

1-26-1945

Corporal Raymond Shryock Describes Nature of Wounds 1-26-1945

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Shryock Describes

Nature of Wounds

Jan. 26, 1945-
Was Struck by Fragments of
Two Other Shells After Being
Wounded in the Head by a Shell

Corporal Raymond Shryock, who was wounded in Germany, September 18, writes his wife, the former Genevieve Dhom of Newton vicinity, from Beaumont General hospital, El Paso, Texas, where he is under treatment:

"It's a grand feeling to be back in the states. I was glad to hear everyone is okey. I received my last mail from home December 12.

"I will try and tell you something about how I was wounded. I was in combat in less than three weeks after I left New York. I never saw so much hell in all my life, as I did the first two days of combat. At the end of the second day, there were only seventeen men left out of our whole company.

"I was one of them. There were no officers left, no company commander, battalion or regimental commanders. They all were killed at the same time and the next day Corporal Keller got it. (You remember him from Camp Croft, South Carolina). I don't yet know what really happened to him. That all happened down in France.

"Of course I helped go through France, Belgium and on into Germany and got it myself, but it wasn't so hard after we left that particular place in France; then I got it myself.

Hit in Three Places

"Don't be too surprised when I say I was hit in three places. As you know my head was one. But, first I'll tell you what I was doing when I was hit. I was on outpost duty about 100 yards from the rest of the company. I was on top of a hill with two other fellows. I could see fairly well. I saw some Germans coming.

"I was on my way to our platoon leader back in a barn. That was around 2:00 a. m. When I was about twenty yards from the barn, something hit me. I didn't hear anything coming. I woke up trying to get on my feet, but couldn't stand up and was pretty well blinded. I couldn't see the barn.

"Somebody helped me in, I never knew who. I never found out what happened to the rest of the company. I do know now. I was picked up at 3:15 p. m. I was out most of the time. They then took me to a field hospital.

"Of course, I was hit by fragments from shells. I was hit by three different shells. One got me when I was knocked out. That was in the right side of the head. I got hit by two more when I was down. A fragment hit me in the left side, but it wasn't much. It is almost well now. I got shot through the right heel. It hit the lower part of the bone. It keeps me from walking on it yet, but I can put most of my weight on my toes now. I do get around on crutches a little now. You know now why I didn't walk sooner.

Operated on Twice

"Getting back to my head, I've been operated on twice on my head. I saw the x-rays today for the first time. After my first operation I had some twenty-five fragments in my head yet. Then after I got to England, they took out some more. The x-rays show now there are still ten or more left in my head, but they are not so deep. If they are going to take them out I don't know.

"The doctor talked with me tonight, but he didn't say much. He said when he left, I would slowly improve. My head does hurt me a lot yet.

"I guess that is about all I can tell you. But, as the doctor said, it will take time. He said it will be a month or probably two months until I am able to come home on my thirty day furlough which I am anxiously waiting for.