

## Gene Grayson, 87th Infantry Division, Battle of the Bulge Veteran

Once you're in [the war] it's not like when you're looking back on it. There are no great heroic thoughts going through your head. What's inconceivable to me is how short it was. It seems so long when you're day-to-day in the thing. But it really didn't last that long...

We had to drive two days to get there, in the steel bed of a truck. We entertained ourselves telling jokes, or singing songs...

My only major memory is how cold it was. Early on we got to the Bulge. Moving along, I'd stepped on the hand of a dead German soldier. He was frozen...

You mindlessly do whatever you have to do. It's survival. You wake up, open your bag, get a heat cube for your feet, then go to your lieutenant. He'll tell you what to do. We never saw the maps. He'd say, "We're marching four miles today." So we did. You march until you meet resistance.