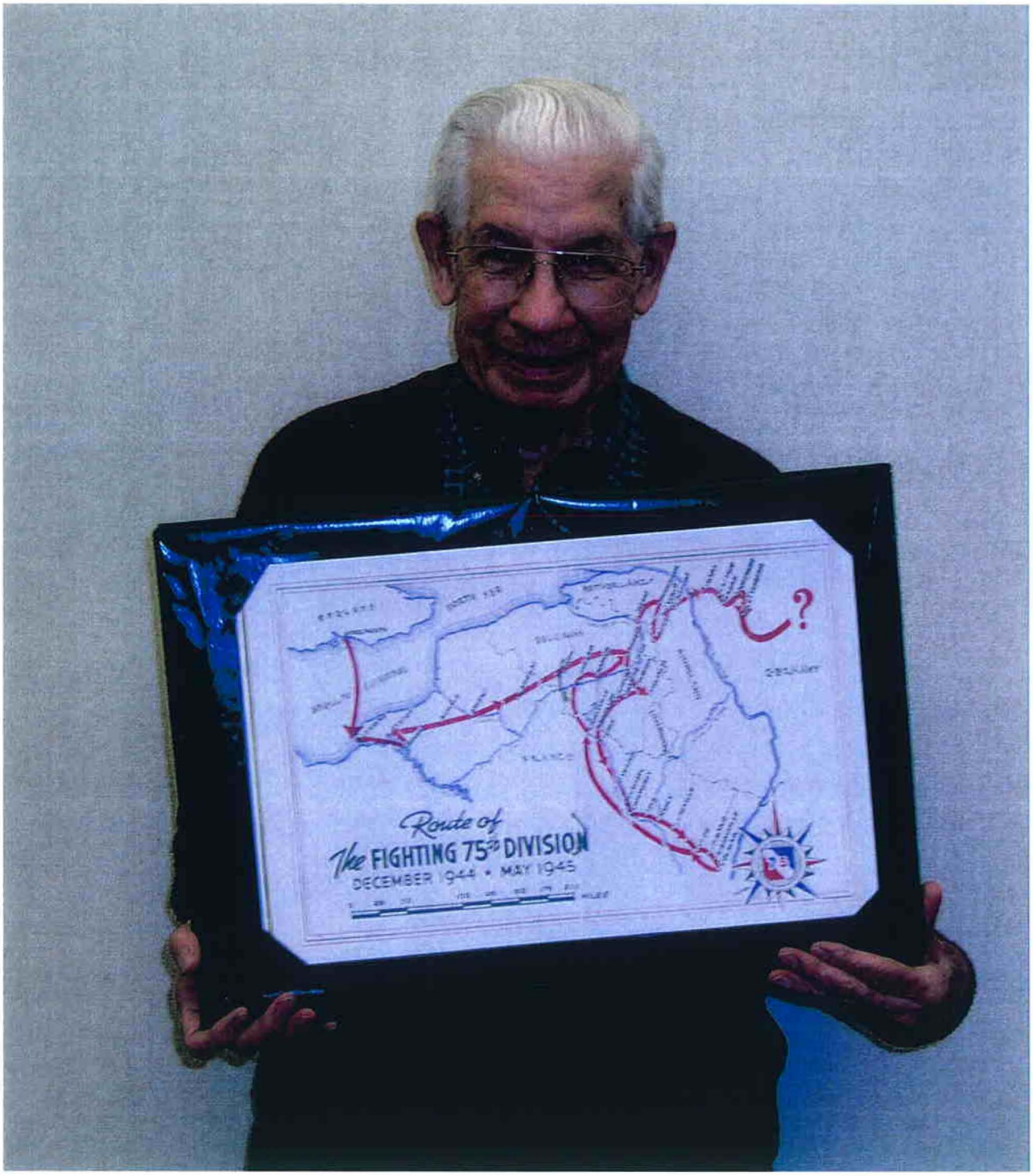
William F. Shipp

Veterans History Project Transcript

Interview conducted
April 12, 2005

Niles Public Library
Niles Public Library District
Niles, Illinois

"Bill" Shipp
U.S. Army, WW II, Europe
Tech Sergeant
75th Infantry Division
289th Regiment, 1st Battalion – D Co.



Bill displays the route of "the Fighting 75th Division," which he joined in Belgium, January, 1945. He had landed in Le Havre, France, in early January.

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Veterans History Project Interview Transcript

Veteran: William F. Shipp **Rank: Tech Sergeant**

Branch of Service: U.S. Army **Theater: World War II, Europe**

Unit: 75th Infantry Division, 289th Regiment, 1st Battalion – D Company

Interview Date: 4/12/2005, 1:30-3 p.m. **Place:** Meeting Room B **Tape length**: 90 minutes

Equipment: Panasonic Standard Cassette Transcriber **Interviewer/Transcriber:** Neil O'Shea

This interview is taking place on April 12, 2005 at the Niles Public Library. My name is Neil O'Shea, and I am speaking with William Shipp. Mr. Shipp was born on December 16, 1925 in Chicago and now lives in Niles. Mr. Shipp learned of the Veterans History Project through the librarian Ted Gayford who also provided him with the brochure describing the project. Mr. Shipp has kindly consented to be interviewed for this project and here is his story.

Bill, when did you enter the service? (Interviewer's words)

July 20, 1944 (Veteran's statements)

And where were you living at that time?

I was living in an unincorporated area outside of Franklin Park where I went to school.

So were you in high school at that time?

Yes.

You probably graduated somewhere in there, did you?

I graduated on June 8, 1944. When I graduated I was holding three things in my hand: one was my high school diploma, the second one was a certificate for 4 years of perfect attendance - no absence or tardy in high school, and the third thing was a letter from my draft board, asking me to report to duty.

So you were drafted. Were you drafted into a branch of service? Or did you choose a branch of service?

Well, they asked us which branch of service you wanted to go into. I had already a brother who was in the Army, and I didn't know how to swim so I didn't think the Navy was the perfect one for me so I said "Army." They took a big stamp. It was about 3 inches high and

5 or 6 inches wide and stamped right on my application "Army" so they could not miss it, no mistakes.

Where were you inducted?

In Fort Sheridan, Illinois.

***Tape counter mark* 23 –boot camp**

What were your first days like, adjusting to the Army?

It really was the first time I was away from home. I was like everybody else; everybody else was in the same situation. We were happy to get brand new clothes, to have free meals, and they gave us a battery of tests so life seemed to be pretty good.

Was that before boot camp?

Oh yes. (Chuckle)

What was boot camp and training like, and where was it?

33- "This man can type."

Well, I took a lot of tests; one of the things I took was a typewriter typing test. I passed the test 40 words a minute. They looked at this, and they said "Oh, this man can type, and he's good at machines so let's send him down to Florida, learn how to operate a machine gun." I never fired a machine gun in my life or any kind of a rifle, but I went.

Were the instructors pretty good down there in Florida?

They all knew what they were doing. Many of them were veterans who had been in combat before, and they came back and were passing on their skills.

That training camp in Florida was called?

Camp Blanding, Florida.

Did you have to make some adjustments to living there?

Well, it was always nice and warm. I missed the black dirt. Everything they had down there was sand, sand, sand, and we were out in the no man's land.

Was that the first time in your life that you were away for an extended period of time from home?

Yes, it was. I never was away from home before.

How was the food?

Well, they gave us plenty of it, and I thought that was great.

After boot camp, did you receive some advanced training then on the machines, the machine guns?

51- rifles, machine guns, and mortars in the dark

No, the training program was for seventeen weeks which included training first on rifles, then on machine guns and then on mortars. We also had additional training on just about every kind of weapon you could think of - pistols which I eventually carried, bazookas to knock out a tank.

What was the most difficult piece of equipment to learn how to operate? Or were they all challenging?

Well, they all were challenging. We had to know how to take these things apart in the dark. What we did was, took, for example, a machine gun and put in on a blanket and rolled the blanket over the machine gun so we couldn't see it so we could feel in there, had to take it all apart, lay out the parts. Somebody would come and take a look at it, one of the instructors. He'd say "okay, then put the blanket over it" and say "now put it back together again" so we would have to, without seeing it, just by feel, would have to put the machine gun back in order and if you back in working condition, you passed the test.

Did most people pass the test?

After lots of practice, yes.

After Camp Blanding, did have any other assignments in the States before you went overseas?

No, from Camp Blanding, I went for a10-day furlough at home. I had orders from there to go to Camp Miles Standish near Boston, Massachusetts. And then from Boston we got on a ship, named the Santa Rosa. It was a small cruise ship converted to a troop ship. About the 1st of January, 1945, we went to Le Havre, France. We went there as replacements, and they put us on a train about 10 o'clock at night. The next morning we were in Belgium.

And your "new family" so to speak in Europe was a particular company, or division or army?

78-heavy weapons "D" Company

Well, my closest family was the 75th Infantry Division, the 289th Regiment, the First Battalion which consisted of A, B and C Companies which were rifle companies and D Company which was the heavy weapons company, consisting of machine guns, mortars, bazookas.

So that you put in D Company?

I was in D Company.

At this time your rank was private?

I was a private.

When you found yourself in Belgium, was the 75th/289th directed somewhere?

I met this division in Belgium in the woods. And I can remember our first meal together. The cooks had a big garbage can, full of boiling water. They threw in some cans of food, and we had our dinner by picking out the one that you wanted. The one you kept really was the first one because you didn't want to go back and get into the hot water. (Chuckle) You opened the can up, took out a spoon and ate it right out of the can.

At that time were you sleeping in tents outdoor?

No, we'd sleep outside and this was about the middle of January, and about a week later they decided to send us back to Colmar, France which was near the German, Swiss, French border so we got on a freight train. It took us two days to go down to that area. There we got organized. My first real battle was right down there, going into combat. I can remember going down this dirt road, a muddy road shall we say, and mortar shells were going around us. The mortar shells kept following us all the way up the line, but fortunately they did not have us lined-up. They were off about 150 feet, maybe 200 feet, following us up the road. These shells kept going off and pieces of shrapnel were flying around us. We got up to this; it's not a town, a little group of houses. We went up to these houses, and they told me to crouch down here, and they were going to set up the machine gun in the back. 1st and 2nd gunner went around the back. On the second floor on the porch, they set the machine gun up, just then the German army sent in one of their artillery shells, an 88 mm shell came in there and hit the back of that house. I remember this glass exploding and shimmering all over this place, I thought it was the end of the world. Soon one of the other men in our squad came running back to us and said, I don't remember their names, the 1st gunner and the 2nd gunner were wounded so my first real job then was to help them into another building. We took them down into the basement. The Medic came over and treated them. One was hit in the foot with a piece of shrapnel. We had to cut his boot off so they could look at it, and the other man was hit in the side with a piece of shrapnel, and he was in pain. Medic came over and gave him some morphine. That was my first real taste of combat. I didn't get to shoot any guns, but I had plenty of chances to duck. For this I was promoted to Private First Class and awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge.

That was down in the region where Switzerland, France and Germany all come together?

Yes, near Colmar. The next morning they told me, it was about 7 o'clock in the morning, they said "Ok Shipp it's your turn to stand guard." They moved the gun over into a chicken coop. They brought me in there and said "here's a machine gun and out there is the enemy." If you looked out there through a little window, you could see nothing for quite a ways. The machine gun was right in front of the chicken door. It would go up and down so you could

raise it up and down. It was closed. They said when you're ready to fire the gun, just open the door and start firing.

Fortunately, nothing happened. I was on there for about 4 hours or so. The only other person in the room there was an observer from our mortar squad. If he saw any activities, why he was to call the mortars through a wire telephone, give them directions.

After the Colmar encounter, your unit was sent back north?

154 - "most courageous act"

Yes, but we still stayed down there until the battle was over. We went into many towns. I remember one time we were going - the U S Army makes an attack in a spread-out formation. They don't line up single file and go in - spread-out formation. We were going into this town; I don't recall the name of the town. Off to our left were the riflemen, and there was this big explosion. Everybody stopped. You could see that one of the riflemen had stepped on a landmine. Well, the medic went up and was treating him. We continued on, going toward the town. Unfortunately, another rifleman ahead of them stepped on a mine, and he went down. The medic who was administering to the first one who was injured saw that he couldn't do anything else so he went up to assist the second one who was up further and while the medic was going up there, he stepped on a mine. And we could see 1-2-3, soldiers laying there, not moving. We continued on to this town. Everybody went into a single file, and went step-by-step, following in the previous person's footstep. And you could tell how it was because it was sort of muddy. And you'd step in these muddy spots and don't dare step off of this, just follow the footsteps, and fortunately we went through up to the town and from there we spread out and went on. We learned several months later that the minesweepers came through there, and they found something like 790 mines buried in that field out there. I saw 3 of them go off, and fortunately everybody else was able to get through.

And those poor men, they died?

I would assume so but we don't know; we just kept on going and that was it. I would think that the act of that medic who went to rescue, went to administer to one, found that he couldn't do anything, went to the aid of the other rifleman who stepped on a mine probably was the most courageous thing I've ever seen because he too ended his life.

And we went through these different towns up there. We'd come across barriers in towns and roadblocks. We couldn't get through there. We'd walk through the house and find a hole in the wall and go through the hole in the wall and go around the barrier and keep on going.

Were you meeting with a lot of resistance, or was it like rearguard action?

They were trying to keep ahead of us. They would be sending in artillery and some rifle fire, mostly artillery. But we had the upper hand.

You felt that the Germans were being thrown back; they were yielding ground.

They were on French territory, and they wanted to get back to their own territory in Germany. We just got to the edge of Germany, and they sent us back up to another spot in Holland.

So after the Colmar battle in that region and moving forward, was your unit then directed somewhere else?

Yes, we were. By the way, I want to mention that while we were down there in Colmar, we were not with the United States Army, we were attached to the French army, and the French had the tanks there, and we were the infantry. They decided to send us up to Holland to join the British Army so we went up to Holland and joined the British Army.

Were you impressed by the French Army and the British Army?

Well, we didn't have too much to do with the French Army. I knew that they were a little reckless. They would get out of their tanks behind a building and build a bonfire and cook their dinners and that only attracted artillery fire. More shells would be coming in. We didn't like that. They would hop in their tanks. They felt safe. Here we are in a chicken coop. You're lucky if you are in a building.

217 – working with the British Army in Holland

When we went up to Holland, we met these English soldiers. They were a machine-gun squad and they had been there since October, October to the middle of February. They had nice little wooden huts built, small, but they were serviceable, kept the rain off of us. They dug trenches between where the guns were to be set up. And we were overlooking a river. And our task was to keep the German Army on the other side of the river. Now they had been there for months and months.

One thing I learned by talking with them was that if the Americans would talk fast and throw in a little slang, they could not understand what we were saying even though they talked English! So while we were there on this border, the Americans weren't sitting on their hands. Every night the Americans would send patrols across the river. We would know about it, and they would ask us to shoot machine-gun fire across to keep the enemy from looking around so the Americans could get a chance to get down there and look around. Their hope was to pick up a prisoner.

They could interrogate the prisoner and find out what was going on?

Yes, I don't know if they ever got a prisoner, but that was their job. Then about a week after we first got to this position we crossed the river.

This would have been in

Holland.

Then things get more interesting or more dramatic or a big battle…

Everyday was a battle – many, many battles during the day and sometimes at night.

How did you react to that stress of having to be constantly alert and on guard?

It kept you awake. We had no trouble sleeping because we would switch on guards. We had so few men that, instead of being on two and off four, we'd split the night up and spend four hours at a crack until 2 o'clock in the morning or so whenever it was and then the other group would come on and take the guard until daybreak. You would go back and that would be your time to sleep, and you had confidence in your buddies keeping the enemy away from us.

Was this anywhere near the Ardennes?

262-machine gun on the Rhine

No, it was further north from the Ardennes which was by Belgium. Holland was a little bit to the north of them. Then we went on until we finally got to the Rhine River which was in German territory. I can remember that when we first went into Germany we walked in, and along the border they had these huge dugouts to keep tanks from going across there. Tanks would get caught if they went in there. You would be talking maybe 8 feet deep and 10 feet across. If a tank came in there and went down in there, it wouldn't be able to get up again. And then in the fields to keep any gliders from landing in there, across the farmers' fields were these poles, put up there almost like teepee poles, three of them in a cluster. And so if the gliders came in there they wouldn't have a smooth landing with the soldiers on them. They would keep the enemy out, and we were the enemy to the German people and the German soldiers.

So eventually we worked up to the Rhine River. And we were there for about a week or so maybe a little bit longer than that. They told us, "Well, we got some little projects for you to do." So we went back and they bought us to a pond of water, and here was an American sailor there, and he was going to teach us how to paddle a canoe (chuckle) so we could cross the Rhine River. The Rhine, you're talking a big one, it's not like the Des Plaines River. It was more like the Mississippi River. It was a big thing to go across. The sailor was there, and we would have to hop into this little canoe and learn to paddle a canoe. Then we went back up to the Rhine River, and they told us that we were not going to be in the first wave, which was good news. But they wanted us to set up a machine gun to fire across the Rhine River. What they were going to do is they were going to put a net across the river to catch anything like floating mines or something floating down the river. The net would catch these mines. Then further down the river, a mile or so, they were going to make the actual crossing. They went across on pontoons; I am sure, the first ones across. Then in a day or two they built a pontoon bridge across. But protecting this net that they were going to put across, we had to set up the machine gun. So there was a house that was under direct observation. We went there every night with the sandbags. We loaded them in our jeep, and the jeep driver, our squad leader and myself, we went to this house, and we picked out the 2nd floor window, and this is where we were going to put these sandbags and we dragged these sandbags up there, went back and got more sandbags and drove 'em up and dragged them upstairs and piled them all up there so we could have these sandbags around us. We were looking at this, and we thought that's a lot of weight up there. So what we did was

there was a dining room below with the dining room table. We took the dining room table and put it there and took a bed and put the bed lengthwise on the dining room table and wedged it against the ceiling to hold up the sandbags. We couldn't actually tell where the target was going to be because it was night time. But they told us that was under direct observation. Fortunately, we had a good jeep driver who was, I think he was, from North Carolina, and he was used to getting around in some of the woods up there, and he'd turn off all the lights. They had night lights for driving around at night, but he would turn off all the lights. When our jeep driver would step on the brake, no taillight would go on – nothing, and he would follow the path and eventually we would get back to where the other soldiers were, several miles away.

Good driving,

Good driving, yes, we were thankful for that.

So then did your unit cross the Rhine in the second wave?

333- crossing the Rhine outfitted with armor-piercing bullets

Yes, we did. Just about that time our jeep driver told us that he had some armor-piercing shells for our machine gun. The problem was they also had tracer bullets in it so he said "do you want this?" And I told the squad leader, "yes," - all we had to do was take out the tracer bullets and put another armor-piercing bullet in there. Armor-piercing bullets were painted black. They had a harder shell, and they had a little more powder in them. They would go through a wall of a house. Most of the houses down there were stucco. They would go right through the outside wall, and bury itself into the inside wall so that if anybody was inside that room when we fired on it, they would be taken out. So we spent a lot of our free time, shall we say, taking out the tracer bullets, which is every third or fifth one. We took 'em out by hand, and we shoved in a replacement in there.

And a tracer bullet is not as heavy as the armor-piercing....

It was painted red and would burn as it was going through the air so it showed you where it was going, but it also showed you where it was coming from and we didn't want them to know where it was coming from. Of course I was the first gunner and it was my job to, I didn't have to but I wanted to, I inspected every belt, box of ammunition to make sure that everything was done the way it was supposed to be done.

And did that armor-piercing ordnance come in handy then?

Well, it did. We actually didn't knock any tanks out with it, but it had more power and would go through walls of buildings. It did play a little havoc with our machine gun, because it wore out the barrel. Before we went across the Rhine River, why, they sent us back to have our machine gun inspected. We took it all apart and laid it out. Ordnance man came around and he looked at that barrel and said "What you been doing with this barrel?" "We just been using it, that's all." I didn't tell him that we were using armor-piercing which would wear out the barrel more. So he said, "well, I'll get you a new barrel." So he got us a new barrel for this.

We put it all together and on we went. A few days later our jeep-driver drove up, and he says, "Look what I got for you - a light machine-gun!" That was a heavy machine gun which took two men to carry. This light machine gun, only one man would carry.

Would that have been like 50 lbs?

40 pounds for the lightweight, lightweight was 40 pounds, and the heavy machine gun was about 80 lbs., and they broke it down into two parts. Everybody would run carrying 40 pounds. And when someone was shooting at you, you ran fast.

So when does, with all this movement of forces, the crossing the Rhine

We crossed the Rhine River, it was at the end of March, I don't remember the exact date, but it was toward the end of March.

Was that after the Battle of the Bulge then?

Oh yes, the Battle of Bulge was in December and January, toward the end of January, maybe the 30th of January.

And you saw action in that also, a little bit?

Just a minor part, I was there just long enough to say that I should be awarded the Battle of the Bulge Star, (Chuckle) so great.
I made up for more than by working extra and getting other awards.

You sure did, Germany then, if I can recall now, were you as far as Dortmund by that time?

They told us when we were going to cross the Rhine River, but it was about two, three days afterward. They said the first wave of soldiers were not really meeting any resistance.

You are going go up there and relieve them. We were to continue the attack, 72 hours without a break.

"Wow!"

72 hours and then somebody is to relieve us after 72 hours. That's three days without any sleep. So we got up there; we relieved them, and we kept going as hard as we could go.

This would be in trucks or jeeps?

No, walking.

Even though you were equipment men.

We carried all of our (equipment), our jeep was back a couple of miles there, following along with the command post, but they never reached us. We were at the front line. We had the front row seats.

Three days hard march

Walking day and night, we thought we were lucky if we got two hours sleep a day - very lucky.

Was that the most tired you've ever felt in your life?

No, there's was lots to keep us awake, but fortunately I was a track and cross-country runner in high school so I entered the Army in pretty good shape. So this long walking was - I didn't feel it too much. It was just the idea of not having any sleep so if you had a chance to get 15 minutes of sleep during the daytime you took it. And that was it.

So you made your destination in the three days.

456- prisoner-of-war camp

Three days and then there was no relief for us; they said keep going because we were going so fast trying to catch the German Army and they were backpedaling. There weren't any soldiers to relieve us so we kept on going and we kept on going and going. I can recall one time while we were in Germany. We came across one morning, about 8 or 9 o'clock in the morning, we were going into this town and they had a block-square, fenced-off camp. We got up to it, and our squad leader was the only one of anybody around there who had wire-cutters so we don't go around, we would go through. So he got the wire-cutters out and cut a hole in the fence and we went inside.

It was a prisoner-of -war camp. They were Polish and Russian prisoners inside there. And they did two things. One group came to greet us, and they were very happy to see us. And our soldiers would be sharing cigarettes, whatever they had. They could give cigarettes; we couldn't share food because we didn't have that, we didn't have extra food, but we did have cigarettes and we could without some cigarettes for a couple of days, gave them cigarettes. The other half of these prisoners went to the kitchen, and they raided the kitchen. Their breakfast was cooked red cabbage, and they came out carrying handfuls of red cabbage and they would be eating this cabbage. These people were skinny. They were happy to get any kind of food they could. They were skinny. You could see that they were malnourished, weak, but they were happy to see us, and they were happy to eat their red cabbage. I know even to this day when I go to restaurant I have a salad and they put red cabbage on the salad (Pause)

It takes you right back

I will eat every smidgeon of red cabbage. I remember it then … so thankful to have been there and got there in good health. And then we got to the other side of the camp where the gate was. They had one of these posts going up and down like a railroad gate. In order to get out you had to raise this post up. And I told the guys, my buddies. "We don't need this.

Come on and help me." So we put our weapons down, and grabbed a hold of the end of this post and we pushed on it and we twisted it off. These prisoners of war who were watching us, they cheered "hooray, hooray." They could see their freedom, and they could see that we had released them from their camp. Fortunately our squad leader could speak Polish, and he asked them where the German army was and they said, they pointed to where they went and they said they left abut an hour ago.

You're getting close

We went on; and what we did is and we came to a river. I believe it was the Ruhr River.

That essentially ended our combat. We stayed there. The Germans were now trapped. Their army was trapped. We had come in around one side, and another part of the American Army was coming in on the other side, and they trapped them. They were on the inside; they couldn't go anyplace. We were getting German prisoners left-and-right.

Were they in bad shape, the German Army at that point?

Well, bad shape, I know … no they were in pretty good shape. They were eating all right. I'm sure they weren't eating like we were, but their clothes were all right. But I think they were short of ammunition because there were a couple of times that they were firing machine guns at us and we were out in the open. Boy, I'm telling you, you could hear those bullets popping over your head and you really are frightened and they stopped. "Why didn't they keep firing? They could wipe us all out." One of our ammo carriers, he was carrying two boxes of ammunition, one on a belt over the front and one in the back. And one of these bullets from the German machine gun went right through the box of ammunition that he was carrying.

Without injury to him?

570- house-to-house

No, no injury, yes, but he was pale. He missed by inches, being cut down. And then I know we went up to this town, got up there. The rest of battalion was behind the railroad track back there, they were supposed to be covering us. But I didn't hear any firing coming at us, and looking around we were wondering where there they were and I asked one of the rifleman, "Did anybody clear the first floor of this building, this house here." He said, "No." For some reason I said, "I'll do it." So I took out my pistol and I went up the stairway, step by step and I'm walking up this stairway. "What happens if he throws out a hand grenade or what if somebody is there? What am I going to do?" But I had my pistol in my hand; it was a 45 caliber. Fortunately there was nobody up there. But at least there was peace of mind that nobody was in that first house. Then we went down a little bit further, about another block or so looking for the enemy. I was looking out a window, and they dropped a mortar right in front of that window, the mortar went off, and the shrapnel hit the window sill, hit me in the face, and fortunately I wasn't wounded, I put my hands over my face and I looked at my hands to see if there was blood there I thought for sure there was blood, but there wasn't, and my squad leader was looking at me and he's laughing and laughing "And I said what's the matter, am I bleeding?" And he said "no, you look all right, but it was the

chalk that was bouncing off your helmet." And my helmet had these streaks of chalk on there from the cement window sill.

Second Side

So, at this point then the war in Germany is winding down in a sense?

Yes, when we got to up that river then we sat on one side, and we could see them on the other side. While we were there, a couple of days later, why I could see this, one of our men, an American soldier coming up, and I went out to meet him and to ask him what we could for him. He said he's got a tank or a half-track with an artillery piece. They were looking for targets so I said: "I'll give you a target; come on up here." I brought him up there to where our machine-gun was on the top of the river bank looking over to the other side. "See those houses down there? You see that door, that house with the red door." There was a lot of activity going on there. You could see German soldiers going in and out of there so he called his tank up there, it came up there, and the first shell hit the building; the second shell went right through that red door, and they put another shell in there, and then they high-tailed it out of there.

Of course, the Germans weren't just sitting over there, just taking this, they had somebody watching us, and they could see this. So I learned later on from the other machine-gun that was down the road about a block or two that out came this flat car on a railroad track that had an artillery piece on it, and they shot over a couple of rounds at us, in the meantime, the tank had left, but they're shooting at us! Here we are sitting there, "Oh, man, oh man," so fortunately nobody was hurt.

So you never had to cross that river then?

No, that more or less ended the battle as we were concerned because the entire German Army was surrounded. Now we didn't know this per se. We found out this later on. This was our objective. They were on one side and we were on the other. In the meantime the Russian Army was entering Berlin and coming in.

Did you receive a promotion while you were in Europe?

80- a PFC promotion and pay raise

Well, the first promotion I got, it was the first night in combat. Our Captain said after your first time night in combat you're promoted from Private to PFC, Private First Class; and you're also awarded the Combat Infantry Badge. And that was nice because it gave us ten dollars a month more. Now we didn't have any place to spend it but it was really nice. It was like a big raise – like a 30 or 40% raise. How can that be? Well, I was sending an allotment home out of my paycheck. I was getting $65 a month, and I was sending something like $50 a month home to my parents, and they could pay off the house that they were living in. And so I was getting about $15 a month, but I didn't have any place to spend it, and they put 10 more dollars on it so this was great.

As far as the other promotions, well I'll tell what happened after that. As the war ended there in early May why we were going around, riding around in our jeep because we had this facility, and we would ride around looking for German soldiers. We could find a civilian there and what is this young civilian doing in civilian clothes what was this young man doing in the civilian clothes. We'd stop and we'd asked him "Soldat?" That was one of the German words that we knew. They said "Ja" or "Yes" and we'd take 'em and send them into where they were gathering all the prisoners.

All of these prisoners were eventually with all the others that were captured were sent back to France. It was near Rheims. I don't remember the closest town. They decided to send our division back to this camp. What they were going to do was process the Air Force to send them over to Japan because the war was still going on. And most of them so ... I went there and they looked at my record and they said "Oh, this man can type," going way back to what happened a year ago, "this man can type; let's put him in the office" so I got a job typing ... and ... which was a little easier, you know work from 9 to 5. It was really nice.

That typing teacher in high school must have been good.

Yes, I enjoyed it. I know I was in a class; I think I was the only boy in the class.

It paid off.

It paid off, and I still use typing to this day, working on the computer.

So when did they make you a Sergeant?

Well, that's a long story. We were processing these soldiers, these Air Force men. Most of them were going back to the United States, but some of them were going directly over to the Middle East; they weren't going home so we were doing that and I was always a PFC then. Then the war in Japan ended so everybody went back to the United States. About that time they said well we're going to disband the 75th Infantry Division. I was going to be transferred someplace. I was working in this office which was assigning these different people. I was under a Major, Major Vars, a real nice man, Major Vars, and he was from the Air Force and he liked me. He says, "I'm going to send you back to Germany." "Aw, no, I don't want to go back to Germany, I want to go to some place that's right next, on the dock, maybe they got an empty space and I'll get right on." He sent me back to Germany so I went back to Germany in a Headquarters Company - CBS, it was the Continental Base System or something like that. He sent me back to this town in Germany, Bad Nauheim, which was a headquarters company. There was a general there. It turned out to be a real nice deal. This town during the war was a hospital town, and before the war in the Thirties people would go to this town Bad Nauheim and get hot baths, mineral baths. We had to put these people some place so the town was loaded with hotels. Lo and behold, two of us were assigned to a room in a hotel, and that's where we stayed. Hey, this was great, couldn't believe it. All's we had to do was be to work on time, go home in the evening.

151-entertainment services

I was attached to the special services which was in charge of entertainment for the troops. Now I wasn't a singer or a dancer; the only thing I knew how to do was "do" a typewriter.

But I got there and there were about 35,000 troops that had to be entertained - so how do they do that? Well, we would have a little catalog and they could order out of the catalog what they needed - sports equipment, soccer balls, volleyballs, nets, and balls, baseballs and bats, things like that whatever they needed. And we would look their requisitions over, their little equipment, and some little company, who knows where they were, would order one ball and one bat. Hey, what happens if that ball wears out? What if the bat breaks, you know? So we would feel sorry for these people and we would change the order from one to two, to make sure that they got enough, there was plenty of equipment. That was it.

This being a headquarters company, why we had our breaks in the morning. We never had a break before, go down and have coffee And the General was in the same building. And he thought we ought to have cookies so we had cookies with our coffee. Hey you couldn't complain. Now we didn't serve ourselves. We just went down and sat down and they had maids come in and serve us. They hired the civilians to come in and serve us. This was great, tablecloths. This was great, and we had our meals down there too. This was nice

So Major Vars did you a favor?

175- making Tech Sergeant

He sent me to this place and there was this Colonel Conder. He was in charge of this group. They had these different people on the line. As time went by the Sergeant would be sent home - the Master Sergeant. So they replaced him with a Tech Sergeant, and the Tech Sergeant had to be replaced with a Staff Sergeant and the Staff Sergeant had to be replaced with a Sergeant. Well, we didn't have a Sergeant. Well here I am. I'm Private First Class. They promoted me; they skipped a grade, they promoted me to Sergeant. Hey this was nice! Before you know it, the same thing happened again. The Master Sergeant is sent home. Let's replace him with the Tech Sergeant. Let's replace him with the Staff Sergeant. They moved me up to Staff Sergeant, and the same thing happened again. They sent the Master Sergeant home and kept moving - the next man in line. Here I was. Before you know it, I was promoted to Tech Sergeant, had an office there, had a civilian typist working for us. We had some German people working for us. We had a gymnasium. We had one of our men running the gymnasium We're sending all these supplies out to people. The Red Cross workers knew me by first name because we would get the music of the popular songs being played in the States. And we would give them the music, and they would give it to the local bands, the German bands, and they would learn the new songs. And that made the troops happy.

So at the age then of twenty or twenty-one you're practically an executive.

At 20 I was a Technical Sergeant.

Wow, but then all good things had to come to an end I suppose

All good things had to come to an end so two things came to an end. The Colonel said, "We don't have a Master Sergeant. I want Bill to become a Master Sergeant. Write up the order." Send in the order. I should mention, too, that this Colonel was a principal of a high school in Indiana. I don't remember what town he was from. I was the youngest of anybody around there, and I think he related to me. He liked me so he moved me along. So he

wanted me to move to Master Sergeant. He sends the order in, and they send it back. It was declined because I was going home. He said, "Send me a copy of the order." They said, "Well, it's not made yet, but we can't promote him because he's going home." So I wasn't promoted to Master Sergeant which was just fine – that's ok.

You'd have much rather have gone home?

Oh, definitely. In the meantime, this was in June of 1946, it was about time for the Colonel to go home, and they were going to reassign him to the Inspector General's office and he said, "Bill, I want to take you to be my assistant." So he put me in for to be his assistant, but they didn't approve that. I was going to be his jeep driver, go around inspecting these different facilities. But that didn't come to pass.

It so happened that a couple of weeks later I got my orders to go, for discharge, report to the dock where it was. I met Colonel Conder there. We were going home on the same ship.

You sailed from France or England?

No, it was from Germany. I believe it was Bremen. I met the Colonel there. We could just say hello that was about it.

We could just say hello that was about it.

Before we leave the European Theater, in addition to these promotions, you also received medals that are testimony to your progress and performance and some of those medals were

Yes,

And some of those medals were the Bronze Star...

I got the Bronze Star for doing good service in the Rhineland. I also got the Good Conduct Medal. In order to get the Good Conduct Medal, you had to be in the Army three years. I wasn't in the Army three years. But when the war ended, they wanted to give everybody something. So anybody who was not being court-martialed got the good conduct medal. So I was in about one year. They said you get the Good Conduct Medal - great. I also got the European Theater of Operations Medal, the ETO, with three battle stars. One was for the Battle of Bulge, the other one was for the Battle in Central Europe and the third one was for the Battle in the Rhineland. They also gave everybody a Victory Medal. Everybody who was in service got a Victory Medal because we won the war. This was after the Japan surrender in August. After that then, in addition to the Good Conduct Medal in May, when the war ended over in the Pacific, then that was the end of the war so they gave everybody a Victory Medal. So I got the Victory Medal and also for my time in Germany, you had to be there one year and with the time in France and Germany, part of the Army of the Occupation, was one year, was a little over a year, I got the Army of Occupation Medal too.

So you arrived back in the United States in June or July of 1946?

It was about June 20th, 1946. It didn't take them very long after I got off the ship to put me on a train to send me to Ft. Sheridan, to fill out the papers.

Did the ship come into New York?

The ship came into New York. As the ship pulled into port I saw the Statue of Liberty for the first time. Then I took the train to Ft. Sheridan. We got our discharge papers. It was a quick turnaround in five days.

Must have been a little bit of transition for you – you had an office and somebody reporting to you, you were helping Colonels and now you're back in civilian life. How did that all seem to you? What did you do next?

268-happy to be home

Well, one of the things that I was happy about was to be home. I think that was on everybody's thought and mine. I wanted to get home so when everybody got home why that was great. I know everybody didn't make it.

I know there was one soldier, Walter Leinweber, L-E-I-N-W-E-B-E-R, Wally Leinweber, I went to high school with him. We went into the service together. We went down to Camp Blanding. We went across on the same ship. We got into Europe there, and we were separated and assigned to different units. We weren't there a month, and I heard that Walter had been killed in action. That was something. Now if you look on the Illinois Report for those who are deceased servicemen in Illinois you won't find Walter Leinweber. You will find Lawrence Leinweber, Lawrence, but he didn't like that name. He wanted to go by his middle name, and his middle name is Walter and we always called him "Wally."

In the fall of 1946, you had been out a month or so did you decide you wanted to work or go to school?

295-College

When I was in high school, I decided that I wanted to go to school. In fact, coach told me that I could get a scholarship at Marquette University for track and that was up in Wisconsin. And I said, "Well, I can't because I'm going into service." So when I came home why the G.I. Bill of Rights was supplying an education for all the servicemen. It went based on the time you were in service; how much time you spent overseas - I think that was about it, depending on how many months you could get of education So when I was in high school, I was taking college preparatory. I was taking Latin and Math and sciences. That was a college preparatory course, but there was no college for me but I was ready to go in. At that time the University of Illinois was going to open a campus at Navy Pier. And I had my name on the list, on the first page. I wanted to go there. So they set up a program, they did not open September. I believe they opened in October because they could not get it ready. They just went in through Navy Pier and they made little partition walls all the way down the line, and each room was a classroom. And I went there for a year and a half. I went to summer school. I took some placement tests, and I got some college credit. After a

year and half, I had sixty hours of credit, I applied to John Marshall Law School and I was accepted and I went to law school and I graduated from John Marshall Law School in June of 1951

You didn't run track at Marquette, but you got your law degree at John Marshall.

I did have track at Illinois, Navy Pier. They had a big gymnasium out there, and we would run around on the outside. I remember I was on the cross-country team – they didn't have it the first year, they had it the second year when I was there. So I was among the first group that they gave letters to. I lettered in cross-country at the University of Illinois, Navy Pier, which is now University of Illinois, Chicago.

Were you able to stay in contact with any of your wartime buddies?

For awhile. There was some group in Chicago. We had a little 75th Infantry Division group meeting in Chicago, but their tastes didn't meet, didn't mesh with mine. I had other ideas. I stopped with them but they did have a national one, and I did go down to St. Louis one time, went to Cleveland another time.

Did you join any of the national service organizations?

No just the 75th Infantry Veterans Association.

Those were the reunions that you attended.

Yes, a group would get together, I don't know how many would show up 50 or a 100.

There's a question that is recommended as we approach the close. How do you think your military service and your experiences during the war, how do you think they affected your life?

(Pause)

You get to appreciate people. You get to appreciate your fellow service men. Any day anyone could be hit or even lose their life. Everybody worked together. We weren't separate individuals. We worked together. I may have lost contact with them, but I still remember them. They were good, good guys.

365- letters from home

There was one thing that I want to mention here. While I was in service, the war was going on; they had a group of women writing letters to soldiers. And I had three or four girls, some I knew from high school some I didn't, they were writing encouraging letters and when we got our mail which was about every three weeks or so to get a letter from somebody telling how things were going at home. Everything was uplifting, why, that was something, something to remember.

Do you think you military experience has influenced your thinking about war or about the military in general?

I wouldn't have traded my experience in the Army for anything. I don't recommend anybody going into service because you can lose your life and that would be the end of things but going in for your country and that's what I did, went in for my country. I went in with millions of others, and we did what we had to do - some was nice; some was not so nice. And you have a tendency to remember only the nice things that happened.

400- Uncle Will's religious medal

As for changing my life, I can remember when I went into to service. My mother gave me a medal which was carried in (Pause) World War I by my Uncle Will (Pause). He survived the war. I don't know what type of action he was in, but he was caught up in the 1918-1919 influenza outbreak and died from influenza. He carried this medal with him when he was in war.

My mother inherited from him. They shared; she had to share with her other brothers and sisters, and there were seven altogether, and she took this (Pause) so when I went into the service, why she gave me this medal which I carried with me every day. And to have this strength that was given to me is something I can never forget. I now have this medal posted on a plaque with my other medals, and I can see it everyday.

Before this interview we took a picture of you holding that plaque of medals and this special religious medal that you mentioned and that'll be added to the record for people to see for the Veterans History Project.

Well, that seems like a most appropriate note on which to conclude the interview and unless you feel like there is anything else to say maybe we'll conclude the interview at this time, if that's ok, Bill, unless you want to add something.

Right now, I can't think of anything else. I think I did mention a couple of things. I wanted to mention Wally Leinweber and the people who wrote to me while I was in service. I never ended up marrying any of them but that wasn't the purpose - the purpose was to give us uplifting spirits and for everybody to get a letter, that was really something.

Thank you, Thanks, Bill

Bill and I are returning to the interview now on Tuesday afternoon, February, the 28th, in the year 2006. We're back sitting in the large meeting room, section b. Interestingly, Bill's daughter asked her dad if he had told us about a couple of stories that she remembered and so it's wonderful that she's going to be responsible for us adding some color and humor, further color and humor to the transcript. Bill, you have some notes there about what you think your family feels should be in the interview as they remember dad.

415 - pup tent story

Well, I was asked if I included the pup tent story. When we were overseas, we first went into Belgium in the woods. There were no tents there. You just either lived in the open or if you were lucky, you got into a house and that's the way it was during the first part of 1945. We were living mainly in the houses, but once in a while we had to stay outside. As we got further into Germany, why there wasn't always a place for us to stay, to sleep overnight, and one time when we were in reserve, one of the officers who takes care of all the equipment made a survey to find out who had a pup tent and actually none of us had a pup tent!

One reason we didn't was because it was a lot of weight to carry, it was a half of a tent, and two men would get together and put them together and make a little tent so you can sleep in it. None of us had a pup tent so he made an effort to get everyone a pup tent, or a half of a pup tent. So this was all well and good, but here we are carrying machine guns and we're carrying, if you weren't carrying a machine gun, why you were carrying a couple of boxes of ammunition and this adds up to at least 40 pounds of weight in addition to all the clothes you got, the rations you have to have, your water, your personal weapon - a pistol or a rifle, plus layers and layers of clothes. So one way to shed some weight is to get rid of the pup tent. - so we didn't have a pup tent.

This officer says, "Everybody gets a pup tent," so we all got a pup tent. At this particular time, we were sleeping in a barn, up in a hayloft for a day or two. As we got these pup tents, we were getting ready to pull out and individually everybody decided, "We can't carry a pup tent," in addition to whatever else we had. Everybody, individually, took their pup tent and buried it under the straw in the hayloft, so we didn't have a pup tent.

We leave, we go and carryout up to the front in battle there for our turn, for a week or so, whatever it was, and the next time we came off the line in reserve, why the officer was out there and he said that he found 20 or 30 pup tents buried in the hayloft and he did not like it. All of those pup tents were retrieved, and everybody got a pup tent again. Well, we still had a lot of weight to carry around and a pup tent. We tried to get into a house, some place, a building, a barn, whatever it would be, someplace for overnight, not during the day, but overnight for some kind of shelter. So we took these pup tents and being in reserve they gave us our duffel bags, not wanting to carry these pup tents, we took the pup tents and put them in the duffel bags. We didn't bury them anyplace, in the straw or anything. We put them in the duffel bag, and they put them on a supply truck and away they went. We went on and everybody was happy. We still had a pup tent. It was in our possession. - in a duffel bag, many miles away from us, but at least we didn't have to carry this added weight of, whatever it was.

Somebody might have got some use from them where ever they went to, I suppose.

But we would get the duffel bags back again, the next time.

Oh

Every time we came back, our shaving gear was in there, things like that, and soap and all of that, so when we went back, we would clean up and shave, and a chance to change clothes.

And it never happened again that that officer asked everybody "Produce their pup tents, now."

No, because he didn't find any. He thought they were all with us.

That was the idea of the day, whoever came up with that one, whoever thought that one up.

I think we individually decided this good place to get rid of it. I know we didn't have any meeting; it just happened. Everybody just took it and buried it in the straw.

You were saying if you were carrying the ammunition the weaponry and then having to carry a pup tent on top of that you would really have been really laden down.

Definitely, we were laden down as it was. And we had to track through mud, and we had to carry an extra pair of socks. We never carried things like shaving or anything like that. We let that go until we got back, off the line. And off the line is being right at the front, first row.

So this was a story that occurred while you were on the front line.

Yes, that was Spring of 1945 or March, I would say probably March because the heavy snow was over.

551 - Statue of Liberty

And your next story, this takes place somewhere else, right?

When we were coming home, this was in 1946, came back on a Liberty ship. They built thousands of them and they would carry a thousand men back and forth across the ocean. We came back on this liberty ship with a thousand men on it, and it was nice because we had a nice place to go, we were coming back to the United States, hooray, hooray.

When we got to New York, we pulled in the harbor and for the first time I saw the Statue of Liberty. It was the first time that most of us saw the Statue of Liberty. I'm telling you, it was really a joyful sight. Everybody was up on deck, looking at it and really saying that they were happy to be back home, and they had a band playing at the dock, welcoming us and as the ship pulled up toward the dock and it was being tied up, why there was some men down there who had little cartons of milk, and they were throwing them up onto the deck, and we would catch one and Boy, this was a joy to have milk. Fresh milk! - the first time we had it since we were overseas. We had powdered milk but not fresh milk. The main thing I remember about it was the Statue of Liberty and everybody being happy about seeing it. It looked so great. We read about it when we were in school and now to actually see it.

And you're almost there toasting it.

Toasting it with fresh milk, and we could not have been happier.

That's a great, final memory of the years of service. It kind of summarizes it all.

A very happy note, yes.

I think your daughter was right, Bill. Thank you.

Reader's Note

Eight pages of scanned and captioned photographs follow. Bill provided the photographs for copying to illustrate his narrative. The photographs were taken in France and Germany.

After the section of photographs, the reader will find a seventeen-page Appendix of photocopied documents which are pertinent to Bill's Army experiences from beginning to end.

Picture taken in Germany by local photographer in Bad Nauheim, an elderly lady, who also took the similar photo which appears on the front cover of this transcript. Photo was printed on "Agfa-Brovira" paper.

2nd Platoon, "D" Company
1st Battalion - 289th Regiment,
75th Infantry Division
May, 1945 - Germany

Left to right: PFC Leonard (Litowitz) Landers - Brooklyn, NY; PFC William Shipp - Chicago, IL
PFC Richard White - Louisville, KY; PFC Burton Porter - Bellingham, WA, and
PFC John Czarny - Gary, IN (kneeling).

Germany, May, 1945
All combat soldiers of "D" Company

The five members - all PFCs, of the 1st Squad can be seen in the first row. Bill Shipp is third from the right, one soldier over from Joe, the Medic for D Company, which was at half-strength due to casualties and part of the 1st Battalion, 289th Regiment, 75th Infantry Division. Crossed M-1 rifles visible in the front.

U.S. Army soldiers visiting the Louvre Museum, Paris, in the Fall of 1945.

Bill and army pal have their picture taken on the car involved in a minor collision with the bus they were riding. A gendarme investigates in this Paris setting of Fall, 1945.

G.I. visiting the Louvre Museum and seeing the world-famous "Venus de Milo" Statue

Bill, on left, with Army pal standing with Eiffel Tower in background.

Paris leave, Fall, 1945

U.S. Zone of Occupation,
German money
One mark

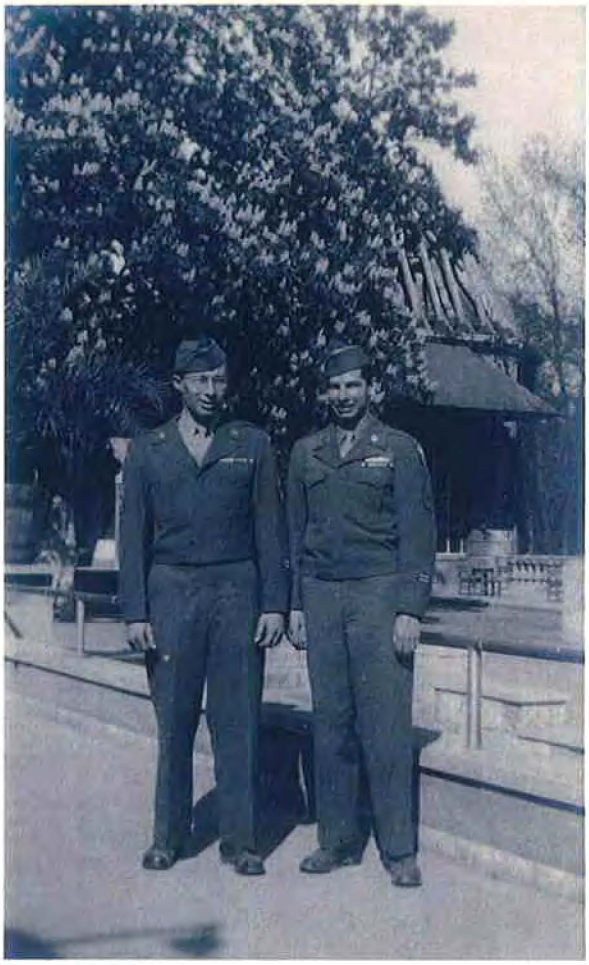
Tomb of the French Unknown Soldier

2 PARIS. – TOMBE DU SOLDAT INCONNU. — L L

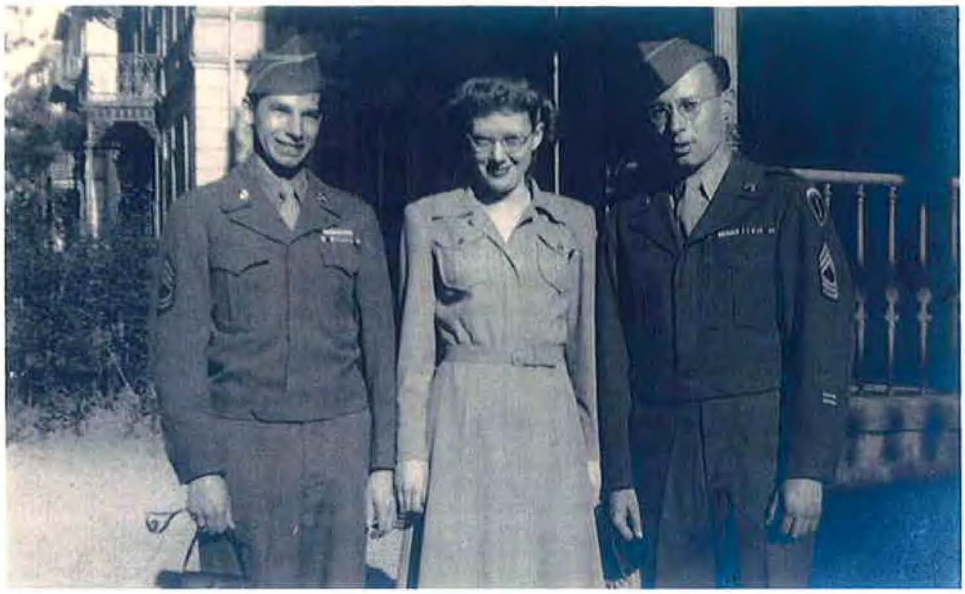
A friend of Bill's, Staff Sergeant Monroe "Doc" Nolan, is pictured with a German town in the background.

He and Bill attended 7th and 8th grade together and high school. They were inducted and discharged on the same day! They both served in Europe but in different companies.

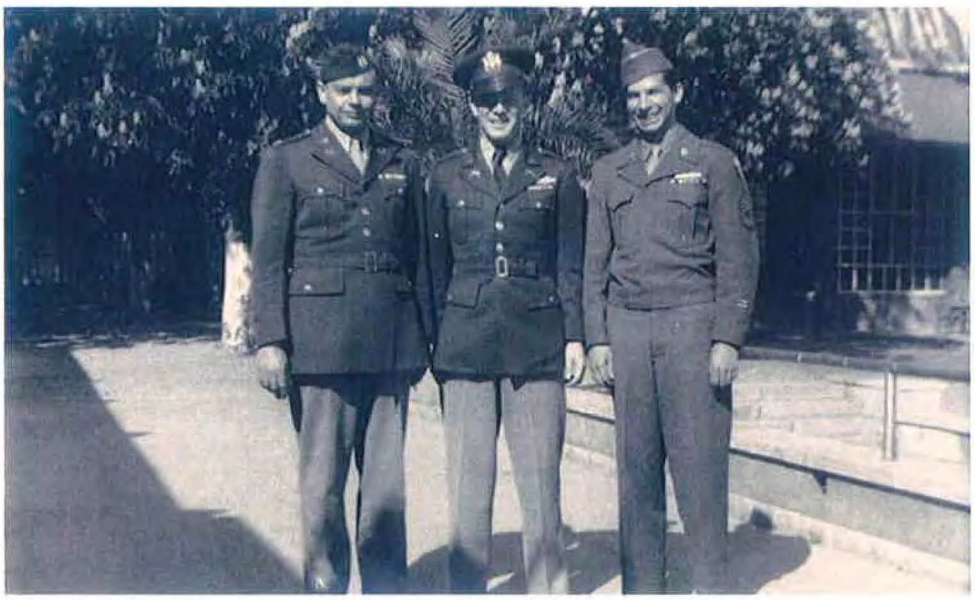
Bill and
Master Sergeant
Bob Bawes
in Bad Nauheim,1946



Germany, 1946
Special Services assignment
in Bad Nauheim



Bill is pictured with Ruth Heavener, who was a civilian from Michigan, and Master Sergeant Bob Bawes.

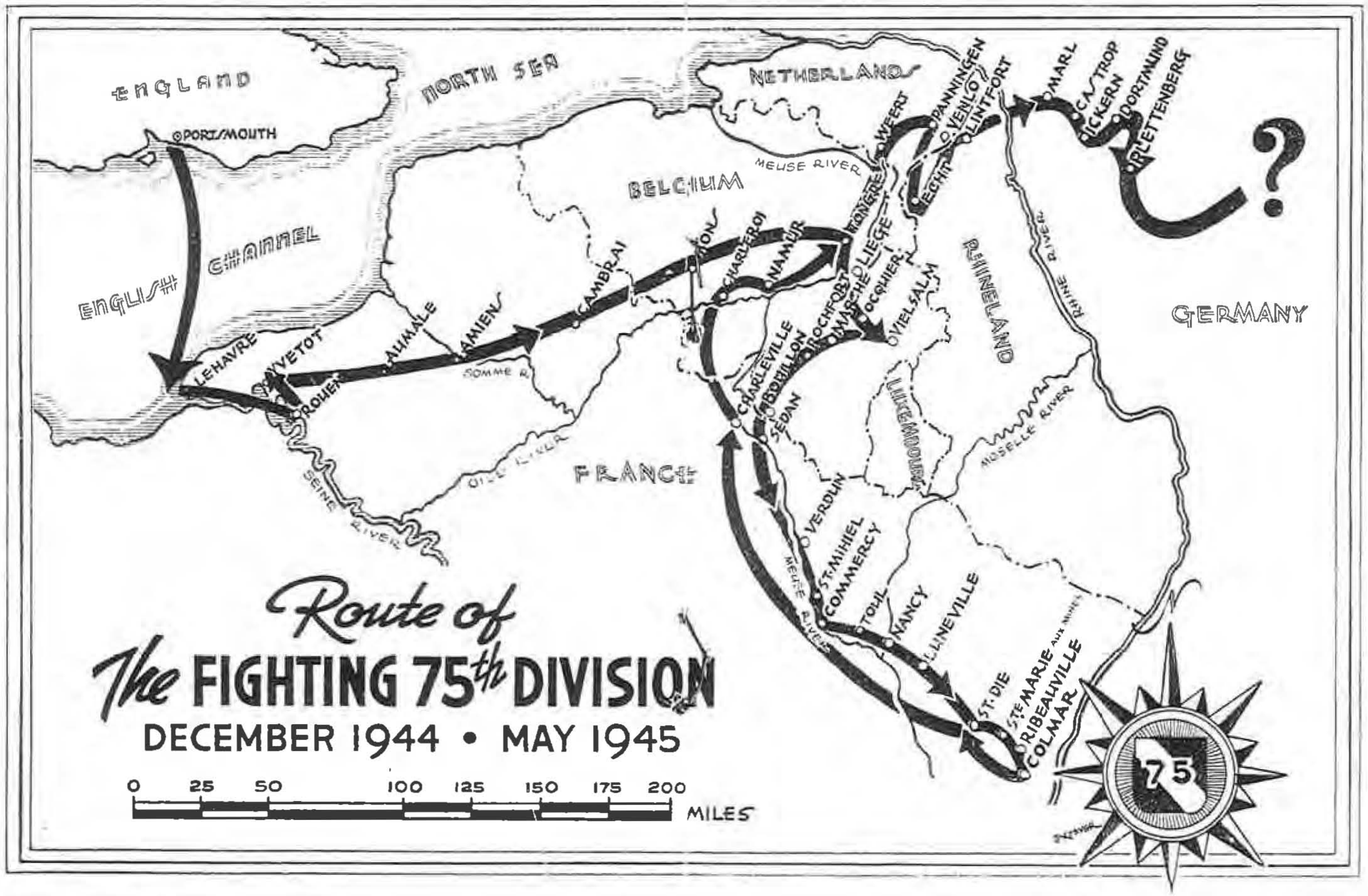


Bill is pictured with a Lieutenant and Captain.

Appendix

Photocopies of documents provided by William Shipp to supplement his interview

- Route of the Fighting 75th Division, December, 1944 – May, 1945
- Cover of Division History
- Certificate, Infantry Replacement Training Center, Camp Blanding, 7/31/1944 – 11/25/1944
- Immunization Register for William F. Shipp (scanned copy)
- Restricted Order – "relieved from present assignment and duty" to be redeployed to the United States for discharge, May 31, 1946
- Enlisted Record and Report of Separation, Honorable Discharge (*front*)
  Certificate of Honorable Discharge, 25 June 1946 (*back*)
- Separation Qualification Record
- "heartfelt thanks" letter over signature of President Harry S. Truman
- State of Illinois Service Recognition Certificate
- Bronze Star Letter, War Department, 5 April 1949
- Bronze Star Medal certificate
- United States Military Awards of T/Sgt William F. Shipp
- Close-up of medals


Route of
The FIGHTING 75th DIVISION
DECEMBER 1944 • MAY 1945
0 25 50 100 125 150 175 200
MILES
ENGLAND
NORTH SEA
NETHERLANDS
BELGIUM
FRANCE
GERMANY
ENGLISH CHANNEL
RHINELAND
LUXEMBOURG
PORTSMOUTH
LE HAVRE
YVETOT
ROUEN
AUMALE
AMIENS
CAMBRAI
MONS
CHARLEROI
NAMUR
TONGRES
LIEGE
OCHIER
VIELSALM
ROCHEFORT
MARCHE
BOUILLON
CHARLEVILLE
SEDAN
VERDUN
ST. MIHIEL
COMMERCY
TOUL
NANCY
LUNEVILLE
ST. DIE
STE. MARIE AUX MINES
RIBEAUVILLE
COLMAR
WEERT
PANNINGEN
VENLO
LINTFORT
ECHT
MARL
CASTROP
RICKERN
DORTMUND
PLETTENBERG
MEUSE RIVER
SOMME R.
SEINE RIVER
OISE RIVER
RHINE RIVER
MOSELLE RIVER
?
75


The
75th

HEADQUARTERS
REPLACEMENT and SCHOOL COMMAND
ARMY GROUND FORCES
[redacted]

CERTIFICATE

INFANTRY REPLACEMENT TRAINING CENTER
CAMP BLANDING, FLORIDA

William F. Shipp, [redacted]

has successfully completed
The Prescribed Course
of Training
31 July 1944
to
25 November 1944
Specially qualified for: Heavy Weapons Crewman

OFFICIAL
HEADQUARTERS · REPLACEMENT & SCHOOL COMMAND

Major General, U.S. Army
Commanding.

U.S. Army medical record of vaccinations received by William F Shipp

B23

IMMUNIZATION REGISTER[1]

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	ARMY SERIAL NO.
SHIPP,	WILLIAM F	

GRADE	COMPANY	REGT. OR STAFF CORPS[2]	AGE	RACE
			18	W

SMALLPOX VACCINE

DATE	TYPE OF REACTION[6]	MED. OFFICER[3]
2 AUG 1944	[illegible]	[illegible]

TRIPLE TYPHOID VACCINE

SERIES	DATES OF ADMINISTRATION: 1ST DOSE	2D DOSE	3D DOSE	MED. OFFICER[3]
1st.	2 AUG 1944	9 AUG	[illegible]	[illegible]
2d.	15 Nov - 46			[illegible]
3d.				

TETANUS TOXOID

	INITIAL VACCINATION: DATE	MED. OFF.[3]	STIMULATING DOSES	DATE	MED. OFF.[3]
1st dose.	2 AUG 1944	[illegible]			
2d dose.	[illegible]	[illegible]			
3d dose.	[illegible]	[illegible]			

YELLOW FEVER VACCINE

DATE	LOT No.	AMOUNT	MED. OFF.[3]
INFLUENZA	1cc	Oct 20 1945	W.P.T.

OTHER VACCINES

TYPE OF VACCINE	DATE	MFR'S. LOT NO.	AMOUNT	MED. OFF.[3]
BLOOD TYPE	A			[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]		[illegible]
TYPHUS, 23 MAR, 45				
"	15 Nov - 46			

[signature], M. C.,
U. S. Army.

16—20202-1

INSTRUCTIONS

1. A record will be kept on this form of all vaccinations given under the direction of medical officers to military and civilian personnel. See AR 40–210 for further details.

2. Appropriate entries will be made at the time prophylactic vaccinations are made *and the entries will be authenticated by the written initials of the medical officer making the inoculation.*

3. In the case of a civilian employee, the character of his employment (clerk, teamster, etc.) and the staff corps or department in which he is employed will be noted in the space *Regiment or Staff Corps.* A brief notation of the status of other civilians will be made in the same space.

4. All officers, warrant officers, nurses, civilians, and others furnished authenticated vaccination registers will preserve them for reference purposes to be exhibited to examining medical officers at home and to foreign health and quarantine officers upon transfer to overseas duty. See AR 615–250.

5. The duplicate copy of the immunization register will be held for at least 2 years in an alphabetical immunization file maintained with the Medical Department records of the station at which the record was prepared. See AR 40–1005.

6. Record as vaccina, vaccinoid, or immune reaction. If there is no reaction, or if the reaction fails to conform to any of the three recognized types, *vaccination will be repeated.* The use of the term "unsuccessful vaccination" on official records will not be used.

Form 51
MEDICAL DEPARTMENT, U. S. A.
(Revised Sept. 23, 1942)

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16—20202-1

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS
CONTINENTAL BASE SECTION
U.S. FORCES, EUROPEAN THEATER
APO 807

AG 300.4 AGM-P
31 May 1946

SUBJECT: Letter Orders (S-503)

TO : O and EM conc.

By direction of the CG, fol O & EM are reld fr present asgmt and dy and atchd unasgd 7P 787 AAA (AW) Bn, APO 69, as casuals for purpose of redeployment. Trf of property of EM will be in compliance w/Sec II, Cir 162 Hq USFET 45. O & EM will immediately complete three postal locator cards, Postal Div form 46bb, showing a non-mil forwarding address in US or in lieu thereof directing that all mail be returned to sender. One form will be furnished to Unit Mail Clerk, one to APO used as a mailing address, and one to Central Postal Directory, APO 300. EDCIR 4 June 1946. TCNT. Tvl by rail and/or Govt motor T is atzd. TDN. 60-115 P 431-02 - 212/60425.

CAPT DAN O'GORMAN, 01325250, Inf, (ASR 59)(MAS 43 as of 31 Aug 46)(MOS 2110) (YOB 1924) Hq 7th Lab Supv Area, APO 807. Packet Commander.

1ST LT ALVIN I BRANSKY, 01591958, QMC, (ASR 44)(MAS 41 as of 31 Aug 46)(MOS 2120)(YOB 1919) this Hq, dy w/AG Sec.

1ST LT ROBERT A COREY, 0928603, Inf, (ASR 34)(MAS 41 as of 31 Aug 46)(MOS 1542) (YOB 1920) this Hq, dy w/IG Sec.

1ST LT LORDE D TUKEY, 0541010, QMC, (ASR 59)(MAS 41 as of 31 Aug 46)(MOS 0605) (YOB 1921)Hq Bn, CBS (dy w/Sv Co), APO 807.

1ST LT CHARLES A McGEARY, 020161665, QMC (ASR 61)(MAS 41 as of 31 Aug 46) (MOS 2616) (YOB unk) this Hq, dy w/QM Sec.

T Sgt Abraham I Perlman, 31452661, (ASR 49)(MAS 28)(MOS 502)(YOB 1914) Hq Bn, CBS, APO 807.

T Sgt James Veta, 36528752 (ASR 41)(MAS 45)(MOS 821)(YOB 1920) this Hq, dy w/ G-4 Sec.

T Sgt William F Shipp, [illegible] (ASR 37)(MAS 23)(MOS 605)(YOB 1925) this Hq, dy w/Spec Sv Sec.

S Sgt James A King, 42176466, (ASR 36)(MAS 23)(MOS 055)(YOB 1926) this Hq, dy w/AG Sec.

S Sgt Watson B Poe, Jr, 33907201 (ASR 32)(MAS 23)(MOS 502)(YOB 1923) this Hq dy w/AG Sec.

Sgt Claude C McDonald, 34869017, (ASR 24)(MAS 23)(MOS 607)(YOB 1920) Hq Bn, CBS (dy w/Sv Co) APO 807.

Tec 4 Clifford J Murphy, 36416517 (ASR 43)(MAS 41)(MOS 055)(YOB 1924) this Hq, dy w/G-4 Sec.

S Sgt Thomas T Kneer, 33616283 (ASR 30)(MAS 23)(MOS 813)(YOB 1921) 53d MP Co, APO 807.

Sgt Irving J Prince, 42186150 (ASR 26)(MAS 23)(MOS 677)(YOB 1926) 53d MP Co, APO 807.

Tec 4 John P Hamrock, 31433548 (ASR 37)(MAS 23)(MOS 504 (YOB 1923) this Hq, dy w/G-3 Sec.

Tec 4 Leroy I Harneck, 36471774 (ASR 31)(MAS 23)(MOS 055)(YOB 1925) this Hq, dy w/AG Sec.

R E S T R I C T E D

Letter Orders (5-503), Hq Continental Base Sec, U.S. Forces, European Theater, APO 807, dated 31 May 46 (Contd).

Tec 5 James A Helfrich, 36472187 (ASR 31)(MAS 23)(MOS 014) (YOB unk) Hq Bn, CBS (dy w/Sv Co) APO 807.
Cpl Excell Eaves, 34838746 (ASR 19)(MAS 23)(MOS 405)(YOB 1926) Hq APU 807.
Cpl Walter Kasprzak, 42175344 (ASR 38)(MAS 23)(MOS 821)(YOB 1918) Hq Bn, CBS (dy w/Sv Co) APO 807.
Pfc Roy Cleveland, 36844642 (ASR 20)(MAS 23)(MOS 014)(YOB unk) Hq Bn, CBS (dy w/Sv Co) APO 807.

J R ACHOR
Lt Col, AGD
Asst Adj Gen

DISTRIBUTION:
10 - Ea C conc
1 - Ea O 201
5 - Ea EM conc
1 - CO, ea unit conc
1 - Ea Sec conc, this Hq
1 - AG Orders
1 - AG Records
1 - AG Reading File
1 - M/R Branch
20 - CO, 787 AAA (AW) Bn, APO 69
1 - Redeployment Sec, CBS

BOOK 406 PAGE 103

Army of the United States

Honorable Discharge

This is to certify that

WILLIAM F SHIPP

T SGT INF 289th Inf

Army of the United States

is hereby Honorably Discharged from the military service of the United States of America.

This certificate is awarded as a testimonial of Honest and Faithful Service to this country.

Given at SEPARATION CENTER
FORT SHERIDAN ILLINOIS

Date JUNE 1946

C. S. Bender

C S BENDER
MAJOR FA

ENLISTED RECORD AND REPORT OF SEPARATION

BOOK 406 PAGE 104

HONORABLE DISCHARGE

1. LAST NAME - FIRST NAME - MIDDLE INITIAL	2. ARMY SERIAL NO.	3. GRADE	4. ARM OR SERVICE	5. COMPONENT
SHIPP WILLIAM F		T SGT 6Mar46	INF	AUS

6. ORGANIZATION	7. DATE OF SEPARATION	8. PLACE OF SEPARATION
289th Inf	Jun 46	SEPARATION CENTER Fort Sheridan Illinois

9. PERMANENT ADDRESS FOR MAILING PURPOSES	10. DATE OF BIRTH	11. PLACE OF BIRTH
24 Nevada Ave Melrose Pk Ill		Chicago Illinois

12. ADDRESS FROM WHICH EMPLOYMENT WILL BE SOUGHT	13. COLOR EYES	14. COLOR HAIR	15. HEIGHT	16. WEIGHT	17. NO. DEPEND.
See 9	Brown	Black	5 8	145 LBS.	0

18. RACE: WHITE	NEGRO	OTHER (specify)	19. MARITAL STATUS: SINGLE	MARRIED	OTHER (specify)	20. U.S. CITIZEN: YES	NO	21. CIVILIAN OCCUPATION AND NO.
X			X			X		Student High School X-02

MILITARY HISTORY

22. DATE OF INDUCTION	23. DATE OF ENLISTMENT	24. DATE OF ENTRY INTO ACTIVE SERVICE	25. PLACE OF ENTRY INTO SERVICE
Jul 44		Jul 44	Fort Sheridan Illinois

SELECTIVE SERVICE DATA: 26. REGISTERED YES	NO	27. LOCAL S.S. BOARD NO.	28. COUNTY AND STATE	29. HOME ADDRESS AT TIME OF ENTRY INTO SERVICE
X		5	Cook Co Ill	See 9

30. MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY AND NO.	31. MILITARY QUALIFICATION AND DATE (i.e., infantry, aviation and marksmanship badges, etc.)
Chief Clerk 502	MM w/ M1 Rifle Combat Infantryman Badge

32. BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS
Ardennes Rhineland Central Europe

33. DECORATIONS AND CITATIONS Victory Medal European-African Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon With 3 Bronze Battle Stars 3 Overseas Service Bars Army of Occupation Medal Germany Good Conduct Medal

34. WOUNDS RECEIVED IN ACTION
None

35. LATEST IMMUNIZATION DATES: SMALLPOX	TYPHOID	TETANUS	OTHER (specify)	36. SERVICE OUTSIDE CONTINENTAL U.S. AND RETURN: DATE OF DEPARTURE	DESTINATION	DATE OF ARRIVAL
Aug 44	May 46	Sep 44	None	3 Jan 45	ETO	15 Jan 45
				10 Jun 46	USA	19 Jun 46

37. TOTAL LENGTH OF SERVICE: CONTINENTAL SERVICE YEARS	MONTHS	DAYS	FOREIGN SERVICE YEARS	MONTHS	DAYS	38. HIGHEST GRADE HELD
0	5	19	1	5	17	T SGT

39. PRIOR SERVICE
None

40. REASON AND AUTHORITY FOR SEPARATION Convn of Govt RR 1-1 (Demobilization) AR 615-365 and AG 210.8 AFLST 12 Jun 46 (Service)

41. SERVICE SCHOOLS ATTENDED	42. EDUCATION (Years): Grammar	High School	College
None	8	4	0

PAY DATA VO 336

43. LONGEVITY FOR PAY PURPOSES: YEARS	MONTHS	DAYS	44. MUSTERING OUT PAY: TOTAL	THIS PAYMENT	45. SOLDIER DEPOSITS	46. TRAVEL PAY	47. TOTAL AMOUNT, NAME OF DISBURSING OFFICER
1	11	6	$ 300	$ 100		$ 1.30	182.57 J B NICHOLSON 1ST LT FD

INSURANCE NOTICE

IMPORTANT IF PREMIUM IS NOT PAID WHEN DUE OR WITHIN THIRTY-ONE DAYS THEREAFTER, INSURANCE WILL LAPSE. MAKE CHECKS OR MONEY ORDERS PAYABLE TO THE TREASURER OF THE U. S. AND FORWARD TO COLLECTIONS SUBDIVISION, VETERANS ADMINISTRATION, WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

48. KIND OF INSURANCE: Nat. Serv.	U.S. Govt.	None	49. HOW PAID: Allotment	Direct to V.A.	50. Effective Date of Allotment Discontinuance	51. Date of Next Premium Due (One month after 50)	52. PREMIUM DUE EACH MONTH	53. INTENTION OF VETERAN TO: Continue	Continue Only	Discontinue
X			X		Jun 46	Jul 46	$ 6.50	X	$	

RIGHT THUMB PRINT

55. REMARKS (This space for completion of above items or entry of other items specified in W. D. Directives)

Lapel Button Issued
ASR Score (2 Sep 45) 37

1946 JUL 26 PM 12 — FILED FOR RECORD IN RECORDER'S OFFICE, COOK COUNTY, ILL. — 13822552

56. SIGNATURE OF PERSON BEING SEPARATED

57. PERSONNEL OFFICER (Type name, grade and organization - signature)
G L STACKHOUSE CWO USA

WD AGO FORM 53 - 55
1 November 1944

This form supersedes all previous editions of WD AGO Forms 53 and 55 for enlisted persons entitled to an Honorable Discharge, which will not be used after receipt of this revision.

Army of the United States

SEPARATION QUALIFICATION RECORD

SAVE THIS FORM. IT WILL NOT BE REPLACED IF LOST

This record of job assignments and special training received in the Army is furnished to the soldier when he leaves the service. In its preparation, information is taken from available Army records and supplemented by personal interview. The information about civilian education and work experience is based on the individual's own statements. The veteran may present this document to former employers, prospective employers, representatives of schools or colleges, or use it in any other way that may prove beneficial to him.

1. LAST NAME—FIRST NAME—MIDDLE INITIAL		
SHIPP WILLIAM F.		
2. ARMY SERIAL No.	3. GRADE	4. SOCIAL SECURITY No.
[redacted]	T SGT	UNKNOWN
5. PERMANENT MAILING ADDRESS (*Street, City, County, State*)		
24 NEVADA AVENUE MELROSE PK ILLINOIS		
6. DATE OF ENTRY INTO ACTIVE SERVICE	7. DATE OF SEPARATION	8. DATE OF BIRTH
JUL 1944	JUN 1946	16 DEC 1925
9. PLACE OF SEPARATION		
SEPARATION CENTER FORT SHERIDAN ILLINOIS		

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL ASSIGNMENTS

10. MONTHS	11. GRADE	12. MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY
4	PVT	INF BASIC TRNG 521
10	PFC	HVY MACHINE GUNNER 605
9	T/SGT	CHIEF CLERK 502

SUMMARY OF MILITARY OCCUPATIONS

13. TITLE—DESCRIPTION—RELATED CIVILIAN OCCUPATION

CHIEF CLERK 502: SPECIAL SERVICES OF ARMY CONTINENTAL BASE SECTION IN EUROPE. SUPERVISED ALL THE ADMINISTRATIVE WORK IN CONNECTION WITH SUPPLY, RECREATION, ENTERTAINMENT AND ATHLETICS FOR APPROXIMATELY 35,000 TROOPS. HAD CHARGE OF 8 CLERKS. HANDLED ALL RECORDS OF ENTERTAINMENTS, PROGRAMS AND MADE REPORTS ON SAME.

511 ABS

This form supersedes WD AGO Form 100, 15 July 1944, which will not be used.

16—45815-1

MILITARY EDUCATION

14. NAME OR TYPE OF SCHOOL—COURSE OR CURRICULUM—DURATION—DESCRIPTION

NONE

CIVILIAN EDUCATION

15. HIGHEST GRADE COMPLETED	16. DEGREES OR DIPLOMAS	17. YEAR LEFT SCHOOL
4 YRS H.S.	DIPL	1944

18. NAME AND ADDRESS OF LAST SCHOOL ATTENDED

LYDEN C H S
FRANKLIN PK, ILLINOIS

19. MAJOR COURSES OF STUDY

ACADEMIC

OTHER TRAINING OR SCHOOLING

20. COURSE—NAME AND ADDRESS OF SCHOOL—DATE	21. DURATION
NONE	

CIVILIAN OCCUPATIONS

22. TITLE—NAME AND ADDRESS OF EMPLOYER—INCLUSIVE DATES—DESCRIPTION

STUDENT HIGH SCHOOL, LEYDEN C.H.S., FRANKLIN PARK, ILLINOIS, 1940-44

COMPLETED A 4 YEAR COLLEGE PREPARATORY COURSE UPON INDUCTION INTO ARMY. RECEIVED HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA IN JUNE 1944.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

23. REMARKS

NONE

24. SIGNATURE OF PERSON BEING SEPARATED	25. SIGNATURE OF SEPARATION CLASSIFICATION OFFICER	26. NAME OF OFFICER (*Typed or Stamped*)
	Gordon J. Mott	GORDON J. MOTT, MAJ A.C

☆ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16—45815-1

511 2B5

WILLIAM F SHIPP

To you who answered the call of your country and served in its Armed Forces to bring about the total defeat of the enemy, I extend the heartfelt thanks of a grateful Nation. As one of the Nation's finest, you undertook the most severe task one can be called upon to perform. Because you demonstrated the fortitude, resourcefulness and calm judgment necessary to carry out that task, we now look to you for leadership and example in further exalting our country in peace.

Harry Truman

THE WHITE HOUSE

WAR DEPARTMENT
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
RECORDS ADMINISTRATION CENTER
4300 GOODFELLOW BOULEVARD
ST. LOUIS 20, MISSOURI

IN REPLY REFER TO

AGRS-DA 201 Shipp, William F.
(12 Mar 49)

5 April 1949

SUBJECT: Letter Orders

TO: Mr. William F. Shipp
10513 Nevada Avenue
Melrose Park 2, Illinois

1. By direction of the President, under the provisions of Executive Order 9419, 4 February 1944 (Sec. II, WD Bul. 3, 1944), a Bronze Star Medal is awarded for exemplary conduct in ground combat against the armed enemy to Technical Sergeant (then Private) William F. Shipp, Infantry during the Rhineland Campaign in the European Theater of Operations.

2. Authority for this award is contained in Par. 15.1e AR 600-45 and is based upon General Orders No. 32, Headquarters 289th Infantry, dated 13 February 1945.

3. The Commanding General, Philadelphia Quartermaster Depot, will forward an engraved Bronze Star Medal direct to the recipient at the address shown above. This office will forward a Bronze Star Medal Certificate, under separate cover, direct to the recipient.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

W. A. Gray
Adjutant General

1 Incl
Photo Copy Discharge
Certificate

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

TO ALL WHO SHALL SEE THESE PRESENTS, GREETING:

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AUTHORIZED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER, FEBRUARY 4, 1944
HAS AWARDED

THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL

TO

Technical Sergeant William F. Shipp, A.S.N.,

FOR
MERITORIOUS ACHIEVEMENT
IN GROUND OPERATIONS AGAINST THE ENEMY
European Theater of Operations, during the Rhineland Campaign

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND IN THE CITY OF WASHINGTON
THIS 12th DAY OF April 19 49

Edwin D. Sibert

MAJOR GENERAL
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

Dennis Doyle

SECRETARY OF THE ARMY

The Unites States Military Awards of
T/Sgt William F. Shipp
for service with the United States Army
in the European Theater, World War II

Combat Infantryman Badge
Service: Army Instituted: 1943
Criteria: Awarded for satisfactory performance as a member of an infantry unit
Engaged in active ground combat with an enemy

Bronze Star Medal
Service: All Services Instituted: 1944
Criteria: Heroic or meritorious achievement or service
Awarded to holders of the Combat Infantryman Badge (W W II only).

Army Good Conduct Medal
Service: Army Instituted: 1941
Criteria: Exemplary conduct, efficiency and fidelity during three years of enlisted service

European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal
Service: All Services Instituted: 1942
Criteria: Service during 1941-45 in the European-African-Middle
Eastern Theater for 30 days or receipt of any combat decoration.
Devices: Bronze stars represent participation in specific campaigns.

Bill's European Theater of Operations (ETO) Medal has three battle stars:
1: Ardennes Battle of the Bulge
2: Battle of Central Europe
3: Battle of the Rhineland

World War II Victory Medal
Service: All Services Instituted: 1945.
Criteria: Awarded to all personnel for active federal service in the U.S. Armed Forces
from 7 December 1941 to 31 December 1946

Army of Occupation Medal
Service: Army/Air Force Instituted: 1946
Criteria: 30 consecutive days of service in occupied territories of
former enemies during 1945-55 (Berlin: 1945-90).

World War II Honorable Service Pin

More commonly known as the "ruptured duck."

This pin was issued to every service member who was honorably discharged between September 1939 and December 1946.

Medals Plaque Inset