

Anthony Duno audio log

Narrator: Anthony Duno

Interviewer: David Meyer (O'Shea)

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Transcriber: Carol Slezak

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Log compiled by: Teresa Bergen, July 2025

Track 1

- 00:00 explains the term Batman, the lowest rank in the British and Canadian armies
- 02:22 British stopped fighting to take tea and liquor breaks
- 03:12 Patton split G Company off from the 95th to avoid stipulation that they couldn't go all the way to Czechoslovakia
- 04:20 getting around anti-aircraft artillery in Neuss
- 05:21 going on leave in London in 1944; experiencing a blackout
- 06:35 buying a round of drinks for everybody in a London pub
- 07:15 narrowly avoiding a missile attack in London
- 08:20 going to Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg, Germany
- 09:04 Germans bombed the shit out of Rotterdam, destroyed Holland's food supply
- 09:37 good opinion of commanding officers: "I was very lucky I had some good guys."
- 10:14 Duno was born in parents' apartment in The Bronx on June 13, 1925
- 12:41 parents were very poor; mother scrubbed floors for a living; mother's diabetes
- 15:25 Pearl Harbor was attacked when Duno was 16; he joined some sort of local guard
- 16:40 doing maneuvers in New York City with his guard group
- 17:12 he joined guard group to delay getting drafted; was drafted straight out of vocational school
- 17:29 fought with outdated rifles
- 17:43 made a few bucks from guard group
- 18:32 training in West Virginia where he was heckled by Southerners who called him Yank; carried 150 pounds on his back
- 20:19 his hecklers were amazed "the little Yank" could carry such a heavy bag

- 22:08 on a train from Fort Dix to Penn State to start ASTP school, he was rerouted to Indiantown Gap for infantry training instead
- 24:02 working his way up the chain of command, trying to get a three-day pass to see his mother
- 26:06 brother Michael was killed in the Pacific
- 26:26 brother Thomas joined the navy to avoid the army, became a boxer and fought matches throughout the war; “He would do anything else not to go to war.”
- 27:32 Michael died in India Burma campaign; he was one year older than Anthony
- 28:35 on brother Al who had flat feet, worked as underwater welder instead of soldier; Al made \$395 a week compared to Anthony’s \$42
- 29:50 Al took him out for a drink to celebrate Duno’s Purple Heart and Bronze Star, passed medals around and “they get crap all over them. I could have killed that guy.”
- 30:17 saying tearful goodbye to his mother
- 31:00 when he went to get documents from the Catholic church for his wedding, they said he hadn’t made enough contributions while at war; he paid up. “And I decided that’s going to be it as far as I’m concerned. To hell with this church, if I can say that.”
- 32:05 mother left Catholic church and started attending a Black Protestant church. Anthony sang there
- 33:27 Anthony sang “What a Friend I Have in Jesus” at the Black Protestant Church. Also (recently) at his own retirement ceremony
- 34:20 left from Boston on the SS United States (during the war called the USS West Pont), protected by a dirigible above for the first two days; then it zigzagged and moved quickly without protection
- 36:00 later, after the war, he was able to take his kids to travel on the same ship, government-subsidized
- 37:00 the boat had been upgraded to first class travel since his days on it in the war
- 37:45 his daughter Patty got seasick and threw up on a lady’s fur coat
- 38:03 left Boston bound for Southampton
- 38:27 running after a precious, hard-to-get crate of oranges unloaded from the ship in Britain
- 30:21 the ship was very crowded; English speech patterns

- 39:47 visiting his sister in New York
- 40:59 hitchhiking from Camp Shelby after the war; a man in Chattanooga gave him his overcoat; rides from truckers
- 41:35 his friend Paul Steinfeld, whom he met during training at Indiantown Gap, also in Company G, was wounded in Metz
- 43:12 End Track 1.

Track 2

- 00:00 taking a boat packed with German POWs from Virginia to New York; Duno threatened a German officer who requested to talk to an American officer. “And he was just a little Nazi bastard, trying to get away with murder, basically.”
- 04:07 (29) army friends he’s still in touch with who now live in Montana and New York
- 05:27 trying to comfort his friend Paul Steinfeld when he was wounded in the basement of a French house
- 06:45 apologized to the owner of the house for damage; somebody had carved “Iowa” in the man’s woodstove
- 08:25 tells a story about when his men hid in the woods instead of fighting; they thought Duno was dead; afterwards he told them: “This ain’t going to happen again. The next time, you first, me last.”
- 10:30 the “Patton rule” was that you could only speak once about somebody killed in your station
- 11:12 hearing Patton give a pep talk with his famously colorful language; “And we gave him a tremendous sendoff. Which he deserved, I think.”
- 13:08 Patton fought in Metz; opinions of Patton; friction between Patton and General Omar Bradley
- 13:44 Bradley underestimated the importance of the Battle of the Bulge
- 14:57 he learned about Patton and Bradley’s disputes by reading about it later
- 15:20 differing opinions within Duno’s unit about Patton; Duno admires him but “he was not a popular guy”
- 15:50 story about when Patton came to visit the 379th and couldn’t find General Twaddle anywhere

- 16:29 95th's difficulty in taking out fortifications, high casualty rate; Eisenhower criticized Patton for getting so many men killed
- 17:43 entering Metz with G Company of the 379th
- 20:14 experience in the forty-and-eights
- 21:30 95th replaced the 5th; they were buddy divisions
- 21:55 being in foxholes
- 22:50 Duno's opinion that the Metz campaign was a failure
- 23:32 Being with Occupation Troops
- 24:00 serving as a courthouse policeman during the Nuremberg trials
- 24:22 on Marshall Hermann Goering at the trials: "He was a piece of shit. He was arrogant. He sat back like he owned everything. He giggled all the time. He would never admit that he did anything wrong."
- 25:35 an American guard befriended Goering, helped him commit suicide; no consequences for the American
- 26:50 Goering wanted to be executed by shooting, not hanging as the court had decided
- 27:08 Goering claimed to be innocent
- 27:15 when first captured, Goering was treated like a general. "Until somebody wised up and says, 'What the hell are you treating this piece of shit, treating him like a general? He's a damn prisoner.'"
- 28:45 before he was in the army, Duno would sneak into Bronx Park at night and ride horses
- 29:15 altercation between Duno, one of his soldiers and a farmer led to Duno being jailed for unnecessary force; his commander got him out
- 32:50 more about Commander Gillhouse, and fellow New Yorker Izzy Schlinger who was also in G Company
- 33:32 meeting up with Izzy at reunions
- 35:39 confrontation at an anti-aircraft school in Neuss: "They're shelling the shit out of us, and having a jolly good time." He and his buddy Stevens snuck around the back, dropped artillery shells and killed many Germans
- 37:40 on killing Germans at Neuss: "They were killing Americans like you can't believe. We couldn't move. And they did that, and that was the end of that story."
- 38:45 liberating the concentration camp at Werl, Germany; different types of camps

- 41:26 Hitler's determination to exterminate all Jews
- 42:30 conditions at camp in Werl
- 43:20 Hitler's enduring hatred of Jews: "And it didn't matter if you were Poles, or Italians, or the rest of those. Things were winding down, but they were not winding down for the Jews. Absolutely no way."
- 43:40 Meyer mentions a story about the 378th coming across a wolf pack of young kids; G Company's policy on taking prisoners
- 45:20 Hitler wanted to kill all the Jews
- 45:48 Meyer talks about movies about the Wannsee Conference
- 46:21 Meyer mentions a YouTube video about Duno by someone named Jim
- 46:28 recommends military service for today's youth
- 47:00 Closing
- 47:30 End of recording