

U.S. Army Corporal
Warren Fisher



Veteran
1942-1946



Us Army soldiers dodging German sniper fire.



In 1942 approximately 11,000 people were drafted to serve in World War 2. Among those 11,000 was U.S. Army Corporal Warren Fisher from Nassau County New York. At the mere age of sixteen, receiving the letter to go over to another country to serve was a moment of surprise and unhappiness. During that time of his life he had been taking care of his mother who he would soon be leaving for 4 years to come.

Once he got over there, and reality set in, his whole lifestyle changed forever. He recalls the first day and he says "they had us all line up or gathered all together and given a brief outline by a Sergeant on what was expected of them and how they should carry themselves". He also said, "the next day or a couple of days later we started basic training and during those 13 weeks they really pushed". He continued on to say, "the army didn't want any screw ups. If you screwed up, you did the training all over again".

Warren served under U.S. Army General George S. Patton in the 16th armored division. I asked Warren how he got through it all and he said "A day at a time". Along with Warren there was a group of five men who stuck together helping each other through it. Some of the nicknames and names of the men in the group were Forty, String Bean, an Officer named Bill Darling and Mosby. This bunch guys were like their own rat pack. They went through each day with a "to hell with everything" attitude. In other words, just forget about it and keep going.



U.S. Army Soldiers crossing a portable floating bridge.



U.S. Army Medic tending to a wounded soldier.

The place it all began for Warren was France. Then he and his division moved on into Germany. He wishes he could remember all the towns and villages he went through, but it was so long ago it's hard to remember. He was even asked by his wife years ago. He does remember taking prisoners and just trying to do the job he was there to do. I asked him if he was ever a prisoner of war and he said to me "Nope! I ran faster than they did" with a little chuckle in his voice. He remembers having to stay on his toes and stay alert at all times. He remembers seeing and hearing a lot of propaganda about young kids in the villages and towns and the dangers of them. Some were young, about 12 or 13 years old. The younger ones were not as bad as the older 15, 16, and 17 year old youths. The rule was that if there was any suspicion at all to shoot first and talk to them later.





Broken Bridge



U.S. Army soldiers not only battling the enemy,
but also the treacherous terrain as well.

Of course as with any war, the percentage of seeing combat is extremely high and Warren definitely saw combat. Casualties of war are also a giving fact and when he and his division saw casualties they tried to get to them and pick them up as much as possible so they can get them back home to the United States.

I asked Warren if he had any memorable moments that he remembers. The only thing he could remember was the time they gave his division some time off for a few days to get some rest and sent him to France. He said "It was the most beautiful place". He also said "I drank a lot".

During his term of war duty Warren received a couple of medals, but can't really remember what they for. He said "The medals I got weren't of any significant importance. They were not really any big deal".

War often comes in many shapes and sizes as does the weapons men and women use to fight in wars. I was curious as to what weapons Warren used, so I asked him and he replied " I used a M1911 Colt .45 Pistol, M1 Carbine, and a 30 caliber Machine Gun". The 30 caliber Machine Gun was the only weapon that Warren did not physically carry. It was the colt 45 and the 30 caliber Carbine that he carried with him at all times. Of course I had to ask (even though anyone with a logical frame of mind could have guessed the answer would be yes) if he had to ever shoot any of his weapons. His reply was "Oh yes".



Tank used as a soldier transporter.



"Keeping in touch with family and friends was very seldom" Warren said. He remembers the army having a bag where the soldiers could throw their letters into to get them mailed out. Most of the time the letters he sent were short with brief messages saying how you doing and how is everything. I'm fine so far.

Warren told me (when I asked if he had any good luck charms that he though gave him good luck) he said "I didn't really have any good luck or charm, but we sure cursed a lot".

