

RG-50.091.0094

Summary

Harold Mailman, born in New York City in 1923, describes enlisting in the U.S. Army reserves in December 1942 and being called to active duty in July 1943; being sent to the U.K. as a lineman in February 1944 as part of Squad 12 of Company A, 32nd Signals Construction Battalion which was attached to 1st Army HQ; serving under Company Commander, CPT Herman Ceivken, Platoon Commander, 1LT Mullican, Assistant Platoon Commander, LT Teagardner, and the XO, Fred Kershaw; leaving the base at Atherstone in the U.K. Midlands for Bessels Leigh near Oxford before boarding ship and landing at Omaha Beach on June 13, 1944; being stationed at Weimar, Germany; running cable from the base to the gate of Buchenwald on April 19, 1945 to establish telephone communication; being ordered by his commanding officer, a German-American, to tour Buchenwald; observing emaciated prisoners, and displays that had been put together by the prisoners which included Ilse Koch's collection of tattooed skin; being told by German civilians that they were unaware of the existence of the camp even though the smell from the crematoria was evident from outside the gates.