

**Video Recording Log
Veteran Clarence Berbaum**

1. Name and address of collector of interviewer.

Name of Donor/Interviewer: Jesse Phillippe
Address: 181 Paddock Drive
City: Savoy
State: Illinois
Zip: 61874
Telephone: 217-621-9455
Email: japhillippe@gmail.com
Partner organization affiliation (if any): WILL AM-FM-TV

2. Name and birth date of the veteran or civilian being interviewed as it appears on the Biographical Data Form:

Name of Veteran/Civilian: Clarence Berbaum
Birth Date: 11/05/1919

3. Recording format

VIDEO type: Mini DVD

4. Estimated length of recording (in minutes): 53 minutes **Date of recording:** 09/15/2007

5. Location of recording: WILL AM-FM-TV, 300 N. Goodwin Ave, Urbana, IL 61801

6. Please log the topics discussed in the interview in sequence.

00:08 Intro
00:39 War before Pearl Harbor, awareness of
01:06 Radio news on War
01:26 Pearl Harbor
01:40 Family farm, school
01:58 Radio repair at Robeson's
02:10 Drafted in February, 1942
02:35 Community's feelings on war, anti-war sentiment
02:58 Ideas changed after Pearl Harbor
03:15 Inducted February 11, 1942
03:25 First drafted in Fall
03:32 Working at Robeson's
03:38 Dad needed help after his farm hand was drafted, got his draft postponed
04:04 Drafted
04:12 Camp Grant, Illinois
04:30 Sent to Fort Knox to armored basic training

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04:50 Pine Camp, NY: Fourth Armored Division
04:55 Drove tanks for a year
05:08 Radio school in Fort Knox
05:15 Joined Fourth Armored Division in desert in CA
05:37 The desert, weather, wildlife, driving tanks
06:00 Driving tanks up and down hills
06:22 Division Signal Company
06:36 Division moved to Camp Buoy, TX
06:48 Army Air Force were looking for airmen
07:06 Air Force Cadets, Mount Pleasant, IA, 5 months of college
07:30 Graduation
07:45 School closing: either to outfit or infantry
07:55 Joined One Hundredth Infantry before going overseas
08:08 Radio repair shop in Robeson's department store
09:40 Learning radio saved his life, got into repairs overseas
10:05 Left battalion for regimental area, all radio repair men in one unit
10:30 At least a mile behind front lines
10:43 After war occupied May-January 2nd, then took a boat home
11:38 First things you learn in Army
11:50 Obedience
12:00 Fort Knox
12:06 Pay Wages: \$21/mo, \$50/mo, \$78/mo overseas pay, P.F.C.
13:00 End of war, family farm, repairing radios, wiring houses
13:38 American Television technical school from 1947-1948
13:52 Broadcast engineers had to have First Class ticket
14:12 WKID radio in Urbana: worked as engineer, chief engineer
14:40 WILL radio in Urbana: worked as recording service
14:49 Went to television at WILL, worked as assistant chief engineer for 29 years
15:05 War was a good experience, but didn't like Army
15:12 Shot a lot of movies during war
15:25 Made documentary of his footage
15:39 Depressed for 4 years during service
15:59 A.T.O. in European Theatre
16:03 Battle lines in Vosges Mountains
16:24 Vosges Mountains had never been captured before in military history, first Division to capture
16:52 Captured Citadel of Biche, France
17:03 "Loyal Sons of Biche"
17:15 Broke through Maginot lines, fortifications
17:26 Crossed into Germany, into Manheim
17:34 Heilbarnd, Germany: many casualties in Division
17:54 Circling Stuttgart, Germany, War ended in Europe

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18:15 Occupation in Leonberg, Stuttgart, Constadt, Germany
18:40 Training to go to Asia
18:49 Japan surrenders
18:52 Took leave to French Riviera, London
19:05 Lucky, foreign services congenial, travel
19:35 First learned about concentration camps after war in Europe ended
20:18 Transferred to Kierch Helm Ounter Tech by Ohm, Munich
21:07 Day trip to Dachau, weeks after clean-up, crematoriums, depressing
22:50 Chaos of war affecting soldiers
23:57 Often didn't know where they were
24:50 Radio repair, radios from front lines, battle and weather damage
25:40 Hand radios
25:56 Pack radios with heavy batteries
26:11 Officers tried to have radio men
26:23 Confusion, chaos
26:56 Defined lines between German and Allied Forces
27:10 Linemen: running wire around front lines, telephone lines, getting lost, confused, small towns
28:39 Reel up wire to reuse when battle moved
28:54 Wire communication: radio not reliable on front lines
29:05 Behind front lines, radio reliable
29:25 Morse code, voice communication
30:15 Thoughts at the time on what was at stake
31:15 Later learning about concentration camps, mistreatment of French by Germans
32:27 After war, just wanted to forget
32:40 Resisting Hitler, Italy, Japan
33:00 Hitler, mistreatment of English people
34:08 Concentration Camps
34:40 Fanatical German leaders
35:45 German soldiers
36:22 Didn't expect to come home when drafted
36:38 Feelings with family before induction
37:01 No idea where he'd be the next day
37:13 Not told where he would be after Fort Knox, or what outfit
37:31 No information to the media, tight control of information, even to soldiers
38:37 Personal videos: could not videotape military when overseas, small towns, landscapes
41:00 Good memories: leave to Los Angeles, tour of movie studios, filmed rehearsal
43:26 Vacation to Riviera, didn't have to salute officers
44:30 Vacation to London, randomly reunited with first cousin
45:40 Reflections on travel
46:05 French struggling to survive, hard times for French people
48:16 Some French hid in mountains

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48:40 French resistance groups, intelligence groups

49:12 Mountains: difficult country

49:30 Maginot line between France and Germany

49:46 German army in chaos

50:00 Hidelbraun, Germany held it there to face Allies: a lot of casualties in Division, Germans had high ground

51:02 Reflections now: War necessary, has changed global politics of Europe, China, Japan

52:14 Wrap-up