

# Verle Quigley

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**Question:** Just so I have it on videotape, if you could give me your first and last name and the correct spelling and then tell me what your nickname so I have it on videotape, so if you would go ahead and do that. First and last name.

**Answer:** Right now?

**Question:** Yes, please.

**Answer:** First name is Verle Quigley, and my nickname is Bruce.

**Question:** Bruce, okay. Everybody knows you by Bruce.

**Answer:** Yes.

**Question:** If I said Verle Quigley, nobody would even know who the heck that is.

**Answer:** Or Quentin.

**Question:** Now did you grow up in -- did you grow up in Port Angeles?

**Answer:** No, I -- my wife came from the Joyce area right out of Port Angeles here, but no, I was -- I was born in Illinois but just when I was still a baby came to Montana because that's where my dad was homesteading. And so we -- I've lived there all my life until '92 when we -- I retired from banking and so then we moved out here. I explained to my wife that she spent 40 years in Montana with me and so now I'll spend 40 years with you out here. Well, I'll be a little long in the tooth if that happens. (laughs)

**Question:** What part of Montana?

**Answer:** Near Great Falls. A little town, Geraldine, near Great Falls, Montana

**Answer:**

**Question:** I used to with Missoula Children's Theatre, and so I've toured -- I've been to Harding, I've been to Harlan, I've been to --

**Answer:** Yes, they really got around, didn't they?

**Question:** I have property at Pony, Montana

**Answer:**

**Answer:** Let's see now --

**Question:** And I knew I'd get that look.

**Answer:** I'm familiar with the name but where is it located?

**Question:** It is in between Butte and Bozeman. It's about half way in between and there's some -- there's some hot springs there. And I'm trying to think of that -- I can't even think of the name of that major city that's by it, but it's real funny, cause if you look at the map the highway goes, and it stops, and that's where Pony is.

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**Answer:** And how big is Pony?

**Question:** Pony is --

**Answer:** It's even smaller than Geraldine, I'm sure.

**Question:** Oh yeah, oh, yeah. I mean it's -- it's -- they have a post office there. You know, and it's helter-skelter. Fact I have -- my mom bought the lots as a joke numbers of years, but see, I love Montana

**Answer:**

**Answer:** Oh, I -- I did -- do.

**Question:** I want to -- see, I'm looking for property over there.

**Question:** Now where were you then when Pearl Harbor happened?

**Answer:** I was going to University of Montana in Missoula

**Answer:** And since we had gone out the night before and didn't get back until quite late, the next morning, when I woke up that morning, the first thing I heard was that Pearl Harbor had occurred. Very first thing I heard when I woke up.

**Question:** And what was the attitude in Montana? Because you're a little farther away from the Coast than say,-- Neah Bay --

**Answer:** Well, yeah, well, there wasn't any, you know, we were so far inland that we didn't need to do like they did out here and start going to lights, blackouts and so forth. No, it was -- it was, of course, a big shock, and the talk of everybody, but no, as far as security measures there was -- there was really none to worry about.

**Question:** Well now did you then enlist or were you drafted?

**Answer:** I was -- by the time my number was coming up, I was going to the law school in the University of Montana and so they deferred me until the end of that first year of law school. And so then, time to go to -- to sign up and be drafted. And that's -- that was in July when we went down the first time. And then really actively I was in early August when I was drafted into the service.

**Question:** Of which year?

**Answer:** 1942.

**Question:** '42.

**Answer:** Yeah.

**Question:** And so what did you think about that, about being drafted. Here you're a young college kid and --

**Answer:** Well, I -- I could understand that that was very necessary, and that didn't bother me at all.

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**Question:** So which branch of the service did you end up in?

**Answer:** It was the Army Signal Corps. And so then I -- so then I went to Fort Douglas, Utah and then they said well, we're going to put you in radio maintenance and repair. And I explained, I said I don't know thing number one about radio. And they said well that's fine and dandy, we'll teach you. (laughs)

**Question:** I wonder how they decided that you should do a radio thing?

**Answer:** I really don't know. But I have to say that I did enjoy it. When I fixed both FM and AM radios and transmitters, you know, we had a tech truck. And it was all new to me but, yes, I enjoyed it. And really a plush spot to be during a war because here you are in a nice warm tech truck and -- and -- wasn't like the Infantry, way out there in the cold, you know.

**Question:** My brother. It's been kind of fun. This is the first project that I've brought him in on. I've done this for about 16 years now. And lots of different -- not like Bill Clinton or Rodham, there's no \$400,000 --.

**Question:** So when did you ship out of the States then and go -- cause you ended up where, in Europe?

**Answer:** Yes, about -- I was in Europe in nine different countries. For about a year and eight months. And we went across in a -- a -- we left, I guess you call it debarked, from Miles Standish, just outside of Boston, on a 50-ship convoy. And ours -- our ship was the SS Barnquinn (?) I think it was the smallest ship of the 50. And you know you can go no faster than the slowest ship. But they -- it not only went up and down with each trough, but it rolled as it went. (laughs) And I remember this one guy was -- he was sick. We were down in the hold and he was sick before they even started the motors before we started. He was seasick, and he was -- by the time we got to North Ireland where we went first, why, he was just about green, you know, he hadn't eaten anything and he said oh, if I ever get off this thing, I'll never get on another one. (laughs)

**Question:** So did you get off at Ireland then or did you keep --

**Answer:** We got off at Belfast and that is, of course, where the Titanic was built. And big shipyards there. And so we were stationed at a little camp there outside of Belfast, maybe about 12 miles or so. And it was called Slev on the Gravelry, but as far as the GIs were concerned, it was Sleeve in the Gravy. (laughs) Easy to say.

**Question:** You know the interesting thing that I've discovered with the different veterans is that you got a very good geography lesson --

**Answer:** Oh, yes.

**Question:** -- in all your travels.

**Answer:** Oh, yes. When you go through nine countries, (laughs)

**Question:** So which are the nine countries you went through?

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**Answer:** Well it was first in North Ireland, then England, then France and then, let's see. Germany and Nuremberg -- I mean -- what did I say. Germany and then Belgium. And German -- did I say Germany? And anyway, and then Austria, and then Czechoslovakia

**Answer:**

**Question:** So you saw a lot of countries.

**Answer:** Yes, certainly did.

**Question:** So at what stage was the war at this point? Was there still a lot of heavy fighting going on or --

**Answer:** Oh, yes. And of course I was -- the Lord was looking after me all the way because, you know with the invasion on June 6th. I wasn't in on that. Yes, I was in England ready to go across but I didn't have to board ship and go across until July 27th. And by that time we landed at Utah Beach, and goodness, everything was kind of settled down. And so there again I was very fortunate.

**Question:** Definitely. I mean that -- was it -- when you got there, well, was the news good enough that you knew what had happened prior to you being there and --

**Answer:** Oh, yes, yes. Of course the Stars and the Stripes, the little Army magazine, come out. But then you generally knew what was going on, yes.

**Question:** I didn't know if they tried to hold up knowledge of -- of huge battles so that the soldiers wouldn't be afraid of going places. But it sounds like --

**Answer:** I don't recall that that was so. I know when we were -- when we started down the -- from the what, the Brittany location down toward the -- going south, that when we got down to Avaranches and Porable (?) that the Germans were -- had planned to come right through there. And it was just because the British -- and I think they had torpedo bombs. But anyway, they were able to blunt the attack there, so they didn't come through. But if they had we'd been at a very bad place. Real fortunate again.

**Question:** Was the -- the countryside pretty devastated when you got there -- I mean after the Battle of --

**Answer:** Oh, yes. Whenever -- whenever the -- the Armies go through, you know, it just devastates the countryside. I remember seeing a cow in a tree, you know, just blown up and here this cow was in a -- in a tree. Dead cow, of course.

**Question:** That must have been a little disheartening.

**Answer:** Well, yeah, it --

**Question:** I mean --

**Answer:** Yes. And the hedge rows, I know that the first couple of nights we were there, German planes would come over, and they would send flares out and it would just be like daylight. And they were taking photos. And I remember kind of, huddling -- cuddling up to the hedge rows because you know, you just felt like you were right out there, and exposed. But, yes.

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**Question:** So you didn't go out and wave for the pictures?

**Answer:** You -- you made yourself as small as possible. (laughs)

**Question:** Now you, if I understand right, liberated a concentration camp, is that --

**Answer:** Oh, yes, yeah.

**Question:** Where was that? Tell me a little bit about getting there and what happened.

**Answer:** Well, that was in eastern Germany. By this time I -- you see I was.. we were on detached service to Patton's 4th Armored Division, and so now the war's beginning to wind down. And so we went to this concentration camp. Really General Eisenhower and Patton had been there the other -- the day before and it had been -- it had been liberated. And so we went the next day and it -- it was -- the most shocking experience, of anything I saw during the war. Now this camp was called Ordorf and it was small compared with a lot of other ones that you hardly hear it mentioned. But there were -- there were hundreds and hundreds of bodies around and I didn't go down there but they said there is a big pond down there and you could see arms and legs and feet and so forth of people that had been murdered. But this one place, they had, it was about six foot tall and they had stacked people one way and then crossways and just tiers of -- of starved people. There wasn't any. You know there's hardly any muscle on them, they were starved to death. Killed one way or another. But, you know, it was -- and I walked around and saw all of this and heard the medical officer explain, because they were still walking around, what had been prisoners, were still walking around. But he said we have to be very careful not to feed them just right away; we have to be very careful to feed them little amounts. Because they're -- their stomachs are so shrunk and everything, we have to bring them back carefully. But it was -- like I say -- Ordorf was, and there was really thousands of people killed there. But it was so minor compared with some of the other ones that you hardly hear it mentioned. But I have to say that the people down in the town of Ordorf didn't know what was going on up there. Because I heard afterwards that, of course, what they did, the Americans, was to bring the people up from the town and show them this concentration camp. And I heard that the mayor and his wife of Ordorf committed suicide after they saw that. That's what I heard, anyway.

**Question:** Was it -- was it hard -- I mean here you have these people that have been starved, and I assume, but maybe I assume incorrectly. But they're saying feed me, feed me, feed me, and you're saying I can't feed you -- is that what happened --

**Answer:** No, they really were quite unresponsive. They were wandering around in -- in these striped clothing that was characteristic of the concentration camp prisoners. They were just in -- they were in a daze. Because they -- they really weren't very responsive. But they were just, like I say, bringing them back, feeding them very carefully, small amounts. And like I say it was -- it was the most shocking thing that I saw in the whole war.

**Question:** It sounds almost like the living dead.

**Answer:** Yes. Yeah. We and I didn't talk to any of them because they really weren't communicating with -- with the soldiers that were there. They were quite unresponsive. They -- they wandered around and they couldn't hardly believe what had happened, you know, that they were finally liberated.

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**Question:** What was the facility like when you -- do you remember coming in and seeing it? I mean did you know before you even got there and looked at it, that oh, there's this basically death camp or was it hid behind gates or --

**Answer:** Well, as I recall, it was walled in. And I remember when we first got there, there was, laying on the ground, an SS trooper that -- he didn't get away, somebody had killed him as he tried to escape. And you know, you couldn't have very much sympathy for him because they had -- had so terribly mistreated and killed so many people.

**Question:** I've talked to a couple of POWs and I said how did you know the war was over, both in a Japanese POW camp and a German POW camp. They said well we woke up one morning and all the guards were gone. And I said -- and I thought and I said well why was that. And they said because they knew that we would kill them. And so when the guards heard the war was over, they all took off before everybody -- and they woke up one morning and there wasn't a camp there.

**Answer:** I was just going to mention that this fellow that I knew very well from our little town of Geraldine, he had been in the Air Corps and a Flying Fortress, been shot down, and of course he was a prisoner of war for a long time. But now the war's winding down and -- and all of a sudden, he finds that the prisoners, or the guards, have left. Just as you're mentioning. They were no place to be seen. And so they just wandered around till they finally found some Americans and just said hey, we're -- we're prisoners of war -- we're -- we're here. And he had, you know, he had lost something like 80 pounds. He was just a, you know, skin and bones. Which he then came home and started eating right and soon was back to his normal weight. (laughs)

**Question:** It's so hard for my generation, but it will probably be even more difficult for generations to come to understand that -- to -- to see the reality of that -- to know what was faced by the -- by the soldiers, whether you were in a POW camp or just in the --

**Answer:** You know, in that regard, I was of course World War II, but World War I was -- the end of that was 1918, wasn't it. And to me it seemed like ancient history. But now look, here we are 50-some years after World War II, and of course when you've been through it, it's just like it was yesterday.

**Question:** I was -- a friend of mine teaches here at middle school and I was talking to him last night, and saying it's interesting because the kids that are in high school today -- Viet Nam War, to them, historically, is what World War II was to me in a time distance. And so for all these high school kids, World War II was what Napoleon was in.

**Answer:** Yes.

**Question:** And so it's real hard to -- to get them to understand --

**Answer:** Yes, I can certainly understand that because in that same vein, you know, I was thinking World War I, oh my, that was a long, long time ago. And you know, there's some that would question there was ever such a thing as a concentration camp like Ordorf. Well, I was there. I know.

**Question:** I talked to one veteran and I can't think of the camp that he went to, but -- and they didn't know -- he said they could smell it before they got there. And they got there and similar to your experience of seeing these soldiers, but when they left and they marched on to wherever it was they were going, he said that he can't remember anybody talking about it.

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They would talk about all the other atrocities, but it was such a shock and so overwhelming to them that they -- that that was one thing they just couldn't bring themselves to even discuss.

**Answer:** Well in that regard I remember that when we - of course there was other people of our outfit that went up there, you know. There were several trucks. But it was such a shocking experience that I don't remember one other person that I went up there with. It was just like I was alone, you know, just looking at this and going through these so-called hospitals where they were keeping track of how long they were going to be before they were dead. Oh, it was -- and so I just -- I've tried to recollect now, who all did I go up there with from our outfit. Can't even remember. (laughs)

**Question:** So like a dream.

**Answer:** Yeah. Yes. I was just there alone.

**Question:** Were they -- were they -- like you talked about the supposed hospital. Was it just a big long flat building or do you remember what it --

**Answer:** Oh, it had rooms, and you know, I would go into these rooms and look and here they were keeping charts at the foot of the bed. I don't know why, because all those people -- those people was going to do is die. But --

**Question:** Well I know Hitler did a lot of sick research. You know so they -- I guess the irony is that out of some of it -- in fact I met a gentleman who had been at a prison camp and he'd come back to the states. And I forget what disease he had, but he got cured of it. And the cure was actually developed by research that was done in the prison camp that he was at. When he went back, he went back for a reunion and it just -- he just broke down because -- the happiness but guilt but --

**Answer:** Hm-hmm.

I was fortunate in this way, that before I got into the service, I had gone to college in Haver, Montana, and I had taken two quarters of French. And this teacher, Ms. Vontobo(?) was -- she wasn't one that taught it from the book, she'd been to Paris two or three times. And so she -- it was -- was talking French. So I, like the first day I went to class and I happened to be the last one in the class and she told me in French to close the door. Ouvre la porte. And she wouldn't say it in English until I finally got the drift and closed the door, you know. But she was such an excellent teacher that that two quarters of French just made it so much better for -- I was the official spokesman for our tech truck because I could speak a little French.

**Question:** You could tell them to close the door, open a window, and pick up the pencil.

**Answer:** Yeah, and all of that. And when we got to this little town of Bodange, now we're talking about the Bastogne -- you know the breakthrough and when Hitler thought he was going to -- and he surprised by the Allies by going through and this was a surprise, really, a surprise move on -- and a desperate move as far as he was concerned. But it was a surprise. And so while were fixing radios down in the Saar Basin, the call came through, get back to your company area as fast as possible -- because just drop everything, we're moving. And so that -- we got back there and we took off -- I mean I never saw the -- the Army move so fast. And you know, tech -- all kinds of trucks. And I did drive a lot of trucks and jeeps during my stay there because I was brought up on a farm and I knew how to drive. But anyway, we -- we finally got to -- there was no signposts or anything. And we -- what we did was to go -- we wound up in Bastogne, and we -- I think it was just about the time that the Allies were

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able to push the Germans out because we asked this guy and he was wandering around with a -- with a mess kit in his hand -- where we were. He said he didn't know. He said my buddy got killed right over there last night, and he was no help at all. Well, we finally figured out that we certainly didn't belong there. And so we went back down to this little town of Bodange, about 12 mile south of Bastogne, and the fellow in charge of our tech truck says Craig, you know -- you know a little French. See if you can't find someplace where we can stay. Because it was cold and snow on the ground, you know. And so the very second place I went to, this lady came to the door and I explained that we were trying to find a place to stay and she says, well, yes, we'll just take all of the furniture out of the living room and you can put your sleeping bags in there. And so we stayed with them, I think about three weeks and ate with them, you see. And they -- they had this little niece of theirs, Odette Mueller, and she was only about four years old, you know, and she would come into the tech truck and play while -- we had the tech truck backed up so we could use their electricity, you see. And she would come in there with her dolls and play. And you know it's so easy for little children to pick up a language. You know, we'd be talking and she'd be repeating almost unconsciously the last two or three words of each conversation. (laughs) And she also -- one of her duties was to take a little container down to where the mess hall was. We weren't eating with our -- with the people -- with our Army place because we were eating with -- with the Peschans you know. Renee' Peschan and his wife. And so we pooled our ten and one rations with their food. And it worked out great because they had deficiencies and they thought those dog biscuits that we ate were very good, you know, and we thought their dark bread which they didn't -- they'd had a lot of that. We, oh, would always take that and they would take the so-called dog biscuits. And so Renee' was -- he didn't speak any English, but I spoke enough French so that I could teach him to pay cribbage in French. And so we would play cribbage about every night, you know. (laughs)

**Question:** So here's the war going on and you're having a nice little French meal and little niece is playing dolls in the --

**Answer:** Yes. I mean, again, the Lord was really protecting me. I mean, just so -- there's so much going on that was so terrible, and yet I was so fortunate to be -- be there so close and yet not -- the nearest I guess I came to getting hurt was in this little -- it was in Nancy, France. And the Germans had a big cannon of some sort on a -- a railroad tie -- I understand it was -- mounted on a railroad car, track. But anyway, they were just shooting over these mountains, randomly. They didn't know what they were shooting at but they knew the enemy was over there. And so this building we were staying in had tiling, these round half moon tiles on it. And this shell came within about, oh 50 or 60 yards of this building. And you know it knocked a hole in the ground about like a small house. It was -- it just really blew. And these tiles -- this tiling came down. And luckily nobody got badly hurt, but you know you really didn't sleep too much after that that night. (laughs)

**Question:** See that's -- I wonder how you can sleep during the war at all but I -- I hear a lot of people talking. It's interesting. I mean I really liked the story you told about meeting the people and staying at their house because that again is kind of surreal aspect of war. Even though there's war going on, there's also everyday life going on.

**Answer:** Oh, yes. And because, you see, we traveled with the 4th Armor Division, Patton's 4th Armor Division, which we were -- the company itself was attached to 3rd Army Headquarters. We were on detached service to Patton's 4th Armor Division. And that included -- it was a sort of a triangle thing where there was CC -- Combat Command A and Combat Command B. And then back of the triangle was forward and that's where -- where we were. And so we would -- we would -- where again we were very lucky, fortunate, because their own tech truck, which was at rear, wouldn't come up to forward because they -- they



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just thought there was too much exposure. And so when we came along and we're willing to stay up forward, that -- that really pleased them. And we had a tough sergeant in command of us and he said blanky blank, blank, we're up here to do a job. Now if you're going to put us on KP and guard duty and so forth, we're just going to tell Company Commander to take us back. And so we never did any of that, and because the tech truck was -- it was nice and warm, the officers from the 4th Army Division just loved to come there and -- and -- in the evening you know and talk to us and so forth. And we had a toaster so we could toast bread and had jelly and coffee and so forth. And my goodness, it worked out great.

**Question:** The gentleman's war.

**Answer:** Yes.

**Question:** Gentlemen, the Germans are coming.

**Answer:** I have to tell you this one little story that was -- was quite -- it was quite humorous. This -- now we're talking about a real dusty road someplace in eastern France. And you know the trucks and the jeeps are going back and forth and you can't hardly see what's going on. But this one big 6 x 6 truck was stalled. And so this fellow from our outfit, he was in some kind of a vehicle, anyway, he thought that the fellow that was coming toward, the other way, they were going to meet, he thought he saw them say come on. Well, so he just zipped by and as he came by the stalled truck and looked over at this jeep, he could see these stars gleaming -- it was General Patton. And General Patton was highly enraged that he had to wait for this guy to go by, you see. And this -- this fellow, Bruce Cavich was a sergeant in our outfit, and so, of course, the first thing he did when he was told to stop was he stopped. And General Patton came stomping over there and really read the riot act to him and the more he talked, the angrier he got, and finally he pulled on his stripes. And he said soldier, you're broke to a private. Except that Bruce Cavich had so thoroughly put on his stripes that the general couldn't pull them off. But he says now when you get back to your company area, you tell your commanding officer you're broke to a private. (laughs) And so that's exactly what happened. And our company commander, who had a good Irish -- he was Captain McKenna, and he had a good sense of humor. And he said, if the General says you're broke to a private, you are broke to a private. (laughs)

**Question:** So he did -- did lose rank then?

**Answer:** But then he made them back in about three months because he was nothing but a good soldier, you see. (laughs) But he was somewhat of a celebrity because he was the only person in the outfit that was broke to a private by a general.

**Question:** And Patton on top of that.

**Answer:** And Patton, yes.

**Question:** That's a pretty good claim to fame. So that stuff really did happen. Because I've always heard about that -- some general walking up and --

**Answer:** Yes. It certainly happened there. And, but Patton really was -- you know, he was envied by lots of people that were in the 1st Army or the 7th Army. Gee, I wish we were in the 3rd Army. He had that -- that magnetism about him that people really, you know, they really liked being -- liked -- were proud to be in the 3rd Army.

**Question:** Charisma?

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**Answer:** Yes, charisma is the word.

**Question:** Did you ever see Patton?

**Answer:** Oh, yes, because he would come up and he and Tiger Jack Wood, who was a general also, had graduated together from West Point. And so he would come up and visit with Tiger Jack. And that went on for a long time until Wood -- he had orders to take a town. And he not only took the town but things went so well that he took the next one. And believe it or not, Patton relieved him of his command and sent him back to the United States.  
(laughs)

**Question:** Because he was jealous of him or --

**Answer:** Well, no, no, he had disobeyed orders.

**Question:** Oh. That's probably why Patton commanded such respect -- because he was --

**Answer:** He was a spit and polish general, you bet. You did exactly what he said and that was it, even if he was a very good friend of yours.

**Question:** Do you think that there's a message from World War II that should be left with the generations that you and I are not going to be --

**Answer:** Well, it has to be to understand thoroughly what -- what freedom is all about. And to understand that it's so easy to lose that freedom if you're not too diligent. And you know, it isn't as though it's just the German people that didn't -- weren't smart enough to avoid a Hitler, it could happen to any country if they're not vigilant. And so I guess that's what I'd say -- that -- that freedom doesn't come without a price.

**Question:** It could happen again then?

**Answer:** Yes. And it seems like maybe we've -- you know, we've lost a lot of freedoms, one way and another, it can -- it can occur bit by bit, you know. You lose something here and something there and the first thing you know, well we have lost -- we've lost a lot of what we originally had of our freedom.

**Question:** Now were you -- you weren't married when you were in the service, were you?

**Answer:** Didn't get married until I got back from the war -- I didn't get married until I was almost 34 years old. And you'd say, well, my goodness, that's pretty late. Well, Jo, my wife, had come out from the Port Angeles area and she'd been -- she'd gone to school in Cheney with a girl from Geraldine, and this girl from Geraldine explained to Joan and her -- her girlfriend, well you might as well come out to Montana and get your teaching experience out there in one of those little country schools. Then you can come back to civilization.  
(laughs)

**Question:** Forty some years later --

**Answer:** So, yes, and so now it's 40-some years later and we've had four daughters, and they're all married. And we have 15 grandchildren and one great grandchild, even though I didn't get married till 34. (laughs)

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**Question:** What -- when you got out of the service -- well, where were you when you heard they dropped the bomb?

**Answer:** Let's see. I was still in the service. Yes. Because the way we heard about the end of the war. Of course now we'd had a furlough home and it was time to go back to Fort Jackson in my case, back to, what is that, South Carolina, right outside of Columbia, South Carolyn

**Answer:** And so we were on the train, going back to camp and it was -- it was a little, you know, we weren't very happy about it because here we knew the war was -- just ready to end. And this -- I was sitting with this sailor. And every time we'd go through a town and stop, we'd ask, well is the war over yet? And (laughs) he finally reluctantly came through and admitted that the war was over. And so I saw this sailor pawing around in his duffel bag. And he come up with one bottle of warm beer and that's how we celebrated the end of the war.

**Question:** What type of beer? Do you remember?

**Answer:** I don't remember.

**Question:** But it was warm.

**Answer:** Warm beer, yes, one bottle of warm beer we shared.

**Question:** Boy then it must have been really hard to stay on the train and go back, as --

**Answer:** Oh, yes, yes.

**Question:** So you went back, got discharged and --

**Answer:** Yes, and at Fort Jackson, South Carolyn

**Answer:** And we have a picture of the whole -- I didn't -- they said turn out for a picture. And you know, I didn't think too much about it at that time, but the photographer had done a very good job and that picture is that long and includes everybody in the company, you know. But I remember that this Sergeant Shippy (?) was the first guy to be discharged out of the company. And of course everybody was so happy about it, and shook his hand and said well, we'll be getting out soon too, you know. Well, that was in the morning. And in the afternoon, why, here Sgt. Shippy was back in the company are

**Answer:** And we said what happened? Well, he said, I got ready to get out there and they wanted to give me a dishonorable discharge. And he says I knew I wasn't entitled to that. So he said I just refused it and they said go back to your outfit. (laughs) And you know lots of moans and groans, he said I'll never get out of this outfit.(laughs)

**Question:** So what did you do when you left the service? What was your next?

**Answer:** Well then I came home and -- to this little town, of course. And this fellow that was the assistant cashier of the bank came to me and he said I've got two propositions to -- to talk to you about. He said you can either become a teacher in our high school, or you can become an officer in the bank. You can go to work for us in the bank. Well I don't know whether I made the right decision or not but I decided to go to work in the bank. And I worked there for 42 years. (laughs)

## Verle Quigley

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**Question:** Wow.

**Answer:** And later on my -- my dad came into the bank and was a very competent banker. But I used to have a lot of fun explaining to him that really I was the senior here because I had been in the bank longer than he had been. (laughs)

**Question:** Well thank you very much.