

Joseph D. Hutchison: Well they'd had been leaning on me to be a radio operator for so long, I decided, "Well, I might." I just, I liked the 21st - it was a good outfit. So I decided, "Well, I'll stick with them, I'll go to the radio school and get that over with." So then I went down to Scott Field, Illinois and went through the training course there.

In the meantime, the 21st had moved from Salina, Kansas back to Clovis, New Mexico, [Chuckle] where I'd first left from. And so, that's where I reported - to Clovis. And I was a flying radio operator instructor there for a month or two. And I had gotten married in the meanwhile, and we had found a nice little apartment in town with a half of a duplex house. And we really had a pretty nice deal for the first time. And it was right in the middle of where all the officers lived though, and I was only a staff sergeant. And my wife kept getting knocks at the door, wanting to know when we were going to leave [Chuckle] so some that officer could have it. And she said, "Well, we like it here, we're not going." So one night, I was flying as a radio operator; somebody needed one. And I got out of the plane and my communications officer met me, he said, "You're up for a transfer." He said, "I stopped the last one" - they had tried it before, "But this time," he says, "I couldn't do anything for you." He said, "You're going to Wichita Falls, Texas." Some officer wanted the apartment, and they had strings pulled and I was being shifted out.

So, I was under the assumption that I was going to be permanent party at Wichita Falls. I showed up with my wife, and we had a baby girl at the time. And they told us, "We don't know anything about permanent party, all we do here is basic training." So they took me [Laugh] I was learning how to brush my teeth and tie my shoelaces again. So, I was not very happy there. And suddenly it appeared on the horizon, about 20,000 gunners fresh back from Europe. And all over the world, the war was coming to a screeching halt about that time, and they could replace them. So anyway, teaching me to tie my shoes and brush my teeth was one thing, but teaching 20,000 staffs and tech sergeants and buck sergeants to do the same thing, they had another revolution on their hands.