

Excerpt from Interview with Gene Bleuer

VRK-A-L-2007-037

Interview Date: December 18, 2007

Interviewer: Mark DePue

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DePue: Are you willing to talk a little bit about the actual moment of being captured, then?

Bleuer: Yeah. They drug me down, just (coughs) ... Well. It's never a ... never a pleasant thing to have to kill people. I don't care if they are Chinese, you know? (sighs)

DePue: How many other members of your platoon were captured at the same time?

Bleuer: All of us.

DePue: So —

Bleuer: The ones that were living. There was only four of us left by the time they got done, time the Chinese overwhelmed us.

DePue: Had you been injured?

Bleuer: No. Marvelously so. I got a bayonet scrape right through my groin there. When he came at me, he missed me, but it did scratch. Tore my uniform. And hurt my shoulder when I got a rifle butt in it. Actually, I wasn't hurt that bad. I could have kept fighting. But... But I, I gave up.

DePue: Well, I'm sure you were overwhelmed by the Chinese by that time.

Bleuer: Yeah.

DePue: How about the other three? Were any of them injured?

Bleuer: No, they were... they were okay too.

DePue: But the majority of the platoon was killed, then?

Bleuer: Yeah. And if they weren't by then, Chinese were putting them away. They don't take wounded prisoners.