

Audio and Video Recording Log

1. Name and address of collector or interviewer. **David E. Meyer (Shea)**
 Address: **578 N. Gower Street**
 City: **Los Angeles** State: **CA** Zip: **90004**
 Telephone: **(323) 469 - 9774**
 Organization or Affiliation: **95th Infantry Foundation; Veterans History Project**
 Full name and birth date of the veteran or civilian being interviewed as it appears on the recording label and Biographical Data Form
 Name of Veteran/Civilian: **William D. Ribbens**
 Birth Date: **12/26/1921** mondays
 Recording Format (please check)
 VIDEO type: Beta cam VHS 8mm High-8 Digital Other
 AUDIO type: Cassette Micro cassette CD xxx Reel Digital (DAT)
 If audio, is the cassette or reel recorded on both sides? Yes No
 Is item: Original Copy xxx
 Date of Recording: **August 24th, 2005 - 300 PM**
 4 Estimated length of recording (in minutes) **28 minutes**
 5 Location of recording **95th Infantry 2004 Convention - Holiday Inn, Baton Rouge, LA**
 6 Corresponding materials (please check)
 Have you included materials other than the recording? Yes No
 If so, please complete the Photograph Log and/or the Manuscript Data Sheet
 7 Please summarize the topics discussed in the interview in their order of appearance on the recording
 Meter Reading or Minute Mark
 00:00 CD begins in middle (was another CD but unusable)
 00:00 Begins in the middle of a sentence: "... here with his two boys..."
 00:18 Interviewer: "What stories do you think your (grandchildren) would like to hear"
 00:30 Generally start of - scary -- my baptism of fire."
 Was a scout. usually night patrol But this time
 Day time patrol. New to us. Sort of adventure. Hug
 Right across from me Harry Baron - another scout - steps on a Blew him to eternity... right away.
 Hit the dirt. 8, ten of us. 1st thought.. could have been me. Now enemy knows. Where's the next mine?
 Thoughts racing through your mind "like fury."
 Unseen danger all around. Live with it -- you can't predict a mine.
 The unseen unpredictable violence. Came back changed people.
 Preparation for next six months - on edge.

05:24	Did your experience in the war have any relationship with you becoming a pastor
06:55	Yes... had just complete college my aim had been to be high school teacher. But felt like not what I was called to do. Study for ministry. First call 1949. Did prayer help (in combat). Yes it does individually.
08:29	Looking back at the first moment of combat. Could have been me. Wrestled with that thought. Left with a complete trusting in God. Life in His Hand. Still would be scared but different. Description.
08:44	Is there anything else you think they'd (your grandchildren) would like to hear?
08:44	Near the end of it.
08:44	Patrolling in the Ruhr Pocket Night Patrol. Little farm community. Four farms and field all around the farms. Job to take the farms, whatever German soldiers there.. take them across the river in a boat. the come back and secure the farm. Tired. Assigned to upper room. Wait for troops to pass.. then went to sleep in bed in kitchen. Wake up by German farmer. "Essen" farmer say. Leads me .. kitchen table set for four. Sit down. Bow heads. Leads us in prayer. ... supposed to be enemies but eating and praying together. Terrific privilege
08:44	Its beautiful to think this war could come to an end with people in some sort of friendship
13:23	Ask for name and rank. In combat scouts come in as PFC stay a PFC - no promotions. Started with volunteers - 33 men/2 Lieut. After the war, returned to Co. A and promoted to staff sergeant.
14:26	Got out just before Thanksgiving at Camp Shelby. Thanksgiving dinner on way home.
14:53	Memories getting married on "30 day recuperation furlough" when returned.
15:26	Tells about Combat Scouts "we were the special forces in WWII." Gen'l Twaddle (Gen'l of the 95th) learned when infantry divisions in combat all day, not effective for night patrol Initiated Combat Scouts to be attached to a Regiment. 56 of us and after 6 months.. only six that did not get killed or wounded. I was one of them.
20:30	Worked the Red Ball Express. On scout training Boxing. Make your own decisions.
20:30	Cannot talk about some stories. Talks about difficulties in understanding and communicated the experience Sending letters. Number them. At home they "wait with the unknown." Story of how met one new person - Chicago Tribune (I'd been a paper carrier) so interviewed me. Few days later, parents get a copy. Learned about where I was. "He didn't do them a favor"
23:40	How did you feel about joining? Was drafted. On family's service.
24:11	What did you learn from the war?
27:25	Think about what made us get of a morning..go ahead and do what we had to do, putting our life on the line day after day...What made us do that? People call us "the Iron men" but that doesn't "ring a bell" but ... there was some kind of commitment. The Great Depression prepared us for World War II. Learned to work and commitment to life and to living and helping each other.
27:50	End. Talking with Bill Ribbens - Serial number 36830325. "Funny how things stick with you...after 60 years how often we had to rattle that thing (the serial number) off. End of CD - 27:50

