

Hale Burge: My name is Hale Francis Burge. BURGE – B U R G E.

I grew up in a small town and I learned to work on cars while I was in grade school yet. I had a brother-in-law that had a garage and I worked there and I learned quite a bit about the automobiles back then.

I had various jobs before going into the CC camps when I was 17 years old. I worked on trucks up there under a civilian by the name of C. J. Cain who was an alcoholic and I did most of the work and he was a supervisor. But that was all right with me, I just loved working on automobiles or anything along that line. And that's my background, plus I did work on a farm and I worked on the railroad driving spikes and stuff like that.

I was 20 years old when I got drafted. I was 20 years old in May 1942 and in October of '42 I was inducted into the United States Army. By being in the army, like I was, with an 8th grade education I was sent to Camp Grant, Illinois. We took a battery of tests at midnight and they wanted people for Air Force, they wanted people for Tank Corp and medics. Well, I didn't think I could get in the Air Corp so I put Tank Corp first, because I didn't want no part of the medics, and Air Corp second.

So evidently through the IQ test that's how I got selected to be in the Army Air Corp back then, which I was very happy about when I went there.