

## **Warren Kenneth Coomer Interview**

Company G, 319th Inf Reg

*(Library of Congress: Veterans History Project; interviewed by Larry Ordner)*

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

00:00:04 Speaker 2

This recording is made November 14th, 2002 with Warren Kenneth Coomer. The last name is spelled Comer. Mr. Coomer resides at 610 W Oak St. in Oakland City IN is a native of Gibson County, Indiana.

00:00:20 Speaker 2

Served in the United States Army in Company 6, the 319th Infantry Regiment.

00:00:26 Speaker 1

The.

00:00:27 Speaker 2

On pardon me, company G, 319th Infantry Regiment, the 80th Division, which is the Blue Ridge Division. His highest rank attained was that of Sergeant from December 4th, 1942.

00:00:39 Speaker 2

Through November 28th, 1945, he was drafted at the age of 21, saw service in many locations, including Camp Phillips Kansas locations in Grand Forks, ND, Sparta, WI, where he entered the infantry and then many locations in the European theater.

00:00:56 Speaker 2

He has been.

00:00:56 Speaker 2

Awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star.

00:00:59 Speaker 2

This recording is made with Larry Ortner, regional director of the US Senator \*\*\*\* Luger.

00:01:04 Speaker 2

Well, Mr. Coomer, thanks so much for being part of the veterans history.

00:01:07 Speaker 3

Project.

00:01:09 Speaker 2

Glad you're doing this.

00:01:09 Speaker 1

That is.

00:01:11 Speaker 2

Well, tell me now. And you were native of of Gibson County near Princeton and and and.

00:01:18 Speaker 1

Really and with.

00:01:20 Speaker 1

I was a bit invested from.

00:01:24 Speaker 2

Oh, I see.

00:01:26 Speaker 1

I don't know if they're they're better job.

00:01:29 Speaker 2

Well, and and certainly in 1942, lots of guys were were getting those draft notices in the mail and you were no exception with.

00:01:37 Speaker 2

It.

00:01:38 Speaker 2

Right. So when so when that that notice came in?

00:01:40 Speaker 2

The mail. What was the reaction there?

00:01:44 Speaker 1

I don't have any idea. I've forgotten, yeah.

00:01:48 Speaker 2

But but it was it was either, I guess, get drafted and you were going to go one way or.

00:01:53 Speaker 2

Another, I guess, weren't you?

00:01:55 Speaker 1

Oh yeah.

00:01:56 Speaker 1

And that's my my right.

00:01:59 Speaker 1

Put pressure on my fiancée.

00:02:03 Speaker 1

Tell her it.

00:02:05 Speaker 1

If.

00:02:06 Speaker 1

We didn't get married and the world folk out.

00:02:12 Speaker 1

I've been doing this and.

00:02:14 Speaker 1

And we would get married, but we did.

00:02:20 Speaker 2

So then you after induction, you had basic training and then where was that held?

00:02:25 Speaker 1

Phillips, Kansas. That's the nurse and.

00:02:29 Speaker 2

Well, how rigorous was basic training in those days? Was it was it speeded up a bit because of the?

00:02:35 Speaker 2

War. You think?

00:02:36 Speaker 2

Basically, demanding wasn't for you.

00:02:39 Speaker 1

Another role.

00:02:41 Speaker 1

Not at all.

00:02:43 Speaker 1

Good shape.

00:02:46 Speaker 1

I waited the 120 lbs when I went.

00:02:48 Speaker 1

Baby.

00:02:51 Speaker 2

Well, when you think back to basic training is there.

00:02:54 Speaker 2

Some incident that kind of pops in your mind when.

00:02:57 Speaker 2

You think about basic, yes.

00:03:01 Speaker 1

The thing that really fostered my mind is.

00:03:05 Speaker 1

That.

00:03:07 Speaker 1

We were going out in the field.

00:03:10 Speaker 1

Or weak.

00:03:12 Speaker 1

And I didn't feel that.

00:03:15 Speaker 1

One Lieutenant said to another officer says.

00:03:18 Speaker 1

Well, Kumar thinks he's got by by coming in late.

00:03:25 Speaker 1

Good.

00:03:26 Speaker 1

And only one that was going out.

00:03:29 Speaker 1

Every.

00:03:31 Speaker 1

You'll find out when we get back.

00:03:34 Speaker 1

So they called again, restricted me to.

00:03:37 Speaker 1

And for the next week?

00:03:39 Speaker 1

Next week we'll come back out and play with them.

00:03:42 Speaker 1

For a week, that was.

00:03:45 Speaker 1

Has three leaps that.

00:03:48 Speaker 1

Place I got to see my wife was.

00:03:51 Speaker 1

The service club. I'll do that.

00:03:55 Speaker 1

But.

00:03:56 Speaker 1

Those things.

00:03:59 Speaker 1

They happen.

00:04:02 Speaker 1

There's quite a.

00:04:05 Speaker 1

I don't know. We're healed several times depending on.

00:04:08 Speaker 2

What made you decide to do that?

00:04:11 Speaker 2

Over the hill? Yeah. What made you decide to do that?

00:04:14 Speaker 1

Well.

00:04:15 Speaker 2

What was it about the army and?

00:04:17 Speaker 2

Maybe the war that.

00:04:19 Speaker 2

Glad you could do that.

00:04:21 Speaker 1

I don't know. I don't know.

00:04:23 Speaker 1

I'm just.

00:04:25 Speaker 1

Just want to take chances I guess.

00:04:31 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:04:32 Speaker 3

She went. She went into my life.

00:04:36 Speaker 3

What did you went in to see? Mom wouldn't.

00:04:39 Speaker 1

You didn't desert.

00:04:40 Speaker 3

Head to Canada like no or something.

00:04:41 Speaker 2

But you you had to, you had to do that.

00:04:43 Speaker 3

To see her, didn't you?

00:04:46 Speaker 1

But when I was up for like 4 dips, New Jersey, this place.

00:04:55 Speaker 1

Boy, that sent us all into the native religion.

00:04:59 Speaker 1

And go past the window.

00:05:01 Speaker 1

New York City.

00:05:04 Speaker 1

Folks around Times Square a little bit.

00:05:07 Speaker 1

About a week later, I decided.

00:05:11 Speaker 1

I don't have to get those past and I just want.

00:05:14 Speaker 1

No, and almost missed left. The last bus back tip that was in.

00:05:24 Speaker 1

Well, we got the regular that one.

00:05:27 Speaker 1

But anyhow.

00:05:29 Speaker 2

I bet at.

00:05:29 Speaker 2

That time, New York City was just loaded the serviceman.

00:05:32 Speaker 1

Wasn't it? Oh, yeah.

00:05:40 Speaker 1

Almost every place you go, you see.

00:05:43 Speaker 1

To soldier human.

00:05:46 Speaker 1

And.

00:05:49 Speaker 1

But anyhow, I got back, I got back on time.

00:05:54 Speaker 1

When I was.

00:05:56 Speaker 1

I think this is in that story there.

00:05:59 Speaker 1

I don't know.

00:06:00 Speaker 1

What it is? So I just have to reason.

00:06:10 Speaker 1

Got a lot of those saying.

00:06:11 Speaker 1

Here.

00:06:12 Speaker 2

That was a story you were going to tell.

00:06:18 Speaker 1

Do you recall when?

00:06:20 Speaker 1

Last time I went in New York City, I walked to a hole in the fence.

00:06:26 Speaker 1

Which which has been man made, of course and.

00:06:31 Speaker 1

Walk right up past the EMP station.

00:06:34 Speaker 1

Didn't stop me or anything and got a bus.

00:06:43 Speaker 2

When you.

00:06:45 Speaker 3

Where did you wait for Europe from, you know?

00:06:45

So.

00:06:48 Speaker 2

From New York City also.

00:06:50 Speaker 2

And and you went on the Queen Mary, right? And the Queen Mary was probably held eight to 10,000 men didn't.

00:06:52 Speaker 1

Yes.

00:06:56 Speaker 2

It.

00:06:57 Speaker 1

I think it was 25,000.

00:06:59 Speaker 1

A month? Good heavens.

00:07:00 Speaker 2

That was that was a a city to itself, wasn't that that was.

00:07:01 Speaker 1

The whole whole big fine.

00:07:04 Speaker 2

A whole city on.

00:07:05 Speaker 3

On board that ship where the.

00:07:06 Speaker 1

Ohh yeah.

00:07:08 Speaker 2

And and I take it you were part of a convoy.

00:07:11 Speaker 1

No, no unescorted.

00:07:15 Speaker 1

With their dollars of your mind.

00:07:18 Speaker 2

I always heard that Queen Mary could probably outrun everything out. It was actually created.

00:07:21 Speaker 1

And then I think the faster ships were closed.

00:07:26 Speaker 1

What?

00:07:26

OK.

00:07:27 Speaker 2

What was what was passage like?

00:07:29 Speaker 2

On the Queen Mary. What? What were living conditions like on there?

00:07:33 Speaker 1

Well, they weren't too bad. We got 2 meals a day.

00:07:37 Speaker 1

And.

00:07:40 Speaker 1

And every day was nice and quiet, except one.

00:07:45 Speaker 1

And more roses.

00:07:48 Speaker 1

It's gonna go during the night and.

00:07:51 Speaker 1

The little queen there, it looks like.

00:07:53 Speaker 1

You don't want that, it's match too.

00:07:57 Speaker 1

It would be if you stand on the edge of the deck, you should just reach over and get get the handful of water and.

00:08:06 Speaker 1

And the next minute, you're 50 feet up in the air.

00:08:10 Speaker 2

Did you get seasick?

00:08:12 Speaker 1

Well, yeah, it's just a little, but I didn't. I wasn't as bad as I kept fighting, but I knew it was going to be like that.

00:08:22 Speaker 1

And.

00:08:24 Speaker 1

But coming back from I came back from the Queen there also.

00:08:29 Speaker 1

With the hospital ship coming back, can we have rough weather all the way back?

00:08:36 Speaker 1

But it's on one day that we had any rough weather.

00:08:40 Speaker 2

So where did you land in? In on the European continent?

00:08:43 Speaker 1

And then.

00:08:44 Speaker 1

Scotland.

00:08:47 Speaker 1

And that.

00:08:49 Speaker 1

After.

00:08:51 Speaker 1

Remember, men with their name on there.

00:08:54 Speaker 1

I landed in.

00:08:57 Speaker 1

I don't know how these all the six.

00:09:00 Speaker 2

And when you when you were in the day when you landed though in in Scotland, did you also spend some time in in England as well?

00:09:09 Speaker 1

Yeah, we spent.

00:09:14 Speaker 2

But I guess you.

00:09:15 Speaker 1

We left. We left the first day of.

00:09:17 Speaker 2

July at that time, I guess England was still under attack, wasn't.

00:09:22 Speaker 2

Probably.

00:09:23 Speaker 1

So I didn't.

00:09:26 Speaker 1

I've been seeing that we're hearing the.

00:09:27 Speaker 1

Other thing you know.

00:09:29 Speaker 1

It was. I doubt it will.

00:09:32 Speaker 2

But then you later you did cross the channel and.

00:09:37 Speaker 1

2.

00:09:37 Speaker 2

On an LSD.

00:09:38 Speaker 2

Probably built in Evansville, wasn't it, I.

00:09:40 Speaker 2

Bet.

00:09:40 Speaker 1

I've been I've been one of the fellows that.

00:09:41 Speaker 2

Might have.

00:09:44 Speaker 2

Then you landed at Omaha Beach and that was how long after the D-Day invasion.

00:09:51 Speaker 2

Two months, two months have passed.

00:09:55 Speaker 1

When they're August the 6th.

00:09:57 Speaker 2

They were a lot of guys crossed and entered.

00:10:02 Speaker 2

France there went to.

00:10:03 Speaker 1

Over. Yeah. So I haven't been. Didn't make it into that.

00:10:09 Speaker 1

Had he, they must have and must have been horrible.

00:10:13 Speaker 1

You know, I miss these days and I missed the battle with those. So back in England in the battle.

00:10:22 Speaker 1

Not quite sure if they come in and take that cash off my home and send it back out there.

00:10:28 Speaker 2

But when you entered entered into France.

00:10:31 Speaker 2

What was your your your route like?

00:10:35 Speaker 2

Because I guess the.

00:10:37 Speaker 2

Everybody, if there was one common theme I heard over and over it, it was, it was.

00:10:40 Speaker 2

Keep moving, wasn't it?

00:10:42 Speaker 1

Yeah, I'm sure that it was, but of course we did anyhow.

00:10:49 Speaker 1

And there were some.

00:10:52 Speaker 1

Ingenious.

00:10:54 Speaker 1

American had.

00:10:56 Speaker 1

They didn't want to move up the the hedgerows in France.

00:11:00 Speaker 1

And.

00:11:02 Speaker 1

Or tell me what the other do is get.

00:11:05 Speaker 1

Heat from what they want to do is say, well, those are blades on the front lines of the tank.

00:11:11 Speaker 1

And you push them away and that's what they did.

00:11:14 Speaker 1

Done.

00:11:15 Speaker 2

That was very ingenious.

00:11:17 Speaker 2

You're not the first person that's told me that. That what a what a problem those hedgerows were so.

00:11:22 Speaker 3

Oh.

00:11:25 Speaker 1

Time I'm doctor.

00:11:27 Speaker 1

That time I got to Norman here.

00:11:30 Speaker 1

Within a week, I would say that they made the virtue of percent lower.

00:11:35 Speaker 1

And single was on the other.

00:11:40 Speaker 1

I guess be the southern edges there.

00:11:44 Speaker 1

Now that you've finished so.

00:11:49 Speaker 2

When you were going through France?

00:11:51 Speaker 2

What were the weather conditions like?

00:11:51

I.

00:11:53 Speaker 1

Think every day.

00:11:55 Speaker 2

Lots of mud would be horrible.

00:11:59 Speaker 1

I think it must have rained every day.

00:12:03 Speaker 1

Let me go to release them guys.

00:12:10 Speaker 1

Firmly sound.

00:12:12 Speaker 1

You've probably heard of that one too, and.

00:12:19 Speaker 1

Going up there and our personal so.

00:12:21 Speaker 1

I wonder if I could be any more miserable for the lighting right now.

00:12:23 Speaker 3

So.

00:12:29 Speaker 1

That made my mother cry when I told her about that.

00:12:33 Speaker 2

Or you will at least get rations out there.

00:12:37 Speaker 1

Well around the bridge.

00:12:41 Speaker 1

Hello.

00:12:44 Speaker 2

Was it was it just constantly digging in? Did you have to just literally dig your way into some safety when you went over there?

00:12:52 Speaker 1

Well, yes and no, but a lot of times.

00:12:56 Speaker 1

The Germans are less thoughtful and we can throw in those.

00:13:01 Speaker 1

One of them, the guy named the boundary. Now we've been together.

00:13:06 Speaker 1

And.

00:13:09 Speaker 1

The Germans left. They left they in foreign 8 the 88.

00:13:14 Speaker 1

And.

00:13:16 Speaker 1

One of the women on the opposite side of that.

00:13:19 Speaker 1

Post hole hand photos.

00:13:22 Speaker 1

They figured.

00:13:24 Speaker 1

2-3 days. I don't know how long it works now, but anyhow.

00:13:29 Speaker 1

From the incident.

00:13:37 Speaker 1

That was probably well, yeah.

00:13:42 Speaker 1

There's this thing called the DVC.

00:13:48 Speaker 1

He signed his name up quite a bit that way when he feels so.

00:13:55 Speaker 1

In the.

00:13:58 Speaker 1

You saw my name and.

00:14:01 Speaker 1

Where there's a.

00:14:03 Speaker 1

Little pamphlet like thing, that sort of thing.

00:14:06 Speaker 1

1520 pages maybe?

00:14:09 Speaker 1

Put up with the Ridge division and he saw my name in there. One there.

00:14:15 Speaker 1

And he told me up.

00:14:18 Speaker 1

He was from Saint Louis.

00:14:20 Speaker 1

And met over.

00:14:23 Speaker 1

Over pension. Ohh, how nice. Very nice. I'm sure it was.

00:14:25 Speaker 1

Oh.

00:14:28 Speaker 1

Is so miserable it was unbelievable, but.

00:14:32 Speaker 2

That was after many, many years, wasn't it?

00:14:34 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:14:35 Speaker 2

Oh great.

00:14:38 Speaker 2

Well, how long?

00:14:39 Speaker 2

Were you actually in how long would continuous combat situation were you in over there?

00:14:46 Speaker 2

How long did this go on?

00:14:47 Speaker 1

For you well.

00:14:51 Speaker 1

Just tell him that's what we go to.

00:14:54 Speaker 1

I couldn't remember being out of artillery range.

00:14:57 Speaker 1

In the time I.

00:14:59 Speaker 1

It's out there until.

00:15:02 Speaker 1

And so the value is the end.

00:15:05 Speaker 1

And that was that was.

00:15:17 Speaker 1

And.

00:15:19 Speaker 1

We.

00:15:21 Speaker 1

We were always in danger.

00:15:26 Speaker 1

And you know, you learn to live with this fear.

00:15:31 Speaker 1

And you don't pay much attention, is it?

00:15:32 Speaker 2

If I was going to ask you.

00:15:33 Speaker 2

How how do you?

00:15:34 Speaker 2

Keep your your your sanity in a situation like that.

00:15:38 Speaker 1

You have to know.

00:15:44 Speaker 1

That.

00:15:45 Speaker 1

There were times that.

00:15:50 Speaker 1

Tell the.

00:15:52 Speaker 1

About the incident there, when we first well, we've been there about two or three days I guess.

00:16:02 Speaker 1

We were sent out the Garter and a tank gun, American anti tank gun.

00:16:08 Speaker 1

And.

00:16:10 Speaker 1

Wondering how we can far forward together again.

00:16:15 Speaker 1

I tell you, he had been in this STP program.

00:16:19 Speaker 1

And.

00:16:21 Speaker 1

He couldn't keep himself shooting, obviously not about it all the time, you know? And. And I couldn't like him very well. And I think that's the reason when I first stayed together.

00:16:35 Speaker 1

A lot.

00:16:41 Speaker 1

Going down the street and all those little towns in France.

00:16:50 Speaker 1

Nothing.

00:16:52 Speaker 1

When the doors off to the windows and overhead.

00:16:56 Speaker 3

Right.

00:16:56 Speaker 1

To protect himself a little bit.

00:17:01 Speaker 1

One door for there.

00:17:04 Speaker 1

And go to gender rifles inside that time an old man or woman come around the corner and someplace else and.

00:17:16 Speaker 1

Always hear I was screaming.

00:17:21 Speaker 1

She felt sure we we would kill her. You know, I only know of one person that I'm. I'm almost dead sure that I killed.

00:17:32 Speaker 2

And the can you tell me the circumstance of that?

00:17:36 Speaker 1

Yeah. OK.

00:17:38 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:17:42 Speaker 1

I have the only rifles been made in our.

00:17:46 Speaker 1

And you couldn't hear me? I want you to.

00:17:51 Speaker 1

Put that on my lap when I shut the grenade off and landed right in the park forward with German machine gun.

00:17:59 Speaker 1

And.

00:18:01 Speaker 1

When I got up there.

00:18:03 Speaker 1

He wasn't quite dead yet, but it was seen coming all out and Jelly and everything and.

00:18:11 Speaker 1

That's my.

00:18:16 Speaker 1

Positive thing, yeah.

00:18:18 Speaker 1

And I think about this.

00:18:20 Speaker 1

You know, I didn't stop that. He thinks to stop and see if I could help him or anything.

00:18:25 Speaker 1

Like.

00:18:25 Speaker 1

That and that's all.

00:18:28 Speaker 1

In my way of thinking.

00:18:32 Speaker 1

She couldn't. He couldn't do that.

00:18:36 Speaker 1

For very many times, once you get his yourself.

00:18:39 Speaker 2

Well, one man described it to.

00:18:40 Speaker 2

Me, he said that.

00:18:43 Speaker 2

When he was in World War 2, he he kept thinking about everything he would had heard in church and everything. All his Sunday school lessons and and and things that just had to get shoved aside during that time.

00:18:50 Speaker 1

Oh yeah.

00:18:56 Speaker 2

All his values, a lot of his values.

00:18:58 Speaker 1

Anyway, well I I had the idea.

00:19:03 Speaker 1

That was a pretty good dog, Christian at the time.

00:19:08 Speaker 1

Yes.

00:19:11 Speaker 1

If there was some rifle bullet coming right at me.

00:19:15 Speaker 1

That the good Lord would reach down to that rifle bullet and made it pass over.

00:19:19 Speaker 1

Me.

00:19:21 Speaker 1

Of course, that didn't happen.

00:19:24 Speaker 1

But anyhow, I had I had a deep faith.

00:19:30 Speaker 1

I wish I.

00:19:31 Speaker 1

Still had that strong faith as I did then.

00:19:35 Speaker 1

My wife was up there in nursing home and I was having this ward at the she's not here today.

00:19:43 Speaker 1

That.

00:19:49 Speaker 2

But I suppose strong faith will certainly help you in those conditions, didn't it?

00:19:55 Speaker 1

Ohh yeah.

00:19:58 Speaker 1

Ohh yeah.

00:20:00 Speaker 1

I.

00:20:04 Speaker 1

Play.

00:20:05 Speaker 1

He used to come out with song. Song gets, you know, personal to the soldiers education.

00:20:11 Speaker 1

One of them called him from home.

00:20:17 Speaker 1

Non final word.

00:20:19 Speaker 1

This long, God will take care of you and I 58.

00:20:24 Speaker 1

Everybody said well for you that coming, you will.

00:20:28 Speaker 1

You know.

00:20:30 Speaker 1

And.

00:20:35 Speaker 1

So I guess I must have been.

00:20:37 Speaker 1

Witness to somebody over there.

00:20:42 Speaker 1

And.

00:20:45 Speaker 1

I've been here one time while the guys got turned down in Germany and she was on fire.

00:20:50 Speaker 1

And he always plays you an atheist, you know.

00:20:57 Speaker 1

Cortana for me and tell me about the.

00:21:01 Speaker 1

Well, I'll tell it. Tell me something. If you do any praying.

00:21:05 Speaker 1

Provided a lot.

00:21:05 Speaker 1

Of.

00:21:06 Speaker 1

Voters thinking as all they said.

00:21:13 Speaker 2

Interesting choice of words by that.

00:21:17 Speaker 3

Well.

00:21:19 Speaker 2

When was it such that you finally were able to like? Actually, I guess when you were finished in France, what was going on earlier you sent them?

00:21:30 Speaker 2

From France, cause you were you were fortunate enough to to miss.

00:21:35 Speaker 2

The Battle of.

00:21:35 Speaker 2

The bulge it's.

00:21:38 Speaker 1

That was good fortune indeed. There was good fortune too, for not be there.

00:21:45 Speaker 1

I saw part of this.

00:21:48 Speaker 1

Saving Private Ryan and I hooked up with.

00:21:53 Speaker 1

And.

00:21:55 Speaker 1

I'm just so glad that I wasn't there.

00:21:59 Speaker 1

But I probably would never get back.

00:22:08 Speaker 1

The tire eventually got back.

00:22:11 Speaker 1

Back to England.

00:22:13 Speaker 1

They sent me down to the seven.

00:22:16 Speaker 1

Well.

00:22:19 Speaker 1

Real Southern part of science playlist.

00:22:23 Speaker 1

When I was in the in the 45.

00:22:28 Speaker 1

Driving.

00:22:30 Speaker 1

Afternoon.

00:22:31 Speaker 2

Were you the patient or were you the driver? Patient. OK, what had happened that you were in that ambulance?

00:22:38 Speaker 1

Right.

00:22:42 Speaker 1

On the.

00:22:43 Speaker 1

Since the November, so this would have been.

00:22:46 Speaker 1

Maybe couple days later, maybe less, I don't know.

00:22:52 Speaker 1

Lost 5 miles back to the aid stations.

00:22:57 Speaker 1

I said 5 miles ahead. I may have been sure that that's what it was. They were a major, you know.

00:23:05 Speaker 1

Seemed like 5 miles to me and.

00:23:10 Speaker 1

That that makes it difficult.

00:23:14 Speaker 1

Down South for some some place.

00:23:19 Speaker 1

And it was the Kent hospital.

00:23:22 Speaker 1

And that's where they upgrade their mind.

00:23:25 Speaker 1

So with the winding the leg.

00:23:28 Speaker 1

Just let's the SharePoint.

00:23:31 Speaker 1

Has I've seen that?

00:23:34 Speaker 1

Any X-rays witness.

00:23:36 Speaker 1

Acclaimed different sizes Great Northern beans are now.

00:23:43 Speaker 1

It went deep, I guess.

00:23:45 Speaker 2

That's still in you.

00:23:48 Speaker 1

Let's have this.

00:23:52 Speaker 1

Probably.

00:23:54 Speaker 1

After a certain amount of time that.

00:23:57 Speaker 1

They just don't know.

00:24:03 Speaker 3

Light your light still there.

00:24:08 Speaker 1

Well, it was very heavy there for a long time, but.

00:24:12 Speaker 1

I don't believe there's anymore. I just push on that scar like it feels sticking in there.

00:24:19 Speaker 1

And that it doesn't do that.

00:24:22 Speaker 2

So what kind of a convalescence do you have?

00:24:26 Speaker 2

And where were you sent for that?

00:24:30 Speaker 1

This.

00:24:31 Speaker 1

Like for me it was just 10 hospital. I told you about him. I was sent him there to.

00:24:41 Speaker 1

Every life for sure was that the accumulation hospital and you know.

00:24:48 Speaker 1

And then.

00:24:49 Speaker 1

Finally, I got to sit at the coaster.

00:24:52 Speaker 1

Paris, France. I went to Paris.

00:24:55 Speaker 1

And blacked out anyway. That was my experience with Paris.

00:25:02 Speaker 1

And.

00:25:05 Speaker 1

Then from there.

00:25:12 Speaker 1

I was.

00:25:13 Speaker 1

Over here, talk in England.

00:25:16 Speaker 1

Before I was the wife taught me over at the hospital was so they.

00:25:21 Speaker 1

The American Hospital.

00:25:25 Speaker 1

Colonel comes past till 1. Bed. I didn't swear.

00:25:29 Speaker 1

Soldiers, which you know you're supposed to salute as officer.

00:25:32 Speaker 1

I said yes, Sir. I can't. I do know that. But I can't do it.

00:25:37 Speaker 1

Like like I couldn't get it down.

00:25:45 Speaker 2

What was his response to that?

00:25:48 Speaker 1

He says.

00:25:53 Speaker 2

Well after that, were you able to come?

00:25:55 Speaker 3

Home, then, yeah, I left.

00:26:01 Speaker 1

When I heard my wife and told her I was home for Christmas February the 6th, we left there on the Queen Mary again after 12 and back home about the Queen Mary.

00:26:15 Speaker 2

Looked pretty good to you at that time, didn't?

00:26:18 Speaker 2

Come back to New York.

00:26:21 Speaker 2

Lots of guys.

00:26:22 Speaker 2

Have told me what they remember seeing the Statue of Liberty when they came back in.

00:26:26 Speaker 1

I don't remember that, but.

00:26:29 Speaker 1

Which in Staten Island. Here. Right through this. That's where I've seen one of the big bands of the time now.

00:26:36 Speaker 1

I know it's been a good manner.

00:26:41 Speaker 1

It came to hospital out there and.

00:26:45 Speaker 1

And when you see him so far.

00:26:50 Speaker 1

First, usually didn't mean as much to me then as it does now.

00:26:55 Speaker 1

I get it.

00:26:57 Speaker 1

I get a song on my mind that I I just can't hardly get it all you know.

00:27:02 Speaker 2

Where do you where you discharged soon after that?

00:27:06 Speaker 3

No, no, no.

00:27:09 Speaker 1

I.

00:27:11 Speaker 1

Went from Staten Island to.

00:27:15 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:27:20 Speaker 1

Colorado. I'm trying to think for.

00:27:28 Speaker 1

There.

00:27:30 Speaker 1

Yeah, I took work from the teeth one day.

00:27:34 Speaker 1

With your soldiers, and how do you eat these?

00:27:40 Speaker 1

I never had a chance to take care of other kids, you know.

00:27:47 Speaker 1

That.

00:27:50 Speaker 1

And we have.

00:27:55 Speaker 1

In Staten Island and I've got a.

00:27:58 Speaker 1

30 will pass home.

00:28:02 Speaker 1

Phone line.

00:28:05 Speaker 1

When Franklin Roosevelt died.

00:28:08 Speaker 1

And.

00:28:11 Speaker 1

You can store across the street and says.

00:28:15 Speaker 1

We'll show the slide.

00:28:17 Speaker 1

Dad says let's deal with some of this die. I don't. I said to it. I said, dad, that's awful.

00:28:27 Speaker 1

Yes, because he's dead. They're making any better than he was.

00:28:33 Speaker 3

The Republican.

00:28:34 Speaker 1

And I'm sure my dad voters are Roosevelt. The first time. I'm sure he did. And I think Mother did too.

00:28:43 Speaker 1

And one thing is there's no other.

00:28:47 Speaker 1

When mother came home, they said, well, we'll give up vote for the president.

00:28:58 Speaker 1

But.

00:29:00 Speaker 1

Then.

00:29:03 Speaker 1

I was sitting there up to Camp Atterbury.

00:29:07 Speaker 1

Yeah, up here.

00:29:09 Speaker 1

You know, give it 30.

00:29:12 Speaker 1

33 days.

00:29:14 Speaker 1

Delay and roof.

00:29:17 Speaker 1

And report to Miami, FL.

00:29:24 Speaker 1

Unless they offer something burned down there in Miami.

00:29:33 Speaker 1

With the.

00:29:37 Speaker 1

Really. Just stay up too long.

00:29:41 Speaker 1

Water and.

00:29:43 Speaker 1

This Sands Hotel was right on the beach.

00:29:47 Speaker 1

Even though we'll have in the ocean.

00:29:50 Speaker 1

Pull around and have swimming pool your daughter also.

00:30:02 Speaker 2

What was the purpose of?

00:30:03 Speaker 2

Being at Miami and what was going.

00:30:07 Speaker 2

To happen from there.

00:30:09 Speaker 1

You know, they sent me up before being in Georgia after that.

00:30:12 Speaker 1

Actually patients for the.

00:30:17 Speaker 1

I told you.

00:30:18 Speaker 2

So so you got to stay. Stay.

00:30:20 Speaker 2

State side after that then, yeah.

00:30:30 Speaker 2

Did you ever think?

00:30:31 Speaker 2

That that you would be going to the Pacific.

00:30:34 Speaker 2

Oh yeah, tell me about that.

00:30:39 Speaker 1

Also, shame. Sorry, that's OK, but.

00:30:45 Speaker 1

Every morning when I was first, they told me I should go out and teach other people other soldiers about martyrs.

00:30:52 Speaker 1

I never saw the border and having.

00:30:55 Speaker 3

Really.

00:30:57 Speaker 1

And then within a.

00:30:59 Speaker 1

She's lost more than my life, I don't guess.

00:31:03 Speaker 1

And I know I didn't know this.

00:31:05 Speaker 1

Wrong there, but.

00:31:06 Speaker 1

And I started going to the.

00:31:10 Speaker 1

So you want to sick call.

00:31:12 Speaker 1

It the day.

00:31:13 Speaker 1

Before you go out and find more and.

00:31:18 Speaker 1

Finally go.

00:31:21 Speaker 1

The doctor said.

00:31:23 Speaker 1

There's private criminal. What's wrong with you? I said. I know you're not sick.

00:31:28 Speaker 1

And.

00:31:30 Speaker 1

That's really nice. It will.

00:31:32 Speaker 1

I stay where I am. I'm one of the heads of sitting and I had no intention to go on that.

00:31:38 Speaker 1

I guess I've gone over the hill and.

00:31:41 Speaker 1

We'll hold it down.

00:31:43 Speaker 2

Well, that was not a.

00:31:44 Speaker 2

Very.

00:31:46 Speaker 2

Very pleasant thing to think about exactly, and I'm sure you're not the only person that had those thoughts.

00:31:46 Speaker 1

Pleasure. Thank you. Thank you.

00:31:54 Speaker 1

No, I'm not.

00:31:55 Speaker 2

I've I've heard many.

00:31:57 Speaker 2

Man Express just how ugly that would have been.

00:32:02 Speaker 2

Do you remember where you were when you heard the news about the bombings at Hiroshima?

00:32:12 Speaker 1

No.

00:32:14 Speaker 1

100 down port down target for a.

00:32:16 Speaker 1

While you know.

00:32:19 Speaker 1

I got discharged them down there. I'd find a way home.

00:32:26 Speaker 3

And.

00:32:26 Speaker 2

That was.

00:32:28 Speaker 2

How did you get home?

00:32:31 Speaker 1

Always.

00:32:33 Speaker 1

We're close together.

00:32:35 Speaker 1

Heading up this way.

00:32:37 Speaker 1

I think he's going in and out with something on the property.

00:32:43 Speaker 1

3-1.

00:32:47 Speaker 2

Was it hard being a civilian again?

00:32:50 Speaker 1

No, I don't. I don't very.

00:32:56 Speaker 1

Hard things about it well.

00:33:00 Speaker 1

I guess I do because.

00:33:04 Speaker 1

I will.

00:33:08 Speaker 1

Warning machine once it has come up to hold and.

00:33:17 Speaker 1

I raised enough cane around the.

00:33:20 Speaker 1

He finally put me on his list.

00:33:23 Speaker 1

And negotiating board.

00:33:26 Speaker 1

And so.

00:33:31 Speaker 1

There's one thing I'd like to tell.

00:33:32 Speaker 1

You about this?

00:33:35 Speaker 1

We're just making water pumps for cars.

00:33:39 Speaker 1

All will be open.

00:33:42 Speaker 1

As long as I have.

00:33:45 Speaker 1

Can't say his name right now. I thought of that. Your little bag.

00:33:50 Speaker 1

So.

00:33:51 Speaker 1

My.

00:33:54 Speaker 1

He is constantly beaten on the side of his tow truck.

00:33:58 Speaker 1

With those water pumps.

00:34:01 Speaker 1

Of course.

00:34:03 Speaker 1

You know, it's pretty junky, yet you know well, my son was already. He didn't come back.

00:34:14 Speaker 1

In making the difference for others.

00:34:19 Speaker 1

Push out everybody. I'm still kind of jumping around.

00:34:25 Speaker 1

And.

00:34:28 Speaker 1

Let's do this.

00:34:30 Speaker 1

They would be harmed.

00:34:32 Speaker 1

Rod, run the pipe.

00:34:36 Speaker 1

Staying here close to where I was working.

00:34:41 Speaker 1

And I got the idea. And then that night talk. Careful, more time. I was going to go there and hit him on the head of that.

00:34:49 Speaker 1

The wrong button.

00:34:51 Speaker 1

And.

00:34:52 Speaker 1

About that time, I guess the foreman.

00:34:55 Speaker 1

Realized a whole lot about.

00:34:58 Speaker 1

What was going on?

00:35:00 Speaker 1

We need to eliminate screw machinery.

00:35:05 Speaker 1

So.

00:35:09 Speaker 1

And now that's settled there and then we'll be holding us to that.

00:35:12 Speaker 2

Well, it's been a long, long time.

00:35:13 Speaker 2

Since World War 2.

00:35:14 Speaker 2

Hasn't.

00:35:15 Speaker 1

It what's happened since then? Yeah, what do you?

00:35:21 Speaker 2

When you think back to that time.

00:35:25 Speaker 2

How do you how do you feel about what you were part of and what the?

00:35:28 Speaker 2

US accomplished during that time.

00:35:30 Speaker 1

Well, I've, I've put a lot of times.

00:35:35 Speaker 1

And I've been there. If we hadn't got into the war in Europe because Hitler, Hitler was one.

00:35:42 Speaker 1

And pretty well everything tied up.

00:35:48 Speaker 2

You were talking about.

00:35:51 Speaker 2

Maybe the US involvement in the war.

00:35:53 Speaker 1

Well.

00:35:55 Speaker 1

Or.

00:35:57 Speaker 1

Almost all of Europe is on one.

00:36:01 Speaker 1

One money now.

00:36:03 Speaker 1

For the euro.

00:36:06 Speaker 1

And it seems like.

00:36:09 Speaker 1

It might have been a good idea to left, but hit her along.

00:36:14 Speaker 1

United Europe.

00:36:18 Speaker 1

Which it wouldn't have been what we would like. I'm sure of that, but.

00:36:24 Speaker 1

But I thought I thought about this a lot.

00:36:30 Speaker 1

Which you don't think about that one there.

00:36:32 Speaker 1

You're on the front line all the time, yeah.

00:36:39 Speaker 3

You don't want to qualify that. That's your political position.

00:36:43 Speaker 1

No, no, no.

00:36:48 Speaker 2

You've had a lot of time to consider.

00:36:51 Speaker 2

Your thoughts too?

00:36:53

Sure.

00:36:56 Speaker 1

.50.

00:36:58 Speaker 1

What we say about the whole 55 years.

00:37:03 Speaker 3

On the 10th, 68 years since we were waiting.

00:37:10 Speaker 1

But.

00:37:13 Speaker 1

That's all right around the bridge.

00:37:15 Speaker 2

It sure is.

00:37:15 Speaker 1

Don't let it bother me anymore.

00:37:18 Speaker 1

Except for the one.

00:37:19 Speaker 1

That one thing a lot of times.

00:37:22 Speaker 1

That's what I'm what I'm thinking about money.

00:37:25 Speaker 1

When we were there at night, the first thing I think I want to get up.

00:37:29 Speaker 1

That one guy that I'm sure that.

00:37:32 Speaker 1

I was the guy that killed him.

00:37:35 Speaker 1

It's just one of those things.

00:37:38 Speaker 2

That I'm. I'm sure that that's.

00:37:42 Speaker 2

That's something you just cannot get out of your mind, and then that site will always be with you.

00:37:45 Speaker 1

Well.

00:37:47 Speaker 1

And I will. But you know I.

00:37:53 Speaker 1

Yeah. What's it called? Post traumatic stress.

00:38:00 Speaker 1

And I was telling the interviewer down there to be a.

00:38:07 Speaker 1

Now she's.

00:38:09 Speaker 1

Put me down for another 10% rate of communication.

00:38:13 Speaker 1

I had no idea, but he's going to do that. But he did.

00:38:19 Speaker 2

So what percentage do they have you right now 70?

00:38:25 Speaker 1

I thought it was 60 all the time.

00:38:27 Speaker 3

Everything.

00:38:29 Speaker 1

And that makes it 7.

00:38:32 Speaker 2

Mr. Coomer thanks so much for doing this.

00:38:35 Speaker 2

I appreciate your comments and then particularly what you've provided and written for them.

00:38:35 Speaker 1

Well.

00:38:41 Speaker 1

Yeah, I'm glad I did that.

00:38:43 Speaker 2

I'm glad you did too, but.

00:38:47 Speaker 1

Mark had been a copy of it lying.

00:38:49 Speaker 1

On his desk.

00:38:50 Speaker 1

The Courier down there.

00:38:52 Speaker 1

He's a graphic artist, by the way.

00:38:55 Speaker 1

And please come round, fix the start looking at it.

00:39:00 Speaker 1

And she wanted to put it on the Internet and that's that's how come he only had it well.

00:39:06 Speaker 2

Well, thank you so much for doing this.

00:39:09 Speaker 1

Said whatever he called me and asked me about it, I said to him. I said Mark, when I give permission for that, he says yes, that's what I'm.

00:39:19 Speaker 1

If I get to do it now.

00:39:22 Speaker 1

And I said, well, let me think about it for about about a week. I knew everything was in there was.

00:39:29 Speaker 1

As far as I was concerned with truth.

00:39:32 Speaker 1

And I would have no reason for hanging. Sure.

00:39:37 Speaker 1

But.

00:39:39 Speaker 1

Anyhow.

00:39:41 Speaker 1

That's how it get come to me on the Internet. I've got one call on that.

00:39:46 Speaker 1

Somebody from down in Kentucky?

00:39:49 Speaker 1

Called me, he said he was in my house.

00:39:53 Speaker 1

Them at all. You know, maybe Mark, double call the other day from a.

00:40:01 Speaker 1

Well.

00:40:02 Speaker 1

There was a boy named Black in our outfit.

00:40:06 Speaker 1

And one of his sons had called.

00:40:10 Speaker 1

Mark down the Courier.

00:40:15 Speaker 1

But outside of that, I don't have much contact. I've never been to.

00:40:21 Speaker 1

Blue Ridge, reunion, red and.

00:40:23 Speaker 2

What's what were you gonna say?

00:40:25 Speaker 3

I'm going to say this is some points of interest. Might be we went to sleep in the barn, in the barn or we went around the barn together, things and wounded.

00:40:39 Speaker 1

I think that's in that I think there.

00:40:43 Speaker 1

But done very nice.

00:40:49 Speaker 1

Before you hear from Barry, tell him he's.

00:40:52 Speaker 1

And he has embellished it quite a bit, but.

00:40:59 Speaker 1

Around the edge of the barn and we were looking for eggs. What we were looking for.

00:41:06 Speaker 1

And.

00:41:08 Speaker 1

For the two or three guys, there come into surrender.

00:41:13 Speaker 1

And.

00:41:15 Speaker 1

Which I dropped my eggs.

00:41:17 Speaker 1

Trying to get my rifle up where I could.

00:41:20 Speaker 1

Get on if I. If I had to, you know.

00:41:24 Speaker 1

And.

00:41:27 Speaker 1

They're not going, very said. He had about 25 eggs and he didn't have that many eggs at all because he had half a dozen, he said.

00:41:37 Speaker 2

Mr. Cooper, it's been a pleasure to meet you, Sir. Well, thank you. So.

00:41:40 Speaker 3

Much.

00:41:41 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:41:42 Speaker 1

You're welcome.

