

Transcript

Bernard J. Davis

Interviewed by James Seaton & Anthony Carvelli

Bernard Davis was interviewed on Nov. 7, 2003. When I first saw him and his wife, I thought of my grandparents and realized that all veterans had a family, even the veterans who didn't make it home. Mr. Davis was a class act, he was critiqued and ready to go when he arrived at our school. He went into the military to do his duty and by the end of the interview he showed how he accomplished just that.

He enlisted on December 2, 1942. Bernard Davis was in the military from 1942-1946. Mr. Davis served in many areas but mostly in the European Theatre of Operations. On his way over, they had to change directions about every eight minutes to dodge U-Boats. He marched up Omaha Beach just days after D-day. He told of the great task the men had before him and how just seeing the beach days after changed his life. It takes more than just The Front Lines to win a war. After hearing of his many missions my partner and I both realized that these guys behind the lines were just as important. Mr. Davis' highest rank held was a PFC, or Private First Class. His unit was designed to fix the Fighter planes (B-27's), and even refuel them. Mr. Davis himself was a clerk. A clerk in this environment would order parts that the planes needed. Clerks also regularly needed to take inventory. Mr. Davis told me that although he didn't see action up close as some of the men did, they were never farther than a couple miles from the front lines. A few times they were under enemy fire. His crew was something very important to him. They would have an airport running in just hours after it was totally destroyed. They earned 5 Bronze Battle Stars, and this would turn over to a Silver Star for everyone in the unit. Some trivia he shared with me was that his brother had the very first draft number. Mr. Davis was kind enough to bring in many pictures of Generals and other military items and even a few menus from the food they ate overseas. The most important thing that Mr. Davis wanted to show was that it was a team effort than not only would that unit fail if everyone didn't do their job, but the war itself would also have been a failure. By the end, his unit was a very close knit family that would do anything for each other. Mr. Davis shows what a class act is, you can tell he is from a generation who worked for what we just inherited.