



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Birches at Newtown Veteran Recalls Scene from the Invasion of Normandy

NEWTOWN, Pa., Oct. 23, 2019— With water up to his hips, Pvt. Ambrose Potts of the U.S. Army, trudged through the cold seawaters to take cover on the shore of Omaha Beach.

"Bodies were floating all around, and dropping while I was trying to make it to shore," recalled Potts. "The Germans had machine guns on the bank that were leveling anything that was moving."

The 100-year-old, Birches at Newtown resident, recalled his memories of the early-morning invasion of Normandy, France, and its five beachfronts, a 60-mile coastal stretch, on June 6, 1944.

Operation Overlord, as it was officially known, would be marked in history as the largest military operation ever staged. It encompassed a massive effort by thousands of soldiers, sailors, and airmen.

The heavily defended beachfront codenamed "Omaha" proved to be the toughest fight with 3,000 casualties of the 43,250 men that made landfall on the first day.

"Thank God I came home; I was one of the lucky ones," said Potts. He spent the remaining years of World War II in France as he made his way through cities like Cherbourg, Saint-Lô, Caen, and Paris.

Before joining the Allied forces, he was a military police soldier stationed at a prisoner-of-war camp in Crossville, Tenn., where he would escort German and Italian POWs, patrol the compound and, at times, keep watch from the tower.

"You were given three bullets, but you had six prisoners," said Potts. Luckily, he never met resistance.

While in Tennessee, he also met his sweetheart, Henrietta, and married her in 1941 on a three-day pass. The couple shared over 60 years of marriage and had three children: two sons and a daughter.

When the war was over, he resumed work at the Navy Yard and later finished his civilian career with the Philadelphia Housing Authority. He's led an active lifestyle. He's been a boxer; a dancer,

routinely jitterbugging the night away at the Associated Polish Home in Philadelphia; and a softball player for the Philadelphia Silver Stingers, joining the team in his late 70s.

His famous saying, "Don't sit in a rocker or you'll never get up!"

The Birches, Newtown, PA offers Personal Care and Memory Care in a unique retirement community. Residences are available on an affordable month-to-month lease with no buy-in fees. Resident services include meals, housekeeping, social events, and transportation. For more information about The Birches, please call 215-497-7400, or visit www.thebirchesatnewtown.com.

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