

ORAL HISTORY 2019-07 PT. 2

Cerene Jay (C.J.) Paul

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Pete Haggland, interviewer

Fairbanks, Alaska

Haggland asked if Paul spent some time in the occupation force in Germany. Paul said this was after the war. Germany was divided into sectors. They were in the American sector. They weren't allowed to associate with anyone unless it was in the line of duty. They had the power to arrest people. It was something that had to be done. More than a few of the Germans thought Hitler had done the right thing. Haggland talked about the American sector in Berlin hauling everything in by air. Paul talked about the Berlin airlift. It was the only way for Berlin to have sustenance. He said if they had left Patton alone he could have walked through Berlin without firing a shot. He later ran into some women who had been in Berlin when the Russians came through and they did not have an easy time.

Haggland asked him how long he was in the occupation force work. Paul said during this time the Korean War broke out. If you had a certain number of days left to serve you could leave. If you didn't have the days you were required to stay. This was during the time when they had an extra year of service. They called it the Truman year. He was stationed in Germany for more than a full year.

Haggland asked about his campaign ribbons. He said he was required to wear his rewards. One was a good conduct medal. He had one that was for serving in the American sector. Haggland asked him about coming back from Europe after the war. Paul said they came into New York and were discharged. This was in January of 1946. He began to feel sick. He put in for disability and was denied. He was told there was no cure for hepatitis. He kept thinking the Army made him ill. He went to the recruiting office and signed up. They were happy to have him enlist. It was a long battle for him. He was told to have body rest and there was no cure for hepatitis. One time he was in a hospital east of Frankfurt. He thought there were several hundred people in the facility with hepatitis. They kicked him out of the hospital after a while and he went back to his unit. He said he had a long journey of watchful eating. He said God was in his corner and that is how he survived. He started to feel better. A number of individuals from his home town died of hepatitis. He transferred over to the Air Force when he returned from his duty in Germany. He went to the Pentagon and got a rate determination made. He was able to enlist in the Air Force without any loss of grade. He wound up in Dover, Delaware. He did a tour in Bermuda. It was hot and humid and he didn't like it. He and his family ended up in Erding, Germany. They were very close to the sector. He talked about being careful with his eating because of his hepatitis. He was stationed in Germany again. He returned back to the states. After he spent time in the states he went overseas again. He put his last years in at Eielson and completed his twenty years.

Haggland commented on his mounted wildlife. Paul said he has always been a hunter. He always looked forward to hunting season. Haggland commented on Paul going sheep hunting last year in Nevada.

Haggland talked about putting the interview in the Library of Congress Veterans Oral History Project.

Paul said during his initial stay [in France] Patton was in Nancy and came over to visit with Colonel Scott. When Patton went driving by they could see his pearl-handled pistols. Patton would not ride inside his armored vehicle. Patton rode in a jeep. Paul said he read Killing Patton. He said the book was his story, too.