Marquis—friend sold off for loaf of bread—POW for couple of years—death march
- 44:15 4 prisoners or war—some laid back and protected by local people
- 44:50 Crew's story—any time shot down, hot good
- 45:45 [Describing decorations] Order of Caterpillar—Silver Boot Air Force Escapee/Evade organization
- 47:30 One man on crew was 31 years old
- 48:05 Brother with Patton in N. Africa, France, sent home in body cast—other brother flew L4's for 110th Field Artillery—tough time in it
- 48:50 Bomb group—55 crews—1 person got through all missions—he was shot down on last mission, blown out of plane, POW
- 49:25 Targets—Austria, Italy, Hungary
- 50:25 Friend shot down in Czechoslovakia—went back later to find out what happened to nose gunner—had fallen into building—picture of it hanging in local bar
- 52:15 Veterans reminiscing at conventions and reunions
- 52:45 Mission compared to those in Britain—B-24's used in Italy, B-17's used in Britain
- 53:35 Rivalry between B-24's and B-17's—“Two B's”
- 54:15 Wings break off of B-24's when they got hit—when lose engines, go in flat spin and pin crew on floor—B-24's known as “Wallerbees”
- 55:15 “Dogfaces” suffered tremendously
- 55:45 American flag, patriotism

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56:30 Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan—troops need encouragement and respect
57:20 Anglo, Salerno, D-Day—losses—won't condemn or support
58:40 [Wrap-up]
58:55 Fun