

Donald Heckman Interview

Headquarters Company, 702nd Tank Battalion

(Library of Congress: Veterans History Project; interviewed by Michael A. Sowards)

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

00:00:01 Speaker 1

Michael Seward's **** muscle men.

00:00:04 Speaker 1

Lehigh Valley Veterans History Project, Allentown.

00:00:07 Speaker 1

Our interview tonight with World War 2 veteran Corporal Donald Heckman, born September 18th, 1924.

00:00:15 Speaker 1

Is being done for the Veterans History project at the Library of Congress.

00:00:21 Speaker 2

OK, means the home feckman. I was born September 18th, 1924.

00:00:29 Speaker 2

In Lower Nazareth Township, Newburgh.

00:00:34 Speaker 3

High School high school.

00:00:36 Speaker 2

And I went to Navra area Naval High School.

00:00:40 Speaker 2

And first of all, I skipped a great heck Tom grade school.

00:00:46 Speaker 2

So I graduated when I was 16.

00:00:51 Speaker 2

And the thing about was.

00:00:57 Speaker 2

I got out of high school.

00:00:58

It's.

00:00:58 Speaker 2

Hard to get a job.

00:01:01 Speaker 2

So it's working for my uncle and potato on the farm and it was time to pick potatoes, which I hate it.

00:01:10 Speaker 2

And just then I got a.

00:01:12 Speaker 2

From a gentleman.

00:01:15 Speaker 2

From the school board.

00:01:17 Speaker 2

He's. I spent one of the job on the Leahy and New England Railroad. I was only 16.

00:01:25 Speaker 2

And I said, yeah, yeah. So I got a job in the yard office at Tadmire, which is being bath and Nazareth.

00:01:34 Speaker 2

And I worked there.

00:01:36 Speaker 2

And by stay in the office, I couldn't go out in the yard because of my age.

00:01:42 Speaker 2

And then I worked there for a year and a half till I was drafted.

00:01:48 Speaker 2

I've drafted March 1943.

00:01:53 Speaker 2

And.

00:01:56 Speaker 2

We left a week later.

00:01:59 Speaker 2

And went out to Indian town gap.

00:02:02 Speaker 2

Where we formed the 702nd Tank Battalion.

00:02:07 Speaker 2

On the 702nd Tank Battalion were over 30 of us from the Nazareth area.

00:02:13 Speaker 2

A lot of my high school classmates.

00:02:16 Speaker 2

And after that, after we're organized, we went down to camp.

00:02:21 Speaker 2

Kentucky was the camp non support camp.

00:02:25 Speaker 2

And we have a basic I have my basic training in the tank.

00:02:29 Speaker 2

And when the patient train was over in November.

00:02:34 Speaker 2

Were ready to go on maneuvers in Tennessee in the winter time.

00:02:40 Speaker 2

I got a call into the office.

00:02:43 Speaker 2

Would you like to go to radio school?

00:02:46 Speaker 2

Definitely, I said.

00:02:48 Speaker 2

So I went to Fort Knox Area School for three months coat.

00:02:54 Speaker 2

I did learn the.

00:02:55 Speaker 2

I was a low speed operator because three months he can learn not much.

00:03:01 Speaker 2

And after that I could graduate from there. I went back to our outfit, which was on camp.

00:03:08 Speaker 2

Camp, yeah.

00:03:14 Speaker 2

It.

00:03:14 Speaker 2

It was in Kansas anyway.

00:03:17 Speaker 2

And join.

00:03:18 Speaker 2

Join the outfit.

00:03:20 Speaker 2

And then I think April, we went overseas.

00:03:26 Speaker 2

We left campsite, New York and then Mauritania, a British ship.

00:03:32 Speaker 2

We.

00:03:33 Speaker 2

We were not.

00:03:34 Speaker 2

We didn't have any guards with any ships with us.

00:03:38 Speaker 2

Because they have a lot more speed than their submarines and stuff.

00:03:43 Speaker 2

And.

00:03:45 Speaker 2

On this ship we got 2 meals a day.

00:03:50 Speaker 2

6000 of US on we slept on a hammock on a promenade.

00:03:56 Speaker 2

When we landed in England, we landed Liverpool.

00:04:01 Speaker 2

And every state of Liverpool a couple days on a golf course. Intense.

00:04:08 Speaker 2

From there. Oh, and Don, that cannot England, which is close to Manchester.

00:04:14 Speaker 2

And we spent some time there and.

00:04:19 Speaker 2

We did some training there and on in August, beginning of August, we went over to England and over to Germany.

00:04:29 Speaker 3

Over to Normandy.

00:04:30 Speaker 2

Normally, yeah. We went over.

00:04:32 Speaker 2

Went over to Normandy.

00:04:35 Speaker 2

And our first battle is in Argentine France.

00:04:44 Speaker 2

Out there at night. I'll tell you, it was scary.

00:04:47 Speaker 2

We didn't know where we were. What we do know these guns going off all over the place.

00:04:52 Speaker 2

And from then on.

00:04:56 Speaker 3

What happened that first day though?

00:04:58 Speaker 3

You were enough combat.

00:04:58 Speaker 2

Know.

00:04:58 Speaker 2

First day of battle, I lost one of my high school buddies in combat.

00:05:06 Speaker 2

And from there.

00:05:10 Speaker 3

What happened there that caused that in the battle?

00:05:13 Speaker 2

What happened?

00:05:13 Speaker 3

Was a big mistake.

00:05:15 Speaker 2

The general more or they order them to go through in a row, but you don't do you get the first tank, get the last tank.

00:05:25 Speaker 2

They're in between.

00:05:26 Speaker 4

You mean in a straight file? Yeah.

00:05:28 Speaker 3

A straight foot. And that's what happened to.

00:05:33 Speaker 3

Your friend.

00:05:34 Speaker 2

Yeah, I for those sort of skips.

00:05:37 Speaker 2

I was really lucky.

00:05:40 Speaker 2

When they called me in the office, I wanted to go to radio school.

00:05:42

Run.

00:05:44 Speaker 2

Thank God because I.

00:05:45 Speaker 2

I would have been an attack.

00:05:46

That.

00:05:48 Speaker 2

Was a little bit a lot worse.

00:05:50 Speaker 2

So I went all the way through the war and half track with our Colonel.

00:05:57 Speaker 2

I was one of the radio operators.

00:06:01 Speaker 3

And now, after Argentine, you said.

00:06:03 Speaker 3

Was your first.

00:06:04 Speaker 2

Yeah, Argentina was the.

00:06:05 Speaker 2

And then we went all around. And one night we got a call on where we were anymore.

00:06:12 Speaker 2

Got a call to come.

00:06:15 Speaker 2

Luxembourg.

00:06:18 Speaker 2

Here we are drive all night.

00:06:20 Speaker 2

No headlights, just little lights.

00:06:24 Speaker 2

And we grow all night till we got there and that's where we spent our time doing the battle of vaults in Luxembourg.

00:06:33 Speaker 3

I think too, if I may interject.

00:06:36 Speaker 4

Back up a little bit.

00:06:37 Speaker 3

Yeah, back up a little bit from.

00:06:40 Speaker 3

How you got over to the Mets area, that's where just about some of where you were called up to Luxembourg as a unit.

00:06:47 Speaker 4

You also mentioned you were somehow your group developed a contraption as you said, to get to the hedgerows side by side.

00:06:55 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:06:57 Speaker 3

When when they caught you there and the hedgerows in the beginning. When that first combat first battle, what did they develop then? So that that wouldn't happen again. They wouldn't get hung up again.

00:06:59 Speaker 4

Call dad.

00:07:07 Speaker 2

Oh they watching?

00:07:08 Speaker 2

Told them.

00:07:10 Speaker 2

Were told not to do that anymore.

00:07:13 Speaker 2

You know, do things like that anyone come says.

00:07:16 Speaker 2

Know that.

00:07:17 Speaker 4

But like, didn't you develop something that allowed the tanks to go through the hedgerows without getting bogged down?

00:07:25 Speaker 3

Did they Weld something on the front of the?

00:07:27 Speaker 2

Yeah, they might have put something on. I don't remember.

00:07:29 Speaker 3

The tanks.

00:07:31 Speaker 3

Yeah. OK.

00:07:32 Speaker 3

Yeah, you didn't have anything to do with that, but your unit had to and your unit, once you arrived in Normandy, was attached to.

00:07:41 Speaker 2

Your attached to the 80th Division.

00:07:43 Speaker 4

It's infantry division infantry, right?

00:07:45 Speaker 3

Yeah. Yeah. The entire yes, the entire war.

00:07:46

Yeah, yeah.

00:07:51 Speaker 1

Who was your?

00:07:52 Speaker 2

General General McBride.

00:07:56 Speaker 2

Uh.

00:07:57 Speaker 2

Was charged the 79 second Lieutenant Colonel Talbot.

00:08:04 Speaker 2

Brought a character.

00:08:07 Speaker 3

How many win at half track?

00:08:09 Speaker 2

Well, we have the driver and the Colonel and coat director for two operators, 50.

00:08:20 Speaker 3

And.

00:08:22 Speaker 3

And you would get a list of the casualties once you each day.

00:08:25 Speaker 3

Your Colonel would get a list of the casualties.

00:08:30 Speaker 3

And what happened between Argentina and?

00:08:31 Speaker 3

Where did you go between Argentin and over in the Mets Nancy area?

00:08:38 Speaker 3

It's on your.

00:08:39 Speaker 3

I know you have it.

00:08:42 Speaker 3

Someplace.

00:08:44 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:08:47 Speaker 3

That's all right.

00:08:48 Speaker 4

That's quite a trip, yeah.

00:08:52 Speaker 2

But sometime after the bullets, I think it was.

00:08:56 Speaker 2

We were driving along morning through Germany.

00:09:00 Speaker 2

One of our trucks came the other way.

00:09:03 Speaker 2

Horses off the road, we upset our half track.

00:09:08 Speaker 2

And.

00:09:10 Speaker 2

But we're lucky. Only land on the side. You imagine. I think after I living all the way over.

00:09:14

Alright.

00:09:18 Speaker 3

Now, when you were called up, when you're you, an outfit was called up with, but with Patton to come up to Luxembourg, that was before. That was after the Bulge had started on the 16th.

00:09:28 Speaker 3

Was around Christmas Eve. And where did you stay then Christmas Eve when you got up?

00:09:33 Speaker 3

To Luxembourg.

00:09:35 Speaker 2

Slept on a on a.

00:09:39 Speaker 4

Bowling alley.

00:09:40 Speaker 2

Falling out.

00:09:43 Speaker 2

And the one thing I saw I'll never forget Luxembourg.

00:09:48 Speaker 2

38 shooting on a meter Schmidt.

00:09:53 Speaker 4

In the air, yeah.

00:09:55 Speaker 2

The pilot for the message meant escape. He didn't escape.

00:09:59 Speaker 2

Got out, but they captured him.

00:10:02

Yeah.

00:10:02 Speaker 4

Did he shoot him down?

00:10:03 Speaker 2

Yeah. Oh.

00:10:04 Speaker 4

OK.

00:10:06 Speaker 3

And what then? When after the bowling alley we're we're bouncing Luxembourg.

00:10:11 Speaker 3

You remember parts of the Luxembourg it's version.

00:10:13 Speaker 2

No, I don't wanna bring it.

00:10:16 Speaker 2

But I mean, I was lucky all the way through because the fact that they call in the via radio operator and not.

00:10:24 Speaker 2

Be a tank person in the tank, but they're dangerous.

00:10:32 Speaker 3

And why didn't you use Morse code?

00:10:35 Speaker 3

That you would trade.

00:10:35 Speaker 2

We didn't do some Morris code much because Germans always.

00:10:41 Speaker 2

This thing you couldn't even get through with him.

00:10:44 Speaker 2

Morris code.

00:10:48 Speaker 1

Did you have any weapons on your half track?

00:10:51 Speaker 2

Yeah. On our half track, we had a \$50 machine on 30 caliber machine gun. Each of the men we had a 30 Calvert carbine. We had some mines, we had grenades.

00:11:05 Speaker 2

We had almost anything you want.

00:11:08 Speaker 4

Open Half tracker clock or clock armored.

00:11:11 Speaker 2

It was open, but yet though cameos you can put up.

00:11:15 Speaker 2

It.

00:11:16 Speaker 4

Might be armed sides.

00:11:16 Speaker 3

Yeah.

00:11:19 Speaker 3

Where did you sleep then?

00:11:21 Speaker 3

Outside.

00:11:22 Speaker 2

Outside of the tent, or sometimes, oh, someone's on duty all night.

00:11:28 Speaker 2

Either or sometimes sleep in the after act all depending on the weather.

00:11:32 Speaker 1

What was the weather like?

00:11:34 Speaker 2

Well, it was normal.

00:11:36 Speaker 2

Was cold.

00:11:39 Speaker 1

Any frostbite?

00:11:40

Call.

00:11:41

No.

00:11:43 Speaker 1

To remember when the weather cleared.

00:11:48 Speaker 2

Not really.

00:11:50 Speaker 3

Now he got up there around Christmas time. So right at Christmas Eve.

00:11:56 Speaker 3

And.

00:11:59 Speaker 3

You remember and remember when we went back and went to Luxembourg and visited the different spots that you had been in and we went up to the one pass where the Germans actually came through.

00:12:12 Speaker 1

Did you have anything special happen on Christmas?

00:12:14 Speaker 1

Any special food or no, no mass or anything Christmas Day?

00:12:17 Speaker 2

Yeah, we we had one thing about our outfit too. Being with the Colonel, with our own cook.

00:12:27 Speaker 2

I mean, we were headquarters company, not headquarters.

00:12:31 Speaker 2

Were headquarters company all the big shop?

00:12:35 Speaker 2

Our communications officer came from Allentown.

00:12:42 Speaker 2

Last name was Reese.

00:12:45 Speaker 2

I can't remember his first name anyway, but he just died when we were up here.

00:12:50 Speaker 2

We moved back.

00:12:51

He.

00:12:52 Speaker 2

Lived here in Allentown.

00:12:55 Speaker 2

So we talked a lot.

00:12:57 Speaker 4

And how many people are actually in the company?

00:13:01 Speaker 4

Headquarters company, the Colonel.

00:13:05 Speaker 2

All the big officers and you have.

00:13:10 Speaker 4

Like 80% eighty people typically are on company.

00:13:13 Speaker 2

Well, I mean, it could be.

00:13:15 Speaker 2

Maybe not quite that many.

00:13:17 Speaker 4

But you had more than just a half track.

00:13:19 Speaker 4

Had.

00:13:19 Speaker 2

Yeah. Oh, yeah. We had a couple half crack.

00:13:20 Speaker 4

Track and supporting vehicles.

00:13:25 Speaker 2

Two half an crack for communications.

00:13:30 Speaker 1

How close to the front lines would you be?

00:13:33 Speaker 2

Pretty close sometimes, but the closer I got to being hit was.

00:13:38 Speaker 2

Communications Officer Sergeant Michael Ross talking outside.

00:13:44 Speaker 2

He was standing at one side. I was in the middle or half, ***** on the other side.

00:13:50 Speaker 2

A mortar hit him in the rear end on the bud, took off the antenna and a half track.

00:13:56 Speaker 2

I was standing there and didn't touch me.

00:13:59 Speaker 4

Lucky.

00:14:00 Speaker 1

Very close call.

00:14:02 Speaker 2

That's a close. That was.

00:14:05 Speaker 2

We didn't know.

00:14:08 Speaker 2

When a certain times we would get pretty close.

00:14:11 Speaker 2

With the Colonel.

00:14:13 Speaker 2

Most of the time we're behind them.

00:14:16 Speaker 1

Remember where you enter Germany?

00:14:17 Speaker 1

What river you crossed?

00:14:22 Speaker 2

I don't know anymore, but I know we crossed on a ton bridge.

00:14:26 Speaker 3

Down around mites, the Rhine around mints.

00:14:31 Speaker 3

What was that like, the platoon bridge?

00:14:34 Speaker 2

A little shaky.

00:14:38 Speaker 3

And then.

00:14:38 Speaker 3

You crossed the Rhine. Where did your head did?

00:14:41 Speaker 3

Head up.

00:14:42 Speaker 3

A castle, Germany.

00:14:43 Speaker 2

Who's on?

00:14:44 Speaker 2

Someplace I I should have looked at my map.

00:14:48 Speaker 1

Did the fighting get worse when you entered Germany? No.

00:14:54 Speaker 2

Find your grasp.

00:14:55 Speaker 4

Wound up in Kobe in Koban eventually, right?

00:14:59 Speaker 3

Went through koban.

00:15:01 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:15:02 Speaker 3

Yeah.

00:15:04 Speaker 3

He crossed it.

00:15:08 Speaker 3

Some of that.

00:15:08 Speaker 4

And the Northwick castle.

00:15:10 Speaker 3

Yeah.

00:15:11 Speaker 3

And then Castle and then after Castle, you came down toward Austria, right?

00:15:15 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:15:17 Speaker 4

Who do you encounter? A concentration camp somewhere along there?

00:15:19 Speaker 2

Yeah. Yeah, that's yeah.

00:15:25 Speaker 2

Or drip, we came close to it when it was taken, but not right. The time was taken.

00:15:34 Speaker 2

But they were still have the bodies there.

00:15:36 Speaker 3

So what did your outfit have to do when you came in there?

00:15:39 Speaker 3

Had been liberated, but you had to do something. Your outfit.

00:15:43 Speaker 3

Didn't you have to call in the local people?

00:15:47 Speaker 3

Did they come in and have to go around and see what was what had happened?

00:15:52 Speaker 2

I think that happened before we got there.

00:15:53 Speaker 3

Oh, OK, OK.

00:15:55 Speaker 2

Yeah, order help is in East Germany.

00:16:00 Speaker 4

Yeah, it's.

00:16:04 Speaker 1

You take a lot of German prisoners.

00:16:06 Speaker 2

We didn't.

00:16:09 Speaker 4

Did you see a lot of German prisoners? Yeah.

00:16:12 Speaker 2

I saw before 1 overseas.

00:16:15 Speaker 2

We had a lot of my camp table.

00:16:18 Speaker 4

OK, but what about German prisoners in Germany?

00:16:20 Speaker 4

You see a lot of German prisoners.

00:16:21 Speaker 2

Yeah, we saw him.

00:16:23 Speaker 4

Do you see any any large concentrations of German prisoners?

00:16:26 Speaker 2

No, we didn't.

00:16:27

No.

00:16:28 Speaker 4

They're mainly on the road.

00:16:30 Speaker 2

Hmm.

00:16:30 Speaker 4

Were they mainly going to place on a Rd.

00:16:32 Speaker 4

Prisoners.

00:16:33 Speaker 2

Don't worry.

00:16:33 Speaker 1

Yeah, and the s s.

00:16:38 Speaker 2

Can't remember.

00:16:39

Right.

00:16:41 Speaker 1

Did you get close to Berlin at all?

00:16:44 Speaker 2

We kept away from Bryan.

00:16:45 Speaker 1

Did you meet any Russian soldiers? No.

00:16:52 Speaker 1

What was the the worst combat you can remember?

00:16:55 Speaker 1

What was the worst? Combat was the worst battle at.

00:16:57 Speaker 1

Outfit was in.

00:17:01 Speaker 2

I get proud of all of those.

00:17:05 Speaker 2

It wasn't that far away from where we were.

00:17:08 Speaker 3

You were right in it really.

00:17:10 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:17:11 Speaker 4

Raft had saw over 230 some days of combat.

00:17:17 Speaker 4

Your outfit, according to the historical records.

00:17:20 Speaker 4

You know, the 80th saw for 239 days of combat.

00:17:25 Speaker 4

Pretty, pretty rugged and pretty active.

00:17:27 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:17:29 Speaker 2

And we life with we lost quite a few people, but.

00:17:33 Speaker 2

Not not many that I knew.

00:17:35 Speaker 2

You know from like from around the area. I can remember that we lost around there might have been some more, but the one I knew was one was on the first day.

00:17:46 Speaker 4

Your classmate.

00:17:47 Speaker 4

Yeah.

00:17:49 Speaker 1

Did you see a lot?

00:17:49 Speaker 1

Bodies along the roads.

00:17:51 Speaker 2

And yeah, the smell bad. Well, yeah, mostly German.

00:17:51

Yeah.

00:17:58 Speaker 3

How about the animals?

00:17:59 Speaker 2

A lot of horses.

00:18:01 Speaker 2

One thing.

00:18:03 Speaker 2

What's the name of that?

00:18:06

Yeah.

00:18:07 Speaker 2

There's a pass where the plane are.

00:18:11 Speaker 2

Come in and.

00:18:12 Speaker 2

Beginning of the road and at the end of the road and just doesn't hold down.

00:18:18 Speaker 2

They clean it out or crap.

00:18:21 Speaker 3

Is that the Germans you're talking about? We're trapped. Yeah.

00:18:22

Yeah.

00:18:25 Speaker 1

I can't think of it either. I know it's right at the tip of my tongue.

00:18:26 Speaker 2

Sally, no.

00:18:27 Speaker 2

It.

00:18:28 Speaker 3

Began with an Li think.

00:18:36 Speaker 4

Tell us about the Grand Hotel when you.

00:18:39 Speaker 2

Old and come Monday.

00:18:40 Speaker 4

Tell me about that.

00:18:43 Speaker 2

Oh yeah.

00:18:45 Speaker 2

We we come into town. Well, once we got to new Germany, we just took over a house or whatever. We didn't have to stay outside anymore.

00:18:53 Speaker 2

And then we got into commodities.

00:18:56 Speaker 2

Beautiful hotel on lake of.

00:18:59 Speaker 2

I think it was the name of Lake Worth.

00:19:02 Speaker 2

Months in the background, low covered alpha.

00:19:05 Speaker 4

The Trans E transit.

00:19:06 Speaker 2

Yeah, and the moon is out just sitting, laying in your bed and looks out there on the IT was a beautiful sight.

00:19:07 Speaker 3

Transaction.

00:19:15 Speaker 4

Same thing happened when we were there.

00:19:17 Speaker 2

Yeah. When we when we took our trip back there.

00:19:22 Speaker 2

It was nice.

00:19:23 Speaker 4

When you were there during the war, weather an operating hotel was it?

00:19:26 Speaker 4

Mean you could go there and get service. No. Well.

00:19:29 Speaker 2

They took it well.

00:19:31 Speaker 2

They.

00:19:31 Speaker 2

They took things and it.

00:19:32 Speaker 4

The military guys, OK.

00:19:34 Speaker 2

It wasn't too far from there where we were in the war was over.

00:19:38 Speaker 2

Store, store, foster.

00:19:39 Speaker 2

We were there when the war was.

00:19:41 Speaker 4

Over on May 8th.

00:19:45 Speaker 1

Did you go through a lot of towns that were bombed out?

00:19:47 Speaker 2

Yeah, we went through.

00:19:51 Speaker 2

I think Castle was the worst.

00:19:53 Speaker 3

90% destroyed Castle was, yeah.

00:19:56 Speaker 1

Did you have any snipers, any resistance or any mines or booby traps as you're going through the towns?

00:20:04 Speaker 2

None of us.

00:20:05 Speaker 2

Or maybe are tanks and stuff where?

00:20:07 Speaker 2

We had a yard from Bellflower.

00:20:10 Speaker 2

He was a replacement and he had a gang with him and they had some minds filled all five of them in the tank.

00:20:21 Speaker 2

And then they name. They had American Legion Post there for a while, named after him.

00:20:26 Speaker 2

That's not there anymore.

00:20:30 Speaker 3

Did you liberate any towns that you remember, Donald?

00:20:33 Speaker 2

No, everything was by the jet by the 8th Division we were just.

00:20:34 Speaker 3

That. Did you see any of this?

00:20:40 Speaker 2

With them.

00:20:42 Speaker 1

Did the criminal cause any panours that were destroyed?

00:20:46 Speaker 1

Any German pans or tanks that were destroyed?

00:20:47 Speaker 2

Oh yeah.

00:20:50 Speaker 4

What do you think? You know, as a member of the tank Italian?

00:20:54 Speaker 4

You have any any comments about the Sherman's, how good the Shermans were or how bad they were as opposed to the tiger or the pander the German Panthers?

00:21:03 Speaker 2

The Germans think they're good.

00:21:06 Speaker 2

Same with their machine guns.

00:21:09 Speaker 2

You could hear them in the distance.

00:21:10 Speaker 2

Were like.

00:21:11 Speaker 2

That's the way it went.

00:21:14 Speaker 2

Fast.

00:21:17 Speaker 4

The Sherman's didn't didn't have a lot of resources against the time.

00:21:22 Speaker 4

Bigger tigers on.

00:21:24 Speaker 2

And we had different motors and the Germans had Fords that Packards and that.

00:21:32 Speaker 2

Cadillac, so I guess they had some Macs.

00:21:35 Speaker 4

Mac van admissions.

00:21:39 Speaker 1

Let's go back to England. When you're when you're in England.

00:21:42 Speaker 1

There any bombing going on from the Germans?

00:21:46 Speaker 2

Yeah, there was some. But where we were, there wasn't.

00:21:49 Speaker 1

Any any of the any of the V2 rockets coming over?

00:21:53 Speaker 2

No, I don't think at that time.

00:21:54 Speaker 1

Did you witness any of that? When you're in Germany?

00:21:56 Speaker 1

Rockets.

00:21:58 Speaker 1

How about the German?

00:21:59 Speaker 1

Did you witness any of that?

00:22:02 Speaker 2

I recall.

00:22:07 Speaker 3

What was the scariest time for you? Do you remember?

00:22:12 Speaker 2

At the time when I was talking to my.

00:22:15

Oh.

00:22:20 Speaker 4

How was the food over there? When you're going through Europe?

00:22:24 Speaker 2

With our being in a head quarters company, we had our own cook.

00:22:30 Speaker 2

We ate pretty good.

00:22:33 Speaker 2

Not the best.

00:22:35 Speaker 4

But you have a separate nest hall.

00:22:37 Speaker 4

Or did you?

00:22:37 Speaker 4

To go to a common nest all.

00:22:39 Speaker 2

So back to the truck.

00:22:40 Speaker 4

Oh really?

00:22:42 Speaker 2

They made it.

00:22:45 Speaker 4

Our, you know, did you ever need?

00:22:47 Speaker 4

Any medical attention?

00:22:51 Speaker 2

Well, we have some ticks up on our song.

00:22:55 Speaker 2

And to get rid of it, they made us wash ourself with curses.

00:23:02 Speaker 2

We didn't. Couldn't wash for a while after that.

00:23:05 Speaker 2

Get rid of.

00:23:06 Speaker 2

Got rid.

00:23:06 Speaker 4

Of but anybody in your.

00:23:09 Speaker 4

Or close to you or where you were.

00:23:11 Speaker 4

With you have.

00:23:13 Speaker 4

To go to a field hospital or anything.

00:23:14 Speaker 2

Or I don't think so.

00:23:17 Speaker 4

Have any experiences going through a field hospital?

00:23:19 Speaker 2

No, I didn't get too much contact with all my friends.

00:23:24 Speaker 2

Because I was the only one from the area in Heclares company, OK.

00:23:29 Speaker 2

Best friend come from.

00:23:31 Speaker 2

He was another radio operator and he was also that was a music teacher.

00:23:38 Speaker 2

He played in the Philadelphia Orchestra one time.

00:23:42 Speaker 4

When you were.

00:23:43 Speaker 4

Going through Europe in your in the half track with the Colonel, where were the tanks?

00:23:49 Speaker 2

They were head of. Yeah, we can.

00:23:54 Speaker 4

They were like the piercing action.

00:23:55

Yeah.

00:23:56 Speaker 4

OK.

00:23:56 Speaker 1

Did you have a lot of air support?

00:24:00 Speaker 2

When we need it, we were glad for that.

00:24:02

Replay.

00:24:04 Speaker 2

We had to close someplace and they want to.

00:24:07 Speaker 2

Going to a certain spot, we had to go.

00:24:09 Speaker 2

It why?

00:24:11 Speaker 2

We asked for support air support that really helped.

00:24:15 Speaker 2

It's draped everything.

00:24:17 Speaker 1

When you enter.

00:24:18 Speaker 1

How did the German civilians treat you?

00:24:21 Speaker 2

Well, we didn't talk too much to him, but we weren't allowed to talk to.

00:24:26 Speaker 1

You didn't get any food from them.

00:24:28 Speaker 1

All. No, no.

00:24:31 Speaker 2

After the war, but nothing more.

00:24:34 Speaker 1

We there during occupation.

00:24:38 Speaker 1

Yeah. What did you do then?

00:24:40 Speaker 2

Regard someone women prisoners for a while.

00:24:43 Speaker 3

We're about stolen.

00:24:46 Speaker 2

Air, old new All Germany.

00:24:51 Speaker 3

And all is the it's right next to old, which has what?

00:24:54 Speaker 2

Process, yeah.

00:24:56 Speaker 2

After the cathedral with the largest people in the world.

00:25:01 Speaker 2

And we took pictures of it when we were over.

00:25:05 Speaker 2

And that cathedral.

00:25:09 Speaker 2

Both sides of it were hit by bombs, not the cathedral.

00:25:12 Speaker 3

Not the steeple.

00:25:14 Speaker 4

It's a famous picture I've seen.

00:25:18 Speaker 4

Town spring with desert. You know pretty much devastated and the cathedral is hidden there.

00:25:20 Speaker 2

Yeah, yeah.

00:25:23 Speaker 3

And we went back.

00:25:25 Speaker 3

What happened when we went back to old?

00:25:29 Speaker 2

You were in the wrong place, sleeping.

00:25:33 Speaker 3

We slept near the cathedral. Could hear.

00:25:35 Speaker 3

Boom all night.

00:25:40 Speaker 4

What were the women doing in prison?

00:25:42 Speaker 2

They're probably some of their own fighters, but they were wasn't there too long.

00:25:47

Please.

00:25:47 Speaker 4

These were German women.

00:25:48 Speaker 2

Yeah. OK.

00:25:51 Speaker 4

That's interesting.

00:25:52 Speaker 3

I think there was a small prison camp nearby there that our concentration.

00:25:57 Speaker 3

Do you think they could have been from that? The women that had been working at that concentration camp?

00:26:04 Speaker 2

Could have been.

00:26:05 Speaker 2

We are.

00:26:08 Speaker 2

We should have gone home, come home on October.

00:26:13 Speaker 2

I didn't get home till December of this shipping shortage.

00:26:19 Speaker 2

I we did have a trip during the war.

00:26:24 Speaker 2

Friend of mine.

00:26:26 Speaker 2

What he did anymore, we had 333 day trip to Paris.

00:26:31 Speaker 2

They were doing that Switzerland. Paris. Nice.

00:26:36 Speaker 2

And after after that I could have gone to Switzerland where I don't want to take a chance if I get called up to go home.

00:26:44 Speaker 2

So I turned it down.

00:26:46 Speaker 4

You would.

00:26:47 Speaker 4

You're that close with your points.

00:26:49 Speaker 2

Had enough points going say in October, but there were no shipping?

00:26:51 Speaker 4

OK.

00:26:54 Speaker 3

What had happened, though, that there was number?

00:26:55 Speaker 2

I don't know what the problem.

00:26:57 Speaker 3

Wasn't there a union strike of dog workers strike or something?

00:27:01 Speaker 2

I don't remember what happened and we got home in December.

00:27:02

Like.

00:27:06 Speaker 2

Wrote a boxcar from Germany to.

00:27:10 Speaker 2

Branched down there. Say you know Marcel.

00:27:15

Say.

00:27:15 Speaker 4

One of the famous 40 and eights popscar.

00:27:18 Speaker 2

Yeah. And then we.

00:27:21 Speaker 4

It was a very, very good ride.

00:27:24 Speaker 2

And on the way home, we came home. A victory ship.

00:27:27 Speaker 2

I'll tell you in December, it's not nice on the landing ocean wall ship.

00:27:31 Speaker 4

Yeah.

00:27:33 Speaker 1

Did you get seasick at all?

00:27:33 Speaker 2

OK.

00:27:36 Speaker 2

Yeah, most of them were, except that there were a couple guys playing poker and they gave.

00:27:43 Speaker 2

One guy gave someone 20 bucks just to get something for him to eat.

00:27:47 Speaker 2

He was hot playing poker.

00:27:51 Speaker 4

Liberty ship.

00:27:53 Speaker 2

Liberty Ship, a liberty or victory?

00:27:57 Speaker 2

I think was a victory.

00:27:58 Speaker 2

Not sure which inspectors.

00:27:59 Speaker 4

Well, how are?

00:27:59 Speaker 4

I.

00:28:00 Speaker 4

You look a liberty ships for the ships that went transferred to go back.

00:28:03 Speaker 4

Forth.

00:28:04 Speaker 1

A lot of.

00:28:04 Speaker 2

Or maybe.

00:28:05 Speaker 4

Guys came, you know, went over and came back one liners but a lot went on Liberty ships and they were not.

00:28:11 Speaker 4

Were not.

00:28:12 Speaker 4

They were not. They were.

00:28:12 Speaker 2

The most well celebrated and I'm not sure.

00:28:15 Speaker 4

But where did? Where did you leave Europe from?

00:28:17 Speaker 4

Was like one of the cigarette camps.

00:28:20 Speaker 4

Camp like you strike or something, or.

00:28:22 Speaker 2

Well, we were at.

00:28:24 Speaker 4

Behar.

00:28:26 Speaker 2

The there Marseille someplace down the corner there. One of the places.

00:28:32 Speaker 3

Was it a cigarette?

00:28:33 Speaker 3

Remember that they named the camps after cigarettes.

00:28:36 Speaker 3

You remember.

00:28:38 Speaker 4

Camp Lucky Strike and had.

00:28:43 Speaker 2

We don't care to remember anything.

00:28:44 Speaker 2

Just going home.

00:28:46 Speaker 4

You're happy to go on.

00:28:48 Speaker 4

Toward the West, huh?

00:28:49 Speaker 2

Right. You got home.

00:28:52 Speaker 2

And we got day before Christmas or two days before Christmas. And what a meal.

00:29:01 Speaker 2

One of the best meals I had in the army.

00:29:04 Speaker 3

Where they feed you that up? And where'd you come into Boston?

00:29:06 Speaker 2

In.

00:29:09 Speaker 1

You have.

00:29:10 Speaker 1

Go ahead.

00:29:10 Speaker 3

How'd you get home from Boston then?

00:29:13 Speaker 2

Why we train to ending hardcopy and we got discharged. We took the bustle.

00:29:22 Speaker 1

That you have any entertainment when you're in the war and a USO show, yeah.

00:29:25 Speaker 2

With Jack, Benny and.

00:29:31 Speaker 2

Well.

00:29:31 Speaker 4

Where'd she jackpot?

00:29:34 Speaker 4

Where do you see Jack playing?

00:29:35 Speaker 2

In Europe, yeah.

00:29:38 Speaker 4

Yes.

00:29:39 Speaker 2

No, I don't.

00:29:41 Speaker 2

And a girl singer. But I gave remember her name.

00:29:48 Speaker 3

Famous girl singer.

00:29:50 Speaker 2

Yeah, her name was at that time.

00:29:54 Speaker 1

Did you keep in touch with anybody after the war?

00:29:57 Speaker 1

Any reunions from your outfit?

00:29:59 Speaker 2

No, I didn't go to any.

00:30:00 Speaker 2

You don't have one close to my place, but I saw a lot of people that were in my outfit. Actually, one of them came to bebop, Lloyd Stewart.

00:30:11 Speaker 2

He was in.

00:30:13 Speaker 4

Who?

00:30:13 Speaker 4

Who is? You know, with Floyd, he was interacted from day one.

00:30:17 Speaker 4

Yeah. OK.

00:30:18 Speaker 2

He would take he was.

00:30:20 Speaker 2

Was in a tank.

00:30:21 Speaker 4

OK. Was he with you?

00:30:24 Speaker 4

Know for the duration.

00:30:26 Speaker 2

Yeah, you. We got home before I did, yeah.

00:30:26 Speaker 4

Pretty much.

00:30:28 Speaker 4

OK.

00:30:32 Speaker 2

I see a lot of.

00:30:36 Speaker 2

My buddy.

00:30:39 Speaker 1

Did you?

00:30:39 Speaker 1

See Patton when you were there.

00:30:41 Speaker 2

There we go.

00:30:44 Speaker 3

But you visited his grave, so it's great.

00:30:45 Speaker 2

Yeah, we.

00:30:49 Speaker 1

Did you hear about the Malini massacre during the Battle of the Bolt?

00:30:53 Speaker 1

The malady massacre. Remember that.

00:30:55 Speaker 1

That.

00:31:01 Speaker 4

How we receive when they got home. How had your family received you with a big celebration?

00:31:05 Speaker 1

Or.

00:31:05 Speaker 4

Did you surprise anybody?

00:31:06

No.

00:31:07 Speaker 2

I come home by bus right from my grandparent place.

00:31:12 Speaker 2

From Bethel to from anything I got the bevel and the bevels.

00:31:17

I.

00:31:18 Speaker 2

That's a Newburgh by bus.

00:31:21 Speaker 2

Before he went home to my parents place, I stopped by the grandparents place as our crowd there.

00:31:28 Speaker 4

Did they know you were coming?

00:31:30 Speaker 2

He must have known how they knew it, but.

00:31:33 Speaker 2

You have cell phones at that time and.

00:31:36 Speaker 1

Did you write letters back and forth? Oh yeah.

00:31:41 Speaker 3

Have trouble getting.

00:31:43 Speaker 3

How often did you get mail? Was that kind of sporadic when it came the mail?

00:31:48 Speaker 2

Not what they what you call letters.

00:31:53 Speaker 3

The letters. Letters.

00:31:58 Speaker 2

Those were in the bad.

00:31:59 Speaker 2

Oh, my mother used to send me cupcakes.

00:32:01 Speaker 3

30.

00:32:03

Yeah.

00:32:03 Speaker 4

Did they survive the trip?

00:32:05 Speaker 2

Sometime.

00:32:09 Speaker 4

For they tasty cakes, homemade.

00:32:10 Speaker 2

No me.

00:32:13 Speaker 3

Did you share them?

00:32:15 Speaker 2

A little bit.

00:32:17 Speaker 1

Did you get packages from the Red Cross?

00:32:21 Speaker 2

Not much from the Red Cross.

00:32:22 Speaker 2

No.

00:32:23 Speaker 2

We got some stuff, but.

00:32:32 Speaker 4

What do you wind up with as far as awards and citations?

00:32:36 Speaker 4

What did you wind up?

00:32:39 Speaker 2

Well, I.

00:32:42 Speaker 2

Have it here something.

00:32:46 Speaker 4

You must have gotten the combat infantry badge.

00:32:50 Speaker 2

Not dealing right now.

00:32:53 Speaker 2

We got the medals we got as a good conduct medal or two, victory medal, European African Middle Eastern Champion Medal with the Bronze Stars.

00:33:05 Speaker 2

And American Canadian medal.

00:33:11 Speaker 2

In our bowels and campaign northern France, Rhineland and central Europe.

00:33:18 Speaker 3

For battle stars.

00:33:21 Speaker 2

I was also an expert with am one the car and rifle and a carbine.

00:33:32 Speaker 3

And what did you just recently earned from the French Government?

00:33:35 Speaker 2

I got the French food.

00:33:37 Speaker 2

Good conduct now.

00:33:38 Speaker 3

No French Legion of Honor, right?

00:33:41 Speaker 2

Original 1 are you? Did you?

00:33:42 Speaker 3

French Legion of Honor.

00:33:44 Speaker 4

Did you go to the embassy or did you make an Allen?

00:33:46 Speaker 2

Mail it.

00:33:47

Mail.

00:33:51 Speaker 4

So.

00:33:51 Speaker 4

What do you, you know? Do you think the war helped?

00:33:54 Speaker 4

Know your experience during the war help you with later.

00:33:57 Speaker 4

You know.

00:33:57

All right.

00:34:00 Speaker 2

I think it ruled 3 my best years of my life.

00:34:05 Speaker 4

You had you had a great 'cause.

00:34:07 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:34:09 Speaker 1

Did you use the GI Bill at all?

00:34:10 Speaker 2

Yeah, I went to.

00:34:13 Speaker 2

Got I went to golfing business college. I went for.

00:34:17 Speaker 2

I started February of 46 and I went to.

00:34:22 Speaker 2

February 47.

00:34:25 Speaker 2

Day school on a face at night that start to work in February 47.

00:34:31 Speaker 2

Or start working after National Bank.

00:34:34 Speaker 2

I.

00:34:35 Speaker 2

Worked there for 37 years.

00:34:36 Speaker 2

Huh.

00:34:38 Speaker 2

And when Mr. Jamal won, take it over. They needed money to buy stock.

00:34:45 Speaker 2

So they took the money from the pension fund so myself and one of my coworkers who started September the same year were given an early retirement.

00:34:56 Speaker 2

I would like to have gone to college, but my parents would have been able to send me, but I didn't know about jobs.

00:35:01 Speaker 2

Bill is going to come up.

00:35:05 Speaker 1

When the war was over in Europe, done. Did you have any training to go to Japan?

00:35:10 Speaker 1

For the South Pacific.

00:35:11 Speaker 2

It's not really, but we we probably would have talked about it.

00:35:16 Speaker 1

What do you think about that?

00:35:17 Speaker 2

I wasn't happy.

00:35:20 Speaker 2

I I had.

00:35:21 Speaker 2

I had a cousin who.

00:35:24 Speaker 2

Went to Japan.

00:35:28 Speaker 4

Occupation duty. Yeah.

00:35:29 Speaker 2

You report authority, yeah.

00:35:33 Speaker 2

You know anybody can say what they want, but Truman made the right decision.

00:35:34

Yeah.

00:35:38 Speaker 4

That's for sure.

00:35:40 Speaker 1

Let's stock up a little.

00:35:42 Speaker 1

Let's go back to December 7th, 1941 and tell us about where you were when you heard about Pearl Harbor.

00:35:48 Speaker 2

Oh well, I don't.

00:35:50 Speaker 2

Know where we were as a Sunday.

00:35:51 Speaker 2

Were out driving around.

00:35:54 Speaker 2

We heard about it. We.

00:35:55 Speaker 2

We went through Nazareth and we saw.

00:35:58 Speaker 2

The special newspapers.

00:36:00 Speaker 2

So we got one.

00:36:00

Replay.

00:36:00 Speaker 2

What happened?

00:36:03 Speaker 2

Then I radio my car.

00:36:06 Speaker 2

Next morning, when he got put ready in my car.

00:36:09 Speaker 1

Did you know what Pearl Harbor was it?

00:36:11 Speaker 1

They were here of it before.

00:36:14 Speaker 1

Did you experience any of the rationing before you went on overseas or?

00:36:20 Speaker 2

Gas.

00:36:23 Speaker 2

My grandma, I grandfather had a gas station.

00:36:23

I.

00:36:27 Speaker 2

And he was sick at that time.

00:36:30 Speaker 2

My dad was a rural editor carrier, so he'd worked there. I mean, I worked there in the morning.

00:36:36 Speaker 2

My job at Unreal was was 4 to 4:00 to 12:00.

00:36:42 Speaker 2

Six days a week for 80 bucks a month.

00:36:46 Speaker 2

And I work.

00:36:47 Speaker 2

That cash A would equal you would work there.

00:36:50 Speaker 2

There was some lady or come along to fill it up and she didn't need all her coupons that put the rest of yours.

00:36:58 Speaker 2

So I pretty much cash.

00:37:03 Speaker 1

What was the atmosphere like after Pearl Harbor in Nazareth area?

00:37:07 Speaker 1

People going to enlist.

00:37:10 Speaker 2

I don't.

00:37:10 Speaker 2

I don't remember that much.

00:37:13 Speaker 4

We were so fairly young.

00:37:16 Speaker 3

Think about.

00:37:17 Speaker 3

They would be coming for you pretty soon drafting you.

00:37:21 Speaker 2

We knew it.

00:37:22 Speaker 2

After that, you knew it was going to happen.

00:37:29 Speaker 1

Anything else?

00:37:30 Speaker 4

You want.

00:37:30

You want you and.

00:37:31 Speaker 4

Your family went back to you, took a little tour in 1997.

00:37:34 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:37:35 Speaker 4

You retraced your steps pretty much.

00:37:38 Speaker 4

They had an interesting experience in one of the French towns, the origin tan.

00:37:43 Speaker 2

Yeah, I was their first battle.

00:37:45 Speaker 4

Can you tell us about your experience in 97 there?

00:37:47 Speaker 2

Well, that's where we went into the store.

00:37:50 Speaker 2

Was a store.

00:37:51 Speaker 3

The Tourist Information Center.

00:37:53 Speaker 2

So yeah, and we met this gentleman.

00:37:56 Speaker 2

He shakes, shook to my hands.

00:38:01 Speaker 3

And what did he say?

00:38:03 Speaker 3

Remember, he said. Thank you.

00:38:04 Speaker 2

Yeah, yeah.

00:38:06 Speaker 3

He was only a teenager at the time and said they were put out into the countryside as the Germans were coming through and the battling and I told them that he had been in the service and.

00:38:18 Speaker 3

And he.

00:38:20 Speaker 3

Shook his hand and looking straight in the eye.

00:38:23 Speaker 2

Didn't he?

00:38:23 Speaker 3

And said thank you.

00:38:25 Speaker 2

And into.

00:38:25 Speaker 2

My father was in service.

00:38:29 Speaker 2

In World War One, my brother was in the service during the Korean War in Germany.

00:38:34 Speaker 2

Was in Germany, yeah.

00:38:36 Speaker 2

I have a nephew who was in the service and his wife. Had he met her?

00:38:43 Speaker 2

Met met Herman Hawaii and they got married.

00:38:46 Speaker 2

Were both in the service.

00:38:49 Speaker 2

Most of the family have cousins.

00:38:52 Speaker 2

Except the ones that lived on the farm.

00:38:55 Speaker 4

Military family.

00:38:56

Yeah.

00:38:58 Speaker 3

And you, you.

00:38:59 Speaker 3

You felt proud, didn't you, Donald? When you?

00:39:05 Speaker 3

It was an accomplishment, really.

00:39:06 Speaker 2

Right and.

00:39:08 Speaker 4

Rightfully so.

00:39:10 Speaker 2

I think more so that the people are thank you more today than a couple years ago. Come up to you and say thank you for your service.

00:39:20 Speaker 4

That's right, you know.

00:39:22 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:39:23 Speaker 1

When you got back home, Don, did you tell your family about your experiences or did you just get on with your life?

00:39:34 Speaker 4

The.

00:39:35 Speaker 4

\$64 question.

00:39:36

I.

00:39:37 Speaker 4

Is always. Would you do it again?

00:39:41 Speaker 2

I had a yeah.

00:39:43 Speaker 2

When I wanted this.

00:39:45 Speaker 4

We would draft it anyway.

00:39:49 Speaker 2

Yeah, my pay was well.

00:39:53 Speaker 2

\$50 plus overseas pay.

00:39:57 Speaker 2

Plus, Corporal pay 70 some dollars a month.

00:40:01 Speaker 2

Nights took \$20.

00:40:03 Speaker 2

I took a fund. I pay.

00:40:06 Speaker 2

Send \$25 home.

00:40:08 Speaker 2

I still have money leftover.

00:40:11 Speaker 2

I didn't smoke, I never smoked.

00:40:13 Speaker 2

I paid my cigarette for candy.

00:40:18 Speaker 4

They're pretty valuable, cigarettes say a lot of different things for cigarettes.

00:40:19 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:40:22 Speaker 2

Yeah, they were.

00:40:23 Speaker 2

And for drinking I and they were like never like beer.

00:40:29 Speaker 2

But the water was well, we we had these half track 5 gallon cans. You put water into all these pills and so that's why I drank some German beer, which is what we got over there, which was weak beer.

00:40:45

Where was it?

00:40:46

You have the champagne you used to drink.

00:40:48 Speaker 2

Oh yeah, we just that way a lot of champagne article.

00:40:52 Speaker 2

We just opened the balls there, pop.

00:40:56 Speaker 4

You didn't drink it.

00:40:57 Speaker 2

No.

00:40:57 Speaker 2

Some we did, we drank some.

00:40:59 Speaker 3

How did you get the champagne?

00:41:02 Speaker 2

Picked it up, I placed it.

00:41:03 Speaker 3

As you went through houses.

00:41:06

In.

00:41:10 Speaker 3

And after the after we went back in 97, there was an article in our local paper and a gentleman that lived nearby whom I had never met came to the door and said he was in the 80th Infantry Division.

00:41:25 Speaker 3

Charlie.

00:41:26 Speaker 3

And they became friends over the few years that Charlie still lived and could compare.

00:41:32 Speaker 3

Few notes and just respected each other for serving in the same unit.

00:41:37 Speaker 3

And at the end of the war.

00:41:40 Speaker 3

Uh, General McBride, who was the general of the 80th Division, wrote a letter.

00:41:44 Speaker 3

To all of the welcome.

00:41:46 Speaker 3

It was a mile a.

00:41:49 Speaker 3

Ditto letter, thanking the 702nd for being with them throughout the entire war, which was often unusual.

00:41:54 Speaker 2

Don't mind.

00:41:56 Speaker 3

Support troops were moved, but that was unusual that they stayed with them from August through May 8.

00:42:03 Speaker 3

It's.

00:42:03 Speaker 3

Their letter is in their.

00:42:06 Speaker 3

Hands.

00:42:08 Speaker 1

A lot of black market activity.

00:42:10 Speaker 1

With cigarettes and no, no.

00:42:17 Speaker 3

Being with the Colonel, you probably weren't allowed to even think about it.

00:42:20 Speaker 2

Yeah, it's three one.

00:42:24 Speaker 2

He, like he liked his. Uh uh.

00:42:27 Speaker 2

What drink they like?

00:42:31 Speaker 4

Pontiac. Oh, yeah. Most of you did.

00:42:32 Speaker 2

Oh yeah, yeah.

00:42:34 Speaker 2

Yeah. In the morning, some time was cold in. I started a fire at Koniak.

00:42:42 Speaker 2

I.

00:42:47 Speaker 3

I mean, you left to use the cognac.

00:42:48 Speaker 3

Start the fire, huh?

00:42:49 Speaker 2

He didn't know it.

00:42:54 Speaker 3

You just stay pretty warm during the vault and their half track.

00:42:57

Yeah.

00:42:58 Speaker 2

Or we.

00:42:59 Speaker 2

Weren't too cold, but it was cold.

00:43:05 Speaker 4

Having mechanical problems with the hat track, you know.

00:43:08 Speaker 2

Not really knowing the only problem upset us.

00:43:13 Speaker 2

Remember all that?

00:43:14 Speaker 4

How do you get back?

00:43:15 Speaker 4

Straighten out.

00:43:16 Speaker 4

They just push it back.

00:43:17 Speaker 2

They got another half crack.

00:43:20 Speaker 4

Was ready.

00:43:21 Speaker 4

For the truck, for the driver, the truck. Who?

00:43:22 Speaker 2

I.

00:43:24 Speaker 2

I don't know. Whatever day anything's on or not.

00:43:26

Anybody ever get hurt from that?

00:43:28 Speaker 2

No, we were just lucky it didn't flip over.

00:43:29

No.

00:43:32 Speaker 2

When laying on his side.

00:43:36 Speaker 3

A.

00:43:37 Speaker 3

Did you ever run out of gasoline?

00:43:40 Speaker 3

No.

00:43:42 Speaker 1

But they're in the.

00:43:43 Speaker 1

Did you have to change your socks a lot?

00:43:46 Speaker 1

Keep from getting frostbite or.

00:43:50 Speaker 2

We are change, yeah.

00:43:53 Speaker 2

Thing is, we just write the half.

00:43:55 Speaker 2

Stay in the half drag at night. It was cold.

00:43:58

And.

00:44:00 Speaker 3

Yeah, not the fossils. Yeah.

00:44:02

Course.

00:44:02 Speaker 2

Or times October when I was raining pretty hard, we had a pup tent.

00:44:04

Yeah.

00:44:09 Speaker 2

Well, messy.

00:44:13 Speaker 3

October was the bad month of 44 different units.

00:44:15

Ring.

00:44:17 Speaker 3

We're in terrible rains there in France.

00:44:19 Speaker 3

Well, I guess it was up in Germany too, but France was terrible.

00:44:23 Speaker 3

Think of that pass. Oh gosh.

00:44:28 Speaker 2

Anything else want to?

00:44:29

Yeah.

00:44:30 Speaker 2

I I'm not a good remember.

00:44:36 Speaker 4

The 8th nickname was the Blue Ridge.

00:44:40 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:44:41 Speaker 4

How'd that come about?

00:44:42 Speaker 4

Don't.

00:44:43 Speaker 2

I know.

00:44:43

Know.

00:44:43 Speaker 4

How?

00:44:45 Speaker 4

About the.

00:44:45 Speaker 3

They.

00:44:45 Speaker 4

How about the Red Devils in the?

00:44:46 Speaker 4

Oh, second.

00:44:48 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:44:49 Speaker 2

Are we the Red Devils?

00:44:50 Speaker 2

We just kidding.

00:44:51 Speaker 2

Nickname.

00:44:52 Speaker 4

I guess I saw a flag on the Internet, the.

00:44:54 Speaker 4

Devils flag.

00:44:56 Speaker 2

2nd.

00:44:58 Speaker 3

And the 702nd Time Battalion was honored in a part of Luxembourg.

00:45:02 Speaker 3

Have a memorial there, which we went to the town hope.

00:45:07 Speaker 3

Ho.

00:45:11 Speaker 3

Post post.

00:45:13 Speaker 3

Hustdorf host Dorf, and they have the American flag flying there and we went up to that part of Luxembourg that was in the northern.

00:45:22 Speaker 2

All right, yeah.

00:45:22 Speaker 3

Of.

00:45:23 Speaker 3

You didn't get into Belgium, but you were in Luxembourg.

00:45:25 Speaker 3

Whole time.

00:45:28 Speaker 1

Were you still over in Germany when?

00:45:30 Speaker 1

Was killed.

00:45:32 Speaker 2

No, I don't think so.

00:45:33 Speaker 3

Yeah, I think you were.

00:45:34 Speaker 2

What will the weather?

00:45:35 Speaker 3

He was killed in.

00:45:37 Speaker 3

He in the accident in September, I believe and then died a few weeks later.

00:45:37 Speaker 2

Yeah, it would.

00:45:38 Speaker 2

Been, yeah.

00:45:41 Speaker 3

So you would have.

00:45:42 Speaker 3

Do you remember hearing about that?

00:45:44 Speaker 2

How much, though? Yeah.

00:45:48 Speaker 3

I didn't think about that.

00:45:53

Yeah.

00:45:53 Speaker 2

One thing I'm sort of sorry we didn't do. My wife's not wearing down at Williamsburg.

00:46:01 Speaker 2

While we were there, that's Sunday night.

00:46:04 Speaker 2

They were cleaning everything up.

00:46:06 Speaker 2

Perfect girl. That someone's special coming in at the William for.

00:46:13 Speaker 2

Here was some people from.

00:46:16 Speaker 2

I should have told them I was in Luxembourg.

00:46:19 Speaker 3

Yeah, was the. It was the keg, right?

00:46:20 Speaker 2

With.

00:46:21 Speaker 2

Army, yeah.

00:46:22 Speaker 3

Duke. Or. Yeah, that's why.

00:46:24

Yeah, yeah.

00:46:25 Speaker 3

Yeah, you would have been well received had you told them.

00:46:28 Speaker 2

You paid your dinner.

00:46:29 Speaker 3

They would have.

00:46:30 Speaker 3

I'm sure they would have. Yeah. Yeah, baby.

00:46:33 Speaker 2

Thanks for there.

00:46:34 Speaker 4

Oh yeah.

00:46:38 Speaker 1

Anything else?

00:46:40 Speaker 1

Covered everything.

00:46:41 Speaker 4

Well, Donald, thank you for your service.

00:46:43 Speaker 2

I don't know what.

00:46:44 Speaker 4

And thank you for sharing your story.

00:46:47 Speaker 2

I'm sorry I've not.

00:46:49 Speaker 2

I can't remember that.

00:46:51 Speaker 4

Not alone.

00:46:52 Speaker 4

Trust me, you're not.

00:46:53 Speaker 1

We did a good.

00:46:54 Speaker 1

We got, he answered. A lot of questions.

00:46:57 Speaker 4

Any any any.

00:47:00 Speaker 4

In comments, you want to say to your family or.

00:47:04 Speaker 4

Any comments you want to let you know at the end of it with your for your family or?

00:47:09 Speaker 2

I don't think.

00:47:11 Speaker 4

They're private person, huh?

00:47:15 Speaker 2

Sister, she just died July and my brother has Alzheimer's.

00:47:24 Speaker 1

Well, Donna, I want to thank you for the service to our country and it's been our honor.

00:47:28 Speaker 1

Do your interview. Thank you.