

Walter: A few dates one date or so there in October and several in November and December.

Jeanie: Every date we could manage to get together after he once called me and we started dating. We weren't free all the time.

Interviewer: Of course not.

Walter: And he became engaged about the middle of December. December the 17<sup>th</sup> I think in 42 and then we decided to we wanted to have more dates and friendships so we went along a ways. And my unit the 82th airborne was put on alert because there was some activity that might be happening in North Africa and of course in Europe. And with both airborne divisions put on alert and so I thought about the \_\_\_ I would sure like to marry Jeanie before I get overseas. So we set a date for February and

Jeanie: They had to set as early a date as we could because when they say move you move. And we thought that he was right on the verge just any day in fact when made plans to get married we didn't know if he was even going to be there so.

Walter: That was February the 6<sup>th</sup> of 1943 that we decided to have the date. So we had a we picked out our rings and we got her I wanted her to be married in a wedding dress so her sister got that.

Jeanie: I want to tell you now that show you how much they know about things like that it was next to impossible to buy wedding gowns during the war. I called my sister she didn't holler this time she had met Jake and I think she thought he was a pretty nice fellow. But she ask me she said have you given this serious thought marrying someone in the army? I said yes I have so and she found a wedding gown that had been ordered for someone else. And she sent it to me I told her I said I'll pay you for it I don't know when.

Interviewer: So where were you? You were still around in February of 43.

Walter: And we were married at the main post chapel at Fort Brag North Carolina.

Interviewer: Okay

Walter: And had a Chaplin from the 502<sup>nd</sup> marry us there in the chapel. And from there we had a short honeymoon up to Riley North Carolina it couldn't be too far away us being up for alert.

Interviewer: Right and then how much longer was it before you actually got the call?

Walter: We had when we were there why it finally happened that the 82<sup>nd</sup> was called up to go overseas in a month or less. And we the 101<sup>st</sup> 502<sup>nd</sup> parachute regiment was there all that year stayed from first of February, March, April, May and we had maneuvers in South Carolina and Tennessee.

Jeanie: June and July

Walter: And then June and July so we were training there and August. Jeanie got her call to go overseas.

Jeanie: So she went before you did?

Interviewer: Where did you where were you shipped out to?

Jeanie: To England

Interviewer: To England

Jeanie: General Hospital is generally set some distance from the front line and so it was England.

Interviewer: Okay

Jeanie: But I left him instead of him leaving me.

Interviewer: Which was probably what you that was going to happen all along him leaving you.

Jeanie: I thought he was going to be gone that's the reason why we hurried things up.

Interviewer: You could have taken your time. When did you finally get I mean where did you go at that point?

Walter: We got alerted after she had already moved out with the 60<sup>th</sup> general hospital the later part of August I think it was. And then our unit was finally put on alert to actually move out later that month or the first part of September. And we moved she went up to Camp Shanks which is a deportation port first and then they had some change of plans. Bu then the 101<sup>st</sup> airborne division the second regiment was moved to Camp Shanks to get ready to move overseas. And we moved out from Camp Shanks onto the boats that would take us over in convoys and that was it was about the middle of September. The date the 17<sup>th</sup> always seemed to stick in my mind we loaded on the boat and got ready to got put into the convoy that was going to go overseas and we left New York about that time the 17<sup>th</sup> of September 43. And so we was put out in the convoy and was loaded on a British \_\_ ship called a strap \_\_ and it had just come back from a long trip to the Aleutian Islands and back and they was heading back to England again so that's why they picked us up. Some troops up from New York Harbor and started out on a convoy to go over we got out about six days and they had trouble with the motor or some power of the \_\_ ship the British. And so we couldn't maneuver very good so they sent us back to New Finland to get the power system fixed up so they could go ahead back out. And in doing that why they got it fixed in two or three days but then the pilot you know each harbor had a person that was supposed to pilot the ship out of the harbor to the proper channel that that pilot knows. And we got when he went around he didn't turn the ship right either because of the weight that was on the ship all the troops and the equipment. But anyway the side of the ship hit the edge of the channel and ripped a whole slash in the side of the boat so they had a lot of water rush in.

Jeanie: Now this is before they even get overseas.

Walter: We just went out into the harbor in New Finland there and they turned around they sent out ever depth chargers so if there were any German submarines out there. So we came back in to the New Finland Harbor and unloaded and onto another ship there actually the ship hadn't got there yet. They unloaded all of that into the barracks that happened to be around New Finland and we did training there mainly hiking and keeping in condition until the ship came back and it happened to be a Swedish ship that had been in the first convoy we started out with. It went over and come back and it got settled in the harbor there in New Finland for 502th and we loaded back on it then we had to go back down to

Nova Scotia for it to get resupplied with food and power and whatever necessary. And so we started out in this Swedish ship and the difference was night and day in the English fish food the Swedish American food. And so we finally got started out on the convoy and it finally ended up it took us 42 days to get across.

Interviewer: Do you know what the average time was to get across? I mean 42 days to me seems like a lot.

Walter: Well I would say about two weeks or so. But Jeanie had a better one.

Jeanie: You tell him my experience.

Walter: You tell him.

Jeanie: No you tell him.

Walter: After she was there at Camp Shanks and sent up to Port Devens Massachusetts did some training and wait for the proper time to go over. Why she got brought back down out of Boston wasn't it you went out of Boston?

Jeanie: No oh Jake you disturbed my memory. It was Fort Devens.

Walter: Fort Devens and so she got on the Queen Elizabeth at Fort Devens and started out on a convoy or started out on a ship to go to England and of course it was not in convoy because it moved fast enough as I understand they had five minute intervals of changing directions and these U-boats cannot set there guns on a ship.

Interviewer: Right

Jeanie: Now I checked into that some of those people on that ship that knew about those things I said well we don't have anybody escorting us. And as soon as we got well out of the harbor just really out there in the ocean we didn't have any \_\_\_ flying overhead we didn't have any planes. So I asked them I said where is our escort and he told me he said well we don't need an escort. We change directions ever five minutes and submarines can't keep up with that can't change them that fast.

Walter: Can't set their sites in time.

Jeanie: We had I guess as good a voyage going overseas as you can in a big ship like that. But I'll tell you now it was an English ship and it at the end of the ballroom, this impressed me that's why I've remembered it all this time. It had a scene from the Canterbury Tales typically English they covered the whole end of the wall that was made out of pieces of wood. You know it was a true picture and very impressive and I thought that was just wonderful. But I have never been so sick I wasn't sick for about the first three days but then was so sick the last part when we finally got to England and we could unload I promise you I kissed the ground when I got off there.

Interviewer: How long was the whole trip?

Jeanie: Five days it doesn't take you but 24 hours to get sick terribly sick sea sick.

Interviewer: Exactly if you guys will give me just one second I am going to switch tapes.

Walter: One day later at \_\_\_\_\_.

Jeanie: Scotland and of course we didn't know where the other was. I had had one letter from him since I knew that he had left Fort Bragg. And that was all now there was other mail piling up but they didn't want people to know that some of their valuable soldiers were

Interviewer: Forty two days going over sure.

Jeanie: Yeah between the ocean and up there living in the woods and all that sort of thing. That was good information for the enemy.

Walter: That's where we were now on the British Island and she was getting settled in her \_\_\_\_\_ hospital area and I was getting settled in the 502<sup>nd</sup> regimental area for continued training for whatever come up ahead of us now. We knew we were over in Europe.

Jeanie: But we didn't know where the other was.

Interviewer: Right

Walter: And they found of course she had a better experience I didn't know where they was at.

Jeanie: Well the first Sunday we were in England, we had been there about a week, we of course we weren't taking any patients yet we had a lot of work to do before we got to that point. We went walking one Sunday afternoon walking through a little English village that was close by and it was just a village \_\_\_\_\_ was on either side. And we were walking along and one of the girls said looks there's the 101. And she had seen about five or six soldiers coming up on the opposite side of the street in our direction and of course they had the eagle emblem and they had the boots and they were wearing the caps. And all those girls went running they didn't know him it was just somebody from the U.S. all of them went running but me because I knew when I saw them that I would eventually get in touch with him if he was in the British Ails and I would get to see him. So one of the a corporal when one of them said well one of our nurses is married to an officer in the 101. And this corporal spoke up and he said if you want me to take him a message I'll be glad to. And so all I had in my pocketbook to spare was just a calling card so I got the calling card, I didn't write much on it. And you're not supposed to tell them exactly where you are or any information like that and so I told him wrote on it something like what a surprise. I'm in the middle of a hill isn't that what I said?

Walter: Malvern Hills

Jeanie: Little hills that's all they were just hills Malvern. And so I told him I said we'll have to try to get together. So when I gave it to that corporal he told me he said I promise you, not I didn't ask for any promises or anything else. He said I promise you it will be delivered by midnight. Can you imagine how I felt knowing they were on the British Ails and how he felt when that fellow came to the door. Wonderful

Walter: Got the message that she was there on the island too not North Africa or Italy.

Interviewer: Right

Walter: Or someplace.

Interviewer: So did you guys ever get to meet each other up in the British Ails or was it just the correspondence there.

Walter: We got to meet after I got the message I located where Marlin Hills were at and so I think I got a train ride out there or something to that area and located her out there.

Jeanie: Oh that was a happy reunion I cannot tell you marvelous.

Walter: So I went out there to her unit which is in those metal huts half hut.

Jeanie: Quanza huts

Walter: Met her out there on the front of that hut there.

Jeanie: I had just come from church it was wonderful.

Interviewer: So from the English Ails where were you off to next?

Walter: From the English Ails we trained there. We stayed from that would have been see September, October last of October I got over there and she did too. While we did more training there just the basic training to be ready for combat service where I was going to be at the 502<sup>nd</sup> and the 105<sup>th</sup> airborne division. And of course she was just getting her work done there at the hospital but anyway we were training there from that last of October of 43 through May of 44. And we done the basic training of squad platoons and \_\_\_ size we'd get into battalions and regimental and finally division size so that we would have proper training. And that the higher ups the colonels and such would have proper communication between the battalions and regiments and divisions. And we had our jump training we had I think we had three or four parachute jumps over there and one night jump over there. And then we had one jump along with maneuvers that we had in the southern part of England. Something similar they tried to pick out something similar areas that we would have if we landed in Europe. Of course none of us knew where we were going to be the allied headquarters knew what territory was needed.

Interviewer: Right did you were you receiving news or did you know how the war was going in Europe I mean how things were progressing?

Walter: Yeah we knew that German troops were still progressing around that area and that they had troops the Germans had been being defeated down there in North Africa. And that the 82<sup>nd</sup> had part of the 82<sup>nd</sup> had jumped down in part of North Africa and also in Sicily. And of course the German forces were being pushed back and so we knew all of that and we knew that Russia had been having a hard time over there with German troops reneging on their commitment to not fight Russians.

Interviewer: The allies' right.

Walter: And so we leaned then that the Germans were still pushing the Russians back pretty good. And of course all of this was taking place and we knew about that and we kept up with it I did anyway. And the Russians were getting some relief from the western part of Europe and that's where and that's what the different high level meetings of Stalin and Churchill and \_\_\_ took place.

Interviewer: What was the mood when you in the training you were going through? Were you guys ready to go or were you just kind of like oh wait and see how it goes what was the thought process?

Walter: No I would say we were trained right from the beginning I would say we were very serious if we were going to be in any kind of combat situation we better know the details and how effective we were going to be. And we had to know we had no idea where we were going to be we left that up to the powers that be.

Interviewer: Powers that be. Did you have any contact with your family back home your mother and father?

Walter: Yeah we had letters written back and forth. And as my mother wrote and of course Jeanie she almost wrote a letter a day I had a whole pack of them.

Interviewer: That's always nice though.

Walter: And had a mail call I would always have two or three letters unless we had one every day. But I would get several and the thing that was always very helpful I did get letters from Jeanie all the time. And I got them from mother and dad mother wrote most letters. And I'd get a letter every now and then from my oldest brother he was in the oil drilling business for crude oil. And he had been in Venezuela and other places around there so he had sort of a war time responsible job he was not called up to the service. And my brother Jerald just alder by two years he was called up in January of 42 and he was in has basic Marine training in California and he was shipped out to what they call New Caledonia Islands to get some more basic training. And so he was in the South Pacific the whole time.

Interviewer: Okay when you got done training in \_\_\_ the next advance if you will tell me a little about where you went after your training ended.

Walter: Basic training we were just doing this all the time and then night jumps we got near say in April or May I don't know whether that night jump was in the first part of May or what. But anyway we were training down there in the southern part. And we had battalion size regimental size then we had division size maneuvers and then we had demonstrations out in front of the Churchill and other people who were dignitaries. We had these big parachute jumps for demonstration purposes and so we were still training all the time just like that and not knowing where it would be but I'm sure the company commander and the battalion commander knew about what the territory or the terrain looked like. I don't know that too many knew the location where we were going to be in \_\_\_ peninsula or Normandy area or whether we were going to be up somewhere near \_\_\_\_. Of course that was the thing that I'm sure the hierarchies knew was to keep Hitler guessing and make him think it was going to be \_\_\_\_\_. And of course the big things that helped out there as you've seen these makeshift tanks

Jeanie: I think that was so clever they made them out of rubber.

Interviewer: Anything to use as a decoy.

Jeanie: Yeah

Walter: And Patton was over in that area after he had been reprimanded down in Italy. He was put there in that area they say he had been reprimanded in some way but at the same time he was put there in that area near \_\_\_\_.

Jeanie: You know some of Hitler's better generals' top notch military men tried to tell him more or less a lot of these things and he just wouldn't listen.

Interviewer: He was a little oblivious and pretty wrapped up with himself but you're right he was advised at what might lay ahead. So you took part in June 6, 1944 the D-Day invasion?

Walter: Yes

Interviewer: Please tell me something about that if you will.

Walter: Well from that action that we had been training there in England we were taken from our basic camp site to enclosures at the airports with C47s with parachute troops loaded on and gliders that they pulled being loaded. That was in the big airfields the airfields were being watched over by MPs and security. But we were taken out to this enclosure outside of (tape skips several seconds) barbed wire and entanglements in the big area. And we were trucked from our home camp to this enclosure right to the airfield and then we were in there. And of course they had to delay one day because of the weather and I'm sure that was hard thing to decide. And how much leakage would get out because by that time I'm sure most of the company commanders knew about where they were going to fly in. And we finally got loaded on the airplanes and took off from those airfields which were in the central part and southern part of England. And we went out in the south west part of England this is sort of the \_\_\_\_ peninsula right here and England being up here we came out here and the planes went over and crossed this way. And so this is St. Mary's \_\_ and Utah Beach and Omaha Beach over here. And so we the planes came this way and we dropped over here in Utah Beach we were the first battalion more or less after the Path Finders set up their radar so the pilots could come in right. The Path Finders landed here and the pilots stayed on course to drop us in the proper place and I remember jumping out of the plane about five minutes after one that morning on the 6<sup>th</sup> of June 44. And we landed pretty good near our \_\_\_\_ site and most of the pilots got pretty well briefed you better stay on line keep the parachute troops in groups.

Interviewer: Right

And I landed in an \_\_\_\_ which is more or less the area that the high tide comes in and just brings water up in it. And I landed in maybe an inch or two of water all around and got there and got my chute rolled up and sort of put under cover someway. And the other men who jumped after me the officers had planned for the troops were supposed to be the first ones to jump out and the rest of the men would follow. So we rolled up our chutes and these other men that jumped after us they sort of come back on and they come back on the other troop they'd go out in a matter of seconds you'd just take two or three steps and just be right behind. So they come back on us and got several there and we heard enemy gun fire machine guns or rifle fire up here near us and on roadways or one thing or another. And then where I started going up there towards higher ground you could see it because of the nighttime or darkness you could see where the ridge was and when I took about ten or fifteen steps I dropped off into the drainage ditch filled with water. I went down over my head with all my equipment on guns and everything on. I held on to my gun and everything but back backpack and everything on. And when I got out of that drainage ditch I was groping for anything and saying dear God help me out of this.

Interviewer: Tell me a little bit about the fighting that was going on around it had to be pretty intense.

Walter: The fighting was not really all that much you could hear a gun over here to the left or front or side and you'd hear machine gun backfire you'd hear rifle fire. And of course that was when I got there that was some of the first ones that landed so you didn't have a big battle but you did have people that was either the Germans shooting up in the air or shooting somebody or some of our own troops maybe ran into the Germans getting shot. So we had action like that and when we got on the ground our mission was to take care of the rig metal objective was to assure that this coastal line Sherborn was here up here and England up here they had a big coastal gun here. It was supposed to be destroyed. And when somebody finally got to that they saw it was I finally saw it later on it was completely demolished the bomb the air I'd say the airline bombers had demolished that there were no guns that I could see in there. And then Company A was to go up to Fourcaville a little small village which was the right flank of Utah Beach. And the 4<sup>th</sup> infantry division come in we were supposed to see that that was cleared out the field they had a strong point the Germans has an entanglement of fortified positions here. And the company was supposed to be sure that was taken care of so some of the troops that had already been there before I was Captain Fitzgerald was the B Company commander and he was hit very critically by a German. They said the troops also killed the German that fired at him so then Wildered General Wildered one of our platoon leaders one of the I was the first platoon leader and he was a second and third platoon leader he was there. And when I saw them he said that Fitzgerald told him to go on and help out so Fitzgerald told him said you go ahead and do your job I'm not going to live very long with this thing and he had been hit in the chest. He didn't think he would live the medic was with him medics are either privates or corporal whatever it may be. And so Holgaurd and some of the other noncoms and officers took care of this strong point the best we could. That was by daylight and Fitzgerald with a battalion medic called Troy in Chinese and he came by and said he'd take care of Fitzgerald. And He said we'll try to save him and he commandeered a horse and a wagon cart and he got him on the cart and took him back to field hospital which is the closest \_\_\_ site near the front lines on the beach. And final announcement that Fitzgerald lived to fight again and it took him several months before he was back.

Interviewer: Sure it would.

Walter: The sad thing about it after the war was over he was killed in a car wreck out driving around on some job or out driving too fast or something killed. But so we had that strong point that Company A had set up I told them if we set up any roadblocks or anything to counter act any enemy counter attack and he hadn't so I told him to set up roadblocks and two right down town this little village there was about ten or fifteen house and another one a little further up and another one still full of houses. And this one further out this Sargent Fielding a communications sergeant of our company had gone to demolition school so he knew how to set up explosive and everything like that. He set up a roadblock with five others two set up the demolishing and had one on a machine gun and another one on a bazooka and another one with an automatic weapon and they set up that roadblock. And it wasn't too long after that the Germans came down to counter attack and they when they got into that area Sergeant Fielding had set off that fuse and blew up two vehicles and a load of troops Germans troops that had come in there and more or less scattered the enemy and destroyed them. And the machine gun people and others took care of the enemy who were trying to come down there. And that scattered the enemy behind them and they ran into C Company and Headquarters Company of our regiment which was further inland and they ran into them because they were scattered by the roadblock.

Interviewer: What were your feelings when you first heard about the invasion and knowing that your husband would be taking part in it?

Jeanie: Now did you tell him that I had come home?

Interviewer: No, no ma'am.

Jeanie: Okay I'll tell him. Okay I was pregnant and of course the army has no place for a pregnant nurse.

Interviewer: Sure

Jeanie: And I left England and right I don't know the exact date it was one or two days before then end of the month.

Walter: May

Jeanie: And then of course D-Day was the 6<sup>th</sup> of June and I was at Howard General I flew they sent me home in a plane. And I was at Howard General Hospital and I don't know how I missed it I don't know whether they had a TV but it was far. You could hear the siren but think now how far back that was. But the picture was just full of all kinds of everything. And I had started down the hall to the recreation room and one of the nurses said did you know the invasion has started? And that's all it took I pray a lot I do now and I did then I prayed my way through that war. And I'm laughing because I think it's funny it's just that it was so soothing and I was so worried and concerned about him. And of course being pregnant I felt like I was responsible for whatever baby was on its way. So I went back, I had a private room in fact we all had a private rooms there and I cried I cried and cried. And the one thing I just couldn't bear to them talking about the soldiers wrapping their budding in their parachutes and then when they talked about some of the things that the Germans did to the troopers. And there were a lot of them were killed just right there where they jumped and I did shed a lot of tears and I knew I couldn't handle a pregnancy that way and I certainly wasn't doing Jake any good. So I tried to concentrate on the praying and things I could say that would be soothing to all the people I knew that had someone in the service and that was involved. And as you see it worked out very very well.

Interviewer: I would say so.

Jeanie: And Jake I must say he was very good about writing. Now I wrote every day they were over there.

Interviewer: That's what he was telling me.

Jeanie: Except I think two days when the baby was born I didn't write then. Did you tell him what your mailman what your mail?

Walter: No this wasn't right at that time it was later on in the process of the war in \_\_\_ and Bastogne area when we were in Bastogne we didn't get much mail. But the mail corporal the mail men were corporals said I want to know I want to ask you a personal question. Said how do you keep your wife so satisfied way over here and you get letters five or six times a day? I said just knowing each other.

Jeanie: That was satisfying for me to write to him and share of course I was with my family and they were all very good to me. And I heard from his family quite regularly but do you know what someone stole his luggage on the way home and I have all of his letters all of them.

Interviewer: And you don't have that's terrible.

Walter: No I had them in a footlocker.

Jeanie: There was several he had asked me long before time for Bastogne time he said one thing I would really like to have I would like for you to knit me a scarf a color that I can wear with my uniform. So I got some OD yard and I knitted him a nice long scarf that would he said it was just perfect and somebody over there has been wearing that scarf.

Walter: Had a lot of different pictures of Jeanie and had some other equipment there.

Jeanie: Of course I was so glad to have him home you know you can't dwell on things like that.

Interviewer: So lose a scarf to get your husband back I imagine. So take me after the invasion to me through your battles up through Europe and through Bastogne.

Walter: From that \_\_\_ and roadblock situation well then we were given maybe three, four, or five hours chance to rest and of course the 4<sup>th</sup> infantry divisions had come through this position now they was through ours and beyond by nightfall. And they had gone on so we wasn't so much afraid of enemy counter attacking us they counter attacked the forth infantry as they were going in.

Jeanie: Tell him what you and the what you said coming from one direction the conversation between you all when you met. The ones that came from sea and.

Walter: The 4<sup>th</sup> infantry division said one of \_\_\_\_\_ and we said how long did it take you to get up here was what \_\_\_ and some of the men later on (the tape stopped and restarted). Getting the enemy out of the area in the middle part of \_\_\_ peninsula there beyond \_\_\_ and down towards Carentan and Carentan was the second largest city after St. Marion's Lease that the allied forces had freed. And we were coming back through \_\_\_ which is the area north of Carentan that our forces had cleared out. And Colonel Cole had been sent by the regimental commander to take a river crossing down towards Carentan to set up to make a bridge head and take Carentan. And he did that and our battalion his was the 3<sup>rd</sup> battalion ours was the 1<sup>st</sup> battalion on to follow through to that. And we had to cross this river in open areas and we blasted the Carentan front elements trying to push the Germans back. And the Germans had been rattled by \_\_\_\_\_ bayonet charge there at Carentan. The north west edge south west edge and they we was sent across in front of the Germans there at Carentan and was hedgerows and bowed ditches that the Germans were coming down and trying to push us back off. And that's where my company C and headquarters company had a big battle. And that's the first confrontation I was so much involved with actually to firing rifles and working with the men make sure they were out in proper place to push the enemy back. And we had what they called a cabbage patch and it had been an area where \_\_\_ been growing in the hedgerows and that area of combat was rifles, machine guns, mortars all working right in there. And the Germans kept pushing us trying to push us back by putting more troops down and they just wasted a lot of men because they got down between 25, 50 feet of us. And I went out to one area trying to get some men back that got out too far and was moving around the hedgerow too much and run into Germans so they captured me. And they rifled men put me in back and with all the rifle action going on both sides decided some time in there that they should have a truce so they could take care of their wounded and casualties. And so they decided then and low and behold the Germans released me to get back so I could have an action of not going with the troops.

Interviewer: Now did the allies release any of their POWs or any German POWS?

Walter: There wasn't as much POWs as it was casualties.

Interviewer: Oh ok

Walter: Casualties out there some was wounded some had been killed tried to get the dead out of there. And then the wounded back to where they could be taken care of so that was the action that I was involved on and they got our all the men that got out too far we got them back. And during that action I received a Silver Star for the action of our company and one thing or another and some of the other men got I'm sure a Silver Star Bronze Star something for the action we had there at Carentan was the big battle that we had. Once we had that done that was on a Sunday the 11<sup>th</sup> of June and we pushed the Germans back and the same time we were fighting there the other troops that happened to be the story that made the Band of Brothers E Company was coming in from the other side. We didn't know that was where they were at and the other thing was our troops that come in up on Omaha Beach finally got tanks up on that battlefield and come down into Carentan from the east. And they were putting action on the Germans the Germans finally gave way because of the \_\_\_ movement we call it. So the Germans pulled back out of there at that time.

Interviewer: When did you find out that he had briefly been taken captive or did you find out about that anytime?

Jeanie: Well something's Jake told me but I guess anything he thought was going to worry me a whole lot he was going to wait and tell me when he got home because I feel like I really do feel like he has been very frank with me about all of that. And I'm thankful.

Walter: I wasn't captured for too long.

Interviewer: Right I don't blame you for not telling her I wouldn't have done it either.

Walter: It was

Jeanie: Well now you've got to remember I was pregnant.

Interviewer: Right

Jeanie: Half was not I wasn't even half way there.

Interviewer: No I just didn't know if you had found out and get your reaction to it.

Walter: In fact I have a feeling that you have enough Germans as well as allied people that try to go along with the Geneva Convention. And I've seen enough of that action the only time you got away from that was when you were dealing with Nazi's and the extreme belligerent individuals.

Interviewer: Right the factious aspect of it.

Walter: Just like Romald I think he was very Geneva Convention.

Jeanie: Well you saw what happened to him.

Interviewer: Uh huh

Jeanie: Sad but true.

Interviewer: So after Carentan where did you progress from there?

Walter: We finished out that day the 11<sup>th</sup> which was that day and the 12<sup>th</sup> we were still pushing out from Carentan. And after that on the 13<sup>th</sup> we were pulled back out from offensive combat action to put in reserve.

Interviewer: Okay

Walter: With the 7<sup>th</sup> core so we were in reserve all the rest of the time nor really having any big offensive action. And finally that was about the 13<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> of June why we were pulled back the last part of June to go back to England and be prepared for other jumps that we needed to be.

Interviewer: What was your next jump? What was your next mission after that?

Walter: Well we had possible jumps in when they made the breakout of St. Lowe and we jumped there between that area and Paris. But Patton with his aggressive action overran our probable jump sites thank goodness. So we didn't have any so after that the Market Garden Holland jump that we went back to England we prepared and got ready for that. Montgomery Corridor and then so that's where we jumped in a big open area south of \_\_\_\_ my battalion did 1<sup>st</sup> battalion did and Company a was there. At \_\_\_\_ we our objective was to protect and secure the south end of \_\_\_\_ corridor which is several hundred yard long and a hundred or two hundred yards wide. Keep the Germans from keeping that our regiment was right inside of \_\_\_\_ Road and further up and our headquarters was in \_\_\_\_.

Interviewer: Okay

Walter: And Company A had the south end and south of that was \_\_\_\_ the 101<sup>st</sup> airborne division had and some of the other troops the 3<sup>rd</sup> battalion \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_ and they took care of \_\_\_\_\_. And then our outfit was on up toward Veckle and up towards corridor on up into Neimagan and that's where the 82<sup>nd</sup> was. And so we didn't have

Jeanie: Forgive me I hate to bring this up but if we're going to get dressed. Are you going to be here tomorrow?

Interviewer: No I won't.

Walter: But that's actually we didn't have a whole lot of action there at St. \_\_\_\_ the island between the land area between Neimagan and \_\_\_\_.

Interviewer: Okay

Walter: To the left.

Interviewer: We'll skip ahead a little bit I didn't realize we were short on time I'm sorry. Tell me about the end of the war go ahead and try to summarize

Walter: Bastogne was the area that we pulled out of Holland and put down into France to be re-outfitted and to get more troops and more ammunition clothes we needed that we had lost up there. And because we were now down to about half the size of a regular company.

Interviewer: Right

Walter: And so we were sent down there and we had action in Camp \_\_\_ France which was about 30 or 40 miles to the south each east of Reims and that's when we got the word. I was coaching a regimental football team we were going to play the 506<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day and that's when we were playing a game in Nancy France against the airborne team and the colonel got word that we had to ride back with them because we were going to have to be pulled out into the Battle of the Bulge area.

Interviewer: Right

Walter: Part of that happened to be Bastogne the 502<sup>nd</sup> and the 101<sup>st</sup> was there. And so I was with Company A and that's where I got the word that my son had been born as we were pulling out of Camp Mourmelon on the evening of the 18<sup>th</sup> and Jeanie sent me a telegram that our son junior had been born. And so that's the first word I had of them and he's the one that went back with us to see the sight. And he and his family and so we were sent up to Bastogne that area and we were actually ended up near Chemps and we were in other defensive positions around Bastogne in north \_\_ and \_\_ on a ridge we had taken. I got a little shrapmetal from a blast there and then finally the colonel come ahead of me as Chemps and that's where we had a big battle on Christmas Day. The Germans tried to push through Christmas Day to get to Bastogne and on our left was the 327<sup>th</sup> glider outfit held a big area and we come in at Chemps and they started blasting us on Christmas morning about three thirty or four o'clock in the morning. There was artillery and mortar and everything else for about 30 minutes then tried they cut off our communications with our regiment and battalion but that's where we had our big battle Company A did on Christmas Day.

Interviewer: Okay

Walter: And we handled that pretty well. Olden town even though the Germans had over ran our main line of resistance and they had cut into our houses and past some of our foxholes and things. And our men battled hand to hand and bayonets house to house fighting. And they held the area and we headed up toward beside the men during such a wonderful job on the machine gun \_\_\_\_\_ who just really kept his gun going. And mowed down a lot of the Germans had come down from a higher point and they crossed down on Christmas Day and we ended up with not losing Chemps but we took 89 prisoners of Germans. And got them but we had held Chemps.

Interviewer: You done your job.

Walter: Yeah and we were backed up by B Company which was in back. They wanted to send us all up I said don't send any of your men up it was at nighttime I said you can't tell whether it's their men or German men.

Interviewer: Right

Walter: They could hold their position back there set up a roadblock or something like that. But we had a tank destroyer or two with us there at Chemps top \_\_\_\_\_. And they could see up on this ridge we used as an outpost the Germans come over there \_\_\_\_\_ and come up there and helped the anti-tank guns that we had. Blast up there at the Germans and push them back out they just tip the nose over then back off. So that was the main action we had there at Chemps which was a big battle.

Interviewer: Right

Walter: And there is a write in the book Bastogne and Chemps. Company A was mentioned several times the men done a wonderful job of combating the Germans infiltrate in their positions.

Interviewer: Well Mr. and Mrs. Swanson I do appreciate your time. Thank you very much I really I hope I haven't kept you too long I am sorry.

Jeanie: Well if we didn't have this dinner we could talk on.

Tape ended