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Interviewee (print) Interviewer (print)

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3475 Barnes Street, Gadsden

on the date(s) of 3-13-96

for the oral history collection being compiled by Dr. Marshall.

Edward Hill, Jr.
Interviewee's Signature

Date: 13 Mar 96

Address 3475 Barnes St

Gadsden AL 35903

Phone 205 492 7812

Edith H Johnson
Interviewer's Signature

Date 3-13-96

Address 1332 Monte Vista Dr.

Gadsden AL

Phone 205 546-3867

INTERVIEWEE BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Name: Edward J Hill, Jr M/F: Male

Address: 3475 Barnes Street, Gadsden A

Phone number(s): 492-7812

Approximate age or date of birth: 10-3-29

Mother's name: Martha Maggio Hill

Father's name: Edward J Hill, Sr

Places lived and when: see attached sheet

Education: 10th grade, GED, accounting, personal mgt. & purchasing

Religion: Catholic

Business, political and social memberships (past and present): Chamber of Commerce

Present occupation: Retired

Former occupation: Army (22 years), Servomat Food Service Contract

Special skills: Wood Work + Hills Deli

Major accomplishments: Soldier, officer (18 yrs) + owned own business

National events in which interviewee has participated: Vietnam, Korea + WWII Occupational Forces

Local events in which interviewee has participated: _____

National born U. S. citizen? Yes No Naturalized Citizen: Yes/No

Country from which he/she emigrated: Mother - Italy Father - English + Irish

Documents, photographs, and artifacts which are in the possession of the interviewee: Complete records of military career

Individuals recommended by the interviewee who might be candidates for an oral history interview: _____

Additional information: _____

PLACES LIVED

Philadelphia, PA 1929-1948
Fort Dix, NJ 1948
Camp Pickett, VA 1948
Fort Lewis, WA 1949
Fort Meade 1949
Indian Town Gap, PA 1949
Fort Meade 1949
Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 1949
Ansback Sig School, Germany 1952
Fort Monmouth, NJ 1956
Seventh Inf. Division, Korea 1959
Fort Huachuca, AR 1960
Germany 1963
Fort Benning, GA 1967
Vietnam 1968
Fort Bragg 1969
Gadsden, AL 1971

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Ed Hill was born on October 3, 1929 in Philadelphia, PA, ^{spell out} to Martha Mazzio Hill and Edward J. Hill, Sr. He went to Catholic school and had to walk about a mile to a mile and a half to get there. Ed said he could remember when they brought the Social Security Act, W. P. A. and the C.C.C. Camps in to effect. He remembered much about the Great Depression, the dust bowl, ^{these} these were in his early years. He remembers the airplanes; they were by-planes. He said "It was completely amazing to me how those airplanes flew." Ed mother's maiden name is Mazzio, ~~her~~ father came over from Italy. He said they would come in at New York. He also said that they would have a tag on them W.O.P. on it. People made it an ugly word for Italians, but all it meant was "without passport". His father's family is from England. He went through the tenth grade and quit to go to work, because he hated school so much. He said, "he was a goo/bad student". He was in the army about ten years before he received his G.E.D. He used his rank to influence thirty to forty soldiers to get their G.E.D., also. He also took classes in book-keeping, personnel manangement and purchasing. He also took the seriès ten food service in the army.

He joined the army, because when he was a young man, there was a strike with the Philadelphia Transport Company and they had to call in the army reserve. He was impressed

Need
see
passport

with their uniforms. He admired them, and he wanted to be a military man and he was.

He joined the army as an enlisted man doing pots and pans, until he went to Cook and Baker's School, then he became a private. He met his wife, Mary Ann, in 1951 at Aberdeen Proving Ground. They got married in 1952, because he was being shipped to Germany. She joined him in nine or ten months after he got there. He started as a cook, then assistant mess ^{ser}sargent, and finally a mess ^{ser}gant, while he was in Germany. He became a Tech Sargent, which is an E6 now. It was the highest rank at that time. He served in the Occupational Forces in Germany. This means they occupied Germany to keep peace until the treaty was signed after WWII. He served four years at this time and it was a good tour in Germany. Mary Ann and Ed had their first child, Joyce, during his first tour in Germany.

He went to Fort Monmouth, NJ, next, where his son, Jerry was born in 1956. His tour took him to Korea ^{next} ~~now~~. He was there three years after the conflict was over. Korea was a very interesting place to him, ^I it was very poor out in the country but not in the city. He thought it was pretty enough to make a resort out of it. He had a good tour there. He said it was very funny to him, that men and women used the same bathroom. While in Korea, he had his second plane ride. He was responsible for getting the movies for the ^{Seoul} troops from Sol. The pilot ^{AP} barely got the plane up before hitting some of the shacks.

He said, "From then on, he hated airplanes".

He went to Fort Huachuca, AZ ^{meet at} after Korea and then back to Germany for his second tour. His second trip was very much different from the first tour. He went to an Officer's Club, he said he was now dealing the "elite" of the army. He had to re-learn had to live in the army, because he was dealing with generals, movie stars and such as this. He did very well for himself, he went from enlisted to officer here. He was made Warrant Officer. For example, he served John Wayne and Billy Graham at this Officer's Club.

He went from Germany to Fort Benning, GA. He remembers when a movie was being filmed there, that a flag pole ^{spell} went up overnight for this movie that was being filmed. ^{incomplete sent.} The movie starred John Wayne. He meet alot of movie stars, there, because alot of films were made there.

He went to Vietnam from Georgia. He served in an maintenance group here. They ~~are~~ ^{ere} the first to come in and set up and they were also the last ones to leave the area, because they had to make sure everything was cleared away. He was in the field for six months. His job was to cover twenty-six outpost. They were miles apart, he had to go ^{incomplete sent.} once a month to them if things were not ^{to} hot. There were many attacks on them by Charlie, usually during the night. One of his very good friends was killed during one of these attacks. ^{sent} This friend had volunteered for his second tour. He would have been alive maybe today if he had not volunteered.

Also another man he had served with for a very long time, got cancer from the orange spray and died at age fifty. He said it was a very crazy war. Vietnam from the air was a very beautiful place, it had very beautiful beaches. He said Vietnam has always been in conflict with one natin or another.

He said there were some changes in the army while he served but not many. Blacks and whites served in different companys until 1949 or 1950. It did not bother him like it did some of the southern men. He remembers one man saying that no black would sleep next to him, but when a black master sargent^{SP} put his stuff on the bed next to his, he said nothing. They became great friends and drinking buddies. They even lost thier stripes because of their drinking. In 1957, all U.S. troops^{SP} were put on social security. He said in 1970, when he retired, that computers were being used in the army. He said he got out before that, he did not think he would like the computer age in the army. Also ranks changed through the years, but not officers' or warrant officers'.

He retired in 1970 at Fort Bragg. He stated that his training in the army helped throughout his life in his business. He ran his own deli, catered many events, and also had a sandwich delivery route to about 30 stores before he retired. He was very successful in his civilian life and the army educated () ?

He spoke of two train rides, one was in 1949 when he was going to Washington. During this train ride there was a big freeze, as he referred to it. Cattle died because no one could get food into them. The other train ride, was in Germany when they were going by a bra factory ^{Wm} all the woman were waving bras at them. This was in 1952.

At the end of our interview, he stated "I devoted my whole life to being a soldier" also "I loved serving the army".

I feel that his career in the army intertwines in very important events in American History and in World History. He served in Germany after WWII, in Korea after that conflict and also in Vietman. He was born during the great depression and lived the recovery of the depression. I was very impressed with the people he said he had met. He also had every record of his army career.

*Good interview
a informative
Had a witty, sentence
structure; grammar*

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