

T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History Collection

ABSTRACT

INTERVIEWEE NAME: Adolphe Gueymard

COLLECTION: 4700.1742

IDENTIFICATION: Adolphe Gueymard is a LSU alumnus who served with the United States Army's 101st Airborne Division during World War II.

INTERVIEWER: Ann Marie Marmande

SERIES: Military

INTERVIEW DATES: April 29, 2005

FOCUS DATES: 1930 - 2005

ABSTRACT:

Tape 3444, Side A

Born in Carville, Louisiana, to Adolphe and Felecie Babin Gueymard in 1913; parents were farmers and merchants; attended LSU from 1930 to 1935 while working for the Baton Rouge Electric Company; participated in ROTC as company captain; twenty-nine years old when Pearl Harbor was bombed; grateful when the war was over; on leave when Japan was bombed; called to duty immediately afterward; trained three days a week at LSU; continued training at Camp Beauregard and in England before going to Normandy; landed in a glider the south side of the Cotentin Peninsula and again around Veghel, Holland; ground fire caused U.S. troops to scatter, proved helpful in preventing a German counterattack in Normandy; compares sturdy American gliders to plywood British gliders that were easily destroyed and caused many casualties; no problems protecting Utah Beach; describes Omaha Beach where casualties were heavy; was at Utah Beach about four to six weeks; went back to England for more troops before going to Holland; landing and rushing to Boekel; explains why they attacked tanks from the side; was north of Paris, France, when the Germans penetrated the Bulge; went by truck to the Bulge, then to Foy; surrounding the perimeter of Bastogne; Germans ran out of fuel, abandoned tanks and retreated; slept at a nunnery while troops were dug in on the frontlines; suffered minimal casualties; guarded a train full of items that Hermann Goering had looted; went to Yugoslavia before being sent back to the U. S. as a lieutenant colonel; while on leave in San Antonio, nuclear bombs were dropped on Japan; civilians welcomed U.S. troops in France; Colonel X. B. Cox was the commander of the 101st Airborne Division; physical training when not fighting; wants future generations to know about the war and be prepared to do their duty; his comrades from the war meet two times a year; all the events of World War II were an act of heroism; morale was good; mail was slow; reacted with hopes of returning home after the war ended; does not think the nuclear bomb was controversial, but an enormous relief; quit his job in New Orleans; went to work in the banking business in Houston; married in 1940 before he left for the war, while away, wife worked and had her parents near; wife accompanied him until he was stationed overseas.

TAPES: 1 (T3444)

TOTAL PLAYING TIME: 44 minutes

PAGES TRANSCRIPT: 22 pages

OTHER MATERIALS: Correspondence; Veterans' release form

RESTRICTIONS: None