

## **Robert Cox Interview**

Service Company, 318th Inf Reg

*(Library of Congress: Veterans History Project; interviewed by Gale D. Robinett)*

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

00:00:37 Speaker 1

The date is April 13, 2015.

00:00:41 Speaker 1

Location is apt 162.

00:00:46 Speaker 1

Fremont Pike, Perrysburg.

00:00:48 Speaker 1

The time is 9:30 AM and today the person being interviewed is Robert Cox.

00:01:00 Speaker 1

I'm conducting the.

00:01:01 Speaker 1

My name is GAIL Robinette. On behalf of the Yankee Air Museum and Jerry Jensen is also in the room as the as the.

00:01:10 Speaker 1

Audio and visual person. So Mr. Cox, Robert or Bob, I guess I'll call you Bob.

00:01:17 Speaker 1

Where were you born?

00:01:18 Speaker 1

Were you born?

00:01:19 Speaker 2

I've born in, say, Ohio in 1916.

00:01:25 Speaker 2

May 7th, 1916.

00:01:28 Speaker 1

And you grew up in Toledo?

00:01:30 Speaker 2

I lived in Toledo for 90 years.

00:01:33 Speaker 1

And your mom and dad's name?

00:01:37 Speaker 2

Dad's name was Elmer John Cox and Mother's name was Freda Cox.

00:01:43 Speaker 1

And you had siblings.

00:01:44 Speaker 2

My I had a son named Robert Michael Cox, our daughter Robin Lynn Cox, and another daughter was Michelle Eileen Cox.

00:01:59 Speaker 1

Did you have any brothers or sisters?

00:02:01 Speaker 2

I had one.

00:02:02 Speaker 2

Albert was his name. Albert.

00:02:04 Speaker 1

And you stayed in Toledo and you went to school here.

00:02:08 Speaker 2

I went to school.

00:02:11 Speaker 2

Through all my school years.

00:02:14 Speaker 1

And then you went to college.

00:02:15 Speaker 2

I went to the university forgot.

00:02:17 Speaker 1

How many years?

00:02:19 Speaker 2

Years I had until.

00:02:22 Speaker 1

Does that brings us up to 1938 or 39? And you met your wife?

00:02:27 Speaker 2

I met my wife.

00:02:30 Speaker 2

In in high school.

00:02:33 Speaker 2

I was a sophomore year and.

00:02:37 Speaker 2

I had no interest in women up until that time and.

00:02:43 Speaker 2

The way I met her, we had the hall lockers like all high.

00:02:47 Speaker 2

That and there was a a lovely blonde girl at the locker next to me, and I was kind of interested in her.

00:02:57 Speaker 2

Me.

00:03:00 Speaker 2

And.

00:03:02 Speaker 2

I used to wait for her to come to the locker and then I talked to her.

00:03:05 Speaker 2

Well, it turned out that my wife was a friend of this girl.

00:03:09 Speaker 2

Girls and one time she came over to to get something for girlfriend and she wasn't there and she asked me if the other girl had come to the locker yet and I looked up and saw her and.

00:03:26 Speaker 2

And for a minute, that time on that was it.

00:03:28 Speaker 1

We.

00:03:29 Speaker 2

Begin to.

00:03:31 Speaker 2

Tyler, get get acquainted with it. And I did. And we ended up getting married.

00:03:38 Speaker 1

So before you got married, you had some friends that used to run around with other couples.

00:03:43 Speaker 2

Oh yes, we we had a little group there, really well about four or five groups of of couples who come out of high school also and they they graduate all the time, got married and.

00:04:01 Speaker 2

My wife and I, we.

00:04:03 Speaker 2

We just were having fun and so we didn't think too much. At least I didn't.

00:04:11 Speaker 2

But I I found out a little later on that she did we.

00:04:17 Speaker 2

Were going to church to the wedding of the last of the other couples who are getting married. And as we sat there watching the program.

00:04:27 Speaker 2

Out of the blue sky, towards the end of the program, my wife turned to me and she said.

00:04:35 Speaker 2

When are we going to get?

00:04:36 Speaker 2

Others is why we just playing around and.

00:04:42 Speaker 2

I stopped me down then that I started understanding.

00:04:45 Speaker 2

Well, right then and there, we made it on a date together.

00:04:49 Speaker 2

Get married on March 29th in 1941.

00:04:53 Speaker 1

So that brings us up to March 1941.

00:04:57 Speaker 1

Europe is already in war.

00:04:59 Speaker 1

And you're a young man, and the people in Toledo, were they thinking about the Americans going into the war?

00:05:07 Speaker 2

I think they were.

00:05:10 Speaker 2

They, as you know, we had the.

00:05:13 Speaker 2

Over the factory there in Toledo and they finally were making the Jeep automobile. I think that people, yes they were.

00:05:24 Speaker 2

They were concerns that you eventually got going to end up in the war.

00:05:29 Speaker 2

Was nothing that would keep us out of it.

00:05:32 Speaker 1

What did you think about?

00:05:35 Speaker 1

Mr. Roosevelt or President Roosevelt his.

00:05:37 Speaker 1

Did you really believe he wanted to keep us out of?

00:05:40 Speaker 1

4.

00:05:41 Speaker 1

11.

00:05:42 Speaker 2

Was kind of mixed feelings with him.

00:05:45 Speaker 2

I didn't hear too much about him, but towards the last I thought he worked out pretty well.

00:05:51 Speaker 1

OK.

00:05:52 Speaker 1

So that brings us up to.

00:05:53 Speaker 1

Harbor.

00:05:54 Speaker 1

Now, like all Americans, can you remember where you were when you heard about Pearl Harbor?

00:05:58 Speaker 2

I was driving down Bancroft on my way to my.

00:06:04 Speaker 2

Wow. Girlfriends house at that time, she lived on Joffrey right off of Bancroft and.

00:06:13 Speaker 2

I was driving in a in my second car and.

00:06:19 Speaker 2

I heard him say Pearl Harbor, of course. At that time I didn't have any idea where Pearl Harbor was.

00:06:26 Speaker 2

I I don't think there were a lot of.

00:06:28 Speaker 2

Knew about Pearl.

00:06:29

Harbor but.

00:06:29 Speaker 1

That's right. You know, OK.

00:06:30 Speaker 2

That's where I heard about.

00:06:31 Speaker 1

It OK, so you got married.

00:06:35 Speaker 1

And the war broke.

00:06:36 Speaker 1

United States was at war, but you didn't go in right away.

00:06:41 Speaker 1

And you weren't inducted.

00:06:42 Speaker 1

Yes, you volunteered, right? OK. And that was in 19.

00:06:44 Speaker 2

Yes.

00:06:48 Speaker 2

For the last part of 41.

00:06:51

Yeah.

00:06:52 Speaker 1

And so you were.

00:06:53 Speaker 1

Why did you decide to go in the military?

00:06:55 Speaker 1

Didn't you wait to be inducted?

00:06:57 Speaker 2

Well, there was a fun I worked with. It had a little military.

00:07:03 Speaker 2

Not in a war, but in the states. And I I think he kind of talked me into it with the idea that if we went in together.

00:07:13 Speaker 2

We would have a better idea of of getting a better.

00:07:19 Speaker 2

Position something but we want and so we said we would go down and volunteer together and we did.

00:07:28 Speaker 2

But I kind of think it was a put up job because this fellow had a broke a puncture eardrum.

00:07:35 Speaker 2

And he knew.

00:07:35 Speaker 2

And the and the army knew it.

00:07:37 Speaker 2

And of course, they rejected him right away, and I was off by myself.

00:07:44 Speaker 1

So you went from Toledo?

00:07:46 Speaker 1

To fight by train.

00:07:49 Speaker 2

Fort Benjamin Harrison was the.

00:07:53 Speaker 2

Induction place we.

00:07:55 Speaker 2

There they it was a processing place, I think for draftees because we were there for.

00:08:04 Speaker 2

All two weeks while I showed, I don't know hundreds of draftees through and then finally, when they came to us.

00:08:13 Speaker 2

We they fitted us out all out with nice heavy winter overcoats and trousers on uniforms and a shifts to Louisiana Camp, Claiborne and Alexandria, LA.

00:08:28 Speaker 1



That's.

00:08:30 Speaker 2

Where you did your boot.

00:08:31 Speaker 2

Yes, I that was the 82nd.

00:08:34 Speaker 2

Our inventory division at that time was there and we were went into the 82nd instantly.

00:08:40 Speaker 1

So that was before it became a paratrooping paratrooper.

00:08:43 Speaker 2

Yes, we.

00:08:46 Speaker 2

Had a little time after we finished our boot training and then they converted the 82nd Infantry to a airborne and gave one of the regiments to start the 101st Airborne.

00:08:59 Speaker 1

OK.

00:09:01 Speaker 2

And I found out that I was in the glider troops.

00:09:05 Speaker 2

Well, I had seen pictures of the army gliders.

00:09:09 Speaker 2

Flying and landing.

00:09:12 Speaker 2

And the landing was not nice, the.

00:09:16 Speaker 2

The gliders were made out of wood and they they all was pieces. I don't think our army knew at that time that all the lots and plots of ground in France.

00:09:32 Speaker 2

Had hedges around them and there was really no place they could land and and they had a hard time.

00:09:39 Speaker 2

Almost all our troops are. The gliders were broken up on landing.

00:09:43 Speaker 1

So you were in basic training in Louisiana, your boot camp, and then you joined the 82nd Division and then they broke it up and you were still part of the 82nd Division before.

00:09:47 Speaker 2

Yeah, yeah.

00:09:57 Speaker 1

They came through and asked for candidates for Officer school, correct?

00:10:01 Speaker 2

Yes.

00:10:02 Speaker 1

So they came through.

00:10:03 Speaker 1

Then what?

00:10:04 Speaker 1

They asked for people.

00:10:05 Speaker 2

Well, they they want they wanted.

00:10:09 Speaker 2

Men, some who had.

00:10:12 Speaker 2

College training.

00:10:14 Speaker 2

And I wanted to get out of the 82nd Airborne, so sure that could.

00:10:19 Speaker 2

And so I applied for, it was accepted, was sentenced to Camp Benning.

00:10:26 Speaker 2

I believe I was in Georgia.

00:10:27 Speaker 2

Not quite sure.

00:10:27 Speaker 1

Right.

00:10:30 Speaker 2

And have three months training there and then there was.

00:10:36 Speaker 2

Transferred to the 88th Infantry Division at Tullahoma.

00:10:44 Speaker 1

So can you compare the officer candidate school training to boot camp?

00:10:51

Yeah.

00:10:51 Speaker 1

How difficult was the officer training?

00:10:53 Speaker 2

Well it.

00:10:54 Speaker 2

It was quite difficult because you were trained in everything.

00:10:58 Speaker 2

I mean, you did.

00:10:59 Speaker 2

You you were trained in in weapons and so forth that you weren't trained with in in your regular boot training and.

00:11:08 Speaker 2

You had to either master them or you you were shipped out and.

00:11:15 Speaker 1

How physically difficult was it?

00:11:17 Speaker 2

It was quite difficult because we had all all these.

00:11:24 Speaker 2

Training things to go over, they had the.

00:11:29 Speaker 2

The.

00:11:31 Speaker 2

Hikes, you went?

00:11:32 Speaker 2

That was the worst thing I.

00:11:35 Speaker 2

They gradually build it up to where we hiked 60 miles, 30 miles out, 30 miles back, and we lost a lot of men. In fact, is I I thought that might be gone because I broke both of my Archers and both feet.

00:11:51 Speaker 2

And they wouldn't let me hike back, but I I stayed in the.

00:11:56 Speaker 2

The in the division.

00:11:58 Speaker 1

Now how about the other officers?

00:12:00 Speaker 1

They have other.

00:12:01 Speaker 1

Do they have problems too in OCS officer candidate school?

00:12:06 Speaker 2

Does it?

00:12:06 Speaker 1

They have the same type of problems you did.

00:12:09 Speaker 2

Yes, they they had the officers who who couldn't make it, Raiden and they would be shipped out and more modern men came.

00:12:16 Speaker 1

Washed out.

00:12:18 Speaker 1

So you joined the 80th Division, 300 and 18th.

00:12:22 Speaker 1

Regimen and you went to school there for you did some schooling, didn't you?

00:12:22 Speaker 2

Legitimate, yes.

00:12:28 Speaker 1

Mechanic work.

00:12:29 Speaker 2

No, no. They I went to the 80th, was assigned to heavy ward heavy mortar.

00:12:38 Speaker 2

Uh.

00:12:39 Speaker 2

Company and I was called to Division Headquarters One day and I didn't know my. I wonder, well, what did I do now, you know.

00:12:49 Speaker 2

On but they were looking for someone with a mechanical background and they needed a motor officer and for some reason they picked me as the judgmental motor officer. And I went through the rest of the war as that position.

00:13:06 Speaker 1

And you were commissioned by that time as second Lieutenant.

00:13:09 Speaker 2

One way we left Fort Benning.

00:13:12 Speaker 2

Commission.

00:13:13 Speaker 1

Where did you join the 80th? At the 80th Infantry?

00:13:17 Speaker 2

Tell a Homa, Tennessee.

00:13:20 Speaker 1

OK, youth. So you we went to Camp Forest and then at that time you were allowed to bring your wife down.

00:13:21 Speaker 2

Can't can't forest.

00:13:29 Speaker 2

Well, I could at anytime. After you had a Commission, you, your wife could travel with you and live with you.

00:13:36 Speaker 1

So before that you what happened to your wife when you went into basic training or boot camp?

00:13:41 Speaker 2

She stayed.

00:13:41 Speaker 2

She had a.

00:13:42 Speaker 2

She was secretary to one of the men in now, Owens, Illinois.

00:13:50 Speaker 2

Company and.

00:13:52 Speaker 2

We were still in basic training. She came down to Alexandria. They they would provide.

00:14:01 Speaker 2

A place for the women to come down.

00:14:04 Speaker 2

Could stay, I forget.

00:14:06 Speaker 2

Specified time and they gave the the.

00:14:11 Speaker 2

Quayling quarters and every photo.

00:14:13 Speaker 2

So she came down there once and.

00:14:16

Yeah.

00:14:18 Speaker 2

11 time and while it's still in in the basic training she came.

00:14:28 Speaker 2

She had.

00:14:31 Speaker 2

Got permission to come down to camp?

00:14:37 Speaker 2

At Claiborne and.

00:14:41 Speaker 2

She packed.

00:14:42 Speaker 2

It got already and I had to call her.

00:14:45 Speaker 2

Got pneumonia down there, pneumonia.

00:14:47 Speaker 2

And I stayed. Had stay in the hospital for a month. They kept it.

00:14:52 Speaker 2

They had a hospital they built.

00:14:55 Speaker 2

They called it the Seven Mile hospital. It was.

00:15:00 Speaker 2

Just all rooms on two sides and they said it was 7 miles long if they went around they had, I don't know how many cases of pneumonia.

00:15:11 Speaker 2

Louisiana is very damp, you know.

00:15:16 Speaker 1

So you went to Tennessee and your wife was living with her parents at that time, and you brought her down.

00:15:18

Yes.

00:15:24 Speaker 2

She she didn't join me.

00:15:27 Speaker 2

Permanently.

00:15:32 Speaker 2

I so I was in in Tennessee and she after that.

00:15:39 Speaker 2

She stayed with me and.

00:15:40 Speaker 2

Bill, just before we shift out.

00:15:44 Speaker 1

So you went to.

00:15:46 Speaker 1

Would you go to school in Tennessee then?

00:15:49 Speaker 1

Maintenance tool.

00:15:50 Speaker 2

I when I was in in the Tennessee, I was shipped to Fort Benning.

00:15:57 Speaker 2

That was for another school and I don't remember the word.

00:16:01 Speaker 2

Was for we we took the.

00:16:04 Speaker 2

The training for mechanics are for officer training. When we were down in in Louisiana.

00:16:15 Speaker 1



So now you're in Tennessee and it's 1940 late 42. And you're probably wondering where you're going next, right?

00:16:22 Speaker 2

Everybody wondered that.

00:16:23 Speaker 1

Yeah. And there's all kinds of rumors, right?

00:16:25 Speaker 2

Oh yes.

00:16:27 Speaker 1

So what happened next?

00:16:29 Speaker 2

Well, from there on, we just travel the United States different places.

00:16:36 Speaker 2

Were in Kansas once we were in in Arizona.

00:16:43 Speaker 2

And from Arizona, where we were shipped back to.

00:16:50 Speaker 2

For \*\*\*\*\* to leave to go to Europe.

00:16:53

You know.

00:16:55 Speaker 2

But all this time now my wife could travel with me and.

00:16:58 Speaker 1

I was.

00:17:00 Speaker 2

My father-in-law.

00:17:03 Speaker 2

Had a car, of course, and gasoline and everything was rationed back home. He couldn't get enough gas to go to work, so he gave me his car and I had his car to drive all during the war, up during the efforts there in the United States.

00:17:19 Speaker 2

And.

00:17:21 Speaker 2

But he one thing he didn't tell me and we run away from.

00:17:26 Speaker 2

Arizona.

00:17:28 Speaker 2

For \*\*\*\*\*, he didn't tell me that he had ludlks on his wheels.

00:17:33 Speaker 2

Know you.

00:17:34 Speaker 2

You couldn't buy tires, so they were stealing them, so they had ways of locking him down. And I blew a tire in in Arizona.

00:17:44 Speaker 2

At night, about midnight and went out to change it.

00:17:49 Speaker 2

We didn't have the love lock.

00:17:52 Speaker 2

And I hammered, drove and hammered the hammer, and I finally got it off.

00:17:57 Speaker 2

And someone told us where you go to Dallas, TX and you get 2 new tires to a serviceman.

00:18:04 Speaker 2

We drove over there and we were at work finally able to get one tire.

00:18:11 Speaker 2

And drove back then to to New York. My aunt lived in New York, and my wife stayed with my aunt. And I went down to scambix.

00:18:22 Speaker 1

So how long did you stay in at Camp \*\*\*\*\*?

00:18:26 Speaker 2

Only a couple of.

00:18:27 Speaker 2

We didn't stay there very long and then my wife, my wifes father, had to take a train into New York to bring the car back.

00:18:37 Speaker 1

So did you know when you went to cap \*\*\*\*\*, you were going to Europe?

00:18:41 Speaker 2

One way off.

00:18:42 Speaker 1

When you first went to Camp \*\*\*\*\*, did you know you where you were going?

00:18:45 Speaker 2

And we didn't know anything.

00:18:47 Speaker 2

All we knew that we were there.

00:18:50 Speaker 2

We didn't even.

00:18:51 Speaker 2

Wow, how we were able to get there.

00:18:53 Speaker 2

We are just there and they're all packed up and.

00:18:57 Speaker 2

Pack everybody in and one day they said. All right, boys, let's get going.

00:19:02 Speaker 1

Now, did you have your weapons then?

00:19:04 Speaker 1

Had you finished?

00:19:06 Speaker 2

I don't think I.

00:19:07 Speaker 2

I don't know where where we probably were. If we were, you know, it wasn't.

00:19:14 Speaker 2

Army rap Weapon Rat at first mm HMM it was.

00:19:20 Speaker 2

A Springer Enfield.

00:19:23 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:19:23 Speaker 2

A British rifle.

00:19:24 Speaker 2

Believe it.

00:19:25 Speaker 1

So you went from Fort Dix to where to get on the boat to embark.

00:19:31 Speaker 2

We I'm barred from New York.

00:19:32 Speaker 1

So you wrote a train up to New York.

00:19:35 Speaker 1

She wrote a train to New York, do you think?

00:19:37 Speaker 2

No, I I get confused.

00:19:41 Speaker 2

Where where the camp was before \*\*\*\*\* was, we were there and went right from there to the.

00:19:48 Speaker 1

Part of embarkation.

00:19:49 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:19:49 Speaker 1

What ship did you go on to England you remember?

00:19:51 Speaker 2

Well.

00:19:53 Speaker 2

We marched out.

00:19:56 Speaker 2

I'm in port and there.

00:19:57 Speaker 2

Over front of a great big boat, you know, and you got to walk all the way up that gangplank. And I didn't know what it was. They finally got on to it.

00:20:08 Speaker 2

Going around, somebody said, oh, this is the Queen Mary.

00:20:14 Speaker 2

So we we stayed, stayed on the Queen Mary had had a nice stateroom with six officers in it.

00:20:23 Speaker 2

And then we had duty every so often to go down into the hole.

00:20:28 Speaker 2

Where they had less than man and that was terrible down there.

00:20:32 Speaker 1

The food now, did you eat with the enlisted man or did you eat with other object?

00:20:36 Speaker 2

Wait, was the officers?

00:20:39 Speaker 2

It was British food and they liked a lot of.

00:20:44 Speaker 2

Catering. Think of what it was.

00:20:47 Speaker 2

Kidneys. Was it kidneys? They like it.

00:20:49 Speaker 2

I that was terrible stuff, but I didn't care for further.

00:20:53 Speaker 1

Did you have any Brussels sprouts?

00:20:55 Speaker 1

Did you have any brussel sprouts?

00:20:58 Speaker 2

I don't remember that though.

00:20:59 Speaker 1

And Lamb, did you have mutton?

00:21:01 Speaker 2

If they whatever they serve, we have either, you know, either lay.

00:21:06 Speaker 1

Now you just you said that it was terrible down in the hole where the enlisted people were.

00:21:11 Speaker 1

Can you describe it?

00:21:13 Speaker 2

Well, it was just one large open spot with with sports going everywhere and they had to find a place to put their their beddings away, you know, to sleep and and every time you hit a wave, you could hear it.

00:21:29 Speaker 2

Sounded like somewhere with a hammer out there, you know?

00:21:32 Speaker 2

And it was. It was hard then we didn't know all about what was going on, where it started.

00:21:38 Speaker 2

I was going over there and we probably would have been scared to death if we did.

00:21:43 Speaker 1

Yeah. Did they allow you to go out on deck?

00:21:47 Speaker 2

You only got just the officers could go on deck.

00:21:50 Speaker 2

I had a lifeboat.

00:21:53 Speaker 2

Every officer had a lifeboat station with other officers in it, and at that time the officer.

00:22:02 Speaker 2

Who had the Lifel station was in charge? And you did what he said and I was just lucky to have the commanding officer in my life of station had scared me too, because I.

00:22:15 Speaker 2

That's not.

00:22:16 Speaker 2

What to do?

00:22:19 Speaker 1

So you we took how many days do you remember how many days it took to get this?

00:22:24 Speaker 2

It took us six days to get across and we wonder why so long took so long. We found out later that they zigzagged all the way across the ocean from from New York to to Scotland.

00:22:40 Speaker 2

And they told me that the zigzag because.

00:22:45 Speaker 2

The sub boats could not.

00:22:49 Speaker 2

Line up their torpedoes in that length of time and they would zig back the other way before they could wind up as far. So we went across without escorts.

00:23:03 Speaker 2

We didn't know about.

00:23:04 Speaker 1

All on your own.

00:23:05 Speaker 2

You see all the pictures and all the destroyers and so forth.

00:23:08 Speaker 2

You feel kind of safe.

00:23:10 Speaker 2

But we didn't have.

00:23:11 Speaker 2

And you look out and all you saw was water.

00:23:15 Speaker 2

And we landed in.

00:23:17 Speaker 2

I believe it was enough 1st to 4th they call it and I was the only the only port large enough.

00:23:25 Speaker 2

That the Queen Mary could safely go to.

00:23:28 Speaker 2

And we ship right immediately right from the boat to train and went down to to England then and we bivouacked and in and around one of the old great big Moore homes that they had there.

00:23:46 Speaker 2

And we stayed there for for a few days and then they came and told us to pack up.

00:23:50

We.

00:23:51 Speaker 2

Went down to South Hampton and we were supposed to get out, get on board right away and go across the channel and we had to sit there for hours and everybody was shaking because.

00:24:05 Speaker 2

I be a good place to be bombed.

00:24:07 Speaker 2

You know, we finally got on on the Liberty ship to go across the channel.

00:24:15 Speaker 2

I swear I was introduced to sea rations.

00:24:19 Speaker 2

And I hated them.

00:24:21 Speaker 2



I never did like.

00:24:22 Speaker 1

Did you have your equipment with you when you landed in Scotland?

00:24:26 Speaker 1

Know your jeeps and.

00:24:27 Speaker 2

We had our yes, I had Jeep and personally I want your personal equipment.

00:24:33 Speaker 1

So they they shipped all that stuff down to where you were bivouacked for a while and then they you sent them on to Southampton, OK.

00:24:40 Speaker 2

Yes.

00:24:42 Speaker 2

Well, we had him with us.

00:24:44 Speaker 2

Sipping where we were then.

00:24:46 Speaker 1

Yeah. So did you drive him down to Southampton?

00:24:50 Speaker 1

Or did they ship them down by rail?

00:24:52 Speaker 2

They had them all down there. Everything. Everything was shipped across and we picked it up over and now.

00:24:55 Speaker 1

OK, OK.

00:24:58 Speaker 1

You landed it. I believe your records say you landed at D-Day plus 51.

00:25:04 Speaker 1

That would have been August.

00:25:04 Speaker 2

October 3rd as I remember.

00:25:07 Speaker 1

OK. And so your equipment was waiting for you when you get across the channel?

00:25:12 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:25:12

Oh yeah.

00:25:13 Speaker 1

So did you kind of had to do an inventory and make sure everything was there?

00:25:17 Speaker 2

And we had everything there by company and you picked it all.

00:25:22 Speaker 1

So where did you land?

00:25:25 Speaker 2

I have a.

00:25:28 Speaker 2

Hard time remembering, but it was the.

00:25:32 Speaker 2

South Beach.

00:25:34 Speaker 2

I think that was Utah Beach. Oh.

00:25:37 Speaker 2

OK, down by Chubby point Cherokee.

00:25:42 Speaker 1

And then how long did you stay there?

00:25:46 Speaker 2

What were?

00:25:49 Speaker 2

We went immediately, of course, to an area around 2 little towns, French towns of St.

00:25:57 Speaker 2

And Avranches and we were there.

00:26:01 Speaker 2

For a short time.

00:26:03 Speaker 1

Can you describe what the town of.

00:26:04 Speaker 1

Louis looked like by the time you got there.

00:26:06 Speaker 2

Yeah, I've just pile Burks and everything along. There have been bombed and shelled so much.

00:26:16 Speaker 2

They I don't think they knew where a shower because uh.

00:26:21 Speaker 2

They had a hard time deciding what word of fire their guns they had a lot of wrong information and we stayed there for a while.

00:26:32 Speaker 2

Had our first battle right there in that area.

00:26:36 Speaker 2

And.

00:26:39 Speaker 2

With you know that after after our first battle.

00:26:45 Speaker 2

We were in a second army at that time under General Bradley, and they had shipped General Patton home. If you remember, for his slapping incident, and he they sent him back to Washington sitting on a desk.

00:27:05 Speaker 2

Then they found out that they had been no breakthrough.

00:27:08 Speaker 2

And there is getting.

00:27:10 Speaker 2

There knows that little area they had to get somebody to.

00:27:16 Speaker 2

Get through the lines and do stuff damage behind the.

00:27:20 Speaker 2

And they didn't have anybody, so they had to go back to Washington or bring General Patton up.

00:27:26 Speaker 2

Now we were transferred from the 80th Division, the 2nd Army to the 80th Division.

00:27:34 Speaker 2

And the 3rd Army General Patton's army that they were making up.

00:27:39 Speaker 2

While we were waiting there.

00:27:42 Speaker 1

So when you were there, as you got on to France, you said you didn't like sea rations?

00:27:48 Speaker 1

But what about K rations?

00:27:50 Speaker 2

Rations. I like rations, they.

00:27:53 Speaker 2

They were wrapped properly and they had some things in it I liked, and of course they're all all had two cigarettes in it and cigarettes were kind of hard to get.

00:28:06 Speaker 2

So I like them and we carry them with us so.

00:28:10 Speaker 1

Now, did you have any problems getting food?

00:28:13 Speaker 2

No, no.

00:28:14 Speaker 1

What about ammunition?

00:28:15 Speaker 2

No, no.

00:28:16 Speaker 1

What about parts for your vehicles? Because you are the maintenance guy.

00:28:19 Speaker 2

Yeah, we had trouble with parts and my Sergeant and I.

00:28:26 Speaker 2

Almost every day, Roman areas trying to find vehicles that we we could strip and take off the parts and take them back, but it was very hard. They had to make ship a lot of things.

00:28:42 Speaker 1

Did you have?

00:28:44 Speaker 1

The capability to get parts, I mean, did they have a system where you could?

00:28:47 Speaker 1

Parts or not?

00:28:48 Speaker 2

Oh yes, that you had a regular small parts department with each regiment, OK.

00:28:55 Speaker 1

And so they were able to procure the stuff for you.

00:28:57 Speaker 1

You needed it.

00:28:57 Speaker 2

They were together as much as they could, yeah.

00:29:00 Speaker 1

But was that pretty common where they would go out and cannibalize vehicles?

00:29:04 Speaker 2

Oh yeah, I heard of.

00:29:05 Speaker 2

Of a lot of them would order of vehicle knocked out at a certain point and you could get them a vehicle.

00:29:13 Speaker 2

They couldn't parts, so they were replaced. That Jeep door or either need a replacement or take it out and strip it, cut it all up and bury it.

00:29:23 Speaker 1

Wow, really?

00:29:25 Speaker 2

You use all the parts to get out.

00:29:27 Speaker 1

So now you add a Jeep.

00:29:29 Speaker 1

The time, right?

00:29:30 Speaker 2

Yes.

00:29:31 Speaker 1

So now how many weapons did you carry with you when you were?

00:29:35 Speaker 1

Once you landed. Yeah, you. Yeah.

00:29:37 Speaker 2

Me personally.

00:29:40 Speaker 2

I had a 45 automatic I when I landed I had a.

00:29:46 Speaker 2

Uh.

00:29:48 Speaker 2

Carbine carbine, right.

00:29:50 Speaker 2

I had a carbine and at that time that's all I had.

00:29:56 Speaker 1

But later on you.

00:29:58 Speaker 2

Later on, I didn't like the.

00:30:00 Speaker 2

It had more rounds but but I didn't like it, so I.

00:30:06 Speaker 2

Traded it for an M1.

00:30:10 Speaker 2

Garrand rifle and I also picked up a what they call the grease gun, the submachine gun.

00:30:16 Speaker 2

So I had the three three pieces with me and of course the driver had an M1.

00:30:24 Speaker 1

Now, how hard was it to obtain that that grease gun was?

00:30:27 Speaker 1

Just found it laying around or.

00:30:29 Speaker 2

No, I created it for something I had with with some ordinance, man.

00:30:36 Speaker 1

How about?

00:30:37 Speaker 1

Did you have problem getting ammunition for those weapons?

00:30:39 Speaker 2

No, no ammunition.

00:30:41 Speaker 2

The only thing we had trouble, I'm an issue.

00:30:43 Speaker 2

Of getting.

00:30:45 Speaker 2

Was gasoline and.

00:30:50 Speaker 2

George Patton's didn't like the Russians and the Russians were opposed to get into Berlin and George Patton didn't like it.

00:30:59 Speaker 2

He was going to get there regardless.

00:31:02 Speaker 2

And he disregarded.

00:31:04 Speaker 2

Orders from our headquarters and he was going to get into Russia and Berlin before the Russians did, so they couldn't stop him.

00:31:13 Speaker 2

In a way, they stopped him, was given any gasoline and we were dead in our tracks for.

00:31:19 Speaker 2

Several days, no gasoline.

00:31:22 Speaker 1

When you left, when you formed up under Patton, which did you go to Paris or did you stay South of Paris?

00:31:29 Speaker 1

You remember.

00:31:30 Speaker 2

11.

00:31:31 Speaker 2

We join you right there at right off the beach, right?

00:31:35 Speaker 1

But I mean, once you started once you left St.

00:31:35

Oh yeah.

00:31:39 Speaker 1

Where did you go after that?



00:31:41 Speaker 2

We stayed there at Saint Lawren.

00:31:45 Speaker 2

Ce.

00:31:47 Speaker 2

That was over around the Cherokee Peninsula and they decided that the Germans were still in that peninsula, but they decided they weren't going to advance on them. They just sealed them off.

00:32:03 Speaker 2

And kept kept them there.

00:32:05 Speaker 2

We took off from there at one night and from then on.

00:32:10 Speaker 2

You didn't know where you're going to be.

00:32:13 Speaker 2

We run off the maps we are running, we pay.

00:32:17 Speaker 2

Were steal all the?

00:32:20 Speaker 2

German and French maps we could find and like gas stations, you know, and so forth. We would use those to.

00:32:26 Speaker 1

That's how you.

00:32:27 Speaker 1

That's how you had maps then. Wow. So did the did the.

00:32:28 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:32:32 Speaker 1

People from the bat in the background.

00:32:34 Speaker 1

They bring maps up to.

00:32:35 Speaker 1

American maps or not? Or British map?

00:32:38 Speaker 2

No, they.

00:32:38 Speaker 2

They finally were dropping maps by plane and.

00:32:43 Speaker 2

They couldn't drop the gasoline that way.

00:32:45 Speaker 1

How you got your ammunition by plane 2 or your ration?

00:32:48 Speaker 2

We had a pretty good supply of rations and.

00:32:55 Speaker 2

We'll work that way for too long.

00:32:58 Speaker 2

Because we were losing too many vehicles and things, you know? And so they got us back in gas again to take off and run, run as fast we could and.

00:33:10 Speaker 2

They tried to stop Patton, but he.

00:33:13 Speaker 2

And finally we we got to a point where there were, they used him and then the more ended of course.

00:33:20 Speaker 1

When you were in this head, long run where you ran off the maps, how much pressure was there on the maintenance people to keep vehicles?

00:33:30 Speaker 1

Service.

00:33:30 Speaker 1

Mobile.

00:33:31 Speaker 2

It was.

00:33:32 Speaker 2

It was real hard day. We had makeshift and everything.

00:33:36 Speaker 2

Was lucky I had eight good mechanics.

00:33:42 Speaker 2

They knew they had been mechanics before they came in the army when they knew an automobile from front door.

00:33:50 Speaker 2

And they could.

00:33:51 Speaker 2

They could do almost anything.

00:33:54 Speaker 1

You're getting close to the end of the war.

00:33:56 Speaker 1

It's in the fall of 1940.

00:33:58 Speaker 1

Did you think that the Germans were going to surrender by Christmas?

00:34:03

Yeah.

00:34:04 Speaker 2

No, I thought had a good chance of German winning the war.

00:34:11 Speaker 2

And it and the only thing that stopped them was that we stopped them at at soon.

00:34:11

So.

00:34:17 Speaker 1

So now you were part of Patton's army. Did you go north and towards Bastone?

00:34:23 Speaker 2

We were.

00:34:24 Speaker 2

We were wandering around behind the German lines and they called. If you saw the picture of Patton.

00:34:33 Speaker 2

Robbie, remember him? Towards the end of the war that they called all the generals in over France, Sir, and asked him.

00:34:41 Speaker 2

How long will it take him to get up to bastone with the army?

00:34:47 Speaker 2

To.

00:34:48 Speaker 2

Take a drive in there to try and penetrate the Germans. Surrender.

00:34:56 Speaker 2

But.

00:34:57 Speaker 2

We were wandering.

00:34:59 Speaker 2

They call that mating, and Patton told he could get up there with.

00:35:05 Speaker 2

Two full divisions and married to go into a battle in 48 hours, and they thought he was crazy, but he said no.

00:35:12 Speaker 2

Told my my claning officers to get ready to move when I come up here.

00:35:18 Speaker 2

Well, then, we finally took off from.

00:35:21 Speaker 2

It was southern Germany and.

00:35:25 Speaker 2

I went about 200 miles and got up to Bastone and in his 48 hours he was bound, determined he was going to make it and he did it and we got up there and ready to go in the entire.

00:35:42 Speaker 2

The entire divisions didn't go into bastone.

00:35:46 Speaker 2

There he picked.

00:35:48 Speaker 2

Some companies and some of the regiments and he had to two armor divisions with him.

00:35:55 Speaker 2

And they spearheaded and got in.

00:35:59 Speaker 2

I penetrated the German lines, got in and that was that was it as far as the war was over was really, it wasn't announced, but it was over.

00:36:09 Speaker 2

Jim.

00:36:10 Speaker 2

But if the Germans had broken through and we couldn't stop them.

00:36:15 Speaker 2

They would have gone right on down to the coast and driven us.

00:36:17 Speaker 2

Our back home.

00:36:19 Speaker 1

Now you you told the story about when you were.

00:36:24 Speaker 1

The Germans had penetrated behind the.

00:36:26 Speaker 1

Sometimes you said they did that and one night you were in a foxhole and you had given your your automatic weapon to your boss. And what happened?

00:36:36 Speaker 2

Oh yeah.

00:36:39 Speaker 2

We had pulled into this.

00:36:41 Speaker 2

Area to.

00:36:43 Speaker 2

It was a tree, a little forest like and. And you know, you always dug a little trench and put your shoulder half over it and.

00:36:54 Speaker 2

I am my captain, bumped at the same place.

00:36:58 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:36:59 Speaker 2

Well, that, that night we got words that Germans had gotten through our lines and they were room around behind the lines.

00:37:10 Speaker 2

And we should be careful.

00:37:14 Speaker 2

Well, our company commander, commander, my boss came back and he said I've got to go pick up two truck loads of German prisoners and take to the rear and ask me if I could. He could use my.

00:37:29 Speaker 2

Submachine gun.

00:37:30 Speaker 2

I said sure and but.

00:37:34 Speaker 2

For some reason it didn't work.

00:37:37 Speaker 2

And so he had.

00:37:39 Speaker 2

I had my rifle yet and.

00:37:44 Speaker 2

He went out and it started to rain and it rained on us on the shoulder.

00:37:48 Speaker 2

You can't hear anything.

00:37:50 Speaker 2

And yet we had a password and so forth up there and later on in night, I began to sleep.

00:37:56 Speaker 2

Came came back and.

00:38:02 Speaker 2

Started coming in and then saying I asked for the for the password. I didn't get the answer and I asked didn't get the answer and I just pulled up my M1 and shot and I put a bullet right through his helmet hat through his helmet right through.

00:38:19 Speaker 2

Helmet liner and put a crease across the top of his head.

00:38:23 Speaker 2

I thought I have just thank God I've been a inch lower to kill them.

00:38:29 Speaker 2

If I'd have kept my machine gun that worked, I'd have probably killed him too, but.

00:38:37 Speaker 2

He had.

00:38:38 Speaker 2

He was a big black Irishman. He hollered and jumped in the words of use. I couldn't tell, you know, but he said, quit firing.

00:38:48 Speaker 2

Well, it didn't hurt him.

00:38:49 Speaker 2

Mean really hurt him.

00:38:51 Speaker 2

But what hurt him was this hot steel from the helmet ran down on his neck.

00:38:58 Speaker 2

Burned the socks all the way down his neck and then.

00:39:05 Speaker 2

His mother, his his wife never knew what. What happened. He took the helmet.

00:39:09 Speaker 2

Course his wife never knew what happened.

00:39:12 Speaker 2

Would never tell her.

00:39:14 Speaker 2

And they came to visit us one day, and we were talking there. And I I opened my mouth and said yeah.

00:39:19 Speaker 1

This was after the law.

00:39:21 Speaker 1

This was after the war, right?

00:39:24 Speaker 2

Yeah, I opened my mouth and and was telling about the incident.

00:39:29 Speaker 2

She looked at her husband and said so.

00:39:32 Speaker 2

Why?

00:39:33 Speaker 2

But that was that was something that I.

00:39:36 Speaker 2

Scared me more than him, I guess.

00:39:39 Speaker 1

When you were in in West in eastern France, what were the people like?

00:39:43 Speaker 1

How did the French people treat the Americans?

00:39:46 Speaker 2



They traded pretty good, at least the ones that we run into. They if they had something you needed, they you could get it from them. And and it was after the war that.

00:40:00 Speaker 2

I changed my opinion of them.

00:40:03 Speaker 1

How about did they?

00:40:04 Speaker 1

Could you trade for eggs or anything like that?

00:40:07 Speaker 2

Eggs were hard to get and.

00:40:10 Speaker 2

We found out that what they would do with them, the eggs they would put in big jars and would bury them so that we couldn't have them and when they wanted eggs they went out and dug them up and.

00:40:24 Speaker 2

When we found that out, we did a little searching.

00:40:28 Speaker 1

So now you left Bastone and you went into Germany towards the end of the war.

00:40:34 Speaker 2

At the end of the war.

00:40:35 Speaker 1

At the end of.

00:40:35 Speaker 2

The war we we stayed at at that bastone right in that area and there there were a few town Germans yet.

00:40:46 Speaker 2

Actor nach and Edelbrook and.

00:40:49 Speaker 2

And there was little towns up there and we stayed there for a little while, just roaming around and breaking up. And I think we could.

00:40:58 Speaker 2

Then we went South.

00:41:00 Speaker 2

To a little dermatown of Kemp Kempter.

00:41:05 Speaker 2

And it was a nice little.

00:41:08 Speaker 2

They had a nice hotel there and afterward the officer to a bit wagged and I was there for.

00:41:16 Speaker 2

Or not. Not very long when they.

00:41:20 Speaker 2

Put in this point system or you you got 85 points, you would go home.

00:41:25 Speaker 2

I had 80 points, just five points.

00:41:28 Speaker 2

Art. So I would mumbel and grumblng on myself, I guess wandering around and.

00:41:36 Speaker 2

Just a little later on, several days or a week later on.

00:41:42 Speaker 2

A Red Cross man came through.

00:41:44 Speaker 2

Were with.

00:41:45 Speaker 2

We had one with us all the time came, so he said. I need an officer to go on to the Revere for a week.

00:41:51 Speaker 2

Anybody here want to go?

00:41:54 Speaker 2

I'd meet the rest of them to him and I got to go to a trip to the Riviera.

00:41:57

Replay.

00:42:00 Speaker 2

On the way to the Riviera, I got acquainted with a with a.

00:42:08 Speaker 2

Colonel. And we got quite friendly. Rode all the way down there when we got down there. But they found out that you get wet. We got out. They had a building officer there. You sent the the the, the Generals and the higher rank officers.

00:42:26

Up.

00:42:27 Speaker 2

To the front part of the city or atom, they right on the Mediterranean but.

00:42:33 Speaker 2

The lower rank went to the back and so he assigned me a place to the rear and and it was signing the Colonel and the Colonel said, Oh no, he said was in that Lieutenant, he's with me.

00:42:47 Speaker 2

So.

00:42:49 Speaker 2

He he changed.

00:42:50 Speaker 2

I went with the Colonel. We got into the probably the best hotel in in Cannes or right on the Mediterranean.

00:43:00 Speaker 2

You look out our.

00:43:01 Speaker 2

We had a fifth floor of our balcony.

00:43:04 Speaker 2

Go out in the balcony and look down on US Sidewalk Cafe.

00:43:08 Speaker 2

Then there was a 22 lane highway there.

00:43:12 Speaker 2

Speech and a speech every morning and all day.

00:43:17 Speaker 2

The French ladies young ladies would come out and sunbathe on the beach and that was just at the time that you come out with the bikinis.

00:43:28 Speaker 2

And so the balconies were always full.

00:43:32 Speaker 2

They were out there looking and I made a mistake of writing that to my wife.

00:43:39 Speaker 2

I got a letter back that wasn't very pleasant, you know.

00:43:45 Speaker 2

I shouldn't have told her that, but we stayed there and cans for a week and.

00:43:52 Speaker 2

They were really not much to.

00:43:53 Speaker 2

We went through a couple of perfume factories and then we found a restaurant that was way up on one of the foothills of the Alps and you took an old COG railroad to get up there.

00:44:09 Speaker 2

We went up there and you could see out all over the old towns and the Mediterranean.

00:44:16 Speaker 2

And uh.

00:44:17 Speaker 2

We find we saw one worship a British fish star came in through.

00:44:23 Speaker 2

Through the four ports.

00:44:25 Speaker 1

He spoke about mail.

00:44:28 Speaker 1

Once she went overseas.

00:44:31 Speaker 1

When you went to England, did you have mail then or did you not get any mail until you got to France?

00:44:39 Speaker 2

No, we got.

00:44:40 Speaker 2

We didn't get any in.

00:44:43 Speaker 2

We didn't stay there long enough, really.

00:44:46 Speaker 2

Well, we got it in France every so.

00:44:48 Speaker 2

Yeah, you seen the pictures of the mail call and so forth and.

00:44:52 Speaker 1

Right.

00:44:54 Speaker 2

But I was never, never one to.

00:44:56 Speaker 2

Right. And my wife used to write me and give me the Dickens every time, she wrote.

00:45:02 Speaker 2

Well, how are?

00:45:03 Speaker 2

The only thing I can find out is when I talk to one of the other officers.

00:45:10 Speaker 2

Wives.

00:45:12 Speaker 2

And one day she sent me a little packet of 31 picture postal cards.

00:45:19 Speaker 2

She had them all addressed, all stamped, she said.

00:45:23 Speaker 2

Send me a poster card.

00:45:25 Speaker 2

So I sat down and wrote one word on each postal card and sent all 34 seams of time.

00:45:32 Speaker 2

At her.

00:45:33 Speaker 1

Ravi Shukla.

00:45:34 Speaker 2

And I never lived that down either.

00:45:36 Speaker 1

I'll bet not.

00:45:37 Speaker 1

I bet.

00:45:38 Speaker 1

So now you're. You're leaving, you're in Khan and you.

00:45:41 Speaker 1

Now it's time to report back to your your outfit in Germany.

00:45:46 Speaker 1

So you went back.

00:45:47 Speaker 2

Oh yeah, we went back to.

00:45:50 Speaker 2

The camp then.

00:45:51 Speaker 2

Back loaded officer.

00:45:54 Speaker 2

While you're going home, I said.

00:45:57 Speaker 2

I can't go home, he.

00:45:59 Speaker 2

Well, while you were gone, you got five more points, he said.

00:46:02 Speaker 2

Got 85 points.

00:46:04 Speaker 2

So I packed.

00:46:06 Speaker 2

A resident was reassigned to the 103rd.

00:46:11 Speaker 2

Ordnance Company and for a short time, while we are waiting for a ship.

00:46:19 Speaker 2

We picked up ordnance all to the France and.

00:46:23 Speaker 2

Took it into a Paris where there was a.

00:46:27 Speaker 2

Large collecting point to strip it back to the States and I got to go in parent to in Paris while I was there.

00:46:35 Speaker 2

Sag had a a shipment of 100 and thousand and some.

00:46:41 Speaker 2

Army issued wrist.

00:46:42 Speaker 2

I never knew the army issued wrist watches, but I had a whole bag of 1000 of them take them in there and when we we we went did it as fast as we could so we.

00:46:57 Speaker 2

Get a little time. A little time to see some of the things. Not much of France.

00:47:04 Speaker 1

So now the war is over.

00:47:07 Speaker 1

How did you find out?

00:47:08 Speaker 1

The war was over.

00:47:13 Speaker 2

After.

00:47:16 Speaker 2

After leaving.

00:47:21 Speaker 2

The Bastone and coming down, we were starting down South again to going to Kempter and we bivouacked in a big old house there and the.

00:47:35 Speaker 2

We were just.

00:47:37 Speaker 2

Doing.

00:47:38 Speaker 2

Practically, cleaning our weapons and so forth, getting ready to get rid of them. And we got a message that the war was over.

00:47:47 Speaker 2

Was on the 7th of May.

00:47:49 Speaker 2

That was my birthday and.

00:47:53 Speaker 2

Said that, the war of the officially over on the 8th, and that's when we learned that well when I left.

00:48:00 Speaker 2

New York and my Jeep. I had five fifths of Whiskey American whiskey, and I packed them up and put them in my Jeep.

00:48:11 Speaker 2

Said now when the war is over, we'll drink this and have a party.

00:48:16 Speaker 2



While the war was over, and when I went over to my Jeep, there was one model of whiskey left.

00:48:23 Speaker 2

Well, we rationed that out. Each of us got about 1/2 an inch of whiskey in our glass, and we had a party.

00:48:33 Speaker 2

With a big war being over was enough of a party. Everybody was happy.

00:48:39 Speaker 1

So now you have 85 points.

00:48:41 Speaker 1

Know you're going home.

00:48:43 Speaker 1

How did you get from Germany to?

00:48:46 Speaker 1

The ship that took you back?

00:48:48 Speaker 2

Well, I had been reassigned from when I was in Kempfer.

00:48:53 Speaker 2

I was still in the 80th Division.

00:48:56 Speaker 2

I was resigned on the 8th Division and from the 108th Division we went to.

00:49:03 Speaker 2

A.

00:49:06 Speaker 2

Can't be wrong support.

00:49:08 Speaker 1

Bar.

00:49:09 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:49:11 Speaker 2

And uh.

00:49:13 Speaker 2

I got a border German cruise ship.

00:49:18 Speaker 2

La Jolla was the name of it, and it was a nice ship, but it had been converted. Also, it was nowhere near the size of the Queen Mary and going across the seas had a captain was so happy to get out. Get going. He wanted to go as.

00:49:37 Speaker 2

As they could or they.

00:49:38 Speaker 2

They tried to run the play the ship as they could, but.

00:49:43 Speaker 2

The waves were hitting it so hard the captain was afraid it was going to break it apart.

00:49:48 Speaker 2

We had.

00:49:48 Speaker 2

We had to slow down and get over there but.

00:49:53 Speaker 2

We didn't care what we were going.

00:49:54 Speaker 2

I don't think it's as long as we get.

00:49:56 Speaker 1

There. Now you got on the boat. You got on the ship and I think you told me something about the fact that you had to take care of money.

00:50:05 Speaker 2

Well, on the army found out that when the when the wounded got together.

00:50:13 Speaker 2

They gambled a lot and a lot of.

00:50:16 Speaker 2

Landed going overseas with nothing.

00:50:21 Speaker 2

So they decided that I wasn't going to happen going home.

00:50:25 Speaker 2

So when the payday came, they only gave them part of their money and the rest of what was held in an account. And when we left the states.

00:50:37 Speaker 2

Certain certain offices were given a certain amount of money.

00:50:41 Speaker 2

And with the names of the men on and they had to issue it back to the men when they landed.

00:50:48 Speaker 2

And I don't know how many thousands of dollars.

00:50:51 Speaker 2

But he had no place to keep it.

00:50:54 Speaker 2

Only place you had was in your.

00:50:55 Speaker 2

Your mess kept your muzette bag, and that was just a Kansas bag and no place to put it.

00:51:02 Speaker 2

Hang it on the end of your bed.

00:51:05 Speaker 2

And all through the way back there was, I forget, \$62,000 or something like that.

00:51:11 Speaker 2

And yeah, and you're responsible for it.

00:51:16 Speaker 2

So and you get back over there to the states again, then you the men. Come, come get it and you issue it back out.

00:51:24 Speaker 1

So you landed in New York, then on the way.

00:51:26 Speaker 2

Yes.

00:51:27 Speaker 1

And you went back to Camp Kilmer.

00:51:30 Speaker 1

Kilmer.

00:51:32 Speaker 2

When they came back, I don't know where we well, no, they they have a regular port there that they all come to it.

00:51:40 Speaker 2

I don't know.

00:51:43 Speaker 2

What the name is, but they you get there and they they issue one good meal for the the day you're there and they get one phone call.

00:51:54 Speaker 2

And so I thought, well, I'll surprise my wife.

00:51:57 Speaker 2

I'll call her.

00:51:58 Speaker 2

And I.

00:52:00 Speaker 2

Called my wife and I said I just want to call you and surprise you, she said.

00:52:06 Speaker 2

We knew you were coming, I said.

00:52:08 Speaker 2

How you know?

00:52:09 Speaker 2

She.

00:52:09 Speaker 2

Well, it's been in the paper three years.

00:52:12 Speaker 2

Days ago.

00:52:13 Speaker 2

I don't know how they got their information, but they got it before we did.

00:52:18 Speaker 1

So how long did you stay there?

00:52:21 Speaker 2

We we stayed there just overnight.

00:52:23 Speaker 2

We shipped out to Indian Town gap and that was the discharge point.

00:52:30 Speaker 2

I had a.

00:52:32 Speaker 2

Charge of.

00:52:33 Speaker 2

I think it was seven officers that I see that you got their discharge and then I got mine and went on the train. And when I got on the train, I said that's the end of the army for me.

00:52:46 Speaker 2

Was all.

00:52:48 Speaker 1

So you rode the train back to Toledo?

00:52:50 Speaker 2

We're going to the old Pennsylvania station that was there on Summit St. and.

00:52:58 Speaker 2

My wife and her father and my son was there. My son was 11 months old.

00:53:04 Speaker 2

The first I'd seen Amy.

00:53:07 Speaker 2

And.

00:53:09 Speaker 2

It was a nice meeting.

00:53:12 Speaker 1

I'll bet.

00:53:14 Speaker 2

We we had.

00:53:16 Speaker 2

Some incidents overseas that were fun and.

00:53:20 Speaker 2

It wasn't all.

00:53:23 Speaker 2

Hard it was.

00:53:24 Speaker 2

Of course we weren't up.

00:53:26 Speaker 2

Very frontline dragging a rifle through the mud like those boys were.

00:53:32 Speaker 2

I I.

00:53:32 Speaker 2

Her every bit of credit to them.

00:53:37 Speaker 2

They were the soldiers.

00:53:40 Speaker 2

We just helped them, that's all.

00:53:43 Speaker 1

Well, I want to thank you for taking the time to sit down with us.

00:53:47 Speaker 1

This interview was done in behalf of the Oral History project at Yankee Air Museum in Belleville, MI.

00:53:54 Speaker 1

Bob, I want to thank you very much for your time and you have anything else you want to add?

00:54:00 Speaker 2

And being in a maintenance officer, I had charged all the vehicles and we had a number of 2 1/2 done trucks and at one point we ran through a German warehouse.

00:54:13 Speaker 2

It was stored with.

00:54:15 Speaker 2

Cognac.

00:54:17 Speaker 2

Calvados.

00:54:22 Speaker 2

Uh, champagne and chocolate cake cases of chocolate.

00:54:27 Speaker 2

Well, for chocolate overseas, you can get almost anything for and of course the liquor wouldn't think of getting a little.

00:54:38 Speaker 2

Dark and.

00:54:40 Speaker 2

Our regiment got a lot of favors done using that, but we had two and a half ton truck loaded liquor that went with us for the next.

00:54:50 Speaker 2

Don't know how long, so yeah.

00:54:53 Speaker 2

Weren't short of it.

00:54:54 Speaker 2

I'll tell you.

00:54:55 Speaker 1

Doesn't.

00:54:55 Speaker 1

Like, does he sound like it?

00:54:58 Speaker 1

Well, again thanks a.

00:54:59 Speaker 1

I really appreciate you taking the time.

00:55:01 Speaker 2

I'm glad to be here.

00:55:03 Speaker 1

Thank you very much.

00:55:15

Imagine.

00:55:21

The.

00:55:50

I.