

THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE PACIFIC WAR

Nimitz Education and Research Center

Fredericksburg, Texas

An Interview with

**Robert F. Wishart
Knightstown, Indiana
March 28, 2012**

**Headquarter Company
1st Battalion
394th Infantry Regiment
99th Infantry Division
Army Cook**

My name is Richard Misenhimer and today is March 28, 2012. I am interviewing Mr. Robert F. Wisehart by telephone. His phone number is 765-737-6797. His address is 5175 South State Road 109, Knightstown, Indiana 46148. This interview is in support of the National Museum of Pacific War, Nimitz Education and Research Center, for the preservation of historical information related to World War II

Mr. Misenhimer

Bob, I want to thank you for taking the time to do this interview today and I want to thank you for your service to our country during World War II.

Mr. Wisehart

You are welcome.

Mr. Misenhimer

Now the first thing I need to do is read to you this agreement with the Museum. "Agreement read."

Is that okay with you?

Mr. Wisehart

Yes.

Mr. Misenhimer

Now the next thing I would like to do is to get an alternative contact. We have found out that sometimes several years down the road, we try to get back in contact with a veteran and he has moved. Do you have a son or a daughter or someone that we could contact if we needed to get back in touch with you?

Mr. Wisehart

Yes. I have a daughter. Her name is Jane Sparks. Her telephone number is 765-987-7543. Her address is 5038 West County Road, 300 South, New Castle, Indiana.

Mr. Misenhimer

Thank you. Now Bob, what is your birth date?

Mr. Wisehart

July 1, 1923.

Mr. Misenhimer

Where were you born?

Mr. Wishart

Shirley, Indiana.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you have brothers and sisters?

Mr. Wishart

I had four sisters.

Mr. Misenhimer

No brothers?

Mr. Wishart

I have a half-brother.

Mr. Misenhimer

Was he in World War II?

Mr. Wishart

No. He was born several years after I was born.

Mr. Misenhimer

Were any of your sisters involved in war work?

Mr. Wishart

No.

Mr. Misenhimer

Now you grew up during the Depression. How did the Depression affect you and your family?

Mr. Wishart

My father was in business. He had a furniture store at that time. I really don't remember that we were that depressed. I don't remember being hungry or anything like that. We owned our own home and Dad always made a living. We didn't have to depend on somebody else, only if they came in the store to buy things. He was in business for 50 years, some kind of business.

Mr. Misenhimer

He kept the furniture store during the Depression then?

Mr. Wishart

Yes.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you all have a garden?

Mr. Wishart

No, not that I remember. I don't remember if we had a garden. If it was, it was a small place. Where we lived at that time there wasn't a place for much of a garden.

Mr. Misenhimer

Where did you go to high school?

Mr. Wishart

I went to high school at Wilkinson, Indiana.

Mr. Misenhimer

What year did you finish there?

Mr. Wishart

1941.

Mr. Misenhimer

What did you do when you finished high school?

Mr. Wishart

I went to work at a factory called Delco-Remy, part of General Motors in Anderson, Indiana.

Mr. Misenhimer

What did you do there?

Mr. Wishart

I worked on various machines. I worked on a drill press and I worked on a cutting machine.

Mr. Misenhimer

Now on December 7, 1941 when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, do you recall hearing about that?

Mr. Wisehart

Yes. I was on my way to see a girl in Franklin, Ohio. I was on the highway when I heard it.

Mr. Misenhimer

When you heard that, how did you think that would affect you?

Mr. Wisehart

Really at that time, I didn't know how much it would affect me. I had just graduated. I was out of high school.

Mr. Misenhimer

And you were 18 years old.

Mr. Wisehart

Right. I was shocked when I heard it. I really didn't realize that it was going to affect me that much. Later when I got in the service, at that time I was just out of high school, and I didn't realize it was going to make that much a change in my life.

Mr. Misenhimer

Everybody thought the war would be over within a year.

Mr. Wisehart

They didn't realize it was going to last that long.

Mr. Misenhimer

When did you go into the service?

Mr. Wisehart

I went in February 17, 1943.

Mr. Misenhimer

Which branch did you go in to?

Mr. Wisehart

I was in the Army. I was in the Infantry.

Mr. Misenhimer

Where did you actually go into the service at?

Mr. Wisehart

I went in Indianapolis, Indiana at Fort Benjamin Harris.

Mr. Misenhimer

Where did you take your basic training?

Mr. Wisehart

I took my basic training at Camp Swift, Texas.

Mr. Misenhimer

How did you travel down there?

Mr. Wisehart

By train.

Mr. Misenhimer

How was that train trip?

Mr. Wisehart

It was kind of a long trip, especially back then. It was quite an experience.

Mr. Misenhimer

Had you ever been that far from home before?

Mr. Wisehart

No.

Mr. Misenhimer

Back in those days people didn't travel a lot. Tell me about your basic training. What all did you do there?

Mr. Wisehart

We had all kinds of training. We had the obstacle course, we had rifle training, and we had anti-tank training. We had bayonet training. Later on we had to do a lot of marching. We had close order drill.

Mr. Misenhimer

Were your drill instructors pretty hard on you?

Mr. Wisehart

I don't remember them being too hard. We had to keep in step and we had a 27 mile hike one day.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you have the infiltration course where they fired the live ammunition over you?

Mr. Wisehart

Yes.

Mr. Misenhimer

How was that?

Mr. Wisehart

Pretty scary. (Laugh)

Mr. Misenhimer

You didn't dare stand up. What did you live in there?

Mr. Wisehart

We lived in barracks that were at Camp Swift.

Mr. Misenhimer

How was the food there?

Mr. Wisehart

It was pretty decent. I can't complain on the food. After we left there we went to Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri for training. I was working in the kitchen there towards the end.

Mr. Misenhimer

About how long was your basic training there at Camp Swift?

Mr. Wisehart

It seems like it was about three months.

Mr. Misenhimer

Was it infantry training the whole time?

Mr. Wisehart

Yes, all my training was infantry there and then later on we transferred to Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

Mr. Misenhimer

What did you do there?

Mr. Wisehart

More basic training and getting us ready to go overseas.

Mr. Misenhimer

When did you go overseas?

Mr. Wisehart

We left on July 26, 1944.

Mr. Misenhimer

You left from where?

Mr. Wisehart

Boston.

Mr. Misenhimer

And you went to where?

Mr. Wisehart

We landed at Firth of Clyde in Scotland. We landed there on the 6th of August. So that trip was about 11 days. We were up in the North Atlantic and it was rough.

Mr. Misenhimer

What day did you leave on?

Mr. Wisehart

The 26th of July.

Mr. Misenhimer

And you got there on the 6th of August?

Mr. Wisehart

Yes.

Mr. Misenhimer

You said it was rough. Was there much seasickness?

Mr. Wisehart

I never was. I saw a lot. I worked in the ship's bakery going overseas and I kept my stomach full all the time. I was never seasick but I saw a lot of them that were.

Mr. Misenhimer

And you said that at Fort Leonard Wood that you worked as a cook there?

Mr. Wisehart

Yes. I never went to school. They just stuck me in the kitchen. I started working in the kitchen and that's what I did. Then I worked in the ship's bakery going over.

Mr. Misenhimer

What kind of ship were you in going over?

Mr. Wisehart

It was just a big troop ship. I don't remember the name of it.

Mr. Misenhimer

Were there a lot of people on it?

Mr. Wisehart

800 to 1,000 troops onboard.

Mr. Misenhimer

What were your accommodations like on the ship?

Mr. Wisehart

We slept in a bunk.

Mr. Misenhimer

How many bunks high?

Mr. Wisehart

As I remember, about two.

Mr. Misenhimer

That's not bad. At Fort Leonard Wood you worked in the kitchen the whole time. Did you do any other training there?

Mr. Wisehart

I had to do some training but I also worked in the kitchen. In fact it was at Fort Leonard Wood that we had that 27 mile hike. We still had to do the training. But when I wasn't doing that, I was working in the kitchen.

Mr. Misenhimer

What particular job did you have in the kitchen?

Mr. Wisehart

Just cooking. We didn't do any dishes or anything like that. We just cooked the meals.

Mr. Misenhimer

You had the KPs do all the cleaning and things like that.

Mr. Wisehart

Right.

Mr. Misenhimer

Was there anything on that trip over? Were you in a large convoy with a lot of ships?

Mr. Wisehart

I don't remember any other ships. There might have been. I know that we had submarine scares where our ship would zigzag as much as it could going over. I know that it was cold because we were up in the North Atlantic.

Mr. Misenhimer

Were you threatened by submarines on the way over, do you know?

Mr. Wisehart

Yes. They said that. The ship would zig zag as much as it could; making turns. We did have submarine scares going over.

Mr. Misenhimer

Then what happened?

Mr. Wisehart

When we got to Scotland we took a train down to England. Then I took additional training when I got to England.

Mr. Misenhimer

What kind of training did you take there?

Mr. Wisehart

They were training me to be a scout, to use a compass and all that stuff.

Mr. Misenhimer

Then what happened?

Mr. Wisehart

Then on about October 29, 1944 we shipped out to France. One thing. While I was in England in training, day after day after day you could look up in the skies and see the planes as far as you could see in any direction headed towards Germany. That was a common occurrence to see the bombers headed out towards Germany to bomb over Germany.

Mr. Misenhimer

Were you ever attacked by German planes while you were there?

Mr. Wisehart

No but we had German planes overhead. I saw a couple German planes. There was one German plane and we had two American planes that were in a dogfight with him. This is while I was in Germany. The two American planes crashed but both pilots got out okay.

Mr. Misenhimer

That was later in Germany?

Mr. Wisehart

Yes.

Mr. Misenhimer

When you were in England, did you see any German planes?

Mr. Wisehart

No.

Mr. Misenhimer

How about the buzz bombs?

Mr. Wisehart

I didn't notice those until we were in Germany or Belgium. I went into Belgium first.

Mr. Misenhimer

When you were in England did you get to go into London or anywhere?

Mr. Wisehart

I did like a one day thing or something. I didn't get to spend much time in London. We were north of London. I don't remember the name of the area we were at but we were north of London.

Mr. Misenhimer

How about the local towns, did you get into some of those?

Mr. Wisehart

I don't recall the names of those but I don't think they were too large of towns. We didn't get into them very much.

Mr. Misenhimer

I didn't know if you went to the local pubs there or not.

Mr. Wisehart

No. I didn't drink.

Mr. Misenhimer

What outfit were you in?

Mr. Wisehart

I don't know if I was attached to anybody. I went to a replacement depot in France. That is when they put me in the 99th Infantry Division. I went over as a replacement. I was in the 97th Division when I was in the States, but it didn't go overseas. We went over as replacements.

Mr. Misenhimer

So you got into the 99th over there?

Mr. Wisehart

Yes after I got over there.

Mr. Misenhimer

What regiment?

Mr. Wisehart

I was in the 394th, Headquarters Company.

Mr. Misenhimer

What battalion?

Mr. Wisehart

First Battalion, Headquarters Company. We need to go back to England. When we left England to go to France we were on a pretty good sized troop ship. This was in October of 1944; it was a pretty good sized troop ship. We went over so far and then we had to climb down a rope ladder off of that troop ship with everything we owned, our packs, our rifle, everything, and climb down that ladder to get down into the landing craft. That was a little tricky getting off that big ship on that ladder into that landing craft. We got so far into shore. They just like they did at D-Day. They dropped the ramp of the landing craft down and we had to wade into shore at Omaha Beach.

Mr. Misenhimer

At Omaha, was there still much wreckage left around there?

Mr. Wisehart

Oh yes, a lot of it.

Mr. Misenhimer

The fighting had moved inland by then.

Mr. Wisehart

Oh yes. We saw all kind of miscellaneous armament and tanks and stuff like that. Then we had to climb up the hill but we didn't have to fight our way up the hill. Then when we got up to the top of the hill at Omaha Beach we could see a cemetery there with just hundreds and hundreds of crosses there where they had buried the soldiers. It was a sight I cannot forget.

Mr. Misenhimer

Is there anything else over in England that you can recall before you went to France?

Mr. Wisehart

When we were staying there we didn't have any time off to do anything else.

Mr. Misenhimer

Then when you got to France you were assigned to the 99th Division, is that right?

Mr. Wisehart

We went to a replacement depot in France and then I was assigned to the 99th Infantry Division which was in December. The Battle of the Bulge was the 16th of December and I joined my outfit shortly after that because they had lost a lot of troops in the battle. I joined them at the end of the battle and they were in kind of a holding line, and that is when I joined the 99th. I was just sent in as a replacement. The only thing after I got up there, instead of being a scout, they put me back in the kitchen again. I prepared the food and stuff for the troops. Then they were getting hot meals again. Otherwise they were getting K-rations and C-rations.

Mr. Misenhimer

So you landed over there towards the end of October but you didn't actually get to the 99th until December then?

Mr. Wisehart

In December.

Mr. Misenhimer

What did you do for those two months?

Mr. Wishart

Just waited around until they assigned us some place. I don't remember. I know that we didn't get to go anyplace. I never did get to see Paris, only on my way back on a train and I didn't even get to get off the train on my way back home.

Mr. Misenhimer

After you joined the 99th, then what happened?

Mr. Wishart

They were on the go the most of the time. We were in kind of a holding pattern there for a while. Once the battle really started we had a lot of artillery shells over us. I was close enough I could hear them but I don't know if God had anything to do with it or not, but I never fired a gun while I was over there. I was up around the front a lot just going through the towns that had been bombed by our bombers. There were a lot of towns that were damaged in France and Belgium but nothing like the German towns. The one that stands out in my mind is the town of Aachen in Germany. That was just literally destroyed. Most of the homes, but not all of them, were made out of brick and stone. They weren't made out of things like here in America.

Mr. Misenhimer

What Army were you in?

Mr. Wishart

Third Army. Patton's Army.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you ever have any experience with Patton?

Mr. Wishart

No.

Mr. Misenhimer

What were some of the battles that you all were in?

Mr. Wisehart

I got a ribbon with three battle stars for the Ardennes, Rhineland, and Central Europe.

Mr. Misenhimer

How about the Rhine? Did you cross the Rhine River?

Mr. Wisehart

Yes I crossed the Rhine River at Remagen. There were two train bridges there and that is where we crossed the Rhine. That was on March 5, 1945.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you have to fight across the Rhine?

Mr. Wisehart

No. The Germans were on the other side of the river and we didn't have to fight. From there on they were on the run. That was March 10th and the battle ended in Europe on May 8th. They gave up. There were times that we had to take the kitchen, we might have to move 100 miles a day. They were really on the run.

Mr. Misenhimer

Were you actually in combat yourself?

Mr. Wisehart

Not actually, I guess. I was under a lot of artillery fire. We were close. One day I was out in a field. I don't remember why I was out there, but I knew the Germans were in the woods because I could see them. I heard bullets go by and I hit the ground. But not in actual combat.

Mr. Misenhimer

How about German tanks? Were you ever attacked by German tanks?

Mr. Wisehart

No but they were in the town we were at once but they never fired where we were at. But I saw them.

Mr. Misenhimer

That German artillery was pretty bad wasn't it?

Mr. Wisehart

Yes.

Mr. Misenhimer

That 88 was quite a gun.

Mr. Wisehart

I don't know if it was in Belgium or in Germany when they sent those V-bombs over. We could hear the motors running. As long as you could hear the motor running, you knew you were alright. But when that motor cut off, then you were in danger. I never did have any of those land near us but they were overhead a lot.

Mr. Misenhimer

And you were in Belgium also, you said?

Mr. Wisehart

Yes. That is where I joined the 99th was in Belgium.

Mr. Misenhimer

And that was at the end of December?

Mr. Wisehart

Yes. We had a three day pass and we went back into Liege, Belgium. That is the only time that I can remember getting any relief.

Mr. Misenhimer

How bad was Liege, was it in pretty bad shape?

Mr. Wisehart

No, it was a nice town. I don't recall any damage there. As I remember, we stayed with some people there in town.

Mr. Misenhimer

It hadn't been damaged that much?

Mr. Wisehart

Not that much, not that I can remember.

Mr. Misenhimer

You were shelled quite a bit by the German artillery, then?

Mr. Wishart

Yes. All of it was overheard. None ever hit near where I was at.

Mr. Misenhimer

Were any people ever hit in your outfit by artillery?

Mr. Wishart

Not that I remember.

Mr. Misenhimer

And you were in Headquarters Company?

Mr. Wishart

Yes.

Mr. Misenhimer

What else happened?

Mr. Wishart

We were marching on the road when we were marching through the Ardennes and I saw a hundred dead soldiers, both American and Germans, lying along the side of the road. It was terrible in the winter time. You would be walking in almost hip deep snow at times and the bodies would be frozen stiff, just like they fell. They would come along in trucks and pick them up and throw them up in the truck just like they were cord wood. They would get a load and then go bury them some place.

Mr. Misenhimer

When you moved up, you all had to walk, is that right?

Mr. Wishart

Yes we did a lot of walking. They put the kitchens on the trucks but we had to walk.

Mr. Misenhimer

And you were moving pretty fast and moving quite a long ways each day, right?

Mr. Wisehart

Yes towards the end of the war but not at first. At first we would stay in place for a week or so. They had to get replacements. They had lost a lot of men during the Battle of the Bulge. Then they took some time to rest and recoup and restaff the Army. We restaffed so that they could go on and fight.

Mr. Misenhimer

What are some other things that happened over there?

Mr. Wisehart

I was trying to find a place to sleep and I crawled into a foxhole. Somebody had it before and they had some kind of cover. I got into one and when I got up the next morning it was snowed in. I had to dig myself out to get out of the foxhole.

Mr. Misenhimer

It was pretty cold that winter too, wasn't it?

Mr. Wisehart

It was cold during the months of January and February.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you have enough warm clothes?

Mr. Wisehart

We got by. I remember one night I was out. I don't remember what I was doing out, but I was trying to find a place to get warm and a company commander had a tent set up. I remember going into that tent to get warm. I don't know why I was out.

Mr. Misenhimer

What happened when you got into the tent?

Mr. Wisehart

I got warm. (Laugh) Later on I got back to my outfit. I don't remember why I was out. Some things are not as clear in my mind anymore. Some things I remember and some things I don't. It's been 60-something years.

After the war was over, then I was in the Army of Occupation for a couple of months before we came back. I was actually put in; we were in the Army of Occupation in Karlstadt from May 12th until July 17th at Karlstadt, Germany. We were in a big two story house. We had the kitchen setup and the troops would come there to get their meals.

Mr. Misenhimer

And you were still cooking at that point?

Mr. Wisehart

Yes.

Mr. Misenhimer

You said earlier that you saw some American planes and German planes having a dogfight?

Mr. Wisehart

Yes.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you see that more than once?

Mr. Wisehart

No, just that one time was the only time I saw that. The two American planes ran together and the German plane took off. But both pilots parachuted out and got out safely.

You asked if I saw any German airplanes. I remember one time we were out in the field and some German plane came over and there were several of us that ran and got into a hole where an artillery shell had hit. We got into that and the German planes went over us.

Mr. Misenhimer

What were some other things that happened?

Mr. Wisehart

I don't remember too much.

It is hard to describe the destruction of the towns we were in.

Mr. Misenhimer

There weren't too many building left standing were there?

Mr. Wisehart

No in some of the towns they were just destroyed. I didn't get into Berlin.

Mr. Misenhimer

What did you do in the Army of Occupation? What was your job there?

Mr. Wisehart

We had a kitchen set up. We just fed the troops. That is all we did as far as our part was concerned.

We were in a big two story house. I have a picture of it. We did the cooking there and the troops would come there to eat with their mess kits.

Mr. Misenhimer

What were the troops doing?

Mr. Wisehart

I assume they were out in the town. We were not supposed to fraternize with them but we got acquainted with the native people. The troops were in the town but I never got away from the house. There were a number of troops stationed around in the town. We didn't have any trouble with the people after the war was over.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you have any interaction with the German people?

Mr. Wisehart

With the people that lived next door to the house; we got acquainted with the family there. If we had food left over at night we would share it. We didn't want to just throw it away.

Mr. Misenhimer

Were they friendly?

Mr. Wisehart

Yes.

Mr. Misenhimer

What would you consider your most frightening time?

Mr. Wisehart

The time that the bullets were close enough that I could hear them. Also when the artillery fired because you never knew where they were going to land.

Mr. Misenhimer

How about the German mortars? Were you fired on by many German mortars?

Mr. Wisehart

I don't recall that. I'm not saying that they didn't; but I don't recall that.

Mr. Misenhimer

What did you think of the higher up officers you had over you?

Mr. Wisehart

They were good officers.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did they know their job?

Mr. Wisehart

Yes. I would say they did. I don't think they ever got in more danger than they had to.

Mr. Misenhimer

How as the morale in your outfit?

Mr. Wisehart

It was pretty good. I never heard anybody complain. We knew we had to be there and we had a job to be done. There were some that worried about coming home. I never worried about getting back. I don't know why, but I just didn't worry about it.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you ever hear Axis Sally on the radio?

Mr. Wisehart

No.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you hear of her?

Mr. Wisehart

I heard of her. We had the Stars and Stripes and we enjoyed them when we got them. I came home with a couple of poems that somebody had gotten out of them. I was reading one of them last night and it got to me and I broke down. It was just a little poem that I cut out of there and it was real touching to me.

Mr. Misenhimer

Do you have that there in front of you?

Mr. Wisehart

Yes I do.

Mr. Misenhimer

Would you want to read it to me or not?

Mr. Wisehart

It might take me about five minutes.

Mr. Misenhimer

It's okay; go ahead.

Mr. Wisehart

(reading the poem)

Hit again.

That's twice today.

Why don't they get it over and blast me all away.

Feeling mighty weary.

Losing all my stuff.

Buried in a foxhole.

That's what I call tough.

Ain't got strength to wiggle.

Must be awful weak.

Tongue is one big blister.

*I can hardly speak.
I'm no Christian soldier.
Never had the luck.
Just a no-good drifter.
Just a fighting buck.
Never had no learning.
Never taught to pray.
Want to talk to Jesus
Don't know what to say.
Where'd you come from buddy?
Wasn't here before.
Don't look like no soldier.
You ain't used to war.
Want to use my foxhole?
Cuddle up right nice.
Have a drink of water.
Sorry there's no ice.
Gee, your hand is bleeding.
Guess they got you too.
Nasty rats of Hitler.
That's the way they do.
You and me together.
Strangers in this sink.
Sharing drops of water.
All there is to drink.
What's that on your shoulder?
Buddy that's no gun.*

You should have some weapon.

War ain't just clean fun.

Yes that blasted bullet threw me for a loss.

Eyes are getting hazy.

But you got a cross.

Funny sort of helmet.

Looks just like a thorn.

Never seen one like it.

Ne'er since I was born.

Ah your head is bleeding.

Let me wipe your brow.

I've got strength to do it.

Strong as ever now.

Say, you're trying to help me?

There ain't no use.

I'm beyond all helping.

Took too much abuse.

Still it makes me better just to know you're here.

Yea, I know I am dying but I've got no fear.

Crown of thorns and cross.

Golly, I remember.

You're the king, the boss.

Thought I was unlucky.

All I sacrificed.

But I'm dying happy.

In the arms of Christ.

I'm a Christian soldier.

*Go no pain, no grief.
Take me up to heaven.
Like you took the thief.
Jesus. Dear Jesus.
Got no pain, no fear.
Hiding in a foxhole.
And you found me here.*

Mr. Misenhimer

That is a real good poem, very nice. I can see how that would move you.

Mr. Wishart

It's not true because I was raised in a Christian home but I don't know, it just struck me.

Mr. Misenhimer

That's a very nice poem. I am glad you read it to me. Were you ever under friendly fire?

Mr. Wishart

No.

Mr. Misenhimer

When did you come back from overseas?

Mr. Wishart

We went back through France and back to England before we came home. We left from England to come home. I left the Occupation on July 17, 1945 and got on a train to La Havre, France and took a ship to Southampton. We got back to Southampton on July 29. Then we left on August 4th to head back to the States. We got to Boston on August 16th. At that time I was assigned to the 4th Infantry Division. We were supposed to go to Japan. But by the time we left England and got back to Boston, they had dropped the bomb in Japan there was a happy bunch of fellows on that ship. When we got back to the States; a short time later we were discharged.

Mr. Misenhimer

What date were you discharged?

Mr. Wishart

I was discharged on October 24, 1945. I was discharged from Camp Butner, South Carolina.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you get home from World War II with any souvenirs?

Mr. Wishart

I started back with a couple of guns. I didn't know how to play cards and I lost all the money I had and I had to sell those guns on the ship. All I came back with was a swastika and a cigarette lighter that was from England. I believe that is all I came back with.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you ever see any USO shows?

Mr. Wishart

I don't recall any.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you have any experience with the Red Cross?

Mr. Wishart

I think in the train stations we saw them and we got donuts and coffee.

Mr. Misenhimer

When you got out, did you have any trouble adjusting to civilian life?

Mr. Wishart

No. I came back and went back to work at the factory where I was at when I left to go overseas. I was working there when I went back.

Mr. Misenhimer

On April 12, 1945, when President Roosevelt died, did you all hear about that? That was before the war ended in Germany.

Mr. Wisehart

We were still out in the field. I suppose I heard about it, but I don't remember anything special about hearing about that.

Mr. Misenhimer

On May 8, 1945, when Germany surrendered, did you have a celebration?

Mr. Wisehart

I suppose we did but I don't remember. I suppose we did. I'm sure we were a happy bunch of guys.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you use your GI Bill for anything?

Mr. Wisehart

No I didn't.

Mr. Misenhimer

What medals and ribbons did you get?

Mr. Wisehart

I wrote them, asking them to send them and they did. I got the Good Conduct medal. Presidential Unit Citation. American Campaign medal. European African Middle East campaign medal. Three battle stars. World War II Victory medal. Army Occupation medal. Combat Infantryman's Badge. At Belgium, I don't know how to pronounce it, Croix de Guerre.

Mr. Misenhimer

Is there anything else that you recall from your time in World War II?

Mr. Wisehart

That's all I've got.

Mr. Misenhimer

Bob, thank you again for your time today, and thank you for your service to our country.

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