

WWII Interview
Carter Ruby
My Grandfather
My House in Los Angeles
Sunday February 7th, 2010
Typed Verbatim

Were you drafted or did you enlist?

Enlisted.

Where were you living at the time?

West La

Why did you join?

Why did you pick the service branch you joined?

The infantry ROTC participated in the last 4 years of college

Do you recall your first days in the service?

When the whole senior ROTC (reserve officers training corps) class at UCLA was picked in buses and taken to point Fermin by san Pedro.

What did it feel like?

I had volunteered taken to point Fermin made corporals which is a noncommissioned officer to prepare for the journey to Fort Benning Georgia in the officer's training core

What was boot camp like?

We weren't actually in boot camp but at Fort Macarthur all of the ROTC students were put in one company and trained in the short period of time that we had before going to Fort Benning Georgia for officer's training.

When did you serve?

From 1941 to 1943

[ACTUALLY 1943-1946]

Where did you go?

France, England, Germany and Belgium

Do you remember arriving and what was it like?

We arrived by convoy from ft Meade Maryland to the firth of Clyde in Scotland. in the middle of the night and took a train from Scotland to England at stop called Atterly Hall. From ft Meade we were loaded onto a 100 ship convoy with 100 officers and 100 enlisted men in our particular banana boat and we encountered several sightings on the way to Scotland of submarines. We landed in Glasgow Scotland. From there we went to Atterly Hall by train which is in England at an area set aside for American troops to train in. I was there for several weeks and went on to Southampton at the southeast corner of England. There we were programmed to prepare for crossing the English Channel into France along with many other types of military personal. We crossed the channel about 3

days after the 1st ships landed in Normandy France at a place called Utah beach, which was one of the 3 main points of entry into France. The weather was bad and muddy and we moved as quickly to the north as we could depending on how the fighting troops were doing ahead of us. It's hard to imagine the amount of debris that was left along the beach from the 1st couple of waves that landed along the shore. The armored infantry tanks moved north toward Paris as quickly as they could and the replacement personal followed them into Paris which they had fairly secured except for a few hangars on and small arms fire.

What was your job/assignment?

In training at Atterly Hall was a place that had been acquired for use by the U.S. troops for training and our primary job there was to train and become proficient in infantry activities. We went to Georgia to do our officer training and while there we graduated from our training program and became second lieutenants. From there most of us went to camp Rucker Alabama for more training and platoon leadership, weapons, reconnaissance and map reading. Following that I was transferred to Jackson Mississippi (camp Shelby) where I was assigned to the position of training officer comp officer and I.R. (intelligence and recon maneuvers) supplemented with a lot of physical training and about one month in the hospital with pneumonia. And from there I was transferred to fort Meade Marilyn in prep of going overseas.

Did you see combat?

We were not actively involved in combat. We followed them up.

Were there many casualties in your unit?

We were not given a casualty count.

What were a couple of your most memorable experiences?

While we were still in London it was interesting to look out the window of the hotel and see a buzz bomb and flying past us and making the typical put-put noise that they make only to be followed by another that landed about two blocks from where we were.

Were you a P.O.W.?

No

Were you awarded any metals or citations?

I had the European theater metal and I think there were a couple others in there but I can't think what they were.

How did you stay in touch with your family?

By mail. I didn't get to talk to my brothers but both of them came back to dc when I was coming back to ft Meade Marilyn and the 3 of us met at the Hilton hotel where the camera man took our picture and said that we were the first 3 brothers who were officers during the war so that picture was free and it caused much confusion among the desk clerks when we all checked in as lieutenant ruby.

What was the food like?

The food was good, filling and typical army food rations.

Did you have plenty of supplies?

Yes

Did you feel pressure or stress?

Was there something special you did for luck?

I ducked a couple of times.

How did people entertain themselves?

They would play cards. They usually had a recreation room set up someplace near where the soldiers were billeted.

Were there entertainers?

I never did see one of them like you see on television

Where did you travel while in the service?

I travelled to France, England, Germany and Belgium

Do you recall any particularly humorous or unusual events?

I think maybe one of the things that were humorous was that during the trials Admiral Raeder and Admiral Dönitz who were sitting just behind Herman Göring would talk to me in a low voice to try to upset me and of course I could not answer them so I just swallowed it and shut up.

What were some of the pranks that you or others would pull?

That was one of the biggest pranks pulled on me.

Do you have photographs?

Yes (all of his photographs are in a safe deposit box so he did not bring them)

What did you think of fellow soldiers or soldiers?

Did you keep a personal diary?

No.

Do you recall the day your service ended?

September 6 1943

[THIS IS ACTUALLY HIS ENTRY DATE -
DISCHARGE WAS SET 11, 1946]

Where were you?

At Camp Beale CA that's where I was processed.

What did you do afterwards?

Pre discharge I was able to get a job with a major oil company in their laboratories shortly their after I moved into a sales position and stayed with that company for 38 years. General Petroleum then changed to Mobil Oil the finally Exxon Mobil.

Did you go to work or back to school?

Work.

Did you make any close friendships while in the service?

I had many close friends who went into the service with me, most of whom came out of the service without injury, however too many of them were lost out of the original class out of UCLA who went into the service with me.

Did you continue any of those relationships?

Yes since they were school chums when we went into the service after the war many of them were still in the west part of la but there are fewer of them left now.

For how long?

As long as they lived.

Did you join a veteran's organization?

I joined the reserves for a period of time and dropped it when my term was up.

What did you do as a career after the war?

I joined Exxon Mobil and worked there for over thirty years.

Did your military experience influence your thinking about war or about the military in general?

I'd say yes. It gave me a positive feeling I felt that we should go in when were ready and know that we can beat the enemy.

Do you attend reunions?

No.

How did your service and experiences affect your life?

I got to travel a lot and saw many of the things that I had only wondered about prior to going into the service primarily in the S.E. part of the U.S. and in Europe.

Did you meet anyone of consequence during your service?

Yes I met everyone on trial at Nuremberg because I was a prison guard there.

Is there anything you would like to add that we have not covered?

(The Rest of the Story)

So while in Paris I served as a headquarters officer which consisted of some administrative activities and courier work. My next assignment was to go back to a town named Biarritz France near the border of Spain where I was named supply officer for 1000 men and 1000 professors who were going to instruct the men at a university level. my job was to provide them with all of their school needs as well as rations and food to be served in the mess halls as things progressed some of our requisitions were not completed and on one occasion a requisition for the mess halls was deleted and partially

filled in Marseilles France by giving us a whole boxcar load of macaroni which caused us to do a little bargaining in exchange for wine with the local population in Bordeaux. We got some very good wine. As the initial 1000 soldiers completed their education of languages and science and history and were sent back to the states I was ordered to close shop and report to an administrative job in Paris from which I was almost immediately transferred to Leigh Belgium where there was a replacement training camp my job there was to be a company commander of an entire company of black soldiers. They provided several interesting incidents but were very good overall. It was on that trip from Paris to Leigh Belgium that my driver and I in a jeep were fired upon by some kind of heavy artillery which shook us up but did no harm we believed that it came from some of the combatants in the Battle of the bulge, which was to our east. After a relatively short time in Leigh I was given the opportunity to go to Nuremburg Germany where I was assigned to be one of the six prison officers at the war crimes trials of the leaders of the Hitler regime. Fortunately I was given complete access to the prison and handled the feeding exercise and court room appearances of all the 21 defendants. There were six of us prison officers who worked in shifts of 2 each in either the prison or the courtroom and while I was there my position in the courtroom were right Goring's right elbow. Each prisoner was tried individually in their order of assent in the German hierarchy and I was promoted to first lieutenant and given the opportunity after the 17th prisoner was tried to stay longer or to go to Greece to the elections as an American representative or to go home. I chose the latter and took another ship back from London to New York with many other troops and especially recall our passing of the statue of liberty and the tall buildings of New York City which brought the troops all to their knees. My discharge from the service after three years was finalized at Camp Beale, California, where I was pleased to see my lieutenant brother an officer in the navy and my captain brother who had come back from Korea from the marine core.

] ELDEST
BROTHER'S
PROMOTION TO
CAPTAIN WAS
LATER, IN KOREA