

Jim Reece

Interviewer: When were you born?

Mr. Reece: 1919

Interviewer: Where?

Mr. Reece: In York Country South Carolina right outside of Clover.

Interviewer: And is that your hometown?

Mr. Reece: What's this?

Interviewer: Is that your hometown?

Mr. Reece: No when I was two years old I moved across the line up into North Carolina. I was born in South Carolina.

Interviewer: And what do you consider your hometown in North Carolina which city?

Mr. Reece: Cramer town it's it was ruled by a benevolent dictator know that's not good except when you have a real benevolent dictator and that's what we had there. He owned everything worked three thousand well had a population of three thousand worked two thousand at that plants there but he was fantastic. He did everything anybody could do he supported the schools built churches but it was great we really appreciate it.

Interviewer: What branch of service did you serve in?

Mr. Reece: Army

Interviewer: Did you have a preference?

Mr. Reece: Field artillery.

Interviewer: Did you have a preference for the Army?

Mr. Reece: They drafted me I went where they told me to go I just went.

Interviewer: What did your parents do for a living?

Mr. Reece: What did they do for a living?

Interviewer: Yes

Mr. Reece: My dad worked in a textile plant as most of my bothers and sisters did about that time and then my mother she was the real dynamo in the family. She worked at things in the community and she spent her time trying to make sure that I went to college.

Interviewer: And you have 10 brothers and sisters?

Mr. Reece: We were 10 children plus mother and daddy, twelve of us the dirty dozen.

Interviewer: How many brothers?

Mr. Reece: Six boys and four girls.

Interviewer: Okay were you close to your grandparents when you were young?

Mr. Reece: Not very close at all just barley knew them.

Interviewer: Where did they live?

Mr. Reece: In South Carolina and North Carolina.

Interviewer: Where did you attend school?

Mr. Reece: Well I went to high school in Cramer Town North Carolina and then when I well I did several things but then when I went on to get an engineering degree which I knew I had to do I went to North Carolina State University.

Interviewer: And that was in 1949?

Mr. Reece: I thought I wanted to go to MIT but that's a right funny story about that.

Interviewer: What was school like in North Carolina?

Mr. Reece: Oh it was great it was pretty great. I went to North Carolina State I have two sons who went to North Carolina State I have a younger brother who went to North Carolina State and I have about four nieces and nephews who went to North Carolina State. Good school.

Interviewer: What do you remember about the great depression?

Mr. Reece: The great depression?

Interviewer: Yes sir.

Mr. Reece: Well we didn't know we were poor we just went right on we had plenty to eat. In fact our grocery bill was about \$4 a week for 12 of us how do you like that? Dad had a green thumb you know he could grow anything.

Interviewer: How old were you when you were drafted into the Army?

Mr. Reece: 21 if I'd have been three weeks younger I would not have been drafted. But I was no more drafted and I was in the first group that left.

Interviewer: Alright did you have a job before the Army?

Mr. Reece: Oh yes I was a I not only had a job but I was also doing some teaching. But it was in textile designing in the plant there.

Interviewer: Do you remember how much you were paid?

Mr. Reece: How much I was paid?

Interviewer: Yeh

Mr. Reece: I think I made 12 and 16 dollars a week as I recall. But what I did was I did some teaching for the university and they paid me pretty good. And I started teaching when I was 17 years old.

Interviewer: And that's what you did before the service?

Mr. Reece: When I went in I went on and got my engineering degree.

Interviewer: Okay before Pearl Harbor did you think the Nazis and the Japanese were a threat?

Mr. Reece: I didn't think too much about it I was already drafted into the Army that was in about February of 41 and I was home for the weekend in December 7th you recall that day. And we were on the straight up in Gastonia which is a fairly good size town. And a young boy came up to me and said soldier the Japanese have just bombed Pearl Harbor what are you going to do about it? That's the first I heard of Pearl Harbor.

Interviewer: Do you remember what you said to him?

Mr. Reece: I said I reckon we'll go fight em.

Interviewer: What did you think of Roosevelt?

Mr. Reece: Well I didn't I agreed very little with Roosevelt.

Interviewer: Really

Mr. Reece: Very little

Interviewer: Why

Mr. Reece: Well his whole policies were socialistic which was totally against what I think is best for any country. I'm not saying he wasn't a good man.

Interviewer: Right

Mr. Reece: I'm saying his social policies were contrary to what I felt was good for us.

Interviewer: Did you think he was leading the country in the right direction?

Mr. Reece: What's that?

Interviewer: Did you think he was leading the country in the right direction?

Mr. Reece: No because it took a war to overcome what I thought were bad policies.

Interviewer: Do you remember the day Roosevelt died?

Mr. Reece: What

Interviewer: Do you remember the day Roosevelt passed away?

Mr. Reece: Yes because I was in Newark at the time and I was over in Western France and we got the word that he had died. I think it was 44 or 45 but I'm not sure I remember the day I don't remember the date.

Interviewer: When you were drafted were you happy or upset?

Mr. Reece: Neither one neither one because I knew that what I was being drafted for had to be done. And I said well you know why should I expect somebody else to go although I could have gotten out of it. The company that I was working with said if you want to be deferred we'll get you differed. I said no somebody's got to go so I'll go.

Interviewer: Were any of your other brothers did they service?

Mr. Reece: Yes my brother Boyce was in the service. He's a younger brother and my younger brother Ted was in the service in fact he was in the air borne he went to Japan he was younger than I was. I can't think if there was any of the rest of us I think there was just three of us that was in the service.

Interviewer: Did you go to an induction center?

Mr. Reece: Yes

Interviewer: What was that like?

Mr. Reece: At Fort Bragg, Fort Bragg but I was assigned to to a basic unit for training and there happened to be a be a I'm trying to describe it, it was a mule pack artillery outfit. Where you took the cannon apart and loaded it on so many mules. But part of training was we had to learn to ride horses. Well I remember it so well because every time that horse went up I came down. Every time that horse went down I went up. Just beat me to death but I mean it was tough but it was good training.

Interviewer: Have you kept in touch with any of the recruits you did training with?

Mr. Reece: I don't know a couple of them but I don't know because I went on to officer's school pretty soon after that. And so most of my contacts have been with the officers I served with.

Interviewer: When did you go to officer's school?

Mr. Reece: Fort Seal, Oklahoma that's where the artillery school was.

Interviewer: And that was in 42?

Mr. Reece: 42 yeh 42.

Interviewer: What did that involve your officers training?

Mr. Reece: What was what?

Interviewer: What did it involve?

Mr. Reece: Well we had to 13 weeks we were known as 13 week wonders or something I guess. But it was practically everything we needed to know and it was good. I was in class 16 at Fort Seal, Oklahoma that means they started a new class every week I was one of the first through there. And but I thought they prepared us well for what we were going to have to do once we got into combat.

Interviewer: What were the conditions like there? The living conditions what were the living conditions like?

Mr. Reece: Well in a parameter tent did I say that right? And you had the cots in there and that's the way you lived. The reason I remember it so well is because the day I graduated somebody stole my wallet. All my money I had to wire money to get home.

Interviewer: After your training did you go overseas?

Mr. Reece: Well I went from Fort Seal back to Fort Brag North Carolina we trained with a unit with units over there. And then after that I went to Fort Jackson in Tennessee for a little special work and then we shipped overseas.

Interviewer: Were you did you go overseas in troop ships?

Mr. Reece: Oh yeh Queen Elizabeth and of course we had a lot of rumors the Germans had just invented a submarine that goes faster than the Queen Elizabeth. We had the usual rumors going on but what was strange about that it seemed like everything I thought was real funny was strange. Right before right before we went overseas they shipped us out on the ocean and the law says you can't take draftees outside the continental limits of the United States but I was out there. And so I took I had to leave in a hurry so I had \$10 and a half on me that one night the first night at sea I could lay in my bunk and touch eight other people without moving. We were really packed in and that night I was up on the deck bragging about somebody stole my \$10 that night. And so I was flipping up the 50 cents laughing about it and that night they came back and got my 50 cents.

Interviewer: Where did this ship depart from?

Mr. Reece: Brooklyn New York now you talking about the ship that went out in the ocean for a month or overseas?

Interviewer: Both

Mr. Reece: Both of them we shipped out from Brooklyn New York.

Interviewer: And where did you land?

Mr. Reece: Gimmick Scotland I think.

Interviewer: Scotland

Mr. Reece: I think we landed in Scotland and went from Scotland down into around Stafford on Avon down in England.

Interviewer: And what year was this?

Mr. Reece: What year was that?

Interviewer: Yeh 42, 43?

Mr. Reece: That was in we left Jackson in 43 got to England in 44 and we were there several months and then we went into combat from there.

Interviewer: What did you do during those several months in England?

Mr. Reece: Went to see Shakespeare plays at Stafford on Avon.

Interviewer: Really?

Mr. Reece: Which was real interesting and trained and got ready and I made the mistake of going on a ship to get to inspect the type of ship we would be going on. And I made the mistake of calling asking the captain about his boat. You don't do that you don't do that at all it's a ship. But we went in and like I think I told you we did not lose a lot of people we were heavy artillery we had one man step in on a mine going in on the beaches. But we landed on the I believe on Omaha Beach. But we landed D-Day was on June 6th if I remember

Interviewer: 1944 yes

Mr. Reece: And we went in about 20 or 25 days after that but it something else.

Interviewer: What unit was this with?

Mr. Reece: What?

Interviewer: What unit?

Mr. Reece: The 44th.

Interviewer: What did you do on Omaha Beach what was your task?

Mr. Reece: Try to keep from getting killed. I mean again I've talked about this before you could get killed at any time but you just had to say well I'm going to do the best I can and go on.

Interviewer: Where was your first experience of combat?

Mr. Reece: What's this?

Interviewer: Where was your first experience of combat?

Mr. Reece: Well it was we started going in position and firing and going in position and firing they were running faster than we could move so we started actually firing within probably 15 to 30 days after we landed. And they were moving pretty fast but we ran out of gas.

Interviewer: Can you tell me some of the equipment or arms that you had?

Mr. Reece: Well our main weapon was an 8 inch howitzer I wish I'd have thought to fetch it for you. But they fired a 200 pound projectile now an 8 inch howitzers is a 203 millimeter something like that. But it would shoot 10 and a half miles and it was extremely accurate. It had a probably error of maybe 25 yards at the most. But it would when you shot at something and we did some fantastic shooting we really did now we didn't fire all that much we probably didn't fire over 10 or 12 thousand rounds but that's a lot of shooting. And we followed them on up into right on up into Germany.

Interviewer: So you did you were in Germany also.

Mr. Reece: Oh yeh oh yeh and we got pulled out of Germany to go back to the west coast of France to clear out some pockets of Germans that were still over there. And we were really brilliant because we went into position one night and the next morning we woke up and found out we had put them in position right in the middle of a mine field. But luckily for us the French people there were friendly so they showed us where everything was. Right in the middle of the wine country Venuses and Chareas and one other we got well acquainted with all of the wine producers. Brandy some of it 125 years old.

Interviewer: Did you partake?

Mr. Reece: You're getting noisy. We had we really enjoyed it we really did.

Interviewer: Did you have any other combat experiences?

Mr. Reece: Well in the battalion field artillery battalion we had two light airplanes the one thing that I did I would go up every so often as an observer in the airplanes now. The observer in our airplanes would be directing fire on the enemy from where they could see. But they were light airplanes just single engine but we had good pilots. I remember one of them said major I can have you on the ground in 60 seconds out of this airplane anytime you just tell me. And so here we were going along and I said I want out in less than 60 seconds I was on the ground and out. They were trained to know where to land no matter at any as they went along. But it was comforting to know that you had such confident officers and confident pilots.

Interviewer: Did you ever get shot at?

Mr. Reece: What's that?

Interviewer: Did you ever get shot at when you were being an observer?

Mr. Reece: Oh yeh you get shot at and some of them you have bullets go through the plane. I tell people I tell people I got this shot off during the war (pointing to a portion of his finger that is missing) but that's a lie that's not the truth. The worst I ever got hurt was diving into a fox hole.

Interviewer: Where was this?

Mr. Reece: You know what a fox hole is?

Interviewer: Yes

Mr. Reece: Okay that's when I just skinned up skinned myself a little bit.

Interviewer: Do want to describe any of your combat missions that you had you said you had 13.

Mr. Reece: Had 13 observation now I wasn't the pilot I was

Interviewer: The observer

Mr. Reece: You know I could pull rank at that time and I'd say I want to go and they'd let me go.

Interviewer: Which countries were you doing this?

Mr. Reece: Well we went into France and we went from there on into Germany and I might say one thing about the war now about dealing with people. And a lot of people may not agree with me but the German people were most nearly like the American people of anybody over there. And I'll give you an example wed go through France and we'd tear up the roads six months later I'd go back and there would be the same hole in the road. In Germany you'd tear up the road the next day some blonde headed kid was out there filling up that road. But I understand that they double crossed us pretty good France and Germany and Russia.

Interviewer: What did you think of the French? What was your impression of them?

Mr. Reece: Well I don't now you've got me talking now. When I was in England and serving under General Patton's staff I went over to Wales and met with the British over there. And I'll always remember this there was a British Brigadier over there he pulled me off to the side and said Major I want to warn you about something he said don't ever trust the French. I said what are you talking about? He says okay you'll get ready to move out at 6 o'clock some morning and they'll move out at 6 o'clock some morning but 6 o'clock some morning you'll be up where somewhere and they'll decide they weren't ready. Said that's just a massacre when you expose your flanks like that.

Interviewer: Right

Mr. Reece: So I always remember him cautioning me to don't trust the French.

Interviewer: Did you have an opinion of the British?

Mr. Reece: I liked the British I thought they were dedicated to winning the war just like we were and that's the big difference here. It's amazing I know that one of the greatest things that happened to us is that we felt the American people were supporting us. I don't think you saw that in Vietnam I don't think you saw it on some of this other stuff but when you don't have your people back home supporting what you're doing it must be miserable. But we had it we never doubted it never doubted it.

Interviewer: When were you on Patton's staff?

Mr. Reece: Well it was right after I got into England before I went into France so in 44 I'm pretty sure.

Interviewer: What was your position on his staff?

Mr. Reece: Well when you're on a big staff like that I was some liaison officer to the British or something like that.

Interviewer: So what did your job involve?

Mr. Reece: Well liaison

Interviewer: Okay

Mr. Reece: Well there's all sorts of definitions' of a liaison but see in the artillery what you had primarily you had the battalion commander and you had the executive officers and you had the S3 which was the operations then you had the intelligence officer and all of these. But at that time most of my experience had been operations so I was over there working with them to well you were teaching each other just like when the Brigadier said don't you trust the French I mean it was that type of thing. But General Patton was a great General because there wasn't any question about what he meant whenever he said it. You would go down the road over there and you'd see a sign that said speed limit 30 miles an hour and you'd go another 100 yards or so and it said you have been warned. But that was the type of thing he did he got peoples attention. I was real proud of him. I can't tell you about this but sat there and listened to him in person at times and he was one of the roughest talking men I've ever been around I mean he didn't care who was there either. I mean if you were nurses would be at some of the talks he made and all it didn't bother him. He just kept right on talking.

Interviewer: So you were only in England, France and Germany when you were in Europe right?

Mr. Reece: Yeh

Interviewer: How long were you in Europe?

Mr. Reece: What's that?

Interviewer: How long were you in Europe?

Mr. Reece: I was over there a year and a half I left the states and it was a year and half before I got back. But we were in combat of the nine months I'd say about nine and a half months we were only pulled out of there just about three days so it was sort of a constant thing with us. It's not like being in the infantry

you couldn't do that being in the infantry. But see we were usually five miles back or maybe six miles back and I felt so sorry for the infantry because there toward that last you know here you have these kids coming by you look like they were 16 year sold heading up to the front and stuff.

Interviewer: Where did you sleep?

Mr. Reece: What?

Interviewer: Where did you sleep?

Mr. Reece: In a pup tent. Most all of the time a pup tent that's a little tiny tent that you crawl into crawl into your sleeping bag. And don't ask me if I was afraid because you know I was afraid.

Interviewer: Good I was going to ask if you ever felt sleep deprived and over worked.

Mr. Reece: Yes because I didn't know how to regulate myself if I'd have known how to lay down and sleep but I had so much on my mind I'd find myself not getting much rest. I come to think of it I never have gotten over that. But I wasn't sleep deprived because of the conditions I was sleep deprived because I didn't really approach it properly.

Interviewer: What did you eat when you were in the field?

Mr. Reece: We ate K-rations C-rations in a can.

Interviewer: What did that have in there?

Mr. Reece: Oh you've heard of spam?

Interviewer: Yes

Mr. Reece: And things like that. They were I mean it was good it was good we were hungry. Now sometimes we would go back to the back headquarters they would cook you bacon and eggs and so forth if your own one of the headquarters there. But I don't know that anybody suffered from food we had plenty of food.

Interviewer: Did you have any weather related problems like frost bit and that type of thing with your group?

Mr. Reece: Not really I've got to tell you about a brilliant idea I had. They you can cut it of this if you want to. I had an idea see we were in the artillery and we operated on what they call metro messages it's a weather message and a message would come out every three hours and it would tell you how fast the wind was blowing and what direction it was blowing and what the temperature was and it seemed like about five different items. But the problem was that when it came 1 o'clock and 2 o'clock and we were using the 12 o'clock metro message we'd have 3 o'clock the thing went completely hay wire. So I got an idea I said here's what I want you to do to the observation people. When you send us the 12 o'clock metro message you send us a forecast of 3 o'clock. That was not a good idea they had no idea so I stopped that pretty quick. But I thought it was a good idea but it wasn't.

Interviewer: Did you receive many letters when you were overseas?

Mr. Reece: Any letters?

Interviewer: Yes

Mr. Reece: Oh I tried to write regular back home to my wife and my family and they wrote regularly to me she was a lot wiser than I was.

Interviewer: Is that what you did in your free time? Read your letters.

Mr. Reece: Well this sounds silly but I didn't consider it was free time my free time was memorizing the firing manual. Figuring out how to kill somebody a whole lot quicker than they could kill us.

Interviewer: Did you ever have to kill someone?

Mr. Reece: Well I'm not going to say I did or didn't except the odds are our guns killed many people. But why do I think of things to tell you? The S2 came to me and said we have discovered Germans are operating out of this church steeple. Showed me on the map where it was and their in a real good position to fire on our troops. But we can't fire on a church steeple I said what are you talking about you are going to fire on it and you are going to knock it down too. But it just shows you how different people approach things and that's what we did but your not going to stand there and let your people get killed just because their utilizing a church. I don't know whether your interested or not but I think about that a lot. I think about the fellow the officer that came to me he well he's one of those he was a nice fellow.

Interviewer: Did you have any leave time?

Mr. Reece: Any leave time over there?

Interviewer: Yes

Mr. Reece: I don't even recall even thinking about it except to go down you know in the night and see one of Shakespeare splays. I probably saw about five Shakespeare plays at Stafford on Avon while I was in England. But then I went down to the Riviera once things got real quiet right there at the end. But come to think of it probably the decese orders had already been signed then. But I had 86 days of terminal leave so when I got back here you know I got paid for 86 days. I was already back in school while I was still getting paid.

Interviewer: You were promoted correct during the service?

Mr. Reece: What?

Interviewer: You were promoted during the service?

Mr. Reece: Yeh I was promoted from Corporal to Lieutenant to First Lieutenant to Captain and to Major all in about two years something like that.

Interviewer: Did you think that promotions were deserved by those who received them?

Mr. Reece: All I was doing was taking them.

Interviewer: Whether you deserved them or not.

Mr. Reece: Yeh but they must have been desperate to promote me like that.

Interviewer: Were a lot of the people around you were they pre-career Army?

Mr. Reece: Almost none

Interviewer: Really

Mr. Reece: Almost none in fact except for a couple of the major ones I mean like the head people at the time all of the rest of us were reserve officers or drafted or went to school at Fort Sail. I just forgot about something I went to school for ten straight terms engineering school I got so tired I didn't know what to do. I picked up the telephone and called a Colonel that I knew and said I'm worn out I need to be back in the Army for three months the next day I had orders to get back in there for three months. You talking about goofing off that was a goofing off period right there.

Interviewer: How did some of the European civilians and refugees react to you as an American soldier?

Mr. Reece: Reframe that now.

Interviewer: The civilians how did they react around you how did they ask around you as a soldier American?

Mr. Reece: The French and the Germans and all?

Interviewer: Yes how did they treat you?

Mr. Reece: Well everybody was so glad to see us in England and in France and the Germans it was real strange. We were building on an airfield just happened to be on an airfield because that's were a lot of space was and the Mayor of the town brought a Catholic Priest down to see me. And he said Major Reece I'd like for you to meet Father Reece. I did not shake hands with him because at that time we were telling all of our troops do not fraternize with any Germans. But I sort of believe if I had it to do over again I would have probably shook hands with him. But yet he had the same name I had and sense my father's people came from Germany it made it a little bit strange sure enough. I said I was named after Adolph Hitler you believe that? You don't know you'll believe anything I tell you. No the only reason I was named after Adolph Hitler I scared one of my teachers daughter-in-laws to death but just because he was older than I was so I was named after he was. But one of the teachers you don't know Ted my youngest son do you? He brought her over for dinner one night before they got married. I said missy I've got a mean streak I said missy there's something about this family you really need to know and I rather you'd hear it from me than hear it from somebody else later on. I said my father's people

came from Germany and my middle name is Adolphus and I was named after Adolph Hitler. I thought she would die. But it was a great sigh of relief when I explained it to her. Excuse me for interjecting that.

Interviewer: What did you think of Adolph Hitler?

Mr. Reece: What did I think of what?

Interviewer: Hitler?

Mr. Reece: Oh I thought he was an evil man evil evil just like Saidam Hassan's evil. You can't deal with evil people except to get rid of them.

Interviewer: What did you think of the Nazis their leadership and tactics and skills?

Mr. Reece: They just captured the hearts of people and all these people got to wanting something that everybody at the rest of the world's expense and that's part of that's part of socialism. Only they just carried it to a greater extent it was evil had to be stopped had to be.

Interviewer: Can you discuss some of your medals?

Mr. Reece: What?

Interviewer: Your medals can you discuss some of them the Silver Star and Bronze Star?

Mr. Reece: you talking about the Silver Star and the Bronze Star and the Cordial Gear?

Interviewer: How did you earn them I guess?

Mr. Reece: What makes you think I earned them?

Interviewers: You received them well they weren't selling them were they?

Mr. Reece: Well the whole idea was that you rewarded people you honored people that really went to the extra effort to do what you had to do and that's what we were there for. And that was their praise that some people stood out. I won't say I earned them but I got them.

Interviewer: And you didn't get them for something beyond the call of duty?

Mr. Reece: Well that's what the citation talks about that's the way you write a citation.

Interviewer: Well did you do some things maybe beyond the call of duty?

Mr. Reece: Well I tried to be beyond the call of duty on everything I did while I was over there.

Interviewer: Were friends and any of your family killed or wounded?

Mr. Reece: Well none of my family none of my family was killed in military combat. And I don't know the three of us that were in there one of my sons well two of my brothers were in there in the military. Then

I have a son David my oldest boy where's he he was a Captain in the Army in Alaska the top up there he his in the core of engineers now.

Interviewer: Well did you know anybody who was killed in WWII or wounded? Friends of your?

Mr. Reece: Was he ever wounded?

Interviewer: No your friends. Anybody you knew or friends that you knew?

Mr. Reece: Well we had 90 people in our organization that were killed. I know people from my hometown that were killed. I don't know I don't know any of the details.

Interviewer: When did you come back to the United States?

Mr. Reece: In the late 1945. But I was actually discharged on January 2, 1946 but I was already back and in school then. That's what they called terminal leave back then.

Interviewer: Have you gone to any reunions?

Mr. Reece: What's that?

Interviewer: Have you gone to any reunions?

Mr. Reece: Lots of them one ever two years since 78 yeh. Yeh that's what these are I wish I'd have brought you that was back in

Interviewer: Is this a certain unit that you're doing the reunion with?

Mr. Reece: Oh yeh that's the one I served through combat with.

Interviewer: And that units what?

Mr. Reece: 999th, 999th and then later it was the 686th. 999th you want to know why I'm laughing?

Interviewer: Okay

Mr. Reece: It brings up the charge of the life brigade. And we went in while I was at Fort Bragg I was Captain I think at the time and three of us went into the Colonel and snapped our heels and said our is not to reason why ours is just to do or die into the jaws of death rode the 999th. He said what the hells going on here.

Interviewer: Were you involved in any of the famous landings or battles of WWII?

Mr. Reece: Well we were we landed on Omaha Beach just like a hundred thousand others did and we were involved in supporting see we were core artillery so we supported a lot of other units. And figured we were trapped at the Battle of the Bulge but we were not encircled but we were right there. Doing what we were told to do around Strasberg.

Interviewer: How long did that last?

Mr. Reece: The Battle of the Bulge?

Interviewer: Your involvement?

Mr. Reece: What

Interviewer: Your involvement in that.

Mr. Reece: See what I was saying we were involved in fighting for nine months and 18 days out of the nine months and 21 days that we were there until the war was over.

Interviewer: What would be your most memorable moment in WWII?

Mr. Reece: Why did you ask me that? Because it's a real good question. Well the most memorable moment is when peace was declared just a relief to know that you could quit shooting at each other really. Quit fighting quit killing and they wanted me to transfer to the South Pacific at that point but I wanted to come home.

Interviewer: So how did you get out of not going to the South Pacific?

Mr. Reece: Well I had enough points to come home I mean based on how long you had been in and how much foreign service you had well you were on a ladder you could either come home or be transferred and I chose to come home. Well I needed to get back in school anyway.

Interviewer: Is there anything else you'd like to add?

Mr. Reece: Well I don't want to do it again I mean ones enough but I think it's just like we're told that your strengthened by going through tribulation that's a tribulation right there. And God will try up pretty good but I don't think I would have ever grown up because I was fresh you wouldn't think so being one of ten but I was extremely shy. But until I went into the Army but luckily I played sports and I thought I was a real good student but I wasn't that I thought when I came back I was going to go be a basketball player up at MC State. And went up to Boston and got me some contact lens that was a long time ago and I found out I'm not very good I wasn't very good. So that stopped that pretty quick. But enjoyed the challenge of school but I think being in the Army and being in the war was a very strengthening part of my character as bad as it is.

Interviewer: You think it turned you into a man?

Mr. Reece: What's that?

Interviewer: Do you think it kind of turned you into a man from a

Mr. Reece: It sure did. It sure did. Sure did.

Interviewer: Do you agree that you think that WWII was the best of times?

Mr. Reece: Best of times?

Interviewer: As in people came together?

Mr. Reece: Oh yes oh yes you didn't have all of this dissention back then. Sure we had some people that you know shot themselves in the foot to keep from going to the war and all but in general there was a comradely that was dedicated toward getting that war over with. Which meant and I don't take any backseat on it which meant more efficiently kill the Germans before they kill you. And this sounds s little bit strange to you but when I was still back in the states General Simpson who was a three star General came out and I'll always remember this he said this is the way we are going to win, we are going to maintain our equipment. Now that doesn't sound very exciting does it? Maintain your equipment that's the way you're efficient and you get your job done. I'll always remember that.

Interviewer: Okay

Mr. Reece: You've had all you can stand.