

**Homefront SD**  
**George Sperry**  
(Interviewed by Macey Chambers of Agar-Blunt-Onida School District)  
**October 27, 2007**

**How old were you when you entered the war and what branch of service were you in?**

Umm, I was nineteen years old when I went into the service and it was the Air Force.

**How long did you serve in the war?**

I was thirty eight months.

**Did you ever get hurt in the war?**

No.

**Where were you stationed at in the war?**

Oh, I was stationed in England and then into France and Germany. I was stationed in Germany after the war.

**What was your job in the war?**

I was a radio repairman.

**Where did you live while the war was taking place?**

Most of the time we had to live in tents.

**What were the training courses like back then?**

Well, I kinda learned some of mine from some of the guys that were just in the service then. I didn't have to go to school. If you were just a repairman, you could just only do so much and then if it was too much you had to take it somewhere else to get it finished.

**What were times like back then?**

Well, they were good times, I guess. Well, one time while the war was on why they had a lot of rationing. The United States couldn't get very much gas. That means you had to have a coupon to get something. You could only get so much of it every month.

**What kind of friends did you make in the war?**

Oh, I had some good friends.

**Did you keep in touch after the war?**

I kept in touch with one guy for awhile and he finally died. But that was about the only one I ever really kept in touch with.

**What were the schools like back then?**

Well, uh, the country school that I went to was just until the eighth grade. There was mostly reading and writing and arithmetic and geography and history that was the main subjects.

**What year did you go to the war?**

In, uh, 1943. Let's see. Yeah, that's right.

**What were the meals like?**

Well, most of the time the meals were not real good but they were good for you. You know sometimes you have a good meal but you don't really like it but it's good for you.

**Has the clothing changed a lot since back then?**

Well, yeah, quite a little bit. They have made it more oh more kind of sporty like.

**What was the color of your uniform?**

Oh, yeah, they were kind of a gray a grayish-brown or something like that. Later on, some of the Air Force changed to blue.

**Did the war have an impact on people's lives?**

Well, no I don't think so not on most people anyway.

**Where did you live when the war started?**

Oh, well my mother lived in, uh, in Oklahoma and I lived part time with her but I was out working for other people a lot of times too.

**Why did you come to South Dakota?**

Well, I came up here custom combining.

**Were you raised on a farm?**

Yes.

**Did you quit school after the eighth grade?**

No, I made two years of high school.

**Could you or did you call home a lot when you were overseas?**

No, you could of I guess but I don't think I ever did. It was kind of expensive.

**How did you get around during the war, did you walk or drive?**

Oh, we mostly had vehicles.

**How many were in your group?**

Well, it just kind of depended. Sometimes we would have a lot and other times we wouldn't have maybe they would go somewhere else.

**What types of radios did you work on?**

The radios in the airplanes. Mostly my repairs were replacing the tubes and they had a little motor they called a dynamo. We replaced those and if they needed more repair than that they had to be sent in.

**What kind of an airplane did you fly in?**

The last type of airplane that I was in was called a DC-3. The plane hauled supplies and I remember one time we had 17 barrels of gas in the plane that we were delivering to General Patton for his tanks. We were lucky we weren't shot down with all of that gas aboard.

**Who was the President during World War II?**

Franklin Delano Roosevelt was president.