Drafted-World War Two: 1944

"In the fall of 1944, when I was 18, they took us down to Fort Snelling, Minnesota for our physicals. We knew we'd passed, so we went home and waited. The first part of January 1945 I got my Army greeting and my 1A card to say I was physically fit. I enrolled with Elmer Wohlleber,



Kenny Johnson, Junior Fieblekorn, Dale Amdahl and Howard Pembrick. At that time they were drafting anyone 18 and 38 years of age- there was no one was left in between. Dale Amdahl was married with kids. We went back to Fort Snelling. From there I went to Jefferson Barracks, Mo for a short time, then to Camp Livingston, Louisiana, where I was in Infantry Replacement Training from June 18th, 1945-October 13th, 1945. The war was officially over Sept 2, 1945."

"I decided to enlist, as the point system for enlisted officers allowed you to get out earlier. But once I enlisted they discontinued the point system! Anyway, I enlisted into the Army in Nov 13, 1945 for one year and was discharged on November 17th, 1946. Then I re-enlisted in the Army again until 1947. I was signed up in the reserves for 3 years after I was discharged. If I would have signed for one more term, I would have been in Korea."

"Anyway, back in January of 1945, from Fort Snelling I went to Jefferson Barracks, Mo. The day before we left we got a handbag from the PX and we had to put all our belongings into it. They sent it to our home. We had nothing left but the clothes we were wearing and a shaving kit- we didn't get our Army clothes until we got to Jefferson Barracks and we didn't leave Fort Snelling for a few days! We were able to wash our socks and hang them up, and we could dry our shoes. It was winter and there was a lot of slush. Then it took us 2 days to get to Jefferson Barracks."

"Max Fiebelkorn didn't like it. When we got to Jefferson Barracks he said "Let's go for a walk along the Mississippi River. Look here- we could jump and get out of here. We split up in Jefferson Barracks."

"I was 200 pounds; they wanted to send me to Fort Sill Oklahoma and train me for the pack artillery- that was training for mountain combat, with a donkey that you lived with. That fell through and I'm glad it did. But you had to go where they wanted you to go. So I was in the infantry until I finished with basic training. Max got out of the Army later, he was needed for farm work at home. But then he went to California!"



JEFFERSON BARRACKS, MO

"I was on three troop trains when I was in the Army. Everyone got out of the way for troop trains, they took priority over freight and passenger trains. The first troop train we went from Fort Snelling to Jefferson Barracks in Missouri, south of St Louis. We rode in special cars made up with bunks, about three high. They were not lengthwise, but crosswise, and when we were in bed they rocked back and forth. There was an aisle along one side of the car."

"In the first troop train, we could smell the food right away and we thought, "We'll be first to eat"- but we were the last. At chowtime, the men would start walking. The kitchen car was in the middle. One end would walk all the way through and then the last ones that came through got to fill their mess gear first and then go back to their bunks. We never ate in the kitchen; there was not enough room- there were big pans and special stoves: they boiled potatoes in 10 gallon buckets."

"We got to Jefferson Barracks and got all our Army clothes and stayed there about 10-12 days. I worked in the Post Office while I was there, sorting mail and tried to send letters to people who been transferred."

"Every time we moved, I made sure I had all of my clothes. One guy from Wilmot, Paul (Swede) Schleisman, forgot his clothes, but said the railroad lost them. They issued him another full set of Army clothes. After the war, he was working on the Milwaukee and 20 years later I saw him still wearing his Army clothes! He was the district lineman in Lemmon South Dakota."

"He was on the same victory ship that I was, coming home from Bremerhaven. We had to wait 3-4 weeks for them to repair the ship- the bottom fell out. When we arrived in New York, there were all sorts of people with cameras taking our pictures for \$5.00. I thought it was a scam, but his mother paid for a picture of us on the boat in New York Harbor. I never got a copy."

Swede went to church in Marvin and was a pallbearer for Grandma Pugh.

CAMP LIVINGSTON, LA



http://camp-livingston.winnfreenet.com/

Basic Training

"The second time I was on the troop train was when we went to Camp Livingston La. Servicemen never had to pay to ride the trains during the war as long as they had their orders- they routed the train on the orders. The conductor would come by as soon as they saw a serviceman and pick up the orders. Civilians were supposed to give up their seat for servicemen".





"When I was in basic training I had what they called march fractures. We were walking out to the rifle range on a Sunday afternoon, we were going to stay all week-or four days, I guess. It was about eight miles out there. We had all our belongings with us; full field pack and rifle and all of a sudden I got this pain in my foot. My sergeant carried the pack for me and we set up our tent. I reported a sore foot, but they said there were no Medics out there; I would have to wait and see someone back at camp. It was really painful; I couldn't get my boot tied up. We had to practice shooting our rifles. We would take our turn shooting at the target and then we would have to take turns keeping score at the other end. We would have to walk to the dugout, a pit at the end of the range, and let the other shooters know what score they got. We each had to take our turn, and we had several guns to practice with, an M1 Rifle, machine guns, and a Bar, it was an M1 with a tripod. I had to walk back and forth quite a ways; it was a thousand foot range. Then we were going to have to walk back to camp, and our company commander was there, so I approached him, I didn't care if they threw me in the brig. I told him about my foot. "Let me see" he said, so I took off my boot and he could see it was swollen. He said there was a truck going to town in a little bit. I told my platoon officer I was going, and he said, 'OK'. I had to wait to until the next day to go on sick call. When they looked at my foot, they said 'You're on your way to the hospital'. I was there five weeks."

"They told me that happens from walking those black-topped roads with all the heavy gear, plus I was about 200 pounds back then. A field pack contained all of your clothes, changes of underwear, toilet articles, all of our fatigues. It was about 50-60 pounds plus the rifle. Another thing is that they gave us all of our clothing, and no one really measured your feet. I probably didn't have the right shoes."

"When I got out, they put me in a different company; they were in the same week of training that I was in before I left to go in the hospital. They had to stagger training, some were always coming in and some were always going out. We were out doing exercises on a big ball diamond, and I was down in a squat, walking like a duck, teetering on my toes...and I broke my foot all over again. I had to wait to go on sick call again, and this time I was in the hospital for six weeks."

"When I was in the hospital, you had to walk to the mess hall to get meals even if you used crutches or a cane, but once you got there you could get right in, you didn't have to stand in the chow line. I learned after the first time not to give up my cane until the last day!"

"It took from Jan until August or September to get through 21 weeks of camp. I got out of infantry after that, they put me in the combat engineers. They went in trucks!"

"Every morning in basic training we had to go out and pick up everything in the camp; now days they don't believe in picking up cigarette butts. After breakfast, we would fall out on the camp street and "police up" the area before doing anything else. There was a tough old sergeant that would say 'All I want to see is a-holes and elbows picking up stuff'. I don't know why they had to have such tough guys; I suppose they thought then they wouldn't have to deal with any hotheads."

"President Roosevelt died that year; they had a memorial service on the field when I was in Louisiana."

"When I was through with basic training, I came home and had 17 days until I had to report to Fort Snelling."

" I was almost sent to Fort Benning, Georgia. When I first got to Louisiana they wanted to know if anyone was interested in the paratroopers. I sent a letter home and got a quick reply 'No'. "

CAMP LIVINGSTON



CAMP PICKET, VA



jumpingfrog.com

"After furlough (called "delay in route") I got on another troop train and went to Camp Pickett, Virginia. This train didn't have sleepers, it was a regular coach car, and we could lay our chair down to sleep. The car didn't have any lights, but that was OK, it was easier to sleep. After Camp Pickett, they came up with a plan for an additional one-year in the Army, so I decided to sign up. That is why I have two discharges, one was drafted and one was the regular Army. They would give mustering out pay of \$ 300.00."

"If you enlisted you got \$200.00 and thirty days furlough. Then you would get the other \$100.00 when you were discharged. I went home but returned a day early. They didn't know what to do with me, so they had me clean rifles. They were packed in tar and there was a certain solution you used to wash them out."

"From Camp Pickett we went to Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, getting ready to go overseas. We were there for about two weeks-ten days, waiting to get on the boat. I had to have a bunch of shots before leaving, but I got the German Measles in France anyway."

Germany

"I left New York for La Havre, France, on the 'General Brooks'¹. When I was in La Havre, I was lucky enough to pull guard duty for a bunch of men quarantined with the measles. There were probably 100-150 men in the temporary camp- about 120 feet long and 40 feet long. They had cots in there and everybody had their belongings in duffle bags. There were three stoves in the whole tents. That was in the wintertime, but it was not quite a cold as it is here. I stood guard outside. The men would come out and shoot the breeze."

"Shortly after that my outfit was shipped out on a troop train, headed for Marbury, Germany. It was colder than all billy heck. We were cramped in cattle cars that had a stove and we burned anything we could get a hold of. I didn't wash my face for about four days. When I got off the train, I reported sick, I had a temperature of 105 or 106 and they took me right over to the hospital for ten-twelve days. I had German Measles. I didn't know I had broken out because I was covered with soot. They used ice packs to get my fever down."

Dad in his ETO jacket (European Theatre Operation). "It was a short jacket, and fit around the waist".

"In the hospital there were about eight guys in one

room, it was make shift, probably an office building. There was no bathroom, we had to use bedpans. No one liked it, so we waited for the lights to go off, and then we would have the orderly bring the bedpans. Needless to say it didn't smell too good, and here comes the nurse, she forgot to give one of us a pill!"

"I didn't even pick up my duffle bag, I was that sick. Ten to twelve days later I get back to my company and there is my duffle bag and they are just getting ready to ship out. I got on a troop train and went from Marbury to Bremerhaven. We dressed up on the troop train. I had on a pair of OD's (dress pants). They took my class A uniform and European jacket and ran that through something to make it disease-free- it wrinkled something awful. Everything else was in my duffle bag. I thought, if they have an inspection, they will throw me in the brig. I thought I better find a way to press them out, so I laid my pants under the mattress on a piece of cardboard, to try to give them a crease. In the morning they looked pretty good!"

"We stayed at Camp Grohn² when I was in Germany with the 303 combat engineers. They took us to a school that Hitler built, just out of Bremen that had marble floors. It was the best place we had been. There were six guys to a room. I was promoted to corporal. We had all German people working for us. They would beg for work because they would get a good meal. If they worked hard,



they could get double rations. Everyone carried a little tin pail and a backpack. I think they had everything they might need, in case they didn't get home. I was assigned so many people, and it was my job to keep an eye on them. If they stayed in the latrine to long, I had to go and get them out. They were friendly- especially the guys that smoked. They would do anything for a couple cigarettes- and we got them practically for nothing. They would also take the cigarette butts and take off the paper, and put the rest of the tobacco in a pipe and smoke it."

"Our company merged with the 1265th engineers. They broke us up, they had to take equipment to Stuttgart, and we had everything we needed to build bridges. After they got the equipment down to the Army Depot, they assigned us to another company in that area. We got over there on a Sunday morning. The commander

looked at our records and said, 'Don't any of you unpack. The only reason they sent you here is because you are going home'. So they sent us back the way we came, to a staging area in Bremerhaven, where we were six weeks waiting for our boat- it was in dry dock because the bottom fell out on the way over. It was a small ship, a "Victory" ship. We were locked in our quarters most of the time coming home. The sea was rough and there were a lot of guys getting sick. We never had enough life jackets. They would have an "abandon ship drill" and the guys without one would get detail to clean up vomit. I kept my life jacket as a pillow!"

Diversion in Germany

"There were bands and circuses for entertainment. I was with a company of Combat Engineers assigned to the Infantry Division. We had about 200 people in our company, and we were assigned to a division of infantrymen that were foot soldiers and had about seven times more men. We all had buttons that would identify us, we had a building on ours, and they had cross rifles. We didn't go to their club, because they'd pick on us- we had to get our own club. They picked me as a security man; there were four of us, 2 master sergeants, me and Jim Pugh. We checked the people to see if they should be there and wouldn't let infantry in. They called Jim 'Little Pugh', and me 'Big Pugh'. He was from Tennessee. I never asked if we were related. I was not with him that long; we were overseas only about 9 months. I never tried to keep in contact with him. He was jealous that I'd got a promotion to Corporal, he was still a PFC with one stripe and I had 2 stripes. We used to have a sergeant who would send a truck to Kassel Germany to get a load of beer for our club that was about 16.5% alcohol! "



"If you were a Sergeant or higher you could bring your wife and family with you to Germany. Ewald's job was to go around with a driver and check out the houses that were fit for the families and when he found some houses that were fit, he would report to the higher ups. They would go to the house and have the people removed to another place to make way for the American families. I really didn't agree with that. He came from up around Aberdeen, up in the area where Lawrence Welk came from. There are a lot of German's up that way, he probably learned Germany from his family. He was our interpreter, too. "



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http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Army_of_Occu pation_Medal

The Army of Occupation Medal is a military award of the United States military which was established by the United States War Department on 5 April 1946. The medal was created in the aftermath of the Second World War to recognize those who had performed occupation service in either Germany or Japan. The original Army of Occupation Medal was intended only for members of the United States Army, but was expanded in 1948 to encompass the United States Air Force shortly after that service's creation. The U.S. Navy and Marine equivalent of the Army of Occupation Medal is the Navy Occupation Service Medal. Although authorized in 1946, it was not until 1947 that the first Army of Occupation Medals were distributed. The first medal was presented to General of the Army Dwight Eisenhower who had been the Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force Commander during World War II. Because of the legal status of West Berlin, as an occupied territory until the unification of Germany, the Army of Occupation Medal was issued for forty five years making it one of the longest active military awards of both the Second World War and the Cold War.

To be awarded the Army of Occupation Medal, a service member was required to have performed at least thirty consecutive days of military duty within a designated geographical area of military occupation. The Army of Occupation Medal was presented with a campaign clasp, denoting either European or Asian service, depending on the region in which occupation service had been performed. Campaign clasps were worn on the full sized medal only with no corresponding device when wearing the Army of₃₅ Occupation Medal as a ribbon on a military uniform.

World War II Victory Medal						
World War II Victory Medal						
and the second se	by Department of the Army					
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Туре	Medal					
Eligibility	served in the armed forces					
	 between the following dates: between December 7, 1941 and December 31, 1946, for any military service. 					
Status	Inactive					
Statistics						
First awarded	December 7, 1941					
Last awarded	December 31, 1946					
Precedence						
Next (higher)	European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal					
Next (lower)	Army of Occupation Medal or Navy Occupation Service Medal					

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_II_Victor y_Medal_(United_States)

The **World War II Victory Medal** is a decoration of the United States military which was created by an act of Congress in July 1945. The decoration commemorates military service during World War II and is awarded to any member of the United States military, including members of the armed forces of the Government of the Philippine Islands, who served on active duty, or as a reservist, between December 7, 1941 and December 31, 1946.

The World War II Victory Medal was first issued as a ribbon, and was referred to simply as the "Victory Ribbon." By 1946, a full medal had been established which was referred to as the World War II Victory Medal. The medal's front depicts Nike standing victorious, holding a broken sword, representing the broken power of the Axis, with one foot upon the helmet of Mars, the Roman god of war, representing the end of the conflict. Behind Nike is a sunburst, representing the dawn of peace. The reverse recalls the "Four Freedoms" speech by President Roosevelt, with a laurel sprig, surrounded by the words "United States of America", and the dates of the conflict, "1941-1945". The edges of the ribbon revisit the multi-colored rainbow ribbon of the Allied World War I Victory Medal. This again honors all the allied nations. The wide red center represents the new sacrifice of blood by World War II combatants. The thin white lines separating the central red band from the outer multi-colored bands represent the rays of new hope, two of them signifying that this was the second global conflict.



NORMAN C PUGH

To you who answered the call of your country and served in its Armed Forces to bring about the total defeat of the enemy, I extend the heartfelt thanks of a grateful Nation. As one of the Nation's finest, you undertook the most severe task one can be called upon to perform. Because you demonstrated the fortitude, resourcefulness and calm judgment necessary to carry out that task, we now look to you for leadership and example in further exalting our country in peace.

Hangklunn

THE WHITE HOUSE



There was a General Brooke and a General JR Brooke- Dad said they just called it General Brooke. General JR Brooke did make trips to LeHavre and the other did not. *Norm*["] I think they did say it had been converted to a troop ship"

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_General_J._R._Brooke_(AP-132)

On her maiden voyage, *General J. R. Brooke* sailed from Port Hueneme 24 February 1944 with more than 3,600 troops, mostly Seabees, for Pearl Harbor and returned to San Francisco 8 March. From 19 March to 23 April she made a roundtrip voyage out of San Francisco to bring 3,600 men to Nouméa and Espiritu Santo. Following her return, the ship sailed again 12 May for New Guinea to debark 3,400 troops at Oro Bay, and steamed thence to New York, where she arrived 3 July 1944.

Convoyed by ships and planes and under constant threat of submarine attack, *General J. R. Brooke* operated in the Atlantic throughout the remainder of the war. In her unflagging efforts to insure an even flow of men from the United States to the European Theater, she made 12 transatlantic voyages (8 from New York, 2 from Boston, and 2 from Norfolk) to the United Kingdom (Plymouth, Liverpool, and Southampton); Italy (Naples); France (Cherbourg, Marseilles, and Le Havre); and North Africa (Oran) from 26 July 1944 to 5 September 1945. She brought to the European ports tens of thousands of American and Allied fighting men and thousands of tons of vital supplies; and she brought to the United States countless German prisoners of war (POWs).

Dad went to Germany in 1946.



2. Camp Grohn *https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Camp_Grohn* From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

"Camp Grohn was a military base of the U.S. Army on the outskirts of Bremen, Germany after the end of World War II from 1945 to 1954. Camp Grohn was originally built in 1936 as *Flak Kaserne* and housed the first battalion of the Luftwaffe's 26th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Regiment prior to the outbreak of World War II. Following the defeat of Germany in the war, the U.S. Army took over the military base and renamed it Camp Grohn after the part of Bremen in which the camp was located. Camp Grohn was in a small, joint American/British sector in northern Germany called the *Bremen Enclave*, which included the ports of Bremen and Bremerhaven.



Camp Grohn, Germany

As part of the U.S. postwar occupation of Germany, various U.S. Army units were housed at Camp Grohn, including the headquarters of the 29th Infantry Division (from May 1945 until January 1946), elements of the 29th Infantry Regiment, the 307th Replacement Group (from 1952 until 1955), the 78th Infantry Division's 311th Infantry Regiment (from November 1945 until May 1946), and elements of the 1st Infantry Division's 18th Infantry Regiment (from October 1946 until July 1948).

Camp Grohn became the largest displaced-person camp, housing as many as 5,000 displaced persons prior to their emigrating to the United States or elsewhere.

Shortly after the formation of the Bundeswehr, Camp Grohn was turned over the German government in 1955 and renamed *Roland Kaserne*. Roland Kaserne housed a Bundeswehr logistics school during the Cold War. In 1999, the military base was inactivated and became the campus of Jacobs University."