

Gift and Release Agreement

We Howard Sherrer and Karen Richards
~~Howard Sherrer~~ and ~~Howard Sherrer~~
Interviewee (print) Interviewer (print)

do hereby give and grant to Dr. Suzanne Marshall, Assistant Professor of History, Jacksonville State University, all literary and property rights, title, and interest which we may possess to the audio or video recording(s) and transcript(s) of the interview(s) conducted at

477 Greens Chapel Rd, Cleveland, AL 35049

on the date(s) of 4-2-95

for the oral history collection being compiled by Dr. Marshall.

Howard Sherrer
Interviewee's signature

Address 477 Greens Chapel Rd
Cleveland, AL 35049
Phone (205) 559-7472

Date 2-2-95

Karen Richards
Interviewer's signature

Address 410 Church St. NE Apt. 2
JACKSONVILLE, AL 36265
Phone (205) 35-8705

Date 4-2-95

INTERVIEWEE BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Name: Howard Sherrer M/F Male
 Address: 47 Greens Chapel Rd Cleveland, AL 35049
 Phone number(s): (205) 539-7472
 Approximate age or date of birth: March 5, 1923 Age - 82
 Mother's Name: Eunice Sherrer
 Father's Name: Grady Sherrer
 Places lived and when: Royal, AL, all rural areas of Blount County AL. (mostly Cleveland, AL)
 Education: K - 7th grade
 Religion: Cumberland Presbyterian
 Business, political and social memberships (past and present) _____
 Present occupation: Retired
 Former occupations: farmer, armed forces
 Special Skills: woodwork
 Major Accomplishments: fought in WWII, married for 50 yrs.
 National Events in which interviewee has participated: WWII
 Local Events in which interviewee has participated: _____
 National born U.S. citizen? Yes No
 Naturalized Citizen: Yes/No Date: _____
 Country from which he/she emigrated: _____
 Documents, photographs, and artifacts which are in the possession of the interviewee:
telegrams, war photos, medals, coins & currency from war
 Individuals recommended by the interviewee who might be candidates for an oral history interview: _____
 Additional information: _____

Interviewee - Howard Sherrer
Interviewer - Karen Richards
Date - April 2, 1995
Place - Cleveland, Alabama
Subject - World War II

T A B L E O F C O N T E N T S

- A. Introduction
- B. Background Information
- C. First Experience of War
 - 1. Being drafted
 - 2. Feelings on having to fight also how the other soldiers felt.
- D. Countries where soldiers were based.
 - 1. Coming face to face with civilians from other countries.
 - 2. Communication
- E. Daily activities
 - 1. Duties involved being in the infantry.
 - 2. Duties involved in and out of combat.
- F. Being Wounded
 - 1. How and where did the injury take place.
 - 2. Discharge
- G. Communication with Family
 - 1. Telegrams
 - 2. Letters
- H. Honors and Awards received
- I. Rest and Relaxation of soldiers
- J. Lasting memories of the war
- K. Conclusion

I N T E R V I E W

**HY 202 (Telecourse)
Dr. Marshall
April 4, 1995**

Karen D. Richards

On April 2, 1995 I had the pleasure of interviewing my my husband's grandfather Mr. Howard Sherrer. Mr. Sherrer lives in Cleveland, Alabama with his wife of 50 years. My reason for choosing Mr. Sherrer for my interview was because I felt he had a lot to contribute. Mr. Sherrer fought in World War II, and to both of our surprise, he remembered many detailed events of the war. Another reason for my choosing Mr. Sherrer was because he has a suitcase of war artifacts. These artifacts include medals, money from different countries, bullets, photos, telegrams that were sent to his wife, and even the metal that injured him. I believe that having these items made our interview more interesting and was able to jog his memory on certain things.

good idea

Mr. Sherrer grew up on a farm where his parents were tenant farmers. His family consisted of 7 boys and they all took part in working on their land. At the time of the war Mr. Sherrer's older brother was married, his younger brother was drafted, and the other three were small. Since farming was their livelihood, Mr. Sherrer was deferred to help his father with the farm.

As a young man of 21 years, Mr. Sherrer was drafted in the war. Feelings of dread, leaving his new wife, and the thought of bloodshed and destruction were his first thoughts of the war. Even though most soldiers would rather have been home, Mr. Sherrer stated that they were all proud to have a part in helping their country and fellowman. He also stated

that it was a mixture of fear, sadness, and pride.

During the interview I found that Mr. Sherrer traveled the world and was stationed in many countries. These countries included: Scotland, England, France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, Austria, and Czechoslovakia. While stationed in these countries Mr. Sherrer came across some civilians, and to his surprise they treated him well. Communication between the soldier and the civilian was difficult at times but was not impossible. Most civilians knew how to speak the English language and that made it much easier for the soldier and the civilian to communicate.

Mr. Sherrer's days were filled with fearing the unknown and duties that were expected of him in and out of combat. In combat Mr. Sherrer's duties ~~were~~ consisted of carrying either a B.A.R. or a Bazooka at all times and also clearing out any enemy troops that were left behind after the towns or villages were taken. After the war ended, Mr. Sherrer was transferred to the Military Police and most of his duties then was guard ^{and} duty. The work schedule was on two hours and off 4 hours for a 24 hour period then he was off duty for 24 hours. Mr. Sherrer stated he had two memorable places he guarded. One was the house where General Patton stayed when in town and the River Boat on the Danube River. ^{He} Also guarded ~~was~~ the Patrol Boats on the Danube River. ^{U.S.?} Guarding these were very important because it separated their forces from the Russians.

Mr. Sherrer's thoughts on being killed in action were definitely ^{of} present. The sound of bullets and artillery fire flying over their heads while in foxholes was terrifying. Many

of the soldiers were scar~~ed~~ especially the younger ones. Most tried not to think about dying or at least they tried not to dwell on the fact. Dying was something the soldiers knew could happen, they also knew they could be seriously injured. Mr. Sherrer was injured in action. His injury was at the left thigh, and he was taken to several hospitals. Mr. Sherrer was on the front line 12 days before he was injured.

Mr. Sherrer was away from his family for 18 months to the day. Leaving was the hardest thing he ever had to do. Not knowing if he would ever see his wife again made it even harder to leave. Mr. Sherrer wrote his wife as often as possible. He was on the move so much it wasn't easy. Mrs. Sherrer wrote him every day. Several days would pass with no mail and then it would catch up with him and he would get a bundle of letters. Receiving letters from his wife was wonderful because it would take hours to read all them and it was comforting to receive something from home. One time Mrs. Sherrer had to wait a while for his address, so she wrote him a whole tablet and sent it to him when she knew his address.

Mr. Sherrer received many awards for his service in the war. Awards included were: the Good Conduct Medal, Two Campaign Stars, Northern France and Rhineland, Sharp Shooter Medal and the Purple Heart. Mr. Sherrer is very proud of his awards and the fact that he served his country when asked.

The return home was one filled with excitement. Mr. Sherrer was ready to be sent back to the front line after being wounded when they announced the war had ended. He was asked to re-enlist

but said no thank-you! Mr. Sherrer arrived in Birmingham on a bus early Sunday morning the last of June from Fort Bragg, North Carolina. His wife met me there and they took a bus from there to his parents' home near Oneonta. There were lots of hugs and happy tears. When asked what was the one thing he would remember from the war, Mr. Sherrer said that the Bloodshed and destruction would stay with him forever.

I believe that my interview was not only interesting and educational, but also heart warming. Mr. Sherrer spoke with such high regards for his fellow soldier and spoke nothing but of love for his wife and his country. He is truly a remarkable man and his wife is a remarkable woman. They represent what every American should be. From their patriotism to their Christian beliefs, they should be looked up to in many ways. I am so proud to be a part of their family and only wish every child could have grandparents just like them.

*Good paper
& interview*

A

PROPOSAL

Karen D. Richards
HY 202, Tuesday, 6:00-8:00

Interviewee - Howard Sherrer
47 Green's Chapel Rd
Cleveland, AL 35049
Date of Birth - March 5, 1923
Place of Birth - Blount County

Subject of Interview - Experience in World War II
Good source of knowledge because Mr. Sherrer experienced the War first hand.
Important to history because first of all the world was at War and we just celebrated the 50th anniversary of the end of the War.

I have heard Mr. Sherrer speak before about his experiences in the war and he can recall many things that happened. Not only his war experiences such as having to leave his wife to go to war and being wounded. Mr. Sherrer also has many artifacts from the war. Examples are a telegram sent to his wife telling her that he was wounded, bullets used in the war, and a Purple Heart he received. These artifacts should help in our interview.

yes
Good!

*Do a little background
family up to, ed. etc
parents war experience*

QUESTIONS FOR INTERVIEW

II?

1. What is the first thing you think about when you hear about World War I?
2. Did most men enlist in the war or were they drafted?
3. What about you?
4. Were most troops you spoke with proud to fight for their country? *How did troops feel about fighting for U.S.? leading ques*
5. What countries were you in?
6. Did you ever come face to face with civilians of those countries and if so how were you treated? *w/ soldiers?*
7. What were most of your days like?
8. If you would, please explain your duties while you were in and out of combat?
9. Did you ever think about being killed in action since you were on the front lines in the infantry?
10. Were the other troops you knew afraid of being killed?
11. Were you ever wounded? if so, what were your first thoughts?
12. How long did you fight in the war?
13. Did you ever see any of the concentration camps while in Germany?
14. How hard was it leaving behind your wife?
15. How often did you communicate with her by letter?
16. Do you have any trophies or souvenirs?
17. What about honors or awards?
18. Were you happy when you returned home or did you want to stay and fight?
19. How was your arrival when you returned home?
20. What is the one thing you will always remember about the war?

*what did soldiers do during R&R?
Did he encounter nurses, black troops, entertainers*

*specific
battle?*

*Good
job,*