

NORTH TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY
ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION
NUMBER
626

Interview with
HAROLD GALLOWAY
March 17, 1984

Place of Interview: Quitman, Texas

Interviewer: David W. Gilbreath

Terms of Use: Open

Approved:

Harold Galloway
(Signature)

Date: March 17, 1984

COPYRIGHT



1984

THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF NORTH TEXAS STATE
UNIVERSITY IN THE CITY OF DENTON

All rights reserved. No part of this work may be reproduced or transmitted in any form by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying and recording or by any information storage or retrieval system, without permission in writing from the Coordinator of the Oral History Collection or the University Archivist, North Texas State University, Denton, Texas 76203

Oral History Collection

Judge Harold Galloway

Interviewer: David W. Gilbreath Date of Interview: March 17, 1984

Place of Interview: Quitman, Texas

Mr. Gilbreath: This is David W. Gilbreath of the North Texas State University Oral History Collection. The interview is taking place on March 17, 1984, in the Wood County Courthouse, which is located in Quitman, Texas. I am interviewing Judge Harold Galloway to obtain his recollections of World War II in Europe, his experiences as a medical corpsman, and the health problems of American G.I.'s.

Judge, to start off our interview, I would like for you to describe and give us a little information about where you were born and the early part of your life.

Judge
Galloway:

David, I was born in Yantis, Texas, which is in the northwest part of Wood County. I lived there until I was three or four years old. My folks then moved to the Coke community, bought a place there, and we lived in an old house there. I attended my first school at the Coke school. I believe the proper name was Lloyd Common School District. I finished that school there and went to the Pleasant Grove Independent School District for my junior year in high school, and at the time I finished my junior year in high school, I transferred

to the Winnsboro Independent School District. I believe that was the first year the state paid any transportation for transferees. They paid two dollars per student. My father had an old Ford touring car. I picked up four girls and myself, and we drove to Winnsboro that year, and we finished high school in 1934.

Gilbreath: When as you were growing up, I take it that most of the time you lived out on a farm. You lived out in the country?

Galloway: Yes, our family were farmers, and, of course, people all in this area were rather poor folks. They didn't have very much cash. They didn't require much cash to get along, but cash was pretty short.

Gilbreath: You graduated in 1934 from high school?

Galloway: From Winnsboro High School. That's the only formal education I ever had. I did have, of course, some specialized courses, as I have real estate salesman's license now. That required some college work, but it is just speciality work to pass the courses for the real estate license.

Gilbreath: What were you doing in the years between when you graduated and when the war first started?

Galloway: I was doing common labor. I worked for a little garage here in town. I think they paid me ten dollars a week or something like that, but immediately prior to my induction into the service, I drove a truck, a cattle truck, for a local cattle buyer here.

Gilbreath: As just a bit of background information before we get into when you entered the service, prior to your entering the service, had you ever had any type of medical training or had anything to do with medicine at all?

Galloway: None whatsoever.

Gilbreath: You had never even thought about going into that?

Galloway: Never thought about it.

Gilbreath: When did you enter the Army?

Galloway: I entered the Army in 1942, the last part of October, and I don't recall the exact date.

Gilbreath: Were you drafted or did you...

Galloway: I was drafted.

Gilbreath: You were drafted?

Galloway: I was a draftee. I sure was. I did not volunteer.

Gilbreath: And you were how old at that time?

Galloway: I guess I was twenty-six.

Gilbreath: Twenty-six?

Galloway: Twenty-five or twenty-six. I'm not sure. I was born in 1916. I must have been twenty-six years old.

Gilbreath: Where were you inducted at?

Galloway: My first camp was Camp Wolters at Mineral Wells. I got on the bus at Mineola. We were transported to Camp Wolters. That was my first station there. I only stayed there three or four days. Then I was assigned along with another group to Camp Barkley, Texas, and when I arrived there, I discovered

that we were going into the 90th Infantry Division, and I was assigned to the 315th Engineer Battalion, which was a combat engineer battalion. I have no idea why I got into the engineers unless it was because of my background of a little mechanic's work and a truck driver and things of that nature. I got into this engineer battalion, and it wasn't but a few days after that I had two or three gigs--my dusty rifle and a few penalties--that they called me up and assigned me to a medical detachment for the 315th Engineers, which was a group of seventeen men who was the medical arm of the 315th Engineers.

Gilbreath: Had you asked for this assignment?

Galloway: I did not ask for it.

Gilbreath: What did you feel like at the time when they gave it to you?

Galloway: I was very happy to get rid of some of this engineer's duties because they were a real burden, and there was lots of hard work to do.

Gilbreath: What had you been doing up to that time? As far as the engineers, what had they been having you do?

Galloway: Oh, this was early after our arrival in Barkley. Oh, it was just routine--getting haircuts and shots and all of those things. Almost immediately, I was assigned to the engineers, to the medical detachment. I never knew why I was chosen for that. As I said before, I grew up in a kind of practical manner, and when we took the I.Q. test, I had...and we did

that in Wolters. I had no idea what that meant, and I had never heard the word used before--no idea what an I.Q. test meant. The questions were rather simple, as far as I was concerned. I don't know what my score was, but I feel like it must have been pretty good. I had the practical knowledge, and maybe that was what helped me.

Gilbreath: To backstep just one second, when you joined the Army, after having come from this practical background that you talk of, did you at times feel like they were doing things that just made no sense at all?

Galloway: Oh, very much, very much. I can understand why now, but at that time, it seemed like everything we did was very useless. A good example was when...before I got transferred to the medical detachment, we were told one day that we were going out, and the people would show us how to build a tank trap, a simple tank trap. Well, I could not imagine what they were talking about, but when we got out to the site, there had already been a maker's tracing tape stretched around a plot of ground, and it was about, I guess, four feet wide and about a hundred feet long, I guess. The tank trap turned out to be simply a hole dug in the ground, four feet wide, or six, whatever it takes to trap a tank, and four to five foot deep, and they made us dig that whole thing. It was things like that that really bothered me. I knew how to dig a hole. I did then, and everybody else

did, too. Anyhow, discipline, I think, was what they were after--discipline their people.

Gilbreath: Once you got into the medical unit, what type of training did you receive?

Galloway: We had first aid training. That was all the training that we received, was first aid training. We had many lectures, but the practical matter of it was that we were taught first aid. It was the very first first aid that was given to a person who had been wounded or hurt, and that's as far as our training went. Of course, in the course of the discussion, there was deeper subjects talked about, that is, the vascular system and the nervous system and the brain and so on. The anatomy was discussed in detail. We were trained to do first aid, and that was it.

Gilbreath: Did you feel that this training that you received was adequate?

Galloway: Oh, I believe that it was. It was adequate for the job that we did.

Gilbreath: For the job that you were going to do?

Galloway: Yes.

Gilbreath: At the same time you were receiving this training, were you also undergoing what I would call the regular Army procedures? Were you learning how to drill and things like that?

Galloway: Oh, yes, of course. Close order drill was always...we did that everyday--calisthenics in the morning, close order drill at least once a day, parade drill periodically. I

don't recall that. Oh, yes, we took the regular training-- same as the engineers.

Gilbreath: At what time did you learn that you would be leaving or that you were going to be shipped out?

Galloway: From?

Gilbreath: From Wolters to...or where was your next move?

Galloway: From Barkley. I was at Barkley.

Gilbreath: Sorry. Where was your next station?

Galloway: Well, we were shipped to Louisiana for maneuvers. We went down to the woods in Louisiana for maneuvers. It was spring-time...well, early spring. Louisiana is a very wet place, and it rained every day or two, and this was quite an ordeal. We went to Louisiana, and I'm not sure how long we stayed there. About six weeks or so, two months, maybe longer. Then back to Camp Barkley for a period and about...about the first of September, now, we went to the desert in California for desert training. We arrived out there in the desert-- not a building, not a street, not a thing except equipment. We set up tents and built a tent city, and the whole division trained there in the desert--some very rigorous training.

Gilbreath: Looking back from your perspective now, do you feel that the training the division as a whole received was adequate?

Galloway: Oh, I believe it was. I believe it was very adequate.

Gilbreath: During this time period, did you feel that you were being treated as well as everybody else was or at least in a

humane manner?

Galloway: Oh, I think...do you mean me specifically, myself, or...

Gilbreath: Well, I mean, the people, just the soldiers.

Galloway: Oh, well, now let's face it. There was lots of times when some of these orders came that sounded very foolish, and as I said before, they didn't make any point to me; but on looking back now, I can know that the discipline of the soldier was the ultimate goal, and it required some drastic moves sometimes. They were not very popular with the men because I heard some of the men say, "Wait until I get to the front, and this officer will be..." Well, whatever. But the truth of the matter is, I believe that every person that I knew, when he was confronted with the enemy face to face, was very proud of his training and didn't regret it either. Never did I hear of an enlisted man who felt bad toward his commanding officer on the battlefield.

Gilbreath: I see. Where did your unit go after that?

Galloway: After the desert training, we boarded a train to go to Camp Shanks, New Jersey, for debarkation. We didn't know it was debarkation, of course, but that is where we went. We arrived there in a blizzard, a snowstorm, right off the desert. It was quite a trying thing.

Gilbreath: That's one point I wanted to cover with you, and I think it will come up later again. During the course of your tenure in the Army, did it ever bother you that you didn't

know a lot about where you were going or what you would be doing?

Galloway: It was a fact that the future was not known by me. I don't believe it was known by any of the men in my outfit. I don't even believe our commanding officer...I know the commanding officer of the medical detachment didn't know what the plans were. He knew more than I did, of course, but he did not know, I don't believe, what the plans were.

Gilbreath: From New Jersey where did you go?

Galloway: We boarded the ship to go across the Atlantic. We got on the ship, and after a day's delay in the harbor, we left port and went out that night. I presumed we were on our way to Europe. That's the only way you can go from there, of course, but we either had a malfunction on the ship or it was decided that the ship would come back to port. It did come back, and I believe that we sat on the pier. I don't know what street it was, but it was a New York street. We sat there for three or four or five days, and then we took off with a convoy. The convoy was so large you couldn't see the front of it nor the back, and you could barely see the sides of it. I have no idea how many ships. A hundred or two hundred, I don't know. It was a large convoy.

Gilbreath: Where did you land?

Galloway: We landed at Liverpool on Easter Sunday.

Gilbreath: And where did you go from there?

Galloway: We went to a little village called Brighton. I'm not sure whether it's in Wales or Scotland. Maybe it's in Wales, but, anyhow, it was Brighton.

Gilbreath: For the time that you were there, what were you doing?

Galloway: Well, we were training. We were in training. I remember one thing in particular about it, and I suppose this is what first alerted me that there might be something really big happening. I think Brighton is a little town where the author of How Green Was My Valley lived. I think that's right. But at any rate, our letters were all censored back home from the time we arrived in Liverpool, I think. We were not permitted to use the word "green" or "valley." I remember specifically those two words would be deleted from any letter that we wrote.

Gilbreath: I see. Let's take a little bit of a jump forward and go to the time of the invasion. Your division was one of the divisions that landed on Utah Beach?

Galloway: We landed on Utah Beach.

Gilbreath: You were not one of the lead divisions, though, were you?

Galloway: I was not. I was not with the first troops that landed. If I recall, I landed about eveningtide. Evening just at sundown or such something like that.

Gilbreath: Of the first day?

Galloway: I'm not so positive about the first day. I'm not sure. The 359th Infantry Regiment was split in two parts. One

of those parts went on the Susan B. Anthony, and it was lost on the 8th day of June.

Gilbreath: Yes, sir.

Galloway: I was not on that. I was with the 359th, but they had an "A" group of the 359th, which, I believe, went on shore on the 7th. Now my book kind of leaves me at a loss as to whether this can be verified or not. (At this point it is important to note that the judge had brought a book which was a divisional history of the 90th Division and also a map of Europe which showed the paths and positions the 90th had taken during the European campaign. It is to this book or map that the judge will refer to frequently in the interview.)

Gilbreath: I see.

Galloway: Quite naturally, I didn't know that this was D-Day, and I didn't know it was going to be famous. That was the last thing that crossed my mind because I had other things to think about.

Gilbreath: When did you really find out that you were in France, that you would be landing in France?

Galloway: Well, I believe we had already set foot on the land, and some word had come to us from apparently somebody who knew. I guess that's the first time I knew for sure. I had no idea where we were going when we left England because, if I recall correctly, they exchanged our English pounds for French francs. Well, Morocco was a French colony in Africa.

So the common soldiers like me didn't know whether we were going to Africa or whether we were going to France. The logical thing to believe was that Morocco had been...that action was gone, completed.

Gilbreath: Right.

Galloway: You would think we were going to France, and I presume that's what everybody believed even before we landed, but we got French francs, if I recall, aboard the ship.

Gilbreath: (Chuckle) Describe for me the conditions that you found on Utah when you landed.

Galloway: I rode off the beach on an old supply truck. I was with engineers, and they had trucks, and I rode off on one of those trucks. I didn't get my feet wet. I know I didn't. There had been some areas cleared away, free from the enemy. As I said, we landed, I think, about sundown or such matter, and the Allies had air superiority by numbers. There was not a German plane in sight that I saw all during the operation while I was on the sea. But as soon as the sun went down, apparently the Allies had called off the planes, and here come the German Messerschmitts. They came very fierce with strafing, and, of course, there was the artillery fire from the enemy, also. We were very green soldiers.

Gilbreath: This was your first time in combat, right?

Galloway: First time in combat, very green. It was difficult for anybody to tell the difference between incoming "mail" and

outgoing "mail." We couldn't tell the difference. Consequently, some people was hurt that wouldn't have been hurt two months later because they knew the difference. But the German aircraft came in. I remember that at night we had a fellow who decided he was going to try to shoot one down with his M-1 rifle, and, of course, he fired it, and every flash could be seen from the sky. You can't imagine what kind of a reprimand he received for that from the C.O.

Gilbreath: (Chuckle) When you landed on the beach, were you able or did you help anyone in your capacity as a corpsman?

Galloway: Not when I landed on the beach because it was cleared off. Now then, after we progressed ashore a mile or so, or three or four, of course, we had some casualties in our outfit, and then there were other casualties from other outfits that required attention.

Gilbreath: I think right now would be a good time to discuss just a little bit about what kind of supplies you carried with you on your day-to-day goings about?

Galloway: I had two packets that I carried. They were something like twelve to fourteen inches long and four inches wide and five inches deep, maybe. In that was bandages, lots of bandages, mercurochrome, which was an antiseptic. There was morphine. There were morphine shots prepared, needles prepared, sterilized needles. They were sterile. We had elastic bandages to make splints with. We did not carry

any, if I recall, material to make a splint to splint a leg. You picked up what you could find--a stick or a board or whatever--to splint a leg.

Gilbreath: Just the bandages?

Galloway: Yes, just the bandages. This wasn't very much equipment, but it would last you, and you could ask for supplies at supply.

Gilbreath: Do you feel that, as a corpsman, they kept you well-supplied? Did you ever run out...I mean, have any problems?

Galloway: I had no problem. Now let's understand that I was with the combat engineers, and they were closely associated with the infantry people. But the infantry folk had more casualties than we had, so now I was not overworked, really, as far as casualties in my outfit was concerned. There were some other soldiers who had been left behind that needed attention, but the evacuation system was so good that most people who were wounded, unless the fighting was awfully fierce, were picked up and sent backward to the first aid station. It was done very quickly. They had jeeps fixed so that they had little racks built on them so that litters could go on, and they could haul two or three. They'd haul one on the front and two on the back, so they could evacuate those people very quickly.

Gilbreath: Did you feel that the wounded were gotten out as quickly as possible?

Galloway: As quickly as possible. They sure were. The medical people were there all the time. Now, of course, you will find specific instances, I'm sure, where that didn't occur; but generally speaking, I believe they were removed as quickly as possible. They always impressed on us that the quicker you got a man a little first aid to save his life until you get back to the next station...that's what your purpose is in being here.

Gilbreath: What exactly had you been trained to do when you came upon a wounded man? What were you to do?

Galloway: Stop the bleeding first, if there was any. If he was unconscious, you gave him no medication. If he was in severe pain, you give him a shot of morphine for the pain so he could handle it and so he could be fairly comfortable. Then you'd dress his wound, and that was just all there was to it. Then you'd see that he got back.

Gilbreath: Right.

Galloway: Now I might want to call an engineer to help me and to go on the litter. We had litters in the truck, and we'd take the litter sometimes, and I'd have to carry him back, and I'd have to have some help. You have to understand that I was only one first aid man with a platoon of engineers.

Gilbreath: Were you on foot, or were you driving a vehicle?

Galloway: I had no vehicle of my own. I rode with the engineers in their vehicles.

Gilbreath: One thing you said intrigues me just a little bit in sight of things today. You said about you gave him a shot of morphine. Did it seem at that time that there was no worry about morphine as a drug?

Galloway: No, no. It was used to kill pain...for a pain killer. I don't know what happened back behind me, but we had this little ol' tube with a needle on it.

Gilbreath: Did you use anything as a way of letting the people behind you know you had given him a shot of morphine?

Galloway: I don't recall that. I'm sure we had instructions to do that, but I don't know. I don't recall us putting any kind of...yes, we did put a tag on them. We put on some kind of a tag. We had some little tags. I think we did. You know what? That's kind of slipped my mind. I can't recall that. I can't recall that, but I am sure...oh, I think I'm sure that we had to notify those people that he had had a shot of morphine, and I think it was a half-grain, if I remember correctly.

Gilbreath: It was not a large dosage?

Galloway: Not a large dosage. Simply something to alleviate the pain. Shock was the real culprit in those things. It lowers your resistance, too, and you have to treat the shock first.

Gilbreath: In doing what you did, did you ever give a soldier plasma?

Galloway: We were prepared to give plasma. We had dry plasma and a bottle of sterile water. I forgot that about the supplies,

but we did have the plasma and sterile water to make the fluid for the intravenous.

Gilbreath: Did you find that that saved...or was a great help?

Galloway: Yes, but I can tell you quite frankly that I'm not sure that I ever did give over one or two. I believe that I was fortunate enough to be in a position where that I would get these folks back to somebody who was better prepared than I to do it.

Gilbreath: I see. In the work that you did, what would you say were the type of wounds that you faced most often?

Galloway: The most aggravating wound, one of the most difficult to handle, was from shrapnel. There was some booby trap wounds, and that was always shrapnel or concussion. As I observed, the proportion of wounds from the enemy's rifle with a bullet was rather few and not near in the proportion that you found in the other two types.

Gilbreath: On the shrapnel, was it more from artillery shells or...

Galloway: Artillery shells, sure. Artillery shells.

Gilbreath: Among the troops that you were with, were you ever bombed or have problems with enemy aircraft as far as that type of a problem?

Galloway: I don't believe we had any problem with enemy aircraft as far as bombs were concerned. We were on the front lines, and they didn't bomb the front lines. They always bombed supply. The Allies bombed supply depots rather than the

front lines except when we got to a certain stage inside France. We had come to a point that we could not move. Nobody could move because of the resistance, so they did call the Air Force to bomb the front lines. That was kind of tragic because they dropped a marker which was a stream of smoke. Well, the wind would change the direction of that smoke, and the weatherman is supposed to give you good information about which direction the wind is going to blow. But who can predict what the wind might do? As it happened, that marker moved the wrong way, and there were a large number of Allied soldiers that were killed by their own bombs.

Gilbreath: It seems to me that this occurred right before the breakout from the Normandy beachhead, didn't it?

Galloway: That was the purpose for the bombing of the front line. I think that's the only time that I ever knew they bombed the front lines. Now I've seen them drop bombs behind a mile or so, but this was on the front.

Gilbreath: Talking about this time, when you were there at the Normandy beachhead and you were with the 90th Infantry, from the level that you were at, did you ever hear rumors or stories that the 90th was having command problems or that it wasn't doing the job it should have been doing?

Galloway: I never heard that, but I read it in the book. I did not know it at the time. I was very low down on the command.

I didn't know it.

Gilbreath: But was it ever discussed in any of the people you were with?

Galloway: No, no. No, we never had a meeting.

Gilbreath: Well, I mean, as far as any rumors.

Galloway: I don't recall it.

Gilbreath: Did you know that at various times your commanders had been changed, that you had new divisional commanders?

Galloway: I don't recall whether I knew it on the site. I don't remember whether I knew it or not. If I did, it was something that was inconsequential to me. I had a problem of trying to save my hide, I guess.

Gilbreath: I understand. Just as a sidelight to this, did you ever at anytime that you were with the 90th...did you ever feel that the division was mismanaged or that the commander was incompetent at any time, I mean, as far as just throwing you into something that you shouldn't have been thrown into?

Galloway: That never occurred to me. I never thought about it one way or the other.

Gilbreath: At the time of the breakout from Normandy, I believe that the 90th was part of the American forces that captured a lot of the Germans in the Falaise area.

Galloway: Falaise Gap. Yes, I believe that the 90th Division was heavily involved there, I think. I know they were.

Gilbreath: At this time, when they captured all these prisoners, did you have anything to do with any of the German prisoners

that were captured as far as aiding them or anything?

Galloway: Oh, we helped German prisoners if they were wounded. Yes, we helped them. I think I shared my aid kit with them, and I believe all the other medical men did.

Gilbreath: That's a question or an area I would like to cover with you for just a few minutes. First of all, as a corpsman, did you carry any marking on your clothing to distinguish you?

Galloway: Oh, yes, I had markings. The helmet had four red crosses in a white circle. I had an armband that went on the arm. It was a white armband with a red cross, and that was the markings. I carried no arms.

Gilbreath: You didn't carry any type of armament?

Galloway: No type of arms.

Gilbreath: From my understanding of it, it was understood that if you as a corpsman were helping someone that you were not to be shot at, to be aimed at directly?

Galloway: That's right. That's right.

Gilbreath: Did you ever feel that that was broken, as far as you were concerned?

Galloway: Not as far as I was concerned. I'm sure that nobody ever took a shot at me with his rifle.

Gilbreath: Of any of the American troops that you were around, did you ever see that happen from our side, as far as them taking shots at a German corpsman?

- Galloway: No, I don't think we did. I never knew it if we did.
- Gilbreath: Of course, I realize you helped Americans...do you feel that any German prisoners that your unit came across... do you feel they were well-treated?
- Galloway: Oh, I know they were well-treated. Yes, some of these German soldiers would rather surrender to me because I didn't have a pistol on. I didn't have any arms. They would come up and surrender to me if they could get to me first because I feel sure that they knew what the code was, as far as medical people is concerned, and they had rather surrender to a corpsman than they had anybody else. In the first place, he couldn't shoot them. In the second place, they knew most corpsmen observed all the rules.
- Gilbreath: While you were in Europe, did you ever hear or ever see any of the other Allied units that you were with not observe exactly all the rules as far as the Germans are concerned?
- Galloway: A French division which was attached to...I'm not sure my facts are right about this, but they were attached to the Allies, and I think to General Patton's corps. Those French soldiers were pretty aggressive and they might not treat the German, the enemy, as well as we did. I didn't ever see us really mistreat the Germans. Now I've heard some rumors that maybe some of the Allies might have done something that wasn't exactly...but I can understand some of that on a given day and a given situation.
- Gilbreath: The other question in the other area that I would like to

cover is this: did you as a corpsman in your unit...did you extend your help to civilians?

Galloway: Oh, yes, quite often. Everything from bandages...maybe aspirin. We did have aspirin at the other areas if you wanted it.

Gilbreath: As having grown up in the country, what were your feelings and how did you find the countryside as you went across France?

Galloway: As I went across France, in the area of the invasion, the countryside was very different from anything I had ever seen. The little fields were rather small. Everyone of these fields had been there so awfully long until the debris or the leaves shedding from the fence rows had created a mound or a barrier. Some of it four feet high, and that was where the real problem came in making progress to cross it. Those Germans could hide behind that thing, and they could look through those bushes there, and we were almost at their mercy without some kind of heavy artillery preparation on every inch of it.

Gilbreath: But you didn't encounter that problem once you got out?

Galloway: Once we got away from that and once we got through Falaise Gap. The Falaise Gap relieved us of all that kind of problem.

Gilbreath: The countryside that you went through as you went across France...did you find it devastated by...had it been devastated by the war, or did it seem to be fairly untouched?

Galloway: Oh, no. After we got away from the damage we did in the invasion, I don't believe that I noticed a lot of devastation. I did not go through Paris. We went south of Paris and through Fontainebleau, which was a beautiful little town, if I remember.

Gilbreath: Was it in good shape when you went through it?

Galloway: I don't remember any destruction in Fontainebleau, but from along about here (points to map) it was a process of driving through the country and the supply keeping up with the lead columns. There was not much resistance there.

Gilbreath: I'd like to skip to the time when you came...well, I guess to the time when you first approached the actual German lines of Germany itself. As you went across France and as you neared Germany, did you ever sense that you were really winning the war and that it was going to end, that you were going to beat them?

Galloway: Well, I don't know about when I sensed...I know that our trips along here (points to map) around Paris and up to a little town Reims, France...let me tell you a little something about Reims. We captured an airport there that was intact--with planes intact--and some of our engineer geniuses who thought they knew about everything fooled around with these planes. They set off the machine gun in one of them in the airport, inside the hangar.

Well, of course, that all ceased immediately, but we

stayed there two or three days, and I had a chance to go down to a very, very famous cathedral in Reims, France. I went to the cathedral. It was all boarded up, though, and I'm not sure that we...yes, I think we might have went inside--beautiful...beautiful.

But then we got up here to Metz. I didn't know it at the time, but Metz was one of the old battlegrounds in World War I where they had lots of problems. When we got there...I think it's on the Moselle River. Yes, it's on the Moselle River. When we got there, the river got up, and I understood from people that that was the highest that river had been in many, many years. So we were stuck there at Metz for a long time.

Finally, though, we crossed the Moselle, and then we became confronted with the Maginot Line, which was a French line but had been commandeered by the Germans, and they used it. I was amazed to go in these bunkers, and these bunkers were interconnected. I was amazed at the city below the surface. Those people could live under there without ever sticking their head above the ground. Well, we didn't have much cover here because the openings for the guns were pointed the other way, toward Germany, and they weren't aimed at the Allies. If I recall, there wasn't much trouble in taking the Maginot, but here (points at map) is where the trouble began, at the Siegfried Line.

Gilbreath: Now that's about the time that the Allied advance stopped, wasn't it, due to the supplies?

Galloway: I tell you, we probably reached the end of our line as far as supplies coming. Wintertime was approaching, also. But I can remember that we had crossed into the Siegfried Line here (points at map) somewhere along there. We crossed into it and had taken some of it, but the orders came down... and I'm getting this from the book...orders came down to "halt what you are doing. Be prepared for a movement." Well, nobody knew what that meant because the Germans had kept their offensive under wraps, secret, also. But we did get the orders to move and the move was to go up to Bastogne.

Gilbreath: So you are a part of General Patton's force that he sent up to relieve Bastogne during the Battle of the Bulge?

Galloway: That's right.

Gilbreath: I'd like to ask you a few questions about that. Did you enter Bastogne itself?

Galloway: Oh, yes, yes.

Gilbreath: Did you find it fairly devastated?

Galloway: Almost completely destroyed.

Gilbreath: When you entered during that time, did you happen to come across any captured German soldiers?

Galloway: Well, yes. We captured soldiers all along, and but I recall more the corpses that we found. The Germans lost a lot of

people. They lost a lot of people, and the corpses were preserved because it was freezing weather. The corpses were preserved, and they were numerous.

Gilbreath: Could you tell from this that you had been able to inflict upon the Germans a heavy defeat?

Galloway: Oh, well, of course, after Bastogne was captured. But the approach to Bastogne was where the battle began, and the Americans lost a lot of people there, too.

Gilbreath: Was your unit involved in it at this time...in this heavy fighting?

Galloway: We were not infantry, but we supported the infantry...was right behind them. Now the weather was so bad and the people so well-fortified in Bastogne that it was impossible to advance on the enemy there. They were entrenched, and they were going to stay. Their orders was to fight to the death. It was cloudy everyday, foggy and everything--very bad weather. But one day the clouds all went away, and the sun came out shining. When it did, the planes came out almost immediately. Well, that was the beginning of the end for Bastogne because with the Air Force in action, it cleared the way for the Allies to capture the town.

Gilbreath: There's a couple of points I'd like to cover here at this time. This campaign took place during the middle of the winter, did it not?

Galloway: You bet. There was snow all over the ground.

Gilbreath: Did this present any particular problems to you as a corpsman in handling the cases that you came across?

Galloway: Well, we had cases of frostbite, and soldiers were instructed to change their socks every evening. But this becomes very difficult to do when you're sleeping in a snowbank, and changing socks is pretty hard to do. Consequently, a lot of Allies, a lot of American soldiers, had frostbitten feet. Some of them had it severe. Now I was not one of the doughboys. The doughboys were the people who got most of this because they were absolutely unprotected. The engineers were in a little better position because we were a little behind them. We had supplies at hand, vehicles at hand, and so we didn't suffer that in my outfit very much.

Gilbreath: What type of treatment did they have for that? I mean, did they have anything that once they got it to help them with it, or did they just have to send them back to an aid station?

Galloway: They had to be sent back. There was not much treatment. You can't treat frostbite in a snowstorm without no more equipment than I had or a corpsman had. What you need to do is send him back, but a lot of them didn't get to go back because where they were going, it was difficult to get back, and they were needed on the front to hold their positions.

Gilbreath: That is another question I'd like to ask. If a man was injured, truly injured, was he sent back as quickly as

possible, or were there ever any instances where they were held there to keep on fighting?

Galloway: I guess there were not orders to that effect, but it could have been that there was no way to get them back, and the state had called the necessity to fight or die, and they would fight. I don't mean that those were the general orders: "Stay, stay, stay until death."

Gilbreath: So on the whole, if you were injured, there was no dishonor in removing yourself or being removed from the line?

Galloway: I never heard of that. I never heard of that happening, but, of course, there might have been some circumstances where some people might have gone back when they weren't injured that badly. I don't know that, and I didn't see it. I didn't see it.

Gilbreath: After Bastogne, after the Battle of the Bulge, where did your unit go next?

Galloway: We went to the little country of Luxembourg, which is a very small country. We went back into the Siegfried Line. It had to be confronted again--the Siegfried Line. Of course, we came against the fortifications that we had held once before.

Gilbreath: Did you have trouble going back through them again?

Galloway: No, we didn't have as much trouble as most people thought. The Air Force had prepared...the Siegfried Line fortification, you could see, had to impede the movements of the tanks and

so on--big octagon-shaped concrete stabs sticking out of the ground. Well, with the bombing they could be neutralized pretty well. Once you get a pass through, why, you could just drive through, and at that time, quite frankly, the German army began to be disoriented, disorganized, because they had suffered a great defeat here at Bastogne.

Gilbreath: From that time on, did your unit begin to have more prisoners come in?

Galloway: Oh, yes, we had prisoners now. Not many people surrendered here at Bastogne, not many Germans. They died or were wounded. But now after getting through the line, it was simply a matter of supplies keeping up with us. The resistance was really scattered all through here.

Gilbreath: There are several questions I'd like to ask you about your unit as they went across Germany. First of all, what type of reception or how did you find the German civilians as you came across them and as you went through their countryside, their towns?

Galloway: When we began to approach the Siegfried Line the first time, the order came to us that there was to be no fraternization with the German civilians, soldiers, or anybody. If anybody talks to these soldiers and interrogates them, it's going to be people behind the lines that they talk with--we don't. Neither did we fraternize with the German population at all. Our first entry into Germany was here at the Siegfried Line,

and we didn't have the opportunity to talk to them there because we soon had the orders to stop and go back. But this time, when we got up here to go through the line, it was a rather easy thing to do. When we went through the line now, those German people appeared to be about as happy as we were. I felt like the war was about over when we got along here (points to map), somewhere through the line. I felt like--and a lot of our folk did--that this was a beginning of the end and could truly see daylight. So those German people received us really with open arms. Now that's the people, and if I understood the German army correctly, it was made up of the Wehrmacht, which, I think, means "common army," and then the elite troops, which is S.S. people and officers. The Wehrmacht was the ones...you could capture them, and they would surrender if they didn't have a chance. But now the S.S. troops would not, of course, do that. So our relationship with the German population was, I thought, indeed fine. I was happy to do it, myself.

Gilbreath: As you came across those people, did you find them...I guess I want to say, were they being well-fed? Were their homes damaged, or did they seem to be in a bad situation?

Galloway: Not many of the homes were damaged outside the larger cities. Now the cities along here (points to a map) on the Rhine... let me see...Coblenz. I was at Coblenz. It was very badly damaged. I went up to Cologne one day with an engineer truck

to pick up something, and it was damaged badly, also, from bombs. But most of the countryside was not devastated. The Allies did not go after the small fry. They went after the concentration along the Rhine River because that was the heart of your transportation.

Gilbreath: As you went through Germany, did your unit ever come across any German prisoner-of-war camps or concentration camps?

Galloway: We did but not Dachau or some of the famous ones. We came across some slave labor camps where...I recall one place where there was a camp. I believe there were mostly women there, and I'm not sure if these girls were French girls or not. But they were young ladies about twenty years old or so, and they had been working in the mines. I can remember that their fingers were...whatever they was doing, their fingers would turn to gold along there (points to hand), and those people were enslaved, and they kept them.

Gilbreath: What were the conditions that you found in these camps?

Galloway: Those labor camps were very, very unclean, and, quite frankly, these people were infested with lice. Their quarters were, also. That's the first time I've ever heard of the D.D.T. We used D.D.T. to delouse those people. I was with the medics, and it was our responsibility to delouse these prisoners, and we did it. We had puff guns that would puff this, and we would puff it in these ladies' clothes and in their quarters, too. They had to be cleaned so they could live there. Most

of that happened, oh, after we had gotten all through there, see (pointing to his map).

Gilbreath: The camps that you were in...did you hear from the prisoners... did you hear any stories that they had been treated brutally by their German captors?

Galloway: I did not. It was obvious, though, that they were malnourished. It was obvious. And the condition of the hair and scalp and the fingers and the fingernails...the fingernails would be just yellow. I don't know if they were in a copper mine or what they were in.

Gilbreath: You just mentioned gold a few minutes ago. I believe that it was the 90th Division that came upon the last of the German gold reserves in a part of Germany. Did you know anything about that?

Galloway: I don't believe I was involved in that. Now I think somebody who wrote the paper here was involved in that, and I think it was the 357th Regiment that did that. (The judge is referring to his book.) I'm not positive about that. I was with the 359th. It was 357th that did that and found some of our treasure, too, I think.

Gilbreath: I also believe that, in talking to you earlier, toward the end of the war, you came upon a prisoner-of-war camp where Russian prisoners were being kept.

Galloway: Well, Wieden, Germany...when we came back from Czechoslovakia at the end of the war, we came back to Wieden. There was

a German permanent army camp in Wieden, so that's where we quartered our 315th, our engineer battalion, and there was a P.W. cage there beside it with common, ordinary barracks. We had Russian soldiers there...not Russian soldiers... Russian captives...not necessarily soldiers that might have been there, but women and men who were taken by the Germans for labor. They stayed there. We, of course, did our best. We transported them all back to...this was after the armistice was signed. We transported them back to...well, Russia somewhere. We used their quarters; we used their prison camp.

Gilbreath: What was your impression of these people?

Galloway: The Russians?

Gilbreath: Yes.

Galloway: Well, the Russians...I took them to be very ruthless, and it's not difficult to understand because they had been enslaved, and they had been doing hard labor for nothing for years. But the thing that really kind of bothered me was the fact that the Russian prisoner-of-war would use the Americans, one of his allies, to his advantage. A good example is, if a Russian prisoner-of-war was hungry and wanted something that a German household had, he would tell the lady of the house...because they had been there long enough, they could speak German, and not many of the American soldiers could speak German, not fluently, anyway. The Russian prisoner-of-war would tell the household, the lady

of the household, that this G.I., this American, wants a dozen eggs or one of your hens or whatever. Well, what would happen, this household would simply hand it over to the Russian, and he would take it, and he wouldn't bring it to an American. That American didn't know what he had told her. He would just take this, and he went on his way. I've seen those Russian prisoners-of-war stop a young lady, a twelve-year-old or a ten-year-old girl, on a bike and simply push her off and get on the bike and ride away. That was something I wouldn't do, but I could understand their thinking. They had been mistreated a long time, not by that child but by that child's parents. So they had really pretty good reasons to do some of those things, but when they used the Allies, the ones who had really won the war for them, furnished them with all the supplies and money they had, it was a little bit hard, little bit difficult, for me to reconcile myself to calling him a real ally.

Gilbreath: I believe you told me before that at the end of the war or after the war ended, as some of the American troops started to be sent back home, no provisions were made for these Russian prisoners by their own people to take them back home.

Galloway: That's right. Our engineers furnished the trucks to transport these Russian prisoners-of-war back toward their country, but the Russians never furnished any trucks to bring the German soldiers home. He (the German soldier) had to walk home. He had to walk home. Consequently, it was a long...

the soldiers had come into Wieden long after the war was over, and they had to walk from somewhere.

Gilbreath: I'd like to turn our attention for just a second to another area. As a corpsman, of course, aside from the obvious wounds received in battle, what other medical problems did you find among the American troops?

Galloway: Well, of course, there's always the ever present V.D. problem.

Gilbreath: Did you find that to be a large problem?

Galloway: Well, it did not affect really the outcome of the war at all, but it was...in the first place, it's a moral problem, I think, and then in the second place, there was quite a few folks who would be incapacitated by it. However, the sulfa drug was new at the time. It was considered the cure. If I recall correctly, it seems to me like a three-day treatment was all it took to cure gonorrhoea. Syphilis might have been a different story.

Gilbreath: But those drugs at that time seemed to take care of it?

Galloway: It would take care of the gonorrhoea. The fact is, our responsibility after the war was over was to take care of the health of the people.

Gilbreath: While you were in the Army, did the high command try any measures to stop the spread or stop this from happening?

Galloway: Oh, yes. They put a lot of places off limits. In the town of Wieden, where we were, there were some places off limits, and they were so marked by some kind of marking. I don't remember what it was. Of course, that doesn't

entirely eliminate the problem because...

Gilbreath: Did the regular soldiers find ways around it?

Galloway: They found ways around that, yes. You have to understand that these Germans...there was no man between the age of fifteen and sixteen and forty-five or fifty, none whatsoever. Well, of course, it's a two-way street, you know. There's a woman that hasn't seen a man in four or five years, and these G.I.'s had been fighting for eleven months. So the temptation was great. They all participated.

Gilbreath: I don't know whether you want to tell me or not, but you told me a story the last time I was here about one of the fellow members of your division that ended up coming out a hero because of something almost akin to that...about the prisoner-of-war.

Galloway: Oh, yes. Oh, yes. This was before the war was over. We was somewhere up in here (points at map). I'm not sure where, but the front line was rather ill-defined. It was rather fluid. The orders came to our little outfit to go out and bring back a prisoner or so. They might have said two prisoners--I don't know. But at any rate, they got the little group together, and there was three or four vehicles. It seems like they might have had a half-track going along. We had no resistance along here (points to the map), but we got to a little town up here, a little village up here somewhere, which was occupied by the German troops. They

still didn't fire on us, but we went in there, and we captured these two prisoners--one or two or three, whatever it was.

We get ready to leave, and we start to leave, and we didn't call the roll, but everybody looked around. Somebody said, "Where's John?" That's not his name, but we looked around...looked down the street two or three blocks, and here he is, walking down this little stairway into the basement with a girl on his arm. We waited a little bit, I guess, and, you know, here is a town full of the enemy, and we are there with two of their people.

The situation got so that our commander of that expedition said that we were going to have to leave, so we left. Everybody knew that the war was just about finished. It had to be finished because our resistance was so scattered. So we went back, and the next morning the commander of this expedition reported John captured, and we carried him as captured until, well, until the war was...armistice was declared.

Well, you know what happened? All prisoners-of-war, American prisoners-of-war, were the first people to come home. Now they caught the first plane home, which was right, proper. Three or four weeks, I think...the best I remember, three or four after that, we get word that John had come back home and that the mayor of the town that he lived in had met him at the city limits with all the town out there

to meet him and greet him and handed him the keys to the city. He became an instant hero, and it was amusing to us, and a little bit aggravating, because we had carried him as captured and he was really A.W.O.L. So he beat us home because he had took out this girl. Well, I thought this was a fair beauty, and everybody else didn't. He was a real likeable fellow, but he always chased the girls.

Gilbreath: Besides V.D., were there any other health problems that faced...

Galloway: Not much. Now immediately after the war was over, the general health was all rundown, pretty well rundown. I expect I didn't weigh over 135 pounds. I had eaten C rations until I couldn't hardly eat them. We had eaten these C rations, and I was pretty thin. And the personal hygiene had not been kept up during this time. It was impossible to do it. So it became the duty and the responsibility of the corpsmen and the medical detachment to make personal physical examinations of every soldier, every man we had, and I'm not sure how many we had in that 315th Engineers, but there were two to three to four hundred people. We had to examine them. Most of the people's health was good. We checked the blood pressure, the heartbeat, and listened to the lungs and examined the ears. The general health was good except for just a little rundown condition, a little thin and gaunt, but everybody had problems with their ears.

You know, their ears had not been attended to, and there was some of these soldiers whose ears had to be cleansed, and some of them had to spend a day or two in the hospital to get it done. The personal hygiene just could not be done.

Gilbreath: But that was due to the battlefield conditions?

Galloway: Due to the battlefield conditions. They did not personally neglect themselves.

Gilbreath: There's one thing I'd like to cover just a little bit more. You spoke about your weight during the time when you were coming across France and Germany. I realize that things were in kind of a hectic condition. From the food that you were eating, did you receive enough to keep you going?

Galloway: Yes, yes.

Gilbreath: The food that you were eating didn't put any extra weight on you, did it?

Galloway: It put no weight on me, but it was adequate, I guess, to keep me going. As I said, all of our soldiers were rather gaunt when the battle was over.

Gilbreath: Where did your unit end the war at?

Galloway: In Czechoslovakia at a little town called Suscice. Incidentally, I met a man here after I got back home who said, "That's my town where I grew up."

Gilbreath: I didn't know that. What was it like at the end of the war when you found out that the war had really ended?

Galloway: We were, as I said, in this little town of Suscice there.

We had known for sometime that this couldn't last long, and everybody was very anxious, and all of our men began to talk about the law of averages: "I don't want to lose my life to the law of averages." They became a little bit reluctant along in here somewhere (points to map) to go out front because there is where the danger might be. I don't know anybody who disobeyed an order, but they talked about it. They talked about the law of averages.

But we knew the war could not last much longer because there was nobody in the front when we got to Czechoslovakia. So we thought the war was over. There in that little town, you don't have to be told this is about the end because everybody knew that. I got an infected ear somewhere along here (points to map) three or four days before it was over--bad, very bad. My ear was very badly infected. The doctor wanted to send me back to the first aid station, but I decided that if I could talk him out of it, I was going to. So he gave me...said that if I'd take the medicine...it was sulfa drug, tablet form, I believe. He said he'd let me stay because I wanted to be with my friends when the war ended. So he let me stay, but the sulfa drug was not the best treatment they had at that time. It was nothing compared to now. It made me very sick, and my head...I had a lot of problems with my head, but it did kill the infection in the ear, and I recovered from it without any ill effects.

Gilbreath: It seems like you've mentioned several times...it seems that the Army was using the sulfa drug as kind of a cure-all for everything.

Galloway: It was a cure for infections. It was not refined as it is today, but it was the best they had.

Gilbreath: But they used it on all sorts of infections.

Galloway: All sorts of infections. That sulfa drug, sulphur powder-- sprinkle sulfanilamide on the wound, bandage it, and send him back.

Gilbreath: Was there much of a celebration when your unit found out that the war had ended?

Galloway: Oh, yes. We were in this little town, Suscice, and they had a large public building. Of course, the population was Czech where we were, and they were happy, too. They had been invaded, and they were happy, so a celebration was in order. And they did celebrate. They went to the public hall, and there was dancing and drinking, I guess. I'm not sure...dancing and drinking. They celebrated at least one night. The little town of Pilsen up there (points to map) ...of course, the Americans heard that Pilsen's beer was the best beer in Europe. Everybody wanted...I wanted to go to Pilsen. I'd like to have gone up there to see it. I didn't get to go. I think that some of the other boys did go. I didn't go out of Suscice.

Gilbreath: I had one other area I wanted to cover with you. We had

talked about it before. I'd like for you to describe the leave you were able to take in Paris and how you paid for that leave.

Galloway: Somewhere along here, (points to map) after we had gotten through with the Maginot Line, somewhere...this was the beginning of springtime. Most of winter had passed, and they had given passes back there somewhere before to Paris-- somewhere before wintertime came. I didn't get a chance to go, and they stopped it, and so I decided, well, I'd never get to see Paris. But one night somewhere along here (points to map), I was up front somewhere, and the little ol' telephone...telephone rang and the officer sent somebody down to wake me from up there. I didn't know what time of the night it was--the middle of the night, I think. The voice on the other end of the phone said, "This is the commander. Do you want to go to Paris tomorrow?" Well, I'd been looking forward to the pass a long time so I said, "Yes, I believe I'll go."

But another friend of mine and I had gotten into a poker game with some artillery people two or three days before, and I'd lost all the money I had. I didn't have any money, but I got up the next morning to get ready to go. I'd borrowed all the cigarettes that I could get, and a blanket or two and a chocolate bar, and took off to Paris. That's the only assets I had. Of course, I didn't need any money because in Paris I stayed with...the Red Cross provided the

shelter and the food, and the only thing I had to spend money for was drinks or entertainment. So I traded these assets I had, which was cigarettes, chocolate, a blanket, and maybe a coat. Cigarettes brought \$20 a carton, and that \$20 would buy all that anybody would want in a day or two there.

But on the way back, we got up here somewhere (points to map), and we got cut off by the Germans. The Germans had cut the supply lines. We ran up against those people, and we didn't have any weapons. But somehow, somebody rescued us from our predicament. When we went back to the outfit, it wasn't but two or three days until my wife sent me a clipping from the Fort Worth Star-Telegram talking about this episode. It had named me, and they had sent my wife a copy of the paper. I learned that they had known more about us back home than I thought they did.

Gilbreath: There's one final area that I'd like to cover with you, Judge. Just as an overall...in your experience as a corpsman, do you feel that the American soldiers were provided the best medical care that was able to be given to them?

Galloway: Oh, I believe they were. Under the conditions, they had excellent medical care, and I only knew about the front lines. But I can tell you that we evacuated every wounded man as quickly as possible. Now when you are pinned down, though, all around, it's impossible. It takes a lot of guts to stand

up and walk out with a man. I don't care who you are. That might not have happened, but still we moved people by dragging them along...down...putting them into a low place in the river end or something. I believe that they were handled well. I don't mean to sound self-serving about this, but I believe the medical people did their job.

Gilbreath: Well, Judge, I think that is just all we have time for today. I appreciate your sitting down with me and talking to me today, and there is no way I can ever pay you back for what you have done for me. I appreciate it very much.

Galloway: Well, David, I feel rather honored that you even asked me for this interview, and I hope that it will be something to be used sometime. It's difficult to remember things, details, after forty years.

Gilbreath: Forty years almost.

Galloway: Forty years. As I said before, I forgot about that.

Gilbreath: Thank you very much, Judge.

Galloway: My pleasure!