

Library of Congress transcript of recorded interview
(Typos in original transcript)

Interview with Gustav Enyedy, Jr. [12/6/2001]

Tom Swope:

This is the oral history of World War II veteran Gustav Enyedy, Jr. Mr. Enyedy served with U.S. Army's 103rd division, 409th regiment, third battalion, Company I. He served in the European theater, and his highest rank was P.F.C. I'm Tom Swope. We recorded this in Mr. Enyedy's home in Gates Mills, Ohio on December 6, 2001. Mr. Enyedy's age at the time of this recording was 77.

Tom Swope:

Do you remember Pearl Harbor, specific memory?

Gustav Enyedy, Jr.:

Yes. I was in high school in the eleventh grade when I heard about it.

Tom Swope:

What was your reaction?

Gustav Enyedy, Jr.:

Well, we wondered what -- how does this affect me, because obviously it meant going to war. And, well, I still had one more year to go, the twelfth grade. But I was way ahead on my credits to graduate. And at midterm in the twelfth grade, the Army wanted me. They would give me the three credits that I needed for gym so that I could graduate. When I was called into the principal's office, "No way. I'm going to graduate with my class in June," which was the smartest thing I ever did, because I don't think I would have -- I would have been in the invasion, I'm quite sure. But sometimes it pays to be born in what you think is the wrong time, but it turns out to be the right time. I have to go back. I am the son of immigrants. My parents are both from Hungary. My mother came over in 1920, and my dad in 1923. They had met in Hungary during the war when my father was, at 17, a customs officer. He wasn't old enough yet to be in the military. You have to be 18. And as soon as he landed, 10 days later, he married my mother; and the following year, 1924, I was born. But being immigrants, the only language they knew

was Hungarian, so we only spoke Hungarian at home. So by the time I was ready for kindergarten, to start school, I didn't know much English except maybe a few words that I had picked up. So I had to miss kindergarten and put into a special class for a year to learn English, which set me back in the normal course of schooling, which, again, turned out to be a bonus, because in this way, I was one year later in getting into service. So you never know. What might appear to be to your disadvantage turns out to be, hey, it's the other way around.

Surprisingly, as I look back on a lot of things that happened, especially during the war, I feel that there was divine guidance. I will tell you later why I feel this about this in one incident that is so obvious. Okay. So in the eleventh grade I signed up for army specialized training program because we were promised to get trained as an engineer, and I wanted to be an engineer. So this was the opportunity. And of course, they said when you graduate, you become a lieutenant, which was an added inducement. Now, growing up during the depression, I was very limited in my travels, limited in what the world was all about. We were very poor, and it was quite a struggle for my dad to feed us. So we lived in Cleveland, in various places, and rented. And when my parents couldn't pay the rent, got kicked out and had to move to another one. So we did this until finally in, I think, 1939, my dad was talked into buying a home. But he needed \$300. It was a chore getting it. Well, anyway, what I wanted to point out is my travels were limited. The furthest I got was 60 miles from Cleveland in Youngstown. So I did not know what the world was like. But when I got into the Army, I learned that there were other people that didn't wear shoes and had problems too. So that was one of the benefits I got out of there and learned that not everybody had it, and there were things that we could share. Well, I got into -- the first thing was, after being inducted, was being sent down to Camp Hood, Texas for basic infantry training in the heat of summer, which I didn't understand since I had signed up for A.S.D.P., why was I being sent down to Texas. Well, finally, I guess, the powers to be relented and went to North Texas State Teacher's College in Denton in October. And there covered one semester by New Year's Eve. Then we had to take a test to stay in the program. On New Year's Eve, I'm reviewing things so when I take the test on New Year's Day -- I wanted to stay in, which I'm not so sure that was a wise move. Anyway, I passed and stayed in the program. Those who flunked out got reassigned into specialties like Signal Corp. and maintenance or something like that, something skillful, where those of us who stayed in -- and when the program folded, we were just plain old infantry. And most of us ended up as riflemen. That is exactly what I ended up as. I always was taught by my dad to do your best whatever. So when practicing or shooting on the rifle range, I learned to squeeze the trigger, so I became an expert. I guess that is why I was classified as a scholar.

Tom Swope:

You went back into the infantry, probably, we're talking, spring of '44?

Gustav Enyedy, Jr.:

Yes. Yes.

Tom Swope:

You went into the Army, probably, around the spring of '43.

Gustav Enyedy, Jr.:

Yes. I went in in June in '43, right after graduation. Right in there. You didn't wait long.

Tom Swope:

Okay. They made you a scout.

Gustav Enyedy, Jr.:

Yeah. Well, I guess I shouldn't have hit that bull's eye so often maybe. But that is neither here nor there. In fact, it was good that I was a good rifleman, as it turned out later. From there, of course, we were on our way in October to Europe. I will never forget that boat ride though. The unit I was with was on the Monticello, and a big ship like that should, you know, you feel kind of safe on, when you look around at the convoy and see the smaller ships, but when we hit that Atlantic storm, my God, I mean -- I liked roller coasters, but not ones like that. That was horrible, horrible. A mountain of water. You go down into the valley and then up, climb the mountain. And the surprising part was I didn't get seasick. I don't understand that. I mean everybody else was sick, but there were about two dozen of us who didn't get seasick, and we went through the chow line. I don't understand it. I couldn't complain. I went up on deck and watched, rather than stay downstairs where all those guys moaning away and their heads going this way and that way. Well, we finally got through and landed in Marseilles. Then the joys began. We went on that 17-mile hike, which the longer we hiked, the further our destination seemed to get. Every time we came to an M.P., a mile down the road. The next one after we went a mile said, "Two miles down the road." I mean, finally, our officers were, I guess, the officers said, "Hey, let's just stop here, just by the side of the road." So we all went -- dropped there and immediately went to sleep. But we weren't prepared for adverse weather and we woke up in the morning in the rain.

Well, live and learn, I guess it was. We weren't too far off from our staging area. Then, of course, then spent some time there setting our pup tents and working on the docks. Then we were off to the front lines, three days by convoy. The night before we were to go there, the convoy, pitch black, we pull in with these trucks on a cold night and it had rained, and the field was all water. And we got orders to pitch your tents. You guys are crazy. How can you pitch a tent in the dark in water? What good does it do? So I snuck out and into one of the empty trucks and shivered all night long in there waiting for the morning. It was the longest night I ever spent and my feet were the coldest that have ever been. I think I still feel it. Well, the next day, they put us close to the lines, the base of a mountain, I guess. And on we walked up the mountainside. And K Company was ahead of us. And I guess, four guys over there, the war ended for them very quickly as one of them stepped on a mine that was over on the side of the road. That sobered us up, and we trudged up. As we got to elevated portion of the road, the mountain, we were encountering snow, and the higher we climbed, the more snow we got. Finally we reached the top in dark, and we were relieving the third division. And they had already had holes, foxholes, dug over there. And we were led to each, two to each hole, my buddy and I, and we jumped into the hole, and, whoa, made all kinds of noise because it was all full of C-ration cans. And, you know, first time on the line, making all that noise. Jeez, we're going to be heard. Somebody is going to hear us. I mean, so we were frightened really to even make a move because as soon as we moved, the cans made a noise. So all night long there, we were frozen in a position so we won't move and waiting for the dawn. Well, it turned out, hey, you didn't have to worry, the Germans had rationed their shells. They would only fire three at a time, and once a day. So you didn't have anything to worry about. Well, we were up there a whole week. And so then we finally got used to living outdoors in the winter. No niceties or anything. But after a week, it was time to enter the war. So we were going to attack. And so we -- I should say, we came down from the mountain. We slid down from the mountain. The Bazooka team, especially, and there were a couple of characters over there, and they were just slip sliding all over the place right on down. We finally got down to the base of the mountains and in the woods, and then we were told, the particular unit I was with, the squad, that there is a machine gun over in a farm house over there. You are supposed to knock it out. Well, I don't know what the time was, but jump off time came, and we did. We came out of the woods. As soon as a mind of it, we came out of the woods and there is this machine gun that is, sure enough, firing right at my feet. Whoa, man, I run like hell. I ran to the nearest ditch or draw that was there. And I didn't dare move. I mean now do I do? We had no leader really. We were particularly on our own. So we're there for a time being. Then we hear mortars coming, one

"woof," two, "woof," getting closer. That is when I hold the camera off overhead and try to take a picture, but when that third one was coming in, oh, that sounded awfully close. And if they would have sent in a fourth one, like the legend said, that they only shoot three, he would have got us.

Tom Swope:

Just so we know, you had this camera with you the whole time when you went over?

Gustav Enyedy, Jr.:

No. No.

Tom Swope:

You got it when you went to France?

Gustav Enyedy, Jr.:

No. I had the camera. I brought the camera with me. And I lost it at -- during -- well, I guess it was part of the Bulge thing. I will get to that because that is the most exciting part. Well, anyway, that was my first baptism. So I got introduced to machine gun fire. So I had been machine gunned. That was the first time. Then the last encounter that I had, I was machine gunned again the same way, a long distant thing over on the side of a mountain, sent them, knock out a road block back in Bavaria just before the war ended. So machine gunned twice. And mortars, I became very familiar with mortars, I had them all the time. There was one encounter on the Danube that landed six feet away from me. Fortunately, I was up against an embankment of soft dirt, and it landed right out on top of it. And mortars go out at an angle so it went over me. I mean, and that was close. Then, of course, 88's were all the time, and there were so many times that we kind of ignored them because they were always coming in. And we continued up Alsace, taking town all the way up. It was no big deal, except over in -- shortly after we started attack, we attacked the town of Neuve-Église, a little village over there. And I was the scout. I was the lead scout. And so I went up this trail and got to the edge of town, and as I rounded the building there, off in the mist, this is early morning, there were some guys standing around. I wasn't sure who they were, because with these encounters that we've had, our platoon leader making mistakes, almost wiping out K Company and our medics. So I took German in high school. So in my best German, polite German, I say "Komen Zi Here Mitt Vi Hend ho." (Ph). You know, "Please come over here with your hands up." And surprisingly eight of them start towards me. And here I'm standing in the road because I'm the only one. The guys are hid behind the building over there, and I'm hoping they are covering me anyway. And they are all coming towards me. And about halfway towards me, one of them changes his mind, and

he runs back. So I say now what do I do? You know, seven birds is better than none and possibly getting killed. So it came over me. And those guys came over to me, and I quickly herded them over to the side of the road and waved the other guys on. And said, "Go ahead now. It's your war." And, you know, they were all happy. In fact, I took a picture of them. I've got a picture of them over there. So I was the first one in the platoon to get prisoners. And then that has gotten me thinking, that is when I started to collect medals, German medals. I will show you the collection later.

Tom Swope:

You said your platoon leader made some mistakes. What kind of mistakes specifically did he make?

Gustav Enyedy, Jr.:

He could not follow -- he couldn't read a map right. He mistook contour lines for paths. I mean, really.

Tom Swope:

Didn't he take a class in that or something?

Gustav Enyedy, Jr.:

I don't know where they got this guy. But he wasn't with us by that time. I mean, he got promoted to awards and decorations. I don't even -- I guess a mental block on it. I don't remember his name anymore. So we went all the way up to Alsace, you know, town after town, and we finally got up to the secret line. And we did some probing up there. Then the Bulge started. Then it was time to move over to the east over to Lorraine, and pick up our defenses, shorten our defenses there. And there, again, I don't know what our leaders were thinking. I don't know where it was at or anything. But it was way east. And we were to attack at night. It was a clear night, cold as you can think. And we, on the whole front, I guess, we were going to attack and the idea was, we were at the edge of open fields. And off in the distance was woods. The Germans were holed up in the woods. Now, this is at night. Once you enter the woods, you couldn't see a darn thing. It was pitch black. And who in his right mind would think of going there and trying to -- you'd be shooting your own men. Well, anyway, the Germans did us a favor. They sent everything they had. They shelled us with 88's, and they kept coming. They was coming closer and closer while we were out on the ground. I had hit a shell hole that had been filled with water, but the water was frozen. And I'm waiting for the shells to come in. And I am so

scared and I'm sweating. I am really sweating, and I find myself sinking in the ice and melting the ice and sinking. But the shelling stopped. And ordinarily, I suppose we were supposed to move in, but somebody must have had a brainstorm and came to his senses and called it off. So we pulled back, and it was the smartest thing, I think, we did. I don't see how we could have done any good in the dark when we couldn't see what we would be shooting at. Well, anyway, after that incident, we hightailed it back to Alsace. And then we made probes over there, and I remember being on patrol. You could see the Germans and hear them talking, they were that close. We were very careful. Then we found out -- because while the infantry was up there doing the probes, all our artillery and weapons, heavy weapons, had pulled back. So we were there alone, and they didn't tell us until now we got to retreat. We got to shorten our lines. And our destination was a cluster of towns around Bopenhoffen (ph). So all night long, we were marching in the cold. It was a bitter cold night and desolate and you pass through town after town, no signs of life or anything. But you could see tanks that have slid off the road on the ice. I hooked up with a -- I mean I got tired of walking, so I hooked up with an engineering group that went around blowing up these units. And then I finally got back, found my unit over in Bopenhoffen (ph). They sent us immediately to the edge of town, of that town, while the main line of defense was set up behind the town up on a ridge. And we were down there in the platoon by squads, actually in buildings right on the edge. And there was about 50 yards of open field, and then the woods, and they decided that, hey, we need some people out there on listening post duty. So the squad I was with -- by that time the squad was down to eight, and two of the them were Bazooka people. So they weren't always with us. So there's six of us out there. We're three days we're out there, we get our Christmas presents or whatever, because this was after Christmas already. And the mail had caught up. And we're enjoying it and whatever. And then, hey, this is fine. There is nothing happening here. Then in the morning on, I think it was the third or fourth day, there was another listening post. We get a telephone call from them. "Hey, there is a patrol on your way, 12 guys." Well, there is six of us, we can handle two each. So we wait until they come into view, and sure enough, there they are. Okay. Then we open up on them, you know. And I always do things -- I don't know why -- but I had a clip of tracer bullets, which I had then loaded in my M-1. So I opened up with tracer bullets, and I got the first guy and I went right smack in with them, as they say, with a crack shot. I learned to squeeze the trigger. Then, well, he dropped right away, and I was looking for another target, but they were all dropped, so I put another one in him. So he was dead for sure. And we keep firing, and then my third round jams, and in the cold and there is snow on the ground and everything, I'm trying to free it and throw out the clip and put regular things in there. So I'm working on that.

And I didn't think they were shooting at us. In the meantime, five of my buddies over there, they are keeping up the fire, and they were firing as fast as you can. One of the guys, Barker, had a B.A.R., and he felt good. He got up there like Rambo style and went "rm, rm, rm, rm." I finally got my clip out and put in the regular ones and took up the firing. But by this time, we realized, hey, that was not a patrol, that was a whole company attacking. We said, hey, we better get out of here. I don't know how long we can hold them off, you know, pretending that there are more of us than there are. So we decided that it was time to get out of there. So we took up this you fire and, you know, and then -- I will fire and you fall back and then you take it up. That way. We did that for a while. And then when we thought we got out of range, we hightailed it for the main line. And we must have really shook them up, because as I look back on it, they thought that we had a machine gun or something there. I fired tracers or that I was being a spotter. And with Barker with his B.A.R., you know, sounded a heck of a lot more than just the six of us. So we stopped them. And they didn't do anything more the rest of the day. But we got back up on the line. Then the people over there said, "They are going to attack." And so all night long we're hauling up ammunition and we're trading in our rifles for B.A.R.'s. And we paired up. They sent us back to the edge of the town there in front of the main line in the buildings. And, sure enough, when they came in came morning, they came out, and that is when I got so disgusted, I mean I just couldn't do it. I mean, I quit because we mowed them. We massacred them. I mean in the snow, jeez, as soon as they stepped out of the woods, they were goners. And there weren't very many of us, you know, just a squad here and a squad there. But we were zeroed in on them. And they could not cross that 50 yards field and get to us. And they couldn't use mortars or anything like that because they were too close to us. Since we were paired up, I told my buddy, "You fire. I will load. I can't do this. I can't do this." I mean -- and then after a while, they came out with Red Cross flag to pick up the so-called wounded. There weren't any. And the stupid part of it was they did the same thing the next day and tried it. I suspect they must have had S.S. officers behind them, you know, saying either you can go in there or we'll shoot you. Because I got to realize that, hey, the German, the ordinary German military, must have been people like us just, you know, forced into it. In fact, from the prisoners that I took, that is the conclusion I came to. But I look back and you say that I believe in intervention, now, why did I get that clip of tracers? Why did I put that in there? It was -- obviously it was going to say where I'm at, you know. And why did it fail to -- it stuck on the third round, because if I kept firing, they would have zeroed in on me. So, you know, I sometimes think. But the tracer stopped them, but it did its job. Don't fire anymore.

Tom Swope:

What kind of a situation would you use the tracers in?

Gustav Enyedy, Jr.:

Well, I got them out of a machine gun. You know, every fifth round of a machine gun is a tracer. No, for an infantryman and a rifleman, no reason.

Tom Swope:

No reason to do that?

Gustav Enyedy, Jr.:

No. But I know I got my man because I saw the bullet go into him, right smack in the body. That always haunted me, killing somebody. I was not meant to be a good soldier that way. I did what I had to do. That was it. Well, anyway, that was, I would call, say, my greatest combat experience, that event. And the others were ordinary.

Tom Swope:

Did we say where that was? That was near Bopenhoffen (ph)?

Gustav Enyedy, Jr.:

Yes. Yes. In the cluster of towns -- Lawalk (ph) and Omberack (ph) and Bopenhoffen (ph). Then there was a fourth one. I forget. They were all together. The main line was up on a ridge. From there on in, we stopped everything. After that, the Germans were gone. Then we just, I guess, held the position there for a while and nothing happened, and I guess the Germans were pulling back and retreating. At that time, we went into R and R. And we were taken over by, I guess, the 101st. They took over. And they are a wild bunch. I guess they shot up the place. While in R and R, I got sick. I got -- they called it influenza or the flu, which I didn't think was such a big deal until not so long ago I watched the -- one of these series on PBS that it was -- the influenza is what stopped World War I. It killed more people than the fighting -- actually, World War I, the Germans and the allies was a stalemate. They called a halt to it because of the influenza outbreak. It was killing not only the soldiers but the civilians here in America and there. I didn't think it was such a big deal, but it was. And we didn't have penicillin yet or at least it wasn't available. And I remember taking sulfa pills big as quarters. How in the world you can swallow it, but I swallowed them. Then when they got me to the field hospital, you know, I still said, "Hey, you know, this is nothing really." But they wanted to take an x-ray of me. "Oh, I will

stand up." Yeah, sure. I couldn't stand up. They had to lift me up. Then I realized, "Hey, I'm in trouble here." But I guess I have a pretty good immune system. And so for four weeks, two weeks at the field hospital and two weeks in Epidoll (ph) at the convalescent hospital and I was good as new and sent back to the line. By this time, they had broken through the Siegfried (ph), and so I caught up with my unit up in Ludwigshafen by Mannheim along the Rhine there. There is an old -- well, it wasn't an old factory. It was a factory that had been terribly bombed. I caught up with them. And the guys were being rewarded by getting a bottle of champagne each, you know, for breaking through. Officers were getting three. By this time, we had an officer. We had a guy. He was all right. And I joined them. So I got my bottle of champagne. Hey, this was great. I drank the whole bottle. And the officer drank his, but he couldn't finish it. He went out. And so there was a half a bottle left, and I got half of that. So after a bottle and a half, I went out. And I woke up during the night -- we were getting replacements. They came up -- came in, and guys are sprawled out all over the floor, this factory floor. They must have thought, you know, jeez, what is going on here. We're all dead drunk. That's the first time in my life I got drunk and the only time really. But then we recovered and crossed the Rhine and continued on. And then we had a nice crossing at the Danube over at Ulm or above Ulm, and they put a nice fire and movement there to flush out the Germans and drove them across the Danube. But before they went, they blew in the bridge that was there and there was a guard shack there. And that was, again -- somebody was watching over me. I think my mother prayed very hard. There were foxholes along the river, so we took over those. So my buddy and I took one. We're sitting there, and "twing," a sniper just misses me. "Oh, we better be careful here. So we'll need a cover for our foxhole." There was a big door on this shack that was still standing, so we took that off. As we took that off and we were standing there and the guys from the engineering group come around there and they are putting white tape around us. We looked down there and there is prongs down there. Fortunately, they were anti-tank mines, but with that heavy door, we could have set it off. So item number two. And then at dusk my sergeant comes to me, he's hungry. "Get a case of C-ration." I says, "Well, if you cross that road, we're going to draw mortar fire." He says, "You go get that or -- or I will court-martial you." "But we'll draw mortar fire." He was adamant. So I went, picked up the case. And as I'm starting back, there they come -- one, two, three. And I hit the dirt. This is where that soft embankment was and the third one hits right above it and then right over me six feet away. So item number three. Now, I say that because earlier I'm up on the ridge over there looking down and one of the guys from another company was walking down there and a sniper gets him right in the neck. And his last words were "Mother." I mean, really sad. So the sniper didn't always miss. Well, during the night, of course,

we crossed over on pontoons while the boats that were being used to build a bridge, and we got over to the other side. From there on it was clear sailing. So to add to machine gun, mortar fire, artillery, sniper fire, mine, and in the last phases, we get strafed. The truck ahead of us, about the third truck ahead of us, four guys get killed. So I've been strafed. Oh, somewhere along the line before we even got there, I got bombed. I don't know who bombed us, whether it was our planes or the Germans, but I remember, they were different than artillery. They were "whomg," and it was only a few houses away, a couple of blocks away. So I can say I experienced that too. All in all, somebody was watching over me. I got through with no -- not even being wounded. And I was in a platoon that nobody got killed. The guys got wounded, but nobody got killed in the second platoon of Company I.

Tom Swope:

Did you go into Selestaad (ph) at all?

Gustav Enyedy, Jr.:

No. No. We were held in reserve, but I guess they -- figuring that -- I mean we were anticipating going in. We were on pins and needles, you know, after hearing what had happened. (End of track number 1.)

Tom Swope:

Do you have any specific memories of buddies?

Gustav Enyedy, Jr.:

Oh, yeah. Yeah. Actually, I was the second scout. The first scout was Bill Burns, who I have kept in contact with all these years. In fact, this past summer, I was down there visiting him in Texas. He now lives in Texas over in Austin. And we keep in touch. And then there is buddies in -- I have one in Florida, Harrison Griffin, who became a judge in Yalan (ph), Florida. All of these guys, you know, became somebody.

Tom Swope:

Did you do anything with them to relieve the tension, any kind of entertainment to amuse yourselves when you had a chance?

Gustav Enyedy, Jr.:

No. We slept or rested. I mean, the thing that we were -- we did entertain New Year's Eve. Remember, this was New Year's Eve during the war, during the Bulge. I don't know where we were at -- oh, in Lorraine someplace. And, you know, flat lands, kind of flat. And we were put at crossroads, various ones, a pair of us, with a 55-gallon drum and a fire going and makeshift shelter. We were supposed to watch for infiltrators, the Germans, you know, were donning uniforms. We didn't believe this. The Germans aren't that stupid. I mean, they are going to come over in groups and do something. Well, anyway, Harrison Griffin, this guy that later became a judge, he was kind of a crazy guy anyway, we sat out there all by ourselves in the crossroads with a town way off over there and another one way off over there, clear blue sky, New Year's Eve. Well, what do you do on New Year's Eve -- especially at midnight? You celebrate. So what we did -- "bang, bang, bang" we fired our rifles and shouted, "Happy New Year." And we're looking for, you know, infiltrators. "Well, here we are."

Tom Swope:

Kind of gave away your position, didn't you?

Gustav Enyedy, Jr.:

"Come and get us." Well, anyway, it got boring after that. And I took the first watch. We were supposed to do two hours on, two hours off. But then Harrison Griffin took over, and I went to sleep. He fell asleep. And we were awakened by an officer in the morning. You know, that is not so good. But I think what happened is that everybody else did the same thing. So what are you going to do, shoot your army? Nothing was said about that, because nothing happened.

Tom Swope:

Do you have any specific memories of mail call, getting letters or packages from home? 0024

Gustav Enyedy, Jr.:

Oh, yeah. We had a good mailman. We had -- my dad would box up -- he'd make the lightweight wooden boxes and he'd slip in a bottle of wine in there, homemade wine, that we would get. I remember getting one of those at the convalescent hospital. By that time, my buddy, the other scout, Bill Burns was there with a sprained ankle. So we enjoyed the wine.

Tom Swope:

When you think of that experience over there, is there one particularly vivid memory that comes to mind?

Gustav Enyedy, Jr.:

That Bopenhoffen (ph) deal, you know. Actually, you know, killing a man.

Tom Swope:

That was the one time that you know you killed somebody?

Gustav Enyedy, Jr.:

Yeah. I can see it. Other times, you know, you shoot, you don't know if you have hit somebody or not. Actually, small arms fire wasn't that effective, really. Unless you could see what you are shooting at, it's a hit-or-miss proposition.

Tom Swope:

So did you end up in Innsbruck (ph) then?

Gustav Enyedy, Jr.:

Yeah. Well, no. No. We went on, pushed on through to Schwatz (ph) which is about 30 kilometers east of Innsbruck (ph) at a monastery. This is where our captain accepted the surrender of a German regiment. We stayed there for, I don't know, maybe a month or so before we moved back to Innsbruck (ph). I enjoyed it because it was complete freedom. I mean you didn't have -- you know, supposed to fall out, but so what, nobody fell out, and it was -- just enjoying it, the fact that we no longer had to worry about -- and that was a peculiar thing too. We got into Schwatz, and the war was -- was the war over or was it not. We were walking around in this little town of Schwatz with our rifles slung over our shoulders. So were the Germans walking around with their rifles slung over their shoulder. We look at each other, and then we look away. We didn't want any confrontation. Is the war over or not? We didn't want any shooting going on. Who wants to, you know, get killed at the last day. So no confrontation even though the Germans were there and we were there. And nobody was even taken prisoners or anything. Didn't care.

Tom Swope:

This is when there were rumors that it was going to be worked out?

Gustav Enyedy, Jr.:

Yeah. I don't know. When did it end?

Tom Swope:

Officially May 8, I believe.

Gustav Enyedy, Jr.:

Was it 8?

Tom Swope:

I think that's when they announced it.

Gustav Enyedy, Jr.:

Or was it 9 and 10. That was it. We didn't know.

Tom Swope:

There was something about a false armistice on May 3, I think.

Gustav Enyedy, Jr.:

No. It wasn't then. No, not then.

Tom Swope:

This was before that, you think? 0026

Gustav Enyedy, Jr.:

No. It was later. Yeah. Later. By that time, we were -- we had gone through Innsbruck (ph). In all of this, you think back and you realize, what is this all about really? The people who caused it, Hitler and his gang, are the ones that need the pay. They forced the ordinary people to, you know, be in the militia. They get their supporters, and then those people to follow their lead. I think it all goes back to World War I, all the problems that we have, even today, can be traced back to the way World War I was ended. France, in particular -- France and England were revenge seekers. And we had a weak president, Wilson. He was idealistic with his League of Nations. He had some good ideas. But the way eastern Europe was carved up, in particular Hungary, there is no rhyme or reason for the way that country was partitioned. There was supposed to be politi sites (ph), voting, you know. But what would happen, they created nations with major minorities. Well, that already set things up. The Czechs, drove out all the Germans

from Czechoslovakia. In Romania all the Hungarians were made second-class citizens. And in the end that whole area became ripe for the Marxist element, the communists, to take over. That is the element that came in there.

Tom Swope:

Did you have any trouble adjusting to civilian life after the war? 0027

Gustav Enyedy, Jr.:

Pardon?

Tom Swope:

Any trouble adjusting to civilian life?

Gustav Enyedy, Jr.:

I was disappointed, yes. I was cynical, very cynical. For one thing -- and this came up about this moaning thing, in fact in this last presidential election, all this business about over votes and under votes, I wrote a letter to the editor saying this is all baloney, because I was kept -- the 103rd was disbanded right away, but since I was not married, I did not get the 12 points, so I had too few points to be sent home. Well, okay. You can understand why you would send married guys home before the single ones. But the way Truman did it though, when the war ended, we were on our way, supposedly, on going home. We were guarding a prisoner camp, political prisoners in Mosburg (ph), north of Munich. And we finally got orders to, you know, go home. What they really meant was that we are going to go home and you are going to go on to Japan. Well, we had other thoughts. But get us home first. So we get out of the convoy, and we tell an uncom (ph) to go to hell and everything, and we are going home. We didn't get too far when a jeep comes running up to the head of the column. The column stops, and then it turns around. We're going back. The war is over. We're not going home. What Truman decided was that it was more politically expedient to take the new recruits, the new draftees, give them a month's furlough rather than take the veterans and send them home.

Tom Swope:

So they took the new guys back?

Gustav Enyedy, Jr.:

No. They never even --

Tom Swope:

Oh, the new guys over in the states, you mean?

Gustav Enyedy, Jr.:

Yeah, over in the states.

Tom Swope:

They gave them a month, and made you stay an extra month?

Gustav Enyedy, Jr.:

Well, it turned out it wasn't an extra month. It was almost a year. So here we are, stuck, in occupation duty. So almost a year.

Tom Swope:

That was in Germany that you were doing occupation duty?

Gustav Enyedy, Jr.:

Yeah.

Tom Swope:

What were the people like?

Gustav Enyedy, Jr.:

Actually, we didn't see the people, because I got -- well, spend most of the time, 71st division, over in Ulm. That city was so bombed, there was nothing there. The only thing left was the cathedral. How many pictures can you take of the cathedral? Then nothing else. Absolutely nothing. We did such a terrible thing. I mean, we leveled that city, which is another thing that I don't understand. If the infantry shoots civilians, you know, by mistake like some of these people that rehash history, that is a big deal, you know, you shouldn't have done that. No-no. You don't do that. But you get the Air Force obliterating cities, how many civilians got killed? That's all right? I don't understand that.

Tom Swope:

Do you remember specifically hearing when they had dropped the atom bomb?

Gustav Enyedy, Jr.:

Yes. That is the day that they had dropped the bomb that we were sent back. We were thankful that they had, you know, the war was stopped, that we wouldn't have to go on. But the idea of -- well, we didn't know that we were going to be there almost a whole year. All I did over in Ulm was guard German generals. They had a nice barracks compound around it. And it used to gripe us. You know, two on, four off, two on, four off or was it four on and eight off or something. But no chance even to go any place because there was nothing to see, no place to go -- boring. That is where I learned to play cards.

Tom Swope:

Do you remember getting the news that F.D.R. had died?

Gustav Enyedy, Jr.:

Yeah, I think so. I don't remember it because I didn't really care.

Tom Swope:

No real reaction to it?

Gustav Enyedy, Jr.:

No.

Tom Swope:

Just another guy that died in the war?

Gustav Enyedy, Jr.:

Yeah.

Tom Swope:

I hear that a lot, actually. You know, you see all those historical pictures of the weeping people and the nation in shock, but a lot of the guys that were over there --

Gustav Enyedy, Jr.:

So what.

Tom Swope:

They saw it. So what. They had seen it all the time.

Gustav Enyedy, Jr.:

Yeah. Yeah. Well, that's the thing. You get kind of immune to the death, seeing it.

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