

Angelo Barone Interview

Company L, 317th Inf Reg

(Aug 2001, interviewed by COL(ret) Grant Porter)

(MS Word Audio Transcript [NOT edited, just transcribed])

00:00:18 Speaker 1

My name is Angelo J Barone. I was a member of the company L 317th Infantry.

00:00:24 Speaker 1

I was a machine gun.

00:00:26 Speaker 1

I'd like to tell you about some of my prisoner award.

00:00:30 Speaker 1

On September 4th, we went through Panama Mousa and we chased the Germans off.

00:00:36 Speaker 1

And crossed the river.

00:00:38 Speaker 1

We come back the they counterattacked, and then the 5th we took the pond moose on and they blew the bridge. And that night we had to go back.

00:00:47 Speaker 1

And carry boats.

00:00:49 Speaker 1

About 3 miles away, up to the river across the river and we were being shelled all night and only it was a machine gun like I said, and only had one belt left with 250 rounds of machine gun.

00:01:03 Speaker 1

And we fired them and they dismantled the machine gun, threw it.

00:01:09 Speaker 1

In the.

00:01:09 Speaker 1

River because we.

00:01:10 Speaker 1

Knew we were going to get captured.

00:01:13 Speaker 1

About 9:00 that night I got hit and before.

00:01:20 Speaker 1

That I get.

00:01:21 Speaker 1

A little ahead of my story here. I always told the guys I was going overseas and get my *** shot on. Well, I got hit and I hollered. I got hit.

00:01:32 Speaker 1

And I started to laugh.

00:01:35 Speaker 1

Everybody tried to get me to stop laughing and I couldn't for a while. Then finally some guy said Ohh the poor you know, got his head, got hit in the head.

00:01:46 Speaker 1

That made me stop laughing and I told the guys where I was hit.

00:01:50 Speaker 1

And they all started to.

00:01:52 Speaker 1

Laugh.

00:01:53 Speaker 1

And.

00:01:55 Speaker 1

We've lost a lot of men there that night. A lot more got wounded and the next morning the Germans came up and captured us.

00:02:03 Speaker 1

They put us in a barn.

00:02:05 Speaker 1

And we had a Lieutenant Ferguson captured with us and him and his German s s trooper were taught. And then the German troop S man said that the starting to say that we were going to have it easy from then on and all this stuff and all of once one of our our tourist shells when over the.

00:02:24

Learn.

00:02:26 Speaker 1

And Lieutenant Ferguson says to him, get us out of this barn or till he's going to.

00:02:30 Speaker 1

Hit it.

00:02:31 Speaker 1

And this s s trooper didn't believe him. And then Lieutenant Ferguson said to him, the next one's going to hit in.

00:02:37 Speaker 1

Front of the.

00:02:38 Speaker 1

Bar sure enough, the next one hit in front.

00:02:41 Speaker 1

Of the bone.

00:02:42 Speaker 1

Then he says, get us out of here. The one the next shell is going to hit the barn.

00:02:48 Speaker 1

And he didn't do it. And pretty soon we heard the whistle of the shell coming, and it hit the bar before it hit.

00:02:54 Speaker 1

The barn.

00:02:55 Speaker 1

Lieutenant Ferguson said what a hell of a way to die.

00:03:05 Speaker 1

And the German officer.

00:03:11 Speaker 1

We'll pause.

00:03:15 Speaker 1

Lieutenant Ferguson and the German officer were both killed, plus a bunch of other guys, and they took us from the barn. They took us up to a rural houses hot halfway up of Molson Hill.

00:03:29 Speaker 1

And our artillery were shelling us.

00:03:31 Speaker 1

All the way up that hill.

00:03:33 Speaker 1

The guys that were awarded bad, including myself, were dropped off in these houses halfway up the hill and the rest of the guys went up and over the hill and their artillery chased them down.

00:03:44 Speaker 1

The hill.

00:03:46 Speaker 1

That night they put us in horse wagons and we.

00:03:49 Speaker 1

Drove to Mets from Panama, Mousa.

00:03:53 Speaker 1

And we stayed there overnight and the next day they moved us out on train and we wound up in Frankfurt, Germany, and there was 13 of us that were operated on by German doctors. 2 fellas had their arms cut off. One guy had his leg.

00:04:12 Speaker 1

But I was operated on my right buttock. 1 poor fella, piece of shrapnel went up under his chin and came out his mouth.

00:04:25 Speaker 1

Wasn't too good from there they took us.

00:04:27 Speaker 1

To.

00:04:28 Speaker 1

Limburg, which was a separation center and we were put in the hospital there. I'm sorry, I got a little head there first. We stayed in in Frankfurt, we were in Frankfurt for about four weeks and then they took us to Limburg.

00:04:44 Speaker 1

And from Lindbergh, the hospital, they transferred us to Moosburg. We were in a hospital.

00:04:49 Speaker 1

There.

00:04:51 Speaker 1

And after we were well enough to leave the hospital, they took about for 3-4 days. We were taken in the Moose into Munich and back on work detail.

00:05:04 Speaker 1

Then.

00:05:05 Speaker 1

They took fifty of us and they put us.

00:05:07 Speaker 1

With a in a with.

00:05:09 Speaker 1

4 guards in a house.

00:05:12 Speaker 1

Little town outside of Munich.

00:05:16 Speaker 1

And.

00:05:18 Speaker 1

These keep us from running away. They took our shoes and pants off and put us up in the third floor of the building.

00:05:27 Speaker 1

Night time we were being bombed by the.

00:05:29 Speaker 1

British.

00:05:31 Speaker 1

Next day we not the work detail and what we were looking for was.

00:05:34 Speaker 1

Bodies in this.

00:05:35 Speaker 1

Town.

00:05:36 Speaker 1

And Americans came over, and they bombed the same day and after that.

00:05:44 Speaker 1

German civilians came up and they were bad enough that we were under the.

00:05:48 Speaker 1

Bombing.

00:05:49 Speaker 1

They thought we were doing.

00:05:51 Speaker 1

It so they started to throw stones at.

00:05:55

So then.

00:05:56 Speaker 1

After every bombing they were doing this. So after about the third day we all grabbed stones that we were going to throw them back at the civilians and the guard fired a couple of shots in the.

00:06:05 Speaker 1

Air.

00:06:06 Speaker 1

So then we had to stop that. We told we all faced the guards because we knew we were going to get it.

00:06:11 Speaker 1

By.

00:06:12 Speaker 1

The bombs so.

00:06:14 Speaker 1

We start to face the guards with the rocks and they calmed down then and they went down and told the civilians to stop doing that. Then one night one afternoon late in the afternoon, they used to take us to bomb shelters. Then, because they were afraid of being killed this one afternoon we.

00:06:35 Speaker 1

To other fellows and I were down in this cellar trying to get a body out and they were bombing and they were taken off to the bomb shelter.

00:06:45 Speaker 1

And we stayed there overnight. The next day we had.

00:06:49 Speaker 1

Two new guards.

00:06:51 Speaker 1

The other fellow was on the tide in front and he found out that I could speak Italian, so we started communicate. I'll cut this short started to communicate with him and he had told me that he had to.

00:07:03 Speaker 1

Son, that was captured and he was at Indian town Gap.

00:07:07 Speaker 1

In Pennsylvania, which is about 28 miles from where I live, and he had a picture of the guy and he was all decked out in the white uniform and Jack and the white trousers, and he didn't believe that the Americans were treating the German prisoners that good. So then he started to treat us a little better, a little half.

00:07:25 Speaker 1

Decent.

00:07:27 Speaker 1

And one day, he said to me.

00:07:30 Speaker 1

We're going to leave you guys someday and we said what to be killed. I said to him and he said no, he says.

00:07:37 Speaker 1

We know the.

00:07:37 Speaker 1

War is going to be over pretty so so.

00:07:41 Speaker 1

He says we're going to take it someplace and scared the life offers. So that day came, we walked all day.

00:07:50 Speaker 1

And.

00:07:51 Speaker 1

We just got tired and we just.

00:07:53 Speaker 1

Told him we weren't going to.

00:07:54 Speaker 1

Go any further.

00:07:56 Speaker 1

So they took off, and then before he took off, I asked him, why are you going to leave us here? He said. Well, when the American prisoners are released, they they they get the guns off of their comrades and they kill the German guards. He says that we're going to leave you guys and we're going to get into.

00:08:16 Speaker 1

To living clothes.

00:08:18 Speaker 1

So you guys don't kill us.

00:08:21 Speaker 1

So we went, we just lay down and fell asleep. The next morning we woke up and didn't know what to do. So we all started watching the direction they were taking us. We finally, after about two days of walking, we came with no food or water. We came upon a group of about 3 or 400 guys all in one.

00:08:40 Speaker 1

Field and they were there for a couple days.

00:08:44 Speaker 1

So there was nine of us.

00:08:47 Speaker 1

Pretty good buddies. We decide we're going to take off, which was a mistake. Tool.

00:08:53 Speaker 1

Because we went towards the firing our children.

00:09:01 Speaker 1

Caught between the Americans and German lines. So that wasn't too good either. But we finally made it through and we ran into our own 80th Division.

00:09:11

And.

00:09:12 Speaker 1

Which we were very happy. And from there we went. They put us in a plane and.

00:09:19 Speaker 1

He threw us in the.

00:09:22 Speaker 1

Lahar, France, we got the lahar. France. This was about the middle of April. We were about one of the first guys to be recaptured or released and that a bunch of tents. I don't know. You guys want to hear this, that, that line, the tents there the Americans had.

00:09:42 Speaker 1

And the nine of us were lined up outside this one tent and they told us to strip.

00:09:49 Speaker 1

We threw our clothes off. They really made us feel good. They got a pitchfork, they threw our clothes in the truck or in a fire there by the truck. And they told us to stand spread eagle. So we spread Eagle. They cut every hair off our bodies, our head, armpits.

00:10:09 Speaker 1

Every place you had tearing your chest, they took it.

00:10:12 Speaker 1

Off we were all full of lice.

00:10:14 Speaker 1

So that's why they did that. And then we went into the first tent.

00:10:19 Speaker 1

They gave us a.

00:10:20 Speaker 1

Bar of soap and a rag.

00:10:23 Speaker 1

The dialysis with war? No. Before they did that, the guys come up and remember these old fly squirters where they sprayed us with that DDT from. They told us to keep our.

00:10:34 Speaker 1

Mouth and.

00:10:35 Speaker 1

Eyes, Throat closed and don't breathe. They sprayed us with DDT and into the first tent. They doused us with water.

00:10:45 Speaker 1

And we soaked up. They downed us with.

00:10:48 Speaker 1

Water again and they.

00:10:52 Speaker 1

After that, then we collide. We went to the next tent and they gave us.

00:10:55 Speaker 1

Clothing.

00:10:56 Speaker 1

And two guys could fit in the uniforms that we got into and then we get outside that tent. And one of the guys says, poured the Germans treat us better the Americans, and poured that was the right thing to say from that time while we were treated like kings.

00:11:11 Speaker 1

Thank you.

00:11:14

Hmm.

00:11:15

Per.