

Your questions are proper and succinct but space does not allow the same succinct necessary explanations for some questions. I may appear presumptuous to include an overview of some of my answers and why. I thought it might save you some time and perhaps some precious minutes. For example, I was taken out of ranks as an enlisted man and directed to Officers Candidate School primarily because of my High School background in Boston.

Anyone familiar with the Boston High School curriculum during the 20s and 30s would know that the High Schools were gender divided. There were all boys and all girls high schools. I went to Roxbury Memorial High School in Roxbury from 1931 to 1935. In addition to our regular curriculum of classes we took an hour of Military Drill each week where we learned the Manual of Arms and Marching formations.

We were in uniform. At the end of each year in June and before promotion or graduation, the famous Schoolboy parade was held where all the boys' high schools paraded from Copley Square up Boylston Street to Washington Street, to School street where we saluted the Mayor to Tremont Street to Beacon Street where we saluted the Governor, down Beacon Street to the end. We marched in full uniform, enlisted men in leggings and Officers in Puttees and Sam Browne belt. All High Schools were marked and the Newspapers the next day highlighted that day as a very important day in Boston. The Girls High schools were off that day and the girls came into Boston and it was a wonderful holiday. You can check the microfilm at the Boston Public Library of the Boston American, Boston Daily Record, Boston Post, Boston Globe and Boston Herald. There were pictures of the parade along with the story.

I was one of four sons, we didn't have much money and I decided in 1937 I'd get a College Education. BU had the Evening College of Commerce, where we would have to go 6 years in the evening to get enough credits to equal four years during the day for a degree in Business Administration. On December 7, 1941, Pearl Harbor was attacked. I was completing the first semester of my fifth year towards my degree. The following day I went to the Air Force, was rejected, then the Marines, was rejected, then the Navy, was rejected, then the Army, was rejected. I wore glasses. My left eye was 20/400, my right eye was 20/600. The Army was inundated with patriotic young men and Doctors and chaos and confusion was the rule rather than the exception. I went back the next day, stood there in my underwear, memorized the chart while I was in line, and when it was my turn, I couldn't even see the wall, let alone the chart, recited enough to show I knew the chart and I was passed. Recently, in the past two years, Merrill Lynch had a TV commercial showing the same thing

I asked for deferment til I could take my finals to complete the first semester of my fifth year and was sent to Devens. From there I was sent to Ft. Francis E. Warren, Wyoming for basic training. There were 260 men in our company. We were taught the Manual of Arms and Marching Maneuvers. I knew them, so I was made a Drill Instructor and Corporal. We had a great professional First Sergeant Thomas E. Casey. When the Basic Training was over in May of 1942, he kept me and 5 others out and the rest were sent to permanent bases around the country. He told me one had to have a minimum 120 IQ and at least two years of college, a letter from my Congressman (In those days we didn't know our local representative, let alone our Congressman) etc. endorsing me. My four and half years at nite qualified for the two years during the day.----Which was how I was picked out of the ranks and sent to OCS. I owed it to the Boston Public School system.

After I graduated OCS in September, 1942, I was sent to a permanent unit, the 70th QM Mobile Battalion. It was a truck battalion to be used for convoys to haul materiel, troops, ammo, fuel, etc, forward. I was a Platoon Officer of the 3507th QM Truck Company. We had black enlisted men and white officers. Segregation was in effect. I was fairly athletic and in good condition and I became the physical ed. instructor for the battalion. During training and before we went overseas, I organized a boxing team. There were organized bouts each Wednesday night in a large gym that seated several hundred. After I organized a stable of fighters by weight, I was advised I could not participate. Oklahoma would not tolerate mixed fights. The group was disbanded. The boxers hated the segregation.

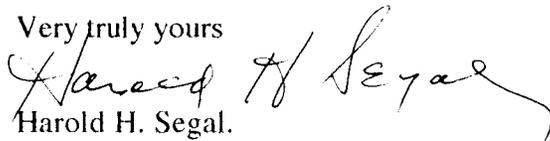
We went overseas in April, 1943 and landed in Oran, French Morocco, North Africa, took part in the invasion of Sicily and entered Italy across the Straits of Messina into Reggio Calabria and went North with our trucks to Naples.

We were in Italy when the War ended and President Truman replaced President Roosevelt upon his death. One of President Truman's first acts was to desegregate the Army. As the White Officers and Black enlisted men were rotated home, Black Officers joined us to replace the White Officers.

When the War was over, I was promoted to Company Commander of the 3506th Truck company. While there I received orders to leave Naples, go to Rome and return the same day with some German Generals and German enlisted men as prisoners to a Prison Camp, nearby at Aversa. One of the German Generals was to be executed for War Crimes. When I got home, I wrote it up. Following is the story.-----

I thought the preceding would qualify some of my answers that you requested. If I was presumptuous, I apologize. I realize I will be questioned further after you receive my answers to your questions.

Very truly yours



Harold H. Segal.

PS: Monday afternoon-----Just spoke to Joan Craig and established an appointment for Monday, October 23rd at 11AM. During the conversation, Ms. Craig told me the short questions for short answers was for my edification and assistance. However, I thought I would submit the enclosed anyhow. Perhaps some of the information may help the questioner (s)