

Interview with William Smith

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Excerpt from Interview # 2: February 23, 2010

Interviewer: Mark DePue

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DePue: Now, did we read a story about an interrogation where a lieutenant was being questioned?

W. Smith: Yeah, when they took him out and shot him, yeah. They took this lieutenant out, and they asked him—we were down on the lines then—and they asked him how many men was over the mountain over there, and he gave them the name, rank, and serial number. And they ask them the second time, and he gave them the same thing. He asked him the third time, and he told them, and he just pulled out a Mauser, about this long, and just blew his head right off. Well, they dragged him out of the way, and he went in and they got a sergeant and brought him out, and he said, "How many men is over the mountain over there?" He says, "A whole damn regiment," which would have been around three thousand men.

DePue: Which was not the case.

W. Smith: Not the case. Hell, that sergeant didn't know what was over that damn hill any more than anybody else, but he had sense enough to make up something, because he'd already seen—I'm trying to think of the lieutenant. Slominski?

DePue: Did you see him actually get shot?

W. Smith: Yeah, but I can't remember his name.