

World War II Oral History Interview
Anton Frank Satsky

WORLD WAR II ORAL HISTORY SERIES

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Anton Frank Satsky

Volume 18

Interviewed by
Donna Palkowsky and JoAnn Myers, 16 May 2005
Transcribed by Connie York, April 2007
Edited by
JoAnn Myers, October 2008

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World War II Oral History Interview
Anton Frank Satsky

Speaker, tape counter, subject	Narrative
Palkowsky 000	<p>Today is the 16th of May 2005. My name is Donna Palkowsky and I'm interviewing for the first time Mr. Anton Frank Satsky. [Also interviewing is JoAnn Myers.]</p> <p>This interview is taking place in the home at 729 Aspen Lane, Cottonwood Shores, Texas, and is in the home of Anton Frank Satsky.</p> <p>Mr. Satsky, thank you very much for taking the time to relate the experiences you underwent during WWII. To start with, I would like to ask you where and when you were born?</p>
Satsky	I was born in Lavaca County, 1918. March 9th.
Palkowsky	What were your parents' names?
Satsky	My mother's name was Julia and my Father's name was Anthony.
Palkowsky	And what was your Mother's maiden name?
Satsky	Ressler
Palkowsky	Can you spell that for me?
Satsky	Ressler.
Palkowsky	And where were they born?
Satsky	They was also born in Lavaca County.
Palkowsky	Did you have any siblings?
Satsky	Yes, I have two brothers and three sisters.
Palkowsky	What's their names and ages? Can you tell me?
Satsky	No, I won't be able to. My oldest sister passed away at the age of about ninety, and then I got two more sisters living; one lives in Burnet and one at Florence.
Palkowsky	Can you give us their names?

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Satsky	Jane Webb and Julie Buck. My oldest sister that passed away, she was Mary; she was married to a fella named Rudy Opela.
Palkowsky	O-P-E-L-A. Right?
Satsky	Yeah, uh-huh. And my brothers -- my older brother got killed in an accident when he was fourteen years old. My younger brother next to me he died here about three years ago.
Palkowsky	OK, and what were their names?
Satsky	Victor, I believe he was the youngest, and Joseph was the oldest.
Palkowsky	OK. Now where did you go to school?
Satsky 028	I went to school Lavaca County, Vysehrad.
Palkowsky	Can you spell that? No? That's all right.
Satsky	I went there, but I also went to different schools. See, I lived at Shiner; I went to school at Shiner. I went to school at Smithville, then wound up at Vysehrad out of Hallettsville.
Palkowsky 034	Ok, where and when did you enter the military?
Satsky	Oh, I don't know. War started in forty-one didn't it? I went in forty-two. I was drafted in forty-two.
Palkowsky	You were drafted, Ok.
Satsky	Went out of Austin, I lived in Austin at that time.
Palkowsky	And where did you, you entered in Austin then right?
Satsky	Uh huh, I went to Mineral Wells.
Palkowsky	Ok, that's where you entered at, actually.
Satsky	Yes.

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Palkowsky	Ok, So you didn't, did you have anything to do with choosing the branch of service?
Satsky	Oh, no.
Palkowsky	Ok, So you were in the regular Army?
Satsky	Army, Infantry.
Palkowsky	Ok. Were you assigned to any particular branch, unit or squadron when you entered the service?
Satsky 2nd Infantry Div	Well, after my basic, I went to Second Division, which were on maneuvers in Louisiana. They just put me in just the regular, you know, carried M-1 rifle.
Palkowsky	Um-hum. So, you received your training then, in Louisiana or Mineral Wells?
Satsky	Yeah, well, basically Mineral Wells and then I went to the regular outfit.
Palkowsky	Ok.
Satsky	Second Division, Fort Sam Houston
Palkowsky	What were the conditions when you went in? What was it like when you in? When you entered the service what were the conditions, the barracks, I guess the whole facility.
Myers	And the post – what was it like at the post you went to at Mineral Wells?
Satsky	Oh, I don't know -- so many Yankees there, you know.
Palkowsky	(laughing) So many Yankees, huh?
Myers	Well, the people were from all over.
Satsky	Oh, yeah, from all over, yeah.
Palkowsky	Were the barracks and all clean?

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Satsky	Oh ,Yeah.
Palkowsky	They were clean. It was a clean area and did you get good medical care and every thing?
Satsky	I didn't need any medical care but I was lucky because I was in a Specialist School. I went to Armored Assistance. You went to what? You know it's ordinance, you know, worked on your guns and things. I went to Specialist school and they also asked me to be in a bakery school and a cooking school. So we got lots of good food left over from the other barracks that the cooks didn't use. They brought it all up there and let the cooks work on it. So we had cookies, cakes and pies and every thing to eat.
Palkowsky	Good old-fashioned stuff, right?
Satsky	Good food. See, what happened at night whenever they close up, our people went to this place where they cook different stuff and picked up what wasn't used, you see, and they took it to practice.
Palkowsky	Well, That's good.
Satsky	Oh, gosh, yeah, I guess so. We would go out on maneuvers at night and sometimes with those meals and we would have coffee and cake. It was wonderful there.
Palkowsky	Did you have a particular friend that went through training with you? Did you have some body that really close to you?
Satsky	After I got to Second Division, yes. Leo Wells.
Palkowsky	What was their names?
Satsky	Leo Wells.

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Palkowsky	Leo Wells, You said that and I didn't understand. I'm sorry. And you did train for a particular specialty which was artillery?
Satsky	No, Infantry.
Palkowsky	No, but didn't you go to a specialty school? Ordinance?
Satsky	Yeah, just to work with guns.
Palkowsky	Yeah, Ok.
Satsky	But I never was in Artillery, never did do nothin', because after I went to school, -- I done all right, you know -- but just the same as regular army.
Palkowsky	Do you have any special recollections of that time in your life?
Satsky	Well, I can remember I was always, -- I couldn't make it. My friend, Leo Wells, was always helping take my pack off of me and my gun. He encouraged me to keep going, you know.
Palkowsky	Oh, that was good. What clothing and equipment were issued to you? What did you get when you first went in and was issued something?
Satsky	Just a pair of dress slacks and coat and fatigues.
Palkowsky	Did you only get one outfit?
Satsky	I got two.
Palkowsky	Two outfits.
Satsky	Two pairs of trousers and one jacket.
Palkowsky	And your duties on the assignment that you had. What were you duties after you trained and went to another camp?
Satsky	Well, after we went from Fort Sam Houston, we went to Wisconsin for ski training.
Myers	Ski training. So you actually skied? That's interesting.

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Palkowsky	What was the reason for that?
Satsky	Well, there was, because they didn't know what was gonna attack in some of the places.
Palkowsky	Could be in the mountainous areas and all.
Satsky Camp McCoy, Wisconsin	Yes, so the whole division was at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin
Palkowsky	I had never heard of that before, so that's a new thing for me!
Myers	Where did you go after Wisconsin?
Satsky	I went to Ireland. First we went from Wisconsin to Camp Shank, NY, to register to go overseas.
Palkowsky	When did you ship out then?
Satsky	What month? I don't know.
Palkowsky	Do you know what year?
Satsky	Well, yes.
Palkowsky	Well, that's ok. And where did you go?
Satsky	Went to Northern Ireland
Palkowsky	And how were you transported there?
Satsky	By the Thomas H. Berry . That's a big ship, used to be one of the biggest civilian transports.
Palkowsky	Thomas H. Berry
Satsky	Berry, B e r r y
Myers	Where did you land?

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Satsky	Ireland.
Myers	Did you say Oran?
Palkowsky	Ireland. What's the name of that big town? Ok, we'll -- it will come to you and if it does you tell me.
Myers	You went to Ireland and then where did you go?
Satsky	From there we went to get ready to southern England to Wales, that was, you know, just before the invasion.
Myers Normandy D+1	Were you – did you go in on D-Day, on Normandy?
Satsky	D plus 1.
Myers	D plus 1.
Satsky	Uh-huh. Yes, we went to Normandy beach that's where we landed, D1
Palkowsky	Which beach did you go in on?
Satsky	Omaha Beach.
Myers	Well, I'd just like to ask – can you describe what you saw when you landed on D plus 1?
Satsky	Oh my God! Why...(Exhales breath deeply)
Myers	Was it too bad? You don't want to talk about it?
Palkowsky	That's ok. If you don't want to talk about it, that's fine, because...
Satsky	Thirty young men died that was right in front of me, when they were unloading off the ship. Oh, lordy, it was close. ...landing craft...

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Palkowsky	Ok, now. If it's too hard you don't have to do this part. Ok? Don't worry about it. Ok? I know it's hard. Ok. When you landed what where the conditions like? Like you just said, right?
Satsky	Lots of death. We didn't get shelled, coming onto Omaha, but the first Division did.
Palkowsky	You didn't get shelter?
Satsky	Shelled. I mean, you know, shot at, while we were unloading.
Palkowsky	Oh, shot at! OK.
Myers	The German pillboxes had already been taken out, right? By the second day.
Satsky	Yes, ma'am. Yes, ma'am.
Palkowsky	See, she knows more about the Army side than I do. I'm going to scoot over here closer to you.
Satsky	The Navy was a big help.
Palkowsky	Were they? That's good. So the feeling and emotions you had were really stirred up at that time, weren't they? Lots of fear, huh?
Satsky	Yes, I mean -- you know, anybody said he wasn't a-scared, he's a liar. Cause life is precious.
Palkowsky	Yeah. Were there all age groups? This is what I wanted to know, were there age groups in your unit or any thing? I know you were young, so?

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Satsky	We were all just about the same age.
Palkowsky	Ok. Do you recall any humorous incidents or recollections while you were on leave from there? Did you get like...
Satsky	No, we didn't have those things like they have now.
Palkowsky	Ok. And I think you probably answered this -- were you in combat? Oh, big time, right? Ok.
Satsky	From the day we landed until I got wounded for the second time, yes.
Myers	So you were wounded?
Satsky	Twice.
Palkowsky	And how, was it a, um...
Satsky	One was with shrapnel. I still got it in my back. They never did take it out. Then I had a broken hip.
Myers	Did you get wounded there on Normandy?
Satsky	No, no, further on.
Myers	From Normandy you went on to...?
Satsky	From there we went on into Germany...
Palkowsky	... and that's where you got wounded?
Satsky	Yes, in Germany.
Myers	Were you in any of the major battles like the Battle of The Bulge?
Satsky	Yes, Oh gosh! Yes! Oh, my gosh, yes!
Palkowsky	Is that too hard for you to share with us? A little bit?

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Satsky	<p>It was kind of a odd thing, because we was relieved. We was supposed to have went to relieve the 99th division and the 106th was supposed to take our place. Of course, the 106th came up there ready to go play. They didn't think there was anything to it. So we went ahead and got with the 99th.</p> <p>What we didn't know -- they hollered, "Breakfast!" and everybody grabbed his helmet to eat breakfast.</p>
Palkowsky	You ate out of your helmet?
Myers	(to Palkowsky) Oh yeah! You need to see some movies, Donna! (laughing)
Palkowsky	Well, I have! But I guess I didn't remember that!
Satsky	Well, you didn't carry your mess kit with you. All you carried was your gun and ammunition -- and your raincoat. You kept your raincoat, that's one thing you kept with you, no matter what kind of weather. You kept in your belt.
Palkowsky	Ok.
Satsky The Battle of the Bulge	<p>Because it was very essential.</p> <p>So, some of them already got to eat, and the first thing you know we were attacked. So they told me, "Since it's your squad..." -- I only had two men in my squad -- "You stay reserve."</p> <p>(All laughing at how ridiculous this sounds)</p> <p>But the only thing is, that instead of expecting, we turned around I was on the point with one of the tanks with a couple of men. And it was snowing -- and oh, God, it was terrible!</p> <p>And our Captain said, "Let 'em have it!"</p> <p>We saw the men walking, but it was snowing, so we thought it was our soldiers [coming at us]. It was Germans right out there!</p>

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Palkowsky & Myers	Oh No! Oh my!
Satsky Wounded at Battle of the Bulge	<p>And he shot his 76 artillery gun that he had on the tank, and of course they gave up. It was all day long it was the same ole thing -- fighting. We did, they already took some of our guns and everything. Not the second division, but the 99th. We fought until way late in the afternoon.</p> <p>And then they gave us orders: "What you can't carry out, be sure and bury it. If you can't carry your ammunition, all of it, be sure and bury it so the Jerrys won't find it." They did, you know. We carried it out.</p> <p>I was going up the hill and I saw this man standing there, military police, and that's all I remember. When I came to, I was on a tank destroyer and they told me what happened, said that I had just passed out. I had just got wounded the day before. They just patched me up with band-aids and sent me back out.</p> <p>All I had was my forty-five and some fatigues, that's all I had. Then my Captain was angry at me for losing everything. Well, he didn't know the circumstances earlier. Captain Manning was a great man.</p>
Palkowsky	What kind of meals did you have when you were over there?
Satsky	Meals? Well, when we were on the line, we had one k-ration usually per day. That's how come I lost some weight -- I weighed about a hundred twenty pounds from the time...
Myers	When you came back?
Satsky	No, when I came back I weighed pretty good because I was in the hospital.
Myers	But that's all you had all day long was one k-ration? That's pretty slim.
Satsky	You didn't think about eating.
Palkowsky	You didn't have time to eat! Too busy!
Myers	Did you have any hot food at all?

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Satsky	Well, let's see. I had one meal, two, I think I had two meals all the time I was in the area. We didn't have no hot meals. Somebody one time brought us a loaf of bread, home made bread. Oh, man! That was good!
Myers	Did you go scrounge for food? I heard my Dad talk about how they'd go catch chickens or find wine or something.
Satsky	Oh, yeah! We killed a chicken, my buddy and I, while we was over at Brest, France. We went to a house an got a big kettle. I stewed that chicken.
Palkowsky	Tasted good didn't it?
Satsky	Yes, it did! We did, I did other things too. We killed and butchered a hog on day too. That wasn't at Brest -- we were in the Siegfried line. We butchered and cooked it.
Myers	And you had enough food for everybody then, didn't you?
Satsky	Only our friends! (Laughter)
Palkowsky	Ok, um...
Satsky	But I also butchered, my friend and I, also butchered a calf.
Myers	So you did find food. And you needed it, didn't you?
Palkowsky	Were these wild? Or were they...
Satsky	Oh, no. They wasn't wild. It was snowing and we was in a holding position in a house. We had a lot of apples; they had left apples there. We had a fire built to cook apples and there was this calf come over and got into the garage, open garage like. I told my buddy to go get it. He's passed away now.
Palkowsky	[A long pause.] You ok, hon?

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Satsky	[Distressed] He was from Louisiana.
Myers	And what was his name?
Satsky	<p>Chatyea, Bill Chatyea. Real name's Clarence, but we called him Bill.</p> <p>I told him to go get it. Go kill it. He took his pistol to go shoot it and missed it. (Laughing)</p> <p>And we told him to catch it when it went by. He grabbed it by the tail and held on to it, and it drug him. I screamed to him turn that thing loose! He finally did, and came back. He was a nut! Finally, the kid came back and I told him, "Now take the carbine and go kill it!" And so he shot the calf. We took the best part, the hind quarter, you know. And we baked it in the oven.</p>
Myers	Oh, that was a good meal!
Satsky	<p>Oh, God! We sent some of it to my Captain.</p> <p>And he called me and said, "Sats, you know you're not supposed to kill a calf here!" I told him, "Oh, the only thing they killed was a big ole deer."</p>
Palkowsky	<p>(Laughing) You're eating deer meat, Huh? (more laughing)</p> <p>Did you have any special diversionary activities during this time? No time that you got to go on what they call R&R today?</p>
Satsky	Well, when the war was almost over, I got to go to Paris.
Palkowsky	Oh, great! And what did you do there?
Satsky	Nothing but drink, and eat.
Palkowsky	And that's all right! And rest?
Satsky	Well -- and some rest. (All laughing) Well, you know, I can't say... (more laughing)
Palkowsky	<p>I know, I know!</p> <p>Were you married at time?</p>

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Satsky	I was married, yes.
Myers	What was your wife's name?
Satsky 253	Jean.
Palkowsky	Do you remember her maiden name?
Satsky	Ward
Myers	Where was she from?
Satsky	She came from East Texas, but she lived in Austin at the time. She was from Fairfield.
Palkowsky	Oh, that's a nice area, I've been there.
Satsky	Oh, you liked that? My wife had a lot of kin folks there, her kin's still there.
Palkowsky	Is she gone now?
Satsky	Huh, My wife? Oh, she died fifteen or sixteen years ago. She was much younger than me, see. And she always said, "What am I gonna do when you die?" I said, "I'm not dead!" "Yeah, but you're eight years older than I am -- what am I gonna do?" Ya see. She's been dead over fifteen years now, and I'm still goin'.
Palkowsky	Well, you never know, do you?
Satsky	No! No! You never know when it's your time. I had so many narrow escapes during World War II, that, you know, I shouldn't have been here.
Palkowsky	Well, we're glad you are.

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Speaker, tape counter, subject	Narrative
Satsky 268 Hill 192	<p>I was in, -- we jumped up 192 -- the Hill 192. There was three of us in the hole, in a fox hole -- a big one, a big hole, there. Howard Knoll, Matthew Pajensky and me. And here comes a 105 -- the artillery about like this, hit our hole and just glanced off of our helmets. Didn't go off!</p> <p>[Exclamations from interviewers – Didn't go off?]</p> <p>Didn't go off. Not my helmet, but off Matthew Pajensky's. He went to pieces --just shaking, you know. That's the stakes we were takin'.</p> <p>I said, "Come on, let's go! Let's get out of here!" The next one hit up there right next to us and it went off.</p>
Myers	And where was this when it happened? Where you in Germany? France?
Satsky	France, I was in France, very beginning of the war.
Myers	What other narrow escapes did you have?
Satsky	Oh, I don't know. I had a few.
Myers	In France or in Germany?
Satsky	Oh, yeah, in Germany. I was young, so many times, you know, so close. The bullets came so close to me.
Palkowsky	But God spared you didn't he?

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Speaker, tape counter, subject	Narrative
Satsky	<p>One of them hit right next to me and I was sittin' there, kind of a guard, -- before I talk about it, you can document it!</p> <p>(laughing)</p> <p>I was on guard on day, a moon light night, you know, a little village named Notre Dame. At night they give me a compass, a .45 and a machine gun. And they said, "Don't shoot until, unless the Germans come in to you, your place in the building."</p> <p>I was sittin' there, of course, scared to death, and here come -- the moonlight, you know, nice at night, and here comes the Germans, talking -- Yak, yak, yak, right next to me.</p> <p>I looked down there and they was down below. I was sittin, stairs going this way, then they went up that way and had a little hole up where the window light was. They was talking, then they finally took off. There was fighting some place over there and they went on towards it. I was ready, you know. I thought they was gonna come up, but they didn't.</p>
Myers	So you just let them pass.
Satsky	They told me to! Don't let them know you're there! I'm surprised they didn't hear me shaking.
Palkowsky	(Laughing by all)
Satsky	I had lots of narrow escapes.
Myers	When the war with Germany was over. Was your unit ready to go to Japan? Or did you have to go to Japan?
Satsky	No, you see, I was in the hospital.
Myers	Oh, because of your injury.

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Satsky	<p>I, -- yes, for the second time I got hurt. Well, I hurt for a long time. I couldn't walk I hurt so bad. They finally sent me to a field hospital and then I was beginning to walk. The unit, they didn't know, but sent me back to the front.</p> <p>The other guys there were complaining that I was crying in my sleep. And they didn't want that, you know, me moaning and crying 'cause I hurt so bad. So they finally told the Captain that I needed to go, so they sent me back, to the Paris hospital.</p> <p>They x-rayed me and said, "My God! Put this man in a cast!"</p> <p>They run up and put me in a cast from my leg to way up here.</p>
Myers	Where did you have a broken bone?
Satsky	Hip -- I still hurt from that. Oh, yeah! So anyway I stayed in the hospital for, oh, I don't know how many months.
Myers	In Paris?
Satsky	In Paris, then they sent me to McClosky, old McClosky hospital in Temple .
Palkowsky	Oh, That was called McClosky? Used to be McClosky.
Myers	Did your wife, was your wife notified that you had been injured?
Satsky	Oh, yeah. I think she was happy, that maybe I would die.
Palkowsky	Oh, no!
Satsky	I believe that!
Palkowsky	You believe that? [No response from Satsky]
Myers	[After a short pause.] Well, how was mail, did your mail catch up with you as you went from place to place pretty good? How much mail did you get? A lot?
Satsky	Fair. When we stopped somewheres we'd get some.

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Myers	Were you able to write back to your wife or your parents?
Satsky	Oh yeah. The v-mail, what you call v-mail.
Palkowsky	Right, I remember that.
Myers	Were your parents alive?
Satsky	Oh, yeah!
Myers	So, did you write to your parents?
Satsky	Oh, yeah!
Myers	And were they in Lavaca County? Your parents?
Satsky	No, my Dad was in construction. See, that's why I was in so many schools, he would go all over Texas.
Palkowsky	That's why you moved so much?
Satsky	Yeah.
Palkowsky	You've told us about some humorous incidents, and you told us about... is there any more you want to tell us about the officers, what they were like, and what their strengths and their weaknesses might have been?
Satsky	Well, only thing is, you know, while we were in the states, everybody said, "Just wait until we get in combat, I'm gonna kill Captain Smith!" Oh, they hated Captain Smith, because he was such a military man; but let me tell you, when we got there, he showed us!
Palkowsky	What was your most frightening period? You had a lot of them, it sounds like. But was there one worse then the other?
Satsky	Oh, I don't know. Just so many of them, you know.
Palkowsky	And you told us some humorous ones, right?
Satsky	What was so awful -- whenever you see little innocent babies dead.

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Palkowsky	Oh, yeah.
Satsky	That's one thing that hurts me so bad! [voice breaking.] Ladies, young women, old grandfathers, grandmothers, slaughtered.
Myers	Is that from a result of the shelling coming in or the Germans?
Satsky	Shelling, bombing, we don't know. I know of one place that for about a mile maybe more that there was so many dead Germans that you had to make a new road to go on.
Palkowsky	Did you pass around any of the Concentration Camps?
Satsky	I didn't know because I got out of there.
Palkowsky	Ok. Is there any particular period that you feel like you can share with us, of situations you've tried hard to put out of your mind? I guess, when that man got shot, that's one, right?
Satsky	The worst thing was when I seen just innocent people die. That's what hurt me more than anything. And a baby carriage, some young lady got shot -- that was wrong! That's what hurt me. People don't get hit by war! Uh-uh! War is not shootin' at soldiers, the soldier. That's what so many people in my church are all excited about -- having a war. I said, "You all don't know what you're talking about! War is not two men shooting at each other!" I said, "That's what slaughters grandmas, grandpas and babies, innocent children, little angels."
Palkowsky	Were there any actual campaigns that you were in? Like, I guess I don't know...
Myers	[talking to Palkowsky] A campaign would be like Normandy and Battle of the Bulge.
Palkowsky	Ok, so those two.

World War II Oral History Interview
Anton Frank Satsky

Speaker, tape counter, subject	Narrative
Satsky	I have five stars in my campaign ribbons.
Myers	Do you remember which campaigns you were in exactly?
Satsky	No, No
Myers	Cause you went to Normandy, that was the beginning, then from Normandy you went on up through France, Belgium, and then the Battle of the Bulge and then you left after that.
Satsky	No, I went back after the Bulge, then later on whenever we couldn't find the Germans that's when I went back.
Palkowsky 392	Let's see. Then it was time for you to come home. What were your feelings about coming home?
Satsky	Well, you know, I was happy. I came back on a ship.
Palkowsky	Do you remember the name of that ship?
Satsky	Lets see, Melanie.
Myers	How long did it take you to get back from Paris? What was the port that you left from?
Satsky	They flew me from Paris to England and from England I went to...
Myers	Did you leave from Liverpool?
Satsky	I think so. But it was a beautiful trip! The water was so... You could hardly feel it. But going down at times, it'd be very -- we'd be up here and there was a ship way down up there! First thing you know, they'd be all over there. Those waves was 30 - 40 feet high. And you'd look up there and those tankers you couldn't see the things, just the masts stickin' up.
Myers	Did you get sea sick?

World War II Oral History Interview
Anton Frank Satsky

Speaker, tape counter, subject	Narrative
Satsky	<p>Everybody but me, I think.</p> <p>I'd go in to eat and they'd say, "You gonna to eat?" [Laughter.]</p> <p>I'd say, "Well, yeah! Ain't it time to?"</p> <p>No body wanted to eat. You couldn't put a plate down it would slide away.</p>
Palkowsky	What was your food like on the ship?
Satsky	Oh, it was dog chow, you know.
Palkowsky	(Laughing) Dog Chow.
Myers	But you were hungry, so you ate it!
Satsky	I went to eat, yeah. They couldn't understand it. Most of them was vomiting in their helmet and all, they was so sick.
Palkowsky	When you came home were there any changes that had taken place through the war that really surprised you?
Satsky	Well, yes. I was really disappointed, in the way the people acted.
Myers	And how was that?
Satsky	Well, they told me, "So you think you had it bad? Why I had to smoke any kind of cigarettes! I couldn't get my Camels! And I couldn't get my brand of beer! I had to drink whatever I could!"
Myers	People told you that?
Satsky	They told me that. My own father told me that!
Palkowsky	You're kidding! Oh, my Lord!
Myers	I've never heard THAT before!

World War II Oral History Interview
Anton Frank Satsky

Speaker, tape counter, subject	Narrative
Satsky	<p>People complained to me, “So you had it rough? We couldn’t get all the sugar we wanted!”</p> <p>That’s why I was so pissed off. They figured we had it all. We didn’t have nothin’ like that.</p>
Palkowsky	Yeah! You were lucky to get a C-ration, weren’t you? Or K-ration, I guess they were called.
Satsky	Yeah, K-ration, we got that. One time we got even got Cokes, one time.
Palkowsky	Hey, that’s good!
Satsky	<p>I’ll never forget that deal. We was close to a dam up there, on one of the lakes or rivers, whatever it was.</p> <p>And they called and said, “Hey, Sats, come and get your mail and some Cokes.”</p> <p>I said, “Hell, I ain’t goin’!”</p> <p>I had to go up the hill, like this, and those Germans across the river was sniping at you! And this boy from Louisiana, Chatyea, said, “I’ll go get it.”</p> <p>And he run! All the way and come back and they was shootin’ at him, they missed him, though.</p>
Myers	And he brought you coke?
Satsky	He brought the cokes for us! He was a precious guy, I’ll tell you.
Myers	Did he think it was worth it?

World War II Oral History Interview
Anton Frank Satsky

Speaker, tape counter, subject	Narrative
Satsky	<p>He was that kind of a nut, you know.</p> <p>One night, we had flares out. In case they attacked us, we would shoot a flare, you know. We heard some noise. I said, "Bill go up there and shoot a flare."</p> <p>And he runs up there and – Boom! Boom! -- Twice he shot!</p> <p>I said "What you shootin' at?"</p> <p>He said, "There a bunch of Germans here!"</p> <p>I said, "Well keep shootin'!"</p> <p>And he said, "I run out of ammo!"</p>
Palkowsky	What! Laughing.
Satsky	That was Bill for you. And so anyways we called, they was running towards our headquarters, company headquarters and they caught them right away. They was praising our ammo and rifles. They said, "What a good gun those boys had." They had those bolt action.
Myers	Did you like the M1?
Satsky	Oh yeah. It was a good gun.
Palkowsky	They didn't have many variance of rifles back then, did they?
Satsky Weapons	No. We had your carbine and some of them carried those Thompson .45 sub-machine guns, you know, and then the M1 rifle. Our snipers carried the 03. Our first sergeant, he had one. Course, he was a crack shot.
Palkowsky	Did they have to issue, reissue rifles and stuff like that? I know you had to have reissuing of clothing.
Satsky	Well, what do you mean? We didn't get no reissue of clothing. We wore the same things we wore from the beginning.
Palkowsky	Really! You didn't wear them out?

World War II Oral History Interview
Anton Frank Satsky

Speaker, tape counter, subject	Narrative
Satsky	Well, yeah. So what.
Palkowsky	Well, that's good. They wear them out now, don't they?
Satsky	You didn't go change clothes.
Palkowsky	Well, I just was thinking about it.
Myers	That's the kind of stuff we need to know, because we don't know. So you got your initial issue of clothes and you didn't get any new clothes for the duration of the war.
Satsky	No! Where would you get 'em from?
Myers	So, supply didn't catch up with you? Say, "Oh my pants are in taters -- I need some new pants?"
Satsky	Naw. Those camouflage things you couldn't tear them any ways. Unless a bullet went through them.
Palkowsky	That's probably very true. They don't make it that way now, do they?
Satsky Baths	No, we didn't never wash or change clothes. I think I had two baths while I was up there in all those months. There was one time when they sent me back. There was a little stream going, and they had a water pumps over there and some coal and they had a big bonfire. The engineers fixed it up for there showers.
Myers	I'll bet that felt good!
Satsky	Oh, don't you know! Like, I say, they don't fight wars like that, that was the last war.
Palkowsky	Yeah, that's very true. And you did receive some notable ribbons, medals and citations?
Satsky	Oh yeah, I got a whole bunch of them.
Palkowsky	You got a whole bunch of them.

World War II Oral History Interview
Anton Frank Satsky

Speaker, tape counter, subject	Narrative
Myers	What did you receive?
Satsky	Well, I don't know.
Myers	What kind of citations did you get?
Satsky	<p>Well, one was the Purple Heart, and all that stuff. I was supposed to get some more of them, like the unit citation. I never did get that one. And I was supposed to get another in Fort Gary and I didn't get that one because I left.</p> <p>I inquired about it and they said, "Well you could write so and so in Missouri. Maybe they will send it to you. Maybe in five or six years, whenever they get to it."</p> <p>I said "The heck with it."</p> <p>I got my medals somewhere's.</p>
Palkowsky	In a box? In a preservative box?
Satsky	Yea, yea.
Palkowsky	Did you have children?
Satsky	No, I didn't have any then. But now, yes after then.
Palkowsky	Ok, how many children? Three
Satsky	Three, two boys and a girl.
Palkowsky	What are their names?
Satsky	Karen is my daughter, she's the oldest one. Anthony is the second one, and Mark is the third child.
Palkowsky	Do they live around here?
Satsky	Tony lives next door. I happened to buy the house, because he lived in Austin. Mark lives in Austin and Karen lives in Burnet.
Myers	Is Karen married? What is her last name?

World War II Oral History Interview
Anton Frank Satsky

Speaker, tape counter, subject	Narrative
Satsky	Yes. Saver .
Palkowsky	Well, you told us a lot, to probably answer this question. How did the World War II change or impact your life? When you came home, you were a new man, right?
Satsky	Well, all I was, was disgusted with people. The way they acted.
Palkowsky	So, do you feel like sometimes the World War II vets were treated with disrespect like some of them that were in the Vietnam War. There is no comparison, but what I'm saying is, was there more people that felt the way your friends did? Did you know of other soldier that went through that same thing, when they came back?
Satsky	No, I don't know any. But, I know one thing. The Red Cross was such a dirty deal.
Palkowsky	Were they really?
Myers	What did they do?
Satsky Red Cross	You know, after I was wounded and was put in this cast. I couldn't do anything. I asked for a pack of cigarettes. I didn't give them my money because, you know, you don't get paid every month, you know, on the front line. And they told me if I had some money, they would give me a pack.
Palkowsky	Really, they sold to you and they were supposed to give to you.
Satsky	I got a whole bunch of stuff from a Lieutenant that was here. He got wounded and he wanted a razor cause he had a beard and they wouldn't give him one. No, the Red Cross would not. He felt the same way about the Red Cross that I did.
Palkowsky	I've heard a lot of horror stories of the second World War about this.
Satsky	It might be different now, but World War II...
Palkowsky	Well, I think some time it is and sometimes it isn't.

World War II Oral History Interview
Anton Frank Satsky

Speaker, tape counter, subject	Narrative
Myers	It seems like their rule was, if you were on the front, they would give things to you, but if you were behind in a hospital or somethin', they would not give. You had to buy. That was their rule?
Satsky	Yeah, but we came off the front line, though. We just got wounded and --- this officer got wounded twice. I still get to see him every once in awhile we have a meeting.
Palkowsky	Do you travel for meetings?
Satsky	I haven't been for the last two years, cause I'm not able to drive. I drive to Burnet, but I can't drive out to East Texas, where we go back to the meeting.
Palkowsky	And that's where you meet?
Satsky	Some times we go to San Marcus. This year I didn't meet way down in East Texas.
Myers	What was the job market like when you got back, got discharged from the Army? Was it difficult to find a job?
Satsky	Well, It wasn't too bad. There was some work still around.
Palkowsky	There was still some work to be had. You came back to Texas?
Satsky	Oh yes.
Myers	And what about housing? Was it difficult to find a place to live?
Satsky	Oh yea, It was hard, especially after you know, everybody that came back from overseas had a baby in the first nine months, when they came back. People didn't want to rent to those with a baby.
Palkowsky	And so that hasn't changed. Has it really?
Satsky	I tried to get a place and we couldn't.
Palkowsky	Did you come back to the same job?

World War II Oral History Interview
Anton Frank Satsky

Speaker, tape counter, subject	Narrative
Satsky	Oh no. I was in construction, I was working for Mr. Morgan, that big company and he promised us a job when we come back, but he wasn't building anymore.
Palkowsky	Did you change careers then when you came home?
Satsky	Yea for awhile I went into business with my brother-in-law.
Palkowsky	What was that?
Satsky	Packing house. Butcher shop.
Palkowsky	And then what did you do after that?
Satsky	Went back to, no, then I bought a restaurant at my home, then sold that and went back to construction when I left.
Palkowsky	Of your life what jobs did you enjoy the most?
Satsky	Building
Palkowsky	Did you?
Myers	Did you build houses, or roads, or...
Satsky	I built home and apartments and office buildings, you know.
Palkowsky	Are any of them still standing?
Satsky	Oh my god, they are going to be there for the next hundred years.
Palkowsky	What part of Austin are they in?
Satsky	Why I built North Lamar, I 35, Town Lake. I got them all over Austin.
Palkowsky	Hang on a minute, let me turn this tape over.
Satsky	I loved building, I was general Superintendent for a big company.
Palkowsky	Is that what you did until you retired?

World War II Oral History Interview
Anton Frank Satsky

Speaker, tape counter, subject	Narrative
Satsky	Yes, I quit the big company and went to work for Eckert Pharmacy. They treated you like you were white.
Palkowsky	Now how long did you stay with them?
Satsky	Until I retired.
Palkowsky	So you retired from Eckert, right?
Satsky	Yea.
Palkowsky	Did they have a good pension plans and things like that?
Satsky	No, I didn't have any of that. See, I worked for a contractor that was sub contracted to them. I didn't have no, I didn't have nothin', no retirement. Except what money I saved. Of course I had some money until my wife got sick and she got cancer. And the doctors and hospital saw to it that they took it all away from me. I was just lucky that I had my home paid for.
Myers	What did your wife do while you were overseas fighting the war? Did she work or did she go to her parents or your parents?
Satsky	Oh, no she lived by her self.
Palkowsky	Did she work out of the home?
Satsky	A little bit, I think, very little.
Myers	Where was she living while you were gone?
Satsky	Port Arthur
Palkowsky	Did we ask you if she was a Texas girl?
Satsky	Oh yeah she was. It's a shame that guys marry these girls from different states and the parents are in New York and they're here, it just makes it hard.
Palkowsky	It always has, but your generation were more family orientated then people today. Are you still very family orientated?

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Speaker, tape counter, subject	Narrative
Satsky	Oh yeah.
Palkowsky	That's good. Well he's answered all my questions. Do you have any-more?
Myers	I can't think of any more.
Palkowsky	Is there anything you would like to tell us?
Satsky	No.
Myers	Oh, I have one question. I'm curious, do you watch TV or movies about WWII ?
Satsky	Not to much.
Myers	I wondered, if you thought those movie were anything was accurate.
Satsky	There not accurate! My God no! People wouldn't watch any thing accurate.
Palkowsky	That you actually seen.
Satsky	No! It hurts me very much, real war. I was watching what was going on up there. In Afghanistan. They pitch their tent, they got three wheelers or four wheelers they drive around in.
Palkowsky	They got all kinds of communication devices.
Satsky	And they get to come home, you know.
Palkowsky	Ya, you guys didn't get to come home. Where were you on v-day? When the war ended?
Satsky	I'm thinking, I don't know where I was at.
Palkowsky	Were you still in service? 1945

World War II Oral History Interview
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Speaker, tape counter, subject	Narrative
Satsky	Well, I knew the war was over, just about. I knew it was coming to an end. In fact, when I left there it was, you walked all day and you might not hear a shot. The Germans was running see. In truth, it didn't have to end like that you know. If the United States wouldn't have waited for the British and the Russians. We waited for the British while they were drinking their tea, you know we was waiting for them. By that time thousands of Germans escaped, because we had them trapped like. But the British, they had to stop and build a fire and make their tea.
Myers	Well, they were waiting too for the Russians to come...
Satsky	Yeah, we could have been in Berlin. The British aren't no fighters. Not from what I saw.
Palkowsky	Well, you don't know how much we appreciate hearing your story and how much we appreciate you for having...
Satsky	I could talk to you for another week.
Palkowsky	Oh, I know you could . I know you could. There's just so much isn't there.
Satsky	War is some thing else.
Myers	Well if you could, if you ever look for those pictures and ever find those pictures, we would be happy to come back out and you could tell us about those pictures. Do you have an album or some thing about WWII?
Satsky	I got a whole bunch of stuff from WWII.
Myers	We would really like to come back and see your pictures and have you talk to us about your pictures. How long before we can come back. A week ?
Satsky	A week.
Palkowsky	A week would work for you? And then we would like to come back and

World War II Oral History Interview
Anton Frank Satsky

Speaker, tape counter, subject	Narrative
Satsky	I got papers from WWII.
Myers	Would it be ok if we took your picture?
Satsky	If your not afraid to break the camera! Laughter.
Myers	I'd like to be able to take your picture if you don't mind. And then we'll have your picture now.
Satsky	You got a fancy camera.
Palkowsky	This is all digital. And we can give you a copy of this. Can we come back in two weeks? How about coming the Tuesday after Labor Day, not Labor Day -- Memorial Day. Would that work? Would ten o'clock be a good time again?
Satsky	Be fine Thank you. You sure you don't want a coke or some thing to drink? I can't have them I'm a diabetic.
Palkowsky	Oh, you can't have any. How long you had diabetes?
Satsky	Oh, about a couple years. I weighed over two hundred pounds. I weigh one hundred fifty now.
Palkowsky	Oh, that's good
Satsky	My doctor says, Andy, you don't look good
Palkowsky	She don't like you thinner?
Satsky	She don't like me skinny. There were ships as far as your eye could see, there was solid ships.
Myers	Wow, that is incredible
Satsky	Yes, it was, absolutely and at night when they start firing it was like day light there was so much.
Myers	From the ships coming in?

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Speaker, tape counter, subject	Narrative
Satsky	From the ships firing at airplanes. And the Battleship Texas was up there. That's what was so amazing, and they would shoot and they would go back to that ship and by the time they got back up there they were ready to shoot again. It never did quite it was continuously.
Palkowsky	Well, I love your calendar, I think that's neat. I've never seen one of those before. Well if you can dig out those pictures we'd sure love to have them.
	End of interview

Links to Photos and Information

[2nd Infantry Division Patch](#)

[Fact Sheet for Ft. McCoy, Wisconsin](#)

[2nd Div Infantry Fact Sheet](#)

[USAT Thomas H. Berry Photo and Information](#)

[History of McCloskey Hospital, Temple](#)

[Anton F. Satsky, 2005](#)

[Booklet put out by 2nd Div Infantry "From D+1 to 105" – not printed](#)

[Release Form](#)

[Relatives](#)