

## **Transcription: Roy Goad**

---

*My name is Ray Willamy. I'm with the General Land Office. Today is January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008. It's approximately 2:00 p.m. I'm interviewing Mr. Roy Goad by telephone interview. I'm located at the General Land Office in Austin, Texas, and Mr. Goad at his current residence. The interview is in support of the Voices of Veterans Program of the Texas State Veterans Land Board, and the purpose is to create a permanent record of military service experiences of veterans. And Mr. Goad, as you know, I'm about to interview you relating to your military experiences. The interview is by telephone and I'll be using a tape recorder to record this interview.*

**Roy Goad:** That's fine.

*The interview will be transcribed and made parts of a permanent record at the Veterans Land Board in Austin, and does the Veterans Land Board have your permission and consent to conduct this interview and to make it a part of the permanent record of the board?*

**Roy Goad:** Oh yes, I'm, I'm glad, I'm hoping to get a lot of persons in regards as to what they served in WWII.

*OK, and as we've already talked about, I want to, it'll be somewhat of a question and answer format, but please feel free to expand on any of your answers or if there's something you want to get into that I didn't add or didn't ask, feel free to do that.*

**Roy Goad:** I'll do that.

*We understand that some of your experiences may be difficult to discuss, so if there's anything you decide not to, also feel free not to talk about anything.*

**Roy Goad:** All right.

*OK, is you could give me your full name and your, where you're currently located at?*

**Roy Goad:** All right. My name is Roy D., initial D. Goad, officially, but when I got in the Guard, they said you had to have a middle names, so I offered to put my name down there as Roy Don, D-O-N, so my military name is Roy Don Goad, although my official name at birth was Roy D. Goad. And uh, and that's the way I got my name.

*And how old are you sir?*

**Roy Goad:** Uh, and I'm 86 right now. I was born on April the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1921, out here in Bell County, northwest a bit Temple.

*All right, and what were your parents' names?*

**Roy Goad:** James Wesley Goad and, and Catherine Goad. She was a Carbury before she married.

*OK, did you have any other, you said the other day you had a brother in the military at the same time?*

**Roy Goad:** Uh, my older brother, Jim James, James E. Goad, was in the National Guard. Uh, he's a, he was about five years older than I was, and he was, joined the National Guard when they started serving, when they opened it up in Temple here, Company D 143<sup>rd</sup>, and uh, he was in the Guard as a sergeant when, when I joined with my twin brother. We joined when we were in high school playing football for the Temple Wildcats. Howard, Howard K. Dodgim (sp. ???) was a lieutenant in my company. He was a com-, he was a coach, and he wanted some men coming, going to Camp Hewland (sp. ???) at, on the summer time and parades pulling a machine gun cart. We were, we were a weapons company, a machine gun platoon, a company, and he wanted a pair of mules so-called, mules to pull this, this machine gun cart in the parade. So we joined the Guard when we were 15 years old. We swore we was 18. My military agent out, I am three years older, uh, in my military age than I am officially because my birthday is April the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1921. They believe, when we uh, were federalized in November of 1940, uh, I was a sergeant then, and when we went over to the National, uh, the National Guards was reorganized and put into them federal service, I thought they corrected my age, but they did not. I was 19 at the time, officially.

*You were 19 when you entered the military?*

**Roy Goad:** When, when I entered, when I entered the National Guard, when I entered, we was uh, federalized in 1940. I was 15 when I joined the Guard in 1936 in Temple. We went, I went to three or four summer camp \_\_\_ down at Camp Hewland. We trained, we drilled on, on a Tuesday night, I think, every week or every other week, and we would get paid dollar, I got paid dollar a grill night, which was the first money I ever put in my pocket.

*Were you still in high school at the time?*

**Roy Goad:** At the high, we was a senior, a senior in high school, uh, our, or guess next to being a senior because I graduated in 1939 in high school, and I was in junior college, Temple Junior College in 1940, uh, starting in my second year at Temple Junior College when they federalized us November the 25<sup>th</sup>, 1940.

*Did you choose the Army because that was convenient to your location?*

**Roy Goad:** Well now, the National Guard units was, was in Texas was, I think 70 units was in about 40 towns. Waco had three or four units. Temple had one. Belton had Company I 143<sup>rd</sup>, and uh, A Company was through Rusk, Texas, I think, and B Company was from up around Beaumont, Houston. C Company was from down there. Dog Company, D Company was from Temple, and so on down the line. Now when we got federalized, we were just Texas National Guard is what we were. Uh, came out of WWI when they come back from overseas from WWI from being, fighting in, in Europe, and they disbanded and they, then they reorganized in Texas 19- uh, and 20, I believe 1923 or '24 after the war, and stayed in Texas as the 36<sup>th</sup> Division.

*Why was your unit federalized in 1940?*

**Roy Goad:** Because they were getting ready to go to war. The United States was going to go to war. They knew that we were. We all knew we was, we were \_\_\_ to be called in, so they started federalizing the National Guard units in the, in the whole United States. Nearly every state had a National Guard unit, and uh, they were, they were guard units in the states to help preserve, help preserve history as to uh, helping the, it came out of WWI out of units that helped Indians

fighting or, or outlaws or something like that, or helped the population if they had a storm or draught or, or some fire or some kind of disaster, they helped the, the uh, police or the local sheriffs or whatever it was to do certain things. That's what the National Guard is for. Some of them even fought and, and guarded down around the, the coast down there when I think sometime during that time that, Camp Mabry in Texas has a history on all this stuff, but they had some stuff down there, or units that turned into the National Guard. Other states had the same thing.

*Where did you receive your basic training at?*

**Roy Goad:** Oh at, in the National Guard before it was federalized, we trained at Temple at drill, on drill nights. Then we'd go every summer, two weeks in \_\_\_\_ at Camp Hewland, Texas, which is down on the coast. It was a post that formed for, for the, for the yearly training down there, for the, as a, as a unit, as a whole complete division. We trained here locally as a, by company for raid of, of arms and stuff, and about the machine gun and firing range and marching and drilling and go to all that stuff like that locally.

*So basic training was local at that time?*

**Roy Goad:** Yes, basic training mostly was local except for the, for the two-week encampment each year. Then that time we down as a whole division, say to Camp Hewland. We went down uh, one time I think in 19-, early, it might have been in February of 1940, some place out west of, east of Austin. No, it was west, east of Austin, trained during the, about two weeks of the winter time in 19-, in the early part of 1940. But now after we got federalized, we were shipped, sent to Camp Bowie, Texas, which then was at Brownwood. The original Camp Bowie, Texas, was built in WWI out west of Fort Worth, at edge of Fort Worth, as an encampment in the National Guard units from Texas and Oklahoma, but brought down there and they in turn went overseas in 1918 and saw about 18 days of action, uh, in the, in WWI, and then that's where they got their name, the Texas, the T-Patch or the 36<sup>th</sup> Division. The arrowhead was for the Indian part of the Oklahoma tribe, bunch, from Oklahoma, and the key put, embedded in the middle of the T-, of the arrowhead was for Texas.

*What were some of the things that you were required to do early on for the Guard?*

**Roy Goad:** All right now, we were federalized, we got to go back to Brownwood. Then we was, we started doing training in, in platoons, but they had training companies. We'd train as, as maybe the 143<sup>rd</sup> would, would be an enemy and the 142<sup>nd</sup> would be attacking them or whatever. We'd do machine gun, uh, as our company did, and then we reorganized out there what was out there and got about 25 new men and from across the state because they reorganized the table of organization for the companies. We enlarged the companies.

*What kind of equipment did you receive?*

**Roy Goad:** Out there, we went out with, we had two platoons of, of water-cooled uh, machine guns, and they were, we carried a tripod by one man and, and a gun by one man and the cradle by another man for the moving out in the field. If we was just going down the road, we'd have a cart we'd put 'em on with ammunition on the cart and pulled it by two men, and them other men would carry extra ammunition when we'd go through the, out through a training out in the country. When we got in the front line, then we set it up and as machine guns. Then while I was at Brownwood, we reorganized and got two machine gun platoons and got four squads, four guns

in each platoon, and we got a platoon of H, of 81 millimeter mortars. That's when we reorganized and we left Temple 128 men counting the officers, and after we got out there and after a few weeks we were out there, we reorganized because they'd made the change the table of operations, and they, then we uh, were assigned uh, was going to be assigned some kind of weap-, vehicle to carry the stuff in then in the field because we had to be more mobilized. And so we got, the rifles got, it reorganized, too. Instead of all rifle platoons, they had two rifle platoons and then a weapons platoon they called it.

*Do you remember any of your NCO's or officers at the time?*

**Roy Goad:** Yes sir. Company Commander was Hal Jones. When we left Temple, Captain Hal Jones, and the first lieutenant, second command was Benny A. Zinn, Z-double I, Z-I-N-N, and then Howard K. Dodgin was our, one of the second lieutenant, he was one of the platoon leaders.

*Can you spell Dodgin? Do you remember?*

**Roy Goad:** H. K. Dodgin, Howard K. Dodgin. That H. K. Dodgin Luke was named after him in Temple. He was the football coach and so was Benny Zinn in Temple High School and they were in the company. And then my brother, Jim Goad, James Goad, before we was federalized was made a lieutenant and uh, so we had the four officers left here. I was, my twin brother and I were sergeants, but when we got to Brownwood, my twin brother and I were gonna be going to college and we'd taken a bunch of correspondence courses through the National Guard on military affairs and on uh, things like that, about this correspondence course. We got out there in Brownwood, we were, had about lost some of the old National Guard officers to other units. They were reorganizing the whole, they were making new divisions all across the United States, getting ready to form new divisions, and so our older, my oldest brother, Jim, and Benny A. Zinn was two lieutenants in our company that was transferred to the uh, I believe the 178<sup>th</sup>, transferred to a unit in Louisiana that was reorganizing and they had to, and so the regiment, the whole division was losing officers across the nation. Some of them went to Air Corps. Some was going with the Marines. Some was going to other divisions, and we lost so many other places, so they had to get, made more officers, so my twin brother and I was commissioned and I was commissioned in March and he was commissioned in April out there in Brownwood, '41.

*What were some of the most difficult things you had to deal with at that time?*

**Roy Goad:** Well, there wasn't anything difficult except for when we were training out there around Brownwood in brush country, we had to watch out for rattlesnakes.

*I'll bet.*

**Roy Goad:** Then at night, we was out there spending the night, and we had to be mighty careful about where we moved around. That's about the only thing we was worried about at Brownwood, but otherwise, we had, we had to be mighty careful about when we got into, into training there, and sometime we'd train with live ammunition and if you got in the wrong position, you might get shot at and uh, otherwise it, I don't think anybody got hurt like that, but we was kind of scared of that. But now we trained there in Brownwood off and on. We got after several weeks we started getting ready to go, to go home on weekends. We'd leave Saturday afternoon, but have to be back in by, before Sunday night. We was about 150 miles from home, so some of us hitch-hiked or caught rides home and some of the wives moved out there, officer's wives, maybe the sergeant's wives, the older people that had wives they moved out to

Brownwood and got a little apartment close to the, where we were, and my twin brother, Jim, my brother Jim's wife moved out there, so but \_\_\_ and I, we, we still had to stay on, on the \_\_\_ tents out there where we were. We didn't have no barracks. We had a mess hall and made of, established, and we also had a bathroom and an outhouse out there established before we had, before we could move out there.

*Aside from the training that you've already talked about, did you have any advanced training in the military?*

**Roy Goad:** Uh, not right at that time. We, about the only advanced training we had was, was to try to do uh, training under, under enemy fire or, or go out at night and try to make an attack on a certain place by using compasses and stuff like that. We did try to do training with more with the company size or maybe the platoon or battalion size men moving through the country, and uh, but close order drill, of course we did that and had parades all the time and stuff like that, but we didn't have any specialized thing until we started getting our vehicles that we were supposed to have got, later on we, because we moved, we moved, we was training north and east Texas around the Sabine River and the edge of Louisiana, and over there, and our division down there I believe was the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division, regular Army divisions there, and one of us was fighting the other one. We had new combat training as, as enemies \_\_\_, and I acted as umpire for the, for the other division and they sent an officer over to the 36<sup>th</sup> and acted as umpires on our side, grading, grading how we did things.

*What did you first think when you found out you were going to be federalized and possibly sent overseas?*

**Roy Goad:** Well, we didn't know for sure whether we were gonna be sent overseas, but we knew for sure when we got the notice December the 7<sup>th</sup>, 1941 that Japan bombed Pearl Harbor, and I was home that weekend with my girlfriend, was engaged, and I was down there at Temple. We was at the Arcadia Theater and I was taking her on that night and I was gonna go out and spend my Saturday night with my mother and dad, and go back Sunday morning. But I was taking her home that night, had my daddy's car and turned the radio on, taking her home, it was after the movie was over that night, had the radio on and here they come on there, we was attacked at Pearl Harbor. So I dropped my girlfriend off home and I went back out by my dad's house, momma's house and, and got, got on some way and got back to, got me a ride with some of the boys that was going back there and had a car and got back to, we went back to camp that night, night of Pearl, Pearl Harbor hit us. Then we knew at that time that we was gonna, was gonna be faced with some kind of war in the future. We didn't know how soon.

*Well, what were your initial thoughts when you heard that Pearl Harbor had been attacked?*

**Roy Goad:** Well, we heard that the Japanese jumped on us and, and of course we knew this, all this stuff was building up over in Europe, and uh, Hitler was doing so much, so and so and so and so and all that stuff at that time, and of course we, British had been in the war, you know, quite a bit before that, and we wasn't in the fight at all except was I think the United States was initially uh, giving some, some equipment and ships and maybe some other kind of equipment to the British or even to the Russians at that time, was shipping 'em over, and we knew that we were gonna be, be in there some time, but we didn't know when. So we, we was getting ready for it, and we especially knew about when they, they transferred us to Fort Camp Blanding, Florida, back in February of '42. We went down there for special training for, for the jungles

like, down in the swampy lands and stuff like that, in case we had to go to South Pacific or, or wherever.

*What were your personal feelings about Pearl Harbor?*

**Roy Goad:** Well, just my personal feelings was just like, just like all the Americans was at that time. We've got \_\_\_ these crazy Japs jumped on us, and, and I can't, I can't say much more about it except that that's what it was. They were enemy, and we, you know, we knew that Hitler was an enemy because he, we, I lived in a community where there was Czech and Germans community here and they were fine people here, and uh, but we didn't want, uh, we were suspicious of several of the Germans. I understand that folks around home did especially some of the Germans that, that they were still on Germany's side, but they, they proved not to be. They just, they just had Germans and nationality like I had our nationality.

*Did you know anybody at Pearl Harbor at the time?*

**Roy Goad:** No, no, I didn't know anybody out there. It was just, I think it was mostly Navy was out there at that time and maybe a few troops, but that they had, you know, stationed the regular armies had people stationed out there, and uh, and I think the Philippines, I mean, they had one of the National Guard units out there, a lot of 'em had some people in that area that was, I don't know exactly what the setup was, but they had some soldiers, too, I think, you know, helping their own homeland.

*Were you mad?*

**Roy Goad:** Well, yeah, was little to be mad at. I was, I wasn't mad. I just, I just, just uh, so awful about uh, such a thing as a war comin' on when the, when it was gonna bring, looked like it was gonna bring the whole world into a, into a world \_\_\_, and it just something that came along that uh, I guess people had to face when they even fought the Indians here when something came around, or like the fight in the Alamo and, and uh, fightin' stuff like that, be ahead of, you thought that you need to fight. Like the Bible says, man shouldn't fight each other, but you had to protect yourself.

*Did you have any personal concerns about the possibility of going into war?*

**Roy Goad:** No, because we were, we was, actually when I joined the National Guards, it was a possibility of, of being used by the Texas Army, Texas people in case of emergency, or but the national people, that was the purpose of being in the National Guard to get the training. We knew that when we, of course that and the dollar we made was what was the biggest thing.

*When and where were you when you first found out that you were really going overseas?*

**Roy Goad:** Well, it was in uh, actually it was in Florida. We was trained down there at Camp Blanding, Florida, and we got to go up to Fort Benny in Georgia to do some training up there with the, with the parachute outfit, the airborne outfit up there, the 8<sup>th</sup>, they call it the, oh what, the airborne unit was at that time. We, we left our training with them, air to ground training we called it. Uh, we were acting like an enemy and they were, we was blowing along at, east of the river there goes through Fort Benny, with out west of the river rather than moving around our vehicles, they attacked us, some certain thing, and they'd be trying to find us by airplane or, or come down and, and jump on us and try to surround us and stuff, and that was going on back and

forth. Of course, it was way out of my mind about history why it was there, but we could see 'em, brought field glasses, see 'em para-, learn how to parachute down those towers \_\_\_\_, they'd turn loose up, fall over down by parachute, and that's what we trained at the first time that we, we was getting ready to probably go to combat and they said we'd go to train in Florida first because the idea we might go to the South Pacific. Then when we got through there, they shipped us to Camp Everest Massachusetts in November of '42 to train in the winter time in case we needed to go to the, to the Europe area, either around England or Sweden or some place like it, because the fightin' in the winter time because up there it got cold as, cold as everything, everything froze over, so we was up there training in Camp Everest off out in the Cape Cod area.

*What was that training like?*

**Roy Goad:** Well that was, that was the devil because it was cold as everything. In other words, the down of snow and ice at night. You camp out at night and, and go at the rifle range and you do, do the same kind of tactics in that kind of weather that you did down in Florida when it was warm and hot.

*Did you get any extra cold weather wear?*

**Roy Goad:** Oh yeah, we got, we got underwear, long underwear, went clear on your ankles, down to your sleeve. We got that issued. Then we got an extra uh, type of a liner for a certain kind of clothes you wore. Then we got overcoats that drug, nearly drug the ground, but wipe them on and gloves and of course we dressed in the cold, but we still marched around like, and stuff like that. I tried to learn to ice skate even trying to get over the little ice bogs, but I couldn't stand on my feet.

*How was the food? What sort of food did they feed you at the time?*

**Roy Goad:** Well now, well, all the time we got plenty to eat, all you wanted to eat, even we had kitchens and, in Brownwood and, and the mess halls and everything, but when you go to the field, then we got the hot kitchen bring food to us and, and how we got started getting some kind of rations that they finally started making. I forget, we didn't get to see much of 'em, had C-Rations and K-Rations, and it was the first time they was bringin' out because they was makin' 'em and getting rid of, I guess getting to field, because we ate later on in Italy and France and Germany, and uh, well if you did, you'd get hot meals. They still had kitchens that'd bring meals to us if we was, you know, stationed near, in a static situation for a while or go back in reserve or something.

*When you went out of state with the Guard, was that the first time you'd been out of Texas?*

**Roy Goad:** Yes, uh, myself personally because I, I hadn't had a chance to get out of Texas. I didn't have no reason to. We got out, hadn't even been to, I had no reason to get out of Texas before then because I was 19 years old say when it was federalized, and so uh, first time I got was when on the Sabine River across into Louisiana, and then we fought along, uh, way north of, way north of uh, New Orleans up in there, and then we got full travel through by truck to Florida, then trained in Florida. Then we was trained in Georgia and Alabama.

*How long were you in Massachusetts?*

**Roy Goad:** Well, we got up there in November. I forget what, I got a picture of me takin' me a bath in a number 2 horse tub out in the, out in the, we called it the forest. We was in traveler tents for about two weeks before we moved into the regular barracks on, at Camp Edwards, and uh, I had got a picture here of me takin' a bath in 1942 up there, and then at home 40 years later in '82, when I had a home in Temple, I was tryin' to get in the same tub and couldn't get in it.

*What kind of tub was that?*

**Roy Goad:** Number 2 horse tub, like -

*That's not – some forest is that what you were - ?*

**Roy Goad:** No, that was in a little, kind of a, well, it wasn't a forest. It was a kind of a brushy country there in the Cape Cod. We was out there maneuverin' one time. When we first moved up there, we had to live in pup tents, I mean pyramidal tents for about three weeks before we got in, to move into the barracks there on the base.

*A tent, that's what it was. What kind of tent, again?*

**Roy Goad:** Pyramidal tents. It was about could six or eight men could stay in a tent.

*Do you know how to spell that?*

**Roy Goad:** Kind of a big old, like a pyram- a pyramid, like a pyramid is. Square-based tent that may come up to a center post in the middle. You surely have seen those kind. It had -

*It's probably like the GP mediums now.*

**Roy Goad:** Yeah, it's just like it. Of course they got, I think they got different kind of \_\_\_ hooks or something now that they in, but we have, it was kind of a square tent with a front door, they had curtains that moved up and down on the side, rolled up and down, tied 'em down and pegged 'em down in the winter time, and, and pup tent, you tied, you stretched 'em out in four corners and stretched 'em out in between and hold the tent up. They had a little top up at the top so it, it was circular there. That's why they called 'em pyramidal tents, a pyramidal type, pyramids.

*So that was about a year after Pearl Harbor. Were you anxious to get into the fight at that time?*

**Roy Goad:** Well, we wasn't anxious, but we, we was ready to do our, we were looking forward to doing what we're supposed to do, and uh, we just uh, some of the men that got transferred here to Air Corps, some transferred to other units, some of 'em transferred to units went to the West Coast at trained units that went to the South Pacific. They still stayed on the, some of 'em never did get overseas in some of the first ones that drafted you see, but when it first federalized, and we lost some people from Fort Blanding, Florida to the MPs, that never did leave the states. They stayed here and, as attached to a, a prison camp before they brought the German prisoners back and was guard duties. Some of them never left the states. But as a whole, uh, because we at that time, we got \_\_\_ to Camp Blanding, Florida, we made a table of organization a little bit different, so we got another 30 or 40 men in, and they came from nearly every state in the Union because they was drafting people in and trained 'em at base camps and we was gettin' 'em back. We was gettin' 'em down about the time they had about two weeks of training. We got 'em back

and trained 'em again. We got people from, I've got, I guess I can name 10 different states to 20 different states we got in our company.

*Had you given any thought by that time about you personally being in combat and the possibility of having to kill anyone?*

**Roy Goad:** Oh yes, we, we thought about it, we thought about it all the time.

*How did that affect you?*

**Roy Goad:** Well, uh, being a Christian, it was bad to think about trying to kill someone, but if somebody's shootin' at you, you know good and well you're gonna shoot back, and that, that-away we was doin' a duty we thought to the country. We didn't want to be on the Hitler's youth, on the Hitler's thing. We didn't want to be under the uh, Japanese rule, so we, we got, we felt, had a feeling we was gonna go to Europe instead of the South Pacific once we went to Massachusetts, and we did. We, we looked forward to it. We started studying more about the, about the war over there and whatnot, because they were still fighting in North Africa at that time with the British and what little French was, was still fighting against the Germans.

*When did you get the word that you were headed to Europe?*

**Roy Goad:** Well, some time in uh, when I was up, first got up there in, in Camp Edwards, and because we were, we were training up there and then all of a sudden we, we transferred and went down to uh, oh, we knew about it about two weeks before, we all sent the equipment down at, on by train to uh, some, I forget what dock it was there right sat in New York City, and we went down on the train as men, as personnel, and we got on board the ship about April the 1<sup>st</sup> in '43, 1<sup>st</sup> or the 2<sup>nd</sup>, and uh, we was, only thing we dreaded at that time was dreadin' to get it, in that boat and goin' out there in case the Japanese, Germ-, German submarines was gonna bomb it, torpedo us or something. We were worried about that and uh, so that was, but we knew we was gonna go. We didn't know exactly where we was goin' until we got on the boat.

*What date was that? Do you remember?*

**Roy Goad:** About the 3<sup>rd</sup> of, we got on the boat about the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> of April, my birthday April 3<sup>rd</sup>, but anyway, as being an officer, I was on a, I was on, on a, it was a troop carrier made out of an old, out there and old, made out of a ship that would, carried people to, to the islands down around the Caribbean Sea over there in the summer time, vacation thing. It was kind of a troop, they made a troop ship out of it. The enlisted personnel, most of 'em was down in the hold, down there in bunks, or hammocks like down there, some bunks, some hammocks. But the officers had, was up there in the main, main decks, main deck or two where I think six officers in my cabin, and we went to bed that night while we was in dock -

*You were an officer then -*

**Roy Goad:** I was, I was a lieutenant, made a lieutenant, and uh, and uh, in Texas, see, in 1941.

*OK.*

**Roy Goad:** But I was commissioned, I was commissioned then. Then I got a promotion to first lieutenant, and I was a first lieutenant at the time. And uh, I woke up that first morning and I

thought I was moving because I was layin' on that bunk and I stood up and yeah, it was movin' and looked out the porthole, it was a porthole about a foot round, a round porthole in the cabin, looked out through there and got up and looked, stuck my head up close to it and looked out and all you could see was ships and water, and uh, we had an old escort (???) at that time, we didn't know about it, but -

*Had you been on a ship before that time?*

**Roy Goad:** Huh-uh. I take it back, it was one time when I was a, no it wasn't. I wasn't there wasn't on a ship, I was on a little boat in a river was about all.

*What was that experience like for you?*

**Roy Goad:** Oh I tell you what, I stayed, I went back to my bunk and we was, \_\_\_ I believe it was 10 days or 10 nights and 11 days or something like that. We left there and we was on the boat, went through the Straits of Gibraltar. We landed in North Africa around, I don't know, Tunisia or some place over there, it was back where they had already been taken from, landed over there about 10, 11 days later, and I guess I got, I didn't get up, they fed meals about 10 o'clock in the morning, and ones they'd made at 5 o'clock in the evening, two meals a day, but I'd have somebody bring me a sandwich or something. I lay on my bunk and if I got up, I'd vomit, and I lay in my bunk and my, hang my dog tags up by my head on a little nail or something, and every once and a while this dog tags would swing back and forth across there when the ship was rockin' and sometimes it'd come out above my head about six inches when the nose was divin' or goin' up and down that-a-way, and that'd make me sicker that-a-way. And of course they had a fire drill every day, but I couldn't make it. I just had to, I couldn't make it. That's how I vomited all the time. It was quite, I wasn't the only one, but I just wasn't used to it. I wasn't, I just, I just couldn't stand it, wasn't used to it.

*I'll bet.*

**Roy Goad:** But anyway, I got into, got into that Tunisia, we got, we got off the ship, so we didn't see any action in North Africa. We trained and that was mountains and out in the Sahara Desert. Day time it got so hot, you couldn't, no shade out there, it was all sand and hot as everything, but night, you had to roll up in a, to all your, keep all your clothes and rolled up in a shelter havin' a, the blanket to stay warm. But we trained out there uh, off and on, about \_\_\_ from Arab camps and still be, hear 'em at night chanting and beatin' on the drums.

*What was your duty position at that point?*

**Roy Goad:** We was training in the desert. What we was doin' was trainin' up by, but Eunice we was trainin' uh, was trainin', that was about climb, climb \_\_\_ climb the edges of, you know, cliffs and stuff like that, or had a man, hand hold rope, a rope or something and we'd train and crawl across and cross the desert and how to, how to move around in the desert and stuff like that.

*Did your training in Florida help you out?*

**Roy Goad:** Somewhat. Any place you trained, it helped, but it was, it was different. Terrain made a difference, too, see. In other words, you didn't find it, you had a lot of sand but it wasn't anything like the desert. But we, we didn't see any action up there, but Patton, George Patton

was a, was when the war was over over there and they drove all the Germans out of there, they reorganized and started getting ready to go into, into Sicily, uh, so George Patton was picked to lead the American troops in there. I think the British, too. And he came down to examine us one day, the 36<sup>th</sup> Division, because uh, we were, we hadn't been in combat, and all we did, we had, now, some of the engineer, some of the, the quartermaster of vehicles, some of them drove the 2-1/2 ton trucks people from the 36<sup>th</sup> Division quartermaster did haul supplies from this, from the coast, from the docks to the front lines while they still were doin' some fightin'. Not to, to the front lines, but up to the units that was in the front lines.

*What was, you were a platoon leader at that time?*

**Roy Goad:** Yes, I was, I was actually a second commander of Company D at that time, as a first lieutenant.

*How many men were in your platoon?*

**Roy Goad:** Well, there was, this, I was in company, in company headquarters is when it first moved over there, but right after, about a week, we did training and the, and the, in some of the brushy country and a bunch of palm trees and it wasn't forest like, but around the edges of the mountains and stuff, they had a lot of, you know, oasis and stuff like that, we trained out through some, some forest land, of course, and then, uh, we had a Lieutenant Griffin from east Texas was in our outfit, and so my company commander put me, let me went out and trained with one of those platoons. They let Lieutenant Griffin come in and act in his place, even though I was still second in command of the company, and that's the way we landed in Italy, when we landed in Italy.

*What sort of things were you telling your men at that point, how to prepare themselves for the possibility of combat?*

**Roy Goad:** \_\_\_ all commands is when, when you was ordered to do certain things, don't let somebody down because you're letting the whole, your whole den down and you're a part of the team, and, and we had to say, like a machine gun platoon, we would change, we had to change them. We had mortars and machine guns. You had a, in a squad you had a machine gun, had a corporal, you had a sergeant in the platoon and you had a lieutenant over the platoon.

*What did you personally carry?*

**Roy Goad:** I carried a .45, almost all the officers and down in the regiment, down in the, in the uh, \_\_\_ our companies carried .45 caliber pistols on our shoulder, on our hips, but I picked, I picked up a carbine, a .30 caliber carbine. It wasn't oh, .30 caliber M1 or anything like that, it was just an old carbine rifle, to carry extra because it, the .45 didn't carry as, didn't shoot as far, so I finally picked, when I got in combat, I got later on I got a hold of a carbine.

*What was the hardest thing for you in Africa?*

**Roy Goad:** The heat, heat, mostly the heat, because we faced no, we faced no enemy there. We were back in training all the time. All we did was fightin', was fightin' the, the bugs and the, and the sand and the heat. Oh, it would get hot in the day time and cold at night.

*Did you get sick at all in Africa?*

**Roy Goad:** No, not a bit.

*When did you get word that you were going to be leaving Africa and going somewhere else?*

**Roy Goad:** Well, we figured we was going to pretty soon because uh, we heard that they was going to have some landings on, and combat over in Europe, but they was discussing the time where to land, and they figure about Normandy, but they figured it was too soon, so they said they're gonna have to do it somewhere, so they decided to do it in the southern part, and uh, Sicily was it. But Sicily wasn't the mainland. It was just an island. So then we knew, we were later on and, and through, \_\_\_\_ line down the line that we, it was gonna be in, in Italy, and it was gonna be from, we didn't know exactly where it was gonna be until we were told about two weeks, maybe three weeks before we did go, that uh, British were gonna leave Sicily and go into the boot area, and fight up the boot from the toe and go up the east coast of Italy, and we were going in with a couple of, with an airborne outfit and another company – it might've been the 45<sup>th</sup>, I forget what division, the other division – landed in Salerno, and uh, we was gonna leave and land on the, I believe it was the 9<sup>th</sup> of September.

*Did you get a chance to contact your parents at all during this time or your girlfriend?*

**Roy Goad:** We all, we could all write stories home. We always wrote a letter home, often as you wanted to. Email that you had, wasn't email, they have kind of, it was one of them, just a piece of paper that they \_\_\_\_, I mean to fold and send it home, or but a letter, so we, everybody wrote home quite often.

*Did you have the same girlfriend?*

**Roy Goad:** Yes, at that time, I had the same girlfriend. She wanted to get married before I left Florida, but I wouldn't do it. I said look, Louise, I said if you want to get married, I know we're gonna go in war some of these days. Said well let's get married before. And I said well, I don't want to leave you here with pregnant, or with a kid or whatnot and you, or me, or any time soon we don't have anything, you might want to run around and do your own thing. I said let's wait until we get, if you still want to get married, let's wait 'til I get home. So we did, but she broke up before I left Massachusetts.

*Oh, OK. What did your parents think about you being sent overseas?*

**Roy Goad:** Well, they hated it like everything because there was three in my family, my twin brother and I and my older brother Jim, there were all three of the boys, only boys they had that went to war. And of course they, they hated it worse than anybody. We found out after the war that one or two of us could've stayed and never got, got to go. Of course at that time my dad worked a lots of farm land and he had a cotton gin and he could've kept one or two of us out because at that time, they was demandin' food and demandin' stuff like that for the home folks. But we, who, which one would of us wanted to get out? We just always never, never gave it the thought, see, even though families, you know, at that, further on down the line, if you had four or five like they'd, \_\_\_\_ on that ship got killed out of the same family. In other words, at that time they had a thing that you could uh, get somebody out if they're, if you, you know, if you needed it at home.

*How long did it take you to get from Africa over to Sicily?*

**Roy Goad:** Well, we did go to Sicily, we trained in Africa and then landed in Sicily, and Patton didn't want us because he came down and checked us out and he said he didn't want those farm hands, farm boys from Texas fightin' for him, so, but uh, I think the biggest reason was we had a, see, a lot of the union's was from south Texas and southwest Texas, and I imagine just like the San Antonio area, they had uh, half of 'em Spanish American, see, Spanish, they were Spanish people, and he thought they were, wasn't very good soldiers, but they made some of the finest soldiers we had. They were all boys that came in from, their mothers and dad came in as wetbacks we called 'em, and they came in, we had one of the finest men in our battalion finally made lieutenant colonel. He stayed in the service and went to Japan right after the war and stayed over there for quite a while. And I think he fought in Asia in Vietnam, not Vietnam, but the Rim. But he died about 20 years ago.

*What did your unit or the company think of General Patton as a result of that?*

**Roy Goad:** Well, we didn't like him so much when he slapped that old boy when he was over there, too, you might've read that story.

*I did.*

**Roy Goad:** Yeah, and, and so he's, of course we tell the story that he didn't want us because we was a bunch of farm hands. That's what, he didn't say it in those words, but he just didn't want to have that bunch of, that green hand he so called everybody, no combat history to 'em, see, because we hadn't been in any combat at all, not our division, see.

*Was there any attempt to keep any of you, you or your brothers out of combat because you were brothers?*

**Roy Goad:** No.

*None?*

**Roy Goad:** No, we didn't even try to get out though we could've asked probably. We found out later on we could've asked about it. It might've been possibly thought about, but we, we didn't even think about it at the time. We wanted to do, each do our own duty, and hope we'd all get back.

*What happened after General Patton left?*

**Roy Goad:** Well, he, he left after they took Sicily. He left and went back to England, and uh, started fightin', he started claiming that ghost army they called it, you might've heard about that.

*I did, yes sir.*

**Roy Goad:** All right, he claimed, he did that up there, but now, we got picked, a fella named General Clark, I forget his first name -

*Was it Mark Clark?*

**Roy Goad:** Mark Clark, Mark Clark was our, was our division, was our uh, corps commander. Of course, General Walker was our general, the officer here, and General Walker had two, two brothers in there, and one of 'em was our battalion commander. Fred L. Walker was his younger brother and was our lieutenant, he was a colonel, lieutenant colonel commanded our first battalion, and when we landed in Sic-, in Italy, we landed on, got in boats and our battalion was led, with H plus about six hours, I think H hour was about, H hour was about 4:00 in the morning.

*Where was the landing at?*

**Roy Goad:** At, around Salerno, right of Salerno, a place, some beachhead along there, south, way south of Naples, at around Paestum, and where Pompeii was. Anyway we were in, in a regimental reserve because we, when we landed, we was supposed to go inland where the headquarters of, regimental headquarters was to be put and, and see they was supposed to be ahead of us and protect it. So we, when we landed we was about four hours behind the regular landing, and we saw some fighting on the coast, on the coast, but mostly about plane over artillery fire from the mountains. Well, we got in and, and the reserve moved up around a tobacco factory we called it, where the headquarters had set up about 10 miles off the beach, and we protected it from the 9<sup>th</sup> of Sep-, well, we got up there about the 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup>, and we got, protected it then, and about the 12<sup>th</sup> we pulled out, and the battalion went up the coast to Angio to help the British and the Rangers up there. They got about to get ready to be knocked off, off the thing and that was in, about uh, September, see, Oct-, about the middle of October, and so we got pulled out of it and went back up the coast about 50 miles to Angio and, and with them, and we fought on in with them and then we got into Rome. Then at that time, we uh -

*What were you thinking when you got off the boat in Salerno?*

**Roy Goad:** Well, we ran like heck. Then old Jimmy Brown from down here as our company, uh, we were, I was in battalion head, I mean company headquarters, and he, he and Captain Geezman (sp. ???), our company commander, said all right now, go with Jim Brown and take this Bangalore torpedo, uh, if you know what that is -

*Yes sir.*

**Roy Goad:** And said you all carry this on the beach with you because you might need it. Where we landed, the beach a little bit off of where the others were, if you had barbed wire, they wanted to use it to blow it up, but if not, bring it in off the beach as far as you can and drop it and get cover. So the time going over there, we'd, a German plane came flying over, I guess they were shootin' at the boats comin' in, they, with the troops in it and supplies and stuff, but they would shoot, they'd shoot at us, too, but we dropped the Bangalore and I dived over, dived over the sand and couldn't get my speed out with my pack, so I, I used my helmet trying to dig a trench in. But they disappeared then we, we went on in from the beach to get in, went on in, and got in the line, the whole company did, then moved on in with the rest of the battalion that moved in as a, as a first tangle with the Guard on, on the regimental headquarters.

*So that was the first time you had the enemy shooting at you.*

**Roy Goad:** That's right. We didn't, we didn't see any of 'em. Now we saw some a little bit later on. My twin brother, see he was, when he made commission he went to L Company, and machine gun platoon, 3<sup>rd</sup> battalion, and he got captured up there at Alta Villa, I believe was on

the 12<sup>th</sup> of September, about four days or five days after he landed he got captured, a bunch of others up there that British supposed to had a, had people in, but and they didn't, but they, when they went up to Alta Villa, they were surrounded by the Germans, got captured up there. He wasn't the only one.

*Which brother was that?*

**Roy Goad:** My twin brother, Ray. Ray L. and I was Roy D. But he got captured up there, the M Company, but he had, he was in \_\_\_ company, too.

*Was he then kept prisoner by the Germans?*

**Roy Goad:** Yeah, he went up, northern part of Italy. Then they caught a train. But he wasn't the only one. They captured a bunch of 'em in our, in that movement up there around Alta Villa because the British had pulled out and they wasn't supposed to, but anyway they moved over somewhere and, so we got, they got surrounded up there. We was at the beach at this Angio part, away from 'em, see. Anyway -

*When did you get word that your brother had been taken prisoner?*

**Roy Goad:** Up there when we was up, we moved on in to the edge of Naples fightin' with the British up there at the edge of Naples, in a, in a pass, in a reverend, what do you, what you call 'em -

*Chaplain?*

**Roy Goad:** Yeah, a chaplain came about visitin' our battalion up there, a company up there, and said Roy, said we think your twin brother was captured.

*I said why.*

**Roy Goad:** They said well, we found uh, his pack and his gun belt, we have a belt with his initials \_\_\_ and serial number inside it layin' there at the edge of Alta Villa where other people had left stuff, and they said we think he's captured, but we didn't find any blood or anything on anything. And anyway -

*What did that make you feel like?*

**Roy Goad:** Well, I was hopin' he was right, that anything hadn't, had him cap-, be captured anyway but about two months later, I wrote home and, and uh, told my mother that Ray was captured, didn't tell 'em where, I said he was captured uh, and uh, we think he's, we think he's captured but he's missing, and I'm fine and everything like that. But anyway about a month later, I got word back to my mother that Ray had written from prison camp that he was a prisoner of war and also Uncle Sam came by to, out by the house and, and notified my mother and dad that he was taken prisoner. They had before then, too. Anyway so mama heard from him several times by, I never did, could write him, see, I couldn't because we, we were censoring all mail that was going out. When they got into combat, we were, even North Africa we censored mail going out to the families and stuff. I was, each officer censored their own platoon or I'd get censor the company's mail, and talkin' about that, one of the, one of the men in the company wrote home and said, talkin' to his wife, said honey, said you know, we were goin', that kitchen

we need painting, said I want you to paint it a good color and be sure it's a good color on the ceilin' because you gonna spend lots of time when I get home lookin' at that ceilin', and I had to censor that. Of course there'd be lots of stuff that uh, they couldn't mention any town or any house, what they, exactly what we were doin' or why, and all stuff like that. Only how they was getting along and stuff like that.

*Was Ray a prisoner for the duration?*

**Roy Goad:** Yes, he was, no, not quite, he got, when the Russians, he, he ended up in some stalag, offlag, they called 'em stalag was for soldiers, offlag was for officers, and then you had a flag, prison camps for airborne people, too. They were called different. He was in offlag something, I forget the number of it now, over there in Poland, pretty close to the Russian line. They nobody went back in that \_\_\_\_, but sometime early '45, or might, sometime before the war was over, the Germans, the Russians come pushin' in there and so the Germans started retreatin' back to the west, German soldiers did and leavin' the prisoners where they were, and they said now do what you want to. So Ray said some of the men in that prison camp, most all of 'em was officers there, offlag, said some of 'em stayed waitin' on the Russians. But he said he and some others, they started marchin' back behind the Germans and they moved to the west. They moved along with 'em until they ran into uh, anyway they got \_\_\_\_ somewhere and they got made \_\_\_\_ with the Russian fighters up there then, but they found a way back into, in the American troops in there about the time the war was over, and Ray knew that Jim was in the airborne because he knew that before we went overseas, so Ray found out that my brother Jim had been in, up there in that part of the country, so they got in contact before Ray got back to American line good, and Ray, my brother Jim got him fixed up. He had lost a lot of weight and stuff like that and nothin' but different clothes. Anyway they got, then they got sent home. But he got home that-a-way, but he died in '59 before he was 38 years old.

*Did you ever talk with him about his experiences in the prisoner of war camp?*

**Roy Goad:** Oh yeah, and I said Ray, you know, I said, he thought everybody felt bad about him, you know, surrendering, and I said Ray, what happened? I didn't do much. I said what happened? He said well, this boy and I, he hadn't, he was in the mortar platoon, and he said I was, this runner of mine and myself, we were walkin' up this draw there at Alta Villa lookin' for a place to put some gun, puttin' some mortar in to fire onto our targets, and we walk around this little corner in this draw, and he had a, said he had a pistol, he didn't have it in his hand, he had a, this boy had a rifle on him but he didn't have it aimin' right near or anything, he said they walked around this corner there, there stood that German soldier, looked like a young, pretty young fella, had a submachine gun pointed right at 'em, wavin' em to give up. He said they looked at each other, this runner of his, they looked at each other and they, they, I guess they thought, which is true, they said if we try to get our gun, he'll just wipe us, just blow us down. So what did they do? They dropped their gun belts and stood and gave up. That's why they found their packs and everything right there, see. And he said that's, he felt bad about it, and I said, I said I tell you what, that's the best thing to do. No use getting killed just because you was standin' there. So he took chance that they, but they treated 'em pretty, they treated 'em pretty badly at the time in the prison camp he said, but otherwise they got enough to eat, but the best eatin' they got was from the Red Cross packages comin' in while he was in prison camp. There's a book on it that you might've read about Mr. Ferguson, Colonel, Major Ferguson, he was our company, he was captured down there about when Ray was captured, and he was in the same prison camp. It says Prisoners of War. I said, and that's the name of the book. It's down in our museum in Austin. Clarence Ferguson's book.

*You were uh, before we got off on that, you were getting close to Rome.*

**Roy Goad:** Yes we got, we got through Rome and we, we wasn't the first American troops. There was a unit up kind of northeast of us there, they got into the north edge of it before we did. But we marched through Rome. Of course the Romans were all hollerin' and shoutin' for us, and Germans runnin' like everything, getting out of there anyway. Of course it was kind of a free town. They didn't want to, they didn't but shoot it up, we didn't do, very little damage if any in Rome itself. We went by the, up through the Romain streets and on out through Rome.

*Did you have any contact with the Germans along the way?*

**Roy Goad:** All the way, we was runnin' ahead of us. We had units out ahead, ahead of us, and they were runnin' road blocks and we got to stop maybe for an hour or two and then have, drive them out, and they kept them goin'. We went on out, on up to the lake, I forget Lake Chatamhooch (sp. ???) or something like that, that's probably where, where Mussolini used to go to summer camp like George Bush goes down here to Crawford, that place by the city of Cevucci (sp. ???) up there somewheres northwest of Rome. We went up highway, our unit went up Highway 6, around Highway 6 there and went up towards Pisa, and we drove on up there and, and uh, on that route we, about the only time we'd run into any Germans would be road blocks they was tryin' to, you know, hold us back. Well, they got goin' to the north as fast as they could, and the British were doing the same thing on the east side, and we had the whole, we were kind of goin' up as a, as a group, that whole, across the whole boot there.

*By that point had you observed any American soldiers being killed or wounded?*

**Roy Goad:** Oh yes, we had seen them, up there, probably about, I'd gotten wounded before we got back to uh, well I, when I fought through uh, Naples there with this British up there, I pulled back to the company, I was switched over to Company C for a while, and I was executive officer of Company C, when we fought on up going a little past on, on out through that-a-way, and uh, when I got up uh, anyway, I was wounded on 1205 in Italy. I was in C Company. I was when Was-, that's where Waskow was killed, that was on December the 9<sup>th</sup>. I got wounded on December the 9<sup>th</sup>, and he was killed about on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

*Where were you wounded at?*

**Roy Goad:** It was up there on Mt., on Mt. Summurco where Waskow was killed. I was wounded up on the, I was up there in C Company as the executive officer and I was up, up there and I was, uh, bein' in the mortar platoon, I had contact with the mortars and so I was lookin' behind an old rock crag on the that mountain top over there, and Germans on another ridge about 400 yards from my right, tryin' to find some targets for, I could tell my mortars in the mortar platoon to fire on, and while, I did, was a little, a German mortar shell hit right above my head about 10 feet and blew dust and a little rock down in my face, and the dust more than anything, so I was leanin' down to lay, I had my field glasses, I hung them down around my neck and I was leanin' down with my helmet bent over a little bit, wiped my eyes out with a handkerchief, when another shell, it must've been small grenades or rockets or something or what they were shootin', mortars, because another one hit right above my head about 2 feet, and what it did, it flattened my helmet out in the back of my helmet, right that rim back out there, and went, and a piece of shrapnel went down my back right above my spine about 6 inches, made a gouge through my uh, spine back there, right above my spine rather, and some shrapnel went into my

left shoulder, and rock pieces went in my left shoulder. I thought a train had run through me, and I was bleedin' like everything, and if I hadn't had my head down to wipe my eyes \_\_\_\_, I'd, that blast would have hit me right smack in the face and probably killed me, and uh, that's where I got wounded December the 9<sup>th</sup>. I went back to the hospital. They got me down through the field like the dead, the dead you'd read about, except I got down by goin' with 'em. I could still walk.

*That was 1943?*

**Roy Goad:** '43, that was in '43, yeah, and uh, December, and uh, I got back down to, to field hospital, field hospital and they operated on me, and while I was in there they brought a German prisoner in and he was cryin' because he was, thought he might be killed, anyway, he uh, they operated on him or did what they needed to do with him, and he was so happy, he was, he was shoutin' and singin' songs they said. He was next tent to me. It was in a tent, tent hospital up there. Then they finally shipped me out to the main hospital, close, in the edge of Naples, and that's where I recovered at New Years' Eve. I was there Christmas of '43, and New Years' Eve, uh, the nurse had brought all the wounded in there. It was to recuperate and everything, and not, not bad enough to ship home or further back, and brought us all a drink of alcohol and some CocaCola or something, or orange juice what it was, for New Years' Eve. Had a drink there, and then after, about the, I believe it was uh, sometime about uh, middle of February, but it was somewhere along in there before they bombed them Abbey Casino, I was shipped back to the company and uh, I was still a first lieutenant and I shipped, went back to the battalion, and I was still, still uh, but I still wouldn't kill good, but anyway Colonel Frasier, our battalion commander said go, just stay back here. We're getting ready to pull out in a rest area for about, in about two days. Said just stay up here and start, keep feedin' these mules that was, we put stuff on mules to carry our ammunition and food up to the front and said you stay back here and help back here because they're gonna be pulled back. Sure enough, a few days, the whole thing was pulled back before they bombed the casino, and uh, we pulled, pulled our outfit back and he sent me back to my Company D and made me a company commander and promoted me to captain.

*Did you see that bombing?*

**Roy Goad:** Oh yes, I set there way back there and using my field glasses I could all the bombers coming over and, and bombing, I could see the whole thing from real clear. I was about 10 miles back, but you could see the whole mountain and where the Abbey was up there on top, but you couldn't see any you know, details very well.

*That was a pretty famous battle.*

**Roy Goad:** Oh yes, and of course, I went through there after the war in 1980 when I went back over there, we went up through there and we, they had it rebuilt of course and we went through where, where they bombed it.

*You mentioned Captain Waskow a little while ago, that's Captain Henry?*

**Roy Goad:** Henry T., Henry T. Waskow.

*W-A-S-K-O-W?*

**Roy Goad:** W-A-S-K-O-W.

*Can you tell me a little bit about him?*

**Roy Goad:** All right, he, he was in, I had a company from Belton, he had two brothers in there. One was a first sergeant in the old National Guard, and Henry was going to, he was about two years older than me, he was going to, to a college at, I forget the name of the college, I believe he was going to Dallas somewhere, it was somewhere up there at North Texas State or something, I forget where it was, but he'd been going to National, he was going to college up there and he was in his senior year or next to senior year when, when his \_\_\_\_, he'd hitchhike back every drill night during the day he'd hitchhike and drill with I Company Belton, it was a rifle company, and then during the summer of course he went to summer encampments. I didn't know him personally then. We didn't have, have a chance to meet like we used to after the war. But anyway when we got, were getting ready to get federalized, he just dropped out of school and come back and federalize with I Company and then got out to Brownwood. He got, he got uh, promoted to a lieutenant, I believe it was February, about a month ahead of me because he was going to that college and he had all that history behind him and beside his two brothers was in there, but they got transferred out of, because they was of age or something. Anyway so he was in I Company when he was federalized, but when he got out to Brownwood, he was sent to B Company, Baker Company, and that's where he was. He stayed with B Company then and \_\_ all the training through the states and through North Africa and there we were, and then when he went up there, our battalion attacked that Mt. Summurco in December, we went up on that Rufus Claygorn, one of the men that made us a survey for even Waco Company, he made a, checked it out, a route to go up it, so we went up there nearly single file up that mountain, if you seen the mountain, and uh, Waskow was one of the leaders and his company was about one of the leading men up there, and uh, men leading the whole battalion up there, and so we got up there on the mountain and he was, we went up on the 9<sup>th</sup>, on the 8<sup>th</sup>, no it was on the 7<sup>th</sup> I believe it was of December, and got to the top and that's when I got wounded the next couple of days and then he got killed in the next few days after that.

*Do you know that you said it was Circo?*

**Roy Goad:** Summurco, S-U-M-M-U-R-C-O or something like that. We called it hill 1205. I'm settin' here lookin' at the wall in here now, and Mt. Summurco, and it was hill 1205 we called it because it's 1205 meters high above sea level, which is about nearly 4,000 feet.

*What were some of the German weapons used against you?*

**Roy Goad:** Well, you had the, you had their rifles and you had their machine gun, you had their, your uh, your machine gun which was fired more faster than ours did, and so did the machine guns, and uh, they had rockets and they had mortars just like we had, their kind of, same kind of weapons.

*Which one did you fear the most?*

**Roy Goad:** Well, we just didn't like any of 'em because if you was, if you was seen, they gonna throw some, some kind of shells at you. Of course we were probably armed with more ammunition than they had because it was hard for them to get stuff made at that time. They had to preserve a lot of their stuff. Of course we got up there at Angio, they called it Angio Annie, they had a railroad gun they pulled out of a cave and fired shells as big as our bodies through that son of a gun at us a month there, Germans did.

*What was it like fighting in the mountains coming from flatlands of central Texas?*

**Roy Goad:** We didn't like it a bit. We didn't like it a bit because, of course it was giving us more protection in a way, but it sure was hell to, to crawl up and down those rocks and go around those places they can climb up by hand and sometimes you, you had to go around the side and edge yourself up anywhere, even uh, and of course in France we didn't, we didn't get into the high mountains like, we didn't get close to the, uh, the mountains up there. They had some mountains, but not like they was in Italy. But they were, they were real rough to get over.

*What were some of the bravest acts that you observed while you were over there?*

**Roy Goad:** Well, there was many of them, many a brave act. Uh, I, I don't know if I, I got to have some time that I did some things I, but uh, I, I'm not proud of, but I do, I regret doing some of 'em, but I was lucky I guess the good Lord was with, for me. I was up there one time and it was in France, and of course that's about, I'd like to got killed that time I tell you in 1205, but anyway there was about four or five other times that I missed the good Lord and luck I guess you can call it was with me, was uh, one time I was tryin' to, in France I was tryin' to locate a, a round up to move, move my, my machine guns and stuff up to where, around a rifle company, and I ran into some soldiers there and one of the companies said be careful up around that corner. Don't go around out there too far, the Germans will see you. And I walked around there, big old pine trees in there about the size of your body, some of 'em bigger, maybe four, five foot around. Some of 'em was just slim things, but anyway I got a little further up there and sure enough, there was a little road down below me and it looked like a few houses across the road, a village or something. And I sat, I sat in there lookin' around and uh, saw some Germans walkin', run right, runnin' back and forth across those, behind those houses over there, but about 100 yards away, or maybe 200 yards, and uh, in winter time. It was in, in uh, .44, November I believe it was, something like that, October, November. And I sat in there lookin' at 'em, I said I'm gonna see if I don't do, I want to see if I can shoot 'em. So I got my carbine out and propped up against that pine tree and I aimed right in the center of those buildings about 10 foot apart, and maybe, yeah about 10 foot apart, so I aimed right in the middle of the thing about waist high, my carbine, and when I, when I saw a German run from one side to the other side, I pulled the trigger and uh, anyway, about 30, then I looked over to the left there and there was a German jumpin' a fence, it was an old wire fence behind the house and he jumped, they had a lot of 'em, that's a \_\_\_ jump in there, and there was a little road built, sunken road down below there and he, he'd jump and he'd go down, sink down in that road behind it out of sight. So I, I aimed at the top of that fence one time and a little later on, and, and uh, maybe 30, 40 minutes later, and anyway, when he, when another one would come up across there and jump that thing, well right at the height of the jump, I pulled the trigger and, and of course he fell down behind the fence just like they all had. But anyway, about an hour later, we all moved, we all moved into the area, and I moved with the units, and with 'em and walked in there, and there was six men piled up in between, six German soldiers piled up on each other behind one of those houses they had, you know, after I had hit 'em, they'd run, they kept over each other, just piled up there, and I walked over where that fence was and there was an old dead German laying down at the bottom of that hill. I don't know whether I killed him or not, but if I did, I killed somebody, some folk's boy, and I've always dreaded to have to do it, but I said, I got to thinkin', I said well, they'd have done it to me. So things like that it uh, it makes you want to, why do we have to fight a war even, see? Anybody? I don't care if you're, you're even like now-a-days, why do we have to fight these people? Why do they have to fight us? But it's there. So -

*How would you compare the American soldier to the German soldier?*

**Roy Goad:** Well, I tell you what, I believe the German soldier was, was more basically ripped into Mein Hitler, that was the like the Hitler Youth and everything. If the Hitler Youth, if you was in the Hitler Youth, if you even said anything bad about Hitler, your folks probably would get killed, stuff like that. But here you ever say anything about somebody, and somebody might get a slappin' or somebody would get shut out or something, but nothing like that, so uh, they made, they made uh, I guess good soldiers for them, but in the hold, we got a lot of Hessian Germans in, in my outfit, and they were good soldiers, too, but they were raised with different kind of raisin'. Just like the Japanese, I hate to break into all that, but to me, people better say what Japanese they was talkin' about because we had some Japanese we fought with with this 100<sup>th</sup> battalion, 442<sup>nd</sup>, that fought in France up there with us, and came in there. They were Japanese soldiers from Hawaii and, and the west coast. They were those children's, their, their folks were put in these prison camps, but the children volunteered for this, this Japanese outfit, 100<sup>th</sup> battalion or 100, 442<sup>nd</sup>, to me they were some of the best soldiers I've ever seen. They came in there and did things that saved the – we had a company, our third battalion was surrounded up there in the 141<sup>st</sup>, and we couldn't get to 'em. It was snow, ice on the ground and stuff like that. We couldn't get, didn't have enough men to get around to 'em, so this, they called this 100<sup>th</sup> battalion in and they marched up there and I thought they was kids. I saw 'em coming up the road, just overcoats draggin' the ground. I thought they was kids. I got a little closer and there was the Japanese. Well we had heard about 'em, and to me, they fought a battle that we couldn't have fought. They went up there and, and saved that, saved that 141<sup>st</sup>, what was left of it.

*How did the men in your platoon uh, act during all this time?*

**Roy Goad:** Well, just like any of us. We, some of the best men I had in my company was some of 'em blown all to bits and some was like screwdriver Arnold out there in Killeen. He's dead now, but he was our, he was in our company, Killeen. He was in fox hole there in France and we dug fox holes up there and we was kind of a static situation where we was dug in the forest up there in the winter time, and he, he was a platoon sergeant, and he had dug in with a medic, it was pastor of his platoon, and a slick trench, double slick trench, and they dug in about, just about two foot deep where they'd sleep at night. Anyway, we had an artillery barrage one time, so he and this, this boy jumped in the slick trench and a shell hit right on top of the slick trench above his body, just about a foot away from the edge of it and blew up, and shrapnel went over and killed his medico, and old screwdrivers kind of bounced up and down. He got up runnin' scared to death, and uh, anyway, he was one of the best leaders I had, but he died about 10 years ago here at Killeen. They got \_\_\_ named after him.

*When was your last combat experience?*

**Roy Goad:** Well, I was in uh, I left the unit on February the 25<sup>th</sup>, 1944, uh, on the outs, on the Moselle River where it runs into the Rhine River above, above uh, Strassburg, because we had, we had Christmas dinner in '44 in Strassburg, which was out close to, along the Rhine River there on the banks of the river right north of town, and we, we wasn't attacking across the river then. That was before, uh, that was right during the time of the, about the time of the uh, that uh, big to do up, up in, up above us. Anyway, uh, we was guard, we had machine guns and mortars up there and I was, had worked them out. I was company commander then and I was checkin' on them every day and I was, we had a little place, headquarters there in town of Strassburg, anyway, we got pulled back, after Christmas Day we pulled back in rest area about 50 miles getting ready to go further north. So after the first of the year, we went back into action. We

drove all night and one day and one day and one night in jeeps and everything, and icy roads, blackout and everything up to this front line up close to Haginaw (sp. ???), which is right uh, before you get into Germany, and uh, on February the 24<sup>th</sup>, uh, I got word back, I was in the company down there and we had an outpost on the river on our side of the river, getting ready, we were gonna do some adventure going across it in the next few days and we was diggin' in and everything, do our guarding, and I was called back, when I was called to go up to battalion headquarters and take over our battalion headquarters company uh, command because he had to be called back to \_\_\_ for some reason, so I was up there that night with my sleeping bag, and anyway about night, about midnight, tapped me on the shoulder and said, Captain, said you're picked to go home. And that was when on that rotation thing on the 45-day leave appoints, and they had been doing that for about six, about six months before, people going home and stayin' for six months, or stayin' 45 days and then comin' back to the unit.