

Narrator: William Magnussen

Interviewer: David Meyer (O'Shea)

Dates: August 2006 – Chicago Ill Reunion

Transcriber: David Meyer

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Log compiled by: David Meyer July, 2025

- 00:00 First night of the attack as we went into Maizieres les Metz (N France)
Mr. Magnussen was sent with Bill Lockerton, Sgt in a Communications
Platoon to lay wire. (Mr. M was radio operator for Col. Walton.)
- 00:28 Facing enemy fire. Funny moment in battle. Enemy shells landing,
Mr. M falls to the dirt, turns over, rifle hits Lockerton in helmet. Lockerton thinks
he's been shot.
- 01:21 Interviewee identified. William Magnussen. HQ Co. 2nd Battalion 377th
Called him "Maggie." Where served - *Maizierres les Metz*, Saarlautern, the Bulge,
Northern Germany..
- 02:14 Make up of Headquarters. Intelligence and Communication, a Communications
Platoon
- 02:46 I was with Col Walton I carried a 300 (? *radio?*) on my back when we went
forward..
- 03:01 They shot the man I was with later on. Later on after Walton was hit.
I was with Maj. Silvestre. Some sniper shot the guy behind me.
- 03:30 I enlisted. Sept. 1942 after graduating June from U of Nebraska.
ASTP at William and Mary then 76th Div. Then ASTP abolished sent to Ft.
Indiantown Gap, PA and joined the 95th ID
- 03:45 Training and deployment.
- 04:50 Travel on USS America to Liverpool. Thinks it was the Old Queen Mary.
Life in England.
- 05:36 To France. Landed at Omaha Beach. D plus 99 (days)
- 05:50 Red Ball Express. As a driver. Never had driven a truck in his life. Hauled supplies
to British. Was driving a truck from from Bayeaux up to Brussel.
- 06:01 On the British always stopping for tea and they'd see us, "Here come the Americans
running to beat hell."

- 07:00 First action. Village of Maizeres les Metz. Then Woippy.
- 07:54 On being part of Patton's 3rd Army. Followed him up to Saarlautern. Fraulautern. Battle of the Bulge Northern Germany
- 08:22 Hurtgen forest.
- 08:17 Encounter with prostitution castle a German diplomat owned and ran for the German Army. .. can't remember name .. (Von Papen) owned it
- 08:35 Presents for his wife. (Stolen in Belgium). Sent back lace for wedding dress.
- 09:00 On Mr. M's wife. From Connecticut. A nurse in 76th Div Met her there. She had Scarlet fever couldn't go overseas. So worked in a hospital in New Haven.
- How they met. Had pass and friend says, "I'll take you home for an Italian dinner. I get my girlfriend and I'll get you guys dates. And Mary was my date."
- 10:00 *When did you know that she was the one?* Well -- that was on a Friday. Sat Sunday. We went back to Ft. Meade Maryland. Kissed her goodbye at the station. She was horrified.
- After I got with the 95th, we came down to meet me in Indiantown Gap. Corresponded during war.
- When I got back. I wanted her to come to Nebraska. "Her Dad called me a cornhusker. So I sent her the money and she came out and never went back."
- Birthday. June 7, 1922 - Bill Magnussen Makes a joke about his age.
- 12:27 Remembers the name of the German with the castle for the prostitutes "Von Papen"
- 13:00 On ship back to U.S. posted guard duty in big storm. Couldn't stand up because it was just pitching.
- 13:49 When I got home worked for the railroad. Union Pacific agent. Telegraph operator. "The black bug." Worked 41 years for them.
- 14:25 When did they stop using the bug?
When they went to radio. And the computer took over.
- 14:49 And your final rank was ? Staff Sergeant. Started out T-5.

15:09 Farewell and contact info.
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16:14 End of Interview