

[INAUDIBLE]. You know what, I don't know-- I don't guys, but I didn't get [INAUDIBLE] camera.

Who was a captain and command of the survey section of the 522nd Field Artillery Battalion from its inception until its deactivation. And there was a very popular officer with the unit. Today is the 3rd of May, 1993. And we'd like to thank you for doing this interview.

Thank you.

And this is the culmination of a celebration that we had last night of the liberation of Dachau. I'd like to start by asking you how you got assigned to the 522nd Field Artillery.

Well, I was-- at the time of the assignment, I was with a unit, a field artillery regiment unit, in Camp Bowie, Texas. And it came down from 4th Army for two of our officers to be assigned to a unit at Camp Shelby, but under secret orders.

So we went to Camp Shelby on around January the 20th-- 29th. But the assignment was on February the 1st of '43. And when I got there and reported in, I found out that it was assignment to activate the Regimental Combat Team for the 442nd. That was on February the 1st.

And there was six other officers from two other armies, two of each that were also assigned to the 522nd Field Artillery of the 442nd.

What was your initial assignment?

My initial assignment was Captain of the Headquartered Battery, or the cadre. We had received a cadre from men, Japanese ancestry men from California and Illinois. They had had experience. But they were volunteers. And they were there when the initial activation.

And I was assigned by the commanding officer, 522, Baya M. Harrison, to be the commander of the battery, the head of the cadre. And later when the other units, other men from Hawaii came in April, another officer took over the batteries, the headquartered battery, as well as the other men, captains-- I mean other battery commanders. And I was assigned as AS2 intelligence and recon officer, which I kept throughout the war.

So for the first three months, you were doing basic training.

Yes.

Was it battery firing as well?

No. Basic training with the cadre wasn't. But the basic training from the Hawaiian boys was. Very little firing, if any, during that basic training period after April the 1st, April, for three months we had very little firing, or if not any. I don't really recall. We just done the regular basic deal, 5-mile marches and different things like that and took up just the basic deal.

How did you feel being assigned to what was a very strange unit of all segregated Japanese people? What was your feelings about that?

Well, I really actually frankly felt good about it. I always liked new things. And it didn't bother me at all.

And they were an intelligent group of men. They had high intelligence. And they were more or less selected for our unit from an engineer-- being engineers in Hawaii and different things, different categories. So they were a good group. And I felt good about it.

They were a proud bunch. And they turned out to be loyal and everything. And they were all right.

And prior to my assignment, I had been with a couple of different units. In fact, in June of '41, when I went in the service voluntarily, I was a lieutenant. I was assigned to 8th Corps Headquarters of the 4th Army. And I was sent to Pearl Harbor.

And then they told me I could go to any unit that I wanted to. So I chose Fort Sill, where they had my ROTC training, back years before. And I went up there, and they put me in a colored unit. But that was OK with me. But they didn't keep me in that unit a couple of weeks.

And then they assigned me back to Camp Bowie, where I'd come from, and with a regimental-- National Guard unit from Arkansas, 142nd Field Artillery Regiment. And I was assigned on the staff at that battalion for a little while. And then they gave me a battery. They were 155 how battery. And they were good men, a good battery. And I stayed with them as commander until I got this assignment to report to the 442nd Combat Team.

Were you aware that many of the Japanese-Americans had families interned in the United States, particularly the cadre boys in California?

Yes. Somewhat. I didn't know too much about it. There was a little bit of talk about that. But I didn't-- frankly, I didn't pay much attention to it at the time because I wasn't concerned about their loyalty or anything.

Were you ever approached by the FBI or by Army Intelligence to keep an eye on some of them that might be disloyal?

Yes. We had a practice of checking some mail from the men. And it was found in the combat team as a whole that there was a few that were reassigned and that they figured might not be loyal.

Did you ever read any of the mail?

No. Not that I can recall. It's been so long. Some of the things are not clear to me. And I'm not sure. But I don't think I did. I knew it was done. I'm not sure who in the unit or if it was done by someone in the Regimental Combat Team or not. I'm not sure whether that was done or whether it was done by the 522nd Battalion staff.

Did you have any disciplinary problems with the Nisei soldiers?

Very little on the base. They had little trouble off the base in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. The boys were inclined to drink a little bit. And they'd get into fights and have trouble. But on the base during our training, we didn't have any trouble.

Did you ever have to bail them out of jail?

No.

Were you aware that the Hawaiians and the mainlanders were fighting amongst each other?

Yeah, we were aware of some conflict and some controversy between the two units. But we tried to keep that down to a minimum. They didn't bother us any too much.

Did you ever--

There was a little bit of friction due to the fact that the cadre boys from the mainland were assigned the jobs during the cadre period as non-combat and everything. And I think the Hawaiian boys resented some of that, since they weren't assigned. But as soon as possible, some of the Hawaiian boys had better assignments as non-coms.

I recall one in our staff in our fire direction center, which I was connected with, as well as my S2 were with the fire direction S3. A Major Moye was in charge of the fire direction. They gave the orders down to the guns. And we worked with the liaison to the infantry.

And Pete Sakamoto became a good friend of mine. And he was a graduate there in Hawaii. And he was older. He was about my age, a little older. And he later was made a-- got a field promotion. I think we made about four field promotions of the boys. Some of them were from the States, mainland, and some were from the Island.

Describe what the survey section did. What was your duties? And--

Well, now, I wasn't in-- the survey section was under my section. But I actually wasn't in charge directly of the survey section. We had a survey officer. And most of the time in combat, it was Lieutenant Langsdorf was the survey officer in charge of the section. And Sergeant Don Shimazu, which is a good friend of mine, became good friend, from Hawaii, he was the staff sergeant. He was the leading sergeant of the survey section.

And, of course, the survey section, on certain occasions, would work with me and go with me. And their main job was to tie in the gun batteries at the gun locations, which I done the reconnaissance work and picked, selected the positions for the guns for the batteries. And the survey section in that respect worked with me. But I wasn't the survey officer.

Why don't you describe what a firing mission entailed, the details of what you did and overall what the--

All right, first up, you might say that the guns, the 105 we had, would reach about 5 to 7 miles. And all the missions, the mission would come down from the forward observer, or the liaison officer with the infantry. And they would plot the coordinates. They would give the coordinates of the targets. And they would telephone that down to us at the fire direction center, and we would plot it on our maps, the coordinates and everything.

And then we'd send the elevations that we wanted down to the gun sections. And the gun sections, we sent them down to the battery. And they would in turn send that information to each gun section. Maybe sometimes, one gun or two guns or four for volley of all four guns at one time.

And a lot of our missions, we would give them different elevations on the same target. We would give them elevation over the target or under the targets. And then the forward observer would tell us whether to bracket it or put it on one target, on one elevation.

And these elevations were put on the guns by the gun sergeant. And he would give the command for them to set that elevation. And then they would fire on command from the executive of the battery, rather than the battery commanders.

And what was a typical firing mission? What were you aiming and shooting at?

Well, we fired on request from the infantry battalions on what they wanted to shoot at on the enemy. Maybe it would be a house where there were soldiers, German soldiers, in or a 88 cannon or different things. The German 88s, they were a very good gun. And they had our targets zeroed in.

What I mean by that, they had them where they could fire pretty quick on different targets. And I was part of on a lot of times where just on one vehicle or a group of three or four vehicles where I was selecting gun battery positions where we would get fire on us. And that was because they had been zeroed in on different ones.

Well, we'd done the same thing. We would zero in on what we call the aiming point or reference points. We would zero in on that. And when the command come down, they just say so many mils from or so many yards from that reference point.

For example, when we were at Pisa above Leghorn in Italy, we used the Leaning Tower of Pisa for a reference point. We didn't fire on it exactly. But we used it as a reference point to fire on the other targets in the area.

Could you describe what a forward observer would do?

Well, forward observer would do just what we've been talking about in relation to sending down the information that he

received from the infantry companies and battalion. The forward observer actually worked with the infantry companies. And then he would in turn get with the liaison officer of the battalion of the company.

And the forward observer was one of the most important in target missions because he actually was right there in the front where he could see what was going on and where he could direct the fire to our fire direction center. And that was important. We had several forward observers in the section, mens, hurt because they were in direction of the fire from the enemy, from the Germans.

Well, I understand that was a very dangerous job. That was--

It was. It was the most dangerous job in our battalion was the forward observers, yes. More dangerous than the liaison officers, which were with the battalions.

Do you want to describe why it was dangerous?

Well, it was dangerous because they were subject to fire from the Germans. And they were right in line with the infantry, which the Germans were zeroing in on, was the companies and the platoons of the infantry were the ones that the Germans were firing on, more so than they were firing on our artillery. They fired on some of our artillery and our positions. But their main idea, the main object was just like our main object was to fire on the infantry of the enemy.

And in that regards, it was a dangerous operation being up there with the infantry companies and right there giving the commands to send back to us at the fire direction center the direction of where to shoot. So it was a dangerous job.

And you were a forward observer many times.

Well, I was mainly at that the OP, observation point, which done the same thing. But it wasn't exactly with the infantry. At times, especially in the Vosges Mountains, that the Lost Battalion combat, I did man an OP, observation point. And I was fired on.

One time, the closest I ever came, a sergeant and I were in the force there where the Lost Battalion had been just after they rescued the Lost Battalion. And we were firing on the Germans from an observation point by a large rock. I had telephone running down from back in the woods down to the rock. And I was using that telephone.

And I sent back to the sergeant that I felt like-- what happened, some infantry people from another unit come down there in the open vision of the rock. And I had come down there before daylight to keep them from-- I figured they had zeroed in, the Germans had at that point zeroed in. But these guys came down after daylight. And when they did, it bothered me. And so I called back and told them the sergeant, I was fixing to get out of there.

And I had hung up the phone and just left about 10 yards when a shell hit right there where my telephone was and just blew my telephone all to pieces. And these other infantrymen that were there behind the rock, just beside the rock, behind the rock, they were there. And I understand they got hurt. I don't know that.

But when I left, after that first round hit, I started running towards the woods. And shells went over me and under me. They were after me before I got back in the woods. And I've always wondered what told me to move on that particular time. And that happened a lot of times at the observation points and the forward observer points.

What did tell you to move?

I think the Man above. I definitely believe that something was with me to tell me to get away. A lot of times I think that really happened. I have faith that it wasn't my time to go.

So you heard a little voice that you thought was God.

Yeah. I really did. That may sound peculiar. But--

Was that a common occurrence where you would use your intuition and what you felt was divine inspiration to save your lives?

It was, several times. I was in the minefield several times. And something told me just how to move and get out of them and things like that. And I have-- of course, I used my own ability too. I'd jump out of a vehicle and get in a ditch if I thought they were going to hit me and were firing on me. And they've done that quite a bit with that 88, just indirect gun they had. It was good.

During a forward observation mission or spotting with the FO with the observation point, would you use the walkie talkies or the wireless? What would you use as a general communication?

We used both. We used both. Both the radio-- we had radios, and we use radios mainly to get information from the Air Force back to the fire direction center and to our OP.

Did the Japanese-Americans ever speak Japanese or pidgin to confuse the Germans so they wouldn't listen in?

Yes, they did. I didn't have much occasion to listen in on it or anything. But they did, I understand, quite a bit, especially in the infantry and possibly with our forward observers.

Could you tell us what decorations you received?

Well, in Italy I received the Bronze Star. And during the Rhineland campaign on the Lost Battalion in the Vosges Mountains, I received the French Croix de Guerre with the silver star in it. But I didn't get it till in August, about the time I came home in '45. So it's not on my discharge papers. It doesn't show that I got the French, the Croix de Guerre. And in the records with the battalion, it doesn't show that I got to the Croix de Guerre.

And I was sent another time, another Bronze Star. But I'm not sure whether I received two Bronze Stars or just the one Bronze Star. Now, a good many of our officers and men received the Bronze Stars. And I think it was one in the battalion that received the Silver Star.

And then, of course, there was several men with the forward observers who received Purple Hearts. We got a good number of medals, over 100, with the field artillery, which more or less is unusual. But you don't get that many citations or medals with the artillery unit separately from the Regimental Combat Team. Of course, we got some citations, presidential citations as a combat unit, which included our 522nd.

Could you describe the mission where you got the French Croix de Guerre?

Yes, it was in the campaign to rescue the battalion of the 141st Battalion, the 36th Division, commanded by General Dahlquist. And orders come down from him to the battalion for us to go up to the front lines, which is in the woods on a hill. And this battalion was surrounded by the Germans.

And his request was for us to deliver fire between our own, which was the 3rd Battalion at that time of the combat team. And the request was that they wanted fire between our own infantries and the Lost Battalion, where the Germans were. And in order to do that, we had to go up to the front and tie in the platoons so we knew exactly where they were, so we could fire over our own troops and not hit the battalion.

I and the survey crew went up there and reported in to the battalion headquarters and got directions of where they were. We used mostly maps. And we had good maps of the area. And we went on up.

Before we left the battalion headquarters up there, the general, the commanding officer of the 36th, General Dahlquist showed up. And he was telling the commander of the battalion, of the infantry battalion, that there wasn't much enemy up there and to advance. And the commander I think was Colonel Hadley kept saying that we were pinned down by both mortar fire and rifle fire. And the general said, well, I'm going to go up too.

So he left for the front line about the time I did. And I was going up for a good while. And during that time, we were subject to fire from the Germans on us while we were up there.

So after we'd done our mission there, we came back to the battalion headquarters. And the general was back by that time and he had blood all over. And he was in a different frame of mind.

His aide, who happened to be Sinclair Lewis's-- which if you're acquainted Sinclair Lewis-- is Sinclair Lewis's son, and he got killed while they were up there. So General Dahlquist left and he never came back until the mission was complete, until we rescued the battalion. About 200 and some men was in the Lost Battalion. But from doing that work up there, the French gave me that medal for the work I had done at that particular time and other times during that push to get to the Lost Battalion.

One instance, I might remark is that the liaison officer from the regiment had sent back orders and coordinates to us to fire on the enemy up there while we were rescuing the battalion. And the coordinates they gave us plotted right in the Lost Battalion itself. So we immediately told them to check and see why they were firing on our Lost Battalion with them coordinates.

And they checked. And sure enough, it was. So we actually saved our guns from firing on the Lost Battalion by finding out that it was the wrong coordinates, the wrong target. And that was corrected. And we were successful in firing on the Germans between our own troops and the Lost Battalion.

Weren't you the one that discovered that the coordinates were wrong?

No, I think it was the liaison officer or the forward observer up in the front that actually discovered it and called back to our commander, our battalion commander. And this was pointed out that this had happened by Lyn Crost Stern that she found in the records where that had happened. And she asked me who Red 6 was, I think like that, or someone else. We had names for officers both in the liaison and the forward observers and our own officers. Of course, I AS2. And the commander was a 6.

And it was found out the information was between the liaison officer who happened to be Captain Harris at that particular time of that battalion that found that out. And that he was giving that-- he had made that correction to the battalion commander who was in our fire direction center with the our AS3.

What did you get your Bronze Star? How did you earn that? Or two Bronze Stars.

Well, I'm not sure why, unless it's just doing more or less the actual work that I was assigned to do in doing recons for selecting positions, the headquartered battery, the headquarters position, as well as the battery positions, and checking on the enemy targets and so forth with the forward observer.

So it was for continuous service for overall--

Yeah, that's more or less what that was. And it was probably just one Bronze Star. And they just got mixed up in sending another letter. So I don't think I received but one Bronze Star, because that was normal that they would give just one Bronze Star to a person.

Of course, some may have got two. I don't know. I think some of the enlisted men might have got two.

You're held in extremely high regard by many of the Japanese-Americans, in fact, many of whom, you were one of the most popular officers. Can you speculate on why they liked you so much?

Well, yeah, I think I can. They respected me I think a good bit, as I've been told, that the fact that I worked with them. And they were always willing to go with me. And I wasn't afraid to get dirty, as they call it, get in the ditch with them and everything.

And they said some of the officers, especially some of the younger ones, officers, wanted to stay clean and dressed up all the time. They didn't want to get their clothes dirty or anything or get bothered about anything and weren't quite willing to do the things that the men liked. I think that was one reason they liked me. I feel like I was liked by most of the men in the headquarters, which I worked with mainly and also the batteries who selected positions and so forth.

So you took a lot of chances. And you went to the front lines with them too.

Yes. Yes, well, yeah, I took a lot of chances I guess, a little bit more than some of the officers that were not assigned to those kind of jobs.

Were you on a first name basis with some of the Nisei men?

Yeah. Well, they called me captain. But not directly, but to my back and to different ones, they called me squeaky. I had a high toned voice, which I still have a good bit. And I got the name of Squeaky Taylor, Captain Squeaky, which later on I got that in professional life too when I was working in the oil fields and as a petroleum engineer. And it was different people.

So the respect was mutual. You respected the men under your command and especially the forward observer parties because it was so dangerous.

Yes, I think I was respected by all the personnel in the battalion. Of course, some of them were closer to me than others. Some of the service battery and some of the forward battery men didn't see me as much as some of the others.

Could you name some of the men who were particularly close to you, some of the officers and non-coms?

Yes. Some of the officers that I was close to on the headquarters staff was Captain Harris, which was the liaison officer, and Captain Johnson, who had Battery B at one time. In combat, he was the liaison officer. He and I were good friends, more so than any others. Captain Johnson and I, Johnny Johnson and I, were really good friends, and we run around and took pictures and did things when we were in reserve with a Captain Kurada, who was a doctor. He was a mainland Japanese-American. And I understand he's passed away now, so Captain Johnson.

But Captain Johnson passed away just after the war in '46, '47 with polio. And we communicated with his wife, who was a good friend of my wife. So we were close to them, mainly closer to them than we were any other officers.

And some of the junior officers that we were-- well, all of them, we were fairly well acquainted with, I mean first name basis and got along pretty good. We had a pretty knit officer group. And they came close in training before we went into combat. So we didn't have any problems.

We had problems with one officer. But he got into trouble. But that was all. And he happened to be one of the survey-- I mean, one of the forward observers at the time in Italy. He got drinking quite a bit while he was on duty.

And he wanted to go out and capture a gun. And he got fired on. And he got in a ditch. And he had his men-- the men were in danger too, his group.

And when he got out, at the first of it, we thought he had done something good and was really good. But when we got talking to men, we found out that he had endangered his section. So he was assigned to some other outfit. And we got rid of him. That was the only case that I recall where we had any trouble with anyone like that.

And you were with Lieutenant Ito and Mizuno?

Yes. He was of a C battery, I think. And he was a sergeant during a good bit of the campaign. But he was made a field promotion. He was one of the ones that made the field promotion. He and a Lieutenant Mizuno were made the field promotions, as well as Lieutenant Sakamoto that I helped make a field promotion. Lieutenant Ito and Lieutenant Mizuno

was recommended by their battalions, by their batteries, to become lieutenants, second lieutenants before the war was over.

And they were forward observers with your--

With the battery sections, yeah. They were forward observers of each battery.

Who were some of the prominent enlisted men that you remember?

Well, of course, there's about the same ones, like Pete Sakamoto of the fire direction. I was very close to him before he made-- well, before and after he got his field promotion. But during the combat, he was a sergeant in charge of fire direction. And I was very close to him. And after the war, later years, I went to Japan and saw him before he had passed away. He passed away of cancer. But my wife and I in '72, we visited he and his wife in Hawaii.

And I can't say that-- a lot of the men that I knew that close, you know. And a lot of the men in training and as well as in combat, I knew their faces and everything. But I didn't know their names.

Now, your other job was to look at the terrain to make sure that the guns could pass. Was that true?

Oh, yes, that was one of my main jobs to set gun positions and see that the batteries, commanders with their recon groups could get to the position with their wire sections and stuff to tie in and get to their positions. And I tried to select positions that were camouflaged from the enemy where they wouldn't fire on those positions while we were using them. And sometimes, it's almost impossible to find a position that was where they couldn't see it. And at those times, they would fire on us, even while we just had the small groups before we brought up the batteries to those positions. They would fire on us.

That, and in finding the command post where the battalion was to move to after the guns were located, which we tried to get somewhat to the rear of the gun positions. And that was my prime object also to find a place to move to.

First time we went into position around Rome, right north of Rome, we had in training, the colonel had suggested that all our headquarters command posts be dug in and not in buildings. Well, the first time we went into combat and we got a command post, which I had selected, he wanted us to dig in. It was completely rock, almost rock. And you couldn't hardly dig in it at all with the-- and I got dynamite and dynamited it. And I got it dug in and the foxholes, but it was pretty rough.

And we decided right after that, he relented and said we could get buildings. And we tried to use buildings that had a cellar or something like that, where we could use. Sometimes, it was impossible to get a good position, a good command post what was hidden. And we had pictures where part of our command post buildings was hit. I had some pictures for where our command post was partly damaged.

But in the Bruyeres campaign on the Lost Battalion, where after the infantry had moved out of Bruyeres, well, I had to select position in Bruyeres. And I went down there and picked out a basement, a building with a basement. And it happened to be a brothel. And they had liberated-- they had worked with the Germans.

And when we run them out, we run them out of the basement, and they got out in the streets. And the Germans-- I mean the Frenchmen, the French people there in Bruyeres, they knew they had worked with the Germans. So they took them and cut all their hair off. And it was kind of a sight to see them stick their head out of their doors with bald heads. But that's the type of position we occupied.

And during the campaign, even in Germany, we would have to rout the people out of their houses to take over. And they would be crying and didn't want to leave. But, of course, we had to have a place to have as a headquarters. And so we had to do that, had to take over.

So you had a Jeep?



Yes, I had a Jeep and a driver all the time. I changed Jeep drivers some. But a lot of times, I used one of the survey drivers. Pat Yomata was my driver a good bit.

And then I had a driver, which they called Cowboy. He was kind of a wild driver a little bit. But he stayed in the service. And I understand he became a colonel.

But while my drivers, they were pretty good to have. And most of the time, that's all that was with me. A lot of time was just a driver on my recon work, just you and the driver.

And I always led the battalion to different places. And I led the battalion to Rome before our first target assignment in blackout. And one time in the Arno campaign, we were moving along the Arno River from Pisa to Florence. And it was mountainous.

And I was leading the battalion. And my driver-- I don't recall which one it was-- upset the Jeep on the mountainside. And I kind of rolled down the side of the mountain, the hill, a little bit till I hit a tree. And I came out of it, came up and got in the car with the colonel staff car. He had a staff car that he used. And the Jeep driver and the Jeep was picked up by the service battery and brought on up to our headquarters.

But that assignment in Florence along the Arno River was a last assignment then in Italy. We were pulled out of there and sent back to Naples, the staging area, to go to Marseilles, go to France. I got ill on the move back to Naples. I started bleeding. And I ended up in the Naples hospital there, a big, big Mussolini-built, World's Fair hospital. And I stayed there a month.

And when I got out of there, they were going to-- the unit had already moved To Marseilles, had left there. And they were going to send me into a replacement depot. But I didn't want that. So I just took off and went down and got me and hitchhiked me a plane ride to Marseilles and went back with the unit. I don't know, you might say I was AWOL from the replacement depot. But I wanted to stay with the unit because this was a good unit. This 522nd Field Artillery Battalion was a good unit to be with.

And while we were at Florence, my old outfit the 155 Hows of the 142nd, the Arkansas National Guard boys, looked me up. They were right close to us firing. At Florence, we had a few unit-- our own artillery. And we had the British, who had 25 pounders. And I worked with the British in making assignments of when to fire. And I would go over to their headquarters and cooperate with them on when to fire. We had several assignments, targets, together on firing across the Arno River on the Germans.

When you said you were bleeding, you had an ulcer?

They were-- later on, it was found out. I had two major operations since the war. The first time, it was about '54. I was working over in Louisiana. I lived in Beaumont, Texas. But I worked from Houston and New Orleans, in Texas and Louisiana Gulf Coast.

And I was over there. And I got sick and started bleeding. And of course, they put me in the hospital.

And I was bleeding. I was losing so much blood. I was losing 13 pints of blood. And I laid on a slab for 12 hours. And they were 24 hours before they operated on me. And they went into my stomach. And they found ulcers. But it was still bleeding. And they had to go up to my esophagus. And my esophagus had split.

And later, the doctors say that it was probably split there in Naples during the war and just healed up enough that it hadn't done any damage until then.

So it started up there.

Yeah. It was split, and they had to sew it up. And they sewed it up pretty tight from the checks that the doctors gave

later. But then later on, in '60s-- let's see, no, I guess it was after '74. I was going over in New Mexico on vacation. And I was over there.

And I got cramped in my stomach. And I had to go into hospital. And they found a ligament had tied up in my stomach. And they had to operate on that. And ever since the war, I've had a nervous stomach, an ulcerated nervous stomach. I'm still on treatment.

And due to the fact that this all happened, I was able to get a claim. And now, I'm drawing 100% compensation at the present time. It started the end with 10. And then they jumped it to 40 and to 60 and to 70. And then, in '77, I got a full 100% compensation from the government.

I'd like to go to the campaign in Germany.

OK.

So at this point could you describe how you were detached from the 442nd up-- and just if you could describe in as much detail with the German campaign, with everything that you remember--

OK--

From start to finish.

OK. During the champagne campaigns, we call it, there in France, we were stationed on the Italian border there. And when we were completed with that, we weren't complaining. But we were replaced by some French. And I helped the French, showing what we were doing.

And the commander of Fifth Army in Italy and Mark Clark wanted the combat team back. But he wasn't able to use only the infantry and the engineers. For some reason or other, it had been brought out it was a train. But I don't think it was. I think actually the 7th Army commander wanted more artillery to put in to break down the German line there on the Rhine River. I think that's why we were assigned that sector.

In any case, we were separated from the infantry. And they went back to Italy to the Fifth Army. And we went in Seventh Army, and we went north up past the Rhone River and on up. And our first assignment was with the 63rd Division.

And their assignment was to get to the river. And in doing that, we had to cross the Siegfried Line and take it, so which we did. We had some operation there with the 63rd.

Then we got to the Rhine River at Worms, Germany, and our target task there, along with the other division units and artillery, was to fire on the line that they'd set up, that the Germans had set up along the river, which was the Rhine River, which was their last defense, more or less. Their other defense was back in the Vosges Mountains and on up through the different areas, through the Third Army and the Ninth army as well as the Seventh Army. The Germans had set up a defense.

But when they in turn had to give that up and backed up to the Rhine, on the east side of the Rhine. And that was our objective to break them down. And that was our main objective in the German campaign actually was to break them down there, and then we'd have an easy going from then on. And that's what we done.

And we were done firing for the 45th right there at Worms, in Heidelberg, Mannheim and Heidelberg. And after we left there, we were with the different units. Actually, in the German campaign, we were with about seven different divisions and units, including we were with an artillery group part of the time.

And even after we had left and taken over the defenses of the Germans and broke them down, we moved very fast. We would set up two or three times a day, a command post. And sometimes we'd be on our own. We wouldn't be connected

to any division or anything. We'd be ahead of their infantry. And we moved that fast.

At one time, we'd moved into a place and didn't have anyone to give us any orders or anything. And I recall we captured six Germans that had been left behind to hide out and got lost or something. And we captured them and sent them back.

And we run up on different-- one time we run up on a warehouse camp full of all kinds of food from Norway and Swiss cheese and all kinds of different things, the foods, which the different units got together and divide them up. And we took them back.

Another time we run up on a camp that the Germans had left, where they had been training the 16-year-old with rifles, with the-- oh, I forget the name of the rifle. I got one of them and took it back with me, sent it back home. Mauser I think it was, a 22 Mauser, rifle, which was a good rifle. And these 16-year-old Germans had been training with them. And they had given up the camp, and we had taken it over.

But as I say, we didn't have too much opposition thereafter. As we approached, our objective was to take sectors going to Munich. And during that time when we got close to Munich, we came upon Augsburg. And we had a command post at Augsburg. And that was one of the first satellite camps was there close to Augsburg, but in Augsburg. We were at a command post just a few miles from Augsburg. But to the best of my knowledge, best I can recall, one of our batteries did liberate that satellite camp.

Did you see that camp?

I don't recall whether I saw it or not. My job is to select command posts and recon work. We was moving so fast, I don't even recall-- even at Dachau itself, it's hard for me to recall just what happened. I do know that it's been credited to me that I was with the Sergeant Kajioka, one my sergeants from the headquarters, that we came up on this gate of the main Dachau camp, which was not the main gate, I don't think, because there weren't any guards or anything there.

But it was locked, the gate was. And he shot the lock off the gate and opened the gate. I didn't go in. But he did. And, of course, I could see there was a few soldiers-- a few prisoners, a few prisoners around. And some of them that were able to come out. There's very few prisoners at this particular gate. And that was on about 28th, 29th of-- that happened on about, possibly, the 28th, maybe the 29th, which was the date of all liberation of the camps was the 29th of April.

Could you describe what the prisoners looked like?

Well, they were just skin and bones and just down. They had this-- malnutrition was terrible I mean. And they were in awful poor condition. They hadn't been fed properly and hadn't eaten very much. And they'd just eat anything they could get a hold of.

And they were hardly able to move. They were in black striped uniforms. And these particular ones that we saw were Jews. In the camps, there was Lithuanians and Jews and Poles. There was good many Poles that were used as slave labor in the camps. This was a political camp. But the SS that was in charge of the camp, concentration camp, they also used a lot of them as slave labor.

Did you try to talk to any of the prisoners?

No, I didn't. Like I say, best of my knowledge, I didn't. I don't recall. All I know that is a little of what I saw of them and the fact that we got orders to go to this meeting where they wanted to do something to the corpses that had been cremated in the boxcars. It had--

Had you witnessed seeing the boxcars yourself?

No, I didn't. But at the meeting, it was decided by all the units that were present that the best way to do that would be just to bury them on the spot by digging the trenches, bulldozing trenches, and dig them, and dump the boxcars over and remove the corpses into the ditches and cover them up.

That's an--

I don't even recall. I wasn't there when they done that work. Of course, that was done by troops from behind in the rear, rear troops. I imagine it was engineer troops had done the actual work. And I don't know what happened to the living prisoners at the camp, at Dachau.

That meeting is an important meeting, talking about disposing of the bodies.

Yes.

Were their general officers involved? Or was it just at a colonel's level?

Best I recall it was some generals there. It could have been one of the divisions, the Fourth Division, which we were kind of attached to at the time, it could have been that general. Or it could have been a general from the Seventh Army itself, which was south of us. But I don't recall who was in charge of the meeting.

I do recall that there were several units, like the 45th and the 42nd and that colored signal route unit, the 761st or something like that, as well as others was at it. I don't think the 101st was in on that. Of course, we were assigned to them a little later on. After we left Munich, we were assigned to the 101st Airborne.

In that meeting, was disposing of the body as a matter of sanitation or anything else? Do you know why they were trying to bury them that way?

Well, it's just a matter of knowing what to do with them, more or less. And that was the best reasoning that they'd come up with was to bury them at the location there, at Dachau, at the concentration camp, by digging trenches. I haven't been back to Dachau itself. But I understand from the men, the others, that have visited it, they still have those marked where those trenches were.

Did you see any dead bodies of the Jewish prisoners?

No, I don't believe I did. I saw some that were-- especially, later on at our kitchen, I saw them where they were cutting raw meat off dead horses and stuff like that and was eating them. They were just skeletons. I saw that. And I saw that our camps, the men. But I don't recall seeing any dead prisoners.

Could you describe seeing-- how did you go from Dachau to Waakirchen? And when did you do it?

OK.

Describe it in as much detail as you can, because that's a very important part--

OK. It was about-- we left at Dachau about on the 30th or the 1st of May. And we went to Munich. And while we was going through, I was ahead a good bit of time. In Munich itself, I run on a lot of the crates of the jet engines that the Germans had that they hadn't even been able to uncrate. And they were just boxes, loads of boxes of them.

And as we got out of Munich going South on the Autobahn, we run on just hundreds and numerous planes of the Germans that they run out of fuel. They couldn't get them in the air. And they had been using the Autobahn for a runway. They'd done that quite a bit through Germany. They were using that as their air strip.

And these engines, these planes, like I say, were just wrecked. And all along there as we went on, south and into the Bavarian Alps, and when we arrived at about 50 kilometers or close to 50 miles-- a kilometer is 6/10 of a mile. And we used both kilometers and miles in our direction in Germany.

We ran on-- we caught up with this death march, men at Waakirchen. And that's where we was able to-- the Germans

had left them there about-- oh, they said about two or three hours before we got to them. And that's where we more or less liberated those men that were still alive on that death march, which numbered about 5,000 people out of the 8,000. They had lost by death and so forth, by murder or death on the road from Dachau to Waakirchen.

And after we left there--

I want to stay on that.

OK.

Could you describe what it looked like? What-- the scene, describe--

Yeah, it was really a curious sight. I mean just seeing all those prisoners just starving to death. And they hadn't eaten for three days. And they were malnourished down to almost nothing before that, I imagine before they left Dachau. And it was a horrible sight.

And at that time, they would attempt to get food. They had to have something to eat. And that's when I saw them along the road leading into the town where they were cutting off horse meat and eating it and everything. And they would want me from our batteries and headquartered battery, all the batteries, they were wanting to get some food.

And the men were told not to feed them because they knew they couldn't stand it. But they did give them some. And as I understand, some of them did die from that.

But we didn't stay there very long. And--

What was the condition? Was it a little town?

Yes, it was a small village.

Could you describe it?

Well, it's been so long ago I don't recall just what-- it was just kind of a normal German village, which consisted of-- the villages were more or less a farming deal too. They'd have their farming animals and equipment right in the village, and their residents in their location, or the cities, of the villages. The village was made up of mostly peasant people that worked in the fields and stuff. It was a little different from our farming communities here in the States.

What was the weather like?

The weather was very cold. And it was snow. It was snowing both in the Dachau and down there, Waakirchen, where we'd come upon these prisoners. There was still snow and cold.

And they didn't have much clothing on them at all. And I don't see how they stood it really. And a lot of them didn't. I don't-- were able to take it at all.

So you remember the snow?

Yes.

How deep was the snow?

Well, best I recall is up to round 2 foot of snow or better, best that I can remember. Of course, I understand it's been close to 50 years, 48 years so since that happened. And my memory over the time is not as good as it used to be. I'm 80 years old. And I can't recall things as best as I should, I guess. I don't know. Maybe as good as could be expected. I don't know.

Did you try to feed any of the prisoners yourself personally?

No, I didn't. The men did in the batteries and the mess batteries.

Did you try to stop them from doing it?

No. I didn't personally. And I don't think any officer of the batteries did either. I think they just looked the other way and let them use their own discretion on whether to give them anything or not. I think they did hold back somewhat because they did have orders not to feed the prisoners.

What was your feelings when you saw those people? What did you feel?

Well, I felt pretty bad about it. I mean it bothered me. My disposition and everything, I couldn't hardly take it. I mean it was a pretty horrible sight to see those people in the condition that they were.

And I still-- I never got over it after the war. And I still haven't really got over seeing that kind of treatment of people. It was a horrible thing.

And, of course, this concentration camp at Dachau was the first-- it was Hitler's first concentration camp, dating back to 1933. And it was the oldest and more or less the example of what the other camps became. I understand some of the other camps were more death concentration camps maybe than Dachau was.

When you saw the prisoners, how did that change your attitude towards the Germans, if any?

Well, actually, it didn't change my actions toward the peasant Germans and the Germans in particular, and even the Wehrmacht Germans. I did have a lot of resentment and anger towards Hitler and his SS men. And I still have today a lot of resentment against them and what they done.

And before we come to the end of the story, I can tell you something about what we've done with the SS.

Yeah, please.

After May the 7th, which was the end of the war there in Europe, it was a week or two before we actually got the word that it was over, but the Germans, the soldiers were retreating and coming down the Autobahn and going back to the rear. And in the meantime, we moved back north of Munich to around the Donauworth in the Augsburg area there, north of Munich, and set up checkpoints.

And we were checking for the SS troops, men and women. And we were letting the Wehrmacht just go back home because we didn't have any reason to hold them. But we were putting the SS people back in stockades and keeping.

Why?

Well, because they had done so much damage and so much-- they were the cause of the war actually and were the main troops of the Hitler, of Himmler and Hitler. So we had orders from higher headquarters from the army, 7th Army, to confine them. I mean keep them.

And I was in charge of them, the checkpoint that the battalion had. And we would determine whether they were the SS by their marking under their armpits. They were marked with the cross, with swastika, under their armpits. So we had to have them remove the shirts and check on their armpits, see what-- and some we found. Some we didn't, of course.

We even checked the women. There was some women with the SS troops. And they were pretty ornery too.

How?

Well, they didn't like the idea of us trying to check on them to see if they were SS or not. And--

You found SS women?

Yeah.

So what would you do with them?

We would send them back to higher headquarters, to camp, to stockades that they'd set up for them.

Did you use any of the Dachau prisoners as interpreters?

No, I didn't. I don't recall whether-- I think some of the batteries did. I think some of our units did use them. Our battalion or batteries had, more or less, kept three of the prisoners from Waakirchen and kind of took them in. And they were used in any way that they could be, I think.

When you captured these SS, what was your feelings about them?

Well, it was animosity and anger. And I guess you might say hatred. And I didn't like them. Of course, I didn't like them when we were fighting against them. And I still didn't like them. And we were really after them. And they were punished in different ways, in court martial, in different ways after the war.

Did you question any of them?

Yes, we did question them. And we asked them different questions that would determine whether they were SS or not, as well as where they'd been and what they'd done. At best of my knowledge, they could speak some English.

Did you find any SS soldiers that were part of the Dachau complex?

I don't recall. I think we may have. But I don't know because those SS troops went on south towards, Berchtesgaden, to Hitler's main hideout and camp. And they were captured down close to the Austrian border, around Berchtesgaden or Salzburg in Austria. The 101st Airborne had captured some of them.

I understand you captured a ranking high officer of the SS.

Yes, one of our batteries or survey men, I'm not sure who it was, captured a general of the army, of the German army. I'm not sure whether he was SS or not.

You said you went back to Dachau.

To Donauworth, which was north of Dachau, a little bit. A few miles from the Dachau area is where we first set up our checkpoint.

Did you, after the war was over, revisit the Dachau camp?

I didn't, no. I'd done a lot of visiting around different places over the Europe area and into Belgium. And also, first I visited-- went on through Berchtesgaden and into Salzburg and different places and Vienna along the border with the Russians. And the Russians had set up patrols along the river there in Austria. And they wouldn't let the Americans cross into their territory. They were very strict.

And I visited a cousin of mine that was in a unit. He was in the infantry along there that had patrols. And they couldn't get across into the Russian territory at all. They were very strict.

You mentioned that when you looked through the gates of the main camp of Dachau that you remember the odor. Could you describe that?

Well, there was a stench, kind of a terrible odor. It's a death odor. It was-- I had run on to that odor a good many times before, especially in Italy. During our first campaign, I had smelled that death odor and the color of the death-- or the people that were dead. Of course, they changed color. But even these that were living there at the Dachau, you could smell that odor in the camp, in the area there. Like I said, I didn't get clear into the camp where I could observe.

You just looked through the gate.

Yeah.

Why didn't you actually go inside?

Well, I don't remember. I don't know why at the time I didn't. But it bothered me on what I saw and what I knew I would see, because I had an idea how bad it was. And I just didn't care about seeing that type of thing.

You had a weak stomach.

Yeah. I still had a weak stomach from my sickness in Naples.

And that that's bothered you for years, your memory.

It still has, yeah. And my memory has bothered me too. I remember those things. But a lot of particulars, I can't remember as good as I could at the time and everything. I can't remember just what happened with a lots of things. And lot of times, a lot of things, I can recall pretty good.

Have you tried to maybe suppress the memory of what you saw at Dachau?

I did. I did definitely suppress a lot of memories of Dachau and other operations when I first got out of the service. I would have nightmares and was very-- I couldn't-- noises bothered me. And I couldn't see any war movies or anything. It was years before I saw any movies. The first movie that came out on the-- Go For Broke-- Van Johnson, I didn't see it till it was played several times. And anything like that bothered me.

I wasn't under the care of a psychiatrist. But I was told I should have been. But I was hard to get along with. My wife can attest to that.

And it bothered my work a good bit. I was a petroleum engineer with the oil company that I had been with before. And after the war, I worked with them for about five years. And then I went to consultant work for myself because they couldn't get along with me and I couldn't get along with them. So it did affect me a good bit after the war.

Did you discuss what you saw in Dachau with Sergeant Kajioka? In other words, tell you what he went and saw when he went in there.

No, not very much. As I recall, he didn't. But I've been told that I told him to not say too much about it or did not mention it to anyone because we had ordered not to. I don't recall that we had that such an order. But I think it could have been just a misunderstanding or that the fact that we didn't want to bring it up at the time.

That's the best I can recall is the reason we didn't. And for that reason, it wasn't mentioned, as far as the battalion itself was concerned, that we actually was in Dachau till a number of years later before, as you know we got any media attention to the fact that we was there and liberated Dachau. There wasn't much said about it.

Why do you think that is?



Well, I think it's because we were moving so fast. And like Major Wright, who was at this last reunion, wrote me after the reunion. And he brought it out pretty good that at the time, we didn't think it's such a big deal. We didn't think too much about it because we were moving so fast. And at the occasion, we just didn't think about us being liberators in the camp or anything at the time. I think that was partly the whole thing was that we didn't realize that we had done anything more than we should have in a war situation.

Do you feel it's important now?

Yes, I do.

Why?

Well, I think for a couple of reasons. For one, I think due the fact that we were a minority group and there was so much prejudice against the unit before it was formed and after it was formed that it is important to realize what this group had done during their sojourn in combat. I mean I think it's very important.

And also, I think it's important for the Jewish community in particular too, as well as the Japan ancestry people, American Japan ancestry. I think the Jewish people recognize that it was another minority group that rescued them. And I think it's important to them as well as important to the our people.

And also, I think the public in general, the American public, should be aware of it. And I realize that the books now being written and people are becoming more informed on the subject. But I still think there's a lot of way to go, especially in getting the government to realize what went on. Of course, you're acquainted and have done more work on that than I have more. And you know about that than I do.

Well, in fact, your unit was not recognized and it's still not recognized as a liberating unit. How do you feel about that?

Well, I think we should be. I definitely think we should be. And I think if the records would show that we were there and did liberate the Jewish people from Dachau. And we have documentation for that effect. But so far, I guess, we haven't been able to prove it to the US government.

I think the books and the material that's come out, like the Go For Broke by Chester Tanaka and The Bridge of Love by John--

Tsukano.

Tsukano, yeah. I think they have done a lot of good in informing people. I don't know how that has reached the American public or not.

You recently met Mr. Solly Ganor, who was one of the people who you liberated at Waakirchen.

Yes.

Could you describe what it felt like to meet him?

Well, yeah, it was something that impressed me quite a bit. All the survivors that I have met or heard about have impressed me as being able to live through it and then get to the position they are.

I didn't actually see Solly Ganor at Waakirchen. But I've read about him and, of course, saw him at the Holocaust project, or a project meeting.

You and your wife asked if you could be unofficial family members with Mr. Ganor.

Well, yes, I guess we could be.

He said that you gave him a new lease on life. And that by saving him, you saved his family and all of his children and grandchildren. So that you saved many people by chasing the Germans off. How do you feel about that?

Well, I think that is most likely the truth. And I feel that honor that he appreciates the fact that was the case, that we did more or less save him for 48 years deal, as well as his family. And I think that goes through with the other survivors also.

Did you witness any other units ahead of your forward observation section-- in other words, what I'm saying was, were you ahead of the whole Seventh Army?

No, I don't think we were ever ahead of the sector of the Seventh Army. I don't think we ever got that far. As far as I know, we never did get out of our sector, out of the Seventh Army area. Even in Germany, I don't think we did.

Were there other troops in front of you?

There was the 101st Airborne, the infantry, and different infantry and tank outfits were ahead of us during the German campaign.

How about at Dachau?

At Dachau, it was more or less each unit was more or less on their own. And there wasn't any actually ahead of any. They just all in the area. That's the reason that there was much controversy on who took what or where the units were at the time. And due to the fact that there were so many satellite camps besides the main Dachau camp, there's been a lot of confusion in the media on who liberated who.

The way I look at it, everybody was a liberator that was in the area that helped do it. That's the way I look at it. I may be wrong. But I think I think all the units that was in the Dachau area more or less were liberators.

Do you recall any fighting in the Dachau area at all? And were there any firing missions or any--

No--

--small arms fire?

No.

None whatsoever?

No, because we actually didn't see many German soldiers, if any, because they were gone. It's been reported that there were some soldiers, guards, at the front main gate of Dachau proper. I have read where there was soldiers killed at the gate. But I don't know of any that was left. The best that I remember that actually happened was that most of Himmler's SS troops and the guards left with these prisoners. And there wasn't any left.

Did you see any of the dead German guards that were killed?

No. Like I say, I don't know whether there was any or not. I just heard there was.

Is there any other things that you can remember about Dachau that I haven't asked you?

Well, I think we've covered it pretty good to the best I can recall. Like I say, my memory's not as good as it was 48 years ago. And I don't know-- and we were moving so fast then that we weren't there that long. About the day after and after this meeting that I attended, we were still moving to a different location.

And we moved so many times. Even from the beginning of the German campaign, we moved so many times that we weren't settled down any length of time at any command post or any area. We were just on the move up until the end of the war. And we got--

Your objective was Munich.

Well, at one time it was, yeah. Our objective, after we broke down the defenses along the Rhine River, our objective and sector that we were supposed to follow was to get to Munich, which we did. And then after we left Munich, our objective was Berchtesgaden, Hitler's hideout, in the Austria country.

Now, did that for a fact to be a military objective was--

You mean Munich and--

Berchtesgaden.

Berchtesgaden. Yes, we more or less knew that was they're last place that they would be would be in that area around Berchtesgaden.

So you had orders to drive to Berchtesgaden?

More or less, yeah. Just about the same orders we had to take Munich was to, as fast as we could, is to catch up with the Germans and destroy them, destroy their effectiveness as an army.

From the time that you helped to participate in the liberation of Dachau until the end of the war, were there any battery firing missions?

Not that I remember. I don't believe there was. In fact, there wasn't any at Dachau either.

And for a good while, before the war was over, we didn't have any firing missions as I remember. I don't remember any. Our main firing missions and main offence was around the Rhine River, around Heidelberg and Mannheim and some of those places close to where they had put up a stronghold of defense, their last offense.

In March?

Yeah, in March.

So your--

Last of March. Well, I think we crossed the Rhine River there about March 22, best I can recall is the dates. My dates are not too good. I can remember some of them.

But I think from about the March of 12th when the time we went in campaign in Germany as a separate battalion and captured the Siegfried Line people, we were with the 63rd Division. And that was about March the 12th to the 22nd. And after that, of course, we crossed the Rhine River and broke down the defenses of the Germans.

And from then on, it was just a matter of trying to catch up with them and get where we could do some firing on them. And we didn't have hardly any artillery targets at all. They were mostly tanks and what infantry was chasing them, just mop them up. And we didn't have much of a targets to fire on.

So there was virtually no action from the end of March until the end of the war?

That is true.

So you were mostly patrolling and observation.

Yeah. Mainly April, all of April. And, of course, little May was mostly trying to catch up with them and observing their retreat. They were retreating, which they'd done pretty fast because they didn't have any way to defend themselves. And all they could do is retreat.

I'm sure they knew that the war was over, was going to be over, because they were beaten. After their last defense broke down at the Rhine River, they didn't have any recourse. Their air force was gone. They didn't have any air force.

They had little bit right there at the Rhine on the defense there. But they broke down because they run out of fuel and stuff. And so we didn't have any opposition from the air in April before we got to Munich.

Did you actually go to Berchtesgaden, Hitler's--

I did, but not while the war was on. Right after the war, right after we knew the war was over, I went on down there and saw the Eagle Nest where Hitler's hideout was. And our air force had bombed the surface installations to pieces. There wasn't no installations left on the surface, on the Eagle's Nest, on the mountain.

And I stayed there for a day or two. And then I went on to Salzburg and Vienna on that same trip in my Jeep and saw what I could in the countryside. Later on, I made a trip up through Germany into Luxembourg and into Brussels, Belgium. And then, of course, I got in to Paris. I tried to see all of the country after the war that I could.

Did you see--

We were in occupation status.

Did you serve with the 101st Airborne Division?

Yes. Our last missions, our last of the war, as far as I know, we were with 101st. And they were the ones, I think, went into Berchtesgaden, the 101st. Of course, they were ahead of us. And we never got quite that far. But that was our target and our mission was to follow them as part of their division.

Part of the mission was to truck the 101st Airborne to Berchtesgaden. Were you aware of that?

No. You mean our battalion?

Yeah.

No, I wasn't aware of that. I might have been at the time. But I don't recall it now.

Can you describe in more detail what you witnessed at Berchtesgaden-- we have a lot of pictures of Japanese-Americans and troops. What did you see in detail? You mentioned it was blown up.

You mean at Berchtesgaden?

Yeah. Hitler's command post in Austria.

Well, they had captured a lot of valuable pictures, portraits, and things that were in the cars. And I visited them. I saw them that they had been captured that Hitler that had, had captured them self, themselves had captured from the people.

Were trains full of them?

Yeah, there was trains full of those. And I observed that. And--

Did you go through the ruins and--

Yes, I went through the ruins on the surface, which I say, they was really messed up. I didn't get in the elevator and go down into the mountain by elevator. I don't know whether it was in operation anymore or not at that time. I don't know. Of course, Hitler had left there and gone to Berlin. And I don't know how long or when he occupied Berchtesgaden. Of course, some of the SS and some of the troops were there until we got there, but--

Did you take any pictures during the war?

I took a lot of personal pictures. But not pictures of-- I took some pictures of the ruins, of CPs, and stuff like that. I had an old Brownie camera that I took a good number of pictures while I was over there. But I don't have any pictures of Dachau.

Where were you when the war ended on May 8?

I was on my way to Berchtesgaden down there, somewhere to our last command posts. I don't know-- I don't recall what the name of it was. But it was below Waakirchen down there in the Austrian, Bavarian Alps in Austria, at the edge of Austria.

How did you hear that the war ended?

We got the word through command. I guess it was from the 101st that we got the command that the war was over. We knew it was about over because of all the Germans that were retreating and coming back. And we, more or less, knew the war was over on May the 7th or 8th. But we didn't get the orders officially until, I think, about May the 15th or later, a week or two later.

How did you feel when you heard the war was over?

Well, I suppose I was elated that eventually assume I could go back home. I was tired of fighting and relieved that it was the end of it, where we could eventually go back home. Of course, what happened, they put us in occupation and kept us over there a number of months.

I got word that I could go home in September. So I decided to go home. I kind of wished later that I had to waited until the November, December when the unit came home. I would have liked to come back with them. But most of the officers had left the battalion, the regiment officers had left the battalion before I did in July and August. They had gone to other units because they wanted to be in position to go to Japan, I suppose, or have other assignments, the reason they got out of the unit.

Our unit was left with mostly young officers. Of course, some of them were captains. But a good many were junior grade officers.

And I was assigned as a AS3 of the battalion on paper before I left in September. When I got word that I could go back, I had about 100 and-- they were going by points. They were going by points to get out. Of course, I had about 104 or 6 points. I had two children at that time. One of them was born on November the 1st of 1944 at the liberation of the Lost Battalion. So I remember that pretty easy. I can associate the Lost Battalion campaign with my daughter, who was born on the 1st of November. And then that made two.

My oldest boy was born in '38. He was about five when we were at Camp Shelby, my oldest boy. Of course, he's going on 55 now. He's older than you are.

But I would definitely say that I don't think I could have served with a better unit than the combat team in the 522nd Field Artillery. That's my feeling. And I will always think that.

And to this day, I get to go vote [INAUDIBLE]. I'm a member of the Hawaiian 442nd Veterans Club. I carry my card

with me. So I'm all for them. And I'm all for what anyone can do to help them get recognized.

You're happy about the celebration of this week?

I am. I thought it was very good and appropriate. I thought it was well conducted. We about to run out of time?

We're about at the end of the tape. This is the end of the tape and we'd like to thank Captain Taylor for coming all this way from Moore, Oklahoma, and celebrating this week, this Yom HaShoah, which means the Day of Remembrance of the Holocaust. And you are now an official witness of the Holocaust and a hero of the 522nd of the 442nd. As I've always said, I've heard that you were one of the most popular officers to serve. And now I see why. Thank you for coming here.

Well, thank you for the honor and privilege of coming. I didn't realize-- I didn't think I was going to get to come. But Major Wright couldn't come. He was invited. And he couldn't come. And he told me about it. And I think he told you all about it, the fact that I might be able to come. And I'm glad to come.

You made our day. You made our week.

Thank you.