

# Germans in the Woods

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“I was hid behind a big tree that was knocked down or fallen and I could see these Germans in the woods across this big field and I saw this young kid crawling up a ditch straight towards my tree. So I let him crawl, I didn’t fire at him but when he got up within 3 or 4 foot of me, I screamed at him to surrender and instead of surrendering he started to pull his gun towards me which was instant death for him. But this young man, he was a blond, blue eyed, fair skinned, so handsome, he was like a little angel, but I still had to shoot him and it didn’t bother me the first night because I went to sleep, I was so tired, but the second night I woke up crying because that kid was there and to this day I wake up many nights crying over this kid, I still see him in my dreams and I don’t know how to get him off my mind.”

*Joseph Robertson was an infantryman in the U.S. Army during World War II, where he fought in the Battle of the Bulge. Joseph Robertson recorded this memory at StoryCorps with his son-in-law, John Fish Jr., in July of 2005.*

*He died in January of 2009, at the age of 90.*

*Joseph called this shooting this soldier the saddest memory of his life.*