



St. Johns High School

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Home of the Redwings!

Edmund Miller

Interviewed by Steve Villareal



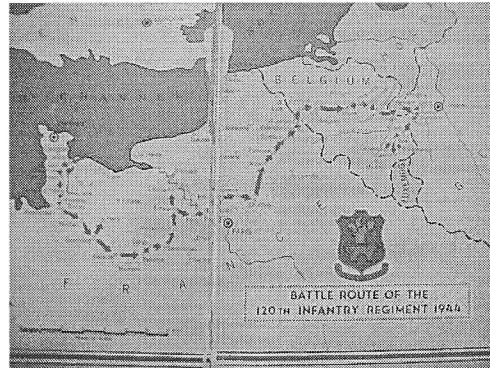
My World War II veteran's name is Edmund Miller. His rank is Private Infantryman; he joined the service because his family and friends, in and around Fowler, MI., were going. Some of his family in the war were his cousins and brothers. He entered the war when he was 21. After 18 weeks of basic training, he and his platoon were deployed to the war. His platoon landed on Omaha beach. If you have ever seen "Saving Private Ryan", the movie, he explained that it looked much like that, except on a different beach. The details that were like the movie were that the drivers of the boats got scared, dumped the soldiers off too early, and the soldiers couldn't swim with 57 lbs of pack on their back, so they drowned. Another detail is that the Germans were mowing the US soldiers down from a hilltop. He was in the European front, and spent 2 years fighting. His fighting years were in 1943-45. Ed's typical day was marching incredible mileage, starting from 1-2 miles a day up to 25-26 miles a day. He received many medals including the Presidential Citation, and the medals from his particular battles. Mr. Miller could have gotten the Purple Heart award because he was shot in the wrist, but instead he didn't take it because he didn't want to worry his family. He doesn't feel he made an impact on the war because he was part of a big infantry. Ed used many weapons during the war including a 9mm, assault rifles, bayonets, and grenades. He was in a couple of major battles, including a very major battle, called the Battle of the Bulge.

His favorite time in the war was when he went through an abandoned building and found a huge diamond ring, unfortunately he left it and another soldier "found it". Another favorite part of the war for him was when he found a big roll of parachute silk in an abandoned parachute factory. As he was about to take it, the man in charge told him to put it back, and so he had to. The scariest part of the war was when he was shot at by a sniper, the sniper wasted his ammo and so when Ed charged him he shot at him with his last 5 bullets, but missed him and so Mr. Miller threw a grenade up at him, to take care of the nuisance. An additional scary moment was when he was on patrol and he said, "Halt" and the man didn't stop, he again said, "Halt, or I'll shoot." So the man stopped looked at Mr. Miller and said, "G.I." Ed said he was very sorry and that he was glad he hadn't shot. In an article in the textbook, it states that Coca-Cola made an effort to get out troops bottles of Coke. Mr. Miller never got a Coke, throughout the war. He went through a lot of battles in different cities and towns. Some of the places were, Mortain, Normandy, Belgium, and some place just north of Paris.

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His message to my generation is that he hopes we never have to go through war. This is because he witnessed the mass killing of people and doesn't want us to go through it like he did. His company, the H Company, went into the war with 160 men and came back with 16 men. The destruction was, in fact, mainly the US's fault. It was the US's fault because the bombers bombed the cities American soldiers were in, when the commanders radioed them to stop, the planes thought the soldiers were Germans. Another opinion he had was that we definitely had info on Pearl Harbor.

In conclusion, Private Infantryman Edmund Miller was very active in the European front. His detailed descriptions of the war described gruesome accounts of mass murder. Like in one city, there was a field where there were many dead American soldiers lying above ground, in plain view, and were face down in the snowy tundra. Mr. Miller's account of the war is a very unique point of view because it's his. This means that he is the only one alive who can tell his opinion about aspects of the war, plus personal highs and lows during the war.



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