

Veteran: GACE, George

Service Branch: ARMY

Interviewer: Gace, Michael

Date of Interview: April 10, 2002

Date of Transcription: May 13, 2003

Transcriptionist: Terry Moore

Highlights of Service: Post-World War II; Infantry; Spent 2 yrs. in Germany

Interviewer: So where did you take basic training at?

Veteran: Fort Bliss—that's in El Paso. From there I went to Fort Bragg, and then from Fort Bragg I was sent to England. From England I went to Germany, and I spent almost two years over there. I was in the 82nd, and it was nothing but training. It was about eight years after the war, but we marched twenty-five miles a day with 105 pound field pack. It was the hell-hole of creation.

Interviewer: Why was it a hell-hole?

Veteran: Because you marched all the time. If you weren't marching, you were doing physical education or on the firing range, but mostly you're marching.

Interviewer: Any interesting stories?

Veteran: Not that I want to put on tape. {Laughter} A lot of good looking ladies over there is all I can tell you.

Interviewer: So this was after the war, and you didn't see any combat?

Veteran: No. My outfit was about to go to the Suez Canal when they was having problems over there, and I thought for sure the day we packed up and boarded planes, but they called it off at the last minute, because they settled in the Suez Canal. That's about as close as I come. Germany was all still bombed out when I was there.

Interviewer: And ya'll helped rebuild it?

Veteran: No, we was just infantry. We just trained—that's all we did. Guard duty on installments they had captured there. In other words, marched around a big set of

buildings with a loaded M-1, and if anybody got in there, you'd best get 'em or your butt's going to the stockade.

Interviewer: Do you think that ya'll were just over there for a mass presence because of the threat of the Russians at the time.

Veteran: Probably, but that's neither here nor there.

{TAPE STOPPED/END OF INTERVIEW}