

Interview Log.

Veteran's Name: David R. Jones

Interviewer: David Meyer (O'Shea)

Date of Interview: Baton Rouge August. 2004

Transcriber: Carol Slezak

Transcribed: December 17, 2022

Log – June, 2025

- 00:00 Introduction. Interviewer David Meyer (son of Earl D Meyer, Co H/379th/95th. Interviewee David R Jones Co E 377th Infantry Regiment 95th ID From Van Wert, Ohio.
- 00:09 The night Mr. Jones was “blowed up” in a minefield.
- He was first scout in his platoon. He was sent back to get some men Goes through minefield brings the men back and on the way a mine blew up and killed the three. 10:30 PM.
- 02:00 Mr. Jones has both legs broken (femur in one tibia in the other). Merrill had his “face blowed off.” Three guys killed and 17 wounded. That was the end of the War for Mr. Jones.
- 03:20 Wounded Mr. Jones taken to various command posts (“Cee Pees”) then in morning division CP and then to hospital where put him in a body cast from the chest down.
- 04:32 Hospital train to Paris then put on plane to England but bad weather too bad and land in Paris and put on train to Cherbourg.
- 05:18 Cherbourg on Hospital ship (which was sunk next voyage). Turbulent. Landed in England Thanksgiving Day, 1944.
- 6:00 One Thanksgiving Meal at one hospital.
- 6:39 Had to be carried on a stretcher.
- Remembered that we was transferred to another hospital and had another Thanksgiving meal. “Ate so much had to bust the body cast open.”

- 07:32 Second hospital was treated using traction. 80 lbs on his legs.
- 08:12 USS Monticello to New York. Return to the U.S. Hospital to NYC in Feb. 1945 Free phone call. Finds out he has a second son. Next day, Headline in NYC newspaper "Soldier finds out he has son."
- 9:08 Famous boxer Joe Louis visits hospital. Gives Mr. Jones an autograph. Still has cast on one leg.
- Then train to Camp Pickett, Va. Had to take window out to get Mr. Jones on the train. There through discharge.
- 10:07 Discharged Labor Day, Sept 3rd, 1945. Close to when Japan surrenders. Happy Day.
- 11:15 Receives 3 weeks leave. Goes home to see wife and two sons but doesn't see his sons.
- One is too small (six weeks) and the other won't see him because angry "Didn't want nothin' to do with us" and Mr. Jones is still lying down in hospital bed wearing brace.
- 11:55 – Interviewer loops back to the war. when Mr. Jones first arrives in England (sees his wife. Calls she doesn't see him.).
- 13:20 Traveled from Boston to England on USS West Point (formerly USS America). 10,000 men. No escorts so zig zagging across Atlantic. Life on the boat. "If you wanted to take a shower you lost a meal."
- 14:19 Brief talk of life in England and trip to Paris. Remembers getting a shave.
- 15:20 On landing at Omaha Beach. "Awful mess." Headrows. Drove the Red Ball Express. Then cross France on 40 and 8 narrow gauge train (could carry 40 men or eight horses)
- 17:10 Six months in Europe before Mr. Jones was "blowed up." On first time heard gunfire. Heard it pretty quick after arriving. Never wanted to be an officer. Was a PFC. Got that in November.

- 18:55 Interruption when Mr. Jones chats with another reunion attendee. Met that man at a reunion not during the war
- 19:53 Talks of a veteran who was a prision. when returned to Van Wert (Ohio). Doesn't know what hes doing (doesn't go into details
- 20:15 Remembers hollering for help on night he got wounded. Nothing of Mr. Jones's being wounded made into the 95th's records.
- 20:59 Did you return fire? Never had to shoot anyone. Scout. On passwords. One was a railroad name. Changed every time you'd go out. Didn't talk when on patrol.
- 21:56 Anything you particularly proud of. Nope. Didn't stay too long. "Maybe a good thing."
- 22:48 Return to the night Mr. Jones was wounded. Was 25 years old (born 1919). Was cold. Some snow.
- Arm and leg still get cold. 3 operations on leg. Still won't bend. Still a piece of bone in it.. looks like a bullet but not. Likes to go to VA hospital in Ann Arbor though 160 miles from home. cold.
- 25:40 Wrapping it up. Thanking. Going to dinner. None of Mr. Jones's company made it to this Baton Rouge reunion.
- End of interview – 26:11