

Can you tell us your name and when you were born please?

Mr. Alsobrooks: My name is James E. Alsobrooks and I was born in Houston County, Tennessee, February 19, 1922.

What branch of service did you serve in sir?

Mr. Alsobrooks: Army.

Do you remember the primary unit you served in?

Mr. Alsobrooks: Yes, Company A 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Battalion of the 11<sup>th</sup> Armored Division.

Can you briefly state your parent's names and their occupations?

Mr. Alsobrooks: My father's name was Roy Alsobrooks. He was a farmer most of his life but he retired from the Tennessee Department of Highway. My mother's name was Edna Alsobrooks and she was a housewife.

Did you have any brothers and sisters?

Mr. Alsobrooks: Yes. I had two sisters and one brother. I still have one brother and one sister that are living today.

Are any of them veterans as well or no?

Mr. Alsobrooks: My brothers are veterans of the Marine Corp.

How long did you remain in school?

Mr. Alsobrooks: I finished high school.

Do you have any recollections of the Great Depression?

Mr. Alsobrooks: I sure do.

Would you like to elaborate what you can remember about it?

Mr. Alsobrooks: During the depression my family lived on a farm. We basically raised everything that we needed to sustain our diet, potatoes and of course we had our own meat, our own shortening, chicken, eggs. Of course living on a farm we grew what we called \_\_\_\_\_ to make our molasses out of it. About the only ingredient that we had to buy was sugar and coffee and sometimes some wheat. Occasionally we would run out of wheat that we grew the year before. Most everything that we had on the farm we raised ourselves.

How did the Great Depression affect your family and how did they cope with the hardships about that time?

Mr. Alsobrooks: Everyone in our neighborhood and especially the south was affected by the depression. As the old saying goes, "Everyone was in the same boat." Neighbor helped neighbor, family helped

families and the immediate member of the family helped everyone else to survive and sustain a reasonable way of life.

Were you old enough to have a job before your time in the service?

Mr. Alsobrooks: Yes, I worked for a period of about eight months from the time I graduated from high school in an air compressor assembly in Kent, Ohio, before I entered service.

Do you know how much it paid approximately? Do you remember?

Mr. Alsobrooks: It was less than \$1.00 an hour.

Did you work 40 hours a week?

Mr. Alsobrooks: Yes, 40 hours a week. We were building air compressors for England at that period of time.

Before Pearl Harbor happened did you take seriously the threat of the Nazi's and the Japanese?

Mr. Alsobrooks: I don't think the average citizen of the United States was really aware of things that were really going on as far as our diplomacy was concerned. Of course you know during that period of time there were not any televisions. The only news media you had was the newspaper and radio. Many times the radio program was late at being broadcast so we didn't really know what diplomatic talks and everything was going on to really know what was going on.

So radio and newspaper weren't that accurate?

Mr. Alsobrooks: No, a lot like they are today.

You say you did have a radio in your house?

Mr. Alsobrooks: We had a battery operated radio.

Do you remember when and where you were when you heard about the attack on Pearl Harbor?

Mr. Alsobrooks: Yes. I was working at an air compressor factory in Ohio when Pearl Harbor was bombed. I specifically remember it.

Did you listen to F.D.R's speech the following day?

Mr. Alsobrooks: I believe I read it in the newspaper. I don't remember listening to it on the radio. Of course they did not have a radio in the shop where I worked, but I did read about it in the newspaper.

Did you approve of the way F.D.R was taking care of things after the Japanese attacked us?

Mr. Alsobrooks: Sure. After you learn all the facts I think a majority of the American people approve of the action that was taken.

Were you drafted in the service?

Mr. Alsobrooks: Yes.

When did you realize that you would be drafted?

Mr. Alsobrooks: Let's see, that was in 1941, especially in 1942 I realized that I was going to be drafted in the service and I was.

Did you have a preference of what you wanted to do in the service or did it matter?

Mr. Alsobrooks: Not really.

Did you go to an induction center when you were drafted?

Mr. Alsobrooks: I did. Of course I was inducted from Houston County, Tennessee, and reported to Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia, which was the induction center for this area. I was examined and of course passed the physical and took the oath of office right there at Fort Oglethorpe. After the swearing in, well two days after the swearing in, a group of us boarded a troop train and traveled for five days and five nights. Of course we took the northern route of the United States over the Rocky Mountains to the West Coast and down the West Coast to what was then Camp Cook, California, which is now Andrews Air Force Base. That is where we unloaded and said hello to the Army.

You were an infantryman?

Mr. Alsobrooks: Yes.

In the induction center did they do all kinds of test? That was basically just testing?

Mr. Alsobrooks: It was a complete physical. That is the only test we went through there.

No IQ test or nothing like that?

Mr. Alsobrooks: No.

You went to basic training at Camp Cook?

Mr. Alsobrooks: I sure did; 13 weeks of infantry basic training.

After that were you specialized for more individual training?

Mr. Alsobrooks: After we finished the 13 weeks basic training I was selected to attend an Army Specialized Training Unit school. The one I attended was located at the University of Nevada in Reno, Nevada. I attended school there approximately six months. I suppose because of economic reasons money not being appropriated for the continuation of school it was dissolved. I was transferred which was in a permanent division. That is when I was transferred to Company A 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Battalion.

What kind of training did you get there at that specialized unit?

Mr. Alsobrooks: The basic of it was an engineering school. It was a regular college course. We took a regular college course plus the Army training and everything. We were in the Army but we were also going to school.

Did they select you guys or did you guys have a preference? Did you ask for it or did it just happen?

Mr. Alsobrooks: No, we were selected by our school grade and I don't know the whole selection process at that time.

What was your first impression of your fellow recruits while at basic training or the secondary school?

Mr. Alsobrooks: The first thing that anyone has to do is adapt to any situation that you are thrown into. Of course being from the country and being born and raised on a farm, I was in basically good health. Some of the people unfortunately were not as healthy as I was at that time. They had some problems going through basic training. For me it was a breeze really. Most of the men were cooperative after a certain period of time after they really learned what needed to be done. I will assure you we had a drill sergeant that if you didn't want to cooperate he almost forced you to cooperate. The discipline at that period of time was different than what it is today. Most of your drill sergeants had been in service for several years. They knew the proper procedure to control a group of recruits and get their cooperation as it was needed.

Was everybody pretty united there? Everybody was ready to get out of there and go to the front or was it just a couple of people that didn't want to be there?

Mr. Alsobrooks: Everybody was glad when basic training was over so they could be reassigned to a permanent unit.

Was this your first time away from home or the greatest distance you had been away from home?

Mr. Alsobrooks: It was the greatest distance, yes.

Did you participate in maneuvers stateside?

Mr. Alsobrooks: Yes. After being assigned to a permanent unit after I left school in Reno, Nevada, our division spent three months desert training in the Mohave Desert in California.

How good do you think your training was for the task you guys faced ahead of you?

Mr. Alsobrooks: I think we had good a training that was possible available during that particular period in the life of the armed services. Of course it is so much advanced now that all modern technology what's available wasn't available then. Of course being in the infantry you might say you traveled left and right all the time and of course you had to depend on your fellow personnel in your squad and in your platoon to help you get along. I think we really had good training during that period of time.

Do you feel you were well prepared to fight and you were ready to go when you left?

Mr. Alsobrooks: I suppose so, as ready as you will ever be, yes.

How were the living conditions in the camps?

Mr. Alsobrooks: Here in the states?

Yeah when you were going through training and maneuvers.

Mr. Alsobrooks: Of course it was different from what you were accustomed to in civilian life. As far as Army living and everything it was satisfactory. We were housed in two story barracks. One platoon lived

on the top floor and one platoon lived on the second floor. Other than that it was comfortable living conditions.

What kind of unit did you serve with immediately after your training, your advanced training?

Mr. Alsobrooks: I went to a regular infantry unit.

Did your unit travel overseas in troop ships?

Mr. Alsobrooks: Yes.

When and from which port did you depart?

Mr. Alsobrooks: When we got our diploma at Camp Cook, California, we were loaded on a troop train and went to the port of departure at New York City. We loaded on a troop ship in New York City with many thousands more. Our unit was on E Deck which was down below the waterline. We could only go up top side for one hour per day. It took us 13 days to go from New York City to South Hampton, England. That is where we landed when we went over, South Hampton.

Thirteen days?

Mr. Alsobrooks: Thirteen days. Our ship that we were on was one of the largest convoys that made that route during the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War. Of course you went on a zigzag course. You traveled one direction so many hours and then you changed course on account of the submarine attacks. Two days before we landed in South Hampton a submarine was sighted. Fortunately none of our troop ships was hit, but it was sighted.

Was that a big escort, battleship escort?

Mr. Alsobrooks: Yes.

There were thousands of other soldiers on your ship right?

Mr. Alsobrooks: Yes. I don't know how many thousands but like I say we were on E Deck which was way down below the waterline.

How good or bad were the food or living conditions on the ship?

Mr. Alsobrooks: Real bad. You got two meals a day which I can understand because the people preparing the meals they are continuously processing, cooking, serving and cleaning. They call it a galley in the Navy but you stood up to eat. During the course of the meal the ship was subject to rock one way or the other and a lot of times; say you had a cup of coffee sitting on your table from which you were eating, it would start sliding down and catch a tray and right over it would go. After a period of time you began to get sick to your stomach. The third day out I did. I thought I had been sick at my stomach before but I hadn't. I suppose I would say 90% of the passengers got seasick.

You said you landed in South Hampton?

Mr. Alsobrooks: Yes, South Hampton, England.

When you got there did they put you in barracks or billets?

Mr. Alsobrooks: We were assigned to an area there in England. It was what you called a quansi hut. We stayed there 30 days. We finished up drawing what equipment that was needed to supply our unit for combat readiness, we done training every day; we went to the firing range and zeroed our weapons in and just really normal training while we were there. At the same time we were drawing our new equipment and everything getting ready.

Your whole unit stayed together throughout this training?

Mr. Alsobrooks: Yes.

Do you remember who your commanding general was?

Mr. Alsobrooks: Yes, it was General Blackburn. I believe his first name was William. I can't be sure about that but his last name was Blackburn; Brigadier General.

Did you ever meet him?

Mr. Alsobrooks: Not personally.

What was your impression of the NCOs and officers in your chain of command?

Mr. Alsobrooks: At the time we went overseas I think we had a well qualified group of NCOs and officers in our unit. Most of your NCOs were older personnel and of course they had seen prior service.

So the NCOs were waiting for you when you got over to England right or did they travel with you from the states?

Mr. Alsobrooks: They traveled with us. It was just like a large family.

What kind of equipment and arms did you train with? Were they American weapons?

Mr. Alsobrooks: Yes American weapons. Your basic personal weapon in the unit I was in was your M1 \_\_\_ rifle at that period of time. On the foreign range we qualified with the M1 rifle, the heavy machine gun, the Thompson 45 sub-machine gun and later on when the carbine was issued some of the personnel would qualify with the carbine.

Did all those weapons operate pretty good all around or were there some that didn't operate as well as others?

Mr. Alsobrooks: As far as I know our weapons were some of the most efficient as far as operations that I've ever seen. The M1 \_\_\_ rifle was an infantry man's weapon. You could throw it down in the dirt and pick it up and it would still fire.

That was a best friend huh?

Mr. Alsobrooks: You better believe it.

Where was your first experience of combat and what kind of reactions did you and the others have?

Mr. Alsobrooks: Our first combat action was at northern France.

What year was this?

Mr. Alsobrooks: That was in 1944. After we left England we loaded on LSTs. All of our vehicles, tanks, jeeps, half tracks, artillery weapons and everything were in the hull of the ship. Of course we had them tied down with tie down chains and going across the channel we hit a storm. When we got to Cherbourg, France, that is where we unloaded, I would say that 60% of those chains were broken. The tanks, jeeps, half tracks, 2 ½ ton trucks were all just jumbled together. How they ever managed to get them unloaded and get them back in operation, I don't know, but they did.

You left South Hampton in what year, was that 1943?

Mr. Alsobrooks: That was 1944 when we left South Hampton.

Approximately how much time did you spend in South Hampton training before you went and saw combat? Do you remember?

Mr. Alsobrooks: One month, 31 days, and it rained 30 of them.

How did it feel to be shot at? I know that is a pretty tough question.

Mr. Alsobrooks: Well of course you have been trained and you're Sergeants and other training officers try to impress on you what you might be objected to as far as receiving live fire. The first time that you receive enemy fire you really don't know enough about it to make a decision then but you learn in a hurry especially if it is artillery fire because you don't know where it is coming from. Small arms fire is a different situation. Most of the time you can pinpoint where it is coming from as far as artillery fire but you learn in a hurry how to protect yourself and protect someone else maybe close to you.

How would you describe the cohesion inside your unit?

Mr. Alsobrooks: Very good.

Did you feel like a very tight knit group together down there while you were in the fox holes?

Mr. Alsobrooks: Yes, well in the foxholes you buddied with somebody; two men foxholes back to back.

Assuming you had any free time what did you do? What type of activities did you do during your free time?

Mr. Alsobrooks: After you got in combat?

Right.

Mr. Alsobrooks: You didn't have any free time.

How much sleep did you get?

Mr. Alsobrooks: Whatever you could manage, I will put it that way.

Somebody had to stay awake and somebody slept.

Mr. Alsobrooks: Yes, somebody should stay awake. I will put it that way.

Did you have time to write letters at all on the front?

Mr. Alsobrooks: You wrote an occasional letter. Of course if you were on the defensive you had 15, 20, maybe 30 minutes and you could sit down and write. Of course they were all censored at that time.

Did you receive much mail from the states from your friends and family?

Mr. Alsobrooks: Yes occasionally whenever it was available to be delivered to us. If you were on the front lines you were lucky to even get it delivered to you.

When they actually got it to you it felt inspirational.

Mr. Alsobrooks: Oh yeah. You were glad to get a letter from home.

Approximately how much time did you spend at the front before you got relieved in combat?

Mr. Alsobrooks: You didn't get relieved.

You didn't get relieved?

Mr. Alsobrooks: Not during that time. We did not get relieved.

What type of food did you get while you were out there in the field?

Mr. Alsobrooks: You were fortunate to get one hot meal every other day. Basically we existed on C-rations, K-rations and D-rations. D-rations was a little chocolate bar. That was basically our diet.

You slept on the ground I assume?

Mr. Alsobrooks: Absolutely.

Did you have a chance to take a shower?

Mr. Alsobrooks: No. From the 12 day of December to the 8<sup>th</sup> day of April I took one shower. I will explain that later. Some of the men in the unit didn't even get one.

How did you manage to get a shower? Did you find a river or something?

Mr. Alsobrooks: No, the one shower that I was able to get I was in the hospital.

So you were back in the rear?

Mr. Alsobrooks: Yes, in a field hospital.

Did you get much sleep out there?

Mr. Alsobrooks: In combat?

Yes.

Mr. Alsobrooks: No, you didn't get much sleep.

You just worked and little catnaps here and there?

Mr. Alsobrooks: Yes, you got catnaps, yes.

Were you promoted during your time in service?

Mr. Alsobrooks: Yes, I was a PFC, E3. I was promoted to PFC right after I got out of training school and then promoted to E5 before I went overseas. I went from England to France as an E5.

What rank was that, E5?

Mr. Alsobrooks: Buck Sergeant.

Did you feel that promotions were received by those who deserved them in the units?

Mr. Alsobrooks: Yes, it was within your own unit. We had one man in our platoon that got a field commission while we were in combat. He was promoted from platoon sergeant to platoon leader.

You said before that some of your officers and NCOs were pre-war vets? They were vets of World War I, I suppose?

Mr. Alsobrooks: No, we didn't have any that old.

They were just people that had seen combat early in the war?

Mr. Alsobrooks: Some of the senior field grade officers might have seen combat in the First World War I don't believe any of our unit officers or any of the NCOs had any combat experience. We had been on maneuvers, that is the only experience that any of us had had.

You were an NCO when you went over there right?

Mr. Alsobrooks: Yes.

Were you a team leader?

Mr. Alsobrooks: Assistant squad leader. I got one more promotion before I was separated from Germany.

E6? You were a squad leader?

Mr. Alsobrooks: Yes, really acting platoon sergeant.

Were you impressed with the quality of the enemy, like the leadership, bravery, and things like that?

Mr. Alsobrooks: I can say one complimentary thing about some of the German soldiers. They were some of the best trained, best marksman and more dedicated to their duty, I believe, than anybody that I had seen prior to that. Germany had some of the best marksmen you could find. That 88 mm weapon that they had, of course they could use it as artillery fire or direct fire, at 1000 yards they could take your head off with it.

Did you respect the average enemy soldier?

Mr. Alsobrooks: Yes, you better respect the marksmanship and everything. I tell you that now. They were some of the SS troopers.

Did you guys ever capture any Germans or any enemy?

Mr. Alsobrooks: Yes. This is not an exaggeration, this is the truth. After the Battle of the Bulge had been stopped and he allies were on the offensive we had already crossed the Rhine River into Germany and one morning myself and seven more men, there were eight on patrol, left our area and the company commander gave me the instruction to proceed about a mile I guess and try to view if any enemy was in a small town. We could see the steeples from the buildings. We were down in the valley and we had to go up a slight rise. We loaded in two jeeps, four in each jeep. When we got just below the crest of the hill we dismounted, crawled up to the crest of the hill and myself and another man in the patrol with field glasses looked for 10 to 15 minutes maybe. We didn't see a sign of any enemy or anything. We came back to our jeep, mounted up, went over the hill, turned the corner to go down one of the main streets in the village and German troops came pouring out of the buildings on both sides of the street. Fortunately they were waiting to surrender because they were surrounded on both sides. Part of our outfit and another division was on the other side of town. We got them lined up and got them all searched and when we counted them the eight of us had 240 prisoners. Not a shot was fired.

Just to backtrack where did you come in to France, from South Hampton?

Mr. Alsobrooks: Cherbourg. That was in southern France.

Was that in November 1944?

Mr. Alsobrooks: Yes, early November 1944.

What about civilians and refugees? Did you capture or did you coordinate with some civilians during the war?

Mr. Alsobrooks: No. During our engagement over there we didn't have very much dealings with the civilian population. You would see a few every once in awhile but it was very little that we had anything to do with civilians.

You said before you were in the hospital. Did you get wounded in combat?

Mr. Alsobrooks: I got wounded the first time the 13 of January in Belgium by artillery fire.

How good was your medical treatment you received?

Mr. Alsobrooks: I don't like to criticize but when I went back to the field hospital I had a little injury tag on you know to identify me. I went in the tent and the doctor who was a Major was the only one working and he said, "Boy what is the matter with you?" I said, "Well I took a piece of shrapnel in my arm." He said, "Well what do you want me to do about it?" I said, "Well I would like for you to get it out if you can." He said, "I haven't got any anesthetic to give you. You reckon you could stand it for me to just cut it out?" I said, "Well, I guess I will have to if you haven't got anything to give me." I crawled up on the table, cut my jacket sleeve off and he did. He took that piece of shrapnel out of my arm without anything at all. He sewed it up and said, "Oh you will be alright." Five days later I was back on duty with my unit.

Were you ever recommended for a medal?

Mr. Alsobrooks: Yes.

What did you earn sir?

Mr. Alsobrooks: Bronze Star.

What did you do to earn the Bronze Star sir?

Mr. Alsobrooks: Well, of course you would have to read the citation. If you ever read one it said, "Above and beyond the call of duty." The award of the Bronze Star happened the day that I got hit the first time.

You got injured more than once then I assume?

Mr. Alsobrooks: Yes.

What happened the second time?

Mr. Alsobrooks: The second time was up in Germany and of course we had already crossed the Rhine River and was making our push for Berlin. I got wounded the second time by small arms fire. We got pinned down in an orchard is really what it was. I hadn't seen any sign of any enemy all day long. We started across that open orchard and I don't know there were about two machine gun nests and I don't know how many riflemen there. They opened up on us. We lost several men right there in that engagement. I got hit in the left ankle. Fortunately the two wounds I received in combat I don't have any visible scars. I was confined to the hospital, that was the 8<sup>th</sup> day of April in 1945 until I was separated from the military in September 1945. I didn't go back to active duty after that. I was transported back through the field hospital and back to a hospital in Paris, France, where they performed surgery on my left leg. I stayed there until about the last week of April I believe. Then I was transported from Paris over to a general hospital in England. I was in England in the hospital when the war with Germany was over, the 8<sup>th</sup> day of May. By that time I was able to kind of walk around with crutches. I wasn't totally disabled to where I couldn't maneuver at all but I wasn't able to go back to duty.

Did you have any fellow friends that were wounded or killed in action?

Mr. Alsobrooks: Our unit went in combat at full strength with 57 men, five squads with 11 people plus a platoon sergeant and a platoon leader made 57. The second time that I got wounded and left from over there, there were only six of the original 57 left. Of course they didn't all get killed, but killed and wounded. There was only six of the original 57 left.

Did they fill those ranks 57 strength again?

Mr. Alsobrooks: Whenever they could yes. You would get a few replacements along to try to keep it up as close to full strength as you could.

When you were in combat did you see any of your close friends next to you get hit or anything?

Mr. Alsobrooks: Oh yeah.

It's pretty tough to see that happening.

Mr. Alsobrooks: It is. Of course you have to try to put it out of your mind the best that you can. I'm sure you know, any person, the biggest thing that being in combat or really in life, the biggest challenge is

staying alive. That is the first thing you have to do is try to stay alive. If one of your buddies gets killed there is not anything that you can do for him then after he has already been killed. You got to do the best thing that you can to stay alive at least another day anyhow.

Were you aware of the strategy involved in being the access powers? Did your commanders brief you on the overall strategy or were you just....

Mr. Alsobrooks: Not really.

You just got your mission every day and that was it?

Mr. Alsobrooks: Oh yeah. You weren't in contact with many of your high ranking officers. I would say from company commander on down you were in direct contact with. As far as your battalion commander, regimental commander or task force commander and your commanding general sometimes you would see them but that was all.

You guys didn't know what was the overall scheme of things?

Mr. Alsobrooks: No. Of course we would get briefed on what the overall objective was maybe a day ahead. Sometimes it would be four or five hours ahead. Normally you didn't know the overall objective.

Were you involved in any of the famous landings or battles of the war? For me they are all famous.

Mr. Alsobrooks: I was in the Battle of the Bulge. That is where I got hit the first time. I was in Belgium. I was attached to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Army under George S. Jr. Patton. Of course along with the 1<sup>st</sup> Army, the 1<sup>st</sup> Army was to our west and the British Army was on line with us. I believe it was the 7<sup>th</sup> Army; the 5<sup>th</sup> Army was in Italy I believe, to the best of my recollection. Our division was attached to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Army during the whole period of combat over there.

So you guys were light infantry. If you were with Patton you were heavy right?

Mr. Alsobrooks: We were on the ground walking most of the time. Of course we had half-tracks to transport us there. Other than that very seldom a half-track ever went into battle itself. They would transport you up, unload you and then they would wait. Fortunately if a tank came by you could hitch a ride on it and that was a welcome relief then. Most of the time you were on the ground.

Do you have any other recollections of the war that I may have missed or that you would like to add sir?

Mr. Alsobrooks: There is only one thing that I would say. After the Second World War was over our country as a whole, I don't mean to just really criticize them but this is just the way of life, after the treaty was signed with Germany and Japan the American people with the President on down became so complacent that anybody in any part of the world could come in here any time they wanted to. This in only my opinion, I think this is what caused the outcome of the September 11, 2001 attack; letting everybody come in here without proper credentials or anything. Another thing, the freedom that we in the United States enjoy, somebody somewhere has made a sacrifice for this freedom, especially the people in our armed services whether it be Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard or who. Somebody has made a sacrifice for the freedom that we enjoy in the United States today. Fortunately or unfortunately however you look at it I was part of it during the Second World War. It was an experience but I don't want to have to go through it again. I admire anybody that does go through it and does the best that they can. We got some of the best trained soldiers in the world today, especially the President of the 101<sup>st</sup> out here. Of course after I was separated from the service in September of 1945 I came back home and I

started work at Fort Campbell in October 1945. I only had about three weeks. I started work there and I worked for 35 years. I retired from Fort Campbell. I saw Fort Campbell grow, decline and grow again. The 101<sup>st</sup> Division they were surrounded in Bastogne. I'm sure you read the history of it. Our task force was part of the allied group that broke through and relieved the 101<sup>st</sup> in Bastogne during the Battle of the Bulge. Soon after the Second World War was over the 101<sup>st</sup> was deactivated. Their flags were all furled and put away. I believe I am right but they were reactivated in 1950 I believe under the command of then Brigadier General William Westmoreland. Of course Fort Campbell has been their home base ever since. Working for the division that I did after I went to work as a civilian at Fort Campbell we were involved in the deployed troops during the Korean War and the Vietnam War and many of the peace keeping exercises. I was in the transportation division. We helped load and inspect the equipment that was deployed from Fort Campbell to those other areas. I worked real close with many of the people from the 101<sup>st</sup> Division. They had some good people to work with. I personally got to know General Westmoreland because we had direct with him when he first reported to Fort Campbell. I personally got to know him and his wife and they was fine people. The 101<sup>st</sup> has a history behind them and hopefully retain this in the future that one of the better divisions worldwide. I believe right near the only air assault division in the world now right?

Right.

Mr. Alsobrooks: I have known some of the people that are connected with 101<sup>st</sup> throughout the years, like I say I worked out there 35 years. Fort Campbell was good to me.

Would you like to add anything for future generations who are studying history or any other stuff about how World War II changed the world in your eyes?

Mr. Alsobrooks: I don't know the fundamental basics of the history books now. I'm not connected with the school system enough to know this. From what I can hear from people at ours, I don't believe there is enough information in our history books for the present generation to really know what went on, especially during the Second World War and before that. There may be two or three pages in there. As you well know the Second World War changed the history of the world; not only the United States, but the history of the world. Our young generation, through no fault of their own, they just don't have this opportunity to study the history that was made during that period of time and this is unfortunate. Of course the World War II veterans, it want be many more years until there want be any more living. They are dying thousands every day now in the United States. I would assume the average age of the World War II veteran is 75. That is average age. I think it would do our young people a lot of good to really study the Second World War especially on forward. I don't know about the Korean War and the Vietnam War if there is very much detail in the history books or not. Unfortunately I don't go to the library like I should. I think it would be good for our generation to know the things that has gone on.

Thanks a lot. I appreciate that.

Mr. Alsobrooks: You are more than welcome.

(End of Interview)