

An Interview with John Hinde  
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DePue: Today is Friday, February 8, 2013. I'm talking to John Hinde. We're in his home in Jacksonville, Illinois. He just mentioned how gracious you were to take me out to lunch today. I want to thank you for that. John, we're going to be talking to you about growing up in Independence, Missouri area and having some experiences in WWII, and then things got even more serious when you had to go back to combat again in Korea. But today, it's the beginning of it. I get to start at the beginning and ask you when and where you were born.

Hinde: I was born in Independence, Missouri, which is Kansas City-related in Western Jackson County, State of Missouri, 19th of June, 1924. Never really left Independence until after high school and WWII, was drafted in 1953 as a private draftee in the United States Army.

DePue: Okay, I'm going all the back to practically the first thing you said.

Hinde: Okay.

DePue: I have I been mispronouncing Missouri all these many years?

Hinde: No, I don't think so. I don't know it's mainly Missouri is what. (laugh)

DePue: That what the natives call it?

- Hinde: I think so. (laugh) It's always a great question. You're not out of order at all. You're right in there with them.
- DePue: I wonder if you can tell me a little bit about your father. What was his name, first of all?
- Hinde: His name was Edgar G. for Guinotte. Judge Guinotte in Kansas City was his grandparent; his parents chose that name and he was one of five children, two sisters and three brothers. They were all born and stayed in Independence, Missouri—there I go again with my accent. He did not finish high school, it was my understanding. He got through the eighth or ninth grade. I can't remember why he didn't particularly but the youngest of that family, my Aunt Virginia, his youngest sister, did go on through University of Missouri and so forth. Progress had been made. But he got into politics only through necessity because he was not trained in any particular way; he was mainly a salesman before in the automobile business.
- DePue: I wanted to go a little farther back, because as you know we've already included a picture that's got your father in it.
- Hinde: Yes we have. Well, that's back to WWI and that's when they had the National Guard companies from Jackson County where all local residents—as they were mostly throughout the United States I guess at that time—in the National Guard. I think he took to the Army very well and made up for some of his lack of high school when he went to the Somme in France in order to advance in his field artillery position in WWI. And he seemed to have done very well in France and I think he would have done well in college. I don't know why he didn't go except that not many of them did at that time.
- DePue: The photo is fascinating because of who is in the picture with him.
- Hinde: Oh yes. The picture is made up—as we just talked before you started this—there's three captains and one first lieutenant, and my father's the first lieutenant. The three captains, one of them was Harry S. Truman who was the Battery Commander of one those batteries. The others were local people. They actually were all together when the first soldier killed in Independence, Missouri happened to be my mother's youngest brother, Tyree J. Ford. The American Legion Post in Independence is named after him. As far as I know, this picture you see was taken after the war and all of those gentlemen survived their WWI experience primarily in France, I think is where they were.
- DePue: Yes, exactly. I did enough research to know that was the 129th Field Artillery Regiment, part of the 35th Infantry Division. I'm sure they are all very proud to have served together.
- Hinde: Oh, I'm sure they are too. (laugh)

DePue: Did your father know Harry S. Truman well then?

Hinde: Yes. Harry S. Truman grew up in Independence and Grand View, which is now a suburb of Kansas City South. His family had a family farm. I don't know if he went to that local high school or not. My father had a very difficult time in that shortly after I was born my mother came down with a mental disorder; I should know the name of it. I've been told in today's medicine it would probably have been cured. She wasn't and she wasn't herself and I hardly remember her as a child. Then in later life, when I guess I was in high school, she was put in a state institution in Nevada, Missouri where she could be cared for, because he could not care for her at home. Therefore, I pretty well grew up to the age of six or so without much mother relationship and after that. He was the provider, of course, for everything.

We had a colored maid that lived in the basement. He built a room down there. She was there except on weekends and then go back to her home. I had good care and of course, I had an outreach family with the other brothers and sisters of my father that helped some. I never felt really neglected but never had the normal home and he didn't as a husband. He had to be the caretaker of two boys; there was just two of us in the siblings. My brother Edgar, four years older, he followed my father as Post Master of Independence, twenty-five years for my father, approximately the same for my brother of the same name, Junior (laugh). I am sure Mr. Truman helped some on that one too, but this is when the post office was a political appointment actually.

DePue: It was one of those plum patronage jobs you could get.

Hinde: Yes.

DePue: I think you might be a little ahead of our story. I know previous conversations you mentioned your father was a Chevy salesman for a time.

Hinde: Was a Chevy salesman, yes. He sold automobiles, and then he went to Florida and I think he worked with oil companies and set up some filling stations. Then he would come home and my mother was home for many of these years. She did not go to the state institution until I think it was about junior high.

DePue: What was your mother's name?

Hinde: Anna Ford was her maiden name.

She was a graduate of the Christian College in Columbia, Missouri. Very much a lady and very much a literary society and so forth in the community when she was of good health.

DePue: Do you know today how we would diagnose her illness?

Hinde: No, I really don't. I'm glad you reminded me of that because I have a cousin who is a nurse; my son just took me on a hunting trip down to Independence. She is the one that says she went down and visited and she felt sure that Mother could have been helped for with the knowledge we have today. But I can't remember what she said on the diagnosis term. But I do want to keep the correspondence up with her and find out because it's like, I guess, many illnesses: they've improved so much in medicine today that she could have possibly been much more a part of our society and her own home if she had more advanced medical care.

DePue: But, it must have made life very difficult for your father then?

Hinde: It was. It was very big help that he had what was considered, you know, a real good job or at least a steady monthly check.

DePue: I assume we aren't talking about a Chevy salesman job?

Hinde: No, no. We're talking about when he was superintendent of the county park system.

DePue: How did he get that job?

Hinde: Appointment by Judge Harry S. Truman. He was not a judge he was a commissioner, the county commissioner; we call them commissioners here. He had a lot of power. Tom Pendergast had a machine<sup>1</sup> in Kansas City and Mr. Truman's democratic affiliation fitted in to Mr. Pendergast's scheme of being in control of all of Jackson County and also pretty much of Mr. Truman. But to my knowledge, I don't think that as hard as the press worked when he became President, they were digging and digging but I don't think they ever did get any fraud or anything that was out of line that would directly connected with President Harry Truman—or Judge Truman at that time—and then a United States Senator for several years.

DePue: Just as an aside here, I suspect that the Pendergast machine, political machine, was similar to the stories we hear coming out of places like Chicago and the Daley Machine, where it was good to have somebody with a very clean reputation that you could point to.

Hinde: (laugh) Well, and he was. The press never could get. I'll show you some of these letters that my wife so kindly put; we can find out if they're protected enough. I don't know. We had a lot of letters. My brother and I, when he was living, we just divided them up. I got most of the ones that I wanted. Mr. Truman did his own writing, had a secretary, but every one of them had a stamp on it. And he almost always had a post note of some kind in

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<sup>1</sup> He is referring to a political machine, a group wielding considerable political influence. This group was well-recognized as the "Pendergast Machine."

handwriting that he did in addition to the form that the secretary used to type the letter.

DePue: And these are letters from Truman to your father?

Hinde: To my father, from the 1930's on to 1970's or so.

DePue: To include letters from the Presidency years?

Hinde: Yes, yes, yes.

DePue: It's tough to imagine a President of the United States having time for that kind of thing today, isn't it?

Hinde: It is! I mean he had to be pretty efficient. I'll get the book out and let you look at some of them. It's very interesting because he's still very interested in Kansas City politics and holding my father as a responsible outpost to keep him informed. (laughs)

DePue: So Truman considered your father as his main point of contact in plugging back into Jackson County's politics?

Hinde: Yes, yes. That's my understanding. I think these letters would leave you with that same understanding, because they had a poker club. And they were the harmonica society. And they played penny-ante poker. I used to work at a drug store that took [milk] shakes and stuff up to these guys (laugh) playing their cards and the press never did get in there.

DePue: (laughs)

Hinde: (laugh) But he's always in these letters; he'll say "tell the harpies I'm coming, and sharpen their knives." And now where I'm thinking in 1945 he says "they'll find it more difficult to deal with me now". (laughs)

DePue: You mention the harmonica club. Was there any playing of harmonicas in this club?

Hinde: (laugh) Well we have one member; I think he was the cook to a bachelor. (laugh) They had their own society and this was their own little group. They didn't do anything that would've been fraudulent or illegal, I don't think; I don't think any one of them. But they were all political. (laughs)

DePue: What did your father do as the superintendent of county parks, then?

Hinde: Well, just what the name implies. Independence is in Jackson County and Kansas City, of course is a large city and there's many park systems. They have stone masons and brick layers and carpenters and all kinds of trades

people that were in the WPA<sup>2</sup> back in the 1930's when the Depression was bad. Dad would come home and say, well he had to leave a little early to take them down to get some shoes and that sort of thing, enough clothing so that they could go out and work. He said we even had some doctors—I don't think a lot—but anyway, some professional people. The Depression was not limited just to certain underprivileged rank at all. It went pretty much down the line. And he had something like 150 to 200 people that they were keeping them busy improving these parks and building the stone walls, stone fireplaces and benches and improving the lakes and that sort of thing.

DePue: Did he get any help from Civilian Conservation Corp or WPA projects anything like that?

Hinde: Yes. It was WPA I think mainly, primarily. The CCC's, I don't remember them being directly connected with his work as county park superintendent. In our area they had an excellent reputation. It was the place that a lot of boys went that wouldn't have had maybe as good as start if it hadn't been for their help in the CCC. And the camp, but that's another story really. In this country, I mean, it's one of the first and I think it worked pretty well. Or at least I've talked to people since I've moved here in Illinois that were in it and they thought it made their life at that time—at least, gave them a life.

DePue: Did your dad spend quite a few years then as the superintendent?

Hinde: Well, until Mr. Truman, till they got him elected as United States Senator from Missouri. That took a lot of campaign work back in the late 1930's and then the election was 1934.

DePue: Did Truman get elected Senator that year?

Hinde: U.S. Senate in 1934 and that's when Dad was appointed the Post Master. As I understand it, he was the first appointment that Harry Truman made as a Senator.

DePue: I was interested in the way you said that. They got him elected. At the Pendergast Machine?

Hinde: Yes, yes. There was a comparable machine in St. Louis. I don't know the name. It's East and Western different than Illinois. (laughs)

DePue: So you're growing up in somewhat of a political environment, aren't you?

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<sup>2</sup> WPA: Work Progress Administration. During the Great Depression years of the 1930's this was a project to use unemployed men to build infrastructure such as roads, bridges, and government buildings such as post offices.

- Hinde: Oh, very much, yes, very much a political environment. I mean that's Kansas City and Independence particularly during the Depression; you had to be voting right to get a job in public works anyway, of any kind, that politicians could control.
- DePue: Did your father hit the campaign trail or did you get to hit the campaign trail for him?
- Hinde: I hit the campaign trail as a ten year old with my father. I was, of course, born in 1924 so I was about 10 years old when he went out that year. Took posters and hand-out cards and so forth. I made a tour of western Jackson County with him just as a runner (laugh) and helping. They surprised the "machine"; they didn't think that Pendergast would be strong enough to carry eastern, or enough of eastern Missouri, because of the St. Louis machine, but obviously he was. I think it was because he got out, that is Mr. Truman himself, and made many, many miles of journey. As he did as a United States Senator when the war started and he drove all over the country to war plants and had a reputation in Congress as being one of the "do something congressmen" that the Senators, anyway, that did something to get the war plant going and making them more efficient and less fraud and contracts and etc. etc. A lot of it was his footwork.
- DePue: I know that the foundation of his reputation in WWII was his work to make sure that the money was not being wasted.
- Hinde: Yes. Yes and I think it was. I mean I think he accomplished quite a bit. But what can one man do and there had to be a lot of other people of the same mind that helped.
- DePue: But you don't get the nickname "Give'em Hell Harry" for nothing.
- Hinde: (laugh). When you say that, I go back to the back of his train in, what was it, the second presidential election?
- DePue: The 1948 campaign against Dewey?
- Hinde: Yes. That's when I was at Kansas. I graduated the University of Kansas in 1950 in May or June. I remember seeing Margaret and apparently she saw me. She was in our high school and of the same age and went to our high school, half the time his first year or so of Senator and then I think they finally changed her over to schools back there when he stayed in the United States Senate. But yes, she was, and my wife got to know her fairly well and said it was very difficult because you didn't know when she was the president's daughter, how much freedom you would have. We went to some concert or something and came home and she asked us to come in and have chocolate, and almost all of us—there were three or four girls--said, "Oh no, we don't want to bother you now," or something. They were too tentative about it. She says now I wish I had gone on in. (laugh) She was trying to be the normal girl.

- DePue: Did you know her as that normal girl, going to high school?
- Hinde: Yes, in high school. But I wasn't real close to Margaret Truman, not as close to her as my father was to her father.
- DePue: That's interesting.
- Hinde: There was no family relationship there. I'm not sure with Mrs. Truman that there was very much, because she, his wife, had her own family and circuit and so forth.
- DePue: Well, you mentioned it yourself; she came from a lot more money than he did.
- Hinde: Oh, yes. Wagner Gates Milling Company in Independence was where Mrs. Truman money came from.
- DePue: Tell me a little bit about the neighborhood you grew up in. Was that Independence itself?
- Hinde: That was Independence itself. It was primarily rental property, which my father ended up buying the last house. It happens to be on a one block street in town, Proctor Place. And now I'm living in Petro Place in Jacksonville, Illinois. It was a nice house; I wouldn't say in the elegant class but it was just a good clapboard two story, three bedroom house in a nice neighborhood, very nice neighborhood.
- DePue: Well, Independence now is a bedroom community of Kansas City.
- Hinde: Yes.
- DePue: Was it at that time?
- Hinde: Yes, pretty much. It was only about 16,000 people and it's well up to 200 or 300 now because of the annexation, enlargement of all the house-building after WWII.
- DePue: Sometimes I like to talk to people about memories you might have about Thanksgiving or Christmas. I would think yours might be rather unique. I mean, we are talking about the Depression Years, but also because of your family situation.
- Hinde: Yes. Well, my father would usually end up (laugh) cooking the turkey. We had a nice dining room, all the sterling silver and everything that father and mother had accumulated when they were married and kept a nice home. It was mainly my brother and his family would come and have Thanksgiving Dinner at father's home. Usually I would take Helen, my wife, from here and we would go over there often. Then share Christmases, alternate or something.



- DePue: What schools did you attend while you were growing up? Public?
- Hinde: Public schools entirely. My father tried to get me into Kansas City school, did get me into Kansas City school. He said I wouldn't stay there. I was, of course, without a mother and it was difficult. The Kansas City school system was a fine system and he wanted me to be part of it. But I apparently at that age, which would have around six years old I guess starting, they had a kindergarten and I don't think our schools did at that time in Independence. And so I ended up in Independence schools all the way.
- DePue: Are these segregated schools at the time?
- Hinde: Yes.
- DePue: Was there a black community in Independence?
- Hinde: Yes. Larger scale than probably here, meaning Jacksonville, Illinois. I'm sure Springfield, all of them had larger communities of black.
- DePue: Any reflections on that?
- Hinde: Yes, I did not grow up with any prejudice whatsoever. My father was prejudiced as long as they came to the back door and knew their place and that sort of thing.(laugh) But we had black help. We had a lady that came, as I said moved in; he built a room in the basement and she was with us except on weekends. She did the cooking and the laundry and so forth. They were definitely looked at as trade people and of a different class entirely. My grandparents, I don't think my grandfather was of that mind. He was of the school board. John W. was an insurance man and he was much more liberal than my own father I think and more tolerant of the blacks. That helped to have that influence of the person I was named after, John W, John Wood, and then we've got the one up over the fireplace that I think is great-great John Wood from Kentucky. You run into a lot of prejudice (laugh). Helen's family, my wife's family, is from Kentucky originally too.
- DePue: Well that's interesting that you mention that family originally from Kentucky makes their way to the borderline between Missouri and Kansas pre-civil war era?
- Hinde: Yes.
- DePue: They might have been participating in the border wars in bloody Kansas at the time?
- Hinde: I don't think my family was, no; but yes, there was a lot of that.
- DePue: You've got all these historical markers that you're growing up with. Was the family religious, did your dad manage to get you to church?

- Hinde: He tried, but he was not a real church member himself. But yes, I was at the First Christian Church and I think I was baptized there. Then I ended up marrying a Presbyterian and became a Presbyterian in Illinois and have been and remained and support and so forth today.
- DePue: How about the high school you attended?
- Hinde: We've already got into the mix. There was a colored high school that was separate. So we didn't have many if any, I don't think so.
- DePue: What was the name of the school?
- Hinde: William Chrisman High School. But that's where I went; that's where Margaret Truman went before her father became senator.
- DePue: Did you have any extra-curricular activities while you were there?
- Hinde: Yes. I was the little minister in the play by the same name. (laughs) I was president of my senior class for a half a year.
- DePue: Well, that's significant.
- Hinde: Yes, but I didn't have a very good, outstanding academic record. It wasn't terrible, but it was very mediocre.
- DePue: Was there a reason for that?
- Hinde: Yes, I started working at the drugstore when I was about 14 years old, 12 to 14. My first work for the local drugstore that I was on a bicycle and then I went to the downtown, the one I mentioned that supplied the Harpy Club with their milks and shakes and so forth. I drove their delivery wagon for ice cream and liquor and drugs. I don't think I ever held a license at that time. (laughs)
- DePue: Well I'm conjuring....
- Hinde: But I worked most of the time and then I worked for the department store, A.J. Bunch, that had a drapery department and I made window shades out of fabric material and used a sewing machine to do it. Then I would go out and help hang—this was all during high school—window shades and draperies with the person that ran the department, the lady. I had a lot of trade and business experience but my grades suffered; I didn't have a lot of studying at night.
- DePue: Was this your decision to go have that busy work schedule, or your father's?
- Hinde: No, I think it was primarily mine. I mean I always mowed yards and shoveled snow and delivered the *Saturday Evening Post*, *The Country Gentlemen* magazines and always doing something.

DePue: Does that mean that you got to keep this money?

Hinde: Yes. I bought most of my clothes. I didn't feel that I had to; my father certainly would not have let me go without. My brother didn't do all of this. I never could quite figure out why am I doing this (laughs). He was four years older.

DePue: Were you thinking that you were going to save some of this money to go to college, maybe?

Hinde: I hoped so, hoped to. Then little Missouri Valley College did offer me a scholarship, I guess because I was an outstanding student as far as student body was concerned. I seemed to have a good reputation. But the academic part didn't really hold up enough for MU or KU or any of those at that time. Though when I got out of the Army, then that was a different story. I got in, I don't know how, but I got in all right.

I'm always sorry that I didn't know that I've had the association with Illinois College; my wife, all her experiences of the advantages of a liberal arts education. She is so much or was so much educated and all or most of her peers and people she was modeling herself after. So different than the big universities that I had associated with, but it's not fair. WWII in 1946, all of those schools probably doubled their enrollment overnight, or had to. They would go the geology and geography and biology and lecture halls of 400 to 500 people. Then you would have some lab work that you would hope to make up in some of the other. I did not feel that I really got the type of education that my wife did with working on one-to-one with an eleven-to-one faculty.

DePue: And this is even your high school years you talk about?

Hinde: Yes.

DePue: Well, it sounds like your busy enough not to be paying close attention in high school.

Hinde: That's true.

DePue: Well, we are going to get to your college a little bit later. I know that you mentioned that there is an ROTC in this high school.

Hinde: Yes.

DePue: That had to be kind of rare back then, wasn't it?

Hinde: Well, there were quite a few. Kansas City had ROTC. I don't know in how many of their high schools. We only had one high school. But ours did have and we had a resident sergeant that was in the regular Army that ran this. I

mean he ran it like the Army and we would take guns apart, BARs<sup>3</sup> and all of that. We would have drills and we would have problems to work out with compasses, all of that on map reading and etc.

DePue: Did the young men have to be in ROTC.

Hinde: No it was strictly volunteer.

DePue: Why did you decide to do it?

Hinde: Because my father was in the Army. (laugh) And I'd heard Army all my life.

DePue: You've heard the stories of WWI?

Hinde: (laugh) Yes.

DePue: That's a pretty good reason I think.

Hinde: It didn't affect my brother that way. I think he was in some ROTC, I'm not sure, but he was a football player though. He's larger than I am and a little taller and heavier built and just different.

DePue: How tall are you? How tall were you at that time?

Hinde: 5' 4". (laughs)

DePue: So even in those years you were on the small side of things?

Hinde: Very much small things. In the Army I was usually put right up in front. (laughs) Because otherwise they'd run me to hell.

DePue: So you weren't doing a lot of sports in high school?

Hinde: I didn't do any sports in high school. I loved tennis. I didn't do any tennis in college but I played intra-mural. I played socially tennis up until I was almost in my 80s, I guess here.

DePue: Wow.

Hinde: And loved it.

DePue: I wanted to touch base with one more question on the political side. Was your father, would you describe him as a FDR Democrat?

Hinde: Very definitely, yes. No hesitation. New deal...

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<sup>3</sup> BAR: Browning Automatic Rifle

DePue: Was politics something that was discussed around dinner table and things like that?

Hinde: Not to any in-depth degree, because it was all a given. (laughs) It was pretty much accepted that we were Democrats (laughs). That's where our bread and butter came from. It was a political family in that sense, I guess. I've often wondered, because my mother was such a lady and such a finished person with her college and her societies that she was part of and so forth. I'm sure my life would have been corralled much differently if she had been part of the household active. I'm sure I would have been a better student, because when I had the opportunity I seemed to do alright, get by. I didn't apply myself through high school. I was too busy doing social things.

DePue: Okay, well maybe you just answered my next question but I'll ask it anyway. Were you the type of kid who'd be paying attention to the news coming out of Europe or Asia and the rumblings of war as it got into the late 30's?

Hinde: I would like to think and I believe and I was not just politically oriented but I think I was oriented to the rumbles of war, yes. We were afraid that it would happen.

DePue: December 7th, 1941.<sup>4</sup> You remember that day?

Hinde: Frankly, no. I can't remember exactly, you know, where I was, probably at home, but I don't remember. I remember it was everything on the news. Of course, the radio was the news at that time. I was a great fan to the radio. I seemed to always end up having one in my room and enjoyed it.

DePue: But you were involved for all four years, you said, in ROTC in high school. Did you have any ambitions for being in the military after you got done with all this schooling?

Hinde: Yes and if I'd been a better student I'm sure with my father's help I probably (laugh) could have had a West Point or something. (laughs)

DePue: Well, that would take some political clout but you obviously had connections that you needed.

Hinde: (laugh)

DePue: Okay, you graduated 1942?

Hinde: 1942

DePue: What happens after that?

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<sup>4</sup> Pearl Harbor Day, the day the Japanese attacked the U.S. fleet in Hawaii, resulting in the U.S. formal entry into World War II.

- Hinde: In 1942, then I decided to just wait for the draft. Most of my contemporaries were starting their first semester of college even though the war was on, the draft was on if they hadn't been called. I did not. I worked at the Post Office. And so I worked at the Post Office until I was drafted the following spring; I think it was 1943, or late January. I'd been working in the Post Office in high school and I did everything except rural mail. I didn't drive a vehicle or anything but I worked at the money-order counter and the parcel post, every place, walking carrier. Particularly, I had a lot of friends that would go to my father and they worked in the summer, too carrying a summer job. That carried on into college also, summer. In other words, I was able to make all my money that I needed from the time I was early in high school because of my work.
- DePue: You mention college. Is this college after you came back from the war or did you squeeze a little bit of college in before you head off?
- Hinde: No, I did not.
- DePue: Okay.
- Hinde: I just waited for the draft.
- DePue: I wonder if you remember enough about that time period between Pearl Harbor and the time you were drafted, to talk about what the climate of the country was like? What was it like in that time frame?
- Hinde: Of course, it was constant anxiety whether Britain could survive, and if Britain couldn't survive, could Hitler be stopped? I think there was serious concern about that and of course, the Brits would agree with you on that. I think there was genuine fear of the Hitlerism taking over as much as possible of the world we knew at that time. I think myself and my contemporaries were all in agreement that we had to be available to the Army. Now why I didn't really just go ahead and enlist eventually with that attitude, why I waited until they drafted me in January, I think, the following year when a lot of my contemporaries went on to college and got a semester in I think, most of them. And then that jumped them into some special college training that the colleges had which helped keep a lot of them out of the infantry at that time.
- DePue: I was just going to say I'm sure that many of your generation, they were enlisting but only so they could have a little bit more control over their destiny once they were in the military.
- Hinde: Yes.
- DePue: You weren't concerned about what you were going to end up doing?
- Hinde: No. When I got in I was sent to a medical training camp in Camp Robinson, Arkansas. I didn't have any choice as far as going to the medics or going to

the infantry or field artillery. I'm sure that maybe the academic part might have had something to do with it. I wasn't all that strong in mathematics.

DePue: The timeline you gave me said that you were drafted February 11th, 1943. You basically had about six months after you graduated from high school. And that's not that long a time frame. It's going to take the Army a while to figure themselves out at that time, I would think. But you also said you're kind of a social guy, class president for a while and all.

Hinde: Yes.

DePue: Did you have a girlfriend at the time?

Hinde: Yes, all the time, same one, from kindergarten on up.

DePue: Wow.

Hinde: And then it blew up when I went to the Army and she went to Iowa State. I would come home and make a trip or two to Iowa State at Ames. Then I think what happened, she got involved with someone or anyway had social outreach at Ames. She was textiles and clothing. But no, we had gone all through, this was probably the lack of a mother, because she was raised by an aunt and uncle so there was some common connection there in not having a normal family. They sort of took me in as one. She was my girl. Then I think she found out that I had been dating in the Army and didn't tell her; she never told this to me, but I found it round-about. But anyway I think she married a veterinarian at Ames. So she was textiles and clothing and he was a veterinarian and so there was something lacking there in our combinations (laugh) that I didn't raise up. She found a different world when she got to Ames.

DePue: So she did okay for herself?

Hinde: She was at a very good college, yes. She did well.

DePue: Does that mean you got yourself a "Dear John" letter early in your military time?

Hinde: Yes, and exchanged pictures back and rings back and that sort of thing from high school.

DePue: Well, maybe just as well considering what's in front of you.

Hinde: Oh, I couldn't have married a nicer person than I did. On the other scale, the one I married was one that she didn't make Phi Beta Kappa because—what was it, physics or something—she took a course that she just couldn't hack to the top grade. But she had a wonderful reputation in Illinois College; in fact, we still have a good relationship with the college. Naturally they do since

there's been some success and we can donate. No, it's been an excellent marriage. My wife was way above average in IQ and in her achievements, both at Columbia University in New York as well as at IC. As I said, the professors are the ones; we've got doctors and others that are in pharmacies that would not have been there if these Illinois College professors had not said "You are going on to college, we will help you get a scholarship and so forth." They've had like an 11-1 ratio of PhDs and so forth on their faculty. They don't come out like a trade school but they are doing things now that we've had a college boy for the last twenty years here. We get him as a freshman and he mows our yard, he washes our windows, he helps and we pay him a little above. I think the one now is getting \$10 an hour; he thinks he's living. We appreciate them and he's got a personal internship with an accounting firm in Springfield because he's an accounting major and they said would you like this you're doing well, we will encourage you. And it so happens that the president of the Smith Chemical Company is on the board of Illinois College. There's politics every place you go. (laughs)

DePue: Well, I'm shocked coming from Springfield, Illinois. (both laugh) I hadn't realized that before.

Okay, let's get you back to your early military career, though. You mentioned Camp Robinson down in Arkansas. Did you just get inducted there or did you go through training there as well?

Hinde: I went through training there. I went through rifle range and crawling on my belly and so forth, then the medical part to be trained as a first aid or whatever on the field.

DePue: A medic? You were trained as a medic?

Hinde: Yes.

DePue: Is that something you wanted to do?

Hinde: But they kept me as a cadre for a while because I had this ROTC and they were using me. Also, I think I told you they had me take my IQ test, I think it was twice. I had one officer that just was determined that I become an officer in the medics. I never made it. I just always just blinded a test. I think it's because I never studied for them at school, therefore, there always they scared the hell out of me. (laugh) Then I was put on limited service at Camp Robinson, Arkansas, because of a medical test that they gave and said I had a heart murmur. I could have stayed out of everything, out of combat in Europe and out of ever being in the National Guard and so forth. I wouldn't stand for it; I asked and demanded they get another medical which I did and they said you don't have anything wrong.

DePue: So the first time around, was that news to you that you had murmur?



Hinde: Yes. I didn't know I had a heart problem—like a faucet, they said. They said it's not a real heart problem. I mean it's like a faucet without a control on it to make it smooth and yours is rough. And so you were diagnosed as a heart patient. Then they said you're all trained in the post office; you've done everything but run the post office. (laughs) And I had when I was in high school. And so we send you to camp to this place that they are building a new building to take prisoners of war and they need somebody to run the post office there and that's where I ended up.

DePue: Was that Mulgee?

Hinde: Okmulgee, Oklahoma, forty miles east of Tulsa.

DePue: You say they're building a brand new POW compound?

Hinde: It was built as one. I was sent there; it was completed and they had POWs from Germany. I was the mail clerk that ran that part of it.

DePue: Did you have many experiences directly with the POWs themselves?

Hinde: No, none whatsoever.

DePue: I wonder if you had even talked to other people, any professionals?

Hinde: They were patients. This was a hospital.

DePue: Oh, okay.

Hinde: They were POWs that needed medical treatment. And no I did not have any professional, any of that, because I was too busy delivering mail and running a non-coms club and running the base theater.

DePue: Once again you got more jobs than most people do.

Hinde: (laugh) yes.

DePue: A lot of guys would have been content to ride out the war doing all of that.

Hinde: Well, it would have been wonderful. I don't know why I was so dumb, except that I kept up correspondence with a lot of my high school friends. I just said, what am I doing down here in Okmulgee with German prisoners of war? I should be in Europe helping to win this war. So they answered my request.

DePue: Gave you another physical?

Hinde: Gave me another physical. Immediately sent me to Texas to an infantry training camp and then in about two or three months to the East coast. Queen Elizabeth and I was in France.

- DePue: Can you compare real quickly what it was like going? First you had four years of ROTC, then you got to basic training and now you went through infantry training. Was infantry training a little bit harder for you than basic?
- Hinde: No. I took to it like a duck to water. I think I could have been happy in the military. It must have been something ingrained from father's experience.
- DePue: I would think we are about to 1944 by this time?
- Hinde: Yes.
- DePue: Let's go back to politics. The election of 1944: were you still in the United States at that time? I think you were.
- Hinde: Yes.
- DePue: What was your impression when Senator Harry S. Truman was elected as the Vice Presidential candidate?
- Hinde: Well, I was thrilled for him and for the country because I thought he was probably the honest man and much more educated than most realized because he was self-educated and so was Lincoln.
- DePue: Well, I think he replaced Henry Wallace on the ticket. Did you know much about Henry Wallace at the time?
- Hinde: Only that he was very agricultural oriented at that time, from Iowa.
- DePue: You weren't aware at time of his political reputation?
- Hinde: No. Not really. Apparently I don't think Franklin Roosevelt thought that...(laughs)
- DePue: But you were a proud native son to know that you're home town guy?
- Hinde: Oh yeah. (laughs) Nobody could believe it. I mean they know we just don't get a common man into that high office. (laughs)
- DePue: How many times personally, you think, you had seen Truman by that time in your life?
- Hinde: Not many. Most of it was just conversation with my father who would be in contact. I had no personal or social relationship at all actually.
- DePue: Do you think that Truman would have described your father as one of his closer friends?
- Hinde: I think so, yes.

- DePue: Okay. Well, let's get back to John Hinde now and talk about when you went overseas and how you got there?
- Hinde: You're speaking of Europe?
- DePue: Yes.
- Hinde: Okay. I just had a brief refresher course at the infantry in one of the camps in Texas.
- DePue: Was it Fort Hood maybe?
- Hinde: I was at Fort Hood part of the time; I'm just not sure. I thought there was one other camp. That's why I was hoping I'd get more information from St. Louis.
- DePue: In those days there were camps scattered all over the country.
- Hinde: Yes, I was in two or three. I was in Berkeley and I was in Texas and Fort Hood and it seems like there was another one near Oklahoma but I can't remember; it was all kind of transitional. I don't think I was there very long. Then anyway, I was basically trained as an infantryman. What is it, 1472 or whatever?
- DePue: That would have been military specialty.
- Hinde: Yes, yes just an infantry rifleman. And I was just a three-striper or what I think I would call a Staff Sergeant when I actually got out. I went back to Kilmer, New Jersey. Then the next thing I knew I was at New York and got on the Queen Elizabeth which usually made the trip over; we were going to Scotland. That's about the only place that could accommodate that giant. We were supposed to have four days but the subs were after us and it took five. The Queen could outrun the subs apparently.
- DePue: As I understand, the Queen Elizabeth could outrun the escort ships, too.
- Hinde: Yes, I guess. Anyway it was a tremendous ship. They had the complement of a whole division on that ship. I wasn't in a division. I was a Repot Depot, I mean, is what I was.
- DePue: Replacement.
- Hinde: Replacement. I was unassigned at that time. When we got to Scotland, I got on a train and we went to Liverpool, I think it was. Then we went over to France in a small Princess Elizabeth. (laugh) Then I started in France up the Repot Depot replacement route and I don't know why it seemed like it took quite a while.

DePue: Well, I know from the records that it was March 7th that I think you arrived in Europe, whether that was England or in France I'm...

Hinde: I thought I got there in Europe in January but maybe I didn't.

DePue: Well again, that's what's on the sheet that you passed on to me. Do you know how lucky you were to have gone over on the Queen Elizabeth instead of on a troop ship?

Hinde: No.

DePue: Did you know at the time?

Hinde: No.

DePue: Was it an okay trip?

Hinde: It was a great trip! It was fine. It's so big and you feel so secure (laugh). I came back on a victory ship. (laughs) It was like 45 degrees, I think, so I was about the only in the mess hall that survived. I never got seasick.

DePue: After coming back on the victory ship you realized how lucky you were to go over too.

Hinde: Oh yeah. I then I guess it was a victory ship, maybe a little bit larger, I'm not sure, when I went to Japan to Yokohama from the west coast.

DePue: But this whole process of going from the United States to Scotland down to Liverpool across the channel into France, you're still not assigned to a unit?

Hinde: No.

DePue: When did that happen?

Hinde: You said March, maybe March is when I... No, I don't think I tied up with the Third Division; that's what I'll have to go back and look at my own papers. I'm not sure.

DePue: Do you recall when it was that you actually got to the front line with the Third Division? Roughly what month would that be?

Hinde: I would have said February. I was saying that I got over there in January and that's a little different from my timeline. I had no association really., I had no comrade relationship at all until after the war with the Third Division because I ended up on line before they were making a river crossing and I'm not sure which one now.

DePue: That could very well have been the Rhine River at that time.

- Hinde: I think it was the Rhine but I'm not positive. All I remember is that it was at night. I had felt lousy and I just had reported to a medic; he said you have a very high temperature. I can't tell you what it was, but he said we've got to get you back to take care of you. You've got pneumonia, I think.
- DePue: So before you even actually got into action?
- Hinde: Yes. Yes. It was before I got into action. That angel was still out there saying if you'd stayed back in Okmulgee you wouldn't have been (laugh)...
- DePue: I want to get your state of mind here at that time period too, because you're getting to France very early in 1945, but this is shortly after the Battle of the Bulge.
- Hinde: Yes.
- DePue: No doubt you guys had to be hearing all kinds of stories about the traumas of the front line troops.
- Hinde: Oh yeah, you were hearing all of that.
- DePue: What's your state of mind at that time?
- Hinde: Well, the state of mind was that the word, the G.I. talk, was that the 3rd Infantry was a good outfit and you would be taken care of there. Of course, you like to hear good things, so I had the positive attitude that well, maybe they'll pull me through. Here I am with the 3rd Infantry and squad leader of a platoon maybe or whatever they need me for.
- DePue: Well, being a Sergeant, you had a couple of years in the Army about that time. So being a Sergeant's not that unusual, but suddenly being a Sergeant of an infantry squad in the middle of combat when you have no combat experience, was that little bit intimidating?
- Hinde: Yes, because I was in an outfit that had a hell of a lot of experience, I mean the traditional regular Army, 3rd Division. Then when I went to Korea I was the 7th which was comparable regular Army outfit. But they weren't; I mean they were so filtered through with people like me to fill the ranks when they needed it.
- DePue: But anyway I am kind of interrupting here and pulling you back. You're talking about getting pneumonia and then what happens?
- Hinde: Well, then they evacuated me to the hospital in Vittel, France and the war was over. When I was in the hospital the celebration started and I was still in the 3rd Division. I mean even though I hadn't really been in combat.

- DePue: Well, I'm going to pull you back again because in our pre-interview you mentioned a couple of names; see if this rings any bells. Johnny Fuschetti, Jerry Epstein?
- Hinde: This was at Okmulgee. It was the Italian and the Jewish boy and they just loved to see those Germans (laugh) in the hospital, autopsies and everything and it turned me off. I wasn't interested. They knew they had a good thing. I don't know how they got there, I don't know why they got there.
- DePue: Were you in the hospital on April 12th, 1945, then?
- Hinde: Yes.
- DePue: That's the day that FDR died.
- Hinde: I can't remember otherwise. I don't know when I got back. You know the only thing I remember is the hospital in Vittel, France. Then I remember reporting to the 3rd Infantry Division in Austria. The war was over and they were in Salzburg. And that's where I first got into the 3rd Infantry as a healthy, active member of their division.
- DePue: Do you remember hearing the news about VE Day, May 8th?
- Hinde: Yes. Well that's when I was in Vittel, France. That was when I was in the hospital.
- DePue: The reason I think in your case, especially FDR's death, that shook up a lot of people at that time.
- Hinde: Yes, but with Truman.....
- DePue: Yes.
- Hinde: Yes, I felt, you know, it was fortunate that we had somebody that I had confidence in.
- DePue: Did you realize not many other Americans had confidence in him at the time?
- Hinde: Yes, I do realize that. It was different in 1948 when the election and they fooled everybody including Dewey. Yes, I know he was not the normal; well, usually the Vice President wasn't (laugh). It was always for some good political reason to have him, but not necessarily to take over as President.
- DePue: And we know from history that FDR did not keep him in his confidence.
- Hinde: No, no he didn't know anything about the atomic bomb apparently.

DePue: What I'd like to do now here if you don't mind John, I'm going to pause this and hopefully you can fairly quickly find a letter from Truman to your dad that you were talking about before.

Hinde: No, I can find it instantly because I was doing that when you called and said you were on your way from Springfield. Anyway no, let's don't get that in, I don't want to muddy up the waters. Here's Lt. C.C. Bunch.

DePue: We're back and recording.

Hinde: Here's the department store, the one I made window shades for. (laughs)

DePue: What John is looking at now while we're talking here is, it's kind of an accordion folded piece of paper with, you said, all the officers from the old regiment from WWI?

Hinde: Well, no I didn't say that; some of them yes.

DePue: Here's at the top of this list: celebrating the homecoming of Harry S. Truman.

Hinde: Yes, I think my father, you know he probably spent a lot of money for some of these parties for the Padre and otherwise. He knew, he'd paid his dues.

DePue: It reads: Celebrating the Homecoming of Harry S. Truman President of the United States, June 27th, 1945. So the war in Europe, the war in the Pacific is still going on at that time. Guests: the President, the President's staff, officers of the 129th Field Artillery and then it's got all of these people who he obviously kept pretty close touch with.

Hinde: Yes.

DePue: We broke and I asked you to find a couple of letters. The first letter you are reading me is dated when?

Hinde: Dated May 15th, 1945.

DePue: Okay, I'm going to go ahead and let you read it all.

Hinde: Yes.

DePue: This letter, especially the post script there.

Hinde: Yes, I've read that.

DePue: No, read it aloud for us if you could.

Hinde: *"I am sorry that I have been so long answering your kind letter but these indeed [have] been busy days for me. You need no assurance, however, that*

*your thoughtfulness in writing to me as you did is deeply appreciated. My warm thanks for your confidence and your good wishes."*

DePue: Okay, now that's the formal letter you just finished there?

Hinde: That's the formal.

DePue: Now the post script.

Hinde: Post script: *"This is some job! It rises from sun to sun and then into the moon and stars. Wish I could take the Harpies for a ride; they would deer skin me now!"* (laughs) That's a penny-ante day; you wouldn't have understood any of that if I hadn't told a little background.

DePue: That's why I think it's priceless because now after you told me about the Harmonic Club, the Harpies...

Hinde: Yes, anybody else read this, it's Greek! (laughs)

DePue: Yes, but obviously a pretty tight-knit group and the next letter is along the same vein, so if I could have you read that one more for us too.

Hinde: Oh, here, okay. This is August 29th, 1945. So it's a few months later. *"Dear Edgar, I'm sorry—I don't know, sometimes he would say Hiney and sometimes Edgar, I don't know if you ran onto any of that?—I'm sorry I wasn't home when you entertained the Padre. I know it must have been worthwhile. It was a pleasure to send you the picture. I have been intending to do it for some time. Remember me to all the gang and as my mother says 'continue to behave yourself'.* (laughs) *Sincerely yours, Harry.*

DePue: Then another post script.

Hinde: *"Tell the Harpies my knife is still sharp".* (laughs) Well that was his exhaust, that's the way he let himself relax entirely from whatever stress, whether it was United States Senator or President of the United States or Judge in the County of Jackson, Missouri. I think he learned that a long time ago that there's just times when he would. Dad said he's never known a man to have one drink last as long as his did. I don't think he ever had time to be a drinker really, but if he did he would carry one glass around. (laughs)

DePue: I'm glad that you shared those with us. It reaffirms what you had mentioned before, that the two of them indeed were pretty close friends.

Hinde: Yes. No, they were and they would have gone to hell for each other, I'm sure. This is a more formal White House stationery here, Harry...Hiney is what he was known as....here's one, 1948.

DePue: Dear, Hiney. What's the specific date?



- Hinde: July 17th, 1948. *"I appreciated your telegram of the 15th very much. It was right to the point."* See, Dad would send him telegrams.(laughs). *"We are going to take them to town. Sincerely yours, Harry. But here, Sorry I didn't have a chance to talk to you at Bolivar, Missouri. That's another home or something of the Truman's. But that's what that's spelling is I'm pretty sure, Bolivar. Something was going on there, I can't remember. What Churchill (undecipherable), it surely wasn't. "What in hell the matter with Mr. Sermon?"* That's the mayor of Independence. (laugh) Let's see. *"Gibson-Gibson please! And a lot of real..."* Well, it's not there. I don't know whether it's on the back.
- DePue: Let's see if we can get that out here.
- Hinde: I don't know, it really doesn't matter I don't think.
- DePue: There's nothing on the back.
- Hinde: No, there's nothing on the back.
- DePue: But you did mention it starts *"Dear Hiney"*
- Hinde: Yes.
- DePue: This is July 17th, 1948 and then you realize, okay we're talking about the most powerful man in the world, in the height of the cold war, in the height of his political campaign to win re-election and he's taking time to write this post script.
- Hinde: (laugh)
- DePue: I think that speaks volumes right there. That's probably enough. I want to get back to your narrative.
- Hinde: That's enough and where was this?
- DePue: That was in that one letter that we read back here. I'll put it back with it here.
- Hinde: Okay.
- DePue: That was where we were talking about that list of officers.
- Hinde: Here there's something, it's White House - they're all stamped, of course.
- DePue: The envelope and stamp and the whole works.
- Hinde: Yes, okay.
- DePue: Okay, we'll get back in there.

- Hinde: Yes, just put that back in there.
- DePue: Let's get you back to Europe. You're now out of the hospital, you've rejoined the 3rd Division.
- Hinde: In Austria.
- DePue: In Austria, actually you joined the 3rd Division.
- Hinde: Yes.
- DePue: Now it comes to August, 1945.
- Hinde: I would have been on the record of 3rd Division. Now I thought I had a 3rd Division book here, but I haven't found it. Anyway, excuse me. I interrupted you.
- DePue: It's August of 1945 and you hear about the atomic bomb's being dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. What's going through your mind when you hear that?
- Hinde: That the war is about over in Japan.
- DePue: Was the 3rd Division going to be staying in Europe on occupation duty? Or was there some talk about them being shipped to the Pacific?
- Hinde: When I joined them in Austria, I'm trying to think, it seems like there was some talk about them being reassigned to the South Pacific, but I'm not sure of that.
- DePue: Well, if I can characterize it, what did G.I.'s do when they had any spare time? They talk about whatever the scuttlebutt is? And there's plenty of rumors flying all over the place.
- Hinde: You know, our life was in a capsule. You were pretty well closed in. I don't think you let yourself expand too much thinking, other than the headline stuff that you might see in the newspaper that there was an atomic bomb and that this is a pretty good indication that the war even in the Pacific is about over.
- DePue: Did you think at the time that was a good thing, that they used the atomic bomb?
- Hinde: Yes. Because we kept hearing how terrible it would be for any of the divisions to be transferred at this time to the South Pacific because we knew we were dealing with fanatics. A landing on the island proper would be part of the necessity of being there and would be very difficult. And they would sacrifice almost anything—the Japs would—to do us in. So yes, this was a fear. Then of course, you had the fear, then you start thinking, well yes, I know about

Bataan too and what they did to prisoners and such. Yes, we kept informed enough to know pretty much what our dangers were or could be, but you didn't dwell on it because you couldn't control it. You didn't know what the next move would be.

DePue: Did you have some appreciation at that time for how heady a decision that was, a difficult decision for the brand new president to make?

Hinde: No. I don't think so. Knowing Mr. Truman, I was not surprised because I've always considered him pretty much a pragmatic man, one that was a hell of a good poker player, and would shuffle the cards and see what hopeless situation we have and how many—50,000 men or whatever men on any invasion of Japan plus—after they got there. No, I think we were lucky to have him because a more tender person... I mean Harry Truman, I think he saw enough war to know that he could project what his troops were being exposed to, and that it was reality and it could be to him.

I think he was not one to put off decisions, I don't think. He would raise hell if anybody else tried to keep him from getting legislation and he would go out and fight for that too. He was a loner in that respect. He had to keep his political arm, Pendergast and so forth, when he was back in Kansas City. This was before, of course, the war and before he had fought all of that. Just think if trying to keep his county going and to make sure that he's not taken advantage of and he's not being misquoted or something on being part of a scheme or which most of them ended up being. Then their political career is ruined.

Well he managed to get through those challenges many, many times, including the Harpy club (laugh). They would have loved to go and up the press. (laughs) All they would have found was a black oil cloth round table and green lamp up there and a beer stein and maybe a soda jerk like me bringing up malts to some of them. (laughs) And they did honestly play penny-ante poker. It was not high stakes.

DePue: What are your thoughts now when you hear a discussion about the dropping of the atomic bomb? There's all kinds of people who are speculating about whether or not that was the right thing to do. It's popular often times to say we were wrong to have used it. Any thoughts on that?

Hinde: I do not have that thought. It's terrible what they went through. Who is so stupid to let Nagasaki have – I think it was the first one, wasn't it?

DePue: Hiroshima was the first one.

Hinde: Hiroshima was the first. For those people to not have that be enough! It's just... In war terms, it's criminal. You can't fight that kind. They knew it. They finally gave in. What was it, a matter of a few days?

DePue: Hiroshima might have been the sixth or seventh of August and maybe two days later Nagasaki. Of course, the Japanese didn't know we had run out of atomic bombs. It was a few days after Nagasaki that they surrendered.

Hinde: Yes.

DePue: Let's get you back to Europe on occupation duty in Austria.

Hinde: Well, it was nothing.

DePue: What was your impression of the country at that time?

Hinde: Beautiful!

DePue: It wasn't as destroyed as some other parts?

Hinde: No. Not the part that I was in. Salzburg was not. Tyrol, I did get over there.

DePue: That's the mountainous region?

Hinde: Pardon me?

DePue: Tyrol was one of the mountainous regions?

Hinde: Mountainous region with the Brenner Pass. It goes into Italy. That's where Colonel what's-his-name drove up one Saturday morning when we had all fallen out, I can't remember, for inspection or what. They called my name. The Captain told me privately, he said "you're father has a friend and he's in a General's car here and has a clout over the General; then he said, full Colonel. He's asking my permission to let you go with him to Tyrol in his car, which was a 1946 Plymouth or something—I think I remember—at the time. He's on his way to Italy and he wants to visit with you on father's sake. He has talked me into coming over in my jeep," the next day, Sunday I think it is, "and to bring you back". (laughs) And he did.

DePue: He's got to be thinking, who's this guy? ( both laugh) He must know somebody.

Hinde: Well yes, he had to. It was a General's car but under the cover was the Colonel. Anyway he was not masquerading as a general. The other way around, he had his own designation of what he was. I don't think he was in WWI, this man he's a Bunch related. It goes back to one of those men in the Army with Dad in WWI. Anyway that was a week and he took me up to Berchtesgaden. I did not get to really go to Berchtesgaden. Yes, we could have. I didn't really check into doing it privately.

DePue: And that's Hitler's mountain home.

Hinde: Yes, that was mountain home and it was just bombed the hell out of . Of course, it's all tunneled and so forth. Berchtesgaden itself was not bombed out and they had a beautiful hotel. I stayed there in my room, then we took the drive on up to the ruins of Berchtesgaden, of the hide-out or whatever. That was fine. It was just things Dad did just like when he wrote and said if you go to Paris see the Padre. (laughs) So I take this good Catholic friend of mine that I was traveling with—I'd been in battalion schools and we were headed for Biarritz for the fall semester of this American school—went in there. I said, what do you think we should do to get down to Biarritz? The Padre said, well I think you should go take the train and he said I can't help you there. No problem with the train. Just get on the train and go down to Shrine of Bernadette and your friend here; the good Catholic has to see it and it'll be good for you to see. So we were down there for—I don't know—three or four days. Then there was a truck on Monday that went to Biarritz that they came over from the school to the Shrine. That ended that.

DePue: Was that Lourdes? Is that where the Shrine is I think?

Hinde: Lourdes. It's pronounced a little different than the Lords.

DePue: Okay.

Hinde: Yes. That's where they've got their grotto and oh, the crutches and everything that people have gone and supposedly been cured or anyway hope that they would be. I don't know how many real successes they had or what. Then they had candlelight services that we saw and that sort of thing. So we were educated that way.

DePue: Did you have enough exposure to the Austrian or the German people to get any impressions of them?

Hinde: The Austrian, yes. The German, very much beaten. Austria no; Austria was pretty much saved from all the tremendous damage like all those big cities in Germany were just completely demolished. Kassel is one that I as an infantryman walked through and it was just there were hardly any buildings left in that town of Kassel. I didn't get a chance to really talk to the people there but I think they were all just down as they could be. Of course, their country had been completely destroyed.

DePue: It doesn't sound like you even spent all that much time on occupation duty in Austria before you started going elsewhere.

Hinde: I didn't.

DePue: You went to schools then, after that?

Hinde: After that. After that I went to schools. We were sent back to a different area, then Salzburg. We were doing occupation duty too. Then they even had

battalion's, division's school and that's when as I said a good friend of mine was much more aggressive. He said let's shoot for the big one. Let's go to Shrivingham, England. (laughs) He found out it was full. What's our next choice? Well it's Biarritz. How do we get there? We go to Frankfurt airport. We were just G.I.'s with our bags and our records with us. We went to Frankfurt Airport. We got on a big plane. Where you going? We're not going near Biarritz. It's some other place. We got off that plane and went back to the desk where we should have gone in the first place. They said, where do you want to go? I said Paris. That's when Frankfurt and Paris had joint headquarters for Eisenhower for the SHAFE.

DePue: SHAFE?

Hinde: SHAFE. Supreme Headquarters....

DePue: ...Allied Forces Europe.

Hinde: It was a C47 that was empty and well outfitted. They took us on and in no time we were in Paris. Went to a department store and got rigged up with a bunch of cots. Found a place to stay. Then we went and saw the Padre the next day.

DePue: I'm curious about one thing in this whole scenario, though John. Aren't you supposed to have orders to be going anywhere? You're just not deciding to, you're not a private citizen moving around. You're still in the Army then.

Hinde: Well, we still had time to get to Biarritz. We had to be there by a certain date.

DePue: So you had orders to get to Biarritz?

Hinde: Yes, we had orders. They just let most of us go on our own; they didn't know what the hell to do with us. These guys know where they're going so we'll let 'em go. (laughs)

DePue: What was in Biarritz though? You talk about these schools. Are these military-oriented schools or what?

Hinde: Yes, they're American staffed. I had Doctor Schmidt from Rutgers.

DePue: But what are you learning once you get there?

Hinde: What was I learning?

DePue: Yes.

Hinde: History.

DePue: So this is kind of like going to a college?

Hinde: Yes, it was a college. And it accepted credits of the University of Kansas.

DePue: Is that like, what, we can't possibly get all these guys home right away; we got to give them something to do. We'll send them to college.

Hinde: That's right and the ones that are half smart we can maybe corral them in a school someplace. (laughs)

DePue: Otherwise, what are G.I.s doing when they don't have anything to do?

Hinde: Raise hell! (laughs) And cause trouble.

DePue: (laugh) I got it figured out now. So this isn't a bad thing to be doing?

Hinde: No, it's a good thing. I think it was a highlight. We had our bicycle, we had our apartment, we had a heater. We didn't have any regular electric heater. We had G.I. rations in a dining room. It wasn't anything plush like Biarritz is normally. It's a gambling town.

DePue: Okay, I want to ask a couple more questions, John, and put you on the spot here. You're an American G.I. You're drawing pay, you have access to American cigarettes and other things from the PX and you're in the middle of France going to school where maybe there's a few young ladies around?

Hinde: Yes. There were, and I did not get involved. I don't know whether it was heartburn from losing, Wanda was her name. I didn't play around with the foreigners.

DePue: You did not?

Hinde: I did not.

DePue: Okay. Did you know some that did?

Hinde: Oh, yes. (laugh) I had opportunities.

DePue: And when did you get back to the states? How and when? Now again I have dates here you shipped out in this victory ship March 26th, 1946.

Hinde: March, 1946. Oh that was not a liberty ship; it was a little bit bigger that.

DePue: Victory ship is what you said...

Hinde: Victory, yes okay.

DePue: Oh, so that's a bigger ship?

Hinde: Yes, that went back to New York, I think or New Jersey I can't remember which.

- DePue: Do you remember anything about the arrival in the states?
- Hinde: No. I don't
- DePue: Don't know if you came into New York Harbor and saw the Statue of Liberty or anything?
- Hinde: Yes. I think we did. We went over on the Elizabeth and that was out of New York. I guess, since I was back in the states, then the next orders were really to get me to Fort Sheridan, Chicago, which would be the separation point from the Army. That's what it was all about. They kept me busy over there for six or eight months, I guess, in schools. Then got me back and then the next purpose was to get me out. They didn't want me anymore.
- DePue: Which was fine with you, I bet?
- Hinde: Oh yes! (laughs) I was all for getting out.
- DePue: What were your intentions then once you were discharged?
- Hinde: My intentions were to take advantage of the G.I. Bill and go to college. I wasn't sure at that time where. It turned out to be Kansas.
- DePue: You came back in April. Were you in college then once you got to the fall of 1946?
- Hinde: Yes. I started right in 1946 and I graduated 1950.
- DePue: You already had a few credits just by going to school?
- Hinde: Yes, had a few, not many.
- DePue: What did you decide to major in?
- Hinde: Political Science headed towards public administration, city management, city manager, but I didn't pursue it. I went to my own city hall and talked to the mayor there and so forth. I think they ended up getting a city manager later. I wasn't trained at that point. I'd had to go for graduate school.
- DePue: Okay. I think that's probably a good place for us to stop today and we can pick it up with your military career after that.
- Hinde: Well really, you've almost got enough because my military career was not all that terrific. I'm not ashamed of it.
- DePue: But John, your Korean War experiences are quite a different flavor than WWII.



Hinde: Yes. Other than not being flown over there, I got there as soon as I could on the victory ship, I guess, as soon as they could arrange transportation. They took us right to Yokohama and then we went right to Pusan.

DePue: Okay, we're going to stop now.

Hinde: Thank you.

(End of interview session #1)

## An Interview with John Hinde

Interview # VRK-A-L-2013-003

Interview# 2: Friday, March 15, 2013

Interviewer: Mark R. DePue

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DePue: Today is Friday, March 15, 2013. My name is Mark DePue, the Director of Oral History with the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library. This is a special day since we have our second session with Mr. John Hinde. Good morning, sir.

Hinde: Good morning.

DePue: Great to be here I should say. We're at your house in a lovely home in Jacksonville. Last time we talked about growing up, about your father's experiences and the connections the family had with the Truman's. We're going to touch a little bit on that again. We finished off with your interesting military career in the Second World War. Different from a lot of folks, wasn't it?

Hinde: It certainly was.

DePue: We finished off last time with a short conversation about your coming back home and, like so many other people going to college on the G.I. Bill. We did talk a little bit about what you intended to do with that career. You were going

to go into city management, I believe, and it didn't pan out that way. Tell us a little bit more about the college experience. Refresh our memory of where you went to college?

Hinde: I went to college at the University of Kansas in Lawrence, Kansas, in the fall of 1946. I, along with several thousand other G.I.s and then the normal freshman class at Kansas, got off to a good start. I joined a social fraternity because of a dear friend of mine that actually I grew up with in the neighborhood in Independence, Missouri. We were close enough that I thought I could depend upon him on where to spend my college days. I spent all four years in the Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity House, and enjoyed every minute of it. It was an interesting mix of bright high school students and somewhat dull, if not tarnished G.I.s.

DePue: I wanted to ask you what it was like going through college with a bunch of veterans?

Hinde: (laugh) Well, since we were all in the same boat, we had enough in common that there wasn't any warm-up time really necessary. I think the kids really, and there was, you know, many years' difference—at least four probably—and from all walks of life. The fraternity I was in was, I would say, pretty average mix as far as the enrollment. Anyway it was a good start. I was disappointed in that I hardly ever had a chance to talk to professors. There were so many of us and this was a challenge to the University of Kansas as it was to all schools, not just state, but to have their enrollment—oh I think I can say safely—at least doubled probably at that time.

DePue: Does that mean that there was a shortage of women enrolled in the classes?

Hinde: Yes.

DePue: If only you had gone to college just a couple of years before.

Hinde: Well, this is so opposite of what my wife experienced before I even knew her. She was here in Jacksonville at Illinois College. Her school just about dried up as far as males. They took them all. We had a female academy here at McMurray College and that point McMurray was very toney. You could bring and board and room your horse if you wanted to. (laugh) And girls only. (laugh) My college, as well as my high school, I didn't excel anything worth talking about as far I got through and that's about it.

If I were to do over again I would have gone since I didn't want a specialty particularly except for city government, which is a specialty. It's not like engineering and law and special school. I found it a little difficult on the academic side. It goes back to my high school; the workaholic phrase applies to my family pretty much and to me in that I never knew anything but work. I enjoyed it but it kept me from being a real good student. It's my own fault.

My mother was incapacitated when I was about five, six years old with a mental illness.

DePue: We talked quite a bit about that.

Hinde: Yes and so don't have to get in to that.

DePue: John, did you find that your fellow veterans were pretty serious about their studies or were they serious about having a good time and relaxing a little bit?

Hinde: I would say it was fair to say both, very much so. No, they wanted to relax and there were sorority houses all around us so there was no shortage of females. We had a good life.

DePue: Did you at the time join either the National Guard or Reserves, or did you strictly stay inactive reserve?

Hinde: I strictly stayed inactive reserve.

DePue: In another words, you had no interest in the military after that?

Hinde: Only as, I don't know, I thought it would be a retirement; plus it would help if I wanted to become active and go to summer camp and so forth. I never did that. I never got around to doing that.

DePue: When did you graduate?

Hinde: Graduated in 1950.

DePue: May of 1950?

Hinde: May of 1950.

DePue: How quickly did you find a job?

Hinde: How quickly?

DePue: You probably already had one.

Hinde: Well, no. I didn't already have one but I was very fortunate in that my roommate, I think he was engaged to this retired Army Colonel—I don't know how all this happens—that worked for the Gas Service Company which is a public utility. They had openings in their new business through their marketing because of all the tremendous housing boom that was going on in Kansas City and well, over major cities. They wanted somebody to contact contractors and architects on promoting the use of their service, their product, the gas company. They were a subsidiary of City Service at that time. They used me to go out and bring back interviews with prospect companies competing against the electric utilities, really is what it amounted to. Our great

market system, you have a free market so everybody's in there trying to get the business.

DePue: You didn't have an opportunity to get settled too much in that job because a month and half after you graduated from college, June 25, 1950, the Korean War starts. Did that come as a surprise to you?

Hinde: Oh, just a shock out of the blue, really. Very much so, yes.

DePue: Did you think at that moment, oh gosh, this might have some impact on my future?

Hinde: Oh boy (laughs). Well, yes because my wife-to-be had already worked on wedding plans and having them in Jacksonville, Illinois, at her college. I didn't know whether this would be possible or not because they did not call us up just to have a reserve in reserve. They called us up to be ready, Johnny now. (laughs)

DePue: We probably need to step back a little bit and ask you about how you met Helen and a little bit about the courtship.

Hinde: We met through a mutual friend.

DePue: What was her last name?

Hinde: Can't think of it right now... Madeline Mayville. It's French; not sure how you spell it.

DePue: Madeline was her first name?

Hinde: Madeline Mayville and she was a journalistic friend of my wife. My wife had just been out of master's program at Columbia, New York and was hired by the local paper. Well, I didn't know her at that time. The editor of the local paper was a graduate of Illinois College. And so there again, it isn't just politics; politics is in education and in everything else. (laughs) That's how she ended up working on the staff of the Independence paper. Then later—and it's just coincidental—I was with the Gas Service Company in the Scarett building which is downtown Kansas City and she was also there. So we got together rather conveniently. After this first meeting with Madeline Mayville, it was just a beer garden. We were just out for dinner and beer.

DePue: I want to make sure I got this straight. Madeline was the matchmaker between the two of you? Or is Madeline, Helen's name?

Hinde: No.

DePue: What was Helen's last name?

Hinde: Patterson.

DePue: Okay.

Hinde: Scottish. Olson was her mother's maiden name. She had a good mix.

DePue: Was this a point in your life then you're ready to start looking around and thinking about settling down I think?

Hinde: Yes. And Korea was not part of that. It was completely unscheduled even. I don't know why, I should have been savvy enough to dodge that bullet, so to speak, and not sign up in the damn inactive reserves because all it did was get me a trip to Korea.

DePue: Did you sign up in the inactive reserves back in 1946?

Hinde: I think I did, yes. I don't think I signed up when I got discharged. I'd have to go back and check my records.

DePue: Inactive means you're not going to drills, you don't have to go to summer camp, you're just on a piece of paper somewhere?

Hinde: That's right.

DePue: When did the Army call you after the Korean War started? Was that almost right away?

Hinde: Almost right away, yes, they sure did. I'm just trying to think of the timeline. The Korean War, they just didn't have enough reserves over there to go in and win the war immediately and so they started pulling in the reserves the first thing. I don't think they cared whether we had much training because I sure did not.

DePue: The form that you gave me says it looks like, "On September 24<sup>th</sup> veteran joined the U.S. Army and entered from Fort Hood, Texas". On September 24<sup>th</sup> the war was going very badly for the United States at that time.

Hinde: Yes, yes.

DePue: I can't imagine what Helen was thinking when she was hearing this news.

Hinde: Well she's always a jump ahead in her positive thinking and she was probably thinking the worst. (laughs) But she wanted to go ahead with it because I didn't think we should, frankly. I knew this was a kind of a shotgun war and they were using us to hold the fort, so to speak, to get back to lost ground. They did that and our leader General MacArthur not satisfied with that; if he'd stayed in Pyong Yang I would never been called, because I don't think the Chinese would have come in.

- DePue: Yes. That all happened because we crossed the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel and were approaching the Yalu River. I want to ask you a very impolite question here, John. And hope you don't get too mad at me. You obviously did very well in terms of socializing, that you were, I think, the Class President of high school.
- Hinde: We had two but I was for half year, yes.
- DePue: Okay and obviously you enjoyed yourself in college. But looking at the pictures of you, I'm thinking you must have gone bald at rather an early age.
- Hinde: It don't upset at all because I started losing hair when I was in high school. I remember my father of course; he's bald.
- DePue: And he looks very distinguished.
- Hinde: And over the fireplace in this house, that's my great-grandfather; he's bald. My son's bald. (laugh) We were in a tide that kept going.
- DePue: You didn't have any chance in that at all then?
- Hinde: No, I didn't. They sent me to a—I started to say a dermatologist, but it was not a dermatologist—anyway, I don't know. He gave something to rub on my head (laugh). It obviously didn't work.
- DePue: It obviously didn't bother Helen at all?
- Hinde: No, I don't think so. I don't think it did. She didn't know me otherwise. I mean that what you see is what you get. (laughs)
- DePue: I imagine she was very concerned about hearing the news about Korea and knowing that you headed out there.
- Hinde: Oh, I'm sure she was and particularly knowing that I was in the ground infantry in WWII. That is what this Korean War turned out definitely to be, a battle on holding the ground with the hills.
- DePue: Well anybody that knows military history knows that the greatest burden is almost always taken up by the infantry men.
- Hinde: Yes.
- DePue: Tell me then about how you ended up getting a commission?
- Hinde: I'm very honest in this: I'm really not quite sure because I don't think I did it all. I think my father was involved. He thought I should go over as an officer and I wasn't—to put it very bluntly—at all sure that I would be better off as a staff sergeant; at that time I think is what I was. I knew where most second lieutenants went and they had to lead platoons in attack. The Army moved

when they moved. I knew where I would be. I never even had seen a four-point-two mortar. But the next thing I know, I am 36 hours. I got from Yokohama over to Pusan. Then started up the—well in WWII they called it the Cigarette Camps—but replacement repot depots. There I am a second time loser; I went through the repot depots of Europe and then over in Korea. But it wasn't much in Korea because they didn't stay there long. I mean they needed us now and they took us immediately.

DePue: That's a bit ahead of my timeline here. Are you willing, or do you remember enough about how you got the commission, to go into any detail on that?

Hinde: Well, I just applied and said I would like to have one. Maybe with my university degree I could be qualified. I was encouraged to do so. I did nothing personally.

DePue: But your father is a very good friend of the President of the United States. Did that factor into it at all?

Hinde: I think it did in this case of getting me commissioned before I went to Korea, yes. He knew I was going and he thought it would be best if I went as an officer, as he was in WWI. And bald and all of that, so I'm following the family pattern. (laughs) But, no, I did nothing personally, I mean as far as writing letters or making contacts or so forth. Since it was in the mill, so to speak, meaning it'd already been requested with my name; I wasn't about to say, No, I'm not interested.

DePue: Does that mean that your father had contacted somebody in Truman's office about it?

Hinde: It would infer that there was some contact. I'm sure this happens in many families, not quite at that level. It just so happens that they were good friends and he was wanting his good friend Senator, and now President, to help him.

DePue: If I can interject here: a civilian would think, Oh getting a commission, what a great thing to do. You're heading to Korea in the infantry sounds like. You're going either as a Staff Sergeant in charge of a platoon of soldiers...

Hinde: Yes.

DePue: ...who's expected to know what he's doing, or a Second Lieutenant in charge of a platoon of soldiers who typically the Sergeants know more than the Second Lieutenants do. I know based on what we talked about before, your very limited experiences in combat in WWII. Would it be fair to say that you wouldn't feel comfortable even being a Sergeant in charge of a platoon?

Hinde: I would be more comfortable probably because I had been a sergeant for some time in my checkered career in the Army up to that point. I had infantry training but they ended up putting me on limited service, therefore not subject

to overseas assignment. I didn't like that. I had a very comfortable position though, with it. I probably should have stayed. Am I to go on with that?

DePue: No, because we did talk about that a little bit.

Hinde: Yes, I think we did.

DePue: The bottom line is, you're just about as much at risk as an NCO as you are as a junior officer going to Korea.

Hinde: Yes, it's about the same.

DePue: So it's not much of a favor that it be about the same.

Hinde: No. (laughs)

DePue: Once you got the commission, did you go to an officer basic course to get some more infantry training as an officer?



Hinde: No. Went to Camp Stoneman, California where I was with my barracks bag and everything. I was told either on the ship or about to be as a Sergeant. I was called with special orders to be commissioned at Camp Stoneman

DePue: Okay, tell us about the decision to get married and the marriage itself then.

Hinde: Well, Helen was very strong minded about wanting to go ahead with it before I went over. I told her, of course, that this is really not a war game, it's actually a war and I will be used immediately when I put foot on ground in Korea. Therefore, I will be exposed to whatever my outfit is. It's just a big gamble and I'd rather you not take it until I get back. I understand that there's a pretty good chance that they'll have a rotation of approximately a year, I think, of service over there for these reserves that were called. And they did. You know the ladies; they have everything lined up and they want to go. (laughs) And she wanted to go ahead with the plans.

DePue: And it was here in Jacksonville?

Hinde: And it was here in Jacksonville at her Illinois College, which is on campus. Well, they do not have sororities, the societies anyway; it's a women's organization. The men also have them, so it's close to the fraternity and sorority.



DePue: What date? I know it was December, do you remember?

Hinde: It was December 9<sup>th</sup>.

DePue: I'm going to put your marriage and knowing that you're going to Korea into context here. The war started very badly, and by late September things had started to turn around. MacArthur lands the 10<sup>th</sup> Corps at Incheon, everything going north then. They cross the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel. By the middle of November there are elements of both Republic of Korea Army and the United States Army that are very close, if not actually getting into Yalu River. Right about Thanksgiving time is when the Chinese came in a huge way and that was perhaps one of the worst military disasters of the American military—what happened between November and December, 1950. The 2nd Division, the 1st Cav and some other divisions on the western coast were practically over-run and dropped their equipment and just barely got out. Many of them did not. They called that the “Big Bug-out”; that's what the soldiers called it in a very derisive way. The Marines and the 7th Division on the eastern side of the peninsula got stuck at the Chosin Reservoir. The Marines fought their way out; they had been surrounded completely and the 31st and 32nd Regiments, I believe, of the 7th Division got pretty well mauled on their way out as well. That'll come in when we talk about it a little bit later. That's what's going on at the time you're getting married. How much are you paying attention to all of that?

Hinde: Not enough (laugh). I had no way of knowing except my own experience, as I told Helen. I'd been called and they will use me immediately. They're in trouble; they need all the reserves they can get. Therefore, it's the old percentages and they're not that favorable. She didn't want to call it off. So we went ahead and had the wedding. I had a 30 day leave—it was almost the month of December—and report back around the first of January.

DePue: Did the two of you go anywhere for a honeymoon?

Hinde: Yes, we went to New Orleans. We drove; we had a car at that time jointly. We had a good trip. Your mind is, of course, pretty well occupied with what's going on in Korea today, you know. Most people—and this was the whole Korean War syndrome—hardly knew that their country was in a war except those of us who were connected somehow with it, which I certainly was.

DePue: Well I can remind you here, on January 24<sup>th</sup>—looks like in this form you gave me—that you shipped out to Korea?

Hinde: Sounds right, yes.

DePue: That would have been from Camp Stoneman?

Hinde: Yes.

DePue: Probably from San Francisco, then?

Hinde: Yes. San Francisco.

DePue: Do you remember much about the trip overseas?

Hinde: Not a whole lot, no. I know nothing about the classification of troop ships except I was very favored in WWII; I went over on the Queen Elizabeth. (laughs) And this time I went over on what they called a victory ship. It's kind of a mid-size; I don't know what classification it was particularly. But we had rather an uneventful trip. I know I remember it was like a couple of weeks, I think.

DePue: You went over the USNS Brewster this says. I guess a victory ship would be one step up from a liberty ship.

Hinde: Yes, I think it would.

DePue: But either way it probably bobbed around in the water pretty well.

Hinde: Oh, bobbed around, yes. Not as much as a liberty. We didn't have a bad trip over, but I wasn't overly anxious to be flown over and didn't have a choice, of course. I knew as soon as we got to Japan, Yokohama then we would go to Korea from Yokohama.

DePue: Did you spend any time at all at Yokohama?

Hinde: No, about 36 hours. I spent most of that time getting this camper chest in my living room here. My wife wanted a camper chest and so I got a camper chest, and then I had to get it crated. I'll never forget that postal clerk. Said, "I'm sorry, Sergeant, but it's a 101 or something; anyway one of the measurements wasn't quite right. I said I do not have time to re-crate this. You'll have to take chances with me and I hope you will because my wife is looking forward to receiving this eventually. So they let it go on through. It couldn't have been off very much. But that's all. No, I didn't have any time in Yokohama actually; this would come later. Once you're in Korea at that time, you're not going to be talking about travel plans to Japan. We had that to look forward to as a reservist, that within six months we should get at least a week pass or trip to Japan, which we did. I had two of them, I guess.

DePue: Where did you land in Korea? Was it Pusan?

Hinde: Yes, Pusan.

DePue: The reason I figured that was the case is because when you got there I think it was mid-February timeframe. The Chinese are still pushing the U.N. forces south and by the end of January the front lines were 40-50 miles south of Seoul and it was not looking good at all.

Hinde: No.

DePue: I should mention that both the 1st Marine Division and the 7th Infantry Division they had to evacuate through Ham Hung, I believe, from North Korea, and then ship them all the way down to the south. I assume they were kind of reorganizing. I'm getting ahead of the story. When did you find out you were going to the 7th Infantry Division?

Hinde: Well, it all happened so fast. This was different than in WWII. There was no time like that I remember. I had no choice, you know, in what division I would go to, but as you said, it turned out to be the 7th. Then within the 7th they had to find a place for me and they had such a place needing a platoon leader in the heavy mortar company.

DePue: For which regiment?

Hinde: For the 31st was it?

DePue: Yes, 31st, I believe.

Hinde: Yes. Well I get confused because in WWII, I think I was in the 32nd (laughs)

DePue: I saw some place you were in the 30th.

Hinde: 30th, yes. I guess, yes.

DePue: Because I got confused as well when I was getting ready. Wait a minute now.

Hinde: But anyway it wasn't long that I got a jeep ride and they took me to the heavy mortar company and explained that they had a good crew, that your lack of familiarity with the four-point-two would not be any real problem. Your platoon would take care of that, which they did. And it was a new life for me as an infantryman. I couldn't believe it because the 2nd Lieutenants and I, there wasn't any competition for this position because far as I know I was the only one at that period of time that had been commissioned, you might say, right here during the war. Well it was during the war.

DePue: Did you replace somebody or is there just hole because somebody had been killed or injured?

Hinde: Well, no. They needed a platoon leader. That's where I ended up as a platoon leader of a heavy mortar platoon.

DePue: You mentioned before that there was going to be this policy of one year rotation.

Hinde: Yes.

DePue: But the 7th, I know, was stationed in Japan prior to the war. They were on occupation duties so they were anything but sharp in terms of being ready to go to combat when they were called over when the Korean War started. That would have been August probably. So those one year rotations aren't going to occur until August timeframe. So you're going in as an individual replacement, is that right?

Hinde: Yes.

DePue: I know also that the 7th Division—before they went over to Korea the Army raided them a couple of times and then they filled them up with 8,000 Korean soldiers. Were there still a lot of Koreans assigned to the 7th ID when you got there?

Hinde: Not that I knew of, not at my level. Of course, I wasn't in any conferences that have particular information other than what the rest of my company knew.

DePue: So your particular platoon had no Koreans assigned to it?

Hinde: No. Well, I had what they called a "Number One Boy." It was a Korean that assisted me with laundry and such things as that.

DePue: But not in the fighting?

Hinde: Not in the fighting, no.

DePue: Was the unit actually in combat when you got there?

Hinde: Yes. They were hit pretty hard at Chosin Reservoir. Quite a few of them did get out alright, finally. As far as the platoon, apparently there was still enough experience that whoever made the decision—I assume the Captain of the company—decided that Hinde had a good platoon that was well trained and they would take care of his training. Because I had absolutely no knowledge of this weapon at all, other than it's about 250 pounds and its 25 pounds shell and it would go three miles. They dubbed the company High Angle Hell (laughs) because we would set on the friendly side of the hill and fire up and over. Of course, that combined with the fact that I had a jeep and I had a jeep driver and I had a platoon of four mortars and all the ammunition carriers and the half-tracks. No they weren't half-tracks—three quarters I guess.

DePue: Three-quarter ton trucks?

Hinde: Yes, for ammo trailers, hauling ammunition trailers for each platoon. No, it was a good crew and the fire direction center was under the command of a young man that was said to be real sharp in his mathematics, and of course, that is very important. That helped. But they have to have somebody as a FD, Fire Direction Center officer, and I ended up being that for a period of time. I ended also being an executive officer next to the company commander and

was offered a captaincy, of course, in the reserve again—I mean 2nd Lieutenant—but I did not want to stay in Korea; I wanted to go home. (laughs).

DePue: Tell me about your first impressions in Korea, of the country, of the people, the sights and the smells.

Hinde: Well, we knew, I mean from almost any newspaper, that war going on gave you a little bit of insight and flavor of what Korea was. It had been occupied so long by the Japanese and then suppressed as far as their own language. It did not leave me with a very good feeling because I could see nothing to make me think otherwise, that there was anything here other than we would try to help free these people from the North Koreans.

DePue: You saw war-torn Europe and Germany at the end of the war. How would it compare with that?

Hinde: Well, really you couldn't even compare it, I don't think, because war-torn Europe, in Kassel, Germany, one place that I remember that we were at, was just almost aerial-bombed off the map. There just wasn't that much civilization as we knew it over in Korea. We just took what we got, what they had.

DePue: Do you remember your first day on the front lines with the unit?

Hinde: Well yes, but it's strange because you're not really, I mean they're always trying to protect the unit. Therefore, we were not in a reserve position, but we were in a more protective position than the infantry line troops. They were out front and they would protect us if we got attacked. We had that back-up. I mean, our mission was to not let ourselves get trapped. There's all the time a lot of scouting going on, where we'd have to take the Japanese maps and hope we could figure out where we were and where we were going.

DePue: Was there an NCO who kind of took you under his wing and taught you the ropes?

Hinde: Yes. They did; I think they knew that I was very willing and I think respected them very much because they knew that I was just commissioned and that I had been a sergeant. Therefore, I think this bridged the gap a lot and made the transition much, much easier. I could almost say, Well I was in your position and this isn't something that I particularly was looking forward to. (laughs) But greatly surprised because I didn't know the infantry had such positions. It was a complete surprise to me. Well, you can't haul those big mortars right up on the front line.

DePue: Would you have preferred to be an infantry line platoon leader?

Hinde: No.

DePue: Versus the mortars?

Hinde: No. This was an answer to a prayer. I didn't even know that it was a possibility. This is what goes on at the division regiment battalion meetings when they'll say, well how many do we need today and where and so forth.

DePue: I'm looking at the Table of Organization for an Infantry Regiment during the Korean War. Big unit. It consists of three line-infantry battalions each with three line-infantry companies in a pretty hefty weapons company. So that makes nine line companies and three more weapons companies. Then there's a lowly heavy mortar platoon, or a heavy mortar company, looks like you were assigned to.

Hinde: Yes, in WWII there was no such breakdown. In WWII I had nothing to do with it; I was just an infantryman soldier.

DePue: Which suggests that your opportunities to be a line platoon leader were much higher than going to a mortar platoon, maybe.

Hinde: Yes. This was very, very interesting.

DePue: What kind of stories were these old hands, the guys who had survived the Chosin Reservoir? Were they telling you about what they had experienced?

Hinde: Not very talkative about it, because I think they came close to being wiped out, not really completely. They had enough to keep the company together. There wasn't a lot of talk about it.

DePue: Were you asking those kinds of questions or just figured it was wise not to bring the subject up?

Hinde: Well, I didn't think it was wise to bring the subject up. I think enough of that filtered out because of their experience when they got freed up there, got back anyway to the friendly side.

DePue: What was the combat like? You got there during a time that there's still a lot movement going on in Korea. As I mentioned, by the end of January the communists have pushed you well south of Seoul but then Ridgway launched a couple offenses—I think, Operation Killer and Operation Ripper. The American and UN forces were moving north. Can you kind of give us a feel for what it was like to be a forward platoon leader during that time frame?

Hinde: Well, I felt ill informed. I would follow the leaders, so to speak, because I had no experience to rely upon.

DePue: We're looking at a map here. I suspect that the details of what's going on and the big picture never got down to a 2nd Lieutenant?

Hinde: No, not very much. Just what the deal was for the next day and where we would be and how we would be resupplied, because it took quite a supply chain to take care of. We had one 24 hour period that we fired more than 4,000 shells. That had everybody, including the cooks, hauling ammunition to us. It was a particular squeeze. The other thing that they sent me out on, the forward observer; somebody had to. I felt that it's something I had to do because it was so directly involved with the leadership of an active mortar platoon to be in contact with your member that's out there looking for the Chinese at this particular point because they were there. As you said earlier, when I got into the war the Chinese had already pushed us back.

DePue: As the forward observer, doesn't that mean that you have to be right with the infantry in the front lines?

Hinde: Yes, and sometimes ahead of them. (laughs)

DePue: You mean stuck on top of the hill someplace?

Hinde: (laugh) yes. But I didn't have to do a lot. I didn't mean they took advantage of me; I don't think they did. It was something we all had to do and it was really basic to the running of the platoon to know how the fire messages and so forth were verified. For security you need to have your officers at least skilled in some forward observing.

DePue: That means that where the forward observers are at is on the front lines and the mortars themselves are well behind the front lines.

Hinde: Yes.

DePue: You have to call back the information to them?

Hinde: Yes. We had language problems. There would be United Nations. I mean we would have Indians and so forth.

DePue: Let me get you back on recording.

Hinde: Okay.

DePue: Okay, we had to quick break for the telephone and a couple of other things. During the break you were mentioning the weather. I should have asked you about the weather.

Hinde: (laugh) It's lousy! Well, it was very cold of course. We didn't have enough clothes. They were getting them in; they knew that, and the supply was being worked on. We got socked in, so to speak, in one area where it rained for so long that we couldn't get our vehicles out without the help of a lot of Korean labor in cutting trees and making a log walk for the vehicles to get out.

- DePue: In the Civil War they call them "corduroy roads".
- Hinde: This is the only way, and we were being supplied by, I think they were C47s, but anyway by air.
- DePue: They weren't parachute dropping, were they?
- Hinde: Yes.
- DePue: Really.
- Hinde: Yes. This was just dried food that we were getting. It was about two weeks, I think, that we were kind of stranded. Of course, our equipment was heavy for an infantry outfit: the big mortars and the ammunition.
- DePue: Well, I would think the other part of that equation, the weather, is against you, but tell us about the terrain where the unit operated?
- Hinde: Well, the unit would have to find a protective area if they could. Of course, we would and did and we would have support units to protect us in our missions. Then sometimes you had to be innovative. We were with a couple of GMC engines on two different levels of hills. The top one was 1073 and I don't know what the sea level was. We had litters, used them primarily to send our ammunition and to send our guns up and we would walk up to Hill 1073, for an example of what you do. This actually happened: I was put on the supplies and so forth, went up, and then we actually set our mortars up on top of this hill on the back slope of it. In going over it gave us a little bit of an edge. Our forward observer had a big job of trying to locate where their mortars were. They were after us too, so it was literally a cat and mouse game, trying to find the enemy mortars.
- DePue: I had the impression that most of the positions that you would set the mortars in would have been in the valleys and wherever there was a fairly level spot to place them. But you're saying that often times you would go up to see?
- Hinde: No, not often times. That's the only time I remember that we did it. I was there about a year I guess.
- DePue: Were you involved with finding the new positions to move to?
- Hinde: Occasionally yes, they would send me out with somebody that was experienced when I first got there. Then I would learn the map. The Japanese maps were the ones we depended upon.
- DePue: I assume you didn't read Japanese?
- Hinde: No. (laughs)



- DePue: But were they based on the metric system?
- Hinde: Yes.
- DePue: And the topographic maps so you could see the elevations?
- Hinde: Yes.
- DePue: Where did you learn your map reading? Was that before you got over to Korea?
- Hinde: I didn't. We just had basic map reading course in infantry training. I didn't do anything before I went to Korea. I was going to say, I suppose I went through a basic, yes, I guess I did under fire and so forth before I went, but not very much. We got a real short course. They must have been just hurting terribly at that time. Here this whole ship that you mentioned, the victory ship, was full of leadership from WWII. They needed us. My experience with an infantry unit was transferrable to a mortar outfit in that at least we knew what the unit was doing. No problem of mixing in with the infantry because we were all now one.
- DePue: Did you get any training. Was there any training going on, on the ship going over?
- Hinde: Exercise only. We didn't get any, no.
- DePue: You mentioned just a little bit ago that one of the challenges, especially for forward observers, is figuring out where the enemy mortars were. Did your unit ever take any incoming fire?
- Hinde: Yes, we did. I had shrapnel come close to me, but I never really got anything but a scratch and that was about all.
- DePue: Did the platoon lose any casualties or any equipment damage?
- Hinde: Not while I was there. You know, it was a relatively short time. I think it was about a year and then the rotation. I had two, what they call R&Rs, the rest and recuperation.
- DePue: When were those and where did you go?
- Hinde: (laughs) First one I went to Tokyo. The second one I went to not Tokyo (laughs). I wanted peace. I wanted to get out and I went to Mt.....I can't think of it.
- DePue: Mt. Suribachi?
- Hinde: No, it wasn't Suribachi, but it was something...

- DePue: Mt. Suribachi is at Iwo Jima. I'm sorry. Mt. Fuji?
- Hinde: Fuji, yes. Fujiyama. Fuji, that's where you get your rest and recuperation and your massaging and so forth. Then the first trip is when I bought everything: a chafing dish over here under this end table, where they warmed and cooked foods; all kinds of silver earrings, bracelets and that sort of thing. But I didn't want Tokyo the next time. (laughs)
- DePue: I want to get you back to your first few months there in Korea. I suspect you remember when you heard this news about Douglas MacArthur getting fired by Harry S. Truman, the old family friend Harry S. Truman firing a legend like MacArthur. What was your reaction? What was the troops' reaction?
- Hinde: I'm trying to think, was I there when that actually happened? Yes, I guess I was.
- DePue: You were, because that happened in April of 1951.
- Hinde: Yes. I personally thought it was about time because they were having too much of a leadership problem with the General. I mean he was running the whole show and not taking in the rest of the staff. It's unfortunate that he got all the publicity and so forth. Even Congress just opened themselves up wide-open to him, which of course is a slap to the President. A lot of people were very angry at Harry S. Truman, firing him. Couldn't believe it. Well, if they could see all those lives that were lost because of ill-thought plans and decisions, I think they would think differently. It had to happen some way. But to have that happen and then have all these New York and every place else just.....
- DePue: You mean the ticker tape parades?
- Hinde: Yes, it didn't make sense. I don't believe in worshipping anyone like that. He did some wonderful things. I mean what he did to get us back in the war when I got there, I admired that. Actually you know we were almost out of it and he made that end run, so to speak and got us back in.
- DePue: That being the Inchon landing.
- Hinde: Yes, Inchon. He's a marvelous history and technician but he just was so confident. He knew they wouldn't really come in. (laugh)
- DePue: You're talking about when they were approaching the Yalu River and he was ignoring all of the intelligence reports that the Chinese were being sighted.
- Hinde: Yes. He just didn't want to hear about it, wouldn't believe it. But it happened.
- DePue: When American G.I.s paid a pretty dear price for that.

Hinde: Very dear, yes.

DePue: Did you let people know when you were a platoon leader that your family had a lot of connections with the President of the United States?

Hinde: No. I thought enough had been done already. I didn't need to add any tinder to the fire or whatever. No one ever mentioned it, high or low either, which is interesting because I'm sure that there was thoughts that "how in the hell did that guy get to the heavy mortar outfit." (laughs)

DePue: Better left unsaid, huh.

Hinde: I think somebody was trying to protect me and they figured that there was something going and you better not let Hinde be taken advantage of.

DePue: Well, it sounds to me like it still...

Hinde: But I said nothing. I just, no.

DePue: But being in the mortar platoon wasn't all roses. It was still a pretty dangerous place to be.

Hinde: Oh yeah.

DePue: In fact the next question I want to ask you about is about April 22nd; you'd been there for a month and a half, two months at that time. April 22nd the Chinese launch a huge spring offensive as well and that starts pushing the Americans back south again, something like over 70 divisions that the Chinese and the North Koreans were able to throw against the Allies. Do you remember that?

Hinde: No, I don't. I don't know why, because that's such a massive attack. I'm sure that it was well documented or I was probably informed. You know how it is in the Army. You don't get all the information down to the truth.

DePue: So just because you're a 2nd Lieutenant doesn't mean that somebody feels like they have to let you know what's on?

Hinde: No.

DePue: What kind of information did you get? "Hinde, you got to move your platoon from here to here," is that essentially the way it worked?

Hinde: Well, yes or we're moving. Here's where you should be on the new scheme of things, the new set up.

DePue: You mentioned this a couple of times, but Hill 1079...

- Hinde: I think 73, but it doesn't matter. Lots of hills over there. (laughs) They're all elevation-referred-to.
- DePue: What was it about that particular action, that particular hill, that stuck in your mind? Was that the one where you set up the mortars near the top of it?
- Hinde: Yes it is. It's where we shipped all of our heavy equipment up on these—well, I call them litters—but whatever they are, they are the long baskets that can take a person or two and ammunition and that sort of thing.
- DePue: Was this Americans who were hauling this equipment to the top?
- Hinde: Yes.
- DePue: Not Koreans?
- Hinde: No, well, no. We had a lot of Korean help. No, it's a good point. They had just manual labor that was available. They did a good job. I think they felt that we were doing a pretty good job.
- DePue: Was that the action, the occasion, where the unit fired so many rounds?
- Hinde: Yes. Of course, one reason is so many valleys and the mortars. The mortars would just bounce off of the tanks that they would have in there. We would still fire with the forward observer telling us where you needed to fire.
- DePue: Wasn't too much after that—I think this action might have been around the June timeframe—towards the tail end of the Chinese offensive, and of course the Americans were counter-offensive at that time. The line finally started to stabilize about the middle of July, not too far off from what we would recognize today as being the border between North and South Korea. It was kind of angled across the country, so most of it is just north of the 38th parallel.
- My next question then is, what were you hearing about the beginning of Armistice talks? And what was the thought going out at that time? That would have been about July 10th, the first time they really sat down at Kaesong and started talking about the possibility of an Armistice or peace.
- Hinde: I think everybody was hoping that they would have some success and would be able to start a rotation of letting some of those who had been there for so long out or back. I think we had strong leadership without MacArthur. I don't think it was all MacArthur. He was the one that was up the Yalu. That's where we went too far.
- DePue: Were you relatively optimistic, when they first started the peace talks, that the war could be over in just a couple of months?

Hinde: Not really.

DePue: What do you remember in terms of how combat changed once the peace talks started and the line wasn't moving much anymore?

Hinde: Things started relaxing. We were not called upon to go on fire missions. In fact, I'm trying to think: we were way above the 38<sup>th</sup> when they first started. We built bunkers. We actually built them on the ground, back in the hillside or whatever. This was taking advantage of the quiet period which was recognizing the peace talks.

DePue: Did the platoon pretty much stay in a position then for a long period of time? Didn't move?

Hinde: Yes they did. In fact yes, we would be pulled back and I think that's where I lost some of my hearing too. It's not only our mortars, but we would be pulled back where the eight-inch guns were, the artillery people blasting the hell out of us (laugh). I didn't offer you more coffee.

DePue: No, I'm fine. No, an eight-inch gun sounds like it's only twice as large as a four-deuce mortar, but it's a lot bigger.

Hinde: Oh, yes.

DePue: The thing that was bogging down the peace talks, right from the beginning, was what to do with the prisoners of war. What did you know about what was going on with the Americans that were captured and being held in the North?

Hinde: We didn't hear very much and there would be rumors, but just didn't know what was going on.

DePue: How about all of those prisoners that the UN had, the communist prisoners that were at Kojedo Island and in the south? Did you hear much about them?

Hinde: No. I don't think I've ever heard about that.

DePue: So there was no discussion that was the thing that was bogging down the peace talks?

Hinde: No.

DePue: Okay.

Hinde: But was that one of the big reasons that they didn't make any progress, the prisoners?

DePue: As I understand that, there were tens of thousands of Chinese and North Korean prisoners that were being held by the UN, and a sizeable percentage,

maybe 40 to 50 percent of those, refused to be sent back north. That was the thing that they could never get beyond at the Armistice talks because the communists insisted that they all had to be returned north. Truman saw what had happened after WWII with the Russians being sent back home and he said we're not doing that. That's my understanding of history. We're here to talk about your story.

Hinde: Okay. Well really, you don't hear a lot being a second or first lieutenant (laughs). They don't come and say "John, what do you think." You're just basically following orders and you know you're being called upon on certain missions. That's about it. There's not anything in between. You either get the big picture if it gets so big that it's all getting out public, and then they let us know what's going on. Otherwise, you don't.

DePue: Well I'm sure it was a full time job to do your missions and to stay alive, to keep the platoon safe.

Hinde: I hated the night patrols. I mean sometimes a division is spread out over quite a bit of an area. That's when I felt vulnerable. You were out in the open and we, of course, didn't have any good way to know who was friend and who was foe.

DePue: Were you going on patrols?

Hinde: Not really, not much of the time; sometime we would be going to reconnoiter and try to find out more than we knew otherwise.

DePue: Do you recall any visits from USO groups? Anything like that?

Hinde: In WWII, yes, but in Korea and that's what you're asking about, I don't remember any Bob Hopes (laugh). I'm thinking of Kressler(?) Air Base that I was at once with the 3rd Division. That had a real big – thousands of soldiers out there being entertained. In Korea I don't think there was a lot of that. But I wasn't there long enough to really be an authority on it.

DePue: You were there though for Thanksgiving. Do you remember Thanksgiving Day?

Hinde: Yes.

DePue: What was on the menu for Thanksgiving Day?

Hinde: (laugh) Turkey (laugh).

DePue: Hot turkey.

- Hinde: Yes, most of the time we would get a hot meal. That was another advantage of being in the heavy mortar outfit. I think you were more stable as far as your kitchen was concerned.
- DePue: How about Christmas? Do you remember being there in Christmas time?
- Hinde: No, I frankly don't. I'm trying to think; I really must have been.
- DePue: Let me ask you about how you were able to keep in touch or were you able to keep in touch with Helen and the family back in the states?
- Hinde: Well, by mail that's all. I was trying to think of when I went on R&R; I think I did call home.
- DePue: Were you getting just letters in the mail or were you occasionally getting some care packages as well?
- Hinde: Oh yes. Some care packages, definitely.
- DePue: What kind of things did you get?
- Hinde: Sardines, (laugh) cheese, and there were friends of the family in addition to the immediate family that would be sending things.
- DePue: Sardines, why sardines?
- Hinde: I don't know. I don't think I particularly asked for them. (laughs) We got our packages and it helps to get something from home anytime.
- DePue: I wonder if you remember, what was your impression of the soldiers you were serving with?
- Hinde: Generally pretty good. I think, I was trying to think of...
- DePue: Do you remember, at that time, of course, Truman had integrated the military back in 1948, but that took a while. Was your unit integrated? Were there blacks in your platoon?
- Hinde: Yes.
- DePue: Do you remember any problems?
- Hinde: No, I don't. I don't remember any problems with the blacks.
- DePue: What was your impression of the Korean people?
- Hinde: Well, kind of forlorn and hopeless for a lot of them when we were there. We honestly thought we were helping their cause. It was hard to think otherwise.

- DePue: Do you remember any incidents that were especially humorous that you can recall today?
- Hinde: Well. I guess, yes. Orphans: we had kind of adopted an orphan that we called "Shorty" and he was favored and so forth. But there were a lot of children that I think the troops were genuinely concerned about and would like to do whatever they could to make it better for them.
- DePue: Okay. You mentioned it several times about the rotation policy. It basically was, you were there for a year and then you got sent home. Is that how it generally worked?
- Hinde: Evidently it is. That's all when you have this one experience.
- DePue: Tell me about your coming home then, when, and that whole experience.
- Hinde: It's just the best news you can get, of course. I didn't know that we would be able to come home that soon. I don't have any knowledge that we were being favored, that is our unit particularly.
- DePue: Were you coming home as an individual or as a unit?
- Hinde: No, as an individual.
- DePue: Was it January of 1952 then that you were coming back?
- Hinde: Yes, I came back in late winter, I guess it was.
- DePue: Pretty good time. It was probably very cold in Korea when you came back.
- Hinde: (laugh) very cold.
- DePue: Do you remember much about your reunion when you finally got back with Helen?
- Hinde: Oh, it was wonderful. I'm trying to think, it was up in Chicago or at what you call it ....
- DePue: Fort Sheridan?
- Hinde: Yes Fort Sheridan, yes.
- DePue: When you came back, then what were intentions as far as the military was concerned?
- Hinde: Out! (laughs) Didn't want any more, not signing any more papers. (laugh)
- DePue: Well then, give us a very quick thumb nail sketch of your life after you did return to the states.



- Hinde: I guess I did go back to the Gas Service Company. But I didn't stay too long because my wife's mother was a very critical arthritic person and her father had wanted me to move up here and to try to help him on the farm. So we finally decided to do that because Helen was spending so much time back and forth that it seemed the thing to do. Excuse me, I'm running out of memory bank here (laughs).
- DePue: We are running out of questions to ask to ask you too, here, so we're hitting about the right time I think.
- Hinde: Yes. You know we had some recreation time occasionally when there would be a good swim where you could take an air mattress go on a float trip (laughs) downstream and feel safe. We would be in our own territory. Do you ever have leg cramps?
- DePue: Occasionally I do. They must be driving you crazy here.
- Hinde: Well, they are, they don't happen very often.
- DePue: Let me ask you one more question and then we can let you stretch it out a little bit here. Any final comments you'd like to make at the end of the interview?
- Hinde: I'm all for doing what you're doing and getting the record straight. Boy, it's right there, it just comes back like a knife.
- DePue: Hold up.
- Hinde: No, that's alright. I don't have to move.
- DePue: Okay.
- Hinde: I can stand. I took the pressure off. No you are doing a very good job of tracking me. I have no complaints personally how I was handled and they wanted me to stay over. I was complimented on exec officer and all of that bit. Nothing could have (laugh) attracted me to stay.
- DePue: I suspect Helen had the same opinion about the question.
- Hinde: Oh yes. Yes, she would. It was just a stupid thing to do and I feel so guilty for her because she's the innocent bystander. She had her way out; I did not try to push the wedding at all. In fact I wish I had just insisted not.
- DePue: You had a lot of great of years together after that.
- Hinde: Yes, yes.

DePue: I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to come over here and talk with you and get to know you and get to know your story. Because it is an important story and we need to preserve these.

Hinde: Thank you very much and that goes both ways. It's helpful to those of us that were there to have a voice and have somebody that's going to condense it down to where maybe a few paragraphs and so forth penetrate and inform some of the people about what kind of war that was or is I guess. It's never over is it?

DePue: No, in fact we're reminded of that because, I think just this week or late last week, the new president [of North Korea], Kim the Younger, they're calling him now, has decided to rescind the Armistice. After sixty some years we are rescinding the Armistice. Fifty-nine years I guess it was. So we live in a dangerous world don't we?

Hinde: Well I think if you have married into it and your wife now has family going over, well it is just incredible, a denial of reality for those people and how that country can march in step when you see them and support whether children [unintelligible].

DePue: On the counter side of that—and you're talking about the conditions in North Korea—on the flip side of that you won't find a country, a people, especially the people who are a little bit older than South Koreans, who are more thankful for what the Americans did to give them their freedom. I mean all they have to do is look across the border and realize what difference there is. They are incredibly appreciative of things you and your generation did for them.

Hinde: It's nice to know that we had a good cause.

DePue: Thank you very much, John. We'll go ahead and finish here.

Hinde: Thank you, Mark. It's been a good interview and I appreciate your leadership.

(end of interview session #2)