

**Robert Plourde oral history with George Michaud**

**MCC-00068**

**Finding Aid**

**Prepared by Lisa Ornstein; revised by Kathryn Donahue, August 2013**

**Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes**

**University of Maine at Fort Kent**

**Fort Kent, Maine**

## Robert Plourde oral history with George Michaud

### SUMMARY INFORMATION

*Collection Title:* Robert Plourde oral history with George Michaud

*Citation:* Robert Plourde oral history with George Michaud, MCC-00068, Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes, University of Maine at Fort Kent.

*Accession Number:* MCC-00068

*Shelf List Numbers:* UA-068, AA0152

*Provenance and Chain of Custody:* Robert Plourde created this sound recording as an assignment for a University of Maine at Fort Kent Fall semester 1987 course entitled History 353: History of Maine. The recording was initially submitted to Professor Roger Paradis in the Fall 1987, and was brought to the Archives in March 1991.

*Inclusive Date Range:* 1943-46

*Bulk Date Range:* Same as above

*Physical Characteristics/Condition:* C-60 audio cassette, excellent audibility

*Quantity:* 1

*Access:* There are no restrictions on this collection

*Prepared by:* Lisa Ornstein, January 2000.

**Abstract:** The single audiocassette which constitutes this collection contains 60 minutes of interview with World War II veteran George Michaud of Fort Kent, Maine. The tape was created by Robert Plourde on 11 December 1987 as a class assignment for a Fall semester 1987 course at the University of Maine at Fort Kent entitled History 353: History of Maine.

### **Biographical information:**

[Archives Director Lisa Ornstein gathered the following information from Robert Plourde's 11 December 1987 interview with George Michaud, through correspondence with Robert Daigle, Commander of VFW Post 6906, and through consultation with Town of St. Francis vital records].

Mr. George Michaud was born June 16, 1911 in St. Francis, Maine, the son of Simon and Christina Jandreau Michaud. He married Juliette B. Pelletier on October 21, 1940. He worked for a Colt munitions factory in Hartford, Connecticut, until he was drafted into the U.S. Army. He entered military service in June 1943 and after completing a year of basic training as a combat engineer, was attached to the 166<sup>th</sup> Engineer Combat Battalion. He served in the European Theater in France, Czechoslovakia, Belgium, Austria, and Germany. Following his discharge in December 1946, he returned to Connecticut. Michaud died on February 8, 1995.

No biographical information for Robert Plourde is available.

### **Scope and content:**

This collection consists of an interview with George Michaud of Fort Kent, Maine, conducted by Robert Plourde. In the interview, Michaud discusses his basic training and active service experiences (1943-1946) as a combat engineer attached to the United States Army 166<sup>th</sup> Engineer Combat Battalion, which served under General George Patton in the European Theater in France, Czechoslovakia, Belgium, Austria, And Germany. He discusses his combat engineer duties, which included mine detection, bridge construction, shooting down enemy aircraft, and fighting with the infantry. He discusses weapons used by his unit, food rations, sleeping in “fox holes,” landing at Le Havre, France under enemy fire, and his combat engineer training. Michaud comments on the leadership style of his commanding officer, General George Patton, and discusses his own hospitalization in Nuremberg, Germany at the end of WWII, being discharged on the “point system,” care of the wounded and burial of the dead during combat, draft evasion during WWII and during the Vietnam era, coping with death during the war with shell shock following the war, employment immediately following his discharge, and Army benefits to returning veterans.