

INTERVIEWEE NAME: Verne Hughes
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BOLD PRINT is CCC enrollee Verne Hughes

Entry date to CCC: 1934-1937

DNR: Where is your hometown, Verne?

I was born and raised in Fort Dodge.

DNR: How old were you when you enrolled in the C's?

I was born in 1913 and I was 20 when I went into the C's.

DNR: You were 20?

I graduated in 1933 and I went right into the CCCs in 1934. Cause there was no work after the Depression in '29. I went with a friend I knew from Fort Dodge and we went together. So we got a bunch of us together, I think there were 18 of us left Fort Dodge and we went over to Hampton Iowa.

DNR: And you joined up in 1934, so you would have been what about 21?

I was in there for four years so that would have made me 27, then I wanted to get into the Air Corp and I joined the National Guard T. Company of the 133rd-34th in the Legion Infantry and I went overseas.

DNR: Where did you say you signed up, in Hampton or New Hampton?

Hampton.

DNR: What did you do before you were in the CCC's?

I worked at one of the gypsum mills in Davenport. I was an electrician.

DNR: Why did you join up the CCC's? What were you thinking when you joined? Did you need the work?

Yes, I needed the work. Right, I needed the job. The first thing that happened to us we were put in one of those homes where they put young fellows that's not ready for the penitentiary but already incarcerated. And that night at 7 o'clock we were staying in six man tents and a tornado struck. It threw the doors in and we put them back in and then pretty soon another big blast came along and it ripped that tent from one end to another and we all had to bend down. Fortunately there was a place where they could bring their hogs and cows and that. And we had some blankets that had blown up against the fence. We had to get over into this shed so we went and got cots so we had some place to stay that night. And then that morning after sleeping there, we went over to where they were building a permanent camp out of it. That had some LEM (local experienced men).

DNR: What camp were you assigned too?
2717.

DNR: Where was that Verne?
In Hampton.

DNR: Were you there all of the time?
Right.

DNR: You never were transferred from there?
No. While we were in the military service we were under the Army. But when we were on the CCC job then we belonged, we were civilians then.

DNR: Do you remember your dates when you were there? You said you joined up in '34?
Right it was in '34, '35 that was the year of the, what was that deal, Medicare?

DNR: Social Security?
Social Security and Medicare, yes, in '35 and '36.

DNR: And you got out in '37?
And then I went up to work on some bridges then at that time. The old Emerson oil line from... what is the name of that town? My memory is not that good. To Bentley, I can't remember the other town, it was the old Emerson oil line and some lines were buried, some were part wood and some were part steel and some were 97 ft high and there was one that was built on the curve that was 125 or 128 ft high, I believe it was. And they laid on top of bench a whole stack of 7 pilings with a cap on top with a big 12 inch x 12 inch cap on it was a steel base with piling in there and then they come along then and put big beams of hard pipe on top of those. Beautiful work, 8 inches thick and 18 inches high and 30 some feet tall of hard pine. The Robinson brother's junkyard bought that whole area with all those things and tore that all down and used the lumber out of it. That was the most beautiful, prettiest wood you ever seen, hard pine.

DNR: Sounds like it. When you went up there at camp at Hampton, what did they give you?
Old World War I uniforms, right, the cap and the wrap leggings and we went there and the sun came out and we were in the military under the flag and we were in parade dress and we were out there always standing at attention and then the heat with those wrap legging would fall from the heat.

DNR: Did they give you toilet articles like soap and razor and things like that?
They furnished that I believe, yes, they did. We had the shower there and the latrine.

DNR: What personal items did they let you take when you went up there?
I took my toothbrush, comb and razor blades.

DNR: Personal stuff, did they tell you not to bring anything?
No, they seemed to give you things and it was yours.

DNR: And they assigned you to some lodging, how did they do that?
First they came along and laid just a foundation; it was a 6 man tent like.

DNR: Did you stay in a tent?
Yes and part of it was wood up so high and the rest was screen indoors with steps on it.

DNR: How many men were in there?
There were 6 men, two on one end and two on the other end and the leader of the tent was called the leader, the assistant leader was called the same and they were pretty nice guys.

DNR: Was there any special way how they decided who was going to go where in those tents or just kind of take a number?
First come first serve.

DNR: Ok. Did the C's provide the bedding, pillow and everything?
Yes, just like the army. We had to stretch the sheets and they liked them tight so when an officer came in he could bounce a quarter on them.

DNR: They still do that today. Do you remember who the other folks were in the tent, Verne?
Kilgore, Tom Kilgore. I wanted to remember his name because he was an engineer and he took a transit out of the box and was looking at it. He come up there and said to me, "You have a little interest in that so you might as well learn how to use it, I need an assistant. Now here be careful of this instrument because it is worth something like \$300. It is a very delicate instrument." So he showed me how to take it out of the box, and they had the tripod with it and we set that up.

DNR: What was his name?
Kilgore

DNR: Was it Tom Kilgore?
I believe it was Tom Kilgore.

DNR: He was in the tent with you and he was the head survey guy, is that right?
He didn't sleep in the tent. He was in the officer's quarters. We had a captain, a lieutenant, mess sergeant, a 1st sergeant; the first guy was the head of the guys. And we had a doctor, our own doctor. We had the builders, they built the informatory and they built a latrine and we had 6 tents with 200 and some men in there and there were 60 men to each one of these barracks in there. I think if I can, if you wanted to go home with me, I have a book with some pictures in it.

DNR: So there was about 200 plus men in the camp there?
Right.

DNR: So you don't remember any of the other fellows that were in the tent with you?

I remember Kilgore and the Lieutenant. When you would throw a cigarette down they would make you dig a hole 6 ft. wide, 6 ft. long and 6 ft. deep you had to put the cigarette in that hole then fill that hole up.

DNR: That would make you not want to throw your cigarette down. Did you think you got along ok with the people in the tent with you then?

Oh yes. There was one guy by the name of Cleveland, he was a short chunky guy and he was one of the ornery ones who didn't want to be told anything. The rest of us generally got along. There was a fellow by the name of Lampy that was a leader in my tent and I knew Richard Lampy because I new his folks.

DNR: He was in the tent with you? What was his name?

Richard Lampy, Dick Lampy right, and his folks farmed at Barnum, IA. That is why we got acquainted.

DNR: How about the food in the mess hall?

The food was really good; we had some nice cooks in there.

DNR: What kind of food did you have?

Good food, one time they furnished us with steaks. And it was a T-bone, not a rib eye and we sat at tables in the mess hall. There were 10 guys, 5 on each side of this table. And they came with trays and buffet style and you took so much and 5 people were setting at one table and one guy took a big steak and then try to grab the guys steak across from him, but the guy hit him with his fork and said, "One dam steak per person."

DNR: Ok (Laughter) that would get his attention wouldn't it?

Yes.

DNR: So the food the mess hall was pretty good.

And if they needed you, you were sentenced to KP duty. So many people had to take their turn. When I was in the kitchen I got to screwing around and was doing some cooking and they asked if I could cook, and I said yes, and bang you're a cook.

DNR: So who did the cooking, was there a certain person in charge?

We had our own cook and we got some guys out of the service. And they sent some of these guys into school too, come to think of it. It was a bakery school. Fresh bread, oh my goodness.

DNR: How about on the holidays, did they give you anything special? Like say Thanksgiving or Christmas?

Oh yes, we had our turkeys at Thanksgiving and Christmas. They would ship them frozen and we had to get outside and take out the insides, why in the hell didn't they clean the insides out of these turkeys, it was quite a job.

DNR: It was interesting they didn't do that. How about payday, how often did you get paid, Verne?

Once a month it was.

DNR: When was that?

Payday was from the Captain and he had a list and the officers got paid first and then the rest of them 1st class and 2nd class.

DNR: So the officers got paid before anybody else?

Oh yes. They got their money.

DNR: So when did you get paid, the first of the month?

It was at the end of the month.

DNR: Do you remember how much you got paid?

It was \$30.

DNR: Did you keep it all?

No, no, no you got \$5.00. You got \$5 dollars cash but the other \$30.00 went home.

DNR: It went to the folks.

Yes, it was sent to the folks.

DNR: How did you spend your money?

Oh we would get together and chip in, I didn't drink at that time so the guy were trying to get me drunk and I wouldn't do it. I didn't want to get drunk, I was half scared and all that. But anyway they kept after me and kept after me and I said ok guys the next day I will go out with you. So I went into the kitchen and asked the cook if he had any butter. I heard if you ate a lot of butter and grease you could drink like hell and wouldn't make you drunk. And I ate butter until I was sick of the dam stuff and then I went out with the guys. And there was a big guy there and he said we didn't have anything but sloe gin and they asked me if I wanted some of that and then I tried a shot of whiskey. Those damn fools, then that hit me and when I got up in the morning there was some coal beside my bed. And I asked where that came from and the guy said," Where did that come from? You damn fool, you carried it all the way from town and you said you were going to get cold and you wanted to be warm.

DNR: So you went to town and spent a little money on whiskey and sloe gin. What else would you do with your money?

The fellows went to visit whores in town; one guy spent all of his money on them.

DNR: Did you get some days off?

Oh, we always got Sundays off. We had church service our there too. There were Catholics and Protestants.

DNR: So you had a church close by or on the base?

They took a building and turned it into a church and they would have some priest come out for the Catholics and some other people came out for other service.

DNR: So you had church service on the site? Did you have any sport activities, baseball?

Of course we had to have our baseball and everything was furnished.

DNR: What other kind of sports did you have?

Oh, every now and then we would have a wrestling match and a boxing match. We had a couple of guys that were in the Navy that were pretty good boxers.

DNR: Did you have a recreation hall?

Yes, we shot pool. We could go into town and ask if they would help us furnish it and people would come back with a rocking chair or something. People had stuff that they wanted to get rid of.

DNR: Did you take part in some of those sporting activities; did you play a little baseball Verne, anything like that?

Oh, I played a little baseball, yes. I didn't play football because I was a little small. But we had a football team.

DNR: So you would go out and pick up with the rest of them and play a little.

Yes. I want to give you these pictures. We had the officers quarters, we had the supply room and we had the Captain commanders quarters, he was an old Scandinavian, Swede or whatever and I went by his place one day and he said, "Hey soldier come on over here, how about we have a little schnapps?" And I said that was fine and he took me in and he poured out a shot of whiskey and had one poured himself a shot. And then he told me he was late for his steam bath. They had that in a 55 gallon drum where they would put some boulders and put in there and he had the water on and then build a fire and he had a gas burner under there and that was his sauna bath. And then every once in a while someone would throw a cup of water on the rocks and it would steam it up.

DNR: Did you ever have any personal conflicts while you were in camp any fusses or fights with anybody or differences?

Well no, no we didn't fight with each other. We would put the boxing gloves on and fight, but we were all pretty friendly and would go into town every so often. Of course we acted like gentlemen. I wanted to tell you about the doctor in town there in Hampton. He got the idea of putting the camp there in the first place. He went into Washington D.C. and talked this thing up and they named the camp after him, Dr. Beads.

DNR: So his name was Dr. Beads?

So this ground that we had out there had a big old water wheel on it and a gristmill on it. It was pretty much two stories high and they had a creek in there and they had to dam that creek up so it would hit and turn the wheel over.

DNR: When you were in the camp there in Hampton, were there any problems or trouble between the men? Were they pretty well disciplined?

No, we were friends. We didn't fight. If you wanted to fight and hit someone in the mouth you would go into the ring and go boxing. You wanted to fight you were taken out and put in the ring. Oh we had fighters and boxers.

DNR: If anybody was breaking the rules or orders what kind of punishment would they get?

Probably to wash the mess hall out, and I mean they wanted that floor clean. They made their own soap and that was mostly lye.

DNR: Probably was a lot of lye in it, certainly. So if they were messing up and breaking the rules they had to have special duties like cleaning up somewhere where they would rather not.

Remember I told you about them cleaning up that cigarette butt by digging a 6 foot hole?

DNR: Right.

So there was one time there was a smart guy and he had a few drinks in him and he came in and knocked on the doors and started yelling "Short arm inspection, short arm inspection, fall out." When they found out it was him, they took him and threw him in the ___?

DNR: Really?

Yes.

DNR: There were some educational and trade opportunities that you could get training there at the camp?

Oh yes. You could get books out of the library, I studied law and business, I studied shorthand at that time; it was a letter type you know.

DNR: Did you take any special training?

Yes, I took some books and I wanted to be an electrician and I got some books from the library.

DNR: Did you have teachers?

Yes, you had teachers.

DNR: Was that at the campsite? Do you remember any of those teachers? Did they have those classes on the site?

Oh, wait a minute; it's hard to think about it. Yes, it was really nice for us guys out there, but it's hard to remember now.

DNR: So, when you did some studies there you worked on shorthand and you studied electricity. Did you get any benefit later out of that?

Oh yes, I became an electrician. When I went to work I got to be an electrician.

DNR: Where was that where you worked Verne?
In the gypsum mills in Fort Dodge.

DNR: Did you do a little bit of that before you started in the Cs?
Oh, I did a little wiring in houses. And I helped them wiring the plant. When we got new motors in I worked with 220, 110 of course and I worked with 440 and I worked with 6000 volts, and off the cable that was 128 thousand lines.

DNR: That is pretty heavy stuff isn't it?
You went up on a pole and you would splice and you tossed the line over the wire and that wire also hooked to a ground down below.

DNR: Your camp at Hampton, what were some of the projects they did? What kind of work did they do up there?

Well, the dam was built up there was 140 feet long and that was the spillway the abutments were 42 ft high and the spillway was 30ft. high. It was made out of a natural concrete. They went around with charts all over the neighborhoods to the farmer's fields and got some of those stones. And some of those stones they had to get a dragline out there because they weighed a ton. And they had some clay like rope explosives and they would put that on the boulder to break them up.

DNR: Yes, so they could work on them. So all the time you were up there in the C's did you only work on Beeds Lake dam? You were up there about 4 years.

We had Earl Farris Nursery's over there. So they decided they would make Hampton a pine tree forest, the largest one in Iowa. They furnished the saplings for the pine trees and I don't know how many of those pine trees they sat out there, trying to create a large pine tree forest.

DNR: So the C's planted those and you got them from the Earl Farris Nursery?

Right and later on some of the other camps too, when they set out a lot of trees. And then who made the money off them was the lumber people who would come out and cut the trees for lumber.

DNR: Where were those trees planted, in the park?
They were planted on the north side.

DNR: Was it up by the dam?
They were in the back of the dam.

DNR: What did you do on the dam project? What was your job?
First, they would take two men to excavate the bottom of that dam and you done that by wheelbarrow. One man had the handles and one man had a hook and they would load up the dirt.

DNR: One would steer and one would pull?

Right, one would handle the handles and the other would help pull him with the hook. It went up the ramp.

DNR: And what did you do? Did you pull or steer the wheelbarrow?

No, you took turns, one time you would steer and the next time you would pull.

DNR: Did you do any of the trees planting there too?

No, I did not.

DNR: So most of the time you were building the dam?

Yes, we were building that and then we had to put some 2 x 6's up there on the dam. And the abutments were all made out of lumber. They were 42 foot high and made out of 2 x 4's. And one of the engineers decided to take these 2 x 4's apart, he got an idea that he thought was smart. So he was telling me that he was going to take the lumber out and leave the nails sticking out. And another engineer came up from the big city, somewhere, and he found out what we were doing he said, "I want every man that is on the scaffolding off, down, now and I mean right now, get off that dam scaffolding. He turned around to the other engineer, "There is no connection between two pieces of wood only through 16 penny nails and the tighter that nail is against that wood the tighter the wood will hold together. He said that is a death trap to every man that is on that, because he said with that half sticking out you loose that friction between those two pieces of wood. And that is liable to cave in; he told the engineer, "I should can you. If you have to go there start at the bottom and nail every one of those nails tight, even if you leave a little hammer mark then I will know that nail is tight."

DNR: Did you pick up any special skills when you worked in the C's?

Well, yes I think the skills that I was telling you about just came to me one day. I told you about the transit and Kilgore got word that he was getting transferred. "He said that you are now the man."

DNR: Did he say that to you?

Yes, he used a reference point so he could help me get my point to start out. We worked on the dam and we poured the concrete in there and then we took 2 big planks that were 18 or 12 ft. long. It was 3 inches thick and 12 inches high and it was perfect on the top and we got some planks and smoothed them down and put them against the dam there and we poured the concrete up against those and we made a template so the dam could curve on the waterside.

DNR: So you worked with this Kilgore guy, he was kind of a leader wasn't he?

He was a leader and a trainer and he was an officer.

DNR: So did you get any other training from any other people up their Verne?

There was kind of a foreman or leader person. Well they got an idea that they were going to make some fish traps before they drilled the lake for water. So they sent for I don't

know, how many barrels of staples? And they found out they were not going to get any more staples into the stakes. And what they had to do is drive some stakes down in the ground out there in front of the dam and then they got some branches out from the trees and piled these branches on and they would wire and staple them so that the big fish could go in there and lay their eggs and the scavengers wouldn't be able to eat them. Protection.

DNR: A fish habitat.

Yes, that is right, a fish habitat. And one thing about that all that wire that they bought, it became loose and everything came loose when they filled it up with water.

DNR: Did it all float?

Yes, that is exactly what happened, we got out there with rowboats and grappling hooks so we could gather them up and they could burn them.

DNR: How did you get along with Kilgore and some of the guys that were leaders?

I got along fine with them. I had no trouble with them.

DNR: How did you get your work assignment every day? Were you on a crew?

Yes, I was on a crew. We had a big snow and a bunch of us one time didn't go home. You could leave or go home ever so often. But this time I decided I would kind of stay there. I didn't have much to do and I wanted to get my \$30.00, so anyway it started to snow and that is the time we have seven foot drifts in town. And the farmers in there didn't come in. We went through with some snowplows and cleaned out some roads that were down to one lane.

DNR: What kind of equipment did you use on the job?

We had big Cats and one time we got a Cat stuck and so we went to the railroad and took a couple of big ties and put across the tracks and chained them and of course and he started it up and pulled that tie and got the Cat out.

DNR: Was there any special equipment issued to you, or was it like go out on the job and pick up a tool and go use it?

I don't believe we had any special equipment that I heard of.

DNR: Do you remember some of the men that you worked with up there?

Well, I wish I could find that book, I might remember then.

DNR: Have you had any contact with any of those CCC guys?

Well it kind of died down and a lot of them are gone. This Lampy, he passed away.

DNR: How did the city kids and the country kids get along in the camp?

Well, it wasn't so much on the dam out there because we had work to do, but I know when I got in the Army I joined the G Company of the 133rd infantry because I wanted to go with a bunch from Fort Dodge. The old G Company I believe had 128.

DNR: As far as the city kids and the CCC kids in Hampton, did the city kids and the country kids get along?

Oh yes, there was an Elmer Vothe and his wife that would invite us up for dinner and supper with them.

DNR: Was there any minority groups at the camp, Hispanics, Indians?

Yes, there were several people that could speak Spanish. But there weren't any colored people I don't believe.

DNR: How were those that spoke Spanish treated by their supervisors and the other people? Any thing stands out about how they were treated?

Treated like everyone else.

DNR: Talking about special skills that you learned in camp, you mentioned about getting some electrical training, were there any special other skills that you picked up in the camp?

Well, not in the camp. I got around quite a bit. But in Algiers, North Africa we went and put up a 6 man tent.

DNR: Were you over there in the service in World War II?

Well yes, I was in the service, I was in Algiers, North Africa. First we were shipped to England and then we were shipped to Scotland and I was in Great Britain.

DNR: Well, you got around then?

Oh yes, I was in the London area and they came down with scarlet fever and were quarantined three weeks and twice a day they would come around and they had a tent for those that were sick and a doctor. They took a smear of me and said you don't have scarlet fever but you sure could carry it.

DNR: Did you ever get hurt in the C's?

No, not in the CCC's but I did get hurt in the Army.

DNR: So no injuries while you were in the C's?

No, we had a couple of guys out there that dam near drowned. One guy was from Des Moines.

DNR: At the C's?

Yes at the C's. And of course that water when we excavated it we couldn't get it down and this one guy was in it and it was up to his neck and he got smart and he put a pair of his own boots and it got even smarter and found a guy that had a pair of boots that were dam near twice as long as his and he put those boots on. And then he started walking across the frozen water that was in this excavation where they made the dam and I will be damned if he didn't step out there and down he went and we had a hell of a time getting him out. We had to form a chain and lay on the ice.

DNR: This was in the CCC's?

Yes, the CCC's and of course when the water got in his boots he couldn't move.

DNR: Were there any kind of minor cuts, bruises or sprains?

The same guy we are talking about, he got a hold of a squirrel and was going to use it for a pet. Pretty soon that squirrel clamped down on his finger and Lord it looked like this when it was done. And the teeth on that squirrel went right around the bone. He just hollered like hell and all we could do was go over and kill the dam squirrel.

DNR: Did you have any diseases in camp?

We had scarlet fever we had measles, rubella and gonorrhoea and syphilis from going into town and visiting the whores.

DNR: So who took care of you, the doctor on the site there?

Yes, the doctor on site. I got sick once and had problems with my throat and had to have it treated everyday. The doctor got called back to New York and called me in to give me some medicine that was a mild form of arsenic and so the next doctor put some silver nitrate in my mouth and I told him I wanted the 606 medicine instead. That really burned, that silver nitrate.

DNR: Did you remember up at the Camp at Hampton any insect or rodent problems?

A mess of skunks.

DNR: Did you do any work outside of the camp? You did your work in camp but did you do any work outside of camp? Did you every do any work on your days off outside of the camp?

Well, I might have helped Elmer Vothe and his wife, they had a little bungalow and he was a local experienced man and I got to know him and he invited me up there Thanksgiving for dinner.

DNR: Was he up at the camp?

Yes, he was one of the LEM's.

DNR: What was his name?

Vothe, V-o-t-h-e.

DNR: OK, so he lived in Hampton.

Yes.

DNR: Were there any Elks, Odd Fellows or Mason's up at the camp, any organizations?

No.

DNR: Did you have any contacts with females in town, other than the other forays in town?

No.

DNR: That was about it, weren't any women in the camp were there?
They wouldn't allow them in there. Oh I wouldn't be surprised if someone snuck a woman in. I doubt that, there was a 60 man tents.

DNR: When you went to town, did you ever have problems with the local guys?
Oh, there were some scimmages once in a while. I don't think they were too severe or the officers would have kicked them out.

DNR: How do you think the local people felt about the C's?
Well I think they liked us, because we shoveled their sidewalks and I remember we carried an old woman with Lampy, we went to lunch with her and she was about 90, a small women and she had to go home. She had to go home and we carried her on our tents all the way home. I think the people liked the C's.

DNR: Do you have one memorable experience that stands out in your mind?
Let me think. Well, there was one time there at the dam we had to dig a big ditch that was 15 or 20 ft deep and 3 or 4 ft across and hauled clay in there and put your boots on and puddle that; instead of using concrete, they used clay.

DNR: So is there something you really remember about the camp up there, was building the dam pretty memorable?
Hauling the rock for the dam, we went into a little town and got that stone for the front of the dam.

DNR: That is just beautiful.
Have you been over there?

DNR: Oh yes, it is still there. It still has the face and those steps there still has those rocks.
I have to get up there.

DNR: Was there anything strange that went on at camp that you look back at today and say what in the world was that all about?
All of those fish traps that floated out of the water. Hope somebody has some pictures of that. I got to get over there and talk to someone and see if they have any picture of that.

DNR: What do you think was your biggest accomplishment up there at the camp?
Putting the top on the dam.

DNR: Ok. That is good. It was good work. Do you think being in the CCC's changed your life?
Oh, definitely. I learned a lot, how to run a transit.

DNR: When you ran that transit, was it out there on that dam?
Yes, I had to set the transit and had a guy help me.

DNR: What did you say you did when you left the CCC's, did you say you went into the service?
Yes, I was in the service. I was over in London, the 34th division of the infantry. I got shot in the leg in Italy. I had a machine gun section and I was made a buck sergeant, they took my M1 away from me and gave me a .45, they gave me a gunner, an assistant gunner and two ammunition carriers for that entire machinegun. I got it all set up one time because they wanted us ready and one time we were all set up. I got a hunch that a shell was coming over and it was different colored, blue purple and that was suppose to be our next attack. I hollered at my gunner to get that dam gun out because the next shell that is coming is not going to be shrapnel metal, not going to be dark. He wasn't fast enough for me so I jumped out of my fox hole and jumped to disengage the gun from the tripod to help him out and just about the time I got that thing disengaged and picked it up in my arms to carry it off and the shell lit. I got a lot of shrapnel metal in my leg. So I dropped the gun and went down and hollered and screaming it burned like hell. There was a lieutenant that I new there he was hovered in a shell hole and he said, "Verne, Verne, Verne, come over here." Well, he grabbed me and reached in my pouch, we carried morphine and a needle and he gave me a shot of morphine and then they took me to the hospital where they operated on me and took the metal out. I wish I had had them save some it for a souvenir.

DNR: So what did you do after the service, after the war?

I went to the gypsum mills here in Fort Dodge. I went to Scotland, I saw a lot of London. I was in Officers Candidate School. What was the other officer name of school?

DNR: WestPoint?

Yes, WestPoint, England I slept in the barracks there.

DNR: I would like to take your picture. Thank you Verne. (End of Interview.)

Transcript sent to Verne Hughes returned July 18, 2005; Mr. Hughes is deceased. Some but not all grammatical changes have been made without changing the content of Mr. Hughes interview. Larry Wilson, July 18, 2005.