

VITAL MORIN: ADD THIS TO OTHER TRANSCRIPT AS INDICATED ON HARD COPY

We were already on land and proceeding into Caen, which is the first city in France. And it took quite a while here before we were able to capture that city. From there on we went on all the way through to France and to Belgium and then into Holland and then finally down into Germany. And we were stationed at Nanigan, which is in Holland, for pretty well most of the winter. We were there for about two months or more without even moving. Just patrolling around and just checking. And then a second front opened up around February, or around the middle of February and then that's when we started advancing again. And we went and we, my regiment, went in and we captured Kleve, the first German city. And then from there we proceeded to Hochwaldal Forest where I was captured and I was taken prisoner of war in Germany. And I was stationed at Stalag 11 B, roughly around 90 miles out of Berlin. The exact location I don't know because I didn't know the country at all. And we were liberated just before the war ended and taken on into one of the bombers which was driven back about 60 miles from the prison camp where they had an airport where the bombers landed and flew us back to London. I stayed in the hospital roughly 3 weeks there to recuperate after spending close to three months in the prison camp, where I almost starved to death there because there was hardly any grub. Just one meal a day and it was just soup and a piece of rye bread is all we got in one day. So there was pretty slim pickings for grub for eating there so I lost quite a bit of weight. Roughly about 30 pounds, I guess, in three months.

The prisoner of war experience wasn't too awfully hard. I mean, that the Germans themselves were not too rough, but we did have guards there and we were all fenced in and at prison camp it's a fair size because it had all nationalities there. They had Russians in there and they had French and they had Belgians and Hollanders. And they even had, I think, pretty well all the people that fought against the Germans and roughly around 40 or 50 thousand of prisoners of war in that prison camp. This was a

fair size one and as far as treating us rough, it wasn't rough except that we didn't have anything. Nothing to eat. All we had was water to drink and very little blankets. We just had one little blanket and we had to lay on straw there and a little bit of a bunk. A little wooden bunk. And that's about all we had there and we had to keep inside the compound because there was guards all over the place and then all of a sudden, I mean, we could hear

these guns coming. And first we heard the artillery. The bigger the guns, I mean. They were making a little more noise. We could hear them-possibly maybe 10-20 miles away-and then finally we started hearing the small rifle shots and we knew that they were getting fairly close. And then all of a sudden I just hear the roaring of the tanks and everything else that came right into our prison camp, and this is when we got liberated.

Everybody just about went crazy there. We all ran to all the buildings that were available. And they were looking for grub. That's mostly what we were looking for. And they tried to hold us back so we wouldn't eat ourselves to death there because everybody was so hungry. And especially the Russians were really treated bad there because I don't even think they were even fed. We could see them in the next compound there. They were just eating bones, smashing them all up with rock and eating them. And about 15 - 20 or more a day were taken out of there. They were starving to death-out of the compound. And you see them coming out of there, a whole bunch of them. Just taken out and dying, like.

VE DAY

I was in London, England, when the war ended. I just come out of the hospital. And everybody on the streets. Celebrated all night long there. And I don't think they were policing at all, because everybody was partying all over the place. When the war ended they can just see them all night long, just hollering and having a hell of a time.

