RICHARD BARRETT

Amthor: This is a portion of the Oral Histories of Northwest Missouri in the 1940s Program. The Nodaway County Historical Society is sponsoring this program in partnership with the Missouri Humanities Council and with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Today is March 27, 2009, and this interview is being conducted at the Tiffany Care Center, Mound City, Missouri, in Holt County. The interviewer is Joni Amthor and assisting is Margaret Kelley. We are here today with Richard Barrett. He was born on April 15, 1924, and he served in the Army and he's going to tell us about life in the 1940s and his service time.

Okay, could you tell us a little bit about your background first?

Barrett: Well, I always tell the story about when I was born, April 15. That's the middle of April, naturally, but it's the spring planting season. My dad was disking over in the field of the old orchard – that's west of Skidmore 4 ½ miles - and the doctor was out of Skidmore, Dr. Pierpoint, and they called him and he came out and my older brother went over in the field and told my dad that he ought to come to the house, so he left the horses over there or something. He came and Dr Pierpoint delivered twins. And, supposedly, I'm 5 minutes older than my brother. But one thing is that my mother always told the story that one of the twins kept crying all of the time. What had happened was that she had fed one of them twice and the other one not at all, so the other one was hungry. That was my brother, probably, 'cause he's a cry baby. No, that's my background. Then my brother and I went to school at Skidmore and graduated. I just wrote a letter before I come up here to a lady in our class, Virginia McGinness Pagen?. She's out in Indiana now. I just made the statement that I hated to see them tear down that school house up there at Skidmore because it was a beautiful building. But that's where the memories were. I graduated in 1942 and went to the University of Missouri at Columbia for one semester and came back – that semester ended in January on the 2nd day. I'll give it this way. The first day we went to Fort Leavenworth and were basically inducted and then a month later on my mother's birthday, on March 10, my twin brother and I went into the military service. I've often wondered, my mother didn't ever show that much emotion, but it would be something that on your birthday having your sons go into the military service. And that was in the time when World War II was a very aggressive operation. And we didn't rebel at all about going into the service. In fact, on Pearl Harbor Day our senior class was practicing the senior play on December 7th, and from that time on everybody said, "Let's get those people." So that was my start of my military service.

And after I came back from the service, after 3 years, I re-entered the university and qualified to teach vocational agriculture and taught for 35 years. Following that I worked with the USDA as a field man and was an assistant compliance officer for 13 counties here in northwest Missouri and then I worked for my wife, too, for 52 years. So, I'm kind of a joker, so you want to shut me off, why, 'cause I'm always making light of things. No, I married – I made the comment to Angie that I went over and carried a rifle,

and walked across Germany and came back and married a German lady, but she was a beautiful lady and I've had her 52 years, but then she got away from me. We had 5 children, 14 grandchildren, and 4 great-grandchildren. This next 18th of April, this isn't important, but I'm going to take 32 of us down to a restaurant in St Joe, my kids, and my grandkids, and a couple of other guests, and I'm going to pay the whole bill, so handout is nice, but it's good to have that family relationship. That's about the background of my life – I have a good family and interesting, and my wife and I lived in Tarkio at one time. Bernice couldn't understand why I wanted my kids to go to the University of Missouri. Well, after last night, thank Memphis, she could understand why. But there was a college in Tarkio, Missouri, and we lived 4 blocks from the college. Why not send them there? Dianne could live at home and walk back and forth. But, no, all five of my kids went through the University. They are growing well and I'm happy with them.

Amthor: Can you tell us a little bit about the propaganda during that time, before the war or during the war, what they were saying?

Barrett: You know, that's a vague question for me. So much of that came out later. The propaganda that we heard was- and I don't know whether it's propaganda or not- but you read articles about World War II (and I do a lot of reading) that everybody knew we were going to be attacked by the Japanese and the Japanese ambassadors were in the White House on the day before the Pearl Harbor Day. But the average person, citizen of the United States, had no knowledge of that. Of course, there are lots of things about the government -they aren't covert activities, but we aren't aware of these things. Here's another thing – my outfit was in on the capture of Dachau, one of the concentration camps. Iin fact, on the day before we went through Dachau, the GIs didn't know anything about those concentration camps. Why we didn't have knowledge of that, I don't know, but when you're in the attacking forces as far as combat infantry, why, you're just moving forward. Of course, we went through Dachau which is just north of Munich. But as far as propaganda, I can't say that I had that much knowledge of propaganda. But it was after the attack and as President Roosevelt said this 'day of Infamy', it was 100% cooperation from all citizens. Oh, there would be a few negative people. I always remember that my brother and I, when we came back from the service. We smoked at that time. Some of the people in Skidmore would see us there in Skidmore with our dad and they'd go down and get cartons of cigarettes for us because they wanted to treat us right. Well, they didn't know we could get all the cigarettes we wanted, and they, themselves, probably couldn't get that many cigarettes. But those are not relevant at all here. Just part of my story.

Amthor: Tell us about your early service before you went overseas. Now, were you drafted or did you enlist?

Barrett: We were drafted.

Amthor: Okay. How about the basic training and the barracks and how was all that?

Barrett: It was, the first entry was down at Fort Leavenworth, and our first knowledge about what Army discipline was. We didn't have any troubles, but we were just high school farm boys, really just 18 years old right out of high school actually, I guess. I was still 18 when I went to Fort Leavenworth. And we left there on a train and went to – we were supposed to go to what they called the Air Corp at that time – Keesler Field, Mississippi, Biloxi, where the storm hit last year, and Gulfport Field. Rode the train, went down, took our basic training down there. Then we were scheduled to go into aerial gunnery and radio operation, so we were sent to Camp Crowder up at Neosho, Missouri, and there we took radio training. Then the little inflated answer, when you go into the military service, you take the IQ test and we qualified, but we qualified because our intelligence quotient was above the level of just graduating from high school- I'm trying to be- and so we qualified for ASTP (Army Specialized Training Service) and we were sent out to Regis College at Denver, Colorado. That's enough on that, but anyhow, we were in training as engineers. Not combat engineers, we're talking about college engineers that build bridges and things like this. And we picked up 32 hours of college credit from Regis College at Denver University. But the interesting thing about that was the colleges said that they only gave us 2 hours credit for an English course, but the graduate study said you had to take a 3 hour course in English. The same as the 5 hour course they gave us credit for a 4 hour course. But it's on there and it shows a lot of college credit, but it didn't do us much good. Then, really, at that time, the powers that be could see that the war was about over. In fact, they thought it would end within a month, and that was clear back in August, I'll say. But the Germans were fighting the very last ditch effort. Hitler had what he called the Nordwin Campaign, which was to attack us down at Strasbourg and then they were going to try to encircle us and go up and then circle the rest of the people up north of us at the Battle of the Bulge, and so the war didn't end like – in fact we went into combat on Christmas Eve back here, and down into the Maginot Line, and that's when we heard the first machine gun fire when we were there and from then on until May 7th – is May 7th the right date of that? It's funny. I have a daughter with a birthday on that date, too. But we were in what we call 3 major battles. Sometimes you'll read in an obituary where a person won 3 bronze stars. Well, those are just battle stars. Those are not the bronze stars of the medal, but we were in 3 major battles. Ended up down in southern Germany and on down into Strasbourg? Salsburg?, Austria, and we'd get up every morning and look at the Alps, and you know how beautiful they are. That's about it, if that answers your question.

Amthor: Okay: So, when you did go into service, what were all the countries that you passed through?

Barrett: We landed in Gibraltar and into the Mediterranean and landed at Marseille. And the cold weather, that was the first part of December and we camped out on the hills and rocks down there and every night an airplane would fly over and, I'm not smart, but I think I had it figured out. They said, "Uh-oh, the Germans are coming in to strafe." and there was an airplane would fly over just maybe to indoctrinate us to what maybe enemy fire would do. Well, soldiers when they get a little excited, and their tents pitched, they kind of would run through and maybe the tents would be destroyed or upset, and it scared us at that time. We were an isolated outfit. The 42nd Infantry Division was sent

over as three Infantry Regiments and I was in the 22nd Infantry. There was a 222nd and a 242nd, but we didn't have our artillery with us. We didn't have our engineers with us. We didn't have our quartermasters with us, we didn't have whatever else it was, so we had to rely on the76th Division off to our left and we were hoping, they were supposed to furnish artillery for us in combat to keep us from being annihilated, but you know they kind of wanted to protect their own people first. So we didn't get much support we needed, but when our other troops got over, we had a full unit, and we went up to Strasbourg and that's where the Norwind Campaign that Hitler had and they needed to recapture Strasbourg 'cause it was a major, major city, and one which was necessary and the Free French units were to the south of us. Well, when we were without our support elements, the Free French moved up and took our place on the line, but that was when the Germans had already crossed the river on us and pretty much beat us up good. But I watched these Free French move through our unit and some of them didn't even have shoes, they didn't have helmets. They'd have towels and things wrapped around their feet. And they just marched right on through with the idea that if I get killed all right or if I don't all right, but this is what we're fighting for and there we were with a lot of equipment and a lot of sad things about war, you know. I'm wearing what we called a Combat Infantry Badge, and a Combat Infantry Badge is for anyone who was on the front lines and was being subjected to artillery fire and rifle fire, and you know there are people who are jealous of us for wearing that thing. It's kind of strange. I can tell you this, it's not something you should be jealous of because the– another thing is the fact that I've indicated, have I not, that I have a twin brother? We were moving up to relieve another unit. It was pretty quiet, some artillery fire coming in, I suppose, but a young fellow came through there with the group we were relieving and we were visiting and he looked at my brother and me and he said, "Are you guys twins?" We said, "Yes." He said, "I lost my twin brother over here 6 weeks ago." And this goes back to the history of when the five Sullivan brothers were on the ship that went down. No relatives - brothers were not even supposed to be sent together, or to go overseas together, but my brother and I didn't have that chance and so we were together and it wasn't good. On our first campaign up at Gamsheim there was a time there that my brother and another gentleman from California had gone back to repair a telephone line and artillery poured in on us and I just knew at that time that my brother would have been killed - finally got over me and I thought I was safe, and they finally came back, but it wasn't good. It would have been better if we had been separate, I guess, but I'm glad he was there.

Amthor: What were the three major battles you participated in?

Barrett: The major battles were the one that they called Central Europe which was the battle campaign, and then the Mediterranean Battles. Perhaps that comes into being from the African Campaign and the Italy Campaign and the Germans - our troops from those major battles landed in Southern Europe and came up to the area toward where D-Day occurred. And then the Ardennes Campaign – and the Ardennes Forest is really kind of a historical area in relation to World War I because Germany is a beautiful place and France is a beautiful place. While I'm talking about that, I – our American Legion Post is known as the Paul P Shutts? Post. In fact, Paul P Shutts lived just north and east of Mound City here and my folks knew that family. Well, he was killed 30 days before the

Armistice Day in World War I. And I have some history that his relatives have given me. I have walked in the same area that he was buried on a hill outside this town. I have walked through this town myself, so I have kind of a relationship our post is known from. And those were the three major battles. Again, we thought that the people in power (Eisenhower and Patton, General Patch was our Army Commander, 7th Army, terrific individual, and something was said about when our outfit went over – I don't have my Rainbow Patch. That's the 42nd Division. It was quite famous in World War I. And people ask me, "What is a Rainbow?" In World War I the Rainbow had men from every state in the union, and so they called it the Rainbow Division because it covered the entire United States. We were supposed to go to the 3rd Army which was General Patton's Army and, supposedly, he said, "I don't want that show-off outfit." When we saluted, you're supposed to stand. When we saluted, we dipped our heads back and saluted the Rainbows. We kind of showed off a little bit. We had a lot of pride. Everybody that was in that fighting unit had a lot of pride in their own. In fact, you could get into a fight with about anybody. In fact, we had combat boots and the paratroopers claimed we stole their combat boots from them. So that was another thing you could get into a fight about. But I never got into a fight. So those were the three major battles that we were in.

Amthor: How did you handle emotion during your combat missions?

Barrett: How did we handle our emotions?

Amthor: You see a lot of death and destruction.

Barrett: You know, you hear that, and I have often said, but it's never been written down, but how did the infantry, psychologically, train their individuals to go into combat? And I still don't know. But we had no reservations about,- well, I'll admit there were times that I was scared to death, but there were always these people that kept on going and you just stayed right with it and an 18 or 19 year old individual farm boy doesn't let things like that bother him, I guess. But we had- I could name two or three units- well, while we were still at Camp Gerber, Oklahoma, we were on an all-night bivouac as if you were in combat and we came back in that morning about 7 o'clock and were told to clean our equipment and be ready to fall out at 9 o'clock. Well, in the meantime, a soldier in the barracks next to the one that I was in found a tent rope and went into the infantry room and hung himself because he couldn't stand that. And, then, before we shipped overseas, we had all of our equipment packed up ready to go and another gentleman used a rifle and destroyed his own life. But there were people who couldn't stand it, but for the most part all of us did. We had a lot of good buddies. I think we supported each other, to answer that question.

Amthor: You said you formed friendships and comradery. Do you still have those today?

Barrett: Very seldom. I had a chance to see a picture of a cemetery and in the cemetery was a stone and on the stone it had General Harry J Collins, Commander of the 42nd

Infantry Division, the Rainbow. And so, I wrote a letter to our division editor and he put my name in the paper, put my letter in the paper, 'cause I inquired why General Collins was buried in Europe. Well, there's some reasons for it -I won't go into now- but after that letter showed up in the paper, our Rainbow Reveille, I had a letter from a gentleman up in Massachusetts and another letter from a man by the name of Milton J Clogg from Baltimore who was in the I Company which was real close, probably, I could have seen him several times during combat, but I hadn't heard from those people for 60 years and here they write a letter saying it's good to hear from you and we write back to them and try to keep a correspondence going, but it fails, so I guess I'm one of them that fails at it, but I did write back to those guys, but them gentlemen from Flint, Michigan, that I'd like to know about. And also while Bernice, one time, was at the beauty shop I got on the telephone and got directory service out in Washington and we probably didn't have the money for long distance phone calls but I knew the gentleman's name from Wenatchee, Washington, but they gave me some numbers and I dialed them and they said he isn't here right now so I never did find out where they were. We had one good friend in Los Angeles, California, by the name of Pete Gross and he's always been known as – he was a good soldier, and when someone says that, that means he did what he was supposed to do and he was a leader, but Pete Gross was a good soldier. And I asked the people at a Division Reunion one time from I Company, the 232nd,, if they knew Pete and they said, "Oh, yes." but he's gone now. So we've lost him.

Amthor: Did you send a lot of letters home?

Barrett: Probably, when we were in a stalemate, if that's the correct term, when we were in a deal where things were - we weren't advancing, we were able to write, what they called v-mail, I think, but if we were moving forward, we didn't have a chance to write those letters. But, relative to that, we have seen enough movies like Private Ryan and those type of movies where you see an Army car pull up in front of a home and two officers get out and one of them is a chaplain and the other one is an officer. Their mission is to report to the family. "Your son was skilled in action and we're sorry." And I've often wondered how my mother and father got - every morning when they'd get up and they knew we were in combat - I wonder if this'll be the day that we'll see that. I'll be ??? But it didn't happen. We were all fine. So, that's about the size of that.

Amthor: So what did you do for entertainment? Did you have the USO or Red Cross?

Barrett: Say that again, please.

Amthor: What did you do for entertainment? Did you have the USO or Red Cross?

Barrett: Yes, USO, definitely, Red Cross. Coffee and doughnuts were available. And we'd go to the USO.

Amthor: Bob Hope?

Barrett: We never did go see him.

Amthor: You didn't see Bob Hope or Bing Crosby?

Barrett: He was down at Salsburg when we were down south there one time. Since you ask the question, the three of us didn't have any cigarettes left. We went to the USO and there were some soldiers, quite a few soldiers, and the Red Cross people and young ladies, nice young ladies. We walked by this table and saw that package of cigarettes there. And so, one of us said something to the other and we just walked by. We didn't steal those cigarettes, but we had to have them so we took those cigarettes. That wasn't nice, was it? I told you I talk all the time.

Amthor: Okay. Did you listen to Axis Sally?

Barrett: Never did. But we knew about her. The only thing we would have said about that was that, if we had a chance we would like to use an M1 because we went through one town and I can still see the church steeple in that town, but the German Army had moved on out because we were quite aggressive, and the mothers or the women of little children were shooting at us to slow us down, so those were the reasons that we didn't have anything but animosity toward Axis Sally.

Amthor: How about at the end of the war? Did you go on when the war ended in Europe, were you shipped home, where did you go from that point?

Barrett: We were down south of Salsburg, well, we were at Munich. I have a picture and I don't have it with me, but I was leaning up there with a pipe in my mouth smoking, just relaxing, the war's over. What we didn't know was that we were going to stay over there for another 2 or 3 months until the other military activities were gelled, so to speak, and then we'd be sent home for 30 days and then sent on over to the Pacific. Our division was slated to be one of the divisions to be landing on the main landing area of Japan. But then there's the question that people will ask, well, were you in favor of the atomic weapons? Uh, basically, yes, even though it was such a destructive weapon, and a lot of good people were killed, but in landing on the island of Japan we've been told that you could expect anywhere from, oh golly, 60% death loss of landing troops, so, as a GI, as a combat infantryman, I was favorable toward the war ending. That's about that part of it.

Amthor: Were there major celebrations when you finally got to come home?

Barrett: Not too much. I don't know, people - I don't know if there's was a misunderstanding or whether there was really something to this, but a lot of people will say, well, he was in combat. He doesn't want to talk about it. There are some people who are subjected to so much and intense combat that they do have nightmares. Now I never have had any nightmares. I wake up sometimes and have been dreaming about it, but not one that I would get up and beat the pillows or reach over and hit my wife or anything like that, but I can remember the day we came home. We landed in New Brunswick, New Jersey, came to St Louis and Jefferson Barracks, rode up to Columbia with some friends that we had that lived in Columbia, then got on a bus and rode to

Kansas City and got on a bus and went to Maryville. We called our folks and they came over to Maryville, my way of talking here- northwest Missouri talk, and my folks picked us up there, and that first night we went to a basketball game in Skidmore and people didn't talk to us. Oh, they'd come up and say Hi and shake hands with us, but, oh, he's been in combat. He doesn't want to talk, but that wasn't so. We wanted to talk to them. Like the Paul O'Riley's. He was a good friend of mine. We wanted to talk to them. But we lost him, too. But not anything major, no. No major celebrations.

Amthor: So, you were just talking about how people treated you when you got home. Was there any other significant way they treated you?

Barrett: They just wanted to make us feel welcome- family more than anything else. I had a sister Omaha and an older brother. My older brother was an engineer at Patterson Air Force Base. Of course, he was a developer of the fuel injection for the aircraft and he wasn't a subject for military service, but after the war was over he was drafted and sent to Alaska. So we, my twin brother and I, kind of laughed about our older brother getting sent to Alaska. So, all in good family fun.

Amthor: How did you adjust to life after you got back to civilian life. What did you do when you got home?

Barrett: We were home on Valentine's Day, February 14, no, that's the day we were discharged. We came home and my sister in Omaha worked for the Union Pacific as a telegrapher and she lined us up for getting a job at Omaha Cold Storage. And we worked at Omaha Cold Storage probably 'til probably the middle of August and then we enrolled back down to the University of Missouri and started our career in college work.

Amthor: Did you partake in the GI Bill at the time?

Barrett: Very definitely. I worked while I was down there in a Genetics Greenhouse and had the GI Bill which paid for your books and tuition and then you got a check, if I remember correctly. And working at that greenhouse, planting corn grains and watering corn plants, I made money going to school at the University. I don't like to tell people because they might think, well, that's not good. We're paying taxes. No, it was such a reasonable deal that anybody who didn't take advantage of it should have.

Amthor: Did you join the American Legion or the VFW when you returned?

Barrett: Say that again, please.

Amthor: Did you join the American Legion or the VFW when you returned?

Barrett: Yes, I joined the American Legion Post at Skidmore and went from there to Craig and I joined their post and then I left Craig and went to Tarkio and joined their post and then we came back here to Mound City and I joined the Paul P Shutts Post. One of the things I will tell you is that Bob Smith and I do all of the flag folding for the deceased

veterans. And that's an interesting thing. I do the flag folding and Bob does the presentations. I had a good friend over at Craig that passed away. I'd had him in high school over there. So the family asked if I would do the presentation. Well, I did, and when I handed it to her, I can still see that one tear roll down her cheeks from what I said, which is very much a thanks from the United States Government and the Paul T Shutts Post, we're happy to present you this flag....but it gets to them. I can remember another deal, we had a funeral in Fairfax, and I think there were six young ladies. I don't think there was family there, it might have been an uncle of theirs. No emotion showed at all. Then we went to the cemetery at Sharps Grove, which is between Craig and Fairfax and they had the committal service, and then Bob and I stepped over to take the flag folding. We lifted the flag off of the casket and every one of those ladies broke down and started sobbing. That flag and the sounding of taps gets to these people. So, it's one type of emotion, one time when emotion is shown and I appreciated the fact that they were showing that emotion.

Amthor: When you returned home, did you feel like there was a threat from Communism?

Barrett: I think so, because of that one gentleman, and the name I'm not going to come up with, was fighting Communism. And I always felt that there was, but then again, maybe lack of knowledge prevented me from knowing that.

Amthor: What about polio? Was that a major threat?

Barrett: It was, and Bernice and I went to the doctor and had the vaccine and the doctor told us – Dr Neidermeyer at Tarkio told us that, well, I'm going to give my kids the shot, which assured us that we could take the shot without any bad effects. So, yes, I had students over at Craig that had polio. In fact, two of them that you people would know, possibly, but they're crippled now. They're still with us. But polio was a threat.

Amthor: Is there any special story that you'd like to share with us that we may not have covered, but means something to you.

Barrett: I've often wondered about -and I've indicated I – my brother and I were both at war and you don't win a medal. You are awarded a medal. My brother and I were both awarded the Silver Star and that is really a fascinating thing. One of our major battles was keeping communications in with the attacking companies. And Colonel Galloway wrote the three of us up for keeping communications in because they needed it for artillery and our colonel, at one time, and it might have been the reason he did it, was in a pillbox and the German tanks were firing into it and they called in for telephone communication to get artillery to come in and so we kept our artillery concentrated on the tanks and pillbox. Germans were shelling us and they'd break our lines and we repaired them, but we finally allowed them to be set free. But the thing that sometimes I wonder about, we were at a town called Lictenberg. When we went into the service, a lot of military people were given a little New Testament Bible that they always carried with them. The colonel, or the battalion commander called me and said, "Barrett, come up.

You've got a job to do tonight. We have a man from I& R Platoon –"and this was before March 15 cause we were the final attack for we were heading south was to set off at March 15 and they wanted a soldier captured from the German Army. They called this guy in from the I & R Platoon which was just another way of – anyhow, they wanted me to be on a sound power telephone and this guy had a I & R Platoon, an Intelligence and Recognizance outfit – which is an I & R company, they're just GIs right in our company, but he was to go and capture a prisoner. Now the German/American lines were probably a 100yds separated, which was pretty darned close. So I sat on a telephone all night - well, up until 11:00 – well he took off about 8:00, and sound power telephone was just a telephone line, the telephone wouldn't ring or anything like that, and when he'd fasten the alligator clips to the telephone line and say then he'd come on and say, "Barrett, I'm at so and so." But he came on, later, maybe 10:00 that night and said, "I'm on my way in. I have a prisoner." Well, he came in with the prisoner and the commander was there and I was in the room and they had him take all of the things out of his pocket. This was one of the little things he had. What fascinates me about that is that GI was able to take off and go down a hill into the German lines and capture a prisoner. Now that had to take an awful lot of intestinal fortitude or you're crazy or something, but, boy, there were a lot of those people like that that didn't get enough credit. I'll tell you, that was something. Now I'll tell you, I think this was a Catholic book. I know no more than that, but, why didn't I write that guy's name down for this 'cause he probably lived through World War II because he was our prisoner and he was sent back to safety. But I'd like to know what his name was. But when you're a GI, you don't think of things like that. Things were not important when you – well, they're important, but you don't think of them. But that's one thing I'll always remember. Oh, there were a lot of other things. I lost four real close friends of mine in combat. In fact our platoon had probably 36 troops in them. We had a radio section, and a wire section, and a message center section. And our lieutenant was Lieutenant Taylor and he was killed in combat. Three months after he was killed, our outfit got notice that his wife had given birth to their son. So those are the sorrowful things about combat. And combat is scary.

Amthor: I have one final question for you. What do you think, after serving in World War II, and considering the war of today, what do you think are the major differences and what could they learn from your experience that they could utilize today?

Barrett: What do I think some of the changes are and what could we do to utilize those? I don't know how to answer that because sometimes it's asked what would we do if we had the draft. I think it would be a very sorrowful thing if we had the draft. Personally, I'd be in favor of it, but there'd be so many that wouldn't. And, again, we go back to the scientific part of it. We have what we have now Smart Bombs, you know. Of course, an M1 shooting at you and artillery shell then is very destructive, but, boy, with the weapons they have now, it's just scary. We go to the moon, we can land on Mars, and those are the things, the scientific things, just like a cell phone. Some of my kids were in Florida, and I just picked up the cell phone and dialed their number. In fact, I have a friend down at the St John's Church up at – north of Tarkio – a young lady by the name of Jessica Rolf. You might know her. She's over in the Czech Republic right now. I e-mail her. To me it's impossible to e-mail somebody on your computer and hit send. We

can do anything we want to right now from the standpoint of scientific developments. Does that answer your question?

Amthor: Yes, it does. Is there anything else you'd like to share with us?

Barrett: I don't know how to explain it except that the German people were nice people. Now this is a matter of opinion. I had no animosity to the German people when I came home, but if I was in the Pacific I'd have that animosity. In fact, we have some of those people from the Pacific on our major league ball clubs. If I'm wrong on this, but I can't stand them. But I think it was the atrocities they showed to our troops and the death marches and there were the times that the Germans did some things that weren't- not the best thing to do, as far as, I say, best thing, they did some criminal things, especially the SS troops. We were always wanting to get a German Luger, but if we had ever been captured and had a German Luger (which was a pistol) in our equipment, you were automatically shot right there on the spot because the SS troops knew immediately that you had probably killed a German officer. Our first entry in combat was at Strasbourg and Strasbourg was a very important city as far as the Germans were concerned. And that's where it all started when we were - the Germans crossed the Rhine River. They wanted Strasbourg back so they could - Hitler's last ditch effort to. But combat is a strange thing. And you just go on every day and just assume that you'll be all right, I guess, but we made it. I did get hit by a piece of shrapnel one time, right here on my leg, it was what we call a tree burst, where the shell hits a tree and then the schrapnel just goes out . I didn't even know what it was. I just reached up and threw it away. But I didn't - oh, we had some close calls. The German artillery was a vicious weapon, especially the 88. That's about the size of it.

Amthor: Well, thank you for coming in and sharing with us.

Barrett: It's been my pleasure. Thank you. It's nice to see you.