

# **VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT**

Preserving Stories of Service for Future Generations

Interview with

**Joe Glavan**

conducted by Martin W. Thomas

November 15, 2002

This project sponsored by the Indian Prairie Public Library  
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## **Part 1: Introduction:**

**This interview is being conducted on November 15, 2002 at the Indian Prairie Public Library in Darien, IL. My name is Martin Thomas. I am speaking with Mr. Joseph R. Glavan. Mr. Glavan was born on May 7, 1923 in New York, NY and now lives in Willowbrook, IL. Mr. Glavan learned of the Veterans History Project through a presentation by Dal Estes, “Private Ryan’s Sergeant” on November 11, 2000 here at the library. He has kindly consented to be interviewed for the project. Here is his story:**

## **Part 2: Entering the Military:**

**Mr. Glavan, when did you enter the service?**

January of ‘42.

**Where were you living at the time?**

New York City.

**What were you doing before you entered the service?**

I had a job working for Wells Fargo Company, working as a clerk.

**Were you drafted or did you enlist?**

I was drafted.

**What branch of service drafted you?**

The US Army. The 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry.

**Where were you inducted?**

Ft. Dix, New Jersey.

**What were your first days like, at Ft. Dix?**

Terrible. (both laugh) The shots that they gave you, the constant yelling of people waking us up at four or five in the morning. Your life was completely changed (laughs) from what you were used to. It took a little while to get used to it. They treated you like cattle, and I guess they had to, with so many men. They just had to be rough with you.

**How long were you at Ft. Dix?**

I was at Ft. Dix for about three weeks.

**Three weeks? Was that just processing and shots?**

That, believe it or not, yes, the processing, the shots, et cetera. However, compared to other soldiers, they would be at Ft. Dix maybe a couple of days, and their name would be called and, bang, they’d go somewhere. I was surprised that we were there that long.

**You mentioned a minute ago that when you were drafted you were with the 35th Infantry. Were you already assigned when you were inducted?**

No.

**Did you know where you were going to go?**

Absolutely not. In fact, it was a complete surprise. Number one, that I was there for three weeks. I don't flatter myself, but I thought they were keeping me there for something special. Because everybody would be there for a couple of days and they'd ship you out, and I even went up and I said, "You know I'm here a long time; is something wrong?" "Don't worry, don't worry. Just sit tight. We'll let you know". So one day they called me and, boom, put me on a train. I did not know where we were going. I went on a troop train from Ft. Dix to San Luis Obispo. It took eight days. And then, when I got off the train, I could see the officers waiting. And I could see the rifle insignias on their lapels...And I thought, "Oh, shit, I'm in infantry." (laughs)

**That was the first you knew?**

That was the first I knew. Yes. Where I was going, I did not know.

**When you were at Ft. Dix, were you allowed to visit with your family at all before you got on the train?**

Yes. They would give us occasional passes, yes.

**And you went back home to New York City?**

Yeah, I would go into the city there. They had busses running between Ft. Dix and the city.

**You were outfitted with uniforms and so forth before you...?**

Oh, yeah. Complete soldier, yeah.

### **Part3: Training**

**You then took the train to San Luis Obispo, and you said when you got off the train was when you realized...?**

I saw the officers with the rifles. I said, "Man, this is no special place they're sending me (laughs). I did not like that.

**What happened at San Luis Obispo?**

Well, then they put us in certain companies, and then I was in the 35th Division, which was a National Guard outfit. And the soldiers that they had in that outfit trained us. These were regular army guys. They trained us.

**Do you know how you came to be assigned to a National Guard division?**

No. The only thing I could think of, is that it was an infantry outfit, and this is where a lot of the losses were, and they had to put guys like me in there.

**Did you take your basic training there?**

Yeah.

**What was basic training like for you?**

Well, basic training was pretty rough, but I kind of liked it, because we were in the mountains, and I liked the California weather. And everything was new at that time, you know. You were kind of a young guy, too. You met friends, and the first place they housed me was in a Quonset hut with four other guys, and you just lived in there, and joked around.

**In basic training?**

In basic training, yeah.

**Did you have the same training as the other basic trainees had?**

I would say so.

**But did you go to the same training classes, every class that they did?**

I think it would be different, but basically you were taught to be kind of used to hard living. They would get you up at all times of the night and send you on marches and things like that. It was, I guess, part of...you bitched about it, but it was part of the training. Get used to irregular hours.

**Well, the reason I asked is, before we went on record you mentioned that your life was a little different, in that you didn't have all the rifle training that your...?**

Well, that was later. After we were in San Luis Obispo, and we were undergoing training, I wasn't assigned to a company yet. Then, somewhere along the line, again they call your name, "OK, Joe, you're to report to the 137th Regiment." Which was a part of the 35th Division. There's three regiments. There's the 137th, 134th, and the 320th. So, then they assigned me to Service Company. That's when I start getting the work at Regimental Headquarters, mailroom, S-1, 2, 3, 4 Sections. I was in every one of them. Wherever they needed me. And it was all cushy work, I mean, nice, easy work.

**But while you were doing those assignments, were your fellow trainees out on the rifle range? So you did miss some of the training?**

Oh, yeah, I missed a lot of the training. Occasionally, we would have to do certain things like go out on maneuvers. But again, I was with Service Company when I'd be on these maneuvers, and it wasn't as tough as the actual riflemen.

**And you also mentioned something about playing baseball?**

Yeah. I was on the regimental team. And we got a lot of practice and things like that. In fact, believe it or not we had a Colonel that was pretty much a baseball fan. And he really wanted his guys in shape to beat the other guys. So, I was fairly good, and if somebody would say, "Well, Joe, you're assigned to clean rifles," or "you're assigned to KP," I'd say, "I can't do it. I have baseball practice". "Well, we'll find out about that." And, sure enough, the baseball practice took precedence. They'd knock me off some shitty job, and I'd go play baseball (both laugh), which

was OK with me.

**What happened after basic training?**

I was with this 137th Service Company for quite awhile.

**Still at San Luis Obispo?**

No, then we went to a place in Tennessee, we went to a place in North Carolina. Camp Butner.

**And what did you do while you were there?**

Maneuvers. The maneuvers were pretty rough. Everybody, even our service company people, we would be right in the...well, you know what a maneuver is, it's like a practice for combat. And we got a good taste of it there.

**How long did that last?**

I'd say that lasted close to a year. You know, a combination of the different movements.

**So, what happened after that?**

Well, then after all the stuff we'd done in the States, now we went to England.

**Part 4: Going Overseas:**

**What month and year did you depart for England?**

I'd say it was in '42, around April.

**And you'd been in the service for a little over a year?**

Yeah.

**So, you must have gone in the Army in 1941?**

It must have been the end of '41. I

**How did you travel to England?**

Boat.

**Was it a troop ship, or a converted liner?**

It was a troop ship. We had, I don't know how many soldiers on there, but I was sick as a dog. Just absolutely sick. I lost about ten pounds, couldn't eat, and a couple of times I didn't care if the boat sunk or not.

**Do you remember the name of the troop ship?**

No, I don't. But we would sleep a half a day down, a certain amount of guys would have the downstairs to sleep. And after that, say about a ten or twelve hour period, then they went up, and the guys up went down. And that's how we were able to keep from everybody clustered together.

That's the only way that they could keep them, half and half. And the food was horrible. Just absolutely horrible.

**How long did the crossing take?**

The crossing took about 15 days.

**What port did you sail out of?**

We sailed out of somewhere in Massachusetts. I don't know the exact...

**Were you able to see your family before you left?**

Yeah, well when I was at Ft. Dix I would get these passes and what-not, and then all of the sudden...

**But, after the maneuvers and all of that?**

No. I got a furlough, believe it or not, when the maneuvers in Tennessee was over, I got a ten day furlough, and then I went home. That was the last time I seen my parents.

**So you sailed out of Massachusetts and you sailed to England?**

Yeah, I remember, Liverpool.

**And what happened then?**

Well, I was still in Service Company, and we were training then. I could see we were training for invasion, because most of our training was on the beaches there. Newquay and I can't think of all the other seashore spots in England, that were very nice. And we got all equipment that was supposed to help you.

**What was your assignment at that time? What was your job?**

Basically, my job was about the same. You know, help out in the clerical section and what-not, until I got that notice that we were going to ship out, and my name was on there to be transferred to Company G.

**That transfer happened while you were still in England?**

Yes.

**And what did Company G mean to you?**

Company G was a rifle company. It meant going from heaven to hell. (both laugh)

**So, your job until you were assigned to Company G was regimental clerk?**

Yeah, something like that, regimental headquarters and so forth and so on. Wherever they needed you.

**But it was basically a clerical function, rather than an infantry position?**

Right.

**What was your rank at the time?**

PFC.

**How long were you in England?**

I would say we were in England for a couple of months.

**What was life like for you when you were there?**

In England, it was very nice. I liked the people, I liked everything about it. I liked the places you could visit.

**You were able to go off base and travel?**

Yeah, you could do that. If you got a two or three day pass. But I remember I always would go to this place called Newquay. N-E-W-Q-U-A-Y. It was a seaside resort.

**You went there on your passes?**

Right.

**What did you do there?**

Had a good time, picking up girls, dancing, drinking - the usual things soldiers do. (laughs)

**And from this to Company G. (both laugh) When did you ship out?**

OK, when we shipped out, now I was with Company G... (tries to remember date)

**Well let me ask you this: when you shipped out, where did you go and how did you get there?**

There was another town in England we went to, and again, now I was with Company G. And it was, most of the time it was getting new equipment and training for an invasion. You know. LCI boats and all the things.

**What does LCI stand for?**

Landing Craft, Invasion.

**Where did you go then?**

From there we kind of moved almost like within a couple of days from one place to another, getting closer and closer to the area where we would then get ready to go on the beach. Now, when we landed, we landed on D plus 16. And actually we just walked up the beach without any problem at all. We didn't get any kind of problem until we hit St. Lo. But I do remember getting on the beach, and I was amazed at how the guys that did it, you know you saw the big cliffs and what-not that they had to climb up? Well, thank God I didn't have to do that.

**So on D-Day plus 16 your...**

Yeah, we were all now on the beach.

**How did you get from the ship to the beach?**

In these little landing crafts.

**You were on landing crafts? You didn't go to an artificial harbor and then come up on a...**

No, it was all, you would climb down and they would put you in these things and then you'd get close to the water and they would put a plank down and you would walk right up there.

**Part 5: Combat:**

**And from there, how did you get to St. Lo?**

Well, it was a daily experience of combat, you know.

**You had to fight your way there?**

Exactly.

**You were on foot the whole time?**

Oh, yeah.

**What happened when you got to St. Lo?**

Well, all I remember is that the artillery was just coming down like crazy, and I and a couple of other guys hid in a barn. And that's where I got wounded. The Germans had artillery piece called the 88, which was super, super. And all I remember, when the artillery hit that barn bodies were flying all over. And I was up there, and I hit the ground, and the next thing medics picked me up, and from there I went...and later on I found out that a couple of the guys that were in there got killed.

**When you were in the barn, you said you were up there. Were you on an upper floor of the barn?**

No. When the artillery hit that barn, it just threw the bodies up.

**Including you? The force of the blast threw you up?**

Exactly. It threw me up, and all I could hear was like "whooooosh", sort of like a whistling sound, and bang when I came down. And I could see the blood on my chest. And I said, "Oh, boy, that's not good." And, bang. The medics did a great job. Great job.

**What wounds did you sustain?**

A shrapnel wound. In the chest. And again, it wasn't a...I know you're thinking of a piece of shrapnel (holds hands a few inches apart). It was very thin. It just lodged in the fatty part my chest. And as the doctor showed me, he says, "See how close that is to the nerve?" He said, "If something didn't go right, you could be paralyzed." I did what they told me to.

**Were you knocked unconscious?**

Yes. And I do remember, at one of the aid stations they gave me morphine.

**Were you awake before you were taken out of the barn?**

I was semi...you know, dazed and what-not, but all I remember going to all these stations in an ambulance. And they'd look you over and then they'd tag you.

**Before they took you out of the barn, were you awake? I mean, did they treat you there?**

Yeah, they treated me with sulfa or something, I don't know what they do.

**And they put you on a stretcher, did they? A litter?**

A litter and into an ambulance. And then the ambulance went to different stations until finally, the next thing I knew, I was on a plane flying into England.

**Do you have any idea how long it took them to get you from the barn where you were wounded to the airplane?**

I would say a couple hours maybe. About three hours.

**Were you in much pain?**

Really not.

**You mentioned the morphine. At what point did they give you the morphine?**

At the second or third station. And, my wife happens to be an RN, and I told her, I said, "I can see how some of these junkies get hooked on that stuff." It really, it just made you feel so relaxed, like you were floating on air. Just...euphoric state, you know? A nice feeling.

**Did you just get the one shot?**

That's all I ever got.

**Where were you airlifted out from?**

Well, it would be right from the beach. A guy would go back to the beach, and that's where the plane was.

**What kind of plane was it?**

It looked like some sort of transport plane.

**Was it a sea plane? It had pontoons on it?**

Yes.

**And how long did your flight take?**

45 minutes.

**What happened then?**

I went to the hospital, and they knocked me out again, and what-not. And then I woke up, and that's when the doctor told me. I could see the blood and everything else, where they probably had gone in a little bit to look at it. And he just thought it wasn't a good idea. And I guess he was right, because 50 years later I'm still here, and I'm playing racquetball, handball and things like that.(laughs)

**You're still carrying this piece of shrapnel in your chest?**

As far as I know. I haven't gone...the last time I seen a medical doctor was in New York, believe it or not.

**How long ago was that?**

Well, I got transferred here in 1960. So, make it a good 30, 40 years. They would, you know, the doctor would look at it. I had to go because I was getting disability. I would have to report. I was a civilian then, too. I had to report to the Army doctor. After the last time he said, "Well, we're going to award you 10% disability". I said, "If you're going to give it to me, I'll take it."

**Going back to your hospital stay in England, how long were you in the hospital there?**

I was in the hospital for almost, I'd say, it seemed like two or three weeks.

**Two or three weeks in the hospital. And then did you have any other time to convalesce in England?**

Well, yeah, and then I worked my way back to my outfit. And it was part of convalescing, I mean, they would check you and slowly but surely send you here, the next day here, there, until you got back to your outfit.

**You say you worked your way back to your outfit?**

Well, not me personally. (both laugh)

**They were working you back to your outfit?**

Right. They were working me back. And, I mean, I wasn't the only guy. When you talk about doing things, it was always a bunch of guys doing it, not one guy. But one thing I have to tell you, believe it or not, it was a certain part of my trip from getting out of the hospital, and then joining my outfit, they put us in boxcars. And shipped us. In boxcars.

**From where to where?**

I know it was like.... It wasn't very long. It was like maybe a day and a half of traveling in this boxcar.

**Would these have been called 40 and eights, by any chance?**

I think so. Yes. Something like that.

**And where do you think this was from and to?**

I'm trying to... (long pause)

**What country were you in?**

France.

**Who ran these trains? Were they staffed by locals, or by military people?**

Military personnel.

**What time of year was this?**

In the summer time.

**When you traveled were you able to have the doors open?**

Kind of. And we stopped a lot. Now, I just read a book not too long ago about the Holocaust, and how terrible that was. Where they just jammed the people in, never opened the doors, guys crapping and pissing on each other. We had quite a bit of room in there. You could sit down and what-not. We stopped a lot, you know, piss call, this, that and the other thing. It wasn't as degrading as it sounds.

**How many of you would there have been in one of those boxcars?**

I'd say about 30 or 40.

**How long did the trip take?**

I'd say it took about a day and a half before we were, OK that's it, no more boxcars, no you travel by truck or something else.

**When you were on the train, how did you get fed?**

When we stopped at certain places and they would feed us or give us rations. You know, you'd get either C rations or K rations.

**What is the difference between C rations and K rations?**

C rations are to be eaten warm- beef stew, hot dogs, etc. K rations are dry- cheese and crackers, etc.

**You'd be able to get off the boxcar?**

Yeah, you'd get out. And, as I say, it was, reading that book, it was not anywhere near that. It was livable. It wasn't nice, but it was livable.

**So, you rejoined Company G. Where were they when you rejoined?**

Nancy.

**What was the reaction of your fellow soldiers that knew that you'd been sent off to England**

**because you were wounded?**

Well, I had a lot of nice feeling with some of the guys that remembered me, and one of the guys said, "So glad to see you, because I got a look at your helmet." And my helmet was just absolutely, almost cut in half. Jagged, you know.

**Cut in half by another piece of shrapnel, you mean?**

Probably, yeah. Yeah, he says, "I remember seeing your helmet."

**So, you're back with your unit in Nancy, France. What were they doing at the time? (of your return)**

Well, at that time, you know, getting ready to go to the next place. The war was getting a little better, you know, in our favor. There was one day we traveled something like 40 or 50 miles, and we were under a lot of different generals. There was Patton and Bradley. But I remember Patton was our general. I think I was, we were in the 3d Army, and boy, we were making headway.

**3rd Army, but you were still in the same division?**

Still in the same division, yeah.

**What was your assignment, once you were brought back to Company G?**

Plain rifleman.

**You came back as a rifleman?**

PFC, rifleman. Was just assigned to a sergeant, and "you report to Sgt. Smith over there, and blah blah, you're in the 3rd Platoon". That's it. No ceremony (laughs).

**So, you're ready to march out as a rifleman. But did anything happen that changed your assignment?**

No, the only thing that changed my assignment is that when I came back to the replacement depot, this sergeant was there to get me transferred back to Regimental Headquarters.

**Was this somebody that knew you?**

Yeah. Sure. He knew me.

**And how did he know you?**

Well, he was a Master Sergeant. And they would get all these reports on who was coming in. They would probably say, "Hey, there's Joe Glavan reporting to Company G. Well, shit, we need him." So he come down, and he worked it out, boom boom boom. He saw my name in the replacement depot, that I was to report to Company G, because the regimental headquarters would get a daily report on how many people were there, who got wounded, who didn't, who's on sick call. You know? So, he was right on top of it. Regimental Headquarters at that time was not too far from where Company G was. So he comes over and says, "Get your stuff."

**Did he want you to be a rifleman? (laughs)**

Oh, no. No, I did a lot of clerical work there.

**So this was fortunate for you, that you thought you were coming back to be a rifleman...?**

Uh huh, and that's when I was shit-scared. Because I knew how bad things were. I mean, when, you're a young kid, you know, everything is new, and it's exciting, and you're not that shook up over it. But when I got close to that replacement depot and heard all that artillery and everything else, I said, "Oh, God". Terrible.

**So the sergeant...?**

He saved my life. More or less.

**He needed you in Headquarters. Why did he need you? What happened to...?**

Well, they lost two of their clerks in some sort of an air raid.

**They were wounded or killed?**

Well, one guy was killed and the other guy was pretty bad. He was never to come back or anything like that. I filled right in. Plus, the guy, the sergeant, was captain of the baseball team. (both laugh) So, he knew me pretty well. And, believe it or not, talk about reunions, I'd go to every reunion to see that guy. I loved him. He was...

**What was his name, Joe?**

His name was Webb. Wallace Webb. Master Sergeant.

**We'll come back to him, because we'll talk about reunions and some of your contacts since the war a little bit later on. But now, we have you with Regimental Headquarters, and you went from Nancy to where?**

Well, we just kept moving, from Nancy to Metz, I don't remember; but now, we're traveling right with the infantry, right behind them. And as the war progressed we were progressing too. The only thing is, I didn't have that daily life as a dogface, as they call it.

**Well, Joe, how many campaigns were you in altogether?**

Five. See, even during the time when I got wounded, I got back in time for the campaign. You have those five little stars-Normandy, Northern France, Central Europe, Ardennes and Rhineland.

**I was going to ask you about that, medals and citations.**

Which was very helpful in getting out of the service, because what they did at the end of the war, they had a point system, and you got x amount of points for combat, x amount of points for wounds, x amount of points for battle stars, et cetera, et cetera. And I was one of the first guys home, because I had quite a few points. I think I had something like 130 points, which was an awful lot. But that's how they discharged.

**I want to get the dates a little firmer in my mind, if I can. You were wounded in... (looking at notes)...**

I was wounded in July.

**July of '43?**

Right.

**And when did you get sent home?**

October of '45.

**OK. Did you have any other close calls, combat related?**

No, I would say not. Not anything near... Oh, you'd get a certain amount of artillery, or you'd get an amount of strafing. The planes would strafe the area, you know. But I wouldn't consider it anything to worry about.

**Between actual combat engagements, were you ever allowed any time to relax?**

Yes, there were certain times when they'd pull you back and let you shower up, maybe get a good meal, things like that. Every once in a while they would do that.

**For instance, did you ever have any USO shows?**

Yes.

**Any famous entertainers?**

Yep. In fact, Mickey Rooney one day. He and I were chatting together. And we'd have a lot of Bob Hope shows and things like that.

**Did you see Bob Hope in person?**

Yes. And you'd have a lot of shows too where you wouldn't have a big name star, but you'd have like a band or something like that. I would say that as far as your morale and everything else, they did as much as they could under the circumstances. When you're dealing with thousands of soldiers.

**While we're talking about the lighter side of things, do you remember anything that you think was particularly humorous or unusual, that stuck in your mind all these years?**

No, I can't remember anything really humorous. There might have been some small incidents that I can't think of right now, but I don't remember any one particular thing that I could say was humorous.

**Part 6: Return to the States/Discharge from the Army**

**So, you were brought back to the United States in October of '45?**

Yes.

**How did you get back to the States?**

By boat. Same way. And also, the boat ride going back was much better than the one going there. And it was also on a liberty ship.

**What is a liberty ship?**

A liberty ship is a small type ship. Nothing like the Queen Mary or anything like that. But most of the guys would be traveling those liberty ships, especially at the end of the war when they wanted to get so many guys back.

**Was it more comfortable than the troop ship?**

Yeah.

**So you were actually physically more comfortable. It wasn't just the fact of where you were going?**

Yeah. And it only took five days, as opposed to 15. We didn't have the U-boats or anything else to worry about. Hit the ocean and watch the dolphins and the whales and the sharks.

**You were brought back to the United States. Were you discharged as soon as you got back?**

Pretty much so. What happened, when we got back the war with Japan was still on. We got a 30 day furlough. And during that furlough time, is when they dropped the bomb and the war was over. So I got orders. I got an extension on my furlough, and I was to wait to see what was going to happen. Because there was talk about going to Tokyo, but that never materialized.

**When and where were you discharged?**

I was discharged in Massachusetts. I think it was Ft. Devens.

**When were you discharged?**

It was October 15.

**Of 1945?**

Right.

**Part 7: Life after the Military:**

**What did you do in the days and weeks after you were discharged?**

Oh, visiting with friends, a lot of parties every day. Bumming around.

**In New York?**

In New York, yeah.

**When you were discharged, how did you get from Ft. Devens down to New York City?**

Train.

**Did your family know that you were on your way home?**

No.

**Did you surprise them?**

Yes.

**What was the reunion like?**

Oh, great. It was a great feeling. My mother said she heard my footsteps and she knew it was I, you know? And during that time, you know it would be, Joe was home, tomorrow it would be Frankie, it would be Mickey, it would be that guy.

**These were friends of yours?**

Well, yeah, friends from the neighborhood.

**(end of side A)**

**When the tape ran out you were telling me about your neighborhood friends coming home and...**

Yeah, I think we were up to the part of when I got married and had kids and stuff.

**Well, the tape didn't pick that up.**

Oh, I see. OK.

**You were telling me when the tape wasn't running that after awhile you went back to school. And, Joe, the name of the school was?**

College of Advanced Traffic.

**And you told me off record that that was a night school?**

Yeah. Well, I took my training at night, yeah.

**You were going to school at night and working for Wells Fargo during the day?**

Right.

**You also told me that after you finished that, you went with another company- Republic Carloading, was it?**

Right.

**And you were a manager with them?**

Right.

**And then you said that you moved out to Illinois?**

Right.

**What year would that have been?**

1958.

**When did you start with Republic?**

I started with Republic in 1956, I think.

**You were with Wells Fargo until '56?**

Yeah.

**I believe you told me when the tape wasn't running that you were a manager here in Illinois with Republic?**

Right.

**And also we missed on tape that you met somebody out here. Would you tell me about that?**

I got invited to a party one day, to a St. Patrick's party. And, believe it or not, I did not know how to drive a car. Living in New York, where I had the subways, busses, you just didn't drive in New York. So, when I came here I didn't have a car, I didn't know how to drive, and eventually I got that straightened out. But, somewhere along the line I met this girl at the party, and she was driving, and she was very nice, and she drove me home. It kind of set the stage for romance.

**You ended up marrying her?**

Right.

**And you told me, I believe we missed this on the tape too, that you have two boys and a girl?**

Correct.

**And grandchildren?**

Two.

**Joe, did you stay in contact with any of your wartime buddies after you got out of the service?**

Yes, I did. Especially with Sgt. Webb, who was very much a guy I really liked. And we would talk a couple times a year, and we would always meet at the reunions.

**Is he still living today?**

No, he's dead.

**Any other wartime friends that you keep in contact with?**

No. No.

**You mentioned reunions?**

Well, there's a yearly reunion that the 35th Division has. As I say, they've had it since WWI. It's now in its 80th reunion. And the majority of the reunions are always in Kansas.

**Whereabouts?**

Oh, places like Topeka, Salina.

**When was the last reunion that you attended?**

I went to the last one about four or five years ago. I was very disappointed.

**Why was that?**

Oh, seeing the guys that were crippled, and things like that. And the guys that weren't there.

**Roughly how many attended the last time you were there?**

They had I think about 150. They were always pretty well supported. See, again, most of the guys were Kansan people. So a reunion to them was nice, it would be right in their hometown. I had to travel from here to Kansas, and, you know, it was a little bit of a pain in the neck.

**Part 8: Medals and Citations:**

**I said earlier that I would save until later on talking about medals and citations. This would be a good time to do that. You say that you got battle stars?**

Five battle stars.

**What other medals or citations?**

Well, I have the Purple Heart medal. I have sharpshooter's medal, believe it or not. And, you know, I have a lot of medals that was given to us from foreign countries that we liberated and things like that.

**Part 9: Closing:**

**Joe, now I'm about ready to wrap up. I would like to ask you how your days in the service and those experiences have affected your life, in your view?**

Well, I really think when I came out of the service I was a different person. I was now a man. I really felt like a man. And I don't mean physically. Mentally. I wasn't a kid anymore. That's what I'd pinpoint, one thing. I was just a different guy.

**Is there anything else that you can think of that you'd like to add, that we haven't covered in this interview?**

No, I think we've done a pretty good job here. I've told you most of the things. I would say we've done a fairly good job of covering it.

Then we are going off record.

**Part 10: Interviewer's Notes:**

Off record, Mr. Glavan noted that his grandson, Sean Manion had interviewed him on this subject for a school project when the grandson was 14 year old. With his permission I have included the tape recording of that interview with this transcript. It contains some excellent questions and dialogue, and it gives a very interesting insight into the perspectives on WWII from someone who experienced it and from someone two generations removed.