



James Legate Oral History, 2007



Born in 1921, James Legate was raised near Mayfield, Kentucky. He worked as a farmer before entering the service in 1942. He and his company landed at Omaha Beach following the June 1944 Normandy invasion to liberate Europe from the Germans. Upon entering Germany, Legate was wounded and taken prisoner. He and other captured Americans marched through bitter cold to a prison camp. Faced with the threat of losing a leg from frostbite, Legate convinced German doctors to treat the leg rather than amputate. Russian soldiers liberated his P.O.W. camp. He worked in several fields after the war before retiring from the railroads in 1982.

Kentucky Historical Society Collections

War is not just a compilation of dates that represent a series of battles. "[Kentucky Military Treasures](#)," an online exhibition that illustrates the personal stories of bravery, innovation, heartache and perseverance, provides evidence of the people and artifacts history books often neglect. To learn more about this item and others in the military collections of the Kentucky Historical Society, visit "[Kentucky Military Treasures](#)."