

Richard W. Peterson
RG-50.106*0114

Born September 29, 1925 in Council Bluffs, Iowa

Father of Danish ancestry - grandfather very upset when Germans invaded Denmark
Heard FDR's declaration of war while in high school assembly

Was in ROTC, learned drill and manual of arms

Graduated in June 1943, entered Army Special Training Reserve Project at Drake
University in Iowa, to University of Kansas in Lawrence for basic engineering

Inducted in army in September at Camp Dodge, then to Fort Benning, Georgia
Shipped to 86th Blackhawk Division, A Company, 342nd Regiment Infantry
2 months amphibious training in California, sailed to LeHavre in February 1945.
Went through France, Belgium to Germany

Through Aachen, Duren, Cologne, Bonn, crossed Rhine River, through Siegen to Ruhr Pocket

Approached **Attendorf**, sniper fire, came across factory of slave laborers, most likely civilian Russians,
witnessed dirty, emaciated, woman eating out of horse's skull

Not much impression after difficult combat experiences before and after. There was
no discussion about what they saw. That night 2 friends were killed by machine gun
fire.

Transferred to Third Army, through Franconia, Ingolstadt, Eichstatt. Crossed Danube - 2 or 3 killed.
Through Mannheim to LeHavre and sailed to New York. Went from San Francisco to Phillipines, stayed
in Manila until March 1946

Finished law school, practiced law and was a magistrate judge.

Labor camp has become a more prominent memory after hearing about slave labor and death camps.
Wonders what the fate of the civilian prisoners was. Saw proper law abused and vanish in Germany. Had
witnessed the depravity that Germany had sunk to.

Feels privileged to live in this country.