

## Moral Dilemmas

Mr. Gillette spoke of going through a town and moving building to building. He was in one house where there was a trap door into which he threw a grenade, thinking that it might harbor Nazis. I had to ask him, "What if there were civilians in there?" He said, "I don't know, but I didn't want anybody shooting me in the back either."

Mr. Christian said that the war caused him to grow up at 16 when he saw men in the water – American survivors from a ship that had been torpedoed, and his ship left them there. They had to sail on by or risk being torpedoed themselves.

Bob Price told of the first time he had to use his weapon. A German came around the corner and he shot him. Scared to death, he emptied his whole clip. He said he broke down crying and went berserk. He questioned an officer as to why he had to kill someone so young, as young as himself. The officer gave him a drink to calm him down. It was his first drink.

## Men's Vices (Sex & Booze)

Mr. Gillette spoke of some of the men who, in celebration, as their ship was about to leave the dock for home, inflated condoms and tossed them as balloons.

Sigmund Auerbach got a Bronze Star for doing something he said he wouldn't normally do. He generally would send equipment up to the front and stay behind, but this time, thanks to some Cognac, he took the ten tanks himself.

Mr. Albert explained how his first daughter was conceived while he was off base. He paid \$25 to an officer to get back on the base.

Mr. Millman told about taking great risks, as he snuck into Marrakech at night for trysts with a Moroccan girl, and then later with her sister.

Mrs. Bradley said that many of the women on her ward were there for abusing drugs or booze. The Murrays had contributions in this category. "Mr." explained the roll that Army training films played in preventing venereal disease, while "Mrs." explained how the men used the women to smuggle booze back on base since the MPs were reluctant to search them.

## The Colorful Terminology

Radar, The Norden Bombsite, Breaking the Code, the V-1 & V-2 Rockets, Doodle Bugs, Ack Ack, Buzz bombs, SNAFU, Screamin' Meemies, Bouncing Betsy, Short Snorter, Flack, Axis Sally and Tokyo Rose, were all used with varying degrees of affection or aversion.

## Sad Moments & Happy Ones

There were sad moments when we saw in the obituaries the names of Morris Widlitz, Richie Rothman, Albert Menzel, and John Bradley, local WWII vets who for one reason or another we had missed interviewing. There were also sad moments when we saw Richard Davis, Bob Price, Margaret Bradley, Eugene Lifshitz, Allan Tresser, and Harold Harris's names. These were people who we had been able to record such a short time ago. To have met these men and women and to have known them for just a little while was an honor. For us to have had the opportunity to help them record their stories for posterity was something for which we are all grateful.

For more information, contact: Program Manager Diane DeChillo, 647-1497, or Lee Augustine, 647-6564



(Above) Audience at 2001 Veterans' Day gathering at the Library's **Community Room** includes many of the participating veterans.  
(Below) Mr. & Mrs. Joe Millman.



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