

Cpl. James A. Derry

Attached are photos from my 102nd birthday and some items I brought back from WWII. I served in the 42nd Rainbow Division Anti Tank Company. The three rifles are an 8.15x46 German sniper Rifle, a German .22, and a MOD 98 German 8mm. The .22 was used by Hitler to train youth, preparing them for war. The bayonets are German as well as the canteen. The rifles and Luger were all acquired from a small school house as the Germans were surrendering. The camera in the picture I found inside one of the homes as we searched, and it was used to take the final three pictures attached. Every night we heard this gun firing but could not locate it. When we finally took the area we found the guns location and it was abandoned. The gun sat on railroad tracks and was moved in and out of the mountain side when they wanted to fire it. In the third picture with three servicemen sitting on the barrel, I am the one in the middle.

I was surprised on Feb 5, 2022 with a birthday parade and party. There were five fire trucks and 10 private cars of well wishers following. After the parade I was surprised by Family members, some of which I hadn't seen in years to wish me a Happy Birthday and reminisce – quite a surprise to me!!













