

Interviewer: If I could, could I get you to say your full name and your birthday?

JT Street: Alright. When you get ready, just when you get ready.

Interviewer: Alright, yes sir.

JT Street: I'm JT Street. My birth date is 8-9-23.

Interviewer: Alright so...

JT Street: And I happen to be at the right age, at the right place, at the right time I suppose id the way you would say it, anyway I went into the service in uh, April of 1993.

Interviewer: Of 43'?

JT Street: I mean of 43', yes, instead of 93', 43', excuse me.

Interviewer: You were drafted right?

JT Street: And uh, I was drafted, but I was overseas in September 1943, and uh, I was with a group that went over there to establish a, actually a supply depo and the first base post office.

Interviewer: Now when you went overseas, where exactly was your first base, it was England, right?

JT Street: It was in England, we went to England and uh, and made the first base post office there in Birmingham, England and then made the supply depo on the outskirts and I didn't work on the depo thing, I was working on the post office, and from there then we went all through Scotland and Wales and Ireland and we were in Belfast, Ireland and set up the uh, supply depo in Ireland for several different divisions, they didn't have places for it and they was putting them in over there and of course Belfast is a city where North and South Belfast is and you know, without me telling you anymore I imagine about it. One of them id uh, Catholic and the other is Christian and they all time, they can't get along.

Interviewer: Right. Exactly.

JT Street: So to speak but it's right in, it's more or less built into Belfast divides the two and uh, I was there for almost 3 months and when I left there they took me back to England and we went to uh, to well Dover, right just outside of Dover, where we were camped and they uh, put us in training with a group that they had there that was training and they call them uh, I can't even think now, uh, well I'll think of it in a minute and we'll come back to it.

Interviewer: Well, before, up to this point what kind of training had you had, what, where had you gone to your basic training in the Unites States?

JT Street: Well I did my basic in excuse me, I did my basic training in Virginia.

Interviewer: In Norfolk or..?

JT Street: No, it was in, close to Petersburg, it was in uh, the basic training there on a new place right out of Leechburg and uh, it's white sand and I thought sure that that was the hottest place on the Earth because we had basic training there and uh, we even had all night marches and uh, well when you get in something like that it's always worse than you think it is, you know. I mean you think it's worse than what it really is. But uh, when we..

Interviewer: Did you have any...

JT Street: ... we went through 8 weeks of training and then they allowed us to come home for a week, it took us three days to get home and 3 days to get back and we had 7 days leave.

Interviewer: Were you doing training or...?

JT Street: Well, that's the only way they had us going so uh, we got back home and got to stay 2 days, then headed back and we got as far as uh, Atlanta and the train from Birmingham to Atlanta didn't make the next train in Atlanta and we were supposed to be on before it left and we got there so we were a day late at getting back and we had to call in to get back and uh, after that we started different trainings there for uh...

Interviewer: Like specialties?

JT Street: Special training, and uh, we were waiting all the time to go overseas and that's when they decided that we would go and we left the last part of August and well actually left the 7th of September on going overseas but we went from uh, Camp Lee Virginia to uh, well uh, in Pennsylvania, all the way to the western line of Pennsylvania, can't even think of the name of the town now but uh, they took us out there and we thought at that time we were headed to the Pacific but we never unloaded us there and we stayed for about 3 days and they turned around and unloaded us back and sent us back to the East coast and that time we went to uh, Massachusetts and embarkation camp up there which was right out of Boston, and we left Boston Harbor and we were overseas in October of 43'.

Interviewer: Did you feel adequately trained after you had gone through all your basic training, your specialty and all this, did you feel like you were ready for?

JT Street: Well let me think, let me say this, you were with people that uh, really don't care, a lot of them don't care but as far as feeling, it didn't matter to you, what we had was a job to do and uh, we wanted to get the job and we were ready, we thought. Of course we wasn't trained very well, then but uh, we had more training later in uh, we were with a ranger outfit when we come back from Ireland to England, that's where I was trying to think of a while ago and couldn't.

Interviewer: Oh yeah.

JT Street: We were trained with the uh, Ranger outfit and boy they had some rough training and really uh, we done some things that was against the law so to speak, we went on the coast of where we were going to have the invasion and uh, you remember the cliff that was up there?

Interviewer: Yes, sir.

JT Street: We went and stuck hole in that cliff so that you could stick pegs in there and climb that cliff and we did that without the Germans even knowing we was there and we made about different trips down there and you take Rangers, they do any and everything, they claim that they're not as good trained as the Marines but I would disagree with it very much because they really are trained and when you're with them, why they tried to take care of all the men but we did things that was more or less secret and uh, after or just before the invasion, they had a uh, island down on, in the English Channel and we wasn't in the base but we were doing this other stuff and they were having the mock invasion of this little island down there and somebody said they better not let the German subs slip in the English Channel and come up there, and we lost about 8000 men up there so, and 40 something landing, 43 landing crafts, I believe, and that made it short-handed there for a while but they didn't say nothing about it and let the Germans know it or anything but the Germans knew but they didn't worry about it either but uh, anyhow that came out after the war was over but they never did tell it til after the war was over.

Interviewer: Well before D Day, when did you, when did you find out personally what was going on, that you were going to be in an invasion?

JT Street: Well really you didn't know for sure but uh, the training that you had maybe not at first but you knew you was going to be in the invasion and this happen, and a lot of people were in the invasion but uh, they wasn't the first day in, I happen to be one of the first day, I wasn't the first ones to get there but some of my outfit even went in with the uh, 82 Air Bourne Division, and uh, they rode the gliders in and I never did know what happened on those, what really happened, we were using the British landing crafts and they were operating the crafts and they were supposed to put me and my group off on the Utah Beach, but instead of that they got scared and didn't know where they were or what to do and they finally put us off way out too far from the land, 21 foot deep water and we had to full pack, with horse shoe rolls and a blanket and everything on them.

Interviewer: How many people were on that boat with you?

JT Street: Uh, well on the particular boat, I don't know because we came off the ship on the side, you've seen these ladders, far from that getting in these landing crafts.

Interviewer: Just about as many as you could get on there.

JT Street: Well, the best I remember there was 32.

Interviewer: Ok.

JT Street: Uh, that could stand in that thing, it was small and you know and then when you get to where they are letting you off they drop the thing down like well, I'd say it's just like a pick up.

Interviewer: Like a tailgate.

JT Street: Yeah, like a tailgate, and they leapt in and of course you were in rows, one right after the other and uh, they was about 6 wide and the front row would go up the edge and they would say jump and they would jump off and the next row would come up to there and they would say jump and they would jump off and I was back in about 5 or 6 rows, I don't remember just how many, but I was looking and we had enough weight on to where if you sat down you couldn't get up, without somebody helping you up and if you feel down you couldn't get up, you had to have help and I knew I wasn't much of swimmer anyway and I knew that I wasn't going to be able to swim out but I was watching these others and they never did come up and it occurred to me that last thing they needed was for me to come in there because I never would come up anyway, so as we worked up there and I was able to see down and I took off my equipment and when then said jump I threw mine off and I remember you can't do , and of course I was done and the water was very swift in that particular place and it went down in one of those wooden crosses and I happen to hit that with my arm and I pulled up and I they was people under me when I went down and jump forward, and I knew that I wasn't going to come up either so I don't know and I couldn't tell you to save my neck, if a soul out of that ship load, if anybody else in that shipload was to come out alive but they we had men in these uh, I forget what you call them, they take you every day and they show you what they want you do when you get there and you knew you was going to be in the invasions, and they gave you objectives to do, and what you were supposed to do as soon as you get there is to do, and they had it all on the map so you knew just right where you was going to be, they knew were you was going to land and what you was going to see and they gave all that to you, now it's kind of like a movie and uh, when they unloaded us and I got where I could get to the bay, nothing, I didn't know which direction anything was, nothing, was like what it was supposed to be, and we were 7 or 8 miles from where we supposed to have landed, and of course it was, one of the worst ones we ever had, it was right, Omaha Beach took the whole thing, and uh, anybody that was on there, I don't care who he was, everybody was there was scared, they had to be.

Interviewer: Of course.

JT Street: I was scared myself and I don't think I was any different from the rest of them but we got there and I didn't find, I didn't know not anybody, not a soul, I didn't know any outfits really, I just happen to tag along when we...

Interviewer: Now, did you have anything with you when you got on the beach, had you..?

JT Street: Well, no I threw all of that off, but I had no problem there, whenever I hit this cross down there, well I was sick and vomiting and everything and I just got onto that and I happened

to be in a place where there wasn't nothing, well 10 feet from it, where the machine gun was hitting the water and everything, and I stayed there until I got to where I could do better and it just so happened the first tank that came off there and came right by me, and when it came by me well I just tried to keep it between me and the gunner and me, I stayed right close to that tank and just as I got to the edge, there was a man laying there, his face was in the water and his body was in the water but uh, but it was around his head, just his neck sticking up, and his pack and everything was on and I just grabbed him around the collar and pulled him up out of the water and turned him over and undone his pack and everything, and I got all of his equipment, they same as I left there, including his steel helmet and I had to a little bit of adjusting for it but I had the same things as I had left behind, and uh, from there then I got with a group that uh, was waiting to try and get the tanks out, and found out it was a 3rd Armored Division and that's what I wound up with and I stayed on with them because I didn't know where the others were and uh, finally I wound up with them and they transferred me on my discharge there, it shows that uh, I was uh, transferred to this uh, 38-20th Quarter Master Supply Company, well what they did with us, and I assumed later it was because of uh, we had been through an area, they took us back to Belgium, where a cemetery was, and they put us with the truck drivers that was driving the trucks that went out and picking up the bodies and so forth, and I assume that uh, there were 4 of us that was transferred and went back, but all four of us had been through 5 battles and we had enough points to go home, we thought we was going home of course it didn't work out like that.

Interviewer: Well, what was your original objective, you said they gave you an objective you were supposed to do, with your original..?

JT Street: Yeah, there was a crossroads up on the highway where the uh, well everything went through that highway, in different places, Liege, Belgium was one of the ports that they used there, and it was in the Liege Peninsula, and uh, not Liege but uh, I can't even think of what the name of it is, uh, anyhow we went through that and we finally cut it off but uh, everything was different and I never did fins anybody that I knew and uh, I went through the uh, and they was still soldiers hanging from his parachute, on the building but uh, they didn't, wasn't long before they had him off, but I remember seeing him up there, and uh, they just shot him all the pieces of course, and he still had his shoes on of course and whenever day light had come, somebody had come along and just let him have I guess, I don't know but, anyway he was still hanging there, whenever I went through and uh, the signs that you would see was 82 Air Bourne, took this area, not prisoners taken, and they had given them a rough time when they first came in, of course they was the first ones to land, and uh, they had their troubles I'm sure, they had decided not to take prisoners because the way some of their people were treated and uh, they were the ones that was, that were in the nightmare whenever I got there, of course we didn't stick around there, we didn't stay long, we just went through and went on around it and uh, then what we did was cut off the peninsula there so that we could uh, we would have a port down there and that was the primary objective.

Interviewer: A place for you to get all the American soldiers and Allies?

JT Street: Right. And we fixed and they fixed us when we were having the, we were to catch these crossroads thing so that the Germans couldn't take them back and come down, and attack. And if necessary we would blow bridges and blow holes in the road, anything to keep them from it but uh, it turned out we didn't know about where we was at and I just happen to one that was on the continent and I didn't know where I was or a soul, I just followed along with other people, if you can understand that.

Interviewer: Followed other people.

JT Street: And then uh, after we went through the uh, peninsula there and got in, we started for ... To make the run there you know, and when we broke through that area, you have heard of friendly fire, I'm sure.

Interviewer: Oh, yes sir.

JT Street: We had, friendly fire for 2 or 3 days there, but the communications back then wasn't as good as they are now, and they were using smoke bombs to try and show the planes where to bomb, and the wind changed on then and it started right back towards us, of course they bomb, you know they would come along, they would drop the bombs, they would be on alert, we lost a lot of men there but that couldn't be helped.

Interviewer: Right, there's a lot of the stories about artillery fire and stuff..

JT Street: Oh yeah, we had uh, well not as much utility fire as you might get normally but we had our own plan, anyway uh, we had strafing you know, and even the German planes would strafe us and would come along and find them, we seen lots of German planes shoot ours down and saw lots the other way, if you got anything particular thing that you want to...

Interviewer: Well, after you left uh, would you just describe like what your experience was like in France and going to uh, Germany, like were you encountering a lot of, a lot of resistance or by that time were kind of just...?

JT Street: Well you would hit resistance but we, after we broke through at St. Bow, we were pretty well on our way but we had a lot of places where they would stop us but somebody was coming behind us all the time and we tried to keep moving all the time, the longer you can keep moving, than the better off you were, so we instead of going into Paris, we went south of Paris and around Paris more or less and uh, I, there's a place in there that I can't tell you how many days or nothing it was but uh, in World War 1, the Germans used poison uh mustard gas...

Interviewer: Mustard gas, yeah.

JT Street: ... and we knew that we was going to go into Germany, and we didn't know what maybe they were going to use, mustard gas, so we had two uniforms on, one of them was impregnated with uh, stuff that would keep that mustard gas from getting to your body.

Interviewer: And you all had gas masks too right?

JT Street: Oh yes. Yeah you had your gas mask and everything and I'm going to say that what you had with your, well all your toiletries and everything, and your gas mask and all would be between 125, 150 pounds, and uh. Course you didn't need the gas mask, you didn't use it but you had it, and uh, again they didn't know when we went there whether the Germans were going to use mustard gas or not, but they did give us uniforms to put on that were impregnated and we had them on under the other uniforms and uh, of course we all went cold and it was cold, oh cold, cold and raining and everywhere you went you were wet you know and of course it didn't get any hotter than that English Channel but uh, we didn't, didn't get a chance to change clothes for 27 days, and I'm sure that they could smell us as far as they could see us, maybe further but anyway uh, they finally took us on, loaded us on a truck and they had set up the uh, shower, field shower they called it, that they could warm the water some way and we would go in there and they would give us a bath and then give us clean clothes you know and then you felt like a million dollars.

Interviewer: It was the best, one of the best shower you probably ever had.

JT Street: We had four that whole year and the rest of the time you used your steel helmet as your bathroom as your basin, your bathtub, everything, I mean it, that is the most useful thing that the Army had, was that one item.

Interviewer: Of course.

JT Street: And you could use it for anything you needed it for, you cooked in it, you made coffee and sometimes you'd heat your coffee with it, if you was in foxhole and they had you pinned down pretty well, and you had to go, sometimes you'd use it to go in. Excuse me I'm not trying to be funny, but that's the way it was, you just had to do what you could do, and uh, again the uh steel helmet is number one item that anybody could use up there, and we went then uh, and from there on over too uh, we got into Germany. We got into Germany in the early September over there and uh, the first day we got there we took . . . , Germany, the first town and it had turned, began to rain, mist rain and we would be cold and it would get you wet, and uh, that night they had several crowd . . . , you know Germans is known for crowds, and they had these Crowd Papers around . . . , Germany there and uh, and we stayed in the Crowd Papery that night in there slept on the concrete just like a baby and uh, that was really the first real night that you was able to go to sleep and we had people guarding and as it rained they wasn't going to be able to dive bomb in there on us so you felt pretty safe and we had that shelter that night and from there we went on and when the Battle of the Bulge come we were done in Germany and went on our way and each one of these places here shows that route that we took.

Interviewer: So did you miss, ya'll weren't involved in the Battle of the Bulge?

JT Street: Oh yeah.

Interviewer: Ya'll were?

JT Street: Yeah, they sent, I believe it was 28 of us, the 7th Armored Division was near St. B in the Battle of the Bulge and the German had moved plum just over Roman so to speak and they claimed that they didn't have enough people to help enough, anything left to uh, where they could retreat and they sent us down to help them and all of us was suppose to retreat together and we got there on the 16th day of December, and we were going to leap off of them and get our ammunition and everything and we just took everything that we had with us, and uh, we got there and we was there about 2 o'clock in the afternoon, was when we got and by 4 o'clock you couldn't find one of the 7th Armored, when we got there they just took off, just scared to death I'm sure but we didn't have any ammunition, we didn't have anything to eat, and we lived on these pay raisins uh, chocolate bars and uh, people don't understand why people can't like why anybody can't like chocolate but uh, they hadn't been through what I've been through or they wouldn't. I can't stand it it's really to me, bitter, more bitter, so I just... go.

Interviewer: Um, so was that your experience, what else happened to you in the Battle of the Bulge?

JT Street: Well, we got out, we got out the 24th of, the night of the 24th of December, they had, one had, they had done, looking over the map and looking at your thumb, and they had cut us off up there, well they've, actually St. B. there is the hub of all, the whole thing and we just wasn't giving it, wasn't allowing them to use it ,and they had to make arrangements to go another way and of course winter time there, it was cold, cold, cold...

Interviewer: Bitter.

JT Street: You couldn't have a fire, you couldn't have a light, you couldn't have anything and uh, where we were, we had about 8 or 10 feet where we could just walk back and forth and just run back and forth, try and keep the circulation going and then uh, we mentions out one night and found some Germans that had these big coats on and we just took these coats and after that then we could stay pretty well warm then by keeping moving, if you stand still your feet will freeze and you can't you know, you can't maneuver, so we just had to do what we could do and uh, do the best we could and then on the 24th of December, the uh, captain was with us knew that uh, the Germans were monitoring our radio, so he got away from the radio and sent word, come around in the daytime and said tonight at x number of hour we are going to try and get out of here and he appointed a group of 6 to find a way out and I happened to be in one of those, one of the group and we went up the ridge to about half way up to where the Germans were and with the ground froze you could go just about anywhere and we didn't intend to take tank with us, we had some there from the 7th Armory but we equipped them so that they couldn't be used against us and we run out of all the ammunition for them anyways so we just plugged them up so if they fired them it was going to do them more damage than it was us, anyhow, we did have some half tracks, you know what half tracks is, uh, kind of like the tracks on a training wheel.

Interviewer: Oh yeah.

JT Street: But you only had them on the back end, it pulled them double, double pull and uh, we had a couple weapons carriers there and four wheel drive and we got down there in a ditch about 5 feet wide and 3 or 4 feet deep where they drained all the water from east ridge and we were going to stay on this bridge on the left and we crossed that ditch by cutting in separate about 10 or 12 feet long and just lay them down length ways in the ditch so that the half tracks and everything can go across that and the captain was staying back and he was on the radio telling the Germans that we were going all out that night and he was saying to us, knowing that the Germans were hearing him and he was preparing us for leave, and about 4 o'clock that afternoon we could hear them over on that other ridge just moving the equipment they had and they were back up and we were going to move right up this ridge and just run out and they were sure we were going all out so they took all their equipment on the other ridge and we got up about half way and we cut across got across on the other ridge and took off and didn't even see anybody, it was far enough away from where we were supposedly going to come out so we got out and uh, Christmas Day the sun was shining, first day since we had been there uh, and that was on the 16th, it was snow and cold and it 's sure different feeling when that sun had come out and we could see planes coming over they had whole rows of planes, one right after the other, we saw them and uh, we finally that day confiscated a jeep from a place up there so we could go find some food, us, first lieutenant and myself, went to the food, and uh, we finally found a place that had some but we had to take it back to where we left it and we had at the place already stopped the Germans, they knew then that were you know, that they weren't going to win and uh, after that then right at the 28th I believe it was, we pulled out went back over in Germany where we left from and of course, Marines got in with the rest of the troops that was there and pulled right around us and uh, you've heard of the remaining bridge I'm sure.

Interviewer: Um, I don't know if I've heard of that.

JT Street: Well, that was across the Rhine and when you crossed it you was in rural valley down there, and we were lucky enough that we captured that before they blew it, we knew that they were going to blow it, we several of us got across before they blew the bridge up and some of the engineers got there in time to stretch a pontoon across and they put about 5 or 6 pontoon across so that people could get across before they ever blew the bridge and uh, they found us in a I guess you'd say uh, kind of like the Japanese was with the people that knew they was going to die.

Interviewer: Kamikaze pilots.

JT Street: Yeah, but these id S.S. I'm sure but he knew that he wasn't going to make it and they had already tried several times to blow it and it didn't do but this man had come low enough and he knew what he was doing and he was giving his life to get that bridge and he got it, he didn't

destroy it all completely but you couldn't get over it, you could on foot but there wasn't any way of getting equipment over it but they had pontoon bridges.

Interviewer: While you were going into Germany did you, did you meet any towns and things that seemed maybe happy to see, maybe that were...?

JT Street: Well, uh.

Interviewer: ...and knew the end was coming so they were happy to see that they might be free again?

JT Street: Your French were and your Belgium were, and Holland and all of them, but uh, the Germans wasn't too happy about it, course they acted a little bit friendly because well you know, they figured they would be better off, and I guess they were really, but we didn't have time to visit with any of them, uh, I saw a lot of books that people have written and I can say they were right about the places where they had been, having answers on the cobblestones and uh, the G.I. would not have a shirt on, would be washing his clothes and this, that and the other but we didn't have that chance, we wasn't, we didn't have the chance to see the girls or nothing..

Interviewer: You didn't have much time, you were constantly moving.

JT Street: We didn't have much time, we made all five of the battles and we didn't have a chance to do any of that so to speak, and uh, after, well after I left, after the war was over and I went back to Liege, Belgium, I was in the house there, they put me up, they call it boarding, and they allowed me to stay in their home there and they was a real nice family and uh, I brought a few pictures home uh, I'm sorry I don't know where they are.

Interviewer: That's fine.

JT Street: But I got them somewhere, and uh, they had wrote me a post card when I got home but uh, I didn't never answer it or nothing, I'm sorry that I didn't because they were a really nice group of people and their uh, head of the house I guess is what they would say, head of the family, the father of the family was, they had killed him and uh, they didn't capitulate completely with the Germans, they had to live as best they could, and uh, when I first went there they had a meal, they did have some bread, that they managed to get from somewhere but they had foxed some soup out of this grass, rye grass, that they could find that was green and they made that soup, they just put it on the fire and cooked that juice so to speak, but that soup was just as greener than any rye grass was, but it was good, no doubt about it, they had to make out with what they had, they like to starve them to death really and they were happy to see us, but in Germany they wasn't too proud, they hadn't apparently told them that we were coming around and checking, everything and uh, they wasn't too happy.

Interviewer: And Liege is as far as you went into Germany, is that where you ended up, you said?

JT Street: Uh, no, I ended up in uh, way over here in, see this is France here and this is Holland and Belgium and there ... Germany, and Cologne id where we were when we went to the Battle of the Bulge and then we wound up over here, this uh river right here and nearly all of the uh towns, is where they had water planted, you know what I'm talking about, from the rivers and such, but we were off over here when the war was over and uh, on May the 8th 1945 is when they told us that the war was over, and to turn in all of our fighting equipment.

Interviewer: And that's when you went back to Belgium, or...?

JT Street: No, that night is when I went back to Belgium.

Interviewer: Ok.

JT Street: And they told us that day that, to turn all of that in and the next day we would start having, our regular meeting and getting ready to leave and retreat and all that you know, get up and...

Interviewer: So you just kind of camped for the, until like the war was over in Japan and everything?

JT Street: Well, yeah it was a camp type place that they had there and they were trying to get set up with it and uh, we uh, got a chance to go to a place where the, I'm going to say that either there wasn't any money there or they got the family moved somewhere else but anyway this house, we was going to spend the night in this house and we got in there and got us a bath and I went to bed, they had told us that afternoon that uh, there was four of us that had enough points to be going home and of course, we knew the ones that had gone through all of it knew that, that we were the ones and they said that we would have a meeting the next morning and have roll call and start are regular thing again and we went to bed and I don't know if I have ever had a nights' sleep any better than that and a little after midnight, they came and woke us up, course we went to bed early now, don't get me wrong but uh, we went right after midnight they woke us up and told us to get your personal stuff together, you're leaving within the hour, so man that really tickled us, we just knew that we was going home you know, come to find out they were sending us back to Liege Belgium to help. If you remember May the 30th of each year, we have the memorial and uh, and apparently they had that in mind and they transferred the four of us had been with them when we went through the area that they wanted to try and get all of the bodies and we would know the roads and the directions of course better than somebody that, so they had us as assistant drivers, even though we didn't do a thing in the world, just tell them direction, and tell them where to turn and so forth and the German prisoners of course were already gathering them, they had people out in the thing, gathering prisoners and they out them on the side of the road and we would come by with the truck and they would put bodies on just like corn wood, just throw them on there you know, and take them back to liaise building, and the German prisoners back there were digging graves and taking them off and laying them down and they had people there that was uh, I guess you'd say identifying them, they had you knew how when

your hand they stay wet so long, I know she does, they stay wet so long they would wrinkle up you know?

Interviewer: Yes sir.

JT Street: Well, you could take a syringe or needle and stick that in there and squirt water in there and then it's just as round as that and you can finger print just as well as if it wasn't, and people had been dead several days, 2 or 3 weeks uh, you can finger print them by doing it that way and I didn't know until then, but that's the way they were doing most of their identification.

Interviewer: Well, when did they finally tell you that you could go home?

JT Street: Well, on the 30th of uh, May is when they had the uh, Memorial, well of course we all had to dress out and go and parade uniform and general, General Eisenhower came that day to lay the reef and we all knew, and after that, that day then they let us go, we didn't have go and do anymore and we stayed there, best I can remember about a week, and just spend there whatever we wanted to do and then uh, they sent us over there back to Lahave, France and we just knew that we was going to Lahave boats and you know come home, but that was when we left over there it was in about June the 5th or 6th not, I don't remember just when we pulled out and went back to Lahave, and when we got back to Lahave, we sit there and we waited and we waited, and on over in the last part of August they finally decided that they was going to take us home on one of these little uh..

Interviewer: So you were there about the time the bomb dropped, you there about the time when the Atomic Bomb had dropped on Japan in August, right?

JT Street: I'm not following you, I don't believe.

Interviewer: When you were in France you were there after they had dropped the bomb on Japan?

JT Street: Oh, yeah.

Interviewer: You heard about it while you were there?

JT Street: Oh yes, we were in Lahave whenever they dropped it and it was just a day or so after that, is when we got to get on this little liberty ship, they called it, was too small to come across the lake and they sent us home and took nearly 3 months, well 2 months and 12 days for us to get home from the time we left there because one time, one morning we woke up and said your right off the coast of Africa and we had been gone long enough to be at home but we were getting in these storms and hurricanes and things you know, in the Atlantic in that time of year, and it was bad and we, a long time we didn't know whether we was going to get home or not, it was bad, and then the boat would go up and you could just feel it go up and then the waves was so big it would get so high that it would drop down and when it would come down and hit that it would

hit hard enough that it would knock the lights out and they would blink and you'd stand there and shake for a little bit and then you'd start raising back again, and then uh, I would try to walk up a ladder while it was doing that and when it's going up you can walk pretty well but when it starts down you can't go no further and if you're not very, very careful, if you're where you can have some help some way, it would just about throw you off of that ladder but uh, it's uh, well at one time the captain come out on the radio or the loud speaker and said uh, well boys consider yourself pretty lucky, you may make it home now, that ship had a tilted another half degree it would never have straightened back up and it took it seemed like back then it took 30 minutes to straighten back up but uh, after that that's when he called and that's when he came out and said that and uh, we finally got to Boston and got off of the ship and I would not, and you would not believe, not near or how much you felt like you was at home, I wouldn't have felt more at home sitting right out there in that backyard than I did when I got off of that ship and uh, we went there to the same embarkation where we left to go over there and we stayed there about 3 or 4 days and then they put us on the train and we headed to Camp Shelby and uh, you might go 100 miles in a day and some days you didn't go that far, and you had to get off on the side track and wait on these other trains went by, that's kind of transportation we was on, but we finally got to Camp Shelby and I come through ... , Mississippi and they just about had to hold me on , I wanted to go home, I mean I was ready to go home and they finally talked me into staying, they said you go now they are liable to put you a court marshal and put you in the stockade, and have to stay 3 or 4 years, they may even give you 5 years, but uh, they talked me out of getting off whenever I got to Memphis, which is across from ... , but uh, I got to Memphis and I wanted to get off and we pulled out from there about 2 or 3 miles and then the next you know, it had turned around and was backing back into the station and we stayed in the station for 8 or 9 hours, then we'd pull out, thinking we were going , then we'd back in, let the planes, the trains get by and I'm sure that was necessary but we finally got to Camp Shelby and they we got there at night and we, a lot of us didn't even get the chance to go to bed but they called us out the next morning said anybody that don't want to file a claim can get over here and you get to go home in a day or so not more than 2 days and maybe tomorrow so that was where I wanted to go so I go, if you want to file a claim, you get over here and you may get to go home in a week or 2 weeks, and when they get done filing all the information, it maybe 6 weeks before you get to go home, well then I was wanting to go home so I got in that first line and uh, I got home the 27th day of November of 1945 and uh, it took me nearly 2 days to get from Camp Shelby to Ripley on a bus but we had, the bus broke down by the way and we had to wait on a another bus to pick us up.

Interviewer: It didn't seem like you were ever going to get home, did it?

JT Street: Well, yeah and that's about my experience with World War 2, now of course I got back before a lot of other did but I left pretty well, in other words what I been through, give me more points to get out more than a lot of the others.

Interviewer: Alright well just uh, in summary how do you think the leadership was, you were a soldier so how do you think the president handled things and how do you think uh, Eisenhower and...?

JT Street: Well, I think that Eisenhower was one of the best uh, well I just think that he was one of the best generals that we've ever had and uh, I never was under ... And don't know anything about him, but Eisenhower of course was concerned, did the right thing and had to go, he had it to do and he made sure that we were prepared to do and he had the other generals, General Omar Bradley eventually became a 5 star general when it was over, but he was the general of the first U.S. Army that we had there and then the uh, 7th Core, which is this core here uh, it was and uh, he was in charge if it and the 3rd Armored Division was General Rowe, General Rowe was the one that got killed when we made the movement around the rural valley and he thought we had it made so we had already met up at the top so he was going to go back and so he thought we had them whipped, so he thought I'll go back and get us some more uh, orders, what to do and he didn't make it back because they just pulled out, let us go through and after we went through they came back in and when these drivers and a jeep came by, well they really shot him all to pieces. That's neither here nor there, that's I would have thought that he was smarter than that but apparently he just, he was so proud that we had made the thing, you know, and uh, of course we were just, we were the steer head and other people were supposed to be taking care of this other, and some of them didn't get there quick enough, and he thought they was right behind us, you know, and uh, he figured he could get back, get some more orders and come back but he didn't get very far, 7 or 8 miles from where we were and uh, we finally found out about it and they, the second in command he had already give him orders what to do and so forth and he took over, and we went on from there then on into uh, Lampkin, Germany. That's where we stopped, we uh, met the Russians, they were on one side of the river and we was on the other side and uh, we met the Russians there and a couple of days before they ever realized that, or announced that we had met the Russians and uh, we uh got there and uh, we were not doing anything really, just visiting the Russians and we had a rope across the river, so you can stand on a piece of timber there and pull yourself across there and then go back the other way and go across on that thing, more or less a man made ferry, and we would go and visit them and they would come and visit us uh, a couple of days before they even announced we contacted the Russians and then on the 8th, that's the one day they told us the war was over and I think they had signed the agreement on the 7th and it took that long, communications back then, wasn't like what they are today and uh, we got the thing, we got the information on the 8th and we went in and turned in all of our ammuniton and everything that you used in battle, we turned all of that in and got clean clothes, got our bathes and everything, so it was over, and we thought sure we was on our way home but that didn't quite pan out, anyway I finally made it and the good lord saw it fit for me. I didn't have anything to do with it, he is the one who got me here, if it wasn't for him I'm sure I wouldn't be here.

Interviewer: Well if you don't have anything to add, I guess I'm done.

JT Street: Not really, uh, the only thing I would add id the fact that we didn't give it all.....(end tape).....