

Fred Voss - U.S. Military Story

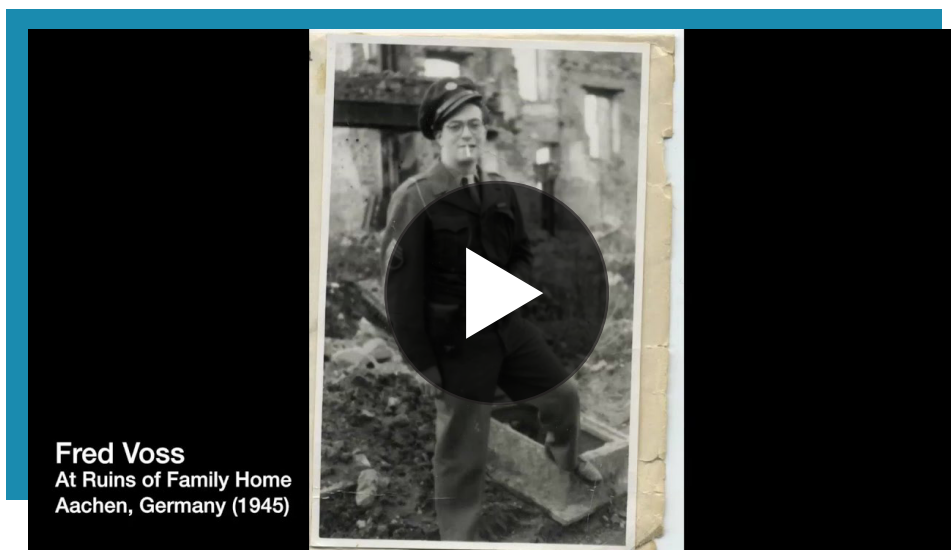
CURRICULUM TOPIC FOR U.S. MILITARY STORY:

1. Resistance

SUMMARY OF VIDEO #2:

The U.S. entered WWII after Pearl Harbor in December, 1941. In 1942, the draft went into effect, and Fred and some of his refugee friends decided to enlist to serve in the army. They were told that they could not serve at that point, because they were still considered German citizens. In 1943, the law was changed and Fred enlisted and began training as a Combat Engineer in March of that year.

Fred describes the experience of becoming a G.I. and not knowing that he was being sent overseas to Europe. He was part of an American convoy that drove through London to a large movie theatre only a few days after D-Day. The soldiers were briefed, examined and had their equipment checked, then boarded a ship to Omaha Beach on the Normandy Coast of France. As a combat engineer, he was assigned to clean up minefields, and collect personal effects from soldiers who had died during the invasion of Normandy. He had the opportunity to transfer to other duties, as he found the work difficult, and when the Lieutenant found out that he spoke French, became a translator instead. Fred's recording has several anecdotes during that time, which are interesting for all of us who consider this distant history.





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Curriculum U.S. Military Story

Topic #1: Resistance - Fred's service in the US military demonstrated his desire to "fight back" against Nazism and his belief in the free world.

Resources:

- [D-Day | The Holocaust Encyclopedia](#)

Discussion questions:

- Why did Fred feel compelled to join the military? How would describe Fred's actions? What personal characteristics did Fred demonstrate?
- Discussion question 2: Why is D-Day important? How did you feel hearing Fred's story about being in the military follow-up to D-Day?



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