

Westphal brothers stories:

These are about all the stories that I recall Dad telling about his time with the 735th

1. While his unit was stationed in Antwerp, Belgium, a little girl about ten years old befriended Dad. Every Sunday morning she would come to their quarters and ask if Jack could take her to church that morning. I think her name was Marie.
2. When Dad was overseas his closest buddy was a Jewish man from New Jersey. I don't remember his name, but I think he and Dad were in the headquarters section. He sent Christmas cards to the family until the late 1950s.
3. Dad brought home a unique war trophy. It was a Russian pistol. He never was forthright about how it came into his possession, but he did get authorization to bring it home and the paperwork is in my possession.
4. Mom had given Dad an expensive watch as a wedding gift, but he bought a cheap wrist watch rather than the wedding present watch to Europe. The back of the watch could be removed to reveal seven or eight red crystals in the movement. At some point they met with Soviet soldiers and Dad sold the watch for about ten times what it had cost him. The red crystals made the sale.
5. After the war, train crews were running supplies to Vienna and beyond. He heard a story about one of the trips. Word got around the train that Military Police were onboard looking for black marketeers and other criminal activity. When the engineer heard the news he opened his clothes, pulled off a fat money belt and said "Five thousand dollars ain't worth fifteen years in Leavenworth," and promptly tossed it in the locomotive's firebox.

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