

Emanuele Campanella
Transcript

Interview Clip: Sidney (24:19-26:05)

Interviewee: Emanuele Campanella [EC]

Interviewer: John Elliff [JE]

Date: 2001

Location: Sterling, Colorado

Full Video Link: https://youtu.be/_Xs24U2K5Gk?si=dbRjgalt9xsC0j6T

EC: Then, they moved us to Sidney, Sidney, Nebraska.

JE: Right.

EC: That's why I started working out there. And over there, first they put me in the railroad, working the railroad.

JE: Railroad?

EC: Railroad. Putting sand under the tracks, you know how they do it?

JE: Yeah, ballasting.

EC: And I got pneumonia, and they put me in the hospital. The doctor told them, "Don't put him back out there, or he's not gonna make it." I guess my pneumonia must have been real bad. They asked me what I knew how to do, you know, if I knew any other job to do. I said, "Well, I've never done that one!" [Laughter] "They just put me there."

JE: Right.

EC: I never did work on the railroad. [Laughter] So, I told them what I was doing in Italy and that I was an electrical mechanic. And they said, "Oh, we've got a job for you." So, they put me in this big building. By that time, I spoke English a little bit. I could get around.

JE: Sure, sure.

EC: So, I started working in this great big building where they fixed these electric forklifts. You know, the forklifts, how they used them in the warehouses?

JE: Right. Warehouses, right.

EC: Okay. Instead of using regular combustion motors, they used electric batteries because of the danger. They stored ammunition in Sidney.

JE: Yeah, the ordnance there.

EC: The big, yeah, ordnance. And they needed these forklifts to lift the boxes and ammunition. So, they had, I don't know, twenty [or] thirty of them. And that's what I was doing. That was my job.