

Ed Bredbenner Interview #2

Company B, 318th Inf Reg

(Aug 2001, interviewed by COL(ret) Grant Porter) [VIDEO: 5m, 5s]

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

00:00:17 Speaker 1

OK, some of the interesting thing.

00:00:21 Speaker 1

All during the war, where there were times when the German soldiers wanted to surrender near the end, they brought in a lot of real elderly men and young kids and they wanted to surrender, but many times, literally they were officers, probably s s, to sort of have held a gun to their head. And every once in a while.

00:00:41 Speaker 1

They surrender and we find a body, or they've been shot in the head, obviously by their own.

00:00:45 Speaker 1

Men.

00:00:46 Speaker 1

But at the end of the war, we were in Austria after crossing the end river and capturing Brown on and so forth, we.

00:00:52 Speaker 1

We were told to go under this farm complex and stay and not be seen and we were there and then that night, all night long and all the next couple days there's thousands and thousands of Germans poured out of the hills and just any mode of transportation imaginable.

00:01:13 Speaker 1

Walking.

00:01:15 Speaker 1

Some of them crippled. Some of them were carried in and the medics and the MP's had them dropped their weapons right there and then they were put into an enclosure and so forth, and then went into the camp. I think some of them then were shipped out. I think the engineers set up a train and some of them were shipped out by train and so forth.

00:01:35 Speaker 2

OK, I think we referred to the surrender.

00:01:39 Speaker 2

There, there, the Russians preferred to surrender to the Americans than they.

00:01:43 Speaker 1

Oh yeah, that's right. The the Germans were sometimes a little slow to surrender, so Eisenhower gave them a chance. Get across a certain river by a certain time, or else they were going to surrender to the Russians. And of course, that they poured across. They'd much rather surrendered to the Americans.

00:01:44 Speaker 2

Did to.

00:02:04 Speaker 1

And unfortunately, most of that area then was later turned over to the Russians under their control.

00:02:10 Speaker 1

Great.

00:02:14

OK.