


# Interview with Lloyd Dewey about WWII

## January 31, 2005

By: Kelli Kopper

1. **Kelli:** What is your full name?  
**Grandpa:** Lloyd Orin Dewey
2. **Kelli:** How old are you today?  
**Grandpa:** 86
3. **Kelli:** Where do you live today?  
**Grandpa:** 611 North First  
Cimarron, KS 67835
4. **Kelli:** What jobs did you do during your working years?  
**Grandpa:** I was a truck driver in Chomshilla, California, until I went to the army. I drove day and night shifts. My truck carried up to 20 tons and I carried mostly groceries to warehouses. After the army, I became a farmer in Gray County, just north of Cimarron.
5. **Kelli:** Where were you born and raised?  
**Grandpa:** In Ford County
6. **Kelli:** During the time of WWII, were you in a relationship or married?  
**Grandpa:** Relationship with Grandma Jane
7. **Kelli:** During the time of WWII, how old were you?  
**Grandpa:** 21-25 years old. I was in the army for four years and eight months. I went in on March 17, 1941, and was discharged on October 5, 1945.
8. **Kelli:** During the time of WWII, where were you living?  
**Grandpa:** California, Washington, Kentucky for Mechanic School, then back to Washington, then to Boston and shipped out over seas.
9. **Kelli:** Did you have any children during this time?  
**Grandpa:** No
10. **Kelli:** During the time of WWII, what was your main activity?  
**Grandpa:** First, I trained troops. Then from there I was in the battlefield till the end of the war.
11. **Kelli:** What training did you go through?  
**Grandpa:** Mechanic School in Kentucky for 4 months.

12. **Kelli:** What was your title?  
**Grandpa:** Technical Sergeant.
13. **Kelli:** What branch of the services did you serve in?  
**Grandpa:** In the army. In the 737<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion- Service Company- that serviced all the tanks in that battalion.
14. **Kelli:** Where did you receive your training?  
**Grandpa:** Basic Training in Kentucky.
15. **Kelli:** Where did you serve?  
**Grandpa:** U.S., England, France, Luxemburg, Belgium, and Germany.
16. **Kelli:** Describe some of the first changes as WWII started.  
**Grandpa:** We were sent from California to the air base.
17. **Kelli:** What new responsibilities did you have to take on?  
**Grandpa:** About the same.
18. **Kelli:** What social activities were you involved with for fun?  
**Grandpa:** Very few, but we did go to one dance in Los Angeles where I danced with Shirley Temple at a USO sponsored event. The first Sergeant and I were allowed two days away from the front line to sightsee at Paris. I got to go up on the Eiffel Tower and we also enjoyed the bars. (He wouldn't say much about the bars.)
19. **Kelli:** What were parties like during your time?  
**Grandpa:** We didn't have any parties, it was all business.
20. **Kelli:** Did you receive mail? Who wrote you?  
**Grandpa:** Yes, from my family and my future wife.
21. **Kelli:** What affect did WWII have on your physical and mental health?  
**Grandpa:** None.
22. **Kelli:** What was your most memorable experience during this time?  
**Grandpa:** Number of them everyday. We were along the front line except for two days. One time when I was trying to hook up a tank a sniper shot up and down both sides of me, but missed on purpose. I think that he was one of those guys that was afraid to kill anyone. 
23. **Kelli:** Describe a person that you will always remember from this time.  
**Grandpa:** General Patton and my first Sergeant.
24. **Kelli:** Describe gas rationing and sugar rationing. How did it work? How did it affect you?

**Grandpa:** I didn't know much, but we did get a few gas stamps from home. I had a car before I went overseas. I didn't know anything about sugar rationing. It didn't affect me or the army.

25. **Kelli:** Describe a dangerous time during the war.

**Grandpa:** We landed in Omaha Beach ten days after D-Day and we were along the front line for the rest of the war. That's the only way I can describe that.

26. **Kelli:** Did you have any worthwhile experiences during this time?

**Grandpa:** Nothing other than my everyday experience along the front line.

27. **Kelli:** What news did you get about this period of time? What did you read or hear on the radio about this time?

**Grandpa:** We didn't get any news at this time. No newspapers and no radios. The only news we got was from our commanders and officers.

28. **Kelli:** Did you watch or listen to any news or movies after WWII was over? Do you think they were accurate?

**Grandpa:** Yes. Yes.

29. **Kelli:** What'd you think about the enemy?

**Grandpa:** When we met up with the Russians we always thought the Germans were nicer.

30. **Kelli:** Did you trust or support your military leaders?

**Grandpa:** Yes.

31. **Kelli:** What were you responsible for during WWII?

**Grandpa:** For recovering disabled tanks in the battle zone.

32. **Kelli:** What medals did you receive?

**Grandpa:** Good Conduct Medal, Bronze Star Medal-For when 20 tanks were disabled and immobilized following a fierce engagement Sergeant Dewey under enemy fire efficiently supervised and assisted in their evacuation from the field of battle, Five Campaign (Major Battle) Stars- Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes and Central Europe, American Defense Medal

33. **Kelli:** Is there anything else you would like to tell me?

**Grandpa:** When we were shipped to England, it took 13 days and I vomited the whole time. We took baths out of their helmets-sponge baths. My feet were always wet and cold until we got back to civilization. We ate K-rations-chocolate bars and cracker stuffed with preserves and c-rations-90 percent of the food we ate-fruit cocktail, preserved meat, and crackers. We had a stove, but only used it a time or two when we took eggs from a Frenchman's chicken house.

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# Release Form

To be completed by the person interviewed:

I, (print name here) Lloyd Dewey, give permission for the video/audio tape of my interview to be donated to the Cimarron City Library, to be kept on file, and used for purposes of research at a later date.

I agree that persons doing research may use my name and my statements without further approval on my part.

By giving my permission for this, I also understand that I am not giving up any copyright or performance rights that I may hold.

Accepted and agreed:

Signature: Lloyd Dewey Date: 5-24-05  
month/day/year

Address: PO Box  
City: Cimarron State: KS Zip: 67835