

Max L. Fullmer Interview

Company G, 318th Inf Reg

(Library of Congress: Veterans History Project; interviewed by Sue Paul)

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

00:00:03 Speaker 1

Fighting for the right and to hill of the nations life. And we are being sworn in.

00:00:10 Speaker 2

Today is June 24th, 2008.

00:00:13 Speaker 2

My name is Sue.

00:00:14 Speaker 2

I am at the Warhawk Air Museum conducting a veterans history project in conjunction with the Library of Congress.

00:00:21 Speaker 2

Today I will be interviewing Mr. Max Fulmer.

00:00:23 Speaker 2

Welcome to the Warhawk Air Museum, Sir. Thank you.

00:00:25

Good.

00:00:26 Speaker 2

An honor to have you here. Thank you.

00:00:28 Speaker 2

Also present in the room is the camera operator Don Bittler.

00:00:33 Speaker 2

Could you tell?

00:00:34 Speaker 2

Please Max your full name and your current address.

00:00:38 Speaker 1

Max Lauren, former post office box 512, Middleton, ID 83644.

00:00:49 Speaker 2

And Sir, could you tell us where you were born?

00:00:51 Speaker 2

The year you were born.

00:00:52 Speaker 1

In Driggs ID.

00:00:55 Speaker 1

In 1926.

00:00:57 Speaker 2

And could you tell us what division of the military you served in and?

00:01:01 Speaker 2

War.

00:01:02 Speaker 1

World War 2, the 80th Division of the 3rd Army.

00:01:07 Speaker 2

Thank you in.

00:01:08 Speaker 1

In.

00:01:09 Speaker 2

Served in Europe and what years did you serve?

00:01:14 Speaker 1

1944 through 1946.

00:01:18 Speaker 2

Thank you very much.

00:01:20 Speaker 2

You were born in Driggs, Idaho, in 1926.

00:01:23

That.

00:01:24 Speaker 2

Would have been right in the middle of the depression.

00:01:26 Speaker 2

Did you grow up in Driggs ID.

00:01:30 Speaker 1

1st 8.

00:01:30 Speaker 2

Years. What are your memories of that period of time in that little tiny town?

00:01:34 Speaker 1

It was a beautiful valley.

00:01:36 Speaker 1

People recognized Jackson Hole, Wyoming, the Teton Mountains.

00:01:41 Speaker 1

They were just to the east of us.

00:01:44 Speaker 1

And we had a ranch between.

00:01:50 Speaker 1

Driggs, ID and Victor ID.

00:01:53 Speaker 1

Raised.

00:01:55 Speaker 1

Milk cows and had a great big dairy born and of course.

00:02:02 Speaker 1

Had three brothers and did all the work and I herded the cows.

00:02:06 Speaker 2

And where were you in the so there are 4?

00:02:09 Speaker 2

Then.

00:02:09 Speaker 1

Yes, I was the youngest.

00:02:09 Speaker 2

And where were you in the mix?

00:02:12 Speaker 2

You were the youngest, so the cows were your responsibility.

00:02:13 Speaker 1

Yes, I had a Cava and herding the cows.

00:02:19 Speaker 2

Oh.

00:02:19

Oh.

00:02:19 Speaker 2

And so did.

00:02:20 Speaker 2

All pretty much where you sustained pretty much off of your farm.

00:02:23 Speaker 1

Your yes, the milk check kept us going.

00:02:28 Speaker 1

Then we had different farm animals, the pigs and the chickens never had to worry about eggs or meat.

00:02:38 Speaker 2

And where did you go after you were eight years old?

00:02:41 Speaker 1

When I was eight years old, we moved down to another farm.

00:02:46 Speaker 1

In out of Idaho Falls, ID.

00:02:49 Speaker 1

There we raise sugar beets and potatoes and still had a few cows.

00:02:54 Speaker 1

Things were getting tough by.

00:02:55 Speaker 1

That wasn't the be 1934 and the water situation.

00:03:02 Speaker 1

The water rights for the farmers up there and Teton Basin were in question because of the.

00:03:10 Speaker 1

Water rights further down the river. And so Dad sold that place because he couldn't raise enough pay for all those went down to sugar beet project out of Idaho Falls and had plenty of water.

00:03:26 Speaker 1

And that was a hard that was a lot harder life because.

00:03:31 Speaker 1

As soon as you got out of school in the spring, you had to thin the beats and hold the beats. And is it on a beat roll or a spud roll all summer and plus putting up hey.

00:03:42 Speaker 2

Tough.

00:03:42 Speaker 2

Do you remember the?

00:03:43 Speaker 2

Do you remember what it was it like? And for other people are in town? What are your strongest memories about that time besides the hard work, obviously.

00:03:44 Speaker 1

Oh yes.

00:03:53 Speaker 1

The strongest memories were the ease with which the kids got through.

00:03:59 Speaker 1

But how hard it was for the parents?

00:04:02 Speaker 1

I can remember my parents worried a lot about a pretty good size family. I had three sisters too.

00:04:13 Speaker 1

It was a lot harder on parents.

00:04:15 Speaker 1

Don't because they had.

00:04:18 Speaker 1

Closer by and.

00:04:23 Speaker 1

She couldn't.

00:04:25 Speaker 1

It didn't seem to have any time to really enjoy.

00:04:29 Speaker 1

Is work work work?

00:04:30 Speaker 2

That's one of your memories then. Sounds like all of you did.

00:04:32 Speaker 1

Yes.

00:04:33 Speaker 2

What did you like doing in high school?

00:04:35 Speaker 2

Was.

00:04:35 Speaker 2

Is that where you went to high school then?

00:04:43 Speaker 1

Well, when I was a kid in Teton Basin, an old.

00:04:49 Speaker 1

Double Wing biplane flew over chub.

00:04:53 Speaker 1

Chug had to be pretty high because of the mountains and it hadn't been only a few years since Lindberg made his trip across the Atlantic Ocean.

00:05:04 Speaker 1

So all the pilots were lining on all the planes with the spirit of Saint Louis.

00:05:09 Speaker 1

All we ever heard.

00:05:11 Speaker 1

And so I had quite an interest in aviation.

00:05:15 Speaker 1

So my my big.

00:05:19 Speaker 1

Interest was learning how to fly, but I.

00:05:21 Speaker 1

I learned to fly when I was a senior in high school.

00:05:25 Speaker 2

Did.

00:05:25 Speaker 2

What did you think about Lindbergh flying?

00:05:27 Speaker 2

Did you idolize Lindbergh?

00:05:28 Speaker 1

Oh yes.

00:05:28 Speaker 2

All the boys did.

00:05:32 Speaker 1

We had.

00:05:32 Speaker 1

We had memories of things that happened. World War One was.

00:05:39 Speaker 1

My dad was in the first World World War.

00:05:42 Speaker 1

Still had his uniform and.

00:05:45 Speaker 1

And it hadn't been that many years since the Titanic let down. In 1912. It was.

00:05:53 Speaker 1

They were still talking about it, so I had a deathly fear about a sinking ship. I can remember that.

00:05:59 Speaker 1

And in World War One, people talk about that, not say.

00:06:06 Speaker 1

As mother, I say mother, why do they?

00:06:09 Speaker 1

Why they sign the?

00:06:10 Speaker 1

We sign the quick announcement, but why would they sign a Peachtree? Oh, Max.

00:06:16 Speaker 1

That was the peace treaty.

00:06:21 Speaker 1

So those are kind of memories I had.

00:06:23 Speaker 2

Oh yeah, so your family sounds like it was pretty close.

00:06:27 Speaker 2

Yeah. Yeah. So, so when you were a senior in high school then was that your you had your first flight when you were, so you would have been?

00:06:33 Speaker 2

About 17, then 18 when you had your first flight.

00:06:35 Speaker 1

While I was 18 at April 19th, 1944, just before I went in the Army, I had my draft notice.

00:06:40 Speaker 2

Oh, OK.

00:06:43 Speaker 2

Let's go back a little.

00:06:45 Speaker 2

Let's go back to when you were you would have been 15 1941 December 7th, 1941.

00:06:50 Speaker 1

Oh yeah.

00:06:52 Speaker 2

Tell us about that day in your life.

00:06:54 Speaker 1

We lived in a little community.

00:06:58 Speaker 1

Where the church was a mile and a half from our house.

00:07:02 Speaker 1

And.

00:07:05 Speaker 1

I remember I was walking home from church and it was cold and the ice.

00:07:11 Speaker 1

The road.

00:07:13 Speaker 1

And then the neighbor went past the neighbor and he could come out and he says Max, tell your dad that.

00:07:20 Speaker 1

**** and Bomb Pearl Harbor.

00:07:24 Speaker 1

Oh, I didn't know what he was talking.

00:07:26 Speaker 1

But when I got home, I of course Dad. By the time Dad got home, he'd heard about it.

00:07:34 Speaker 1

See that was.

00:07:36 Speaker 1

Honolulu time when they hit Pearl.

00:07:40 Speaker 1

So it was about noon our time. And I said when we got out of church and so that took up the rest of the day then.

00:07:49 Speaker 1

All one we had a community of Japanese Americans.

00:07:56 Speaker 1

I had some real good friends who were Japanese Americans.

00:08:02 Speaker 1

And we wondered how those poor people thought.

00:08:05 Speaker 1

And they were the most wonderful thing.

00:08:07 Speaker 1

That was a real lesson for me because Monday morning, here are all these boys and girls of Japanese descent was on the bus and it was such a relief.

00:08:17 Speaker 1

That they were.

00:08:19 Speaker 1

They were happy.

00:08:21 Speaker 1

They were concerned, but there wasn't any animosity or anything like that.

00:08:26 Speaker 1

I've always remembered what a good feeling that was that they were real Americans.

00:08:29 Speaker 2

Deliver.

00:08:33 Speaker 2

Yeah, were those were those Japanese Americans interned then they were taken.

00:08:34 Speaker 1

Is that with Pearl Harbor?

00:08:38 Speaker 1

No, these weren't the only ones that was interned with the ones that along the coast and we had.

00:08:48 Speaker 1

Internet camp at.

00:08:50 Speaker 1

They're down there by Menadoka and Rupert bury area.

00:08:56 Speaker 1

And then the big one who are a lot of them come with from mamzenar. I can remember reading about Manzanar and.

00:09:03 Speaker 2

So the so the one the families that you knew then kept their farms and continue to, you know now and you didn't see any problem, any prejudice with them.

00:09:07 Speaker 1

Oh yes.

00:09:09 Speaker 1

Didn't affect them though. No problem.

00:09:13 Speaker 1

And that fall.

00:09:16 Speaker 1

If all of 41.

00:09:19 Speaker 1

We had a lot of people.

00:09:23 Speaker 1

Of come and help us do the sugar beets and the potatoes.

00:09:26 Speaker 1

So we had a lot of those Japanese Americans coming. Help us.

00:09:30 Speaker 2

Did your brothers go to war at that time?

00:09:34 Speaker 1

My oldest brother.

00:09:36 Speaker 1

Let's see. He'd be 10 years older than I am, so.

00:09:42 Speaker 1

I was.

00:09:43 Speaker 1

He'd be 20.

00:09:44 Speaker 1

He would. He was married, so he got a.

00:09:47 Speaker 1

He didn't go in, but then my other two brothers went in the.

00:09:52 Speaker 1

They knew that they're going to get drafted, so they went in the Navy and they went up to Farragut, Idaho.

00:09:58 Speaker 1

If you heard about Farragut?

00:10:00 Speaker 1

All those dry land farmer kids out there.

00:10:04 Speaker 1

In the Navy, a lot of them went in the Navy in in 42 and 43.

00:10:09 Speaker 2

What about you and your?

00:10:10 Speaker 2

Were you antsy to go to war?

00:10:12 Speaker 2

Were your feelings about?

00:10:14 Speaker 1

It was inevitable.

00:10:15

And brought it.

00:10:18 Speaker 1

You know when the bus is going to come and you're going to go to school.

00:10:21 Speaker 1

Well, the train is going to come and.

00:10:23 Speaker 1

Going to go with the army.

00:10:24 Speaker 2

What about any of your sisters?

00:10:26

And.

00:10:29 Speaker 1

That brings up a subject of fear.

00:10:32 Speaker 1

I didn't.

00:10:33 Speaker 1

I didn't feel the fear, but.

00:10:36 Speaker 1

The sisters did.

00:10:38 Speaker 1

Remember when the Japanese attack had to and Kiska and Dutch harbor up?

00:10:45 Speaker 1

And it looked like we didn't have a thing to stop them.

00:10:49 Speaker 1

And Harris would.

00:10:52 Speaker 1

The Butte Highway comes out of Alaska.

00:10:57 Speaker 1

Edmonton down through Montana, right past our place. Of course. You know how kids are. They're going to talk about.

00:11:06 Speaker 1

How frightening it is to think that nothing's going to.

00:11:10 Speaker 1

And those those Japanese soldiers are going to come down the Butte Highway.

00:11:15 Speaker 1

Real fair. We've been in the war since December.

00:11:21 Speaker 1

And along with.

00:11:22 Speaker 1

The.

00:11:22 Speaker 1

First year we had, we didn't have any real victories.

00:11:28 Speaker 1

There was a lot of fear.

00:11:30 Speaker 1

I do remember.

00:11:31 Speaker 1

I do remember that do little raid in April.

00:11:35 Speaker 2

I was going to ask you about that. What about that?

00:11:37 Speaker 1

Really did that was a good thing.

00:11:41 Speaker 1

And of course, the Battle of Midway. And then we started feeling better.

00:11:43 Speaker 2

Right.

00:11:46 Speaker 1

But then about that time with when we first got to see casualties, American troops on the in the movies, we didn't have television, of course.

00:11:57 Speaker 1

Only time you saw the war was in the movies.

00:12:01 Speaker 1

In in the newsreels.

00:12:04 Speaker 1

And how?

00:12:06 Speaker 1

How extreme it was to see these GI boots floating in the water.

00:12:12 Speaker 1

Yeah, that was real.

00:12:14 Speaker 2

Real tough on the home front. During high school, you were here at home. Then during high school, do you remember the rationing?

00:12:18 Speaker 1

Yes. Oh yes.

00:12:20 Speaker 2

You remember the 35 mile an hour speed limits.

00:12:23 Speaker 2

You.

00:12:24 Speaker 2

Did your mom stay and work on the farm?

00:12:27 Speaker 2

Was she able to stay home and the parents kept the farm going, which was probably pretty important.

00:12:29 Speaker 1

Oh yeah.

00:12:33 Speaker 1

I worked in a service station.

00:12:36 Speaker 1

After school.

00:12:39 Speaker 1

And not only were we right.

00:12:44 Speaker 1

Everything was already had. If you had a cup, a cord in your window, that was 3 gallons a week.

00:12:50 Speaker 1

And the gas that outlasted the tires.

00:12:56 Speaker 1

So it was go around scrounging up in the sagebrush and find these old derelict.

00:13:02 Speaker 1

And if they had a tire, an old wheel on them, well, we'd see if we could patch them up because there wasn't any tires.

00:13:10 Speaker 2

No rubber.

00:13:11 Speaker 1

No rubber or.

00:13:16 Speaker 1

It was one shirt a year. I guess he had to put it that way.

00:13:19 Speaker 2

So when you were 18, you were senior in high school.

00:13:22 Speaker 2

Us about your first flight.

00:13:23 Speaker 2

Did that happen?

00:13:25 Speaker 1

Oh, I was looking at the service station.

00:13:30 Speaker 1

I bought myself a model, a Ford, for \$17.00.

00:13:34 Speaker 1

Old model a coupe and I fixed it up working at service station.

00:13:39 Speaker 1

Had access to tools. The guy come along, he says.

00:13:43 Speaker 1

Surely would like it.

00:13:45 Speaker 1

I sure would like to buy that model A.

00:13:49 Speaker 1

I said I'll sell it to you for \$125.00.

00:13:54 Speaker 1

Have you sold? You sold your car?

00:13:57 Speaker 1

Took my \$125.00 out the airport and I want to learn to fly.

00:14:04 Speaker 1

We had.

00:14:06 Speaker 1

J3 Cubs and I sold in AJ4 coupe. I don't know if a little side by side, but it had a stick instead of a wheel.

00:14:17 Speaker 1

Veronica chief had a wheel, but the J4 Piper had a stick and I wanted to fly.

00:14:23 Speaker 1

A stick airplane so.

00:14:25 Speaker 1

So he got out one day and.

00:14:31 Speaker 1

I flew out over the house.

00:14:33 Speaker 1

Mom I.

00:14:34 Speaker 1

Did you see me?

00:14:35 Speaker 1

Where you been?

00:14:38 Speaker 1

Of course, she didn't see me.

00:14:42 Speaker 2

So are you hooked?

00:14:44 Speaker 1

I was hooked.

00:14:44 Speaker 2

You were hooked.

00:14:46 Speaker 2

Why you chose to go into the army, however, were you drafted into the?

00:14:49 Speaker 1

With gratitude. See, I turned 18 in February.

00:14:50 Speaker 2

That's why.

00:14:53 Speaker 1

And immediately, they'd already had us all pegged.

00:14:57 Speaker 1

We went down to Pocatello and took her physicals and I passed the physical.

00:15:02 Speaker 1

Well, I decided, hey, I'm going to get in their cadets.

00:15:04 Speaker 1

I went over to Pocatello and I took their.

00:15:08 Speaker 1

I passed their test and they gave me a little green, card says.

00:15:10 Speaker 1

You take this green card.

00:15:12 Speaker 1

When you go in the.

00:15:15 Speaker 1

But here drive you have to go back and finish high.

00:15:18 Speaker 1

We can't take you till you finish high school, and by that time they'll have you and you'll have to go on the draft.

00:15:24 Speaker 1

Take this card.

00:15:26 Speaker 1

Well, it'll make a Long story short, I carried that green card all the way to Europe.

00:15:31 Speaker 2

Got to use it.

00:15:33 Speaker 1

No, they've lost so many people.

00:15:35 Speaker 1

D-Day and not in Guadalcanal.

00:15:39 Speaker 1

Lost a lot of.

00:15:40 Speaker 1

We don't realize how many people we lost and they were.

00:15:45 Speaker 2

Mere ego.

00:15:45 Speaker 1

They were needing.

00:15:47 Speaker 1

Ground people and of course.

00:15:48 Speaker 2

Yeah. Oh my.

00:15:51 Speaker 1

I made a mistake and got out when I was in basic training and went up to.

00:15:57 Speaker 1

Rifle range and shot expert rifle. Why?

00:16:00 Speaker 1

That go to that me.

00:16:02 Speaker 1

Let me out of the army. It's an expert Rifleman.

00:16:04 Speaker 2

Were you good because you were raised on a ranch and you learned to shoot young? Yeah.

00:16:09 Speaker 1

Shooting Riot rifle, 20 twos over and under shotgun.

00:16:16 Speaker 1

I knew guns.

00:16:19 Speaker 2

Where did you have your basic training, Max?

00:16:21 Speaker 1

Fort Bliss, TX.

00:16:22 Speaker 2

And how long after your basic?

00:16:25 Speaker 2

Obviously you were going to be a.

00:16:27 Speaker 2

They were going to have you because of your ability in shooting Helen before you were before you left the US before they sent you all overseas.

00:16:35 Speaker 1

Oh, we got down.

00:16:39 Speaker 1

I'm saying this for the benefit of all the guys that got through.

00:16:46 Speaker 1

Furlough was an important thing for all the basic training people.

00:16:49 Speaker 1

Have to realize we're all replacements.

00:16:52 Speaker 1

All of us Young 18 year olds are replacements they had special.

00:16:58 Speaker 1

Area that they call replacement centers, Ripple Devils is what we call them.

00:17:03 Speaker 1

So all you guys remember your ripples apples.

00:17:08 Speaker 1

Replacement centers.

00:17:09 Speaker 1

Well anyway, I got to come home on a fiddle.

00:17:13 Speaker 1

Then I was sent to Camp Maxie, Texas, which is down by Paris, TX.

00:17:19 Speaker 1

Advanced Infantry training center.

00:17:23 Speaker 1

That's where they made.

00:17:26 Speaker 1

That's where you actually threw grenades, and that's where you actually shot targets that flip up.

00:17:37 Speaker 2

What kind of what kind?

00:17:37 Speaker 1

Your optical fiber.

00:17:37 Speaker 2

Plans were you using?

00:17:39 Speaker 2

What kind of guns were you using?

00:17:41 Speaker 1

AM 1 and.

00:17:42 Speaker 2

In wins.

00:17:45 Speaker 1

And but the I got an expert machine gun because, but that was a 30 caliber machine gun.

00:17:54 Speaker 1

And it was kind of comical.

00:17:56 Speaker 1

Fly these little.

00:17:59 Speaker 1

Car that's.

00:18:00 Speaker 1

You know every.

00:18:02 Speaker 1

I think it was every fifth bullet I could be wrong on that, but it was a tracer.

00:18:06 Speaker 1

All you can.

00:18:07 Speaker 1

Put that tracer out the airplane. Run into it.

00:18:10 Speaker 1

You going to knock it down?

00:18:15 Speaker 1

I got an expert machine gun on that.

00:18:18 Speaker 1

That advanced infantry training area was real intense, and it only lasted for just a few weeks.

00:18:27 Speaker 1

And then I went to.

00:18:29 Speaker 1

Did come home again. That was no more annoy.

00:18:35 Speaker 1

And went to Boston.

00:18:38 Speaker 1

He was.

00:18:39 Speaker 1

I've never seen a ship before. This thing was huge.

00:18:44 Speaker 1

And had wings on the funnels had two big funnels on there with wings on the people that.

00:18:54 Speaker 1

Well, overseas on, that'll probably remember the s s United States ship West Point.

00:19:00 Speaker 1

That was the military name for an American liner that I can't remember the name of the the civilian name of it, but it was the West Point.

00:19:11 Speaker 1

There was a lot of guys.

00:19:13 Speaker 2

How many of you boarded that?

00:19:14 Speaker 1

Were 5000.

00:19:17 Speaker 1

But they had on board 5000.

00:19:20 Speaker 2

And that's the that's the.

00:19:22 Speaker 2

Ship that took you.

00:19:23 Speaker 1

Yes, you have Boston.

00:19:26 Speaker 2

And we're how about, if we look on the camera, on the on the map, why don't we do that?

00:19:31 Speaker 2

Then you can show us.

00:19:31 Speaker 2

Your route was.

00:19:34

OK.

00:19:36 Speaker 1

We left Boston.

00:19:39 Speaker 1

And.

00:19:41 Speaker 1

I'll have to say the 1st morning that I was.

00:19:46 Speaker 1

Able to get up.

00:19:49 Speaker 1

And lookout nothing but water.

00:19:52 Speaker 1

No mountains, no trees, and it felt to me like a ship was going backwards.

00:19:59 Speaker 1

Don't know why that was, but we weren't.

00:20:01 Speaker 1

Was going east.

00:20:03 Speaker 1

Came from.

00:20:05 Speaker 1

What S to off of Cape Hatteras?

00:20:08 Speaker 1

Across the ocean.

00:20:10 Speaker 1

Off to this area.

00:20:13 Speaker 1

West of France, turn N up along the West side of Ireland.

00:20:21 Speaker 1

And one house on the MP duty. And I looked out one morning and there's a couple little.

00:20:31 Speaker 1

Corvettes they call.

00:20:32 Speaker 1

British corvettes are like a big PT boat, but.

00:20:38 Speaker 1

They're an attack vessel, one on each side of the.

00:20:40 Speaker 2

Where?

00:20:41 Speaker 2

Ship and they were British.

00:20:43 Speaker 1

They were British.

00:20:45 Speaker 1

And I was watching and all of a sudden I saw these big barrels go poeey.

00:20:54 Speaker 1

They were depth charges.

00:20:57 Speaker 1

And area.

00:20:59 Speaker 1

We got our signal to clear all the decks and clear all the passageways guys had.

00:21:05 Speaker 1

On the steps and play cards.

00:21:06 Speaker 1

Had to clear all the passageways, came back out AB20.

00:21:12 Speaker 1

Went over.

00:21:14 Speaker 1

And it went out of quiet ways.

00:21:18 Speaker 1

And then I heard later that they had sunk a sub near us.

00:21:24 Speaker 1

The subject pulls some kind of a threat to us.

00:21:28 Speaker 1

So that's where my war started.

00:21:32 Speaker 1

Then we went up around the north part of Northern Ireland and down to Glasgow. That's where we disembarked.

00:21:42 Speaker 1

Got on a train and went down through England.

00:21:47 Speaker 1

To Southampton.

00:21:52 Speaker 1

So some signs of war, some burned out buildings.

00:21:58 Speaker 1

But there was no attacks at that time.

00:22:02 Speaker 1

Not on a French Southampton was full of ships, the whole country different ships and when we got on a French passenger liner that had been scuttled at Toulon, maybe you know the story of when the French got on their fleet. It too long thought.

00:22:20 Speaker 1

He couldn't use them.

00:22:22 Speaker 1

They had dried this old boat out too good because it still smells a little bit bad, but we got on that one old laharve.

00:22:33 Speaker 1

And.

00:22:36 Speaker 1

That's where I disembarked on the mainland and there was I saw a lot of.

00:22:45 Speaker 1

Command cards there, somebody said that Eisenhower was in that area and also.

00:22:54 Speaker 1

Montgomery. I could be wrong about, but there was a lot of breast there. That little heart.

00:23:02 Speaker 1

And then from there we went over to.

00:23:05 Speaker 1

And I don't remember too much about it, but I do remember.

00:23:10 Speaker 1

The zigzag trenches.

00:23:13 Speaker 1

The trenches of the they'd used when the Germans went into France in what was it?

00:23:19 Speaker 1

Of 1940.

00:23:21 Speaker 1

Like that.

00:23:22 Speaker 1

Lots of signs of war burned out, tanks and things that we got closer to Mets, Mets, France is where we were going.

00:23:30 Speaker 1

To.

00:23:33 Speaker 1

Our replacement depot and that's where I was assigned to the Third Army. We were on 40 and eight trains, 40 men or 8 mules and rickety old train. They fell.

00:23:48 Speaker 1

Right. You guys are soldiers now. You're in Patton's third army.

00:23:53 Speaker 1

Then.

00:23:56 Speaker 1

We disembarked and went to the Mets camp.

00:24:03 Speaker 1

And we were assigned to our our units.

00:24:08 Speaker 1

I remember you probably never heard of the story that they used to tell about the Little Tin Soldier in World War 1.

00:24:17 Speaker 1

This boy loved his father and his father went to war and he was shot.

00:24:23 Speaker 1

But the boy had put a little tin soldier in his pocket.

00:24:27 Speaker 1

OK and.

00:24:28 Speaker 1

Dad was shot. The Little Tinchy soldier deflected the bullet and saved his father's life.

00:24:35 Speaker 1

And there was a little short movie about that. That was for a kid, you know, that was.

00:24:39 Speaker 1

A story.

00:24:40 Speaker 1

Always thought about that.

00:24:41 Speaker 1

Here I am.

00:24:43 Speaker 1

It's really you can see the flashes of the artillery on the horizon.

00:24:48 Speaker 1

You can't hear the booms, but you can see the flashes of the artillery and it's raining.

00:24:54 Speaker 1

16mm projector is going.

00:25:00 Speaker 1

To watch in gas light.

00:25:03 Speaker 1

What was that?

00:25:05 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:25:07 Speaker 1

Ingrid Bergman.

00:25:10 Speaker 1

Boy.

00:25:11 Speaker 2

Yeah, Charles boy.

00:25:13 Speaker 1

That's just what that picture in that.

00:25:17 Speaker 1

About that World War One soldier was just like this. And of course some of the French soldiers still had them.

00:25:24 Speaker 1

They were there, had the World War One helmets on.

00:25:27 Speaker 1

Figured hey this is getting pretty real.

00:25:29 Speaker 1

But anyway, that's it sidelighted but.

00:25:33 Speaker 1

The physical.

00:25:36 Speaker 1

How things were that it was dark, it was raining.

00:25:39 Speaker 1

Was cold and it was winter and but then.

00:25:44 Speaker 1

Got on.

00:25:47 Speaker 1

We were there for a while and I said, boy, you're really lucky to get.

00:25:51

Yeah.

00:25:52 Speaker 1

Be with us now because we've been on the road all the way from.

00:25:58 Speaker 1

We've been on the front line all the way from March and then March and then last gap these old boys have really been through a lot and they were going to be here for a rest.

00:26:09 Speaker 1

3:00 in the morning he rushed us out, put us on trucks.

00:26:13 Speaker 1

And we went and ended up in Luxembourg.

00:26:18 Speaker 1

And this.

00:26:19 Speaker 1

The winner of 4445.

00:26:22 Speaker 2

Were you still seeing a lot of evidence of the war around you by now?

00:26:25 Speaker 1

Yes, the war is all around now.

00:26:31 Speaker 1

And.

00:26:34 Speaker 1

See a little sign go by the truck and it says Bastone.

00:26:40 Speaker 1

So many kilometers. I can't remember how many I found.

00:26:43 Speaker 1

Lot later that they split our our group.

00:26:48 Speaker 1

One group went with a fourth armored division.

00:26:52 Speaker 1

We went different way to set up a perimeter and a little town called Edelbrook.

00:27:00 Speaker 1

Elbrook there's.

00:27:02 Speaker 1

There was Al got a letter from a person from Metal Brook sent me a picture of Patton.

00:27:07 Speaker 1

They'd build a statue of Patton and I had an M4 tank sitting in the.

00:27:14 Speaker 1

And then we set up a perimeter.

00:27:18 Speaker 1

So I never did get into past, you know.

00:27:23 Speaker 1

The guys that got in the best of got to take those, you know, when the weather finally cleared and they dropped the drop the.

00:27:34 Speaker 1

Supplies the different colored parachutes.

00:27:40 Speaker 1

Well, if.

00:27:41 Speaker 1

Had a yellow one. That meant probably artillery or something, you know. But the red ones were medical supplies that all our guys had these yellow silk.

00:27:53 Speaker 1

Scars, man. They look nice, but we weren't there, so we didn't get to wear them.

00:28:00 Speaker 2

So did you did you have a chance to meet George Patton, General Patton?

00:28:04 Speaker 1

No, but I just stood there and looked at him.

00:28:09 Speaker 2

Where were you at?

00:28:10 Speaker 1

He was well, it was later on when he was standing in review.

00:28:15 Speaker 1

He walked down the review and the troops.

00:28:19 Speaker 1

You know how they did.

00:28:21 Speaker 1

They'd dress right, dress, and if you're taller than the man to your right, move down one to tall ones is over here on the left.

00:28:30 Speaker 1

And left.

00:28:30 Speaker 1

And so these tall ones all ended up in front for the pictures. You see American soldiers, all them big, big, tall guys.

00:28:38 Speaker 1

Law is the shortest 1, so I was down here on the.

00:28:43 Speaker 1

But it worked out because I got to I didn't have.

00:28:46 Speaker 1

What you are doing here I could.

00:28:50 Speaker 1

But anyway.

00:28:51 Speaker 2

Was there a general feeling about Patton in your regiment, in your group?

00:28:56 Speaker 1

Yes, he had brought those people through some real.

00:28:56 Speaker 1

You.

00:29:02 Speaker 1

Tough times back in France, but very suddenly you hear about it.

00:29:07 Speaker 1

When he took over that 3rd army down there in Argentina and.

00:29:13 Speaker 1

That was real difficult to listen to these men talk about it, and these are real senior guys.

00:29:21 Speaker 1

They're 2223 years old.

00:29:23 Speaker 1

So you can 18 year old. If you were looking up to them were 19 by then, but anyway.

00:29:30 Speaker 1

But Patton?

00:29:33 Speaker 1

Instilled.

00:29:35 Speaker 1

A real deep respect.

00:29:38 Speaker 1

And it edged on disdain.

00:29:43 Speaker 1

I guess you would say because he never really. He never let up.

00:29:47 Speaker 1

He just kept kept you right. He had to.

00:29:50

We.

00:29:51 Speaker 1

Were in difficult times in any less of a leader.

00:29:56 Speaker 1

Would have been able to do the things that the 3rd Army did, but he was relentless.

00:29:59 Speaker 1

Thank.

00:30:02 Speaker 1

But he was respected.

00:30:04 Speaker 1

He wasn't necessarily loved. He never.

00:30:09 Speaker 1

I'd say in a distance, watching his eyebrow open all the time until everything was bleached as I eyelashes were bleached, eyebrows were bleached.

00:30:24 Speaker 1

And not endorse that person. So and the only smile to his mouth. He never smiled with his eyes.

00:30:30 Speaker 1

Never seen any wrinkles on his eyes.

00:30:33 Speaker 1

Hmm.

00:30:34

Hmm.

00:30:34 Speaker 1

But he was he was a real leader.

00:30:38 Speaker 1

We respected him for.

00:30:39 Speaker 1

We do anything what we did. We did what he told us to do.

00:30:44 Speaker 2

So from Luxembourg, where did you keep moving? Were you?

00:30:46 Speaker 1

We crossed the All River.

00:30:50 Speaker 1

And one over to into Germany, to a place called Bittberg.

00:30:55 Speaker 1

There's a big German air base there and not a big site German air base there.

00:31:03 Speaker 1

And that was a time when I really first got into combat.

00:31:10 Speaker 1

Personal combat.

00:31:11 Speaker 1

See that little town over there? We're going to take that.

00:31:16 Speaker 1

And you're going to lead this squad.

00:31:19 Speaker 1

I want you to see that they pointed out a born out of away from there, some Germans out there. You got to take that. Born silence that machine gun.

00:31:29 Speaker 1

That kind of.

00:31:30 Speaker 1

So that was the first personal contact with her and both.

00:31:36 Speaker 1

Over and.

00:31:38 Speaker 1

And seeing where I'm shooting from the hip.

00:31:42 Speaker 1

I figure out shooting too low. I was shooting too low.

00:31:46 Speaker 1

Guys were shooting too low.

00:31:48 Speaker 1

You see the dirt fly up in front of you.

00:31:54 Speaker 1

To the minute to get that all figured out.

00:31:56 Speaker 1

Today they're shooting me.

00:32:00 Speaker 1

A guy falling down.

00:32:03 Speaker 2

Did you lose very many men in that?

00:32:05 Speaker 2

Nine guys taking that too long.

00:32:07 Speaker 1

Guys in the know all. Yeah, it was.

00:32:11 Speaker 1

They told me that's the way it's going to be and that wasn't the only time.

00:32:16 Speaker 2

And after that town then was subdued.

00:32:19 Speaker 2

Where did you go from there?

00:32:19 Speaker 1

Yeah, we went down to a town called Trier.

00:32:24 Speaker 1

We had to go back through Luxembourg and down through Trier.

00:32:28 Speaker 1

And out of Trier was a little town called.

00:32:32 Speaker 1

Wise kurtin I talked to some people at your museum and called, though they were from Trier, and I said, you know, where wise Kirchen is. You remember that.

00:32:42 Speaker 1

Don't suppose, but I'll show them the watch that I took off the guy there.

00:32:48 Speaker 1

And.

00:32:49 Speaker 1

And as they said, Oh my. And she talked German and I could pick up and Oh my, why can't we have something like this?

00:32:56 Speaker 1

You know, we had pictures of German, so remember those pictures of German soldiers.

00:33:01 Speaker 1

But anyway, that was wise Kirchen.

00:33:05 Speaker 1

Our squad was doggie in the whole cemetery. As you go into town.

00:33:10 Speaker 1

We didn't know it, but we'd gone through their lines and we were actually behind their lines.

00:33:17 Speaker 1

And I dug my whole long side of the cemetery and I look up. And here's this little cherub, upon looking down at me, and I said you stay there and I'll stay here.

00:33:31 Speaker 2

I'm not going with you.

00:33:32 Speaker 1

Devin.

00:33:34 Speaker 1

Then we heard all this fire fight these sharp firefighters dreadful things.

00:33:40 Speaker 1

Rifle fire. You know people.

00:33:41 Speaker 1

Cool.

00:33:43 Speaker 1

Back of us and things were getting real tight.

00:33:48 Speaker 1

Lost our.

00:33:50 Speaker 1

Platoon leader. He was in a building calling in.

00:33:55 Speaker 1

Artillery fire and they sent him a short round and killed him and couple other guys.

00:34:01 Speaker 1

But anyway, it sounded like the Germans were going to come in, but instead of the Germans, here come some Jeeps.

00:34:10 Speaker 1

And have.

00:34:10 Speaker 1

The 10th Armor did that was the.

00:34:13 Speaker 2

The 10th Army Division.

00:34:14 Speaker 1

The 10th Army Division had broke through and saved.

00:34:19

Wow, yeah.

00:34:20 Speaker 1

It is pretty pretty. Yes, it kind of bad choke.

00:34:21 Speaker 2

'Cause, you were in a pretty bad spot.

00:34:25 Speaker 2

Yeah, yeah.

00:34:26 Speaker 1

But the chair was still there.

00:34:29 Speaker 2

And you were still here.

00:34:30 Speaker 2

Yeah. So then you move kept on moving and.

00:34:34 Speaker 1

We went to.

00:34:38 Speaker 1

Oh, that's when they decided that we better get moving. And so we went to Kaiser Alumin.

00:34:47 Speaker 1

That's where we first got onto the Audubon.

00:34:49 Speaker 1

Saw that beautiful Audubon just like our freeways in 19401945.

00:34:58 Speaker 1

And the Germans had cut the trees back along the.

00:35:03 Speaker 1

There'd be a measures mitigation 109 there'd be a Heinkel and then there would be a not the first time I ever saw.

00:35:13

A.

00:35:14 Speaker 1

A jet airplane.

00:35:16 Speaker 2

The ME 262.

00:35:18 Speaker 1

Oh.

00:35:19 Speaker 1

I think I think it was another one that had the.

00:35:24 Speaker 1

Or I don't know, but they had an airplane that was really fast and it was propeller driven out of propeller on the back and a propeller on the front.

00:35:36 Speaker 1

I can't.

00:35:37 Speaker 1

I can't say the name of it, but they were fast.

00:35:39 Speaker 2

What were they doing there?

00:35:41 Speaker 2

Crashed.

00:35:42 Speaker 1

No, no, that's where they were captured captured and they couldn't.

00:35:45 Speaker 1

Run out of fuel.

00:35:46 Speaker 2

OK.

00:35:47 Speaker 1

They just abandoned them.

00:35:49 Speaker 1

But then we got to leaseboten worms 28 of March.

00:35:56 Speaker 1

I don't remember very many dates, but I do remember 28th of March and I remember the Navy.

00:36:02 Speaker 1

I admire that Navy.

00:36:04 Speaker 1

He was on that LSI LCI.

00:36:07 Speaker 1

It was Latin craft infantry.

00:36:11 Speaker 1

He was on D-Day. You see the front end and the guy go up.

00:36:17 Speaker 1

Here's this little red headed Navy guy sitting up there.

00:36:21 Speaker 1

And they're telling us, OK, you guys, get out, get out and get once in a while you hear a bullet pinging against the side of that thing that little Navy guy.

00:36:31 Speaker 1

Sit up there and looked it up and figure out why we all huddled down. He's going to.

00:36:38 Speaker 1

Anyway, he took us across the ride and left us.

00:36:40 Speaker 1

He went back.

00:36:42 Speaker 2

The purpose of the movement then, and how many men were with you? I.

00:36:45 Speaker 2

How big was this group your charm?

00:36:47 Speaker 1

Oh, that was.

00:36:47 Speaker 2

Is third army.

00:36:51 Speaker 1

I don't know how there was lots and lots.

00:36:53 Speaker 2

Thousands of men? Yeah. Hundreds of men and it.

00:36:55 Speaker 1

Hundreds of men.

00:36:57 Speaker 2

And the purpose was to move and to keep moving the Germans back, back, back, correct. And to liberate these towns.

00:36:58

And.

00:37:03 Speaker 1

Establish establish that beach here, that crossing. And then we didn't stop. There was why.

00:37:12 Speaker 1

Grapevine. Great.

00:37:15 Speaker 1

You know, the vineyards along the banks, you seen the Rhine River and the vineyards along.

00:37:21 Speaker 1

And we had to go up that hill.

00:37:25 Speaker 1

I remember jumping into a cement ditch because somebody.

00:37:30 Speaker 1

Go.

00:37:31 Speaker 1

A machine gun up above us, but they got him with a.

00:37:37 Speaker 1

Mortar fire got.

00:37:38 Speaker 1

So I we were able to move.

00:37:41 Speaker 1

But it was pretty hard getting up that hill and I don't know where how we got the vehicles.

00:37:48 Speaker 1

We had only about 3 hours up there and here's all these vehicles and then we take off.

00:37:53 Speaker 1

And go from.

00:37:56 Speaker 2

Can.

00:37:56 Speaker 2

Why don't we show it on the map where you were moving?

00:37:59 Speaker 2

We do that.

00:37:59 Speaker 1

OK, I can do that.

00:38:02 Speaker 1

Now we're moving across this Rhine river and we thought we were going to be just the big deal with to get to Berlin.

00:38:09 Speaker 1

We thought that's where we're going, but somebody got into some problems up here at Castle.

00:38:17 Speaker 1

Doesn't show it on the map, but.

00:38:20 Speaker 1

KASSEL was the name of the town.

00:38:23 Speaker 1

We went up there and went in along the railroad track at night.

00:38:30 Speaker 1

And they.

00:38:30 Speaker 1

That's where they built their.

00:38:34 Speaker 1

The.

00:38:36 Speaker 1

Half track type vehicles and I can remember those coming out and they still had that prior.

00:38:42 Speaker 1

Were still in primer.

00:38:43 Speaker 1

They hadn't camouflage them right out of the factory and kids driving them and the poor kids were just sitting ducks.

00:38:51 Speaker 1

Because you can knock them out with.

00:38:55 Speaker 1

Any rifle, grenade or.

00:38:59 Speaker 1

Kids didn't know what they were doing.

00:39:02 Speaker 1

Then we left castle.

00:39:06 Speaker 1

We found out later that the Germans were had a number of men West of Castle and they were trying to get them through the American through that area.

00:39:18 Speaker 1

And up to out of harm's way because they knew the Russians were coming from the other way.

00:39:24 Speaker 1

And they wanted to expend their forces against the Russians.

00:39:29 Speaker 1

Them if they could hold the country for.

00:39:33 Speaker 1

Having the Russians take the country, so we went up there and we.

00:39:40 Speaker 1

We did stop those Germans from breaking through. Then we went to Erfurt.

00:39:49 Speaker 1

Erfurt was a real industrial town, something like Detroit.

00:39:54 Speaker 1

Lots of manufacturing.

00:39:58 Speaker 1

And I'll have to tell you about.

00:40:02 Speaker 1

Mistakes. I made mistakes.

00:40:06 Speaker 1

Still alive to tell it, and I don't know why.

00:40:10 Speaker 1

It captured about quite a bit of equipment and a large number of personnel and set up a prison detention area for the prisoners of war.

00:40:24 Speaker 1

And a lady came up and she was talking to my friend and he was saying this woman's husband wants to.

00:40:38 Speaker 1

And he's an important man. And even with her.

00:40:43 Speaker 1

Bring him in.

00:40:46 Speaker 1

Where we get to it gets down the road here a little ways.

00:40:51 Speaker 1

Well, by that time the Germans are starting to feel that they've, you know, this is getting toward the end of April.

00:40:58 Speaker 1

And the war ended. The 8th of May. So you can see defeat every once in awhile you can see a group of German surrender.

00:41:09 Speaker 1

Not too many, but some so I.

00:41:11 Speaker 1

Well, this is, but I wasn't anybody else around.

00:41:16 Speaker 1

There was a railroad track with going along this elevated. It was on a kind of an elevated track.

00:41:25 Speaker 1

And it's around the corner.

00:41:28 Speaker 1

I get down the street. I went a lot further, all alone than I should have.

00:41:33 Speaker 1

Was a dead man walking.

00:41:36 Speaker 1

And there's an abutment where the railroad track went over a road and there was a cement abutment there with a big door and he's he's in there.

00:41:45 Speaker 1

Go get him.

00:41:47 Speaker 1

To make a Long story short, I took 26 German soldiers.

00:41:52 Speaker 1

That surrendered.

00:41:55

Yeah.

00:41:55 Speaker 1

Took him back to this.

00:41:56 Speaker 2

They were all in there and wanted to surrender.

00:41:57 Speaker 1

They were all in there and they wanted to render.

00:42:01

Sure.

00:42:02 Speaker 1

And but they were.

00:42:05 Speaker 1

They knew that they had surrendered.

00:42:08 Speaker 1

But you know, if anybody had had a grenade or a pistol or told them that I told her I kept her by me.

00:42:18 Speaker 1

Telling to come out and don't bring any weapons out. You know, if I see a weapon.

00:42:25 Speaker 1

No weapons.

00:42:27 Speaker 1

So here I am.

00:42:30 Speaker 1

Watching those guys back.

00:42:33 Speaker 1

I can hear these.

00:42:35 Speaker 1

This is the way it ends.

00:42:38 Speaker 1

It's just little American soldier.

00:42:40 Speaker 1

How are we going to explain this?

00:42:44 Speaker 1

My.

00:42:45 Speaker 1

My friends back there when they saw me coming up there. Oh, de hooping in the holler.

00:42:50 Speaker 2

How did we have enough room or manpower?

00:42:53 Speaker 2

Food to.

00:42:56 Speaker 2

House the number of.

00:42:59 Speaker 2

German soldiers that were obviously surrendering and being captured.

00:43:03 Speaker 1

I don't know.

00:43:05 Speaker 1

There were thousands of them.

00:43:07 Speaker 1

I saw groups of them didn't even have an American soldier by them.

00:43:13 Speaker 1

They were.

00:43:14 Speaker 1

You know it's over, yeah.

00:43:16 Speaker 1

A little.

00:43:16 Speaker 1

On that.

00:43:17 Speaker 2

Could you tell us about the liberation of Dachau, one of the?

00:43:22 Speaker 1

OK, go to when the.

00:43:26 Speaker 1

This is the big.

00:43:29 Speaker 1

If, if we'd have gone to Berlin, but we didn't.

00:43:34 Speaker 1

Didn't know what.

00:43:37 Speaker 1

Yes.

00:43:39 Speaker 1

Worldview was or what was going on politically.

00:43:42 Speaker 1

Didn't have any.

00:43:43 Speaker 1

We didn't knew we were going to go to.

00:43:44 Speaker 1

There's only 141 kilometers when we made the big turn at a little town up by the Czechoslovakian border.

00:43:54 Speaker 1

We was heading right on up to.

00:43:56 Speaker 1

No, we turned right. Led Downton down to Nuremberg.

00:44:03 Speaker 1

Then we went.

00:44:04 Speaker 1

Then we went to go into Munich.

00:44:10 Speaker 1

And then they changed our.

00:44:11 Speaker 1

We turned right or turned left and went to a place called Daco.

00:44:17 Speaker 1

And they rounded us up and gave us an A lecture that we were going to see things that we had no idea.

00:44:26 Speaker 1

What happened, you know? Or we didn't understand what happened.

00:44:31 Speaker 1

That we got to Dachau.

00:44:33 Speaker 1

And.

00:44:36 Speaker 1

It's a little bit E if I remember is east of Munich a little ways.

00:44:45 Speaker 1

Out of DACA, there was signs that things weren't normal.

00:44:52 Speaker 1

Wagons with dead horses.

00:44:56 Speaker 1

Maybe the Air Force had blown up a caught a convoy or something. In a lot of dead horses.

00:45:05 Speaker 1

But then there was some naked bodies, bones and loose skin, you know, been there for a while.

00:45:11 Speaker 1

Figure this.

00:45:12 Speaker 1

This is starting to get warm now. You know in the spring.

00:45:16 Speaker 1

But then he says.

00:45:20 Speaker 1

Captain's told.

00:45:21 Speaker 1

That we were going to build always fence.

00:45:24 Speaker 1

We've got to open a gate.

00:45:27 Speaker 1

We got to the gate. We couldn't get it open.

00:45:30 Speaker 1

It was staged.

00:45:33 Speaker 1

I'll get the gate open.

00:45:35 Speaker 1

Well, just took the Jeep and put a chain on the back of the Jeep and we hanged that gate open.

00:45:41 Speaker 1

Took half the wire down and when we went in.

00:45:46 Speaker 1

The bodies in the trenches, they take the tanks and build trenches.

00:45:50 Speaker 1

Know the bodies in the trenches.

00:45:53 Speaker 1

Didn't bother me too bad, but the bodies on the wagons.

00:45:58 Speaker 1

Stacked like card wood.

00:46:01 Speaker 1

White bleached.

00:46:02 Speaker 1

This is white as a piece of paper.

00:46:04 Speaker 1

Seem like not too many of them to be.

00:46:12 Speaker 1

An accident or something there too many.

00:46:15 Speaker 1

Then we went into this building. In this, the odor was.

00:46:23 Speaker 1

And you had to be careful and stay in the middle because these people have reached out and grab.

00:46:29 Speaker 1

They didn't have any strength, but they'd reach out. They lay in these bunks and the straw was smelly. It was.

00:46:36 Speaker 1

It was.

00:46:37 Speaker 1

They some of them have these stripes.

00:46:43 Speaker 1

Uniforms on some of them didn't.

00:46:46 Speaker 1

We went through that, but we found out later that that was the the officers had brought in three I think, he said.

00:46:55 Speaker 1

Different groups of us to make sure people saw this.

00:46:59 Speaker 2

And you had no idea you'd never heard?

00:47:01 Speaker 1

Never heard of it.

00:47:01 Speaker 2

The Jewish.

00:47:03 Speaker 1

Well, we'd heard about.

00:47:04 Speaker 2

Cool.

00:47:06 Speaker 1

How the German treated the French prisoners when we came through France. So we heard that they were.

00:47:14 Speaker 2

But when you went through Dachau, you this is you this you had no idea what you were looking at.

00:47:17 Speaker 1

I didn't have any.

00:47:18 Speaker 1

Didn't.

00:47:18 Speaker 1

I didn't know who.

00:47:20 Speaker 1

I didn't know who the Jews were, you know.

00:47:24 Speaker 1

If you read about in the Bible.

00:47:28 Speaker 1

Look at a.

00:47:29 Speaker 1

I didn't have any idea but.

00:47:31 Speaker 2

So they wanted you to be witnesses to our military, to be witnesses to what they found.

00:47:33 Speaker 1

Yeah. They want us to be better.

00:47:36 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:47:38 Speaker 2

You were given.

00:47:39 Speaker 2

I'd like to show this just.

00:47:43 Speaker 2

Last a month ago.

00:47:45 Speaker 1

Yes, about a month ago.

00:47:46 Speaker 2

You were presented with a proclamation.

00:47:50 Speaker 2

From the office of the Governor's it's an office of the governor's proclamation.

00:47:58 Speaker 2

For your participation in liberating the nation of DACA, and I'd like to show this, could you tell us about when you were given this?

00:48:01 Speaker 1

Yes.

00:48:07 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:48:08 Speaker 2

Opportunity.

00:48:11 Speaker 1

Called me on the telephone and said that.

00:48:15 Speaker 1

She had been out to the Warhawk Air Museum, and it seemed the things that I brought home.

00:48:22 Speaker 1

And that she was had been at Dachau, and I just happen to say, well, yeah.

00:48:31 Speaker 1

When I mentioned that I had been at that college, she was really interested.

00:48:36 Speaker 1

And then she says, oh, you're my Liberator.

00:48:39 Speaker 1

I was one of 15,000 I imagine, but anyway.

00:48:44 Speaker 1

We I met the lady and we had a a nice meeting and we.

00:48:51 Speaker 1

Meeting in at the courthouse in Boise and.

00:48:58 Speaker 1

The tenant governor gave me that proclamation for.

00:49:04 Speaker 1

Being a part of the liberators of the Dachau camp.

00:49:08 Speaker 2

It says on this Max Fulmer, citizen of Idaho World War 2 veteran and Dachau Camp Liberator.

00:49:17 Speaker 2

An exemplary individual who clearly remembers the inhumanity of those who perpetuated the Holocaust and has clearly respected all peoples through his thoughts and his actions.

00:49:30 Speaker 1

We were at Doc all a short time because other troops had moved in the engineers to build up the place. A lot of medics moved in to take care of the people and help them out, and we moved on.

00:49:45 Speaker 1

East.

00:49:46 Speaker 1

Across the end, river to a place called Bruno.

00:49:50 Speaker 2

Well.

00:49:51 Speaker 1

Brillo, with Hitler's birthplace.

00:49:54 Speaker 1

And Hitler.

00:49:55 Speaker 1

Just a couple of days before had committed suicide in Berlin.

00:50:01 Speaker 1

And we were.

00:50:02 Speaker 1

The neighbors that people of Brunel.

00:50:09 Speaker 1

Didn't say very much, but they could.

00:50:12 Speaker 1

You could tell it they they had lost one of theirs.

00:50:18 Speaker 1

And.

00:50:19 Speaker 1

We accepted the.

00:50:23 Speaker 1

Feet of the German 6th Army if you remember.

00:50:29 Speaker 1

The 6th Army of German at Stalingrad that were defeated.

00:50:36 Speaker 1

Division that from Stalingrad made a new division and recaptured that all their tanks and things at Bruno and we were stationed in a little town of.

00:50:49 Speaker 1

Hen heart outside of Bruno and I didn't like to walk and I went down to the compound where all these German.

00:50:57 Speaker 1

Machines were and I got me a Cuban wagon, a Cuba wagon with a 400 and Volkswagen. Have you seen my little German Jeep that had the spare tire on the hood?

00:51:07 Speaker 1

That was a Cuba wagon well.

00:51:12 Speaker 1

Took that and just about got it back to can Hart, but got hung up on a tree up in the mountains and I imagine it's.

00:51:19 Speaker 1

There, I don't know.

00:51:22 Speaker 1

But then from there we went to Linz, Austria, the 11th Armor Division had taken lands and outside of Lens was another camp called Monthausen Monthausen. There was some American Flyers that we.

00:51:39 Speaker 1

Released got freed there.

00:51:44 Speaker 1

And.

00:51:46 Speaker 1

I got to know one quite well from Dyersburg TN and he's always called. I told him I'm Idaho and he always called me spud.

00:51:58 Speaker 1

Thanks for coming when you did because I was getting tired of this place.

00:52:03 Speaker 1

Then from.

00:52:06 Speaker 1

There was a lot of civilians, American civilians.

00:52:12 Speaker 1

We could tell.

00:52:12 Speaker 1

They were in uniform, but they had the civilian. They didn't have the military tags on the uniforms.

00:52:21 Speaker 1

These were CIC guys.

00:52:23 Speaker 1

We knew they were there for a purpose and we found out the purpose was.

00:52:28 Speaker 1

To capture Himmler's number two men.

00:52:33 Speaker 1

Ernst kaltenbrunner.

00:52:35 Speaker 1

And so we went by truck up a winding Rd. up into the mountains to a beautiful.

00:52:42 Speaker 1

Lake with a big chalet up on the hill.

00:52:48 Speaker 1

A little town called all glossy Austrian, that's where.

00:52:53 Speaker 1

We stayed him for Colten Burner's House and Aldosy.

00:52:58 Speaker 1

And let up this road. And there's a there. Salt mines up there.

00:53:03 Speaker 1

And on the top of the on the front of this salt.

00:53:06 Speaker 1

With.

00:53:06 Speaker 1

Year 1219. So it's an old salt mine.

00:53:13 Speaker 1

You walk, you open the door and I was quite surprised to see a couple of GIS there with a 30 caliber machine gun pointing out the door.

00:53:23 Speaker 1

What's?

00:53:23 Speaker 1

Well, they showed us.

00:53:25 Speaker 1

Rows and rows of beautiful artwork that the Germans had captured from all of the art museums.

00:53:34 Speaker 1

Art gallery throughout Europe.

00:53:37 Speaker 1

You've probably seen Patton and Eisenhower at one of those places, and the look on Patton's face is the only time I've seen.

00:53:47 Speaker 1

Show any emotion when it's all that art. Beautiful art.

00:53:54 Speaker 1

Then we went further up the road.

00:53:57 Speaker 1

And Rose put on guard duty.

00:54:01 Speaker 1

And they went on up to the chalet a little while later I went up.

00:54:05 Speaker 1

They had captured Carlton Bruner.

00:54:08 Speaker 1

He was dressed as a medic.

00:54:11 Speaker 1

And.

00:54:16 Speaker 1

They had.

00:54:21 Speaker 1

Heaters.

00:54:24 Speaker 1

Instead of burn man out of steel, they're made out of ceramic type beautiful heaters.

00:54:33 Speaker 1

And.

00:54:35 Speaker 1

Is one man had to relieve himself and he'd open up the heater and.

00:54:41 Speaker 1

And make a Long story short, I carry 2 sacks of \$20 gold eagles off that hill there was.

00:54:48 Speaker 2

They were filled with gold eagles, huh?

00:54:50 Speaker 1

Gold. Gold.

00:54:51 Speaker 1

And then another place was.

00:54:56 Speaker 1

American currency what had.

00:54:58 Speaker 1

They'd taken all of the consulate money from Hungary.

00:55:03 Speaker 1

Or Czechoslovakia. And they taken all that money and he was going to.

00:55:11 Speaker 1

And he stole that money, and he added the hole there. So.

00:55:16 Speaker 1

They shook us.

00:55:17 Speaker 1

We weren't supposed to keep any of those \$20 gold pieces, but.

00:55:23 Speaker 1

Having to keep a couple of them long since gone, but I went to Paris later and saw one of those CIC guys flipping on those coins up and down.

00:55:32 Speaker 1

I wasn't the only one.

00:55:36 Speaker 1

The cultural was tried at Nuremberg and.

00:55:40 Speaker 1

And he was hanged it.

00:55:43 Speaker 2

Did you attend the Nuremberg trials?

00:55:45 Speaker 1

I did attend the Trials House on on duty there. That's why when we when we go to.

00:55:54 Speaker 1

Display out there that I'll show you why I was assigned to the First Division.

00:56:02 Speaker 1

And say again I was.

00:56:04 Speaker 1

Was a short.

00:56:04 Speaker 1

You look at the guys are assigned to the trials in front of the cameras and they're big, tall guys.

00:56:12 Speaker 1

Well, I was AI was a driver, but I had a nice Packard to drive.

00:56:18 Speaker 2

How much longer?

00:56:22 Speaker 2

Did you move into into?

00:56:24 Speaker 2

How many more days or weeks or months before you were, it was finally time for you to come back to the US.

00:56:30 Speaker 1

I stayed. See the warrant in May.

00:56:36 Speaker 1

And I came back the next.

00:56:38 Speaker 1

So I was there a year after the war ended.

00:56:41 Speaker 2

Where were you stationed?

00:56:42 Speaker 1

All over I was decided I had real good duty.

00:56:45 Speaker 1

I didn't have enough place to come home, so I was assigned to the American Red Cross.

00:56:52 Speaker 1

Get you going to the Harvey had a Packard pick up a senator or not pick up the VIP's and they always wanted to go to Paris.

00:57:01 Speaker 1

I did that for a while when I was assigned to a medical unit.

00:57:05 Speaker 1

Then I was assigned as a. My last assignment was a recruiting Sergeant for the First Division. I was in First Division headquarters in Regensburg.

00:57:20 Speaker 2

Were you?

00:57:21 Speaker 2

Had you married or or met anyone at this by this time or no, you're still single and.

00:57:25 Speaker 1

All over I was writing.

00:57:31 Speaker 1

My sisters and.

00:57:35 Speaker 1

All the.

00:57:37 Speaker 1

I didn't get married until I was.

00:57:41 Speaker 1

Almost through college, before I got married.

00:57:44 Speaker 2

Where were you assigned when you were told you were coming home?

00:57:48 Speaker 1

How was it, Regan to Burke? They call us in one day and said.

00:57:53 Speaker 1

Going to make.

00:57:54 Speaker 1

A. A special release of people who've got so much combat time.

00:58:01 Speaker 1

Instead of going just by the points, points did account combat did count for points and the guys that had a lot of combat got to go home first.

00:58:11 Speaker 1

And then they called me and said.

00:58:16 Speaker 1

Trade a replacement.

00:58:19 Speaker 1

You'll be going home.

00:58:21 Speaker 2

Great.

00:58:21

Fine.

00:58:22 Speaker 1

So I left Regensburg and went to.

00:58:26 Speaker 1

Birmingham.

00:58:29 Speaker 1

Liberty Ship one of those little buckets, and that the purpose could keep up to.

00:58:38 Speaker 1

And come across the.

00:58:41 Speaker 1

I remember the white cliffs of Dover going through this English Channel and remember.

00:58:48 Speaker 1

Everybody. I never got sick on the ship.

00:58:52 Speaker 1

In fact, I'd go up to the front as far as I could because I liked it.

00:58:56 Speaker 1

I like that he went up and down.

00:59:00 Speaker 1

But then he made a special announcement that we'd be pulling in New York Harbor at the Statue of Liberty would be lit.

00:59:10 Speaker 1

And I was amazed.

00:59:13 Speaker 1

I didn't know the Statue of Liberty was green.

00:59:19 Speaker 1

It was quite a sight and.

00:59:20 Speaker 2

Quite aside, see America again.

00:59:23 Speaker 1

Then got off that boat and went to Camp Gilmer, New Jersey.

00:59:28 Speaker 1

Had to get my shots again and coming to the United States.

00:59:31 Speaker 1

Get some more shots.

00:59:33 Speaker 1

Get on a train and.

00:59:37 Speaker 1

And the Fort Douglas, Utah.

00:59:40 Speaker 1

To.

00:59:42 Speaker 1

Not a Union Pacific bus and Idaho Falls got off the bus at the bus depot and called home.

00:59:50 Speaker 1

Answer.

00:59:51 Speaker 1

Why? Walked home?

00:59:53 Speaker 1

Nobody home?

00:59:55 Speaker 1

So that was that was all.

00:59:57 Speaker 1

There have been a lot of guys come home and so you know.

01:00:00 Speaker 1

Wasn't a big deal.

01:00:02 Speaker 1

OK.

01:00:04 Speaker 1

There and my sisters, they were.

01:00:07 Speaker 1

Were all gone.

01:00:09 Speaker 1

Dad was working for. They'd moved to town, sold the farm by then.

01:00:14 Speaker 1

And so Dad was working for the Department of Agriculture.

01:00:19 Speaker 1

He was in Kansas City, so like homecoming was quite, quite quiet.

01:00:23 Speaker 2

Very quiet.

01:00:27 Speaker 2

Of your collection that is on display at the Warhawk Air Museum, I'd like to talk a little bit about some of the items that are in here.

01:00:36 Speaker 2

If we could, let's start with the jacket and the medals that are on your jacket.

01:00:40 Speaker 2

Could you tell us about what those items are and what they mean?

01:00:44 Speaker 1

Yes.

01:00:48 Speaker 1

This, of course, is the combat Infantry badge. The Blue Blue badge, the.

01:00:56 Speaker 1

Top one there is the American victory medal.

01:01:00 Speaker 1

The Red 1 is the good conduct medal.

01:01:04

I.

01:01:05 Speaker 1

The blue is the American theater, metal and the.

01:01:12 Speaker 1

Other Green one is the European theater of operations with battlestars.

01:01:22 Speaker 1

The.

01:01:25 Speaker 1

Metal on the jacket pocket flap is the expert rifle and expert machine gun. This is the sharpshooter.

01:01:39 Speaker 1

Carving.

01:01:42 Speaker 1

This patch on the side is the first Infantry division.

01:01:47 Speaker 1

I was assigned to the First Infantry division during the Nuremberg trial.

01:01:52 Speaker 1

Was at 5:00.

01:01:56 Speaker 1

And.

01:01:59 Speaker 1

The.

01:02:01 Speaker 1

Is a regimental badge for the four, oh, Fifth Infantry division.

01:02:10 Speaker 1

And.

01:02:12 Speaker 1

Over on the other pocket flap is the.

01:02:16 Speaker 1

Of Presidential unit citations.

01:02:20 Speaker 1

The cap on the shoulder has the blue piping, which indicates infantry.

01:02:21

Thank you.

01:02:28 Speaker 1

And the rope.

01:02:32 Speaker 1

Are the French and Belgium?

01:02:36 Speaker 1

Honors given to the First Division during World War One.

01:02:43 Speaker 2

Max, could you tell us about the citation that we're now looking at? The presidential citation?

01:02:48 Speaker 1

Yes, this is battle order given to the second battalion threeteenth infantry for.

01:02:54

Sure.

01:02:55 Speaker 1

Being and involved in.

01:03:00 Speaker 1

Saving the 101st Airborne Division at BASTONE and.

01:03:08 Speaker 1

Get to.

01:03:10 Speaker 1

Tells the story about how the unit units went in.

01:03:16 Speaker 1

And I mentioned the town of Edelbrook, Luxembourg.

01:03:24 Speaker 1

As I mentioned, Edelbrook was the place that I was stay was at.

01:03:28 Speaker 1

I did not go into back.

01:03:32 Speaker 2

To the to the.

01:03:33 Speaker 2

Or to the right of that right above your uniform, there is a beautiful flag with a star in the middle of that.

01:03:38 Speaker 2

Believe that was something that your mother hung in her window.

01:03:43 Speaker 1

Yes, this is a.

01:03:46 Speaker 1

Flag that the people put in their windows to indicate the number of people from the family that were in the service.

01:03:55 Speaker 1

My mother's flag had four stars on it.

01:03:59 Speaker 1

If there was a Gold Star, that meant that the person that was deceased.

01:04:05 Speaker 1

So luckily we didn't have any gold stars in our bank.

01:04:10 Speaker 2

There's a little tiny piece of mail there.

01:04:12 Speaker 2

It's called vmail and this is the way that you received mail.

01:04:17 Speaker 2

That.

01:04:17 Speaker 2

And did you send mail home in this way?

01:04:21 Speaker 1

Yes, you wrote the.

01:04:24 Speaker 1

You wrote your letter on us on a female like this one up here.

01:04:29 Speaker 2

Right, there's the larger one.

01:04:30 Speaker 1

When you give it to your company clerk and you send it into the people that actually make the photographs, this is a photograph of.

01:04:38 Speaker 1

The letter and they can send these.

01:04:43 Speaker 1

Photographs and then reproduce them.

01:04:48 Speaker 1

Get this.

01:04:50 Speaker 2

That's the letter that you received, yeah.

01:04:51 Speaker 1

After letter.

01:04:53 Speaker 2

And we're looking now at your.

01:04:55 Speaker 2

Two hour past Paris.

01:04:58 Speaker 1

That was a learning experience.

01:05:02 Speaker 1

Everybody was celebrating and if we had enough time, we got a pass. And so after the war was over.

01:05:10 Speaker 2

At the end of the war.

01:05:13 Speaker 1

So I went to Paris.

01:05:17 Speaker 1

And it was quite an experience. Got go to the Louvre and see the.

01:05:22 Speaker 1

Beautiful art.

01:05:25 Speaker 1

I got to get up on the Eiffel Tower for the let you go to the first landing.

01:05:29 Speaker 1

Some pictures on the Eiffel Tower and.

01:05:34 Speaker 1

Then got to ride.

01:05:36 Speaker 1

On their subway type deal a.

01:05:41 Speaker 1

Well, I can't remember the name of it, but it was quite impressive.

01:05:48 Speaker 2

The cabinet is filled with gear that you carried or you used while you were in the 3rd Army.

01:05:53 Speaker 2

You point a little bit of it out to us to show us what you use.

01:05:56 Speaker 2

A gas mask there I noticed too.

01:05:58 Speaker 1

Yeah.

01:05:59 Speaker 1

Because we all carry gas masks.

01:06:02 Speaker 1

We often wondered why, but it would be better to have not needed to need it and not have it.

01:06:09 Speaker 1

So we all carry them.

01:06:12 Speaker 1

And.

01:06:13 Speaker 2

You have your guns. Are there more servers?

01:06:14

What time is it?

01:06:14 Speaker 1

The M1 rifle.

01:06:19 Speaker 1

To me, it was a lifesaver.

01:06:21 Speaker 1

Very good piece of equipment.

01:06:23 Speaker 2

How about your mess kit?

01:06:25 Speaker 2

That a lifesaver.

01:06:29 Speaker 1

Some some of the stuff that went in.

01:06:31 Speaker 1

I wonder.

01:06:32 Speaker 2

And that's your helmet.

01:06:33 Speaker 1

That's my helmet.

01:06:36 Speaker 1

Lubber pistol that everybody wanted to have a.

01:06:41 Speaker 1

So.

01:06:43 Speaker 1

I finally got me a Luger.

01:06:45 Speaker 1

The other one I got ready to go home.

01:06:47 Speaker 1

I had a box full of Loos and I had to get rid of them.

01:06:50 Speaker 1

Could only bring 1.

01:06:52 Speaker 1

So it so happens that this is the one holster that I brought home.

01:06:58 Speaker 1

It has the little tool.

01:07:01 Speaker 2

That's your water, your water canteen, and your and your radio equipment.

01:07:04 Speaker 1

Yes, that's the canteen.

01:07:07 Speaker 2

Noticed that too.

01:07:07 Speaker 1

Yes, that was a what they call the company runner for a while.

01:07:13 Speaker 1

We put on a show for Church Patton.

01:07:15 Speaker 1

General Patton. They lobbed in some.

01:07:21 Speaker 1

Artillery fire on the position and we went like we were going to capture that position and I was a company runner on this.

01:07:28 Speaker 1

The only time that I heard his voice on on the radio.

01:07:34 Speaker 1

And penetrating at the least, so that walkie-talkie was.

01:07:40 Speaker 1

Wasn't very effective of his awful noisy, but it worked.

01:07:45 Speaker 1

That's yet to feel full that we used.

01:07:50 Speaker 1

When we were in the occupation army.

01:07:56 Speaker 1

And this one was set up at Erlangen, a city called Erlangen outside of.

01:08:03 Speaker 1

Beirut, where a big hospital was. We were making sure that the German soldiers that needed the medical care.

01:08:13 Speaker 1

Got to that hospital in Beirut.

01:08:17 Speaker 2

Next, the picture on the left is your father and your.

01:08:21 Speaker 2

They both served in World War One and then the picture in the middle is of you in your full uniform.

01:08:30 Speaker 2

The picture below is a picture of you with.

01:08:33 Speaker 2

Friend of yours?

01:08:34 Speaker 1

Yes, with it Ray Soderquist was.

01:08:38 Speaker 1

Friend of.

01:08:38 Speaker 1

That we went to school together through.

01:08:43 Speaker 1

Well, it's the elementary school and high school.

01:08:46 Speaker 1

He went to the Pacific.

01:08:49 Speaker 1

And served in the Philippines had a had a tough time. He that that was a little bit more slugging than what we went through.

01:09:01 Speaker 1

We moved fast before.

01:09:04 Speaker 1

Maintained positions and kind of slugged it out.

01:09:08 Speaker 1

He passed away a number of years ago.

01:09:12 Speaker 2

Next, we're looking at a cabinet that has German memorabilia and the flag that we're now looking at is one that you brought home with you at the end of the war.

01:09:23 Speaker 1

Yes, that that flag was draped behind.

01:09:29 Speaker 1

A huge desk.

01:09:33 Speaker 1

And sitting at the desk was.

01:09:36 Speaker 1

A.

01:09:37 Speaker 1

German officer.

01:09:39 Speaker 1

Named Hess.

01:09:41 Speaker 1

Charles Hess.

01:09:44 Speaker 1

And.

01:09:48 Speaker 1

He surrendered after.

01:09:51

A little.

01:09:52 Speaker 1

Negotiating. I'll put it that way.

01:09:55 Speaker 1

But he didn't want to surrender to a.

01:09:59 Speaker 1

Carpal, which I was.

01:10:02 Speaker 1

He says I will surrender to an officer.

01:10:04 Speaker 1

Said I'm an officer noncommissioned officer.

01:10:10 Speaker 1

I reached back and got the flag down.

01:10:13 Speaker 1

He still sat there.

01:10:15 Speaker 1

And he had.

01:10:18 Speaker 1

A swastika.

01:10:20 Speaker 1

Of this lock metal something like this one on his neck.

01:10:28 Speaker 1

I took that.

01:10:31 Speaker 1

Had a watch on a chain.

01:10:36 Speaker 2

We're going.

01:10:37 Speaker 2

Move to this cabinet and hopefully we can see these because they're both in the cabinet swastika that you can see on the far left side with the with the metal with the.

01:10:48 Speaker 2

Yes. And then the watch is down below.

01:10:52 Speaker 1

Yes. And he was so agitated that he.

01:10:58 Speaker 1

Through his hat, his hat, a nice driven officers hat, and he swept it onto the floor and stood up and surrendered.

01:11:09 Speaker 2

And he was subsequently taken to the Nuremberg Trials also.

01:11:12 Speaker 1

No, I never saw this man again.

01:11:13 Speaker 2

You never saw him again?

01:11:18 Speaker 2

These other items that are in the small case that we're looking at, Max Umm, are all items that you brought back in a box or a bag from the war?

01:11:27 Speaker 2

All pieces of there's something that Hitler gave to mothers for having children and.

01:11:32 Speaker 1

Yes, the mother Mother's cross is the one that's laying down.

01:11:36 Speaker 2

Yes, right.

01:11:39 Speaker 2

Then those.

01:11:39 Speaker 1

There was.

01:11:42 Speaker 1

Workman's pens. Everybody had a pen.

01:11:43 Speaker 1

Were greeting people.

01:11:46 Speaker 1

Well, the Workman had a pen.

01:11:47 Speaker 1

School children had pens.

01:11:49 Speaker 2

Right.

01:11:50 Speaker 1

Of these different pens, and I'm sorry I can't remember which.

01:11:53 Speaker 2

Right. But they were all all things that were used by Hitler to keep it, keep the people interested in war.

01:11:59 Speaker 1

And then they have these, this little book.

01:12:04 Speaker 1

There, with hundreds of those little books, everything from the worm op.

01:12:09 Speaker 1

A to all different types.

01:12:11 Speaker 1

It included all the German people.

01:12:13 Speaker 1

They all had their book.

01:12:19 Speaker 1

They were quite.

01:12:20 Speaker 1

You learn a lot, Phillip.

01:12:22 Speaker 2

Tell us about the film.

01:12:23 Speaker 2

This is unused film confiscated from Ernst Kaltenbrunner's House in 1945 by Max Palmer.

01:12:30 Speaker 1

Yes.

01:12:34 Speaker 1

We confiscated quite a bit of material, but we didn't get to keep it.

01:12:40 Speaker 1

I'll have to tell you about the film. I also had a movie projector, cans of film, that showed Collins Bruner.

01:12:46 Speaker 1

I even had a film of Hitler doing his little dance.

01:12:50 Speaker 1

And after they defeated the French.

01:12:53 Speaker 1

And this.

01:12:56 Speaker 1

Aerosol that shows.

01:12:59 Speaker 1

And there was some other pictures of different army officers.

01:13:06 Speaker 2

This back here. I'll point to it here.

01:13:09 Speaker 1

Is the plaque that I got from.

01:13:14 Speaker 1

The place where Hitler had an apartment in Brno.

01:13:18 Speaker 1

That shows.

01:13:21 Speaker 1

Kind of a coaster.

01:13:22 Speaker 1

That deal that shows Hitler's.

01:13:25 Speaker 1

And that's what those words mean is his gifts dog.

01:13:30 Speaker 1

Here is birthplace when we left.

01:13:33 Speaker 1

Al Qaeda.

01:13:35 Speaker 1

It brought the train up and stopped across the field of about.

01:13:40 Speaker 1

100 yards.

01:13:43 Speaker 1

And they made us run to that train.

01:13:47 Speaker 1

And the reason they did that is because, well, like me, I had a projector and I had film and I had this and I had.

01:13:54 Speaker 1

In order to keep up, I had to start dropping things.

01:13:58 Speaker 1

So someplace in that field there was really.

01:14:02 Speaker 1

Good movies of Hitler and.

01:14:06 Speaker 1

So somebody got.

01:14:07 Speaker 1

Some GI from real estate on we call the guys didn't have to hurry.

01:14:14 Speaker 1

They they were the ones that picked up all that contraband that us guys had to drop.

01:14:21 Speaker 1

So I didn't get it home, but I did get these kind small items home.

01:14:27 Speaker 2

Maxis is a doctor. 7 exact replica of a the Falker triplane and you built this plane for the Warhawk Air Museum.

01:14:37 Speaker 2

Year did you actually start working on this airplane?

01:14:40 Speaker 1

1993.

01:14:42 Speaker 2

And it took about how long for it to be complete.

01:14:44 Speaker 1

About five years.

01:14:45 Speaker 2

About five years, you know.

01:14:46 Speaker 1

Then we finished in 1990.

01:14:50 Speaker 1

Well, 1997 late.

01:14:53 Speaker 2

Where did you get the plans for it?

01:14:55 Speaker 1

Well, de Wilson.

01:14:55 Speaker 2

There are none.

01:14:56 Speaker 1

Dean Wilson, that had the Abbott Flyer.

01:15:00 Speaker 1

Airplanes. He had the plans.

01:15:02 Speaker 1

Actually, they came from Turing's sail up at glider field.

01:15:06 Speaker 2

Right.

01:15:06 Speaker 1

Turning had the plans and they had come from Pete Bowers in Seattle.

01:15:12 Speaker 2

And there are no original Dr. Sevens flying in in the world. Are there today?

01:15:18 Speaker 2

I believe that they are pretty much an extinct animal.

01:15:21 Speaker 1

There a doctor one. And there's one that I know is.

01:15:23 Speaker 2

Yeah.

01:15:27 Speaker 1

And when a man built one in Tennessee while I was building this one.

01:15:31 Speaker 2

This is the DR1 triplane.

01:15:32 Speaker 1

Yes, DIY one.

01:15:34 Speaker 2

I'm sorry I was mistaken.

01:15:36 Speaker 1

So there are.

01:15:37 Speaker 1

There are a few that are flying.

01:15:40 Speaker 2

Well, it's a beautiful, beautiful.

01:15:43 Speaker 2

Restoration, and certainly a big part of the Warhawk Air Museum as a display.

01:15:44 Speaker 1

Thank you.

01:15:47 Speaker 1

Thank you.

01:15:50 Speaker 2

OK.

01:15:52

Right.

01:15:55

OK.

01:15:56

Thank you for that.

01:16:07 Speaker 2

46 you left the military and you came back to Idaho and stayed here and you went to Rexburg and to college.

01:16:16 Speaker 1

Yes, I went to what was.

01:16:17 Speaker 1

As Rick's college.

01:16:19 Speaker 1

Then it's called BYU Idaho now.

01:16:24 Speaker 2

And you got your teaching degree there.

01:16:26 Speaker 1

Yes, I got my bachelor's degree in elementary education at that graduated from Ricks.

01:16:36 Speaker 1

And then I went to.

01:16:39 Speaker 1

The local school district and got a.

01:16:42 Speaker 1

Job as a principal of the little school outside of Otto Falls.

01:16:46 Speaker 2

Will you marry yet?

01:16:48 Speaker 1

Yes, I was married.

01:16:49 Speaker 2

Did you have any children?

01:16:52 Speaker 1

Not at this time.

01:16:56 Speaker 1

And.

01:16:58 Speaker 1

I went to.

01:17:01 Speaker 1

Another after four years that this little school that I went to another district in Jefferson County.

01:17:10 Speaker 1

Which headquartered was Rigby and I taught in a little country school up.

01:17:16 Speaker 1

West of Rigby for one year.

01:17:21 Speaker 2

Did you continue flying?

01:17:24 Speaker 1

During the summers and when I wasn't busy, well, I was working for the local fixed base operator.

01:17:32 Speaker 1

And they had some real good flying to do in good.

01:17:36 Speaker 1

I took it because I had to get back to this class, but I didn't want to get tied up in the weather, so we had a good.

01:17:42

OK.

01:17:43 Speaker 2

Flying eventually, then left teaching and went to work for the FAA.

01:17:47 Speaker 1

Yes, I worked for the.

01:17:50 Speaker 1

Civil Aeronautics authority and.

01:17:53 Speaker 1

What should the old CAA and I think it was 1958?

01:17:58 Speaker 1

Made it the Federal Aviation Administration.

01:18:02 Speaker 1

And I was assigned to the Idaho Falls Flight service station.

01:18:08 Speaker 1

Making weather reports briefing pilots.

01:18:12 Speaker 1

All around, good guy. When somebody got into trouble.

01:18:15 Speaker 2

And you work for them for 30 years until you retired.

01:18:18 Speaker 1

Yes, I retired.

01:18:21 Speaker 1

At in in between I traveled to get a lot of instructing.

01:18:26 Speaker 1

Went to Oklahoma City where the.

01:18:31 Speaker 1

FAA has an Academy down there where they train their air traffic people.

01:18:38 Speaker 1

I should put that in the past tense because everything's changed since I left.

01:18:43 Speaker 1

I went to Alaska. I worked out of Fairbanks at all the little stations in Galena and town on Bettels and.

01:18:54 Speaker 1

Barrel and up on the North Slope and.

01:19:01 Speaker 1

Drove up to Point Barrel, looked over the edge, so to speak.

01:19:06 Speaker 1

That was quite that time in Alaska was quite quite rewarding.

01:19:12 Speaker 1

Got to do a lot of traveling and.

01:19:14 Speaker 2

And then you you also in your in your life experience restored not only the D.

01:19:20 Speaker 2

DR1 falke triplane, but several other airplanes and.

01:19:24 Speaker 1

Yes.

01:19:25 Speaker 2

What are those?

01:19:27 Speaker 1

A 1916 Slash 17 Curtis Jennings.

01:19:34 Speaker 1

A play called Greenleaf in Near Caldwell, I restored a British.

01:19:44 Speaker 1

Shop with pup.

01:19:46 Speaker 1

And I said, well, I've got a.

01:19:49 Speaker 1

I've got a new American I need to build a French airplane, so I've got plans for a.

01:19:57 Speaker 1

Newport.

01:19:59 Speaker 2

That you're planning to do.

01:19:59 Speaker 1

And I've been been working on the Newport, but I haven't got it finished.

01:20:02 Speaker 2

And you've continued to fly all these years.

01:20:04 Speaker 1

Yes, I gave it.

01:20:05 Speaker 1

Here I go in in March, I told them that.

01:20:11 Speaker 1

The geese are starting to look like B17 S, and I think I'll be.

01:20:15 Speaker 1

Clock.

01:20:16 Speaker 1

So I sold my airplane.

01:20:19 Speaker 1

I've done right now.

01:20:19 Speaker 2

It.

01:20:22 Speaker 2

And you have a son. And how many grandchildren do you have?

01:20:25 Speaker 1

I.

01:20:26 Speaker 1

One son and one granddaughter.

01:20:27 Speaker 2

And one granddaughter.

01:20:30 Speaker 1

Works for the as a work all of his career with theaters.

01:20:40 Speaker 1

And the granddaughter? She is gradu.

01:20:46 Speaker 1

High school and it's working that one of the local electric work do a lot of soldering.

01:20:53 Speaker 1

And building control boards and that kind of stuff.

01:20:58 Speaker 2

Max, you came from a little tiny, tiny town in Idaho, and we're a farm kid.

01:21:03 Speaker 2

And you ended up.

01:21:06 Speaker 2

Not only going through the depression and seeing that in your lifetime, but also seeing the beginning of World War 2 and then entering World War 2 and you were.

01:21:17 Speaker 2

A soldier in some of the most brutal fighting and saw some of the most brutal.

01:21:24 Speaker 2

Human experiences of the war and you came home and made a whole life for yourself.

01:21:32 Speaker 2

From then on, could you tell us maybe is some a thought to leave for your granddaughter and then for her children and all of the future generations that will see this film.

01:21:44 Speaker 2

That experience during World War 2.

01:21:48 Speaker 2

Helped.

01:21:49 Speaker 2

Form the man that you became.

01:21:52 Speaker 2

What? What did?

01:21:53 Speaker 2

Leave with you as a lasting life lesson.

01:22:01 Speaker 1

To survive.

01:22:04 Speaker 1

It required.

01:22:07 Speaker 1

All of our efforts, so many things that I went through, it required all the effort to survive.

01:22:16 Speaker 1

Probably could have survived with.

01:22:20 Speaker 1

Without working quite so hard, but it made it so that what we did, we survived better.

01:22:28 Speaker 1

So I say to the.

01:22:32 Speaker 1

My granddaughter.

01:22:34 Speaker 1

What you get is what you earn.

01:22:37 Speaker 1

And there's no free lunch.

01:22:41 Speaker 1

Take care of you, the people that you love.

01:22:45 Speaker 1

Love the people that you take care of.

01:22:49 Speaker 1

And take care of as many people as you can.

01:22:52 Speaker 2

Well, on behalf of the Warhawk Air Museum, I want to thank you for taking care of our country.

01:22:58 Speaker 1

Oh, thank.

01:22:58 Speaker 2

You are an American veteran.

01:23:01 Speaker 2

Honor.

01:23:01 Speaker 2

We are so grateful for.

01:23:03 Speaker 2

Time in your life.

01:23:04 Speaker 2

Up as a young man to fight for our country and because of you and men like you and women that have served in our countries, this, this country is still and we hope forever will be the greatest nation in the world.

01:23:19 Speaker 2

Thank you so much. And we honor you for being an American veteran. Thank you.

01:23:31

Happy.

01:23:50

I.