

Mary: Today is Wednesday, April 9, 2003 and this is the beginning of an interview with Ed Smith at his home at (Omitted for privacy) in Asheville, North Carolina. Mr. Smith is 87 years old, having been born on September 2nd, 1915. My name is Mary Weber and I'll be the interviewer. Ed Smith is a friend of mine. Ed, could you state for the record what war and branch of the service you served in?

Ed: I served in the Army, infantry in WWII, 4-1/2 years; 2-1/2 years were in the European theatre.

Mary: And what was your rank?

Ed: I went in as a first lieutenant because I was a reserve officer and I came out as a lieutenant colonel and then in my post World War II activities in the officers reserve, I was promoted to a colonel.

Mary: Were you drafted or did you enlist?

Ed: Well, being a reserve officer, you were subject to call to active duty and I had watched the storm clouds of war forming and in my childhood I acquired an outlook that there was something rather noble about a just war. My little hometown Abbeville, South Carolina is very historic. It claims to be the birthplace and the deathbed of the Confederacy. The birthplace because the first vote for seceding from the Union was in Abbeville, County and the deathbed of the Union because the last Confederate cabinet meeting when Jefferson Davis was fleeing south was held in Abbeville. The marker in the little square which the small town was built around was a very impressive marker to the dead of the Civil War. So I'd often ridden my bike up there and leaned it against this monument when I went in to get an ice cream cone. Gradually all of that and the lore of the people focused on the military made it a little bit like *Gone with the Wind*. There was a sense that people who were really loyal dropped what they were doing and went to the war. And then to add to that I went to Clemson College which was very much a military school and I took to that well. I was working my way through college and so I didn't have a lot of time to spend on fancy drill platoons and that kind of thing. But the idea of the military was very compatible with me.

Mary: Why did you pick the service branch you joined?

Ed: (Laugh) Well, I didn't pick it. I knew that Clemson was military and Clemson, unlike our great rival Texas A & M, had only one branch of the service, namely infantry, and so Clemson turned out the largest number of infantry officers for World War II of any school. Texas A & M had more reserve officers but they were quartermasters and engineering and other branches whereas Clemson was solely infantry.

Mary: So when you left Clemson, and went into the reserves, where did you go?

Ed: I left Clemson and went to Cornell University as a graduate student. While Cornell wasn't a military school it had reserve officer training corps (ROTC) so there were meetings I could attend and get credit. In moving from Clemson to Cornell there was continuity to my interest in the military.

Mary: At what point did you go to the different army bases such as Fort Bragg and Fort Bening?

Ed: I graduated from Clemson in 1938 and the war actually for us began at Pearl Harbor in December of '41. And when Pearl Harbor occurred that was December and in January, about a month later, I had my orders to go to Camp Croft, South Carolina. Camp Croft was a basic training camp. We would meet railroad siding over there and unload it from those cars with the draftees, people who had volunteered but they had no training at all. They had their gear and a laundry bag over their shoulder and they just loved to salute and they had not even been trained how to salute. But they came knowing almost nothing and were very eager to learn and so for a young lieutenant like myself who had been an instructor at Cornell, this struck me as a golden opportunity.

Mary: How long were you at Camp Croft?

Ed: I was at Camp Croft for 18 months and then they decided that I had not had the infantry refresher course although I'd been teaching it for 18 months, so they sent me to Fort Bening, Georgia. Fort Bening was the infantry school and this was not very challenging because I was a student doing what I had been teaching the trainees to do. There was a kind of air of athletic competition about the thing. We loved to run the obstacle course, and we liked the firing range and small unit tactics and that kind of thing.

Mary: And so how long were you at Fort Bening?

Ed: I was at Fort Bening for three months and then when I graduated from Bening, I was sent back to Camp Croft and shortly after I got back, there was a personnel requisition for the South Pacific for company grade officers with efficiency ratings of excellent or above. There wasn't but one higher rating than excellent and that was superior. So the requisition called for about 30 officers of company grade that is from second lieutenant up to captain. So we caught the train and headed for the west coast to go to the South Pacific. Well, there were numerous delays on the train travel and when we got there they said "why have you guys been so long - we couldn't wait any longer for you to get here so we filled the requisition with officers here". So then they assigned us to participate in what was called the Desert Triangle maneuvers. General Patton had the idea that you needed to, as he referred to it, "bloody the troops" and he wanted it rather rigorous and as near to the situation of the African theatre as he could arrange. There was a huge triangle between Yuma, Arizona, Indio, California, and Needles, California and so our job was to help and referee all that. It was a rather challenging experience. There was the heat to deal with and everything slowed down in the heat of the day. While we were out there they formed a reinforcement battalion. The role of a reinforcement battalion was to establish itself behind a

division and the division would be the line of combat and the reinforcement battalion would be well to the rear, maybe twenty miles, or ten miles, and if everything went well, the reinforcement battalion would not be subject to heavy fighting. But things never worked out exactly as planned so there would be sporadic combat but never the heavy lifting of combat. There was the traffic of soldiers being sent back if they could walk and get along all right, even though they were going to the hospital. They would be sent to the rear to our unit and then we dispatched them to the hospital and then the same traffic came forward with new reinforcements and the soldiers who had recovered in the hospital were reporting back to duty. So there was this endless stream of soldiers. We worked around the clock. And there was no opportunity for Sunday off or rest time. It was a strange thing that although we had such great sympathy for these troops being sent to combat they seemed to be the problem to us because they never stopped and so we officers had to fight this feeling that gee, there they are, more and more and more. We got very tired but at least we weren't being shot at.

Mary: Did you have the feeling that you wanted to be sent overseas into more action or were you content being state sides?

Ed: I felt I'd been in a training role long enough and I wanted to move on where there was more action and as I look back on it I was very good as a training officer, one, I had great enthusiasm, and two, I had a lot of mobility -I could run the obstacle course well, and three, in my experience as a graduate student, I learned to bone up for exams and make a few notes and have them on 3x5 cards in my pocket. Sometimes we had to instruct maybe five different subjects the next day and it would be like field sanitation, care and cleaning of equipment, small unit tactics, marksmanship, military intelligence, Each of these subjects was drawn from field manuals and so to those of us who had been students, we had an advantage and there was a slogan "on the ball or on the boat". If you didn't do well as an instructor you got shipped out to the African campaign and in a sense this was rather an unjust system because it sent to the active theatre the people who were the slow learners. They were fine officers but didn't adapt quite as fast as the rest of us so they finally passed a rule that you couldn't stay in one of these basic training camps as an instructor for over eighteen months and that meant after that you had to move on into another assignment overseas and that suited me fine, I wanted to go.

Mary: At what point did you go overseas?

Ed: I went overseas in December of 44.

Mary: And what was happening with the war at that time?

Ed: They were assembling the troops in England for D-Day and so we went from the desert to Camp Myles Standish in Boston. That was a staging area for boarding the ships and joining the convoy overseas. We arrived on Christmas Eve and it was bitterly cold and they had issued us "suntans", presumably to confuse the enemy so when we were issued suntans, we thought we were going to the South Pacific. And then I recall so well my buddy and I were sitting on the

train as it was going along and I said to him, "I think we're going east". Well, if you went west you were almost on the coast anyway so we concluded that we weren't going west, we were going east and that was our first inkling we had that we were going to a deployment station on the east coast and to the European theatre.

Mary: You said they issued you suntans? What do you mean by that?

Ed: They issued us the light cotton clothing that we referred to as suntans. In other words, they didn't issue us more wool clothing that you would need because it was quite cold in Europe in December.

Mary: So would you say that there wasn't always good communication in terms of knowing where you were going and what was happening?

Ed: For security reasons, we were forbidden to telephone home and so they really did a good job of keeping a secret of what was coming up. Even the officers were in the dark too. You might have thought that they would have taken the officers off in secret and told them this is where you're going, but they didn't. We learned to live with that uncertainty without much difficulty. I think the thing that was so striking was that we were all young and we were all deeply committed to the cause, none of this debate. Now, before we entered the war there was a lot of debate but once Pearl Harbor occurred, there was no debate and I think how terrible it must have been for the soldiers in Vietnam when the people back home were not behind the war, and of course, I draw a parallel to what's happening in Iraq now.

Mary: It's not as clear cut as it was then.

Ed: That's right, it was very clear cut and almost all of the officers I served with had the same spirit of enthusiasm and gung ho that I had. There was tremendous bonding and it was an interesting kind of bonding because there was a good bit of conceit on the line and we thought we were awfully good and I suppose in a sense I thought we ought to be more modest about this but I think maybe it was a good thing that we had this spirit. And there was an expression after the war that Churchill coined that the military victories of the British empire were the carryover from the athletic fields of Eton. In other words, much of that spirit of competitive sports came to be the kind of philosophy of a military unit and we thought very little about the horror of war. And I'm amazed as I look back on it that we dwelled on that so little. We had to get up mighty close to it. One of the revelations that was so difficult to deal with was that at some point you realized that there were people intent on killing you and that was a hard thing to assimilate. We were young and carefree and the buddy system meant so much to us yet we knew that on the other side was this grim determination to kill the opposition.

Mary: You said you shipped out but you weren't sure where you were going. Where did you actually land?

Ed: We landed in Scotland and then we boarded a train and went quite a ways by train and then we ended up in Cardiff, Wales; it's a huge port city. The reason we were that far back was that we weren't scheduled to be part of the D-Day assault and so we were in Cardiff on a huge estate known as Wenvoe Castle. We didn't live in the castle but we lived in tents on the very extensive grounds. They had a program there where they drafted young women who would go to the surrounding rural areas and undertake control of rodents, mostly rats. Of course the GIs were delighted when they would send out a group of women to control the rats. The next day there would be frantic phone calls that they had sent ten to our area and only eight came back and we'd see if we could find the two missing ones. The GI's were very innovative in ingratiating themselves with the British girls so for officers to be given the task of finding the two missing girls was rather amusing.

Mary: And were they found?

Ed: Oh yes, they were found, they always were. They showed up late. But they spent one night in the camp and then turned themselves in.

Mary: Now was this your first trip overseas?

Ed: Yes, it was my first trip overseas.

Mary: So what was that like, going to Europe for the first time as part of this big effort?

Ed: Well, it was to me a great adventure, you know, I had the kind of spirit of a graduate student. I followed the Stars and Stripes very closely. That was the little daily newspaper that was available to the troops. In England there was a wonderful spirit of camaraderie between the civilians and the American troops and we were often invited into the homes of the British people on Sunday for tea and I became very attached to some of the families. After the war was over and I married a Canadian Jan and I went back to visit these people in the little town of Barnstable. This couple had no children and they volunteered for duty in our doughnut dugout which gave doughnuts and coffee to the troops. They were just wonderful people. They made a room in their home, a guest room, which they made available to me. By that time I was the battalion executive officer and the second ranking officer in the battalion. So, after I'd been using their guest room on weekends just to get away from the confusion, the mayor of the town came to see me and he said they were very embarrassed in that they had overlooked providing me with a suitable guest room in a more pretentious house than this one. I explained to him that I was very happy there and so I stayed with the Fishers until I shipped out. They thought it was just wonderful that I married a Canadian which proved the empire was still in good shape.

Mary: Were there other officers also staying in people's houses?

Ed: Yes, it would kind of depend on the rank; there's an old saying that "rank has its privilege" but we paraphrased it to "rank has its penalties". The people in the village would, and it wasn't

just restricted to officers, they also invited enlisted men too. The church wherever we went was a great way to interact with the local people. We had lots of cigarettes and soap and Hershey bars and all that which we could give to the locals. They were hard pressed for things like sweets and detergents and soaps and so forth. That became a kind of coin of the realm, so to speak.

Mary: Was there any bombing going on in the area where you were at?

Ed: There was a lot of bombing of London but we were far from London. When we were in Cardiff there was a great deal of German bombing of the city of Cardiff and we were out on the outskirts. But the shrapnel from the anti-aircraft fire went up and it hadn't come down and when it hit a tent it would cut a ragged hole in the tent just the shape of the shrapnel. The military did a strange thing. They said when this barrage started every night we would move the troops out on the hillside and disperse them and that was a terrible ordeal because it interrupted everyone's sleep and the ground was wet and cold. We had a technician, a T-5 as he was called, and he was from Long Island - a delightful little personality - everyone liked him. He came in and said, "you know some of us have been thinking about it and it seems to us the chance of getting hit by shrapnel wouldn't be any worse in your tent than it would be out on the hillside". I thought what a screwy idea he's come up with. I discussed it with the battalion executive officer and we concluded that Corporal Disksin had a good idea. Well, to make a long story short, we forwarded his idea to headquarters and finally they concluded that we're just as safe in our tent as we would be on the hillside and we slept a lot better.

Mary: So, how long were you in this area?

Ed: Let's see, we were in that area about nine months and then once D-Day occurred all of those areas closer to the points of embarkation were freed and we were sent from Cardiff Wales, down to North Devon. That was beautiful country and wonderful people.

Mary: What did you do there?

Ed: We were training to go into France. There was kind of a humorous thing. We had a couple of problems. The men would go up to the little village in Barnstable to the pubs and they had to be in by 11:00, but they would be there drinking beer until the very last minute, and so sometimes to get home in time they would pick up a bicycle there and ride it home and then abandon the bicycle. The other problem was, having been drinking beer all night, they needed to urinate and they would go to these little stone walls, and they had a little recess there that was a mailbox so of course they would end up urinating in the mailbox. This wonderful British bobby would come in and he would say "good day sir, how are you" and you would pass all the pleasantries, and then he'd say, "by the way, we have a slight problem. There are six bicycles missing and if you could ask the troops not to use the mailbox we'd appreciate it". So he never said these thieving American soldiers and inconsiderate so and so's but it was always couched in the most dignified terms and we could always recover the bicycles and return them. Thus, good will prevailed

Mary: So, what was a typical day like?

Ed: We had a training program so we just repeated a cycle of training and then took a break and then conducted more classes for the instructors so they'd know what they were doing. It was trying to make the training as appropriate to what we would encounter when we went across the Channel. You can teach care and cleaning of equipment only so many times before it gets terribly boring. And there was a simple test like assembling the M-1 rifle with your eyes closed. That got boring and the people who had bright and innovative minds, the smarter ones, were bored to death. But there was a kind of plodding type of individual who needed this kind of repetition.

Mary: Was there an impatience to get going and move the troops out and see some action?

Ed: Yes, there was on the part of some, and if there were West Pointers among the officers, they would get very eager to move out. They would look at the calendar and say gee, if I ended the war here in the back and never saw any action, what would that do for my career in the future? They were gung-ho. Many people threw off on the West Pointers, they were referred to as the West Point Benevolence Society as the West Pointers were very partial to each other. Well, they were but I think that was a very natural thing; they knew each other, they had that indoctrination, and they had the slogan of "duty, honor, country". That was a very real thing to them. I suppose my perspective was a little different but I looked at West Pointers as individuals that could be role models. There were some that goofed off but by and large they stood out as leaders.

Mary: So what happened next?

Ed: And then, it was D + 100, in other words, D-Day plus one hundred days before we crossed the channel and by that time the hedgerows of Normandy had been cleared of the Germans. That was a very fundamental mistake that the planners did not visualize how difficult it would be to root them out. There were these small plots of land with all these vineyards and apple orchards, and just ideal for infantry soldiers, particularly if they were fanatic as the Germans were at that stage, so the losses were heavy and the time it was much greater than anticipated. Our unit was part of General Simpson's 9th army. It was to be held in reserve until a corridor could be open which would provide a straight shot to the heart of France, Paris and so forth. So all of that was thrown off schedule and General Patton made his courageous campaign in that circumstance. He was armored and he operated by a slogan that was a little bit crude "bypass and barrel ass" and that meant that as long as you can keep that point of steel, namely the tanks, moving don't worry about the little units that weren't mopped up. Let the infantry that was coming up behind do that. There was a lot of fierce fighting in that too but I think in retrospect he was right. The Germans did things by the book and the book showed that an armored division could move only so many miles a day but Patton took the point of view that we can make three times that many miles a day. He took a tremendous risk but he won.

Mary: So your battalion came over after the initial D-Day invasion?

Ed: Yes, one hundred days after and things had gotten pretty quiet except for little isolated pockets that flared up occasionally and we didn't come under any intense fire in moving up. Then we moved from France into Holland and Belgium and then on into Germany and the farthest point we got was Hanover. Hanover was a huge industrial city in the northern part of Germany. Our unit was last positioned operationally in the city of Hanover. When the Russians came from the east, the Elbe River was to be the dividing line between the Russian occupational troops and the Americans. There was a ceremonial meeting up on the Elbe River to signify the joining of the Russian forces and the U.S. forces. There was a lot of celebration over this and a sense of unity between the Russians and the Americans which didn't extend very deep. Their approach to things was so different from ours. Our units were much better disciplined. We had heard that the Russians had women MP's and the troops got very excited about that; they visualized these beautiful Russian women as MP's, on the contrary, one look at them and it was "if you made a false move I'll break your neck" (laugh).

Mary: I'm wondering when you were moving through France and Germany, how did the locals receive you and what scenes did you see?

Ed: The locals always received us well, particularly in Belgium and Holland. I think the

French had seen so much of the war that just more troops were a symbol of the horrors of the war. We were frequently housed in civilian hotels on our way up, and we got so devoted to the children. We spoiled them terribly. There were always post exchange goodies to give them like candy and the adults liked soap and cigarettes. The Americans just loved the children. I've often wondered if that was a characteristic of the British. For instance, would they have been so taken with the children?

Mary: What was happening in Germany - did you encounter resistance?

Ed: We didn't encounter much resistance because the reinforcement battalion was not a cutting edge military unit - it was to reinforce the units that were. The worst problem was with buzz bombs. We were in what they called "buzz bomb alley" and they had buzz bombs that would come over on schedule. There was one that was called the "reveille special" and another was a "bed check Charlie". Normally you get up at reveille early in the morning and then retreat is at 6:00 - you lower the flag and that kind of thing. There was something about the buzz bombs that had a very bad psychological effect because you knew they weren't manned by an individual; they were just set to go so far. They made a lot of noise like a helicopter and we could hear them coming from a long ways away and then they would get so far and the motor would cut off and they would go into a glide. It was hard to tell which way to move to get out of its way. We had a lot of psychiatric problems over buzz bombs. It was a strange thing because we really didn't lose a lot of people to buzz bombs, but the effect on morale was striking. We tried to keep the troops

from standing in the chow lines. They would get in long lines to get their meals and we wanted them dispersed and you normally eat as a group. The non-commissioned officers had to supervise them so that they didn't bunch up but that was the normal tendency. The psychological effect of buzz bombs gave us many more psychiatric problems and people sent to the hospital.

Mary: How long did this go on? Was it all the time that these buzz bombs were coming down or were they sporadic?

Ed: There were some you could set your clock by - they came over at the same time every day but interspersed were others and there was no way to account why they timed it that way. The Germans must have had lots of them because there was a tremendous amount of territory and yet our unit was subjected to a lot of buzz bombs.

Mary: So how destructive were they? What was the radius of destruction?

Ed: The radius of destruction would be about a square of about five or six houses and then there would be shrapnel that went out from that but it wasn't anything like the huge bombs that they have today. It was far more psychological than anything else and when they landed in London of course, some of them were incendiary, that is, they would start fires and of course that led to a lot of destruction.

Mary: So how many casualties were in your battalion?

Ed: We never had high casualties from men in action; we had more casualties from accidents. The chaplains in the army -I studied the chaplains very closely- because try as we might, the troops wouldn't communicate to the officers as well as they would to the chaplains. Chaplains varied a great deal in their effectiveness. I was a Presbyterian but I think the best chaplains we had were Catholic. They didn't come around and put any pressure. They didn't ask the troops "are you saved", and they didn't get out their bibles to read to them or that kind of thing. I think the secret of their success was that for so many of them they were merely companions. It seemed to me that so often the kind of evangelical types that were Protestants disappeared when the real noise and shrapnel was going on. We had a very courageous chaplain who liked to stay where the action was and then at the end of the day when everybody was weary he'd pull out a bottle of brandy and say well, "someone must have put that in my pack" He had a great sense of humor and yet he could be very serious and spiritual.

Mary: So, you got to Germany and then what happened?

Ed: We only got as far as Hanover where we were processing the troops forward. There was a beautiful military structure there which was called the Shorn Horst Kassern. We occupied that and it was very fine quarters. Some of the tragedy of war the chaplain used to refer to as the "fortunes of war". Jeeps would run into stone walls or a tank would back into a jeep, or a tank would run over a soldier who was sleeping in the grass. For our unit there was a little action in

the Bulge. There was the attitude toward us to get out of the way. High headmasters wanted to take over the quarters we were in - their point of view of us was to just get on the road and keep moving and stay out of the way. So we went back there and reestablished so we could accept troops and feed them, issue them new weapons, and that kind of thing. It was very confusing in the Bulge. A lot of troops got separated from their units and of course it was very important to immediately dispatch them back to their units although some would just like to hide out with us, so to speak, rather than go back to pick up their rifle and go back to combat.

Mary: How long were you there until the end of the war?

Ed: We were in Hanover about seven months and we operated very efficiently there but that's where we were when the war ended and then that was a terrible period. The Germans had captured Russians and brought them in and put them to work but before that happened, there were Russians who left Russia to come to Germany for the high wages the Germans were paying to work in the munitions plants. The Russian soldiers assumed that every Russian in Germany had come of his own free will and betrayed Russia and they were just relentless in trying to ferret those people out. Our unit was given the order to keep order in the city of Hanover. Hanover was the size of Syracuse, New York and a battalion with nothing but jeeps and two and a half ton trucks were pretty helpless in keeping order. One way the Russian troops got revenge was to ferret them out throw them out of a high window. Whenever things happened that you hadn't anticipated, it had a terrible effect on morale. We thought once they declared victory in Europe, V-E Day, it would be easier from there but it wasn't. It was just terribly appalling to see the ruthlessness of the Russians against the Germans and against their Russians that they thought had come over voluntarily.

Mary: How much longer were you there after the war ended?

Ed: We were there three months and then they sent us to LeHavre which was a redeployment area for troops to either go home or go to the Pacific and we were designated to go to the Pacific.

Mary: So you were sent to this redeployment area and thought you were going to go to the South Pacific.

Ed: Yes. They kept us busy being sure that our table of equipment that specified all the equipment that the unit required was brought up to standard. We also kept the enlisted men busy and fell back on training and had orientation courses for the Pacific theatre and all the equipment and that kind of thing. The Army did things in a rather difficult way so every GI can had to be packed with a frame of 2x4's and of course we wanted to put all the extra goodies we had like radios and we'd liberated a good deal of brandy and wine so we'd go out to the farmers and requisition hay and put it in the bottom of the cans. We often wondered what the quartermaster unit thought when they opened those cans and found the brandy and wine and radios. There were never enough radios.

Mary: Did you not go to the South Pacific after all?

Ed: No, after the atomic bomb was dropped, victory in Japan was declared. Then we just had to wait our turn to come back to the states and we went to a redeployment area in France. For days we talked about the "lady with the light" and that was the Statue of Liberty. They handed out a lot of forms that asked us for instance, "did you want to stay in the reserves?" Our little cluster of officers talked it over. We'd developed such great loyalty and we decided, well there wouldn't be a war in our time and this would be kind of like a class reunion so we signed on. It worked very well for me because I was still a scholar and a student and I got sent to active duty every summer for two weeks and the great state of New York didn't count that two weeks against our vacation time so we were drawing double pay and getting credits toward promotion, By that process I got promoted from lieutenant colonel to colonel and I had a total of 23 in the service. It took twenty years to qualify for retirement benefits. Having lived as long as I have, it's been a very good thing financially and psychological too.

Mary: At some point you became a professor.

Ed: Yes, and you were inquiring about what the army did for me. My mentor at Cornell said to me years later, "I would not have wanted to hire the Ed Smith who went off to WWII, but I sure wanted to hire the Ed Smith who came back". That was his gracious way of paying tribute to the maturity that I gained. I was very impressionable. The challenge to lead was so intense and fortunately, most of the officers I served under were big people. They were good role models.

Mary: You've mentioned a number of times the loyalty of those friendships. Have you kept in touch with some of these other veterans and were you ever in any veteran's organizations?

Ed: No, I never joined a veteran's organization. My reason for not joining was that I just wanted to be a citizen and I thought the GI Bill of Rights was just a wonderful thing and I looked at the veterans groups as kind of lobbyists and I didn't particularly like to spend a lot of time in the American Legion clubhouse drinking beer. I was eager to close the gap of four and a half years and I thought I could serve the national interest better by just being a conscientious citizen rather than being a veteran.

Mary: How long were you a professor of entomology at Cornell?

Ed: Over fifty years and the GI bill and everybody at Cornell just couldn't do enough for us returning veterans. I remember one of my professors said to me that "we will rue the day when the GI's are not setting the tempo of the class". We didn't put up with any nonsense. If a professor didn't show up on time for his classes then was a battle. Three or four of us would make an appointment with the dean and complain. We may have overdone it sometimes but the faculty came to respect us a great deal.

Mary: Did your military experience influence your thinking about war or about the military in general?

Ed: It did very much. I've never been able to reconcile why the human intellect can't devise a better way of settling its difficulties. I've felt very keenly in the current situation that attacking Iraq is, not justified and I don't think anyone can put the label on me of a blind pacifist but I thought there were steps that could have been taken. I didn't see why we had to rush so fast to war. War changes you and I think it gives us more patience and more sympathy for the people who didn't have the advantages we did. We deplore the injustices of war and the way that the individual gets picked off by mortar shell is just a probability. Some people see in this the hand of God. I never looked at it that way. I think I was deeply spiritual but not on an individual basis; I didn't think God was deflecting the bullets. Those of us who had a deep spiritual base to draw on I think got along much better than those who didn't and we were drawn together by this philosophy we shared.

Mary: We're just about at the end of our interview. Is there anything else you would like to add that we didn't cover?

Ed: I think that I'm concerned about the so called volunteer army. I think it's a volunteer army but this was a course that would enable them to move up the ladder. I would feel much more comfortable and I think the nation's outlook to war would be different if we followed conscription because if you look at the numbers of the armed forces who are volunteers, there is a disproportionate number of Afro-Americans and if you were to look at their economic and social background, it certainly wouldn't be on par with the average American income, economics, and educational levels and so forth. I don't believe there will always be war. Biologists like to stay away from the words "always" and "never" and the question in my mind is how much blood will be shed in this evolutionary process until the human intellect can establish a world order that can deal with these things more efficiently.

Mary: Ed, I want to thank you very much for your time and this interview.