

Transcript of Video Clip with Spencer Netherstreet

Well, when – you didn't know what you were going to expect when you landed in Normandy but this was in July, I mean, long past D-Day itself and it was as peaceful as a picnic, really. It was amazing, the sand had been dressed with a very large mesh, wire-mesh curtain over the surface so that it would take vehicles, beautifully thought out. When we got up to the top of the landing ramp we were somewhere near Aubin-sur-Mer or some little village and when you consider the amount of damage that the bombardment had done. It didn't look as though it had received all that amount of trouble. We were on Juno beachhead, which I'm happy to say it was behind the Second Canadian Division [laughs] I wouldn't have liked to be in front of them. When we got up the top believe it or not, there was the army catering corps there handing into our mug – into our – our vehicles mugs of tea to welcome us. Well, I'm blessed, you know, this is amazing.

We had a long drive then to a place called Douvres-la-Delivrande, where we were in a farm yard complex, I suppose, five miles from Douvres. This was a huge area surrounded by a large Normandy brick wall with a lovely little Normandy cottage in the corner which was the farm house and it looked as though it had come straight from the Cotswolds, really. It was a pretty little place but the window frames were hanging out of the windows, the door had been blown in and it suffered a lot of damage. There'd obviously been a tank battle just outside because there was two Sherman tanks burnt out by the side and there were the graves of four German soldiers on the side. One of them was a Feldwebel, a Sergeant Major and we looked at those and thought 'allo'allo. You could – all the time you could hear this rumble of the guns, not so far away, and occasionally there was the plop of mortar shells landing somewhere near and then we were unfortunate enough to hear a bit of machinegun fire too. So we weren't all together happy with the place they'd put us, considering we were with a hospital unit [laughs].