

Henry E. Freedman

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Abstract

Henry (Hank) Edward Freedman was born on September 20, 1921 in Boston as Henry Edward Miller. At age eight, his mother died and his grandparents adopted him as his father was ill so his name changed to Freedman. He learned Yiddish from hearing his grandparents speak Yiddish which came in handy when he served in Germany. He sold newspapers after school. His grandparents brought him up in a religious Jewish home but he converted to Christianity as an adult. Henry graduated Dorchester High School for Boys in '38 where he had been on the track team in his senior year. He worked in Brookline, Massachusetts at two drug stores and when he was 16, he got a Driver's License to make deliveries. He spent two years at Franklin Institute studying pharmacy and quit to drive a truck as he would make more money than a Registered Pharmacist. The only anti-Semitism that he experienced was on Friday night when the Jewish teenagers were taunted by the Catholic teenagers until the police stopped them. In October '42 he was drafted and reported to Ft. Devens (?) in Western Massachusetts. Henry was shipped by train to Camp Landing (?) in North Central Florida near Sark (?). He was placed with the 77th Infantry Division, K Company, Riflery. In March '43 he underwent maneuvers in Tennessee and then took a train to Tuscaloosa, Alabama to attend the Army Specialized Training Program for 18 months to become an engineer. While on pass, Henry met Frank Garson, who manufactured lingerie and said to see him when the war was over. In October he was sent to New Jersey and soon took the SS Aquitania, (?) to Glasgow, Scotland. His division was loaded on trains to England where he bought a little book which became his diary. Then he went by truck with the 90th Division to be responsible for a 24-mile area in the Ardennes in Belgium and Luxembourg. Henry's company was in charge of communications with intelligence and reconnaissance. On the third day of the Battle of the Bulge, they ran out of ammunition and supplies. Their CO surrendered to the Germans and they became POWs. The 30 of them marched 45 miles without food and gathered an additional 1,000 POWs along the way. They were locked in 40 by 8 boxcars for three days. On Christmas Eve they arrived in the Limburg freight yard where there was bombing and they saw Americans lying dead on the ground. Then they were taken to Stalig 9B, Bad Org (?) where all the Jews were placed in one barrack. They had little food – just a cup of soup, tea and a slice of bread in the afternoon. The food varied as they may get extra margarine if a visit from the Red Cross was expected and the Red Cross may give them a package which had to be shared. The POWs were not permitted to work and only had some books with missing pages and a few board games. Every day they discussed what food they would eat, what

restaurant they would go to and what activities they would do in the future and Henry wrote it in his diary along with his battle experiences. He still has the diary and it is still a viable part of his life as it helps him keep going. He feels blessed that he can share it with people. On January 25th he left Bad Org and arrived January 26th at 9A, Ziegenheim (?) while others were sent to Berger which was a Slave Labor Camp. In March his barracks felt they would soon be liberated and refused to follow the Germans. On March 30th, he was liberated by the 6th Armored Division, the first of Patton's units. Henry took a case of food and ate it and got sick. Some Russians were warned they would be shot if they left the camp and left and were shot. Henry was flown to Le Havre on April 9 and was hospitalized in Rouen, France. He stayed in bed for three weeks and then went to the 179th hospital in Paris for a week. He returned home May 9th and got 60 days R&R (Rest and Recreation) in Grove Park Inn in North Carolina. At the end of July, he was assigned to Ft. Meade, Maryland and was discharged November 24th and returned to Boston. In 1946 Henry decided to visit Frank Garson who he met earlier in Georgia who said that Henry belongs in retail merchandising. Mr. Garson called a friend in the Davison Pakson Company who sent him to Judd Draper, the Electronics Buyer, who hired him. Henry sold electronic appliances and met his wife there, Elizabeth (Betty) Sarton. After two years, he took the position as Assistant Buyer for appliances and electronics. A year later in 1953, Rich's, a larger department store hired him as Assistant Buyer. After six months, he became the Buyer. Three years and six months later, he was called in to handle the entire division. It was 1955 and their first son was born and Betty stopped working. They moved into their own house. Three years later, their second son was born. Henry served on the Advisory Boards for Electronic Manufacturers for Zenith and RCA and got to travel the Far East. He never returned to Europe as had no desire to return there. Since he retired, he tells his story to students showing his diary and brings along the American flag to teach them to respect it. He has volunteered in a medical center where he would take patients from the parking lot to the front door in a courtesy cart. This would make him shiver in cold weather as he has poor circulation due to his POW experience so now he sits at the Information Desk. He is happy with his family that includes grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Henry recites a poem he wrote after he saw the World War II Memorial. He shows photos of himself when he first entered the Army and shows the cover of his diary. Finally, Henry explains each of his medals and ribbons on his hat and vest.

Summary

00:00 Henry (Hank) E. Freedman states that he feels privileged and blessed for being invited for this interview. He was born September 20, 1921 in Boston as Henry Edward Miller. At age eight, his mother died when she was only 32 years old. He was the oldest of three children. His sister was four years younger and his brother was six years younger. His dad served in World War I in trenches and was gassed. His maternal grandparents,

particularly his grandmother, were dominant, loving and upset at the death of their daughter. They came from Riga, Latvia and Vilna, Lithuania. His grandparents on his father's side were Bessie and Simon Miller and came from Eastern Europe. He knew them but they were not as close as his maternal grandparents who lived close by. His father was Rubin or "Rudy" and his mother was Bessie. She was a pianist. After graduating from high school, she was a secretary at a local department store. She had dark straight hair and had him sit at the piano and sing. She was an excellent cook and he was very close to her. It was the time of the Depression in 1930. His father tried to stay healthy and would go to Chelsea Naval Hospital for his pulmonary problems from the gassing.

- 05:00 He had difficulty breathing and got treatment for it. He became a taxi driver. He was short, stocky, aggressive, nice looking and looked like a tough street fighter. His parents and others said he was gentler before World War I and his personality changed. Henry's dad would go out to get him for supper and run after him but never hit him, just called, "Henry." The family tried to give Henry a happy life. His aunts and uncles sent him to the beach. He went to Revere Beach in Nantucket. Once they brought a pony for him to sit on and have his picture taken. He wore knickers and a little cap. When his sister was born, he looked at her in wonderment. She just celebrated her 89th birthday and they became close. At the time of his mother's death from a brain tumor, he came down with scarlet fever which was contagious. He was taken in an ambulance to Boston City Hospital. They did not tell his mother who was in the same hospital. His father visited him in the hospital by standing in the courtyard and Henry was on the balcony. Henry recovered and saw his mother sitting in bed. She had an operation on her head and wore a frilly cap to cover it. She said, "Everything is going to be all right."
- 10:00 They lived in Calder Street in Dorchester. His uncle, aunt and grandmother were sitting there and the hospital called that his mother had passed away and his grandmother started screaming. It was a typical reaction of women who came from the Old Country and his aunt said to tell Uncle Fred to stop crying. Henry responded that he did not want to as you are supposed to cry and he himself was crying. Henry's father was out working at the time. They had the funeral in a few days at Anshydowig (?) Cemetery, a Jewish cemetery. As was the custom, they went into a little house before the ceremony and moved the casket into the house which they opened for viewing. All the relatives carried on as they were uninhibited.
- 15:00 His grandma spoke Yiddish and his parents spoke English. His mother was born in the US. At the service in the cemetery, they said that his mother's death was part of G-d's plan. They had to determine what kind of headstone would be suitable and felt that his mother should be represented by a tree that had been broken and one branch was hanging with three birds. The granite looks like a tree trunk. It indicates her name in English, Bessie Millie and her name in Hebrew, Bayla Bezykozelek (?) and etched on top of the

panel was a tree with a trunk and three birds. His grandma felt his dad could not take care of the three children because of the economic and health situation so contacted a nephew who was an attorney. His grandma's maiden name was Annie Stone and she and the grandpa are buried in the same cemetery. All the relatives who came from the same shtetl are buried there.

- 20:00 Online you can see a picture of the headstones. When Henry was eight his brother, George, died and was buried there. Henry is named for his great grandma, Charey Esther Hooney Isha (?). The cemetery is near Route 1, the road to Providence. Henry wants to return to visit the cemetery and go to his mother's grave and tell her about his wife of 52 years, 2 sons, 4 granddaughters, and two great-granddaughters. He feels he is a blessed individual and treasures his roots. His grandmother told the attorney uncle that she wants to adopt the children and his father should have nothing to do with them. She felt the father was partly responsible for his mother's death. Actually, there was no way that he had anything to do with it. His grandma was 55 and had raised a family of four (3 sons and the daughter, the eldest). She despised anything that got between them and her own life so was out to blame someone. His father was traveling. Later Henry tried to reconcile the siblings with his father.
- 25:00 One aunt did not like the father. There were two aunts and two uncles on the mother's side who liked him. Uncle Fred did not have children. Harry and Rose liked the father and had a daughter, Ruth. Sam and Ethel also liked the father and had three children. The grandmother decided that Harry and Rose should adopt the sister, Frances. Sam adopted his brother and his grandparents adopted him. The maternal grandfather was a custom tailor who catered to priests and made their cassocks. Henry would stay with him all day at work and saw him sew, use the steam iron and clean with tetrachloride. It had a spout at one end and he blew into it and brushed the garment which gave it an odor. This was the dry cleaning process. His father was not allowed to see him but did so shortly afterwards on a Friday night on his way to shul. Five years later when he was 15, his grandfather died of heart disease at age 60. He was legally adopted at 8 and ½ as went into the city and they changed his birth certificate.
- 30:00 His name was changed from Miller to Freedman. His sister became Frances Freedman. Henry sold newspapers (Boston American (?)) while walking through traffic and at a drug store. He screamed out headlines when something special happened and they would print extra editions. There was a cab stand on the corner and his dad got out of his cab and asked him if he knew who he was. Henry responded, "You are my father." He went home and told his grandmother and she got upset and called her nephew, Joseph Stone, the lawyer. She said it must be stopped and admonished him. His dad missed the kids but was powerless. His sister was raised by the aunt and uncle. The aunt did not like their father and brainwashed the sister that her father had abandoned her which was not

true. Henry told her that it was not true but she did not accept it. Later he brought his siblings together with his dad.

- 35:00 When Henry lived in Atlanta, his father wrote him a letter with a beautiful handwriting. He had remarried. His new wife was Eva. His own mother was taller than his father who was short and stocky. Henry went to Boston and found out they had a son, Murray, who was a college professor and lived in Long Island. He married Gloria and now lives in Boynton Beach, Florida. They have occasional contact by email which Henry takes the initiative. He understands the situation and has no animosity. He loved his grandparents for their sacrifice. It was unfortunate for the battle of personalities between his grandparents and his father. The aunt and uncle who liked his father did not want the children to be adopted. His Uncle Sam lived in Jamaica, Long Island, Harry in Bedford, Massachusetts and Fred and Rose in Massachusetts. Rose was the instigator and neither she nor Fred liked the father. Henry had lived in Mattapan (?) on Havelock, Floyd, Lucerne and Calder Streets (the latter when his mother died). It was a nice community of tenement houses and stores on both sides of the street including a bowling alley and a theatre. They hung out at the B&G Dele.
- 40:00 Henry remembers the butcher, chicken, and dairy shops where his grandma bought things. They would take fish and pickles out of barrels. In Yiddish, his grandma would tell the butcher how much meat she wanted. Although he heard Yiddish, he spoke English. He called his grandparents, “ma“ and “pa”. When he was in the service, his grandma sent him a letter in Yiddish and his buddy got a letter in Yiddish and he read both. Everyone on their street was Jewish. Ed and Gene and the Ames Brothers, a singing group, lived on their street. Later he saw the Ames Brothers at a vaudeville show in Atlanta. He told the usher that he wants to go backstage as he knows them. Henry was working in an Atlanta Department Store at the time. One of the Ames Brothers remembered the July 4th Festival at Franklin Field where Henry always beat him at the races. Henry recalls going into a chicken shop where chickens were laid out near the window and his grandma touched each looking for eggs which she always found.
- 45:00 At the Bakery, she would always go in the back for bread and rolls from yesterday which was ¼ of the price of the bread in the front. He told her it was hard and she would say that it is OK. She cut off the end and told him to put the bread in his mouth to soften it and chew it with his teeth. His grandma koshered the chicken and meat and took the skin off and rendered the fat which she poured into a jar for cooking. On Friday night, she prepared flanken meat in a pot with carrots and potatoes and put it on a low heat to make cholent (stew). They left it on the fire until Shabbat was over to eat it. She made dough for cholla and braided it. She would make French Toast from the cholla. She was very religious. His grandpa was sick but would not ride to synagogue. His grandma lit candles Friday night. They observed all the holidays. Henry had to fast on Yom Kippur. He said kaddish for his mother for 11 months wearing tefillin. He attended Mincha and

Maariv services to say Kaddish as he was the oldest child and you did it for a loved one. His grandma gave him the direction he needed.

50:00 Henry tried not to do anything to cast dispersion on them. His Uncle Harry had a successful drug store. Henry attended Thompson Jr. High and graduated in '35 and Dorchester High School for Boys and graduated in '38. He has rolled up diplomas in his drawer from these graduations. There was a diverse student body at both schools, especially the high school. It was not co-ed as the City of Boston did not have co-ed education in that community. There was another high school for girls. Henry tried out for the football team but was an inch shorter than now and 40 pounds lighter. They asked him what he would do if a player ran toward him and he responded that he would get out of their way so they recommended he try out for the track team. He ran quickly toward the coach and got on the high school team in his senior year. He never practiced as he got on the streetcar to sell newspapers after school. He missed not practicing. He was an excellent student but did little studying. He listened carefully in class.

55:00 They had relatives in Malden, Everett and Chelsea. His grandma would make food and carry it on the streetcar to them. They would talk about events such as Hitler coming to power in '33. They were thankful they left Europe and had heartfelt feelings for the Jews in Germany though no close relatives were left there. They had left as they had experienced persecution in Eastern Europe and predicted that it would get worse. Henry overheard them talking while he played with his cousins. He learned by listening. Everyone read "The Forwards," a Yiddish newspaper, but paid little attention to it. They formed a Hebrew Ladies Free Loan Association where people contributed so that others could obtain money for food and rent.

60:00 His grandma was the founder and active in it. His grandpa was in a fraternal organization. It was a Jewish area from Roxbury to Mattapan. His grandpa lived near Grove Hall in Roxbury and moved to Floyd Street when Henry's mother died. Uncle Harry helped them with the rent as they were on welfare. Henry was drafted but he was a wage earner and there was just his grandma and his 15-year-old brother still in school so he did not have to be drafted. His grandma was in her early 60s and she lost an eye from chopping wood when a splinter got into it. She lived to 87. His grandpa was 60 when he died. The newspapers indicated that the US did not want to be involved in the European situation in the 30s.

65:00 He never talked politics with his grandma. He was aware of the situation that the US wanted to be isolated and we would help Great Britain by sending supplies. US ships were blown up in the Atlantic. Until Pearl Harbor, the US was passive and his family hoped that the Jewish people would escape the maniac. Occasionally he saw Hitler's picture in the Boston papers to remind people that he was crazy and a threat to the Jews. "The Forwards" did not have many pictures. On the radio, Henry heard Roosevelt

announce the war with Japan. He lived at Browning Avenue and a number of guys immediately said they would volunteer to get after the Japs. In 1941 when he was 20, he told his grandma that his friends were volunteering and she said, "Don't think of it, you must go to school, don't leave, we need the money." He worked in Brookline, Massachusetts at two drug stores. He took the streetcar. When he was 16, his Uncle Fred took him to get his driver's license as one of the drug stores made deliveries.

- 70:00 He needed a license to use his boss' car to make the deliveries. After graduating high school at 16, he studied pharmacy and went to Franklin Institute for a year to make pills and tablets which took four years of college. His grandma felt that he should be a druggist like his Uncle Harry. He went to New Bedford for two weeks to see how he ran the drug store. He learned how to anticipate problems. He found out that a Registered Pharmacist only made \$40 a week and he would make more money driving a truck. His grandma disagreed and he said that he will make \$50 a week so he quit school to drive a truck. He drove two years before he was drafted. Henry got strong hauling heavy items.
- 75:00 He had skids on the trunk and a ladder with curved rings. He carried 55 pound drums of alcohol and paint supplies for a company that manufactured shellac and sold window glass. When he got into the service, he was in top notch condition. Henry expected the war in Europe. In 1932 President Roosevelt drove through Boston including Dorchester to pull the city out of its doldrums due to the Depression. Roosevelt was very popular with the Jewish community as they thought he was the answer to everyone's prayers. People were thriving. There was no persecution and they were free to raise their families. A relative who was a traveling salesman in clothes felt his customers were trustworthy. He just shook hands with them and there was no contract though another relative said it was impossible and there were problems. South Boston only had Catholics. They knew that on Friday night the Jews attended services at Synagogue and afterwards the teenagers socialized at a brick wall at Franklin Field.
- 80:00 This was at Bluehill Avenue near Talbot Street in Dorchester. Those from South Boston came and parked their cars and taunted them and called them names such as "Kikes" and "Lousy Jews." The Jewish children told their parents who told them not to get involved and be controlled by them. The boys told the girls that next time they should hide, as the boys will fight them. There were 8 to 10 cars and some of them had clubs with them. The Jewish boys told them to get out of their cars and they will fight them. The police came and some were Jewish and sympathized.
- 85:00 They saw the Jewish boys were not trouble makers and knew who the instigators were. They warned the South Bostonians not to return or they will get into trouble. It happened four or five times and others came. After the original bunch were told not to return, others came. On Lucerne Street, there was a neighbor who had a truck and filled it early with fresh vegetables and drove to the anti-Semitic area. Four and five-year olds yelled,

“Get out of here, we don’t want you.” Holtzwanger was the name on the truck and Henry would ride the truck with him. “Fish stinks from the head” is an expression. The kids were taught who the Jews were so the man changed his name to Olman. Occasionally, Henry might feel some anti-Semitism at school but it was not obvious. Occasionally the students would fight him but he had no trouble with the teachers. There were lots of black students and teachers and he learned to get along with others.

90:00 His grandma taught him to love people as we are all alike. Henry complained of getting low pay for long hours and his grandma said that he is lucky to have a job and he should give a \$1 work for each dollar he gets. He decided to be the best he could whether as a soldier or in his career. Henry tried to pass this idea to his boys and grandchildren. He believes it is OK to compromise and do your job but document what you do and do not lie but tell the truth. He brings an American flag and tells the students it means that it flies over thousands of people who fought for this country and gave their lives. It shows the opportunity to live a good life and the flag is always there for you. You should stand up and salute the flag and show respect. The students said he gave them a new perspective. He told them they are fortunate to be in that school and to have teachers who are helpful. They should absorb education and get as much education as possible.

95:00 In merchandising, they wanted him to sell something new and he responded that he never sold that item so they replied that he is a good salesman and only the item is different, the customer is the same. He feels that anti-Semitism was the result of ignorance and of information passed from one generation to another. Anti-Semitism permeated all of Boston. If the city was divided into quarters and one quarter taught the other three quarters not to be trusted, don’t do things the same, as you cannot compromise with them. Fortunately it could not spread its antlers to convince another quarter as gullible and they believe it. The anti-Semitism was not as widespread. The basis on which the US was formed was never lost as the best way to live for everyone but must make up our mind which way to go.

100:00 You start with the family. If you believe what you’re taught, you have to have enough sense to pinpoint what affected your life and pass it on to your children, friends and relatives. You should discern the right way like his grandma did and passed it on to him and he can pass it on to others. Those people were wrong as they were taught wrong. G-d gave us opportunity and the will to make decisions and the talent to use it to live the kind of life he wants for us. Those who believe in anti-Semitism are the minority and are not saying what is important. What the leaders and the governors say is important.

105:00 They should understand us and see we are governed properly to those who are deserving and represent who we are. We love taking orders from them as we would have done the same thing. The anti-Semitism experience did not upset him. The US is still his country. He cannot let a few people drive him out but if so many upset you, you must leave.

110:00 You do not want to raise children in a place where you must hide, cannot go outside your home and cannot build a legacy. All immigrants stick together and retain their identity and faith when they arrive in the US and thank G-d for being by their side. This is what to pass on to the children. He converted to Christianity. Christian teaching started anti-Semitism. He learned that G-d is always by his side. He learned to read the prayer book, the Torah and had Bar Mitzvah.

115:00 He learned that G-d has so many attributes and freed the Israelites from bondage and his love is equally for the Jews and for the gentiles. The Jews are the Chosen People as G-d chose them originally as he had land to give them and wanted people to move there and they did. Along the way they showed G-d how sinful they are, not as perfect as him and someone had to come and get the message out to everyone as to how life needs to be lived. There is one G-d in life and worship and love that one G-d and in return, you will get a wonderful and eternal life so they brought Jesus into the world. Adam and Eve could not communicate with G-d. Jesus came along to be a G-d. Some felt that Jesus was smarter like the priests who were wealthier and had all the privileges but did not earn them. Here if you are Jewish, you will be a doctor or a lawyer. He had an uncle who was a plumber which was unexpected.

120:00 Ask yourself how much sacrifice you want to make and how hard you want to work. Henry feels self-made. He came to Atlanta for work. No one in his family was a mentor to give him advice. His niece's daughter completed a fellowship as a doctor at age 29. How many 21-year-old girls want to spend so many years of work to accomplish that so it depends on the person. Consider your goals or sit and wait for a handout and feel sorry for yourself. G-d does not give you a ride to a job interview; just gives you the intelligence. In December '41 he wanted to serve as some of his friends volunteered but his family needed his income. His friends at home speculated what service the friends were in.

125:00 One or two were in the Air Force and several months later in '42 found out that one had been killed as a B17 shot him down. He told his grandma and she was realistic that he could get shot. No one should go to war in the first place. His friends were upset and had an almost guilty feeling as one of them had lost his life. His friends were: Blackie, Joel, Bob and Summer. They had no knowledge of the Jews in Europe. Sports became unimportant as war was the top priority. Some sports figures were serving. He became anxious to enter service and checked with the selective service if his number was coming up. He had a low number but in October it came up. He had a medical in September after his 21st birthday. In October '42 he reported to Ft. Devens (?) in Western Massachusetts with Summer who was portly while he was slender at 135 pounds.

130:00 Their vital signs were checked, got measured for clothes and got oriented. His grandma's teachings were on his mind. He got a size 38 uniform and within days was fully

equipped. He was shipped by train to Camp Landing (?) in North Central Florida near Sark (?). It was in horse country and he was with the 77th Infantry Division, K Company, Riflery. Lt. Charles Brinley, CO welcomed him. The Company consisted of three rifle platoons and a weapon platoon with machine guns and mortar. He saw in his paperwork that he was eligible for OCS (Officer Candidate School) because of his IQ. He would first do maneuvers in Tennessee in order to get through OCS in Ft. Benning, Georgia more easily.

135:00 Henry was in the Weapons Platoon as a machine Gunner, Light Cavalry Machine Gunner on a tripod. They went on hikes and forced marches. He was in a wonderful condition. Many guys did not want to participate and tried to get out, even those who were good physical specimens and had enlisted. He thought the students should use their talents in the best way. During a hike you walked with packs and some guys dropped on the road and lit up a cigarette. Once he was thinking that he is a good Jew and being taught to kill. Those who dropped were obvious and punished by being put on KP, duty in the kitchen, or walk the area with a rifle at night as a guard. In March '43 he went to the Tennessee maneuvers which is a way of fighting a war in a friendly way. Each division was given a problem such as figure out how to take out a hill and the other division was told how to keep the enemy from taking the hill. They have to decide where to set up and be in action. They walked wherever they went, carrying equipment. They did it for 60 to 90 days with the 79th Division, 313 K Company. He maneuvered with the 81st Division and near the end some of the men including Henry got tests in physics and math. A week later in BIVOUC with tents, the company clerk told him to get his belongings and go with him.

140:00 He had a weekend pass for Nashville and did not want to leave. After each maneuver period of five days, they would get a pass for Nashville. The test indicated that he did well and was being sent to school. He stayed at Camp Forest, Tennessee and took a train to Tuscaloosa, Alabama to the University of Alabama. Henry was to attend the Army Specialized Training Program for 18 months to become an engineer as the Army was short of engineers. They figured a concentrated supervised college course and supervised evenings at the library would be suitable. There were bright college students and some from the Air Force who joined him as residents and attended school five days a week. It was a tough course and they did calisthenics. They marched to classes for six months and then transferred to Auburn University to continue the course.

145:00 They tried to transfer men closer to their home. He found out that the University of Connecticut was participating but he did not get there. At Alabama two interesting things happened. They had a German Prison Camp in Opelika near Auburn and you could see the single story barracks with siding and the German prisoners from North Africa. Some were sitting. All were in clean uniforms and the grounds were neat. There was an active USO in Atlanta two hours away. He hitchhiked and was quickly picked up so would go

on weekends. He was not much of a dancer but it was good to get away from regimentation. He met a man, Frank Garson, who manufactured lingerie and said to see him when the war was over. After a year, the program was shut down as they needed replacements in the European Theatre. Around April or May '44, they were readying divisions to leave for the European Theatre. His 79th Division was already shipped overseas so he was reassigned to the 106th Infantry, 422 Regiment Headquarters Company. He was trained as a machine gunner but placed in Headquarters and trained in intelligence and reconnaissance.

150:00 He learned the basic reason for these duties, how to do administrative things like write reports, how to move around in darkness and note what you see and hear, and how quiet you can be. He was still working in weaponry and firing ranges in spring '44. After training in the 106th Infantry, he was shipped out in October to Clip Mile Standish in Massachusetts near his uncle's drug store in Tonka (?) and took a train to Hoboken, New Jersey. He took the SS Aquitania, a British cruise ship, in October and it was cold with numerous Red Cross ladies on the dock handing out Hershey bars. He had a rifle and a coat and people asked what kind of food was there on board. He had never been on a ship before so he had questions. Henry loaded candy bars in his overcoat. They left at night and he slept on the deck and looked out. It was a cruise ship so moved fast. German submarines had sunk supply ships and they had no escort so could outrun them. In four days they arrived at Glasgow, Scotland where there were terraced countryside with homes all over.

155:00 An entire division was loaded on trains. The Queen Elisabeth was leaving and they waved at each other and yelled, "You'll be sorry." They went to England where he had fish and chips for the first time. He was in Chelsea, west of London, and bought a little book which became his diary and he put it in the pocket of his combat jacket as he wanted to keep a log. He was not a writer or a historian. He walked into a store and said to himself, "It would be a good way to keep notes." It cost about \$1. It stayed in his pocket. He arrived in Glasgow in late October and in a month went to Southampton, England where he loaded on a Navy LST. It carried tanks and personnel to Le Havre and moved across to France where the weather was bad. They went in trucks and it was rainy and muddy. The invasion of Normandy was in late November. There was a little known invasion in the South of France. The forces joined up and pushed the Germans back towards Germany. Around August or September, the lines of battlefront stopped along Luxembourg, Belgium, Germany and France and they moved in and relieved the Second Infantry Division. Part of their responsibility was 24 miles and they had the 90th Division in the Ardennes and invaded the mountainous area in Belgium and Luxembourg, a part called the White Mountains.

160:00 One thing happened, that the Division Headquarters knew, but maybe the company commanders knew that replacing the division, their division commanders told the other

division commanders to leave their artillery in place. This would make logistics easy if they take our guns and we use their guns that are already in place. What happened is that they started their own action as they were trained to do as their rifle company was in line. Henry's company was communication with intelligence and reconnaissance and made sure that all the companies hooked up to the company headquarters. All were wired as nothing was wireless. They had a wire section in the company and reels on the jeep. They ran from place to place hooking wires up and had a Motorola walkie-talkie that was not too efficient as had a limited range. They started to infiltrate the German lines at night without night optics which they have today. They made some determination as there was static along the front to infiltrate the German lines by going within and behind them. They tried to be quieter than the Germans who were moving in tanks and heavy weaponry and personnel. They had one million men moving from the Russian front to that front so had to be quiet. They were about 50 or 100 yards away. The land was not level but had hills and valleys. They dug fox holes with snow up to their hips in zero degrees and cloudy weather. They were fighting but at a lower level than before and the skirmishes were intermittent.

165:00 One smaller unit engaged another one. Ambitious snipers picked off targets. He sent the gathered information to the Regiment, to Division Headquarters and to Eisenhower Allied Headquarters. The report indicated lots of activity as they saw and heard activity with heavy weaponry and personnel. They could hear the difference in sound between personal and armor carriers. Henry's group had about four people performing this activity. They carried a radio to maintain communications. If they had questions or any direction from headquarters like what the regiment should look for, they had some means of being aware of what they saw. They could respond to how many tanks or what branch of the infantry was in one area but not in another area by sound and who was responsible. Eisenhower Headquarters did research or knew that historically armies did not go through heavily wooded areas with heavy armor; just personnel could go through. The Germans did not know they were there. All the rifle companies and platoons dug in as there was some fighting. They were behind trees and found their own spots.

170:00 They had guards who pointed out the Germans doing this same type of work. They tried to come across. Each country's army investigated the other. On December 16th at 5:30 AM the Germans fired 1600 guns at one time in their direction. The Germans were east of them. The Americans were on the western front. They started hitting them. The 160th Division was the most Eastern outfit on the border and there was chaos. If 50 people came into this room and disbursed, it would be noisy. The chaos lasted all day. It was a 90 mile front. The Allies went in all directions. Their Division covered 24 miles instead of four or five of the front. They were able to cover the woods with weapons. The Germans used anti-personnel shells which go off up in the air, not on the ground, so there was shrapnel. Branches of trees were flying all over the place and created chaos. Many

tried to get away from the noise, shrapnel, trees, and wood flying through the air like bullets. Many guys were wounded from shrapnel from the trees. The Germans had their own reconnaissance so knew where things were. The artillery guns were not being moved as the 2nd Infantry Division left it.

175:00 The Germans knew it was there so blew it up so they did not have its benefit and protection. They still had rifles, mortar and machine guns. The German Tiger Tanks which were larger than 5 ton tanks, larger than the Allies, came through as mowed down the trees. Hitler wanted to go to Antwerp, Belgium, the main supply route and move West and South. There were no English. Hitler had time and wanted to split his troops between the English and Air Force and cause them to surrender. The Americans tried to keep the supply lines and roads closed but the weather was bad so they could not get off the ground. On the third day, they ran out of ammunition and supplies. The Regiment was in contact with the Division who was in contact with Eisenhower and requested relief. He had units in reserve but the Americans lost ground before the backup moved. The Germans by haste created problems as had a big traffic jam with the vehicles, tanks, jeeps and trucks and could not get through. The Germans turned the road signs around to the towns. Their vehicles headed to Germany which was part of the German objective but the Germans did not always benefit by reversing signs. It took 24 hours to reorganize and show resistance. They suffered tremendous casualties which slowed them down. This was the "Battle of the Bulge." It got this name as the Germans infiltrated into the Allied front. It started with the 176th Division in the middle at the beginning. They took the brunt at the Battle of Ardennes which was named for the forest of Schoenberg (?), a supply area, which they tried to save.

180:00 They tried to preserve the front. Fighting tanks with small weapons did not work. On December 19th, his unit and most of the units wound up with pockets of resistance as they were surrounded by tanks. They just had rifles, machine guns and grenade launchers which was insufficient to fight tanks. The Head of the Divisions were talking to each other regarding location of the hill and their reserves as they were running out of supplies. One commander told the other that he is not sitting and losing men so will call it off. Their captain was the CO at the edge of the wooded area and could see all the tanks around. They were 50 to 100 yards away and dared them to do something. Their cannon company, artillery company and anti-tanks were wiped out. Their CO put a handkerchief on his helmet and walked toward the Germans. He was gone 45 minutes and walked back and 15 to 20 yards behind him was a squadron of Germans. He told him to get all their stuff and break it up as the war is over. Henry took the weaponry and smashed it against the trees. He had a little 209 converter that looked like a typewriter to get and receive code messages so the Germans would not see it. He typed the message out and put it into code and take out the tape with the message. When he received the message, he would type it and decode it.

185:00 He had runners to carry the message. The Germans came and lined them up. They stood with their arms in the air and were searched. Everything of value was taken such as rings, watches and money. There was an argument between the German sergeant and the German lieutenant. They knew that two days before northwest of them, 100 GIs had been ambushed and machine-gunned and 80 had been killed. The Sergeant told the Lieutenant to shoot them as they are on a time table. Henry understands Yiddish so he understood their German. He told a colleague who said, "Glory be" so told him to be calm. The German lieutenant saw his book in his pocket and asked what is it and Henry replied that he will keep a daily log of each day's activities. The sergeant yelled to kill them and the lieutenant returned his book and said, "Good luck." He told the sergeant to move them out so Henry felt better. They were in Bliealf (?), Germany. They went to a churchyard for the night and in the morning marched to Prim (?), about 15 miles away. They got no food. They saw rails sticking up in the air and marched another 20 to 30 miles without food. Townspeople threw things at them and yelled that they were disliked.

190:00 His group of 30 joined groups from other areas making about 1,000 prisoners marching. They got to Geraldstine (?) and saw 40 by 8 boxcars, smaller than ours, from World War I. They were designed for 40 men or 8 horses but they placed 60 to 80 men in each and locked them up for three days. On Christmas Eve they arrived in the Limburg freight yard. They heard bombs falling and shrapnel hitting the side of the car and the slats near the top. They were able to look through them and saw the red, white and blue emblem of the RAF bombing the area. They yelled to the Germans to be let out. The sergeant from Tennessee said to pray to G-d to see them safely through so everyone prayed. They could not sit as they were jammed in like sardines. They did not know what to expect. They were hungry and losers and had no alternative. If they tried to escape, they would be shot. They saw GIs who were dead laying in their overcoats and they could not get to them. It was the middle of winter and the Germans took the coats.

195:00 The next morning was Christmas and they were let out and given hard crusty dough balls. You put it in your mouth to get it soft. Earlier they had been given water and dough balls. They were able to see it was a freight yard with flat cars with machinery and tanks and heavy armor personal carriers. The RAF bombed it and they saw shrapnel sticking into the car. Two doors down were hit and 60 GIs were killed so his car was lucky. Later they moved the train and wound up at Stalig 9B. The men serving with him were interested where he came from, particularly the Southerners who wanted to make fun of the Yankees. The Yankees wanted to make fun of the Southerners. They were Rednecks, gregarious and outgoing. Henry did not care where the others came from. There was a guy from Virginia who wanted to get out of the Army. He was a 6 foot strapping guy and more interested that he was a Yankee than serving the country. Henry was not aware of the mass murder of Jews, just that their lives were at stake. He was the

only Jew in the company. His dog tags had an “H” for Hebrew but no one thought of his religion.

200:00 He might be treated differently by the German captors as he was Jewish as he knew from the news he had a problem but the attitude was surreal once he was captured. When Henry heard the Sergeant arguing with the Lieutenant, it clarified things for him and made him feel better as he understood them. The Lieutenant said that he was in charge and would make the decisions. In Bad Org (?) 9B they lined up and the officer said that all the Jewish men should step forward. He walked up the hill and found out that this was a resort area and saw the barracks and the barbed wire and the gate. It was a blur but looked like a camp they had been in as it was crude, like basic training. The first barracks was fairly well furnished with chairs and benches where they were given forms to fill out.

205:00 They were the first prisoners there but there were some around. He walked into the building and stepped forward when asked that Jews step forward. The other men from the other companies stepped forward, too. He looked at his diary and there were 3 or 4 men from his company but none in his barracks that were Jewish. In 10 seconds all the others stepped forward to show their support; to show Americans don't segregate or differentiate. There were at least 80 to 100 men in that front line and 15 to 20 were Jewish. It was sublime to see all the buddies immediately stepped forward. He called the Germans names but they did not understand. ,

210:00 The Germans were surprised that all stepped forward and did not know what to do. They were all marched into the barracks. The Germans spoke English mixed with German. They said, “Juda” rather than Jewish or Hebrew. They were placed into segregated barracks and stood or walked around. They could not go out as there was snow so sat on the bunks that were on one side. There were U-shaped benches on the other side with a false stove and wash basins. The latrine was outside. The Germans came in with a rifle over their shoulder and took it off and looked at them. If you looked at them, they hit you with the rifle which happened to him. Sometimes they snuck behind them and whacked them on their shoulder blades. All the Jews were put in one barracks as the dog tags indicated they were Jewish. A few of the 50 Jews might have ripped off their dog tags. They got forms asking about their family including name, address, city, occupation, DOB, parents' names and where they were from but they only filled out their name, rank and serial number.

215:00 When they refused to fill out the forms completely, they were taken outside, stripped to the waist despite the freezing weather and told to stand until they gave the information. The American officer told the GIs to give the information and nothing will happen to them as the US will win the war and you will get out of the freezing weather. They replied that they were taught to only give their name, rank and serial number. The officer

was in uniform and later got court-martialed as was turned in. He became a collaborator. They were kept outside for about 20 minutes. Then they went back in, got dressed and assigned to barracks. One guy spoke German and became liaison between the men and the Germans. Some relationships were good and some were not. Some became pro-German as wanted extra food or extra cigarettes but handled it in a way so the GIs would not know or they would beat him.

220:00 At night, after being given a slice of bread, some guys stole bread from their buddies. None of the Jews stole. Henry felt closer to some Italians than to some Jews. His diary reflects the number of Jews involved and what they talked about. They had a contest as to when they would get liberated or would have a blessing at Passover. [A large color photo of Henry is shown from October '42 after he entered the service at Ft. Deavens and a smaller photo from Camp Landing, Florida when he was in the 79th Infantry in December '42; and the front cover from his diary.] Henry tried to keep track of dates and events. He wrote the months and days of the week and crossed them off as each day went by.

225:00 The Germans treated the segregated guys the same as the others regarding food and freedom of walking. Perhaps they were separated to know the Germans did not like them. They could not socialize with the rest of their buddies. They were not locked in their barracks. They had a cup of soup, tea and a slice of bread in the afternoon. The food varied as they may get extra margarine if a visit from the Red Cross was expected. They received a package from the Red Cross and distributed it among the 24 men. Under the terms of the Geneva Convention, each man should receive a package each week so they could subsist on the contents of the package which varied. They received one in February at the second camp. Bad Orb was not as nice as Zeigenheim 9A in terms of treatment and food. 9A had three wooden bunks with thin pads and straw. It looked like a potato sack with straw. There were two men to a bunk. They would sleep on their side as could not sleep on their back as it was too narrow. There were three levels to each bunk. He would wake his buddy if he wanted to move. There were no blankets. The stove used wood and gave off a little heat. They did not open the window.

230:00 They did not take their uniform off except when they got deloused. They would take a shower and put their clothes and boots back on. They did not do much during the day until March when the weather improved. They stayed inside as there was snow on the ground and it was cold and wet. They did not want their boots to get wet as their feet would get wet and cold. Many guys' feet suffered from the cold. Henry's feet and hands are still cold today as he has poor circulation from that experience, according to his doctor. He does a lot of volunteering in the Medical Center in Georgia. He uses the courtesy cart to bring visitors from the parking lot to the front entrance of the hospital. The cart has flaps like an overlarge golf cart and a propane tank with heat. Sometimes

when it gets very cold, he gets home and shivers which the doctors say he cannot stand the cold due to his POW experience. He came close to losing his fingers and toes.

235:00 Now he volunteers at the Information Desk. As a prisoner, they would go outside when it got warmer. They lost so much weight and energy from lack of nutrition. The Germans gave them balls but they just had energy to sit on the ground and roll it back and forth like five-year-olds. After they got liberated, they were flown to The Hague and had medical tests at the airport. The doctors said they could not have lasted another 60 days as they lost so much weight existing on 500 calories per day. Thinking all these things, G-d had a plan in his wisdom. Some guys were 97 pounds or less, skin and bones but he was heavier. When he heard the International Red Cross was visiting, they would get double rations and three times they got a Red Cross package. It was meant for one person but they had to split it between four, eight or 12 people. They got powdered milk, D bars, cigarettes, sardines, jelly and crackers. It was the kind of package that you could subsist on for a week. There were 2 to 3,000 calories in one package plus cigarettes which would have meant a lot psychologically to some people. They asked the Germans if they could work and told them if they were given extra food, they could work. He knew that many civilians had left to enter the military so workers were needed. There were farmlands nearby to raise crops and chickens and retail stores including a bakery but they would not permit them to work.

240:00 According to the Geneva Convention, Noncommissioned Officers do not have to work but Privates and PFC must work for food. At Berger (?) he did 20 hours of labor and did not get extra food so the death rate was higher. The French Moroccans worked on the gardens and fields and got extra food and chickens that they stole. Their compound was separated from his by a roadway 20 to 30 feet wide and he can picture the barbed wire 10 feet high. When the Moroccans returned from working, they started negotiating with the Americans as they had enough to eat and knew the Americans would pay for the food they stole. Though the Americans were searched, some guys had their valuables but Henry only had his pencil to write in his book as they had taken his watch and ring. They negotiated and food flew across the road. It sounds funny but it was serious almost as if Israel and the Arab countries were trying to sign a peace pact but were throwing food such as chickens. There were some books around but had missing pages so he lost interest in reading. There were a few games that the Germans had given them. Basically, they spent time sitting and fantasizing about food, about future activities, visits to places they would see, organizations they would join and how they would change their lifestyle.

245:00 Some guys had pictures of wives or girlfriends. He fantasized about getting married which was their only reference to the opposite sex. They never talked about going on a date, how much to spend on a date, or how to get a date. Only the Italians bragged about their social lifestyle but nothing specific. They might say, "I used to go out on the town." They would talk about their favorite places to eat, the various restaurants. Henry talked

about Boston. He talked about cities he would visit and things they would exchange. Non-Jews lived in places with food indicative of the place (i.e. Alabama – grits or sorghum; the West – Idaho potatoes). They would be sent a basket of Idaho potatoes. Henry listed all the foods in his diary. He segregated nuts from candy when he fantasized. He talked about his first breakfast after liberation and for lunch, he would eat according to the way he felt. If he ate all he wrote – forget lunch. He wrote down a good size dinner and the contest on what date they would get liberated. He knew that they would get liberated due to the maps he drew and the announcements to the guards he heard over the loud speaker. Henry would write down where each Army was and the progress they made and the questions when would they be liberated.

250:00 In the latter part of March, the Germans acted differently and the prisoners asked each other what was going on. The guards were not outgoing but quieter. Captain Morgan, the Medical Officer, after hearing all the rumors in February/March said that he felt the Allies were getting closer and the Germans would move them out. His plan was that if they were called out of their barracks for roll call, half of the men should say they are sick and the other half should help them. He did not want them to get moved so they should remain to see the Allies when they arrive. Around March 27th or 28th, the Germans rounded them up when they were in the barracks and he could sense the English and Canadians stirring around. He heard and saw shells landing in the town as the camp was on a rise and they could look down to see them exploding a couple of miles away. He knew it had to be Allied shells as the Germans got all the English and Russians together and said they were moving them out so the Americans implemented their plan. Half started to cough to make believe they were sick and yelled to the Germans, “You have not fed us and you have not given us decent food so we cannot move.” The Germans showed impatience and said, “Los, los (go fast, go fast).” The Germans said they would take some of the Americans but the Americans refused to go as knew the Germans would not get nasty. The Germans took the English, Moroccans and the Canadians. He saw some from 9B

255; 00 In January they had transferred to Berger and moved all the Jews except for Henry and shot six others. They went to Ziegenheim (?) with him. Henry did not think to write down the names of those they shot. He had no idea how bad Berger was until the reunion. He did not see anything about it in the newspaper or any communication. They talked of Berger at Reunions. At Bad Org (?), they thought Berger was 9C. There was no designation for Berger as it was a Slave Labor Camp. 9C was not Berger, a different kind of POW camp. 9A Ziegenheim is not in all the lists. There is a 9B. It is about a day’s travel between 9A and 9B. They were put on a train and it was north of Bad Org, south of Castle in the middle of Germany. Ziegenheim became Kritheim as names of towns were changed.

260:00 People may not want the name that was connected to the war to remain. There were Privates and PFC sent to Berger but no Noncoms. Henry was ready to go on another move so thought 9B was a redistribution camp. Perhaps this was its original intent but it turned out that lots of Americans spent the rest of the war there. Berger had slave labor rations with a higher mortality. People died and some tried to escape and were killed in 9A and 9B. Some died from malnutrition and depression as they gave up and stopped eating. He talked to some that all would get better and would give them an extra slice of bread. He was not trained to cope with this and experienced the same conditions as they did. Henry does not recall any suicides, at least no intentional ones. Some lost the will to live and would lay there or sit and stare. Some people's minds went. This interview stimulates Henry and makes him think and reminisce of things he did not think about.

265:00 That is why he enjoys talking to people and students as it helps him remember what happened. It is as if it happened yesterday instead of a long time ago. It is all real, not imagined. If he has a question, his diary gives him the answer. The front cover shows that he wanted to keep track of time so he listed month and days and crossed out each day as it occurs. On the next page, he has the log of battle experiences and indicates when he was captured and the events that followed. It shows when he arrived at each prison camp and lists the Red Cross packages and their division. The next section starts with food and places they would visit as it contains more important aspects of conversation. At the start of the day, 7 or 8 AM, he would sit down and talk with the others and they would decide what topic they would discuss. There was a consensus of what they thought was most important. First were the cities to visit and second was the food they would eat. All the guys had an opinion of their favorite food in a particular city. One guy was a Chef in Chicago and gave him recipes that he incorporated into the book. Throughout the first part of the book is any food you can think of in any country. Somehow, pizza was left out despite Italians participated as pizza was less popular than. Everyone eats pizza now. They talked of ethnic foods, especially Jews reminisced what kind of food they would eat. He wanted his grandma to prepare food from scratch and then they discussed which restaurant they would eat at. He listed Boston restaurants. His favorite was a fish restaurant on the wharf, Durgan Bark, on Warrington Street. There is a little White Tower on Park Square, a hamburger place where you can get breakfast. On Saturday when he sold newspapers, the Sunday paper was delivered in the afternoon on that corner. He took the pile of newspapers and hefted them on his shoulder and walked three miles to Boston Common near the bus station. There at the Park Square, the cab drivers would give orders that when he comes, the White Tower should give him what he wants. He drank coffee and liked donuts. He worked the whole Park Square and went into the bus station.

275:00 There were other sections in the diary on breakfast suggestions, luncheon suggestions, wines, after dinner drinks, dinner drinks, specialty plates like liver and onions, upside

down cake and pot roast. The volunteers at the Medical Center got together and printed a recipe book and he submitted three recipes from his diary. Nora made them herself. The inside cover tells where he got the recipes. They sold the recipe books for \$15 and sold several hundred. The guy who organized it indicated where the recipe came from. Henry will send the interviewer a copy. He wrote his postwar plans, recreational activities and lectures he planned to attend. Henry still has the diary and it is still a viable part of his life. It is still useful and helps him keep going. He feels blessed that he can share it with people. At the moment of discussion in the POW camp, they did not realize the benefits of their discussions. He has the contest data concerning liberation date. It lists the meals they will have and categories of food – jellies, cheeses, and drinks.

280:00 He has a log of his Army service which is chronological and ended May 9, 1945. It lists the books he read at 9A and miscellaneous which has the contents of the Red Cross packages. It reminds him of all the nice things they missed when they did not get a package. When they did get a package, they had to share it with others. When they finished allocating the items, some guys would steal another guy's rations. He kept a daily log as a POW. On January 25th he left Bad Org and arrived January 26th at Ziegenheim. 9A was organized, established everything was ready for you and was less transient. Similarly, on the first day of opening a restaurant and before all is in place, the clients enter and don't know where to sit or whether the menu is correct or if the coffee is hot. It was originally a redistribution camp because of the influx of prisoners. You got registered and distributed to where they had room or what type of prisoner you were. The Air Force had their own area. The Germans loved them. The Air Force was elite. Henry was Infantry so was looked down upon. The Air Force prisoners had more and better facilities and got more respect.

285:00 He was in Ziegenheim on March 25th when they saw shelling and half made believe they were sick and half were caretakers. The guards left with 5 units, British and Canadian, and the camp was theirs. They got extra chow as ran it on their own. There were no Germans. The guards, officers and rest of prisoners had left. Captain Morgan was in charge as the ranking military person. It was the middle of the late afternoon until the middle of the next day that there was still shelling. They heard noises and there were tanks, troops and other vehicles on the road. It was the 6th Armored Division, the first of Patton's units. Henry opened the gate, himself and let the tank in. They saw him and yelled and screamed and cried and jumped on the barbed wire to pull it down. The jeep came around and stopped right in front of them and the barbed wire came down. They had cases of C rations on the back of the jeep. Henry took a case and took it to his barracks and ate it and got very sick. The officers entered and met with Captain Morgan and decided it was too soon to leave. It was March 30th. The men thought they would be loaded on the trucks and leave but each had to be accounted and documented so they started the process. Anyone left had to stay put. There were a few Russians there who

knew what the American office wanted them to do. He told them, "Don't leave or you will be shot." Some of the Russians tried to leave and were shot. They completed the lists and left April 9th.

290:00 The American officers freed the camp and were in charge to make the rules. They did not want a "wholesale situation" where everyone runs off as they were responsible to maintain order. The CO called the shots. They knew by reputation how wild and undisciplined the Russians were. They could run into town and abuse people so the officer tried to prevent catastrophe. They promised the extreme consequence. When they were in camp, the German officers told them they would be shot if they tried to escape. In both camps, guys were shot who tried to escape. Henry attended the ASTP program and the general said, "The stove is hot." You will go to school, away from combat and both of us will benefit but there will be consequences if you break the regulations. Some won't believe him and will reach out and see for yourself how right I am. Anyone who tried, got dismissed from the program and sent back to a line outfit. They flew to Le Havre on April 9th.

295:00 At the airport, they received a perfunctory medical exam of their vital signs, weight, ears and mouth. They had the option of going to Camp Lucky Strike and get reequipped with a new uniform and supplies and a duffle bag and go to the US or go to a hospital. Henry was down to 110 pounds so went to a hospital for three weeks in Rouen, France. He stayed in bed and got food and vitamins. Then he went to the 179th hospital in Paris for a week where he could go to the mess hall for meals. He was reviewed and offered either Camp Lucky Strike or fly to Mitchell Hill, Long Island. First he went to a Distribution Center in Western France where GIs were sent before returning to the States. They were re-equipped, got new weapons, other supplies and a filled duffle bag and went by ship five or six days to the States. He returned home May 9th and got 60 days R&R (Rest and Recreation) to Grove Park Inn in North Carolina which had a golf course and he rested.

300:00 At the end of July, he was assigned to Ft. Meade, Maryland and given a loaded weapon and a new uniform and assigned to walk around a large warehouse. After a few days, he wondered what was in the 100,000 square foot building. He was a T4 Technician 4th grade guarding it. He found out that there was nothing in it but just did it to keep busy until November 24th when he was discharged and returned to Boston. He told his grandma that he had a job to return to as there was a law that an employer had to take you back. He had visited his former employer when he was on furlough. He told his grandma about the man in Atlanta and wanted to go to see him and see what he had to say. His grandma knew he was missing in action until March 30th when the Boston paper indicated that he was a POW. He had called his grandma from Mitchell Field. He had an uncle in Mitchell and she thought he was the uncle ("Uncle Sam") and she fainted. He called Aunt Ruth in Jamaica and she screamed and he told her that his grandma had fainted. She took him to Macy's to get a pair of shoes.

305:00 Henry went to see Frank Garson in Georgia and told him he had a job to return to and told of his experiences. Frank said he belongs in retail merchandising and called a friend in the business who was the Basement Supervisor of the Davison Pakson Company owned by Macy's. He sent him to Judd Draper, the Electronics Buyer, who hired him at \$40 a week. This was 1946. Henry sold electronic appliances and met his wife there, Elizabeth (Betty) Sarton. She worked in the Women's Department and they met on the bowling team. She was very attractive with dark hair. They started dating and, with others, they started the 180 Club, the Employee Recreation Club. They called it "180" as the department store was located at 180 Peachtree Street. Charles Jagels was the President. They had costume parties and bingo and got the store's vendors to donate prizes. After the store closed, Henry was called for bingo and Betty helped. Then he was promoted to Management which he liked. He got to draw a salary plus commission. He said he wanted merchandising so was sent to bedding and furniture. He made more money as he got more in commission as there was a higher markup. After two years, he was told there was an opening in appliances and electronics for an Assistant Buyer but they could not pay as much as he was making. He talked it over with Betty, as they were married by then, and decided he would have a better future in merchandising. He told the Manager that he would take the position despite the cut.

310:00 First he was Assistant Buyer. In a year Rich's, a larger department store nearby consisting of two buildings connected by a bridge, needed an Assistant Buyer and wanted to hire him. Henry decided to go to the larger store and they insisted that Betty come, too. It was 1953 on his birthday that he started working there and Betty worked in the fashion department. In six months the business was growing but was stretched too thin. They wanted him to go to major appliances or electronics and he chose electronics and stayed six months as Assistant Buyer. His boss left for Penney's and he replaced him as Buyer. It put him at a different pay level as eligible for bonuses and could eat at the Buyer's Table which got served first which thrilled Betty. Three years and six months later, he was called in to handle the entire division so Henry became Division Manager of Merchandising. It was 1955 and their first son was born and Betty stopped working. They moved into their own house. Three years later, their second son was born. Henry served on the Advisory Boards for Electronic Manufacturers for Zenith and RCA and got to travel the Far East including Hong Kong and Japan. He never returned to Europe or felt like returning. Henry had his memories and his diary and went to reunions.

315:00 Many guys had returned and were welcomed with open arms. They were honored with little monuments but things have changed. Barracks were demolished and one became a camp for boys. He envisioned his reaction if he walked the area and saw where he got captured and where he spent time. He feels it is ancient history that he experienced and he talks about it and talks to others about it. He has his family and it will grow. That is what is important. He does not need anything like that. Maybe under different

circumstances, he would consider it. There are guided tours through Europe. When he gave up smoking, the twins wanted a cigarette and he imagined taking it and blowing it but he asked himself why should he ruin all that time that he gave up smoking; what did that accomplish? It would be the same as going to Europe as he could not see getting any satisfaction. He is not a hero and did not want to be a hero by going over to Europe and telling his family and showing them photos. His family call him "Pop" and love him and he does not need that. He wrote a poem after he saw the World War II Memorial the last time he was here. He is not a poet or a writer but some things inspire him so after seeing the Memorial, he wrote this:

"Their Country Called and They Answered"

We watched from afar, a world at war

Not for us to say until Pearl Harbor Day

Our country was at need as it had a job to do

From California to Maine

We awoke but the days were few

Men and women answered, Americans all

Never hesitated, they answered the call

And millions came from North, East South and West

We showed the world how we could be at our best

It took a while, victory was ours but who complained

Too many suffered the pain

Remember them all, Bow your head

History will show that

They who are being honored here

Did not hesitate to give

So, G-d bless this generation and honor them for all

Please for generations to come, for all eternity.

Again, Henry shows two photos. First a larger one from October '42 at Ft. Deavens. Then a smaller one from December '42 at Camp Landing, Florida. Then he shows the flip cover of his diary which was his first attempt to keep track of dates and time as he put the months and days of the week and crossed them off as each passed. On the first page is his first entry using that format. On the second page is his battle log.

325:00 He shows his cap has two insignias including the patch of the 79th. On the right side of his vest, he has insignias of Infantry and patch of the 106th and one from Infantry from a unit at the time of the Battle of the Bulge capture. On the left side of his vest, he has a Combat Infantry Badge and Ribbons – Bronze Star, war medal, gun combat, American victory ribbon, patch indicates he is a veteran of Battle of the Bulge, two badges for the two prison camps, French Legion of Honor presented by the French government and patch on the bottom for 106th Infantry Division Association. Henry says he is proud of this and proud that he served when his country needed him and G-d kept him alive and in a position to share with others.

326:00