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want to make sure I get to tell you about the situation when we went to Berlin, but we're working up to that. We crossed the Rhine at about 2 something in the morning, about 2:35 in the morning. Well the pontoon bridge we come down the bank and the bank was too steep the approaches to it. So when we hit the pontoon bridge, the first pontoon we was at too much of an angle so all of our weight went right straight down so believe me in that black water.. like I said there was enough English light reflection from the search lights. I could see that black water then I didn't think we was going to come back that pontoon just kept on going down you know, weird feeling you knew how fast the half tracks would sink in that river you know. Anyway we crossed there and we started fighting eastward through the forest, in the woods there Tutenberg Wald They called it. And we got up to a point our main drive was we had orders that the target was Berlin, of course that was chopped off in the Yalta Agreement. But we went on got up close to Berlin, was an airfield there, close, not very far from the Elbe River, and they come down one night and said we need a combat patrol right away, we've got a mission we have to get done so I says ok I'll go. About seven other guys went. Corporal.. Sergeant Belcher the platoon sergeant I and R platoon, intelligence and reconnaissance platoon we was in actually, we drove about six miles down with the jeeps to where the tanks were positioned along a roadway but there was a wall and the banks along the edge that gave some protection and they was pretty well shook up the tankers was because right across this field was a German airfield. The perimeter of the German airfield had high velocity antiaircraft eighty-eight guns and they knocked the heck out of the tanks and that's what they'd been doing harassing the tanks and traffic on the road. And so they said you guys go ahead and knock them out so we started out across, we told the tankers good bye and they told us good bye like they was never going to see us again, you know, but we said oh we'll be back. So I don't remember which tank regiment it was, the 66th tank regiment or 67th tank regiment I didn't see their insignia on their tanks in the dark so we headed in there and we got down into this bog, open ground, moving along, there was eight of us, and we heard talking, German talking, so we flopped down and so then it was another case of the English and their search lights. Because as we laid down there we could see them they were coming for us, a whole bunch of them, there was over thirty of them, German's. And they was coming for us and they got silhouetted right up close to us and one of the guys with us could speak pretty good German and he stopped and told them you ain't got a chance we got you covered, we got you covered and explained to them that the only way they could do it was give up. So by God we captured them right there. One guy held back from me a little bit when I took his submachine gun away from him but I shoved my carbine in him and then he let go of it. Then we took them all back and turned them over to the tankers back there. Jesus Christ they says you guys work fast don't you. There was over thirty of them so then we had to go again. Amongst that group one of them was a medic, he was a medic so the sergeant said well Woko you stay with him. If he gives the alarm we used him as a guide where the emplacements started and then we knew after we hit the emplacement that we didn't need him anymore. He was there beside me, so I.. if he gives the alarm shoot him. So we took out across there and got back to where the German first position was and gun emplacement, they are mounted in regular concrete things with dirt on the outside banked up you know and so we got the first one laid down then we started separating up you know, I stayed there, they took off, they was throwing grenades, phosphorous grenades in the barrels with the guns, smashing the adjustments and all that stuff up you know, on the front end of them, the gauges you know, the controls, so they come back over to me right away, one guy kept coming to me all the time. He says Woko you got anymore grenades, I gave him all my grenades, the phosphorous grenades, burning the hot stuff you

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know. I had three of them then I had fragmentation grenades and he come back and I said why in the hell don't you guys start carrying your own grenades, I'm not no ammunition bearer you know, sort of irritated me a little bit. I said you guys ought to have more grenades, well give me one of your fragmentation's then. I didn't know what he was going to do with it, he goes over and he throws it down the barrel of that damned eighty-eight see. The other guys had moved on to other guns and there was a hospital back there and there was a wounded German back there and he kept crying for help crying for help constantly, the poor devil was really suffering, I'd of liked to help him, you know, it was back in the dark someplace and it was under the ground, underground stuff, German hospital. One of them front line hospitals, what's his name come back over to me and he says the grenade didn't go off, have you got another one, I said yeah I only got one more after this one so that's it. I want to keep one, so he goes over, I knew what was going to happen beforehand, I just knew it. And so he, it just comes to you natural thing, he threw that other grenade down the barrel and it'll dislodge the other and then it will blow that one out of the barrel right back on our laps and that is exactly what happened. He threw that other grenade down and dislodged one of them and the farthest one back in there went off and out come the other grenade I hear it when that one exploded inside within seconds wham a big explosion right by us like none of us have heard you know and I laughed, I laid on that ground and my stomach was beating against that ground, that German laying by me, that medic, must have thought I was crazy, I was laughing so hard. He came back over there and says well Woko they've spotted us he said. I thought that was the funniest damned thing I'd heard you know. Anyway we knocked out the guns and stuff like that and we brought back over 30 prisoners and I got the Bronze Star again, the Oak Leaf Cluster to the Bronze Star. And then from there we advanced to that airfield, the next day or so we drove through that damned airfield, gees there was some nice planes there and just a couple of them, all the airplanes was sitting around like they were ready to fly you know and a couple was melted down you know, burnt, but there were some real nice looking ME 109's sitting around there would have liked to have one of them. We wound around there with the halftrack through them you know. We headed up then towards Magdeburg And then we captured Magdeburg And put a bridge head across Magdeburg To get 3rd battalion, 41st armored infantry over there, had some of my buddies in it, the German's blew it up, blew up the bridge and we had to go down and build the, the engineers built that Harry Truman Bridge and then we crossed there and got our tanks up on the other side and then we moved up to the next little town up there on the other side and the planes, the P 47's was dropping down and we was out on the lake there with a row boat just a little ways not too far from shore shows a picture of me in a rowboat and we was using hand grenades and we was dropping them in the water to kill the fish and they was coming up and we had a big fish fry boy I'll tell you right now, we had the German's cook them up for us and actually we fed them and treated them just like they were our family you know and they didn't have nothing against us. We had a big fish fry there. We got a lot of fish and that was quite a deal. And then the fighting went on and then a few days after that they says the war is over for you guys and we started moving out tomorrow. We're going to turn everything over to the Russians and let them capture Berlin you know. We didn't like that part of it, but we liked the idea that the war was over though so we moved out started across the Elbe River heading back. That's when a German plane came over. I told you that didn't or did I tell you that. Gone across the bridge. Back in France one of our planes got shot down there a P-47 Thunderbolt and God it had nice machine guns on it see so someone mentioned get up on the machine guns I could use another one so I was all gung ho for that I was trained on machine guns, heavy machine guns, when I was in the 276th infantry

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Camp Adaire in Oregon see, it was what my specialty was. So went down there, climbed up with tools from motor pool and climbed up on the wing and got one of those fifties down. The fifty, the back plate had a round tube you know, the head space, and was electrically operated you know for the planes. Took that down and I knew all we had to do was dovetail it in there and all we had to do was slide that out put on the old wood grips and the butterfly on it and there we got a real nice machine gun with air cooled jacket all the way out to the end of the barrel which the other ones just went out about that far you know, the fifties. I put it in the half track and we had a real nice gun, and it shot faster than our old fifty, it shot faster for some reason, so heck we had that on there. I was gone on god damned assignments all the time and I didn't get to use it much so we were going across the Elbe and by God here come a German plane and he was evasive action he was going like this here, Jesus I hauled up grabbed the machine gun and opened up on him, give him a big long burst you know, watched my tracers well I know I had to lead him some more because he was going pretty fast. And then I may or might not have hit him but anyway I was going to try anyway, but the guys started hollering at me, Woko, God damn it, knock that off, the war is over, the war is over they said, did you hear what they said, they told us the war is over. I said the war is over like Hell I said, it's not officially over I said. It hadn't been officially over so I let go another burst and I'll be damned they must have been right, something was right, that damned machine gun jammed, just like that, boy it jammed good, ruptured cartridge and boy she got jammed in there tight. I didn't take that, they finally said Woko did you take that machine gun apart and get that cartridge out of the barrel. About two weeks later we moved back to (Statdt-Hollendorf?) And that's where we were when the war ended. Well, there's where the adventure starts. The war ended. We was up to this little town on the Elbe when they told us to move out unexpectedly. The guy that was with me was a friend of mine but I didn't like some of his habits. He was too much of a hard-nosed guy. He wasn't above knocking gold teeth out of dead soldier's German soldier's and stuff like that and he'd steal valuables from the German civilians and stuff like that. He'd get a nice beautiful watch a man got for retiring from the railroad and he took that watch and I made him give it back to the man. I told I said give it back to him. What would you do if he was your dad you know? That watch has nothing to do with the war. He give it back and he turned around right after I was gone one of the other soldiers told me and got that watch again of course I didn't have no authority but I used myself a little bit. And so anyway we went back there and started moping up a bit and started picking up German civilians, not civilians but ones that didn't have a soldbuch. Identification they called s-o-l-d-b-u-c-h is a soldbuch, everyone has to have one, all men. So if they didn't have any of that they was probably a German soldier but usually they'd pull them right out and you could see the picture on there and he was a soldier. We picked up a bunch of soldiers that way. They did inform me, call me, and not the rest of the men, for a couple meetings on the intelligence part that the German's were starting the, the Third Reich was starting an underground movement to fight in the high country and the forests over there. And they were umn, the name they called them were the Werewolf's and they gave us an emblem that they had to watch for and be on the alert for. They had two meetings on it then it didn't pan out so I didn't hear anymore about it. But we was in (Statdt-Hollendorf ?) and the war ended. So we says this one guy that took the watches from the people he left a bunch of them at this town of Flötz on the other side of the Elbe River, the Berlin side, for a watchmaker to fix for him. We got friendly with the people because they were too much like our own people. I mean you couldn't resist being nice to them, they appreciated it too, they were roped into that war just like we were, and they didn't all like Hitler but hell they got something that looked better to them so they

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went along with him I guess. But anyway, he says Woko I got a bunch of watches I left back there, we had to move out too quick and I've got to go back and get them. He says, how about you going back with me. Well, I'm not the one to.. somebody wanted a favor, I wouldn't back out of it. I says well I don't have access to a jeep now, the war is over. I says and so we'll borrow Barry's jeep. This guy named Barry. He says I'll just leave the keys in it and you just take it, I don't know nothing about it. The war was over see, that next day or was it the same day. Anyway, we took off, we got over to the Elbe Bridge, there was a couple guards on the bridge but they didn't stop us we went right through. But the first town we got into on across the Elbe River Bridge on the Berlin side we were in for a surprise because the whole Russian army was coming up around the.. a vanguard of about hree million Russians of I think the first red army of the Ukraine was coming up. Everything imaginable they was riding, there was Cossacks riding horses and Mongolian troops marching and stuff like that. The road was blocked but with the jeep we'd drive by them and they'd salute us and move over and stuff and real disciplined you know. They thought we was high officials having a vehicle because we never seen one other vehicle. Not one vehicle of any kind. Didn't see any tanks, they was back further I think, anyway, even the Russian infantry had horses or oxen pulling their wagons and they'd have it loaded down up on top with the gear, crate of chickens, or something like that, they didn't need no supply lines they just lived off the land, off the people see. They was sort of a dirty bunch, I mean the Russian infantry was. When you see them you can tell. The Cossacks and the Mongolians and I don't know all different kinds like that. Well they was blocking the road but we got to the next town where we wanted to get to. I was getting a little bit skeptical then see but so far they wasn't bothering us at all. So we get to this court yard there was a farm there then sort of a pull in court yard I remember where it was and so I just pulled in here where they can't see us and I pulled right in like a court yard, barnyard, and make a quick turn to the left right behind the wall so anybody look in there.. nothing in there, but next to the wall, next to the street. I parked there and he says well I'm going to park over there. It was sort of a barracks like building he'd been in before. It was a German barracks building is what it was and he goes over there so I split up with him. I took the rotor out of the engine of the jeep and stuck it in my pocket in case somebody knew how to drive anyway but I didn't think about that anyway to protect it so I parked it and went walking down the street and run into a Russian medic and I talked to him and he was friendly and nice and I told him I was an American soldier, Amerikanisch Soldaten and got down by this building where I wanted to go into I wanted to go upstairs and see them people. They lived in that house where we had a fish fry you know, well just before we got there I was with him and a Russian Cossack officer came out of the doorway there and met us on the street and he was a ornery son of a gun. The guy was trying to tell him that I was an American soldier but he didn't want to believe it or didn't give a damn or something and I could see trouble, bad trouble you know. So he went with us, went down there, there was a guard at the door, on the outside, so when we went in it was just getting dusk and the guard asked him said something to him and I knew it was a password so he said "zwei zwei" something like that, that's what it sounded like to me too, "zwei zwei", two two you know, so we went inside, and I pointed out where I wanted to go where the people was and we went upstairs and the Russian up there I knew would give us real trouble. He had a German gun in his holster. He took my carbine, took the clip out of it and kept it you kn0ow. And this guy, the medic, was begging him you know. What he wanted to do was shoot me right there. I mean there was no question about that in my mind so in my pocket here I had a 32 automatic. I always carried an Italian Beretta there, but all my other guns you could see them, but this here I had in my combat jacket pocket and I kept putting my

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hands in my pockets you know so it'd look natural and stuff like that and I'd always feel the gun and it had the safe off and I figured if he makes one move towards that gun in his holster I'd let him have it the first one through my jacket then I'd jerk it out and finish him off with the other, after I got it out so the slide wouldn't get caught up in the cloth see. So finally they was talking and by god he took off and went downstairs with the medic and I thought boy it's off. There's a couple people there, older women they was talking and I asked them where the men was. I hadn't seen the men since the Russians moved in. I knew damned well they'd killed, they'd kill them all the time it didn't make no difference, they'd kill them right now. They thought too that's what had happened to them. So well I'd better get out of here and get back to where my buddy was. I'd heard some thumping out by the door so I went over to the door like I was going, told the people good bye, and Jesus Christ there was a Russian soldier with a rifle and fixed bayonet and he motioned for me to back into the room you know. I thought Jesus Christ now I am in trouble. So I stayed there and thought he's there guarding and the other guy, I didn't know if the other guy was still downstairs because the window down the hall was right above his head. I went over and took my pocket knife I scraped all the paint off that window so I could pull up the window and put some bed clothes and stuff, some blankets and I could make a rope to get down just one story without breaking my legs but then I thought I wonder if he's asleep or if he's down there but he's probably still there because I heard more Russian troops come into town and they wouldn't go in that building. He was stopping them. They wouldn't let them in the building because the building was full of this other unit see. Russian unit. So by gosh he went and I said well, it got towards morning and I knew God Damned well we had to make a move before daylight or that'd be it. So around towards 4 o'clock I went to the door again. I figured I was pretty well stumped you know. I opened the door and by God the Russian was sound asleep leaning against the door. Sound asleep. Boy I'll tell you he was sleeping too, he probably walked 30 miles that day or something. Anyway I opened the door up just enough, and I got out and had to go to the left a couple feet and then take the steps and go down right by his feet. My feet wasn't that far from his legs where he was laying right down in the hallway. And I watched his toes because if they flinched maybe he was waking up but he never moved a muscle. I didn't want to look him in the face because sometimes you can wake someone up that way just by instinct. Got down by the bottom of the stairs and started out towards the door. I could see on each side of the hallway. Russian soldiers all over the floors and they had a dim oil lamp in each room. I got out by the door and that's where the test is coming you know, that guard out there. I got out the door and by God he challenged me right there in the dark. I said "zwei zwei" just exactly like I heard when I come in you know. I've got a good imagination you know and by God I kept right on going and that was it. I got over to the jeep and boy I thought oh by God I've got to get my buddy and there popped up my buddy right there. He said let's get the hell out of here Woko, these Russians are crazy. You ain't telling me nothing. He had his, he still had his..he went to a place where there were ordinary Russian soldiers, they weren't Cossacks or anything, and they were dumber and they was over there having a good time and he went out the front door.. the back door went around the building and came out the front and came over to me. Made like he was going to relieve himself see so.. but they started looking for him right away. I put the darn rotor in right away and the stupid thing it wouldn't start, it must have been a little bit damp, so I took it off and put it under my arm where it was warm and put it back in there and by then everybody was awake. They was running out of the house where he was with their lanterns swinging and I could hear the guard posts calling back and forth you know and boy oh boy I told him the war is over I'm going to turn these lights on bright and we're getting out of here. I had to do it

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anyway because at the edge of town down there they had a big tank trap there with big posts and cables wrapped around them and I didn't have that much slack on either side and I wanted to make sure I hit that. I had to have lights, you know what I mean. Boy I went right by that guard there, there was a door and we barreled down the street and we could hear all this hollerin but no shots. They was dumbfounded. They didn't know we were coming off you know so we got down the road a little bit. We thought we made that. We was heading to that little town and we could just brush by it see and go over to the bridge and by God there in the middle of the road was these two Russian soldiers with their lanterns swinging.. roadblock. I told him I said well I'm not going to change speed I'll just keep driving the same speed and you pull up, get your gun ready and just center it on them and if they raise their guns, he had a Thompson machine gun, and if they raise their then let them have it. We went right by them and they was still dumbfounded. Got down to the bridge and the guards at the bridge there, American soldiers says where you guys going, we says we're going to the American side, we're. He says, you can't cross this bridge, I said what do you mean we can't cross the bridge, nope, we have strict orders no one can cross the bridge. I said I'll tell you something new, we're crossing this God damn bridge and that's all there is to it so. You just might as well make up your mind to that, that's what I told them. And I said wait a minute somebody's a wire crossed, so they called an officer down there and the officer says the orders are this: There are no Americans going over to the Russian side and no Russians going to the American side. I said well why didn't you stop us. It was about 6 o'clock when we came across here. He didn't have no answer for that, but they did let us cross the bridge. But the officer told us something, he said you're damned lucky to be alive. You're lucky to be alive. He said we sent a convoy in across this bridge the road heading southeast of Berlin, that first town there, the road angled off to the right went down to that area of Germany south of Berlin there and east to pick up a bunch of fliers we had down there and they had to shoot their way out to get out American fliers. They said they had a hell of a time getting out, didn't get all the fliers. We was at serious straights with the Russians you know. So when I went back to my outfit they asked me, the war was over then, so they asked me Woko you know how to drive truck don't you, I said, yep. How you like to go back to Belgian and take these guys back for leave you know, they need some R&R. I said sure, I'll take them back. So that was my assignment see. So I went back there and about the second trip back there the word came through at the truck compound there that they had a message from my outfit there, from headquarters and it said to proceed we are no longer in (Stadt-Hollendorf?), to proceed to Berlin. We had moved into Berlin, see we was the first American troops into Berlin.. units So I took off and we headed back and I was going to take a short cut through to Berlin again. A straight shot. I run into a big Russian roadblock and I'll tell you right now they meant business and the guys with me were mad because they had been riding in that hot truck there and that canvas top and they didn't have no guns, the only gun in that deal was the one I had in my pocket. And there was an article come out in the Stars and Stripes or one of them papers there that American soldiers were going to break through the Russian roadblock and they only had a 32 automatic. It did come out about that anyway. They got a colonel down there a Russian colonel and he showed me an agreement they'd reached at Yalta that the only road open was the #1 autobahn, that's the number one highway, Berlin, no other roads open to Berlin. So we had to go about fifty miles north to hit that autobahn and when we got there the traffic, truck traffic the Americans were blocked up for miles. They let us break the line because we had troops and then in about three hours we started massing in and from then on until we got into Berlin it was a hell of a deal. There was dead people all over Berlin and they were coming to light. In the lakes around

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there was a series of lakes and they had wires and weights on them and they wanted to clean up their mess their blood and there was people still in the brush they hadn't found yet and they were smelling you know and these bodies were coming up, floating up in them lakes there was nice sandy beaches on them lakes around Berlin there was a series there. The bodies come up so we got civilian teams to go around and bury the bodies shortly after.. they was so rotten you know we had them on the beach and up in the brush.

There was one place I seen there in Berlin, I looked at this bus one of them big two Decker buses you know, double decked, it pulled off the road just a little bit and nosed over into the sand off the hard road into the sand the right wheel and that's where the door opening was, opened up. And a German was standing over there watching me, he had a sad look on his face and I looked at the ground it was all sandy there was no grass there bigger coarser brush and stuff and this one little place sand around there but this one spot about fifteen feet each way you know it was all nice and green and the grass was coming up on it nice grass there. I was looking at it and trying to figure why the grass would be coming up there well the German said you see the bus was loaded with German civilians and stuff, you know people, and the Russians machine gunned it and you could see it was just riddled with holes machine gun. And the blood was flowing inside so bad it all went down to the low side and poured out that doorway and fertilized that ground there where that grass to grew. And then they opened up the gates to the subways and the people were in there by the thousands and they drowned them. We let them do that. We figured if we let them do that it would appease them. Inhumanity you don't appease you know but that's what they did and things would have been a lot better if we could have saved them people's lives. I seen this going on in Berlin. I had some real bad scrapes in Berlin with the Russians. The fact is when I went into the Reichstag I went up the steps with my buddy, and you know that's right (inaudible) Hitler's house there the Reichstag went up these steps where these big columns are and there was these two Russian guards there. And I didn't, never let anybody intimidate me, you know what I mean, that's it, I have just as much right there as he has so I went right up walked right by him and the two guards followed me inside there and they got inside and were looking questionable at me and I said Hitler, Hitler, you know, so they pointed the stairway to me, the stairway was just off to the right of the main entrance and the wide stairway went down and then down there and so I was going to go down and look over Hitler's hideout see. So I got over there and started down the stairs and I had several of them German's flashlights with me and I got down to the first landing and then it made a corkscrew turn to the right. I heard that over the news this corkscrew the way that happened from one landing to the other so an explosion would be stopped at each turn. So I got down there and it was pretty smoky you could smell the smoke from the black walls and everything there was nothing but blackness down there and then when I got down there I could see the light behind me was fading reflecting down the stairway. Then and I felt it. I'm not scared of the dark cause I was out in the dark many times on the front I mean coal black, I use to like it, I felt like I could see when the other guy couldn't, I mean I could hear him breathing. And so by gosh I felt this feeling come over me, and I'd had it happen to me once before. My hair started raising up, something total was wrong. I knew it. I had it happen to me another time in Colorado in the Rocky mountains when I was down this steep canyon and there was a grizzly down there that killed a bunch of sheep. It was one of the last grizzly bears there. And I went down and I found his den and I followed the trail over and then I realized the trail was riddled with claw marks and it went into a gold mine right in the side of the mountain was a gold mine and I knew that was where he was denned up and I could feel my hair getting up, and I didn't have a gun with me I just had a

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stick for a fishing pole. I didn't have no business down there. The Indians had killed the two guys that was down there in the cabin and burned it down, I could see the remains of old guns laying in the ashes and everything as a kid I prowled around some. Anyway I had that feeling the same way and I says let's get out of here now to my buddy and we started up the stairs and we got up to the top and there was two more Russians there talking and when we got up they seen us and they shut up right now. There was four up there then and they had concussion grenades and I knew damned well what they had in mind for us. Get down there and all they had to do was throw a concussion grenade down there, they didn't care. They was be it.. that would be it just kill an American.. they planned on having a war with us anyway over there and they knew it, see. And so we got out of there, and from then on I stayed or took soldiers around the Reichstag there in the garden where they found Hitler you know the body. All around there was where the black market was active and the soldiers I was supposed to be taking them on a sight seeing trip, I just, they didn't want to sightsee, they just wanted to park over there so they could sell their cigarettes and watch us you know and that's what I did all the time when I was there. But then, when we was down in what you call Krefeld Germany, was down there by the Siegfried Line. Something happened there that was very, got me really thinking. A German tank had broke through the lines. We got a radio report in we was at a place that was getting shelled to beat hell, that was before I took the radios back you know, and we had a 57 millimeter antitank gun we was towing behind a little half ton or quarter ton truck, weapons carrier. So a German tank had come through up the street a ways and according to the radio report a Tiger Mk IV and he had infantry with him. And so sergeant was there and he told this soldier swing that gun around, swing that gun around and get it loaded AP, armor piercing. I don't even know if we had any AP for it, but that's what he said AP. I was standing right there and he said, give him a hand Woko, give him a hand, turned the gun around and centered it up right at the center of the street up there a ways. Because you know the tank come around the corner we'd at least get a shot at him before he finished us off see and so anyway I won't tell you that guys name but we can't stop that tank with that gun that 57 millimeter he says. Well anyway, that's the way it was, so the tank turned off with the infantry and took another street so that didn't hurt our feelings none because we didn't have no damn tanks around to help us see, they'd been fighting at night in that big field. And so that night I was on watch and I didn't mind being on watch because I felt safer and so I'd been up a lot, so they used me a lot for that. So that night I was watching. You get a dark spot where I could see a glimmer of light each way, some kind of a path where I could silhouette somebody or see a shadow or anything so I did that. So I was down there and I seen somebody moving and right below me right in front of me practically was a stairwell that went down to a cubicle down there about 12 x 12 cellar like deal is what it was and there was some soldiers down there. One of them was this sergeant, this first sergeant that told us to get the gun in position up there and about 3-4 of my buddies you know were there. This guy came up, I could see his silhouette, and I knew, I knew right away who he was the way he walked, the way he slouched, he wasn't very tall, he came up to me and I says where you going, he told me his first name. He was a friend of mine, a good friend of mine, when he first came into my outfit down in Normandy, I encouraged him, he was sitting there with his head in his hands and he was crying. Same age as I was, about 19 and I told him, hell.. don't worry about it, I've been here ten days and I'm not dead yet. That was at Normandy you know. I don't know if that cheered him up or not but he got so that he got into the routine. And he had something in his hands, he was holding them up, and I says what have you got there, turn the light on his chest, he had about three German concussion grenades and I says well what in the hell are you

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going to do. He says I'm going to kill that SOB before he kills me. And I says well guy. I know he's going to end up killing me. I know he's going to do it, just like today that was a start he's going to kill me. Well then he told me very plainly you don't know.. he's a Jew he said, and you don't know them. Well, I'd never heard of a Jew before I got in the army, you know what I mean, in Colorado, you know what I mean. And so he said I worked for one back east in New York and he says I asked him for a raise, I worked to beat hell and he never gave me a raise, so finally I'll tell you what I did, I come home and I had an accident with the truck and I wrecked it, the delivery truck, I banged the.. bumped the fender all up so I come in there and first thing I did was ask him for a raise and he said you don't need money, what do you do with money and all this, the Jew was telling him this. He told me the whole story he says I quit and there is your truck parked outside but he couldn't do nothing about it you know but he was dead set on killing him, that Jewish that Jewish soldier. But I told him facts are facts you can't do it cause I ain't going to let you do it so he was trying, another thing, you go down and think it over, I can turn you in, I can raise hell and ruin your life, you might get the firing squad but that ain't going to do any good because tomorrow you are going to be thinking different and then it'd be a waste. I took his grenades and you go back and go to sleep and never had anymore trouble with that guy. You have to learn what how them Jews are he said. That was one of the thing that happens out of the way like that.

There was officers that was killed because they didn't show enough respect for their men. And anyway when I hit the end of Berlin when we was in Berlin there well we finished up, went back to that little town by Frankfurt and I had plenty of points and headed home. Took us ten days to cross the ocean. The Lincoln Victory, a Victory ship crossed in, wasn't a liberty ship. It took off from Antwerp, Belgium, we had number four hold, we didn't have no bunks or nothing, just splintered planks right down in the hold and that was a mess I tell you right now. You had a drop light down the stairways where you go up, and some guys would start for them stairways when they was sick and never make it and guys would get it on their blankets. Just like a pig pen I'll tell you right now, that's the worst part of the war and we got back and like I said took us ten days to get across the Atlantic. We went in and a storm pushed us clear down the south Atlantic and across. Come up here and got discharged at Fort Lewis, and none the worst for wear.

QUESTION: You got your five prisoners.

ANSWER: Got a little credit for them too. I got my five prisoners and maybe a few extra but that was just a I don't know just the way I seen it at that time. I did my duty anyway. I felt like I did because I had something to do and something it seemed like to me every major battle I had something to do with it you know.

QUESTION: You did the tour, you got the frequent flier miles.

ANSWER: Right my buddy. Another thing I generated after the war was over I had some money (inaudible) I went to a brewery over there I used some of my own money and then I collected some. I got the chaplain interested. I brought back two orders of beer. One 400 gallon and one 600 gallon.. barrels you know, for the regiment had a beer party, we always had them kegs of beer there. I didn't get them taken them back to the brewer and I told him I'd take them back but I did tell another guy to take them back when he had the truck. Then at Sterbfritz Just before I got out, I'd seen someplace where the soldiers had coffee and donuts. So I went and picked out a place in town there a big room sort of like a lunch.. uh tables and chairs and talked to the chaplain and had him get organized to get some canteen

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girls up there from the Red Cross for coffee and donuts for the regiment, the whole regiments so they can come in and get coffee and donuts we hired after they broke the girls in, we had some German girls there and they took care of it why it was my idea I instrumented that too. You know.

QUESTION: Thank you very much.

ANSWER: I had some sad cases. In Berlin we had a soldier that went all the way through the war, his name was Sammy Santora. The Russians beat him to death and threw him in the lake there. We found his body and knew damned well he had been with the Russians the night before, and we knew what happened. Well when I was on my way back to Germany he was engaged to a German girl at Statdt-Hollendorf. And then the guys asked me. Woko, do us a favor and stop by and see that girl, they give me, I knew where she was because there was a jail there and I watched some German prisoners there in that jail and I knew where it was. And I hollered at her as I went through town and she stuck her head out the window and I told her that Sammy had been killed by the Russians. The Russians had killed several of our people in Berlin and we was at the verge.. they alerted us one day, twenty five minutes to move out in full combat gear to fight the Russians. This was the whole division, the 2nd armored division, and we was waiting down in this dayroom like deal in this submariners barracks in Berlin. It wasn't blowed up much there right by the lake, and then the lieutenant came down and told us it was all off. He told us the reason for it was Stalin had come in town. They had moved a bunch of big tanks in and they figured they was pulling a surprise attack on us. That's how close we was to war with Russia. That's how close we was. Damned close. And finally we got what we wanted in Berlin. The Russians were all over you know, in Berlin and they were ornery as hell. I was walking down the street and this guy had this girlfriend and he was taking her down to the only active subway in Berlin. Just one little stretch there, just this one little station. He was taking her down there and I heard some slashing in the brush. Something hitting brush with sticks in a little park there in town and I pushed the brush aside, looked in there and there was a Russian soldier, Cossack, and he had on a saber and he was just slashing with his knife, he might have killed someone already maybe. They were just cutting the brush like this here and he seen me. So he come out and he stuck the saber down his holster and he had on a revolver too and he was madder than hell at me and he come over to my buddy and stopped. He said Ah, Amerikanisch Soldaten Prima The Russian Soldaten Schwein He says in other words, American soldiers are wonderful, Russian soldiers are pigs is what he said. And I knew he was really looking for trouble, so I reached up here, I had my 45 in a shoulder holster, so I just pulled it out worked the slide and put it back in there like that and that was enough. He seen a girl across the street and started hollering at her and went across after her. So we was coming back we were about in that same area me and my buddy and hell there was a beer garden there. You know outside, you could walk outside and get beer lets go in there and make them bring beer out to us, they was serving it inside too you know, and it was a nice day and we sat back, well I got back over like I always do with my back against the wall where the tables are lined up along the walkway coming out and by God we was drinking away and we heard a hell of a racket inside you know, belling and loud talk and stuff, out come out the door I knew what was coming, three Russians, and one of them was this same Russian we had seen on the way there and I slipped the damned 45 out of the holster, cocked it and had it underneath the table and he went by me and looked down at me like this and went right on by. He might have noticed it, the gun was out of the shoulder holster, he went right on by like nothing. They gave us orders one day we got to get this thing

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started. They says we got to clear our zone of Russians, get them out of our area because they wouldn't relinquish our zone. So go down and kick them out. That's just the way they put it. Go in pairs though and stay in touch and kick them out. We didn't pull any punches, we went down and how it kept from being a shoot out I don't know. The Russian officers must have been warned don't resist or something because we went down and they was armed. We would say "Raus!, Raus!" and make a motion like we was going to kick them out we didn't kick them but we run them right out of the American sector but we was waiting for them to make a false move. We'd have enjoyed it if they would have resisted you know. We disliked them more than we did the German soldiers you know and it was a big deal and we finally pulled out and that's why I didn't have much use for.. I didn't have much faith or trust in Russians. I don't trust them. And off the record you know I think we're going to get into some real problems.

QUESTION: Times are there again.