

Francis Altieri Interview

Company K, 317th Inf Reg

(Library of Congress: Veterans History Project; interviewed by Leslie T. Sheridan)

(MS Word Audio Transcript [NOT edited, just transcribed])

00:00:07 Speaker 1

This is Leslie T Sheridan interviewing Frank Frances J Altieri. Visit 113 Hemlock Rd. Sarah, Pennsylvania.

00:00:17 Speaker 1

The was in the army drafted his service. States are from March 3rd 1943 till January 12, 1946.

00:00:27 Speaker 1

Highest rank achieved was corporal.

00:00:30 Speaker 1

He was in the 80th Infantry Division.

00:00:33 Speaker 1

3rd Army under General Patton and also the 359th.

00:00:37 Speaker 1

It.

00:00:38 Speaker 1

Was in World War 2.

00:00:41 Speaker 1

Locations of military service were Cape Cod at Camp Edwards, Massachusetts, Kissimmee, Clermont, in Florida, Wilmington, NC, Camp Stewart, Georgia, Camp Gordon, Georgia, where you received advanced infantry training.

00:00:57 Speaker 1

Overseas duties were in Glasgow, Scotland and Southampton, England. The battles and campaigns he was involved in were the Rhineland, Ardennes and Central Europe.

00:01:11 Speaker 1

Medals he received and special awards for the Purple Heart, Good Conduct medal, American Campaign Medal, World War 2, victory medal, European African Middle Eastern Medal with three bronze stars.

00:01:25 Speaker 1

The special duties.

00:01:27 Speaker 1

Were that he was a Searchlight control operator.

00:01:31 Speaker 1

He was not a prisoner war and he did sustained service related injuries which he now has a 40% disability for.

00:01:41 Speaker 1

Frank, I appreciate your agreeing to this interview and what I'd like to have you do if you don't mind is.

00:01:44

5.

00:01:47 Speaker 1

Begin by telling us just a bit about.

00:01:51 Speaker 1

Maybe something outstanding in your your young life and then up through high school and when you were drafted into the military.

00:01:58 Speaker 2

You want me to take it up to the time I've went in the service or afterwards too?

00:02:05 Speaker 1

Yeah, we, we'll continue with.

00:02:06 Speaker 2

That later on.

00:02:08 Speaker 1

And as we go through the interview, we'll just maybe start from you know what let up into your you know, where you were in life at that time.

00:02:09 Speaker 2

OK.

00:02:18 Speaker 2

OK, then when I graduated in the end of May in 1942.

00:02:27 Speaker 2

And after graduation, I was able to obtain.

00:02:32 Speaker 2

A job in the valley area.

00:02:35 Speaker 2

At a.

00:02:38 Speaker 2

Company called the Blue Swan Mills. At the time it made T-shirts and other pair of clothing for the.

00:02:46 Speaker 2

And then.

00:02:48 Speaker 2

In March.

00:02:50 Speaker 2

3rd of 1943 I left for Fort Indian Town Gap, PA for induction into the Armed Services.

00:03:01 Speaker 1

And I might add to that, Frank was born in Sare, Pennsylvania on November 25th, 1924, which makes him 83 years old.

00:03:14 Speaker 1

And Frank is very famous.

00:03:15 Speaker 1

It.

00:03:16 Speaker 1

He's still a golfer. OK, so.

00:03:18 Speaker 2

Thank you.

00:03:21 Speaker 1

Do you want to continue from that point on then?

00:03:24 Speaker 2

I mean take when I.

00:03:26 Speaker 2

When I went from 14 LB. Into Cape Cod OK, After a brief stint at Fort Indian Town Gap, PA.

00:03:38 Speaker 2

There were approximately 15.

00:03:42 Speaker 2

Gentleman from our particular valley area that were in the same outfit being that we had just graduated, I believe that the armed forces felt that.

00:03:52 Speaker 2

With the radar just coming into its own that we will be able to adapt and be better to be trained also and the electrical and also the lighting aspects of the Searchlight battalion.

00:04:09 Speaker 2

Spent approximately 9 months up in the Cape Cod area doing a lot of field work, and from there December of 43, we moved to the Kosini paramount area in Florida and did some.

00:04:27 Speaker 2

Additional field training down there.

00:04:29 Speaker 2

I'm not aware of the particular time, but from there we went to the Wilmington, NC area for more extensive field training and from there we went to Cap Stuart, Georgia.

00:04:44 Speaker 2

For additional training and with the Battle of the Bulge in progress, we were transferred to Camp Gordon, Georgia and given approximately 6 week.

00:04:54 Speaker 2

Of basic infantry training under combat and then shipped to New York City.

00:05:03 Speaker 2

Aboard the Queen Elizabeth, we then went to Glasgow, Scotland. From there to Southampton and had Southampton to Cherbourg.

00:05:12 Speaker 2

Then I was assigned to the 80th Blue Ridge Division in Luxembourg, where I.

00:05:19 Speaker 2

Yeah, I met up with my new division and we spent some time there doing some occupational duties.

00:05:30 Speaker 2

And then from there we had orders to move across the Ore River into Germany to take the pill boxes which were part of the Siegfried Line.

00:05:45 Speaker 2

Our duty for our particular division was to take three of them.

00:05:50 Speaker 2

As we prepared for our attacks across the Ore River, we had to.

00:05:59 Speaker 2

Take our own pontoon boats.

00:06:03 Speaker 2

There weren't enough engineers around.

00:06:05 Speaker 2

Take them down to the river and create a pontoon bridge.

00:06:12 Speaker 2

And the Germans did not fire on us because they wanted us to, to build a bridge.

00:06:17 Speaker 2

They had a zeroed in knowing well.

00:06:20 Speaker 2

That they could grow it up at their pressure.

00:06:24 Speaker 2

So then short time later, we were finally ready to take off.

00:06:29 Speaker 2

Had about 3 days of aerial bombardment.

00:06:35 Speaker 2

And also.

00:06:37 Speaker 2

From the long range guns.

00:06:41 Speaker 2

In our division.

00:06:44 Speaker 2

We started the cross was the middle of the.

00:06:48 Speaker 2

And then the Germans had a zeroed in, and they opened fire with just about everything, including the kitchen sink.

00:06:55 Speaker 2

And we were pinned down. In fact, the barrage was so bad. One of our officers stood in the road with his 45 pistol, checking on the soldiers of that saying that they were wounded.

00:07:11 Speaker 2

He wanted to verify.

00:07:13 Speaker 2

The extent of the wounds making sure that they were weren't lying and that they should be sent back to the river for more medical treatment after a period of maybe 3 or 4 hours.

00:07:25 Speaker 2

Were told to pull back.

00:07:28 Speaker 2

We pulled back maybe about a week later.

00:07:30 Speaker 2

Have 3 reinforced our casualties.

00:07:35 Speaker 2

We what I want to say snuck across without any preparation, area wise or artillery wise.

00:07:45 Speaker 2

And we took this was in at night time took the first.

00:07:53 Speaker 2

Two, she wanted to save Siegfried Forts without much of a problem.

00:07:59 Speaker 2

We're out of ammunition and food, but then we had to wait for the Sherman tanks to cut across the over the river for backup.

00:08:10 Speaker 2

Up to help us with the third.

00:08:14 Speaker 2

Siegfried Fort.

00:08:17 Speaker 1

Can I interrupt you, Sigrid for?

00:08:19 Speaker 2

Well, sigfried the sigfried line. I don't know what you would call them sigfried the.

00:08:28 Speaker 2

What would you call them?

00:08:29 Speaker 2

They were huge concrete pill boxes. I'm sorry.

00:08:34 Speaker 1

OK.

00:08:34 Speaker 1

You mentioned pill boxes earlier, so.

00:08:36 Speaker 2

OK, that's what they were.

00:08:39 Speaker 2

As we waited for the Sherman tanks to reach our outfit and for us to take the third pillbox of the Siegfried Line, which had barbed wire and land mines surrounding.

00:08:55

It.

00:08:56 Speaker 2

We still dark.

00:08:59 Speaker 2

We rolled the tanks up to the disembarking area and as soon as I had dropped off I had a piece of a Bangalore torpedo to measure with the other pipes to blow up the barbed wire.

00:09:14 Speaker 2

And the landmine surrounding the pillbox.

00:09:19 Speaker 2

No sooner had I jumped off the Sherman tank, Germans opened up with counter battery fire.

00:09:25 Speaker 2

And this is when I was wounded in both legs, in both thighs.

00:09:28 Speaker 2

Both thighs.

00:09:30 Speaker 2

And.

00:09:32 Speaker 2

After a period of bombardment, we were told to pull back and they took me back.

00:09:39 Speaker 2

I'm not sure what type of how long of a distance.

00:09:43 Speaker 2

And we were still being bombarded by German artillery, mostly 88.

00:09:49 Speaker 2

Then they put me in a shallow foxhole as we received.

00:09:53 Speaker 2

Counter battery fire from time to time, my platoon Sergeant would cover my body with his to protect me from getting hit by the shrapnel. Incoming shrapnel.

00:10:08 Speaker 2

Finally, after a period of maybe an hour or two, they were told to move on ahead and left me there.

00:10:15 Speaker 2

All night long by myself.

00:10:19 Speaker 2

And as I laid there, the morphine took effect and I finally fell asleep.

00:10:25 Speaker 2

But I could hear the bomb bombing off the head, which later I found out that our company had moved into.

00:10:33 Speaker 2

3 dug trenches and the Germans knowing for a while we wouldn't dig around. They had that zeroed in.

00:10:40 Speaker 2

Lost a substantial number of our company.

00:10:45 Speaker 2

Next morning and I woke up.

00:10:48 Speaker 2

I looked.

00:10:49 Speaker 2

I couldn't see.

00:10:50 Speaker 2

Finally, I did see some figures moving in the distance, not knowing if they're German or American. I put my hand up and wave to get their attention.

00:11:01 Speaker 2

And thank God they were American medics with German prisoners.

00:11:06 Speaker 2

So they came up to me one morning. The last time I had had a warning shot of.

00:11:12 Speaker 2

I had no washing. If I did, I wouldn't be able to tell what time it was.

00:11:16 Speaker 2

The middle of the night, so he bit my shirt open, gave me another shot, put me on a stretcher and had the German prisoners carry me on their shoulders as we.

00:11:26 Speaker 2

Walking off this hill.

00:11:29 Speaker 2

Germans are spotted us and then.

00:11:34 Speaker 2

Shell start coming in at a distance. Boom boom.

00:11:38 Speaker 2

They were zeroing in on us and actually I said, well, I thought I had made-up that maybe this was it, but we finally laid down and for maybe 1/2 hour, 45 minutes and the barrage lifted.

00:11:51 Speaker 2

And they were able to take.

00:11:52 Speaker 2

Back to the field hospital.

00:11:54 Speaker 2

I finally woke up at the field hospital I was laying on the stretcher on the ground and I was getting my senses.

00:12:02 Speaker 2

I looked up and that gentleman was bending over, bending over me.

00:12:08 Speaker 2

Entirely renewed was clear headed to some degree, I said to the gentleman.

00:12:13 Speaker 2

I know you.

00:12:15 Speaker 2

I said you're from Sayre, but I couldn't think of his name.

00:12:19 Speaker 2

He said yes, he says. I am Steve Shuddlick from Sayre.

00:12:24 Speaker 2

He was a medic and of all the millions of people that were in the service.

00:12:28 Speaker 2

Here he was, a hometown native.

00:12:31 Speaker 2

Incredible.

00:12:33 Speaker 2

After they patched me up there, they sent me to a field hospital.

00:12:37 Speaker 2

In Paris, where the 101st and 82nd Airborne were.

00:12:43 Speaker 2

Just one.

00:12:44 Speaker 2

Arms, legs, legs and arms off and I laid there for three days before they found out that I I hadn't been attended to.

00:12:53 Speaker 2

And This is why this has started to to.

00:12:58 Speaker 2

To settle in Will say they didn't. They weren't able to.

00:13:05 Speaker 2

They weren't able to close it.

00:13:08 Speaker 2

So.

00:13:10 Speaker 2

Finally, after the operation, I spent a number of days here and then I went to share board for rehabilitation for two months.

00:13:20 Speaker 2

And back to Paris in the third month.

00:13:23 Speaker 2

For more rehab.

00:13:27 Speaker 2

And then finally, they sent me back to catch up with my division and at the time, I was not in the front lines.

00:13:38 Speaker 2

I was an assistant only articipher, which means I was not subject to the frontline battles.

00:13:45 Speaker 2

And eventually we ended up in Czechoslovakia or Austria. We went.

00:13:51 Speaker 2

And the war was practically over. The Germans were giving themselves up, coming down off the mountains in the hills and just handing their rifles and whatever armament they had.

00:14:02 Speaker 1

Do you remember what the dates were of that episode?

00:14:06

I.

00:14:09 Speaker 2

Pretty this had to be April, the January, February, March.

00:14:14 Speaker 2

There's three months which have took up rehab and.

00:14:18 Speaker 2

And recuperation and I probably spent maybe a month.

00:14:26 Speaker 2

A month and a half before the war was over.

00:14:30 Speaker 2

As I remember, we were in Czechoslovakia.

00:14:34 Speaker 2

By the time the food train came to us, there was number food left they had.

00:14:38 Speaker 2

Off. So I had to go out and the farmers gardens and get onions or whatever I could find to make soup or whatever to substantiate my.

00:14:49 Speaker 2

Eating habits.

00:14:51 Speaker 2

And then we went to Austria.

00:14:54 Speaker 2

Salzburg, isbrook.

00:14:58 Speaker 2

And in Czechoslovakia, we were.

00:15:02 Speaker 2

Headquartered.

00:15:05 Speaker 2

Our division was in Pilsen and we were in Shambach.

00:15:10 Speaker 2

And then I had occasion to pull duty directions 100 feet away.

00:15:15 Speaker 2

Over here.

00:15:17 Speaker 2

I went to Pilsen where the pass, but I was forbidden to stay overnight by the Russians, even though we were allies.

00:15:25 Speaker 2

I had to go back to Pilsen, to my own line.

00:15:29 Speaker 2

And then from there.

00:15:31 Speaker 2

We continued.

00:15:34 Speaker 2

Review the validation process and gaining naval was just about over with not quite.

00:15:40 Speaker 2

And then we were trained, shipped back to the, I think it was Camp Lucky striker Phillip Morris for return to the states.

00:15:54 Speaker 2

So.

00:15:57 Speaker 2

That's about.

00:15:59 Speaker 1

And I do have some questions.

00:16:02 Speaker 1

Relating to what you just said on the on the the recorder, now your injury, we did see the one that was have another there.

00:16:11 Speaker 2

And then here too, yeah.

00:16:15 Speaker 1

And those were the two injuries. And you had more up your back or anything?

00:16:19 Speaker 2

No, nothing more than being turned around by the the shell bursting there.

00:16:25 Speaker 2

Fact I can still see the blast.

00:16:28 Speaker 2

Can remember that.

00:16:30 Speaker 2

Not too far from you that it went off.

00:16:31 Speaker 1

So you.

00:16:31 Speaker 1

You saw the blast and you?

00:16:33 Speaker 2

Were.

00:16:34 Speaker 1

20 feet maybe you say?

00:16:36 Speaker 2

About 20 years old.

00:16:39

You.

00:16:39 Speaker 1

Were 20 years old and how far from the blast?

00:16:42 Speaker 2

It best of my read a collection that seemed like maybe 20 or 30 feet because I can still visualize the flash in my eyes.

00:16:54 Speaker 2

For what reason?

00:16:55 Speaker 2

Don't.

00:16:55 Speaker 2

I happen to glance that way.

00:16:58 Speaker 2

And still stays with me to this day.

00:17:01 Speaker 2

Sure does.

00:17:02 Speaker 1

And, umm, when the Germans were pounding you guys, it was mostly with artillery.

00:17:10 Speaker 2

The 88.

00:17:10 Speaker 2

They could fire the 88 and they we would fire an M1 rifle. That's how good they were with that.

00:17:15 Speaker 2

That was their all around weapon, whether it's a ground elevation or even shooting at airplanes or using it for artillery for long range.

00:17:29 Speaker 1

So you were hit with the shrapnel from the?

00:17:32 Speaker 2

88 shell.

00:17:33 Speaker 1

Blowing 88 shell and.

00:17:37 Speaker 1

Umm, you weren't?

00:17:39 Speaker 1

To walk because it apparently tore a.

00:17:42 Speaker 2

In fact, that the the Medicaid attended me scared the hell out of me when he ripped my pants open, he says.

00:17:42 Speaker 1

Of muscle.

00:17:49 Speaker 2

My God.

00:17:51 Speaker 2

Well, I thought I had lost both legs.

00:17:54 Speaker 2

I understand under duress you probably didn't realize what he was saying.

00:17:58 Speaker 2

I picked.

00:17:59 Speaker 2

It up and I said to myself, my God, what happened?

00:18:02 Speaker 2

I lost my legs. That's the only thing I can.

00:18:05 Speaker 2

Of that would be natural.

00:18:07

But.

00:18:09 Speaker 2

It's just unfortunate that his choice of words weren't the best.

00:18:13 Speaker 1

Probably no older, newer at the.

00:18:14 Speaker 2

Time, dark midnight or two o'clock whatever.

00:18:19 Speaker 1

And justice, to pick your brain a little bit that you saw the flash.

00:18:24 Speaker 1

Did anything go through your mind when you saw the flash?

00:18:28 Speaker 2

After I got hit, I go to got knocked down.

00:18:28

OK.

00:18:32 Speaker 2

Naturally.

00:18:34 Speaker 2

I was still somewhat of a shock, but I still had some sensors.

00:18:39 Speaker 2

I was wondering how bad until the right medic came.

00:18:43 Speaker 2

I thought maybe I had lost both legs, but I then I said, how am I going to find out?

00:18:49 Speaker 2

In the dawn on that tried moving my feet. Now whether.

00:18:53 Speaker 2

Actually moving my feet or I thought I was moving them like that.

00:18:57 Speaker 2

Maybe I still have my legs with.

00:18:58 Speaker 2

But whether or not I did at the time under the circumstances, I really didn't know.

00:19:03 Speaker 2

But not too long after that I I did find out I was still in one piece.

00:19:07 Speaker 1

What a relief.

00:19:09 Speaker 2

Mentally.

00:19:10

Yeah. So.

00:19:11 Speaker 1

Yeah, and and they weren't able to do anything but bandage that out on the field.

00:19:15 Speaker 2

That's this is all and This is why this was never been able to to hear because of the time element from the time I got hit from the time I got to the field hospital, which all they could do is change bandages, and I got the hospital.

00:19:29 Speaker 2

And because of that 82nd, 101st with so many casualties, they were busy taking care of them and forgot about me being there until about the third day.

00:19:39 Speaker 2

Then they finally came. Oh my God.

00:19:42 Speaker 2

They finally dawn on them that I was there.

00:19:45

No, they change.

00:19:45 Speaker 1

No, they didn't change your bandage for three days.

00:19:47 Speaker 2

Nobody came to see me.

00:19:50 Speaker 2

Until that third day, they came to change.

00:19:53 Speaker 2

They found out then.

00:19:54 Speaker 1

That is, is incredible.

00:19:56 Speaker 2

But that was the circumstances which I could understand, but being selfish, you know, I want to be taken care of too. But because of the casualties, as you well know, in the battle of the bulge, they sustained tremendous casualties.

00:20:10 Speaker 2

And I can understand them taking care of their more.

00:20:14 Speaker 2

More you know about.

00:20:17 Speaker 2

Casualties.

00:20:18 Speaker 1

Would maybe think more severe, but yours absolutely was severe enough.

00:20:23 Speaker 2

Well, I've lost a few, naturally.

00:20:27 Speaker 2

Of the tendons or muscles or whatever it was that I had in there, they had to be severed.

00:20:33 Speaker 2

So at least for all these years I've lived with this pains at.

00:20:39 Speaker 2

Especially now because of my age, it's really becoming a chore for me to climb steps and stairs with the loss I have on both thighs.

00:20:50 Speaker 1

So you.

00:20:51 Speaker 1

On.

00:20:52 Speaker 1

Both.

00:20:53 Speaker 1

So you're actually it's more difficult for you to try to compensate going upstairs with your right leg and and to.

00:21:00 Speaker 2

It's all I can say as.

00:21:00 Speaker 1

Straight over for your left leg.

00:21:02 Speaker 2

Both.

00:21:04 Speaker 2

I know that they've severed tendons and muscles and whatever else, I'm not sure. I'm not a doctor so.

00:21:11 Speaker 2

But I'm making the best I can out of it and thank God I'm still able to maneuver and get around, you know, reasonably well.

00:21:21 Speaker 1

Surprised me. That's how you would feel because you're you're grateful for what you can do and 40% disability seems like.

00:21:30 Speaker 1

Maybe not as much as you are disabled if.

00:21:33 Speaker 2

You're. I still take ibuprofen or the extra strength pills to.

00:21:40 Speaker 2

Calm my.

00:21:43 Speaker 2

Disability aches and pains from time to time, sometimes every day, but.

00:21:49 Speaker 2

It does serve the purpose.

00:21:52 Speaker 1

Right-handed. Does that affect your? How much has it affected your your swing on your golf shot?

00:21:53 Speaker 2

Yes.

00:22:00 Speaker 2

It really has because I don't.

00:22:01 Speaker 2

I just stand there and I use my yes, right. This is what I.

00:22:03 Speaker 1

Use your upper body muscle and twist on.

00:22:05 Speaker 1

Left leg.

00:22:07 Speaker 1

We have to talk about the.

00:22:10 Speaker 2

Importance.

00:22:11 Speaker 1

Well, you have your Purple Heart if you.

00:22:14 Speaker 1

Would you mind just holding that and opening it up and?

00:22:17 Speaker 1

I'll take a picture of it.

00:22:19 Speaker 2

I don't if you want a picture of that or not.

00:22:20 Speaker 1

Sure, one moment.

00:22:21 Speaker 1

Front of you and I'll I'll 0 in on that.

00:22:26 Speaker 1

And that is a picture of you. Whoops.

00:22:33 Speaker 2

I don't recall what the name was from. They're not pub tents, but they're.

00:22:38 Speaker 2

There's a name for him anyway. You know what I'm talking about. So OK.

00:22:42 Speaker 1

I could tell you exact name of it.

00:22:52 Speaker 1

You want to kind.

00:22:53 Speaker 1

Hold that up like the lights.

00:22:54

I.

00:22:55 Speaker 1

A little bad there.

00:22:57 Speaker 1

Now that's something that.

00:23:00 Speaker 1

People should know that you received.

00:23:05 Speaker 1

Especially for the reason of receiving it the Purple Heart.

00:23:14 Speaker 1

These are your other campaign metal.

00:23:16 Speaker 2

Yeah, I think that's.

00:23:18 Speaker 2

I don't know if I have any more than that, but you know, after what, 40-50 years.

00:23:25 Speaker 2

Did you want her out here?

00:23:27 Speaker 1

If she wants come out sometime, we.

00:23:30 Speaker 2

It's up to you.

00:23:31 Speaker 1

Wanna give a call? Sure, I.

00:23:32 Speaker 2

Antoinette.

00:23:35 Speaker 2

Come here.

00:23:38

Up.

00:23:41 Speaker 2

Oh, you want to take out of your picture with me?

00:23:44

Oh, no, not me.

00:23:46

No, I photographed terrible.

00:23:47 Speaker 1

This is this is this is antonette. Thank good.

00:23:49

Yeah. Hi.

00:23:50

How are you?

00:23:52

I photographed terrible.

00:23:53

I would do not do them any.

00:23:54 Speaker 2

Justice. But I'm not exactly Richard Gere, you know.

00:23:56

No.

00:24:00 Speaker 1

Well, we were talking with Antoinette, Mr. Al Terry's wife, and she's a little reluctant as as lovely lady as she used to come on the screen. But.

00:24:11 Speaker 2

Nice meeting you, Harrison. Curlers.

00:24:14

Well, I think come out easy, but I do not photograph well and I can't stand to see myself.

00:24:19 Speaker 1

No, and that's fine as long as we gave you recognition for, for being the veterans.

00:24:22

Oh, absolutely.

00:24:23

I paid to show my husband.

00:24:25 Speaker 1

Thank you.

00:24:29 Speaker 1

Now another thing that came my mind, Frank, when you were talking about being carried by the German soldiers.

00:24:36 Speaker 1

And they their own.

00:24:37 Speaker 1

Were was zeroing in on you guys?

00:24:40 Speaker 1

You think they would have hit their own guys?

00:24:45 Speaker 2

They may have realized when they stopped the.

00:24:51 Speaker 2

Arteri barrage will.

00:24:52 Speaker 2

Not exactly a barrage, but I think it was just one or two guns at the most. They may have stopped now and seen at their own.

00:24:59 Speaker 2

People were there, you know, carried.

00:25:02 Speaker 2

Maybe they finally smarter finally saw the German uniforms.

00:25:07 Speaker 2

But whatever it was, they stopped by fire, so that's possible.

00:25:10 Speaker 1

And that would.

00:25:11 Speaker 1

That would make sense, wouldn't it?

00:25:13 Speaker 1

Although I'm sure that there were situations on both sides where you sacrifice your own guys for the betterment of the cause.

00:25:20 Speaker 2

Well, I'm sure a lot went on that we're not Privy to.

00:25:24 Speaker 1

Absolutely well.

00:25:27 Speaker 1

You have you have some other pictures of the one.

00:25:30 Speaker 2

These are the initial it's the first outfit I went into.

00:25:39 Speaker 1

And these are all interesting.

00:25:41 Speaker 2

This was the.

00:25:44 Speaker 2

Company K-350 night.

00:25:46 Speaker 1

Company K 359.

00:25:51 Speaker 2

Searchlight battalion.

00:25:52 Speaker 1

The battalion. And have you picked yourself out in?

00:25:58 Speaker 2

3rd girl from the left next.

00:26:01 Speaker 2

To me, is Rogers from overly Felicita 3rd girl from the left? If you can see.

00:26:08 Speaker 2

Now would be your rule.

00:26:10 Speaker 1

From the bottom.

00:26:13 Speaker 1

I'll just zero in there and pick up the fellas in that area.

00:26:17 Speaker 1

Gets blurred when.

00:26:17 Speaker 1

Gets too too close so.

00:26:23 Speaker 1

Just go across that row.

00:26:30 Speaker 1

And you were when you and I were talking before you went to your training camps with some folks from.

00:26:40 Speaker 1

From the area.

00:26:41 Speaker 2

Oh yes.

00:26:42 Speaker 1

You want to relate a little bit about that.

00:26:43 Speaker 2

Well, one of them was my future brother-in-law and there was.

00:26:52 Speaker 2

Approximately 15 others that came from the particular area because we were fresh out of school. As I said earlier that we would be trainable with this new radar coming on board and it went into its own more so than say, an older person.

00:27:08 Speaker 2

That was my thinking and I heard other people say the same thing, OK.

00:27:14 Speaker 1

So you you were all trained in basically the same thing that you.

00:27:17 Speaker 1

And.

00:27:18 Speaker 1

You said there was a point where you were split up.

00:27:21 Speaker 1

That after all of your training.

00:27:23 Speaker 2

Well, when we go into field server talking about the socialite, yes, because of the makeup of the certified Battalion, the radar would be there. I'll lay out in front say 5 miles away with their own radar and Searchlight.

00:27:40 Speaker 2

And they would pick up the airplane coming in and light it.

00:27:44 Speaker 2

And then they would be able to, with their Searchlight, take its whole save 5 miles back, and then we would.

00:27:51 Speaker 2

It up.

00:27:52 Speaker 2

And again, take it another 5 miles back for either our.

00:27:58 Speaker 2

Our anti aircraft to shoot at them or our own airplanes and knock it down.

00:28:03 Speaker 1

And you.

00:28:05 Speaker 1

You and I talked about that earlier that it was an incredible distance that you could shine that light and have a beam that.

00:28:11 Speaker 2

It was amazing to.

00:28:12 Speaker 2

Two, that electron and proton. I believe the best of my knowledge.

00:28:16 Speaker 2

You put two sticks in there and light them.

00:28:18 Speaker 2

They flare up and then it's amazing that the monolite that they're able to.

00:28:22 Speaker 2

Dispense up there in the sky.

00:28:25 Speaker 1

And when?

00:28:26 Speaker 1

When you have those two, the positive negative together and they flare up that they react with one another and maintain their consistency.

00:28:35 Speaker 1

Did they burn?

00:28:36 Speaker 2

They burned.

00:28:37 Speaker 2

Eventually they would have to be replaced with new.

00:28:41 Speaker 2

And new ones to continue the lighting of the Searchlight.

00:28:45 Speaker 1

Is that part of your job or would?

00:28:46 Speaker 1

You have maintenance.

00:28:47 Speaker 2

No, that wasn't my mind was I has the control panel with binoculars keeping our light.

00:28:56 Speaker 2

Make sure our light was on the.

00:28:58 Speaker 2

You know, I had binoculars and they was and I would rotate our Searchlight to keep an eye there.
And I had to do it visually.

00:29:08 Speaker 2

So I had to be concentrating every second on the airplane.

00:29:13 Speaker 1

For whatever move it may make.

00:29:15 Speaker 2

That's exactly right.

00:29:16 Speaker 1

Now, did you?

00:29:20 Speaker 1

And these were actually enemy planes. Then you wouldn't.

00:29:21

Replay.

00:29:23 Speaker 1

Wouldn't continue to do that on our own.

00:29:25 Speaker 1

So you were spotting?

00:29:26 Speaker 2

No. The only time we did not own plans was for training purposes.

00:29:30 Speaker 2

In fact, one time up on the Cape, we attract a dirty board and all of a sudden there's a dirigible. We were tracking it and we could visually see it.

00:29:42 Speaker 1

And civilian.

00:29:44 Speaker 2

It was one of ours, of course.

00:29:46 Speaker 1

I.

00:29:46 Speaker 1

Was a civilian or was it army?

00:29:48 Speaker 2

Know I was.

00:29:49 Speaker 2

I'm not sure Army, Navy. Coast Guard.

00:29:51 Speaker 1

Yeah, right.

00:29:53 Speaker 1

Well, that's interesting it.

00:29:56 Speaker 1

In most of the folks who see these things may not even have any knowledge about the Searchlight thing.

00:30:02 Speaker 1

They know that it you.

00:30:04 Speaker 1

Had to exist because you see it movies and so on.

00:30:07 Speaker 2

It's complicated though.

00:30:09 Speaker 2

Soviet longitude, latitude in azimuth and you had to know exactly what dials to use.

00:30:17 Speaker 2

You had three men on there on radar.

00:30:21 Speaker 2

Work in these controls and of course if something went wrong, you had to have something very knowledgeable to repair the radar.

00:30:28 Speaker 2

So it could be back into operation as soon as possible.

00:30:33 Speaker 1

And was this mobile?

00:30:34 Speaker 2

It was.

00:30:35 Speaker 2

They had its own carrier and then of the other vehicles or vans it was to carry their own equipment, which would be made to the radar.

00:30:47 Speaker 1

And what was your power source?

00:30:48 Speaker 2

Everyone, generally we had our own generators.

00:30:51 Speaker 2

We also carried our own generators and they had their own also for both the light and the radar.

00:30:59 Speaker 1

What was your defense?

00:31:02 Speaker 2

I don't have it.

00:31:03 Speaker 2

50 caliber machine.

00:31:04 Speaker 1

Gun 50 Cal.

00:31:06 Speaker 1

And how many?

00:31:09 Speaker 2

One because it was only.

00:31:12 Speaker 2

Maybe about four or five of us that were way, way back, you know, in the secondary we say area.

00:31:22 Speaker 2

Of this all we have is 50 caliber machine gun for protection.

00:31:25 Speaker 1

But no less of a target though.

00:31:27 Speaker 2

Well, there's not much of A target.

00:31:29 Speaker 2

Think they've?

00:31:30 Speaker 2

Maybe maybe I'm wrong.

00:31:32 Speaker 2

Too much artillery or bombs on us.

00:31:36 Speaker 1

But your job was important, though, and it it was strategically important for the military and yeah.

00:31:43 Speaker 2

Oh, no question.

00:31:45 Speaker 2

In fact, I'll tell you what in Wilmington.

00:31:50 Speaker 2

We've attached at the Coast Guard at one time, then to the Air Force.

00:31:56 Speaker 2

All right, Nick, it was a beach.

00:32:00 Speaker 2

Not too far from Wilmington that we.

00:32:04 Speaker 2

Let up.

00:32:06 Speaker 2

For artillery to shoot and 40 and 50 caliber machine gun an airplane would carry a sleeve behind it and we wouldn't like the sleeve up.

00:32:15 Speaker 2

So the artillery and also 50 calibers or whatever, 40mm would fire at the sleeve once in a while you get.

00:32:23 Speaker 2

Somebody that make a mistake and would shoot too close to the airplane and you see a lot of choice words.

00:32:30 Speaker 2

That was interesting.

00:32:32 Speaker 2

So we were.

00:32:33 Speaker 2

The Air Force and Coast Guard.

00:32:36 Speaker 2

Mostly basically that was it.

00:32:40 Speaker 1

And what particular areas did you were you assigned to?

00:32:45 Speaker 1

The Searchlight operations.

00:32:49 Speaker 2

Well, of an acape, they would move us.

00:32:51 Speaker 2

We would go say five of us, OK, we're going to go this area, go through the woods someplace and some dusty Rd.

00:32:58 Speaker 2

This is where you're setting up.

00:33:00 Speaker 2

We never knew where the radar.

00:33:02 Speaker 2

Well, we knew it was up ahead some type place.

00:33:04 Speaker 2

We never knew where the other.

00:33:07 Speaker 2

Secondary positions were like us.

00:33:10 Speaker 2

We never knew where anybody.

00:33:11 Speaker 2

Well, we know we did have contact, you know, right radio.

00:33:15 Speaker 2

And and that part of our training field training is we would move from time to time and track different items and different things.

00:33:24 Speaker 2

Just to keep our ourselves, you know, sharp and ready.

00:33:30 Speaker 2

It was.

00:33:30 Speaker 2

Only one other outfit that I know of that was trained.

00:33:35 Speaker 2

For radar search like they had been in existence.

00:33:39 Speaker 2

I think the initial pilot program and we were the second only the second battalion to be formed.

00:33:49 Speaker 2

Radar Searchlight duties.

00:33:53 Speaker 2

Whether they continue to train somebody else after they threw us into the infantry, I have no idea.

00:33:59 Speaker 2

But they figured we were battal ready.

00:34:01 Speaker 2

More Alaska's we had been in the.

00:34:03 Speaker 2

For a year, year and a half.

00:34:05

Yeah.

00:34:06 Speaker 1

And that's really.

00:34:07 Speaker 1

How you had basically double MOS.

00:34:12 Speaker 1

And they saw, well, maybe we don't need all this search late.

00:34:18 Speaker 1

So we'll have these guys train in infantry as well and then obviously they did use.

00:34:22 Speaker 2

They needed warm bodies in a hurry over there, so they probably grabbed everything they could cook, bottle washers and were you know, people like us.

00:34:32 Speaker 1

Getting back to your mobility, you had to know where you were on Earth.

00:34:36 Speaker 1

The time.

00:34:38 Speaker 1

Set yourselves up.

00:34:40

I.

00:34:46

Yeah.

00:34:46 Speaker 2

Thank you.

00:34:48 Speaker 1

By creating, you know setting and you talked about asthma. And did you did you have to set up coordinates and?

00:34:55 Speaker 1

On where you were on Earth.

00:34:56 Speaker 2

And that this is whether the radar crew light was. I didn't have any experience with that, even though we did have some exposure to it.

00:35:05 Speaker 2

And they say it was. It was complicated. And you had these, these.

00:35:10 Speaker 2

Huge. What do I want to say? Arms.

00:35:15 Speaker 2

With various rods protruding, they may have been.

00:35:20 Speaker 2

Maybe 15 feet on each side of the main control panel.

00:35:26 Speaker 2

And they would.

00:35:27 Speaker 2

One would control the rotation, the astral longitudinal to keep whatever object that they had in focus.

00:35:36 Speaker 2

And the other huge thing, these, these prime movers were huge trucks and all that.

00:35:41 Speaker 2

Audio like you may see today on a highway, you could use them for our semi.

00:35:45

Right.

00:35:47 Speaker 2

Bowling season don't start till September.

00:35:51 Speaker 2

Everywhere.

00:35:51 Speaker 1

Early anything?

00:35:52 Speaker 1

Well, we had these little sidebars and what I would like to do is get back to your recuperation.

00:36:01 Speaker 1

You were in a hospital in Paris.

00:36:04 Speaker 2

I was there probably for a couple of weeks before they shipped me back to the shipboard for recuperation.

00:36:11 Speaker 2

Spent maybe another month and a half there.

00:36:14 Speaker 2

And basically it was good two months.

00:36:19 Speaker 2

And then in fact.

00:36:23 Speaker 2

Outside of Paris at the Ripple double.

00:36:26 Speaker 2

We're playing softball one day, they said. Can I play?

00:36:30 Speaker 2

So I got up the bat and I hit the ball and I ran down first base.

00:36:34 Speaker 2

I fell down, I said.

00:36:36 Speaker 2

Crap, I said.

00:36:37 Speaker 2

If I had to run forward or backwards to retreat, I said, how am I going to do it?

00:36:43 Speaker 2

First time in my life I went on, got drunk that night first time ever.

00:36:47 Speaker 2

I said.

00:36:48 Speaker 2

I couldn't believe it. I.

00:36:49 Speaker 2

Just sending me back to the front.

00:36:51 Speaker 2

But not knowing that I wasn't going to be in the battlefield or the main line, I was going to be an artist for going to repair rifles and stuff like that.

00:37:01 Speaker 2

But at that time I didn't know it.

00:37:02

No.

00:37:04 Speaker 2

No, but I thought that was a shock when I couldn't run down first base and I fell.

00:37:09 Speaker 2

My legs just going to hold up anymore, yeah.

00:37:13 Speaker 1

And.

00:37:15 Speaker 1

Obvious to the the people who.

00:37:19 Speaker 1

Were giving orders and so on.

00:37:21 Speaker 1

You know.

00:37:21 Speaker 1

Didn't have the capability of being back.

00:37:25 Speaker 2

A lot of them really didn't know the extent of it and they just figured, well, there's a warm body. We need more replacements up there, more troops. As long as you're walking.

00:37:34 Speaker 1

Long as you're walking around.

00:37:36 Speaker 2

As long as you're able to walk and breathe.

00:37:41 Speaker 1

Now, right. Right. When you got feeling better. Did you walk with a limp?

00:37:46 Speaker 1

It no.

00:37:48 Speaker 2

Maybe a month later. You know, I was back to normal again.

00:37:51 Speaker 1

OK. And that would cause people to think?

00:37:52 Speaker 2

That you were well, no, that it just amazed me that I said I who the heck signed the papers for me to go back on the phone lines?

00:38:02 Speaker 2

Oh well, thank God. So I can say that I'm still here to this.

00:38:07 Speaker 2

Very very thankful.

00:38:09 Speaker 2

The only thing I'm.

00:38:12 Speaker 2

Upset with and went over there and fought for that flag.

00:38:16 Speaker 2

And when he's?

00:38:18 Speaker 2

And Congress and the judicial courts allow people.

00:38:26 Speaker 2

To disgrace it without any penalty. What did I fight?

00:38:30 Speaker 2

Did I fight for under my flag or whose flag I respect a flag and I expect everybody else in this country to do too, if they didn't like it, they're welcome to go. And I'm willing to donate whatever passage you need to go where they want to go.

00:38:45 Speaker 1

Mm.

00:38:46 Speaker 2

It's very upsetting to me and I'm sure a lot of veterans.

00:38:48 Speaker 2

The same way I think.

00:38:49 Speaker 1

I.

00:38:49 Speaker 1

See.

00:38:50 Speaker 1

Most do we.

00:38:52 Speaker 1

There are a few who maybe are maybe not contrary to the flag, but contrary to what is going on now in in the US, and you know I.

00:39:02 Speaker 1

Love his vets?

00:39:03 Speaker 1

Just you know, we and our conversation before we.

00:39:04 Speaker 2

No.

00:39:07 Speaker 1

We don't see.

00:39:07 Speaker 1

Really, validity or the use of?

00:39:09 Speaker 2

Doing what we're doing.

00:39:10 Speaker 2

I don't.

00:39:11 Speaker 2

I'm commander of the contractor vets here locally.

00:39:13 Speaker 2

OK.

00:39:14 Speaker 2

We've done a very good job.

00:39:17 Speaker 2

And I don't understand.

00:39:21 Speaker 2

I know why they allowed us to go on.

00:39:27 Speaker 2

It just baffles my mind. Wired, Congress.

00:39:30 Speaker 2

Look at it this way.

00:39:32 Speaker 2

The people who wrote the Constitution way back then were the most conservative people, and I'm sure they probably discriminated at that time.

00:39:41 Speaker 2

But yet today's the judges and lawyers and whomever.

00:39:45 Speaker 2

Interpret it.

00:39:47 Speaker 2

Our Constitution so broadly back in those days, they didn't think what is going on today and what gives these people the right to say, well, they mean this, no way in hell did they mean it because of the the conservatism in the time frame that they lived in.

00:40:03 Speaker 2

It just baffles me.

00:40:04 Speaker 1

Well, and it's just like you can make numbers.

00:40:08 Speaker 1

Tell you whatever you want them to do. You can make worse.

00:40:09

Oh.

00:40:10 Speaker 1

You, whatever you want to do and.

00:40:12 Speaker 2

I don't have the power the judges got too much power and Supreme Court five to four, and yet we got a wait a minute. Why not 2?

00:40:20 Speaker 2

Congress why should five to four people tell me what to do?

00:40:24 Speaker 2

Is wrong when four people against.

00:40:26 Speaker 2

Their own people.

00:40:29 Speaker 1

Well, and it has to be where you got.

00:40:31 Speaker 1

You.

00:40:31 Speaker 1

Liberals and I don't know. In my mind, I don't know how how 1 can be so diametrically opposed.

00:40:37

Where?

00:40:38

That.

00:40:38 Speaker 2

Where's the common sense?

00:40:40 Speaker 2

You know, rationale.

00:40:42 Speaker 1

Yeah, I I totally.

00:40:43 Speaker 1

With you and that that's another whole conversation.

00:40:47 Speaker 2

I'm not going to change.

00:40:48 Speaker 2

I can do is blow off steam.

00:40:49 Speaker 1

Yeah, and.

00:40:52 Speaker 1

I. And you're right I I agree.

00:40:53 Speaker 1

What can you do?

00:40:56 Speaker 1

I did a little bit of history that I did.

00:40:59 Speaker 1

Were there right up until the end of?

00:41:01 Speaker 1

War in.

00:41:03 Speaker 1

In Europe and in the end of the war was May 7th, 1945, and your division had seen 277 days of combat.

00:41:12 Speaker 1

You.

00:41:14 Speaker 2

The only thing I was afraid of after the war that ended in Europe was being shipped to the.

00:41:21 Speaker 2

The China Burma theater.

00:41:23 Speaker 2

You know, because from what I have been reading and the stars and stripes, it was hell and I'm sure the marine you spoke to corroborated that.

00:41:36 Speaker 1

Yeah, yeah, most of.

00:41:38 Speaker 1

Most of those guys that were in the in the.

00:41:40 Speaker 1

Pacific. Really.

00:41:41 Speaker 2

All they went to hell, they had to.

00:41:44 Speaker 1

It was.

00:41:45 Speaker 1

But your your division captured 212,295 enemy soldiers and you spoke of and a few of those guys carried you. And then, according to reports, the 80th Divisions, bloodiest day was October 8th, 1944.

00:41:52 Speaker 2

No.

00:42:01 Speaker 1

Does that strike a bell to you at all?

00:42:04 Speaker 1

Where you've lost approximately 115 men.

00:42:10 Speaker 2

When did I hit glass? Glasgow.

00:42:14 Speaker 2

It was 44.

00:42:16 Speaker 1

July 4th, 1944 the Queen Mary landed.

00:42:21 Speaker 1

I'm sorry. July 7th of Queen Mary landed in Scotland.

00:42:25

I.

00:42:26 Speaker 1

I'm not sure.

00:42:27 Speaker 2

Now we have lost so many.

00:42:28 Speaker 1

115 on October 844.

00:42:31

I.

00:42:32 Speaker 2

It's possible because of number of.

00:42:35 Speaker 2

You know, we weren't exposed to all of them.

00:42:38 Speaker 2

Know you would be in different.

00:42:39 Speaker 2

I know we were under constant, you know, counter battery fire and air burst and I remember.

00:42:47 Speaker 2

Diving back into my.

00:42:49 Speaker 2

Well, many a time with water there or snow.

00:42:52 Speaker 2

Logs on top of the foxhole.

00:42:56 Speaker 2

That's quite.

00:42:57 Speaker 2

I I just don't recall at this particular point because there's so much it went on.

00:42:59

Right.

00:43:00 Speaker 2

Know.

00:43:01 Speaker 2

Being young, you know, retain everything that you should really.

00:43:07 Speaker 1

And that's another subject too, where?

00:43:10 Speaker 1

You would. You did what you told.

00:43:13 Speaker 2

Exactly.

00:43:14 Speaker 1

Very few. You know, there wasn't a lot variance.

00:43:17 Speaker 2

No questions. And the thing that.

00:43:20 Speaker 2

When my petrol Sergeant covered my body with his, when we would get counter battery fire from the German artillery, I would give this person my arm legs, anything he'd want.

00:43:31 Speaker 2

How many people would do that?

00:43:34 Speaker 2

It just baffled me.

00:43:36 Speaker 2

Amazed me.

00:43:38 Speaker 1

Do you have you been in contact with him?

00:43:40 Speaker 2

Yeah, I earlier years ago. But I'm afraid he was from South Bend IN.

00:43:47 Speaker 2

And he was one of the.

00:43:50 Speaker 2

Catholic churches to look for the crucifix or whatever. You know, that may be left after the bombing or whatever they had done to the church.

00:43:59 Speaker 1

OK.

00:44:00 Speaker 2

Was very religious.

00:44:02 Speaker 1

Yeah, well, in.

00:44:02 Speaker 1

That basically explained why the protected.

00:44:05 Speaker 2

It's amazed me he sacrificed his.

00:44:08 Speaker 2

How many people in this world would do that?

00:44:11 Speaker 1

Only a few that I've heard that drop on hand grenades, you know.

00:44:15 Speaker 2

It's amazing.

00:44:17 Speaker 1

They've got every.

00:44:17 Speaker 2

I don't know if I would be able to do it or not. I'll be honest with you.

00:44:20 Speaker 1

It really takes a special person.

00:44:22 Speaker 1

Takes a special person.

00:44:24 Speaker 2

But who knows what we would do?

00:44:25 Speaker 2

A spur of the moment.

00:44:26 Speaker 1

Well, and I think you found.

00:44:28 Speaker 1

What you would do?

00:44:29 Speaker 1

You know, because you you're under fire.

00:44:30

Yeah.

00:44:32 Speaker 1

And you knew that the next?

00:44:34

None.

00:44:35 Speaker 2

Matter of survival, believe me.

00:44:35

Round you.

00:44:39 Speaker 1

And the military had a real good way of helping you to just react rather than respond to much of this react.

00:44:46 Speaker 2

They covered all the avenues, I'm sure, psychologically and otherwise.

00:44:53 Speaker 2

Because war is hell and I don't care. And you're scared.

00:44:59 Speaker 2

To your little dump pants.

00:45:03 Speaker 1

Well, then you came back in 46.

00:45:07 Speaker 1

And did you? You you came out of high school, so you didn't have any career to to speak up?

00:45:14 Speaker 2

No, I went back to the railroad at the time to Lehigh Valley.

00:45:19 Speaker 2

OK, was still going strong and I worked there for about 9 years and I got I was.

00:45:24 Speaker 1

Would you do?

00:45:27 Speaker 2

Well, I worked as a got 2-3 different jobs. I worked as a.

00:45:34 Speaker 2

Steel Yard helper and then I worked.

00:45:35

I.

00:45:39 Speaker 2

As a clerk.

00:45:42 Speaker 2

And I.

00:45:42 Speaker 2

So tell that clerk of Sarah Telegraph. In other words, they had a board up there. The trains coming out of Buffalo into Sarah and Sarah going to Buffalo or Geneva to clear the track.

00:45:54 Speaker 2

Put one train on the siding, let together train. Go.

00:45:59 Speaker 2

It would deem on the board there and I could see where the trains were.

00:46:04 Speaker 2

But guys from Buffalo without to tell me which one would be?

00:46:08 Speaker 2

But I knew being exposed to it, and then I also was a fireman.

00:46:14 Speaker 2

For some time.

00:46:14 Speaker 2

But then I got laid off.

00:46:16 Speaker 2

Trade. You know, they're married.

00:46:19 Speaker 2

Finally ended up with the state worked with the state for 20 years as a veterans representative.

00:46:24 Speaker 1

OK.

00:46:25 Speaker 2

Working fine jobs for Vietnamese veterans especially.

00:46:31 Speaker 2

And I had did a very good job on that.

00:46:34 Speaker 2

After I got a commendation from my district supervisor on it.

00:46:39 Speaker 1

OK. And did you work out the courthouse down?

00:46:41 Speaker 1

Quander is that?

00:46:42 Speaker 2

Now, we weren't sure then when they closed the sale Employment Office.

00:46:46

Yeah.

00:46:48 Speaker 2

We moved to twin and then I worked one day.

00:46:51 Speaker 2

A month or two out of the post office downstairs. Then I would go to Troy and work out of the.

00:47:01 Speaker 2

Officers over there like one or two days a.

00:47:03 Speaker 2

I would travel around to the various you know, country and even go down to.

00:47:05

I.

00:47:10 Speaker 2

Sutherland County Down there at.

00:47:14 Speaker 2

Too short and I would spend a day or so there.

00:47:15 Speaker 1

OK.

00:47:18

I.

00:47:21

It's cool in there.

00:47:21 Speaker 1

As you can see, we got a little bit of rain starting here, so we'll we'll end it for.

00:47:27 Speaker 1

Actually, we're almost at the end of this tape anyway, so.

00:47:32 Speaker 1

You mentioned that if you don't mind if this OK for you, I just.

00:47:36

Go ahead.

00:47:37 Speaker 1

I was just watching this little bit.

00:47:39

Thank you.

00:47:40 Speaker 1

You mentioned that you you were a.

00:47:43

Yeah.

00:47:43 Speaker 1

Is that a full time job being a fireman?

00:47:47 Speaker 2

Yes, I was.

00:47:49 Speaker 2

I would go on the road or I would operate a yard engine by myself.

00:47:53 Speaker 2

Just kicking cars.

00:47:56 Speaker 2

But I buried on the road like from, say, to Wilkes Barre, or Sarah to Geneva. I would be a fireman, and occasionally the fireman of the engineer would let me get little experience in handling the train for short distance.

00:48:09

OK.

00:48:09 Speaker 1

I see primary for that I think.

00:48:13 Speaker 1

And you mentioned that when you got laid off from that you you had been married already, so you got married sometime before.

00:48:19 Speaker 2

OK, 1948.

00:48:21 Speaker 1

1948 for a couple years after.

00:48:25 Speaker 2

So I've had, you know, in between jobs just to.

00:48:28 Speaker 2

But then finally I stayed with the state for 20 years, and that was particular deck.

00:48:32

Hey Cortana.

00:48:35 Speaker 1

And you mentioned that you have.

00:48:38 Speaker 1

A relative or had a relative.

00:48:40 Speaker 1

Was a much decorated.

00:48:43 Speaker 2

The most decorated veteran in Bradford County, Joseph Altieri.

00:48:46

Yeah.

00:48:47 Speaker 2

Who is now deceased?

00:48:51 Speaker 1

Well, I must thank you very much for your time and thank you for your service.

00:48:54

Yeah.

00:48:57 Speaker 2

Well, thank you for having me.

00:48:59 Speaker 1

Well, it's it's a pleasure. And I'm sure that folks will be happy to.

00:49:04 Speaker 1

Do what you have done you.

00:49:05 Speaker 2

Well, they make a movie out of it.

00:49:08 Speaker 1

I think you find a way to.

00:49:11 Speaker 2

That.

00:49:12 Speaker 2

I forgot to mention.

00:49:17 Speaker 2

Relieve the third division, which was Audie Murphy's division.

00:49:21 Speaker 2

I forgot to include that in there.

00:49:23

Did.

00:49:25 Speaker 2

Believe.

00:49:25 Speaker 2

And if I don't know that the time, I certainly would've got his.

00:49:28 Speaker 2

But up there when we got there, there was a dead frozen giant soldiers all over the place.

00:49:34 Speaker 2

There wasn't one dead American soldiers, even though there was quite a few empty helmets.

00:49:40 Speaker 2

But this one particular incident, but not knowing that Audie Murphy was in the Third Division.

00:49:50 Speaker 2

But.

00:49:51 Speaker 2

Starts his wife.

00:49:52 Speaker 1

Well, and that's another distinction.

00:49:54 Speaker 2

You're back.

00:49:56 Speaker 1

Thanks again.

00:49:56 Speaker 2

You're welcome.

00:49:59 Speaker 2

Howdy Murphy. I'm not.