

Interview of Mr. Paul Pelletier

WWI, WWII

We joined up in Dysart. There was a guy there recruiting you. Picked up the guys that he liked. We went to Camp Hughs for two weeks, then they were going to ship us overseas. They asked who we had at home, mother and dad. I said my dad died in 1913. My mother was alive. My brother was there, my brother Marty. Marty had a family and he looked after my mother. They sent us home for two weeks. I was in infantry. We saw action right away. I joined because I was a young man and I liked the uniform. I was young like hell, that's about all.

OVERSEAS

We went to London, England. We trained there for awhile before we went to Essex on these airplanes. We went there and then they shipped us to France, then we were in action. Real action there. Well, I got wounded twice. I still have shrapnel in my left hand. I was also wounded in the left arm and once in the chest. They were mostly flesh wounds. From France we went to a city in Germany. I was with the 46th Battalion. I was a corporal.

AFTER WORLD WAR ONE

I got a job with the railroad. I got on the section at Edgely. I started working on the section. My boss was kind of a smart bugger, and I told him I wasn't going to be under a boss all my life. He asked if I was educated. I told him I was. He sent me to Regina to a Dr. Black in the station there. He was to test me to see if I could pass for a foreman. He asked me how old I was. He told me I was too old to be a foreman. In them days they used hand pumps. Nothing like they have now. He told me that I would upset the hand cars and kill 2 or 3 guys. I told him I didn't care. I wasn't going to work under a boss

all my life. So I quit the railroad. They wouldn't let me be a foreman.

I was in Regina at my sister's house on Pasqua Street. I was walking under the subway on Albert Street near a lumber yard. This guy yelled at me and asked me if I wanted a job for a couple of

days piling lumber. This doctor had told me to come back on Wednesday and he would have my cheque. So I told this guy okay, I would work for him. I was only suppose to work 2 or 3 days and I was there for 11 years. I was putting money in the bank. That's how I bought this house. I paid cash. I got married when I came back from World War I.

WORLD WAR TWO

I told my wife I didn't want to work for \$1.00 a day. So when I joined, my kids got \$5.00 and I signed half of my wages to my wife. They lived all right. They had a big garden. I didn't pay very much for that house, \$300.00. I was a sniper. In World War One, I was just in the infantry. We was in Italy. I could have been a sergeant, I kinda acted tough. After the war, I moved here and started working. I hauled coal and worked for the elevators.

I didn't get a pension then, but I do now. An army pension, veteran's pension. Then Jack Butler was getting an army pension and he asked me why I didn't apply for it. Said I was entitled to it. I told him that I wasn't in the army long enough. He told me I could get it anyway.

LOOKING BACK

Getting my medal for bravery. That's kind of a funny story. I saw the Germans coming over the trenches carrying a jug. I decided to go see what they were going to do with this jug. I told my partner, Bill Fisher, to keep an eye on them. I was going to crawl up there and steal the jug. So I crawled down into the trenches and stole the jug. My officer asked

where I got the jug. I told him that I had got it off the Germans in the front line. He said that I had risked my life. So they gave me a medal. I didn't drink much then, but I knew it was whisky. I wasn't much of a drinker then and I'm not a drinker yet. Not now at all.

Believe it or not, these German snipers had 2 little kids, one about 10, the other about 11. Those little kids were sniping on the top of the trenches. I saw them. We told the helicopters that there were 2 kids on the top of the hills. They sent in a airplane and got the kids. They brought them back to the States.

We captured Germans in World War I. They were in a dugout. I told my officers that I was going to go and throw a couple of bombs in there. They would come then. I threw a couple of hand grenades in there. They came out. A big officer came up first with his hand on his revolver. I could see that. I shot him. My officer was upset that I shot him. He said that we could have gotten information out of him. I told him he was too late. He's dead. We captured the whole outfit. About 30 of them.

I remember the girls would see you across the road and yell, "Hi Canada!, hi Canada!" I laughed one day, I had a chum with me, a big tall guy. He was in France with me. He was a card and a half. He used to tease me. He would kneel down. I would jump on the side of him. He couldn't turn around fast enough. He told me I wasn't suppose to do that, I was suppose to face him. I told him he was too big to face. One day, he was going to come to London from France. He told me had a couple of girlfriends in London, one for him and one for me. They teased me because I was small. They asked me if my mother knew I was out. I told them to go to hell.