

Audio and Video Recording Log

1. Name and address of collector or interviewer.

Name of Interviewer - David Meyer (O'Shea) - son of Earl D Meyer Co.H/379th Infantry/95th ID

Address (current) "Mardi Gras" 35 Harrington Sound Road, Hamilton Parish, CR 04 Bermuda

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Organization or Affiliation (if any):

Veterans History Project; 95th Infantry Foundation

2. Full name and birth date of the veteran being interviewed as it appears on the recording label and Biographical Data Form.

Name of Veteran/Civilian **ROBERT E. BADEN**
(deceased)

Birth Date **SEPT 30, 1920**

3. Recording format (please check)

AUDIO type: .wav file Marantz CD recorder, backup on Apple Ipod 150GB and Tascom portable
If audio: transferred to a DVD as 2 .mp3 files Is item a copy?: Yes

4. Date of Recording : **AUGUST 1, 2009**

Estimated length of recording - 2 hr 35 minutes (155 minutes 10 seconds)

5. Location of recording: **BILTMORE HOTEL, 401 S Meridian, Oklahoma City, OK 73108**

6. Corresponding materials (please check)

Have you included materials other than the recording? **Yes** - **Full Transcription is included as print version as well as a digital .pdf file (on same DVD as the recorded interview,)**

6. Please summarize the topics discussed in the interview in their order of appearance on the recording.

Please see following summary and log
(Continue on additional sheets as needed)

Preface Description of VHP log contents: Colonel Robert Baden interview

This interview was recorded August 1st, 2009 in Oklahoma City, OK at the 60th reunion of the 95th Infantry Association.

Colonel Baden (ret.) served in the US Army from WWII through Vietnam. This interview focused on his service in WWII where he served with the 95th Infantry Division in positions ranging from platoon commander to company commander of Co. C/379th Infantry/95th ID.

Sitting silently next to Colonel Baden in the interview was his second wife, Dorothy (aka "Dot").

The recorded interview submitted here on the DVD is divided into two tracks. Track one is a 77 minute .wav file covering the introduction, bio information, early life, first days in the service up to the entry into the battle for the city of Metz. Track two (78 minutes long) begins with entry into Metz through the end of the interview .

*This log uses the following conventions: the interview is first divided into general sections **high-lighted in green** with track number noted followed by the time code range and a description of subjects summarized in that green highlighted section (e.g. "Tr1: 0:3:35 - 0:12:45 Biographical Information....").*

For the reader who wants a general summary of the interview, reading only the highlighted green headings should be sufficient.

If the green highlight summary is adequate in describing the subjects covered, it will stand alone. If the interviewer/logger felt that more detail would serve the reader better, then specific log entries have been listed using the standard 2 column VHP form (left column containing time code and right column noting subjects covered.)

Direct quotes from the transcript included in the log are highlighted in yellow.

Total interview length (all the .wav files combined) is approximately 2 hours 35 minutes.

This interview has been transcribed by Ms. Carol Slezak. The transcript is included in this VHP packet both as a physical document and as a .pdf file on the same DVD as the recordings.

Meter Reading	Topics presented in order of discussion on recording or Minute Mark
Tr1: 0:00:00 – 0:03:35	Introduction. Interview identifies himself, the location of the interview. Colonel Baden gives overview of WWII experience.
Tr 1 0:00:00	Interviewer: David Meyer, son of Earl D Meyer, Co H/379 th Infantry/95 th ID. Interviewee: Robert Baden. "Army all the way."
Tr1 0:01:13	Col Baden joins 95 th Div. in April 1943 at Ft. Sam Houston after graduation W Point and basic officer's training at Ft. Benning.
VHP Log: WWII - Robert E. Baden – Co. Commander 379 th Inf./95 th ID	08/01/2009

Meter Reading

Topics presented in order of discussion on recording or Minute Mark

Tr1 0:01:30

Early duties with 95th - rifle platoon leader, battalion S-2, regimental Judge Advocate. With the 95th/379th Inf until wounded on April 12, 1945 in Ruhr Pocket campaign. Evacuated to England, then to U.S and back to 95th. Scheduled for Japan. Bomb dropped. War ends. 95th disbanded.

Tr1 0:03:00

After war, becomes instructor at West Point for 2 years in infantry weapons and tactics. Had a child before going overseas and one while back at West Point.

Tr1: 0:03:35 – 0:12:45

Biographical info. Early life to West Point for 3 ½ years. Why he chose the infantry. Proposal/marriage on graduation day. Joining 95th ID at Ft. Sam Houston

Tr1 0:03:35

Born Peoria, Ill. Sept. 3rd, 1920. Father an aviation mechanic in WWI. Family pro-military. Father and Uncle (a major in WWI) get Bob into West Point. Almost 19 yrs. old

Tr1 0:05:24

West Point – “greatest institution in the world.” Positive and happy attitude. How he was given the nickname “O’Toole.”

Tr1 0:07:00

Previously West Point had been 4 years. Army short of manpower so changed to 3 years. Mr. Baden is transition class - only class with 3 ½ years.

Tr1 0:07:45

Why chose the infantry when had a limited choice as a West Pointer:

In 1st year at W Point, as part of curriculum, sent to 9th ID at Ft. Bragg for 2 weeks as an acting platoon leader with a company commanded by a young 1st Lieut – “a Fireball”- who “loved me...told me ‘You’ve got to choose the infantry...they need you.’”.
[In Vietnam, becomes Chief of Staff of same ID - 9th ID.]

Tr1 0:11:00

Married on graduation day from West Point. "Every half hour there would be a wedding... Graduated at 11:30.. we waited a while and got married [same day] at 3:30 in the afternoon" GIs married before and after him were from Bob's company.

Tr1 0:12:27

After basic for officers advanced to 95th ID at Ft. Sam Houston.

Tr1 0:12:45 – 0:17:40

On desert manoeuvres when 1st child born. Early days with the 95th. (Promoted to 1st Lieut over resenting non-Westpointers.) Duties as platoon leader, S2, S3 and judge advocate. On one judge advocate case who became Bob's runner/bodyguard in combat.

Meter Reading	Topics presented in order of discussion on recording or Minute Mark
Tr1 0:12:45	Wife joins him (at Ft. Sam), becomes pregnant and returns to her parents as Bob continues through training. (1 st child born 11/19/43 while Bob at Camp Coxcomb, Ca out on desert manouevers. Can't go home to visit - "war on.")
Tr1 0:13:22	Backtrack. Joins 95 th in early April, 1943 with other W Pointers as a 2 nd Lieut.. After a few weeks, West Pointers promoted to 1 st Lieut rank spurring resentment in the non-West Pointer 2 nd Lieuts who weren't promoted. But Bob stays a Platoon Leader. "If I had arrived as a 1st Lieutenant would have become a company Exec Officer." Other jobs. Battalion S2 (Intelligence) and S3 (operations).
Tr1 0:15:19	Takes on extra duty as Staff Judge Advocate. Most of cases were AWOL. Not jail. Give extra duty. Got to know "all the hoods" - "but to me none of them were hoods."
Tr1 0:16:20	(Jump ahead to combat in Europe) When Mr. Baden took over Co.C/379 th , one of the "hoods" (Shorty Hallock) was assigned as runner and bodyguard: "most faithful son of a gun you'd ever find." Both wounded in same 1945 strafing; taken to England in C-47. Shorty in body cast, couldn't smoke, "I was feeding him cigarettes."
Tr1 0:17:40 – 0:24:00	<i>On Regimental society/officer structure. Importance of mingling with enlisted men. On good leadership. Receives command of Company C/379th Infantry in Metz</i>
Tr1 0:17:40	Regimental structure and society. 3 Battalions. All social things done by Regiment so all Lieut. and Captains in Regiment got to know each other.
Tr1 0:18:14	Explains breakdown of officers: 4 Lieut. in a Company; 16 in a Battalion; 60 in regiment. Captain is commander of a company; Battalion C.O. is Lieut Col.; Exec. Officer is a Major; Regimental CO is a Colonel who reports to 2 Star General. One-star Generals were assistant division Commanders.
Tr1 0:20:00	<i>Interviewer says he heard some of enlisted men say there's not a lot of mingling officer and enlisted.</i> Bob replies, "BULLSHIT....How the hell.. can I be a good commander if I didn't know every goddam thing ... and talk to these soldiers. The biggest thing that soldier has is his name. ...if you can call them by name, that's one of the first steps up in being a good leader."

Meter Reading

Topics presented in order of discussion on recording or Minute Mark

Tr1 0:21:00

Examples of good and bad leadership? Reluctant to say.

Tells how, in Metz, still as platoon leader in Metz through Saurlautern in 3rd batallion, runs into batallion commander of 1st battalion who brings Bob to 1st Bat/C company as new commander because current commander "utter failure." "Soldiers know"

Tr1 00:24:00 – 00:27:30

Vietnam. Bob's late son, Jeffrey (passed 2008) chose to serve in Vietnam as 1st Lieut. in the Americal Division/11th Brigade of the infantry. Bob was then in Vietnam as Deputy G-3 of the Army so Jeffrey didn't have to go (Sullivan Rule) but son chose combat.

At funeral, Jeffrey's former CO, Jim Franklin, spoke of Jeffrey personally because that CO "knew his troops." - "Good leadership." How COs traveled in Vietnam: Battalion C.O. by helicopter; Company C.O. by the ground.

Tr 1 00:27:30 - 0:29:50

Back to WWII – On hazing. (At West Point – gentlemanly). Judge Advocate work because Bob had military justice training at W. Point.

Tr 1 00:29:50 – 00:40:11

U.S. assignments with 95th: Ft. Sam Houston; desert; Louisiana Maneuvers; Ft. Indiantown Gap, Pa. where put in charge of getting the incoming Army Specialized Training Corps trainees (ASTP) integrated and prepared to go overseas "like the rest of us."

West Virginia mountain training. Review by Sec't of Army.

Tr1 0:29:50

From Ft. Sam Houston to Louisiana Manoeuvres. Thought would be assigned to Ft. Polk but instead sent to Desert Training (*Camp Coxcomb, Ca.*). Robin (wife) pregnant in NYC and has baby.

Tr1 0:30:50

After desert to Ft. Indian Town Gap PA Joined by ASTP (Army Specialized Training Program) guys come in large numbers. About ASTP and the new ASTP guys

Tr1 0:32:20

Bob's role -- organize all the training of ASTP to get ready to go overseas - make sure each had attained individually the same level of preparedness and training to go overseas "like the rest of us."

Tr1 0:35:15

On West Va Mountain manoeuvres (2 weeks?): mountain climbing, rapelling, some scaling; rope bridges across the canyons.

Tr1 0:36:15

End with a mountain river crossing, scaling, assembling & attacking a position. We are a "pretty good goddamn outfit."

Meter Reading

Topics presented in order of discussion on recording or Minute Mark

Tr1 0:37:30

After W. Va., on June 14th ("Army Day" now "Flag Day") - Sec't of Army visits and 95th does demonstration. Bob a 23 yr old Lieut.

Tr1 0:38:50

What do the demonstrations look like? Bob in the field with 379th Inf Regiment as Platoon leader in Co. I. Live fire exercises. Secretary of Army is in the grandstands watching

Tr 1: 00:40:11 – 00:44:40 *Bob remembers (misremembers?) Interviewer's father (Earl D Meyer, Co. H/379th) as the jeep driver for C.O./Co. H/379th. On jeep drivers.*

Tr 1: 0:44:40 – 00:46:40 *Puts Judge Advocate job in proper perspective. Small thing on the side compared to being combat Platoon leader.*

Tr1 0:44:40

On Judge Advocate Job – like being "a medical aide man in the hospital but you have extra duty down the street to be on call if something is needed in addition to your job...it was a small thing on the side."

Tr1 0:46:12

As a Platoon leader in combat he was called again to do Judge Advocate work. They said "I've got some cases for you (as Judge Advocate) and I said 'you can shove them up your ass. I'm fighting that GD war, get someone back there to do that for you.' " Didn't say this to Captain, though.

Tr 1 00:46:40 – 00:57:40 *Life just before going overseas: Anneville, Pa while at Indiantown Gap, Pa.; finding out about the D-Day invasion; moving family to NYC; transfer to Camp Miles Standish for embarkment to Europe; crap game; hitchhiking to Cape Cod just before disembarkment.*

Tr1 0:46:40

At Indiantown Gap lived with wife and newborn daughter with private family in stonehewn house in Anneville, Pa. Pennsylvania Dutch people treat 95th very well.

Tr1 0:49:19

How do you get the call it was time to go overseas? We knew we were in line. D-Day occurs while Bob on training exercise. 95th not needed on D-Day.

Tr1 0:50:05

After D-Day moved family to NYC to her parents' rent-contolled aparment at 40 Sutton Place. Interviewer/interviewee swap NYC memories.

Tr1 0:54:15

Order to embark. Head off to Camp Miles Standish (Mass.) Bob's job was to get individuals and baggage on the ship. Lieut in BOQ (Bachelor's Officers Quarters.) Give payroll allotment to wife (but kept \$25 bucks).

Meter Reading	Topics presented in order of discussion on recording or Minute Mark
Tr1 0:55:50	Crap game at Miles Standish. "Lost my ass" -- Called Robin (wife) say "Send me 25 dollars I won't do it again."
Tr1 0:56:16	Hitchhikes to see Great Aunt on Cape Cod. Eats lobster, hitchhikes back and goes overseas.
Tr 1 0:57:40 – 0:1:00:50	Travel across Atlantic on <u>USS America</u> (formerly <u>USS West Point</u>.) Life on board. Was "Abandon Ship" officer. Scared shitless. Greatest day – landing in Liverpool
Tr 1: 01:00:50 - 01:06:38	England. From Liverpool to camp near Winchester. Irony: when wounded a year later sent back to Winchester. Story of wounded runner: Shorty Halleck. Memories of England
Tr1: 01:00:50	Arrival in <u>Liverpool</u> . Went to <u>Manchester</u> , <u>Winchester</u> . Camp <u>Barton Stacy</u> . Job was to keep troops exercised and ready to go.
Tr1: 01:01:45	Irony when wounded the following year on 12 April, 1945, flown back and ended up in hospital next to Winchester. Story of Bob's runner, Shorty Halleck, shot 8 or 10 times at same time Bob is wounded. Bob finds Shorty in Enlisted Men's hospital. Shorty says, "Hey, Chief, I'm fine, they didn't hit a bone and these English girls -- whew" No contact with Shorty after the war.
Tr1: 01:03:45	Memories of <u>Winchester</u> and <u>London</u> . Food was "the worst damn food I'd ever eaten."
Tr1: 01:05:30	Left England on regular personnel ships and embarked into landing craft not under fire when at <u>Omaha Beach</u> .
Tr 1 01:06:38 -01:10:06	France. <u>Omaha Beach</u>. <u>Red Ball Express</u>.
Tr1 01:06:38	Lands on <u>Omaha Beach</u> . Go inland a short ways. World Series on. On Red Ball express. General Patton runs out of gasoline while racing across France to Germany. Most trucks from Bob's regiment assigned to <u>Red Ball highway</u> (<u>Red Ball express</u>) to resupply Patton.
Tr1 01:07:17	Bob is S-3 of a battalion of trucks on Red Ball. Stationed near Versailles. Describes Red Ball operations. Patton gets enough supplies then sent back to our units and given back our trucks.
Tr 1 01:10:06 – 01:17:10	To combat. <u>Moselle River</u> to relieve 5th Infantry. Right most boundary of 3rd Army. I & R Duties of his platoon. On "Outposting" End of CD1 (aka track 1) at 77:10.

Meter Reading

Topics presented in order of discussion on recording or Minute Mark

Tr1 01:10:06

Sent to Moselle River line at Metz to relieve the 5th Infantry division. (5th Infantry couldn't get into Metz.)

Describes operation of the 379th Infantry -- Put on the right-most boundary of the 3rd Army at Ancy-sur-Moselle.

There with the platoon to patrol, occupy and I&R (Intelligence and Reconnaissance.)

Outpost on the Moselle as far south as you get. Lost some people. Lost a man. Killed from fire from Fort Durant (he guesses.)

Tr1 01:15:36

On "outposting": keeping somebody there and patrolling. Given idiotic directions to patrol north and use entire platoon. Instead Bob says, "I'd take just a part of the platoon, three or four men, patrol ahead. Then I'd bring the goddamn platoon forward." Fortunately I didn't lose anyone.

Tr1 01:17:10

End of Track #1

Begin Track 2

Tr2 0:00:00 – 0:05:17

Bob's platoon in the successful push into the city of Metz, Oct/Nov 1944. Description of attack at St. Hubert's farm on top of Ft. Jeanne D'Arc on the outskirts of Metz. Metz taken. How it worked as platoon commander.

Tr2 0:00:00

After outposting (October, 1944) sent into the beginning of the final attack to take Metz.

Bob's Platoon in Co. I./379th goes from behind Gravelotte, takes St. Hubert's farm at top Ft. Jeanne D'Arc.

"And what we did, we went between the major forts that night, and let them (*the enemy*) sit on their asses back there when we went down into the rest of Metz.... There wasn't any sitting back.

Tr2 0:01:50

The forts couldn't see them – didn't have any visibility and they didn't have any forces to attack him. "... The company commander is what he sees, of course. And who sees the whole thing? I didn't know what the hell was going wrong with everybody else. But I was in radio and wire communication, and we had certain codes of what we were to do.."

Meter Reading	Topics presented in order of discussion on recording or Minute Mark
Tr2 0:02:50	How messages came to him. 536 radio. Field wire and radio. Used simple codes.
Tr2 0:03:20	How it worked as platoon commander: overall plan...was given a sector, and they gave me an engineer to do the demolition on top of the fort, and we "attacked right across an open goddamned field, and we only lost one man, and that was the engineer..." When they started shooting at us... we had trained ourselves to follow Patton's orders and (<i>march</i>) straight ahead, straight ahead.. "And the engineer flopped down..killed by mortar or artillery... Terribly sad." We sat on top of that fort. They didn't attack us and we weren't told to go any further.
Tr2 0:04:40	<i>Next order you're given?</i> "Told at night...to get out" ...Went out to "Maison-something down the valley joining the rest of troops... The holes between the forts were becoming porous, and we were taking Metz."
Tr2 005:17- 00:07:35	<i>Thanksgiving Dinner, 1944. Giving out decorations in Metz to "the high ranking guys" when "we were the guys" that did it (won the battle.) Pissed but keeps quiet. Leave Metz toward Germany.</i>
Tr2 0:05:17	Thanksgiving Dinner, 1944 (not sure it was on Thanksgiving) but we had a Thanksgiving dinner. Turkey and everything (I think).
Tr2 0:06:00	Recap -- We didn't do anything of significance when we got through Fort Jeanne d'Arc.
Tr2 0:06:24	Ordered to go to Metz to give out decorations/medals to high-rankers Bob pissed. "We were the guys" (<i>that did it</i>) Bob: "I'd never say anything." The Honors parade. Then leave Metz.
Tr2 00:07:35 - 00:10:20	<i>The advance from Metz to the Saar River. Taking the bridge over the Saar intact. Talk about German bayoneted on the bridge.</i>
Tr2 0:07:35	Covering a lot of territory between Nov 22 nd , 1944 and Dec 1 st
Tr2 0:07:55	Explains 378 th (regiment) did most of advancing from Metz to Saar. Then 379 th Inf. (<i>Bob's regiment</i>) came in and took the bridge over the Saar river intact at <u>Saarlautern</u>
Tr2 0:08:55	On taking the bridge at Saarlautern. Done by 1st Battalion (379 th) commanded by Toby Philbin.

Meter Reading

Topics presented in order of discussion on recording or Minute Mark

Tr2 0:09:28

Interviewer Meyer talks about a previous interview with Victor Jefferson (379th) who had been on the bridge when a German was caught trying to make call out and bayoneted by American who had just been notified that his brother was killed. Baden unaware. Knows that Toby Philben shot engineer who was about to blow the bridge.

Tr2 0:10:20 - 0:17:00

Dec. 3, 1944. Brutal day. 3 platoon sergeants killed. Fiddle-farting commanders. Field promotion to C.O. of Co.C/379th Infantry Regiment. Description of combat.

Tr2 0:10:20

We (3rd Batallion) are just outside of town. L company takes close side of river. 1st Battalion (Philbin) takes far end (bridge intact). Co. I (Bob) and K came down the river, cross the bridge before daylight ready to attack into Fraulautern/Saurlautern.

Tr2 0:11:11

That was a brutal, brutal day, December 3rd (1944). Ran into the toughest part of the Siegfried line. 3 platoon sergeants killed that day... "A terrible day...but we were successful."

Tr2 0:12:05

Companies I and K were to cross open field. Commanders "fiddle-farting" back and forth – didn't know what they wanted to do. **I piss my pants**. Don't attack until after dawn. Got the hell beat out of us. But took one house across the Siegfried line, got what was left of company into it and never lost the area.

Tr2 0:13:11

During attack, Tony Philbin sees that Bob is still a platoon sergeant, promotes Bob to command C company replacing that commander.

Tr2 0:15:00

Other memories of battle. Holded up in building. Germans put a hand grenade down a chimney. Friend blinded.

Tr2 0:15:47

Had to leave wounded people on the field to return at night to retrieve them. Left his wounded runner, Rocky, because "mission was to take the goddamned other side, so I had to leave Rocky." (Rocky survived and "understands...to this day.")

Tr2 0:17:00 – 0:20:42

Compares platoon leader job and batallion commander: good description of limitations and responsiblities. No change of rank and reason why.

Meter Reading

Topics presented in order of discussion on recording or Minute Mark

Tr2 0:17:00

Job is to lead. Hard decisions. Big difference between a platoon leader job and a battalion commander job. Learned that early on.

“When you’re a platoon leader or even a company commander, you can get everybody out in front of you and look them all in the eye and say: All right, here’s what you and I are going to do.... because it’s not too big a group of people. You have direct influence, direct ability, to make sure that what you tell gets done...”

When I went off to national guard duty, where I had no command authority - I was only to help to train them - and I had to learn there that *you get things done through your influence...*

...If you’re a battalion or regiment (*commander*) you can only do it by teamwork, and your influence, your clarity -- you can’t line your whole goddamn battalion or regiment up. And that’s that way in government. So many things. People don’t understand.”

Tr2 0:19:45

Should have been promoted to Captain but wasn’t. Other officers “still on roll” come back from hospital taking the promotions. Bob has to wait for promotion until after he was wounded.

Tr2 0:20:32

Still a Lieutenant but still in command of C – no doubt about that.

Tr2 0:20:42 – 0:25:05

Combat proceeding from Saarlautern. House-to-house. Arrival of the 26th ID. Bulge begins but by time 95th was sent “pretty well reduced.” To Ruhr Pocket offensive.

Tr2 0:20:42

House to house fighting. Stalemate at Saalautern - a lot of exchange of fire. On 95th’s 60mm mortar. We had base plates frozen into the ground “well registered.” 26th Division shows up having had the hell beat out of them. Bob offers to leave the mortar base plates for the 26th but 26th Infantry says “haven’t used mortars in so long.” Story about coming upon one of their guards/sentries who was hiding.

Tr2 0:24:07

Memories of Battle of Bulge. By the time 95th is sent, the Bulge is “pretty well reduced.” Remembers no action. To Ruhr Pocket offensive.

Tr 2 0:25:00- 0:35:45

Ruhr Pocket offensive. “Storybook campaign.” Attached to armored division (very mobile). On civilian refugees. Dusseldorf Whiskey factory. Crossing Lippe river. Dortmund to Solde.

Tr 2: 0:25:05

Attached to an armored division. Job: help clear out the Germans between the Ruhr and Rhine rivers. Went right up north – ended up opposite Dusseldorf. “Storybook.”

Meter Reading	Topics presented in order of discussion on recording or Minute Mark
Tr 2: 0:25:40	<i>When you say storybook, what do you mean?</i> Infantry as part of an armoured outfit - "Moved like hell" - didn't get bogged down Saw Germans who had been run over by the tanks as they moved forward.
Tr 2: 0:26:55	Come upon civilians who had taken refuge - "Whole basements full of them." Taking territory around Dusseldorf.
Tr 2: 0:28:56	Coming upon whiskey warehouse near Dusseldorf. Men had taken bazooka and blown a hole in the back of it. Story about Regimental Commander who loses job over whiskey warehouse incident.
Tr 2: 0:31:33	<i>Were you at Ensdorf?</i> No, that's was the 378 th Inf. Rough crossing for 378 th while 379 th had its crossing under control.
Tr 2: 0:34:15	Cross Rhine N of Dusseldorf . Had crossed Lippe river. Attack South towards Dortmund behind German lines. "A" Co and "C" Co given a zone. Successful. Dortmund. To a town called "Solde."

Tr 2: 0:35:45 – 00:44:50 *Solde. Description of combat where he was wounded by friendly fire. On men who "fell apart in combat." To field hospital, Chester, England, then home. War in Europe ends.*

"Terrible fire" from 2 Germany artillery shooting from the top of a hill. Calls in fire and "knocked out those two son of a bitches" Deaf from the fire, Bob goes up road and american fighter planes strafed thinking "we were German and they shot the hell out of us ... something wrong with my left leg/foot. Shorty, my runner, he had holes all over him

Tr 2: 0:38:35	Bob doesn't want to be evacuated but Commander overrules and sends Bob and Shorty to hospital.
	Bob replaced by exec who falls apart. On men who fall apart. On Battalion surgeon – when running aide station at Metz "he went nuts." Bob's opinion – no one ever made real study in how many went nuts.

Tr2: 0:42:35	To hospital in Chester (below Liverpool). Shorty having experiences with British women. Quick summary of last days in Europe – field hospital in Chester, England, end of war in Europe,
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Tr 2 0:43:50 – 0:45:42 *Shipped Home. On networking at West Point for work in military. Capt Murdoch (chaplain) refers him to Infantry attachment. Gets job. Interviewer on recording mission.*

Meter Reading

Topics presented in order of discussion on recording or Minute Mark

Tr 2 0:45:42 – 0:52:48 Brief overview of of duties and ranks in Korea and Vietnam — from battalion commander, assistant battalion G3 – to retirement.

Tr 2: 0:45:42 In Korea – arrives as Senior Major -- just as armistice had arrived. Plans defensive position along the DMZ in Korea going from wartime standing.

Tr 2: 0:46:50 Vietnam. Great jobs. Was a Colonel. Involved in deployment of first troops to Vietnam. Goes over in 1955 – 1957 as deputy G3 of the army. How he gets job as Chief of Staff of 9th Div. There at Tet. His division was successful

Tr:2: 0:50:00 Bob's Commanding General leaves, new man comes in. Bob continues as Chief of Staff until new man's old Chief of Staff comes in. Didn't get along with Bob. (Bob characteristically doesn't name.) Disagreement over helicopters. Bob replaced as Chief of Staff.

Becomes chief of operation for Dick Stillwell and Bill Rossen (?). Best Goddamn jobs. On General Westmoreland.

Tr 2 0:52:48 – 0:57:25 Retire 1/1/73. Last days in Army at Pentagon. Army Mgt School in regression analysis. After retirement to HUD as project mgr.

Tr 2: 0:52:48 Retired January 1, 1973 as Colonel after 29 years and one month. "Evident I was not getting my star" so goes to Pentagon where there are still "plenty of great jobs to do." Works for man formally in 95th – at Pentagon Army Mgt School involved in regression analysis – "the use of developmental statistics, and formulas, and factors, to use in the army budget. On Networking and getting jobs. Man at HUD liked Bob's work at Pentagon. Wanted him so "I retired from the army on the last day of December, and I went to work for HUD the 1st day of January" as project manager.

On how "how you can't paint all government workers with the "same brush." Saw many, many dedicated people.

Tr 2 0:57:25 – 01:01:43 Most important people to you in WWII? Tony Philben. Influence of father. Importance of public speaking in Bob's careers.

Tr 2 01:01:43 – 01:07:10 Review names of campaigns in which involved. On medals.

Tr 2 01:01:43 Campaigns: Fall campaign at Metz. Then Saar river. Ruhr to Rhine was piece of cake. After crossing Rhine.. Ruhr pocket. Wounded before 95th discovers POW camp

Meter Reading Topics presented in order of discussion on recording or Minute Mark

Tr 2 01:03:54 *Medals?* Two legions of merit, 2 purple hearts, 2 bronze stars, Croix de Guerre, other.

Tr 2 01:04:50 On going to infantry reunions (first for Bob was 1982). The return to Indiantown Gap, arranging for a commemorative plaque to the 95th at the Gap.

Tr 2 01:07:10 – 01:11:50 *Closing Questions. Recommend service? (Yes) Discussion on reflections of political policy in wars – difference WWII, Korea, Vietnam. Policy was Containment. Pres. Johnson's political decision to put troops in Vietnam...knocked "the bejesus" out of all the plans.*

Tr 2 01:07:10 Recommend service – Yes

Tr 2 01:07:26 Question from current 95th: *How do you think the war of today differs from WWII?*

"Well, the wars reflect politics.." WWII as "culmination of decades of conflict" was "hardly to be called a politically designed, politically conceived war."

After WWII – policy becomes containment of communism.. Korean conflict and Vietnam were matters of containment.

Bob involved in "every phase of the planning for Vietnam". All plans were defensive in SE Asia

Tr 2 01:11:09 The political part (in Vietnam) when President Johnson realized needed combat troops ashore – draftees and regular army – "knocked the bejesus out of all of our planning" which was that we would response "to a positive attack or movements of communist forces into an area." But political side paid too much attention to politics. "I cannot for the life of me understand why that political decision was made to put us into this war with just the regular army and draftees." Iraq political as bejesus.

Tr 2 01:13:27 So, nevertheless, you ask if I'd recommend military service? Absolutely. Absolutely.

Tr 2 01:14:00 – 01:15 *Closing Questions. Why is it important to remember WWII and history? Tell me story you haven't told anyone? Words of wisdom for ancestors. Gratitude. Interviewer's closing.*

Meter Reading

Topics presented in order of discussion on recording or Minute Mark

Tr 2 01:14:00

Interviewer: Why is it important to remember what happened in WWII? Why is it important to remember history?

"That's a stupid question. .. What do you want? I mean, I can do all kinds of things. Trace it back to the crusades, to the Balkan area, the Greeks. What are you gonna—?"

That's a perfect answer.

Tr 2 01:14:50

Here's the last question I'm going to ask you. From Ken Burns, the historian. Tell me a story you've never told anyone before.

Well, if it was embarrassing I probably wouldn't tell you... I don't know.

Tr 2 01:16:29

Or something you'd like to say to your grandchildren, or great-grandchildren. What's important to you.

"Procreate, and love your offspring." On how lucky he is with his kids, grandkids, etc.

Tr 2 01:17:49 – 1:18:00 Interviewer signs off. End of interview. 78 minutes.

Total Interview: 2 hrs 35 minutes 10 seconds.