

Frank R. Hodes Interview

Company E, 317th Inf Reg

(Library of Congress: Veterans History Project; interviewed by Carol Fowler)

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

00:00:09 Speaker 1

Welcome to the Center for US War Veterans Oral histories at the National Guard Militia Museum of New Jersey in Sea Girt, a partner of the Library of Congress Veterans History Project.

00:00:21 Speaker 1

Today is December 14th, 2005.

00:00:24 Speaker 1

I am Carol Fowler.

00:00:26 Speaker 1

My distinguished veteran is Frank R Hodas, who serves during World War 2 in the European Theater of Operations.

00:00:35 Speaker 1

Frank served with the US Army, 317th Regiment, 80th Infantry Division from March of 1944 until February of 1947.

00:00:46 Speaker 1

Thank you for wanting to share your memories here with me today, Frank.

00:00:50 Speaker 1

Good morning and welcome.

00:00:53 Speaker 1

Frank, take us back to December 7th, 1941.

00:00:57 Speaker 1

What do you remember of the attack on Pearl Harbor?

00:01:01 Speaker 2

Friends of ours of mine and I were.

00:01:03 Speaker 2

Our wives were at a shower for one of the women in our group that was getting married, and we heard on the radio.

00:01:14 Speaker 2

The bombing at Pearl Harbor, and it was a shock.

00:01:18 Speaker 1

And how did that change your life?

00:01:20 Speaker 2

Well, well.

00:01:21 Speaker 1

Your family. You had a wife already?

00:01:24 Speaker 2

No, no, I wasn't married. That I married the following August.

00:01:29 Speaker 2

August of 42.

00:01:30 Speaker 2

Well, it made us realize that things were rather serious and that eventually that I would have to come into the military.

00:01:40 Speaker 1

You were 25 when you went into the army.

00:01:42 Speaker 1

Did that come about?

00:01:44 Speaker 2

Well, I had a job working for Brewster.

00:01:48 Speaker 2

They were important at Newark Airport, manufacturing airplanes with the Navy, and I worked there for about 3 years and went to school at.

00:01:57 Speaker 2

And they closed that plant and I made no effort to try to go to one of their other facilities, one out in Long Island and one in Hatboro, PA.

00:02:07 Speaker 2

All my friends were in the military and I felt that if I have to go in and have to go.

00:02:11 Speaker 2

And they called me up very shortly thereafter.

00:02:15 Speaker 1

Had anyone served before you in your family?

00:02:17 Speaker 2

No, I'm the only one that was called by other my elder brothers were in the National Guard prior to the time I entered.

00:02:25 Speaker 1

And so where did the Army first send you?

00:02:28 Speaker 2

Well, down to Fort Dix for uniforms, I guess and whatever. And then now to.

00:02:34 Speaker 2

Out to in California to Camp Roberts, which was near.

00:02:41 Speaker 2

It was between San Francisco and Los Angeles.

00:02:45 Speaker 2

In Paso Robles, in California.

00:02:48 Speaker 1

What kind of adjustment was it for you being in the military?

00:02:51 Speaker 2

Very lonely.

00:02:52 Speaker 2

And I've been.

00:02:53 Speaker 2

I was married a year and a half by then.

00:02:56 Speaker 2

And my wife joined me eventually, and she spent.

00:03:00 Speaker 2

Months with me out.

00:03:01 Speaker 2

She had rented an apartment and I was, but she her on weekends.

00:03:07 Speaker 2

And it was difficult because I never went away to camp as a kid.

00:03:12 Speaker 2

Never wanted.

00:03:13 Speaker 2

I never cared to and so this is my first adventure in.

00:03:20 Speaker 2

Survive it.

00:03:23 Speaker 1

You had been.

00:03:23 Speaker 1

In Newark, so you were a city boy.

00:03:24 Speaker 2

Morning, Newark.

00:03:25 Speaker 2

Yeah, went to school in Newark.

00:03:28 Speaker 1

Do you have any stories from boot camp that that you think about now and then?

00:03:34 Speaker 2

Well, my wife got a job working for a doctor out there as a secretary and we would get to see each other on Saturdays and Sundays, providing I got to pass and she had shared the apartment with another woman that was from Newark, whose husband was in service.

00:03:52 Speaker 2

And it was just one room, actually.

00:03:55 Speaker 2

And every weekend, one of us had to get a motel room because there were.

00:04:00 Speaker 2

Just one room for the two couples.

00:04:02 Speaker 2

We didn't share that and that happened every week. Weekday. Sorry weekend. Except once, once the four of us had to spend stay in the same room.

00:04:11 Speaker 2

Really. But it it it worked out OK, you have no problem.

00:04:15 Speaker 2

And then when our training was over, we were advised that we were going to go to.

00:04:22 Speaker 2

The European theater each week, a graduating class went either to the West or to the east, and the West would be, of course, the Pacific.

00:04:31 Speaker 2

Go ahead.

00:04:31 Speaker 1

What was your specialty?

00:04:34 Speaker 2

Well, they made me a Rifleman.

00:04:38 Speaker 2

And.

00:04:40 Speaker 2

They went over us, arrived from as a replacement as a Rifleman.

00:04:45 Speaker 1

Were you with anybody that you knew?

00:04:47 Speaker 2

I had met a couple of fellows at the camp that were from Newark, which I who I didn't know before, but when overseas we were separated to different companies of the same outfit. I went to company E in front of my, went to company Fi think I was.

00:05:03 Speaker 2

The and he went to company.

00:05:05 Speaker 1

Easy company.

00:05:06 Speaker 2

Confusion.

00:05:08 Speaker 2

And we eventually met again after I got hurt.

00:05:15 Speaker 2

After I got hurt, I thought I saw him and I actually did because they brought us back to where he was on the same Ridge that we were stationed at.

00:05:24 Speaker 1

And who was he? What was his name?

00:05:26 Speaker 2

The name is Mo.

00:05:28 Speaker 2

GOLDPER.

00:05:28 Speaker 2

He was from New York and his outfit was subsequently signed to battle in in November of 44, and he lost an arm.

00:05:41 Speaker 1

I'm sorry.

00:05:42 Speaker 2

He suffered a very major catast.

00:05:46 Speaker 2

Situation.

00:05:48 Speaker 1

Where did you go after Camp Roberts?

00:05:51 Speaker 2

Sorry, when?

00:05:51 Speaker 1

After Camp Roberts, where did you go?

00:05:53 Speaker 2

Well, after that we were.

00:05:55 Speaker 2

We were sent East and home on a furlough, and then I had a report to Baltimore to.

00:06:05 Speaker 2

Import.

00:06:07 Speaker 2

And we were there for about a week and they gave us training and gas attacks and we had to walk through a chamber with gas masks and they gave us our rifles and so forth.

00:06:18 Speaker 2

Then we were sent to up here, to Edison, to Camp Kilmer, where we spent about 3 days.

00:06:26 Speaker 2

And then they put us on.

00:06:29 Speaker 2

The Queen Mary the second.

00:06:32 Speaker 2

And we had a great trip. It normally carries 1500 passengers.

00:06:37 Speaker 2

Were 15,000 troops on it, but they and they went.

00:06:42 Speaker 2

They weren't in convoy because they.

00:06:43 Speaker 2

So you know quick pass that they were able to avoid submarines so they didn't travel in convoy.

00:06:49 Speaker 1

What were living conditions like for you on the ship?

00:06:51 Speaker 2

Well, I was in a room that was.

00:06:54 Speaker 2

Probably like a.

00:06:56 Speaker 2

There we were 3 high.

00:06:59 Speaker 2

And.

00:07:00 Speaker 2

You know, in bucks.

00:07:01

And it.

00:07:02 Speaker 2

Was pretty crude.

00:07:04 Speaker 2

Well, with all of that many people on the ship that wasn't built for that many people.

00:07:09 Speaker 2

Pretty crowded. We had alerts for case of.

00:07:14 Speaker 2

Just let me watch the Dolphins flying through the water.

00:07:17 Speaker 2

Was interesting.

00:07:19 Speaker 1

And how was your health?

00:07:20 Speaker 1

Mentioned the gas.

00:07:21 Speaker 1

Were there any ill effects from?

00:07:24 Speaker 2

I was in good.

00:07:25 Speaker 2

I thought it was a good.

00:07:27 Speaker 1

Were you one of the older ones?

00:07:28 Speaker 1

Were 26 or so.

00:07:30 Speaker 2

25.

00:07:33 Speaker 2

I guess most of them.

00:07:34 Speaker 2

Most of them were near late teens early.

00:07:37 Speaker 2

So there are a few little older I had taken basic training with a man from Wyoming who was in his 30s and they took him because it was a very small town town.

00:07:51 Speaker 2

The number of people that they were trying to, you know, fill quotas. And so he went through basic training with me and I was hoping he would get out and at Fort Meade, they took him out and put him in a library, which I felt very, you know.

00:08:05 Speaker 2

Very good about for him.

00:08:07 Speaker 2

Because he was in his 30s, he was.

00:08:09 Speaker 2

An old man compared.

00:08:13 Speaker 1

So where did your ship end up in England?

00:08:15 Speaker 2

We ended up in Scotland in the Clyde of Firth, which was.

00:08:22 Speaker 2

One of the big cities in Scotland and then by train, they took us down to Southampton.

00:08:28 Speaker 2

We spent a couple days there.

00:08:31 Speaker 1

What was your opinion of the British?

00:08:34 Speaker 2

I had very little contact with. We were in off the ship, into the boat, into the camp. You know, we had no contact.

00:08:41 Speaker 1

With them, and that was after D-Day, right?

00:08:43 Speaker 2

Oh yeah, you know, this was in September of 44, OK?

00:08:51 Speaker 1

And what was the activity there then at the time?

00:08:55 Speaker 2

Well, they were moving in France.

00:08:58 Speaker 2

Through.

00:08:58 Speaker 2

Lowe and so many other places.

00:09:00 Speaker 2

Those names were very highly public at the time and.

00:09:07 Speaker 2

They were, but getting close to the German borderline.

00:09:10 Speaker 1

What kind of training were you doing?

00:09:12 Speaker 1

Weren't trying.

00:09:13 Speaker 2

No, we were just marching and doing some.

00:09:13 Speaker 1

Invade.

00:09:16

Her.

00:09:18 Speaker 2

Firing at targets and things like that.

00:09:20 Speaker 1

And you had adequate supplies.

00:09:23 Speaker 2

We had enough.

00:09:24 Speaker 2

The food was always a.

00:09:25 Speaker 2

We never seemed to get enough food.

00:09:30 Speaker 2

You know, I had an interesting experience there while we were at one of the camps called Ekamoy ECOMYI think it is.

00:09:39 Speaker 2

And we got a pass to go into this town, which was.

00:09:44 Speaker 2

Within walking distance.

00:09:46 Speaker 2

And we walked into this and there's in the center of town as a typical little French town with a water, a.

00:09:57 Speaker 2

A water gushing.

00:10:01 Speaker 2

And has all these stores all around the town are found?

00:10:03 Speaker 1

A fountain.

00:10:05 Speaker 2

Words escape me.

00:10:07 Speaker 2

And then we went into.

00:10:08 Speaker 2

A A.

00:10:09 Speaker 2

Barber for haircuts and they shampoo.

00:10:15 Speaker 2

And then we went into a bakery, which is right next to us to get some bridges.

00:10:19

Hungry.

00:10:21 Speaker 2

And they didn't want to sell it to us because we didn't have the coupon.

00:10:26 Speaker 2

It.

00:10:28 Speaker 2

Fine, fine.

00:10:29 Speaker 1

They didn't want American money.

00:10:30 Speaker 2

Well, it wasn't that we had to have a ration card for them.

00:10:34 Speaker 2

In order to buy it, they eventually sold to us. But while we were in the Barber shop, it was.

00:10:41 Speaker 2

They had photographs American troops that were in the same town during World War One, and that town hasn't changed one iota.

00:10:51 Speaker 2

Different clothing and different people, but it was the same little village as it was, you know, in the late 19 and 1920s nineteen.

00:11:00 Speaker 2

18 or whatever.

00:11:01 Speaker 2

Probably been that way for hundreds of years.

00:11:04 Speaker 2

And that was the last the one and only past we got well.

00:11:07 Speaker 1

What was the name of that town?

00:11:08 Speaker 1

Were in France then, right?

00:11:09 Speaker 2

Eckeemoy ECO M1.

00:11:11 Speaker 1

That was the name of the.

00:11:13 Speaker 1

OK, I thought that was the name of the camp.

00:11:14 Speaker 2

Yeah, well, that was the oh, I don't know the town.

00:11:16 Speaker 1

OK.

00:11:18 Speaker 2

No.

00:11:18 Speaker 2

It's name of the.

00:11:19 Speaker 2

I don't remember the name of the town. I wrote a lot of these things down. I lost.

00:11:24 Speaker 1

How did you get to France?

00:11:26 Speaker 2

We.

00:11:26 Speaker 2

Over by landing bars we landed at.

00:11:30 Speaker 2

We went to that at Omaha Beach, which was the beach of the major invasion, but we got there. The water, the water line.

00:11:43 Speaker 2

Had been has some folks all along parallel to the beach to avoid.

00:11:48 Speaker 2

You know the high waves and everything.

00:11:50 Speaker 2

And then they had dug steps into the hill going.

00:11:55 Speaker 2

Which so we didn't.

00:11:56 Speaker 2

To you know, there's a lot easier for us and those poor guys that were then 90 days before we were, you know.

00:11:58 Speaker 1

It was all set up for you.

00:12:03 Speaker 2

The first thing I saw when he hit the top was a cemetery that was beyond vision.

00:12:08 Speaker 2

It means just all you saw was markers for graves.

00:12:14 Speaker 2

Very, very, very sad experience.

00:12:18 Speaker 1

How did that affect the morale of your unit to see that?

00:12:21 Speaker 2

No, I don't think it, I said.

00:12:22 Speaker 2

All know we're going to.

00:12:24 Speaker 2

Were going to happen.

00:12:26 Speaker 2

No, I didn't hear.

00:12:28 Speaker 2

That was, you know, listen, there are people that are frightened as a matter.

00:12:32 Speaker 2

Fact when we were assigned to our company at at we, we were sent to the kitchen of the company to leave our our duffel bags and our other things that we didn't need with.

00:12:45 Speaker 2

And a couple of guys went.

00:12:48 Speaker 2

They took them right out and sent them back to England, I guess.

00:12:53 Speaker 1

Had anything happened yet?

00:12:54 Speaker 2

No, we had been committed, no.

00:12:59 Speaker 2

Then we we were assigned.

00:13:03 Speaker 2

We hadn't been aside to our individual squads.

00:13:06 Speaker 2

Anything yet?

00:13:08 Speaker 2

But these guys became paralyzed.

00:13:10 Speaker 2

The.

00:13:11 Speaker 1

Anxiety of what would happen?

00:13:12 Speaker 2

Yeah, just being there and marching to this.

00:13:17 Speaker 2

Interesting. We saw a German body lying in a ditch that's swollen up. Look like a balloon.

00:13:24 Speaker 2

And then we saw the cattle that had been had been killed and they too was like they swelled up so.

00:13:32 Speaker 2

So that was our first taste of what we were.

00:13:35 Speaker 2

Getting into.

00:13:38 Speaker 1

When did you first encounter the enemy that a live enemy I mean?

00:13:46 Speaker 2

We were a scientist company and we were we had dug.

00:13:52 Speaker 1

Foxes.

00:13:52 Speaker 2

Our fox holes on this hill that we held and if the village down below us and then the Germans hit the other hill on the other side of this.

00:14:03 Speaker 2

And during the night, there was a lot of bombing on the from them. These tree spurts, you know, they the fragments of the tree shells, you know.

00:14:15 Speaker 2

So we were.

00:14:16 Speaker 2

We never knew where we'd.

00:14:17 Speaker 2

Hit before she we didn't get her.

00:14:18 Speaker 1

At Nancy Prince.

00:14:20 Speaker 2

This was no it wasn't Nancy.

00:14:21 Speaker 2

Was before Nancy.

00:14:23 Speaker 2

I don't remember the name of this town.

00:14:24 Speaker 1

OK.

00:14:26 Speaker 2

And then in the morning, we were sent down.

00:14:30 Speaker 2

To try to take this village, we were told that we was a third company of men to try to capture this village.

00:14:37 Speaker 2

The other two had been totally annihilated.

00:14:40 Speaker 2

Well, when I say totally very badly and.

00:14:45 Speaker 2

As we approached this little, it was a walled village.

00:14:49 Speaker 2

Very picturesque and you think in terms of as a tourist and the land had been farmed and.

00:14:58 Speaker 2

We we were being shot at on three sides in the front and the two sides before we knew it, we were under fire.

00:15:07 Speaker 2

So we hit the ground.

00:15:10 Speaker 2

And they use the smokeless.

00:15:12 Speaker 2

So we even know where that was coming.

00:15:13 Speaker 2

But I shot 2 clips toward the wall and then on either side out in the hoop.

00:15:21 Speaker 2

I don't couldn't see any, but I just shot and then I felt now I'm in a prone position.

00:15:28 Speaker 2

I'm on my stomach.

00:15:30 Speaker 2

Then I felt my leg bang. Bang Bang. Yeah.

00:15:34 Speaker 2

And I realized that I was hurt.

00:15:36 Speaker 2

And I don't how badly, but I knew I was shot.

00:15:41 Speaker 2

And I call for the aid man and.

00:15:44 Speaker 2

To brook heightened.

00:15:46 Speaker 2

So many people who attended, he finally got to me and he put something on my knee on my leg and.

00:15:55 Speaker 2

Gave me a shot of morphine and advancing.

00:15:57 Speaker 2

Fell asleep.

00:15:59 Speaker 2

Now this is like a battle 10 o'clock 11:00 in the morning.

00:16:03 Speaker 2

And the next thing I knew, I was awakened.

00:16:06 Speaker 2

Was maybe 9:00 at night.

00:16:11 Speaker 2

They had sent before I got.

00:16:14 Speaker 2

I noticed that our second Lieutenant, which was the only commissioned officer that we had and they.

00:16:20 Speaker 2

Buck, Sergeant of the three strike.

00:16:22 Speaker 2

That was the only non commissioned officer that was with.

00:16:24 Speaker 2

The rest had been hurt on previous engagements and they never brought up any more officers prior to our being put into battle.

00:16:35 Speaker 2

But that afternoon, after we went into combat, a second Lieutenant, a new young second Lieutenant, joined our.

00:16:43 Speaker 2

Kitchen and they gave him a compass.

00:16:47 Speaker 2

Go find us now at night and he did.

00:16:52 Speaker 2

And they carried me.

00:16:54 Speaker 2

It was they carried me on a raincoat.

00:16:57 Speaker 2

Had no litter or anything very.

00:16:58 Speaker 1

So it was the second Lieutenant. And who else came with him?

00:17:02 Speaker 1

Merits.

00:17:03 Speaker 2

I don't know, but there were more than we had medics with us.

00:17:07 Speaker 2

I don't know what was left.

00:17:09 Speaker 2

I don't know who came with.

00:17:10 Speaker 2

I just know that there was a second Lieutenant in the group and they carry me back to our lines.

00:17:17 Speaker 2

And then I found out later I met one of the fellas at Fort Dix. Subsequently, when we came back to the station, told me.

00:17:24 Speaker 2

I mean that.

00:17:26 Speaker 2

Of our company, 20 years came back. The rest were killed or captured.

00:17:30 Speaker 2

So it's like, I think, 120 men in the company or something.

00:17:34 Speaker 2

And that's the third time. Now they try to take this thing in the.

00:17:37 Speaker 2

Kind.

00:17:37 Speaker 2

You know, no success then. I then I heard that a month later, this friend of mine, the company he was involved in.

00:17:47 Speaker 2

Also went but they had air support and tanks.

00:17:51 Speaker 2

They had guns big, you know, heavy artillery firing at this town.

00:17:57 Speaker 2

They took the.

00:17:58 Speaker 2

They took the mountain that the Germans were on.

00:18:00 Speaker 2

But when they were prepared for that.

00:18:03 Speaker 2

And I always resented the fact that we were just fendable three companies of men to try to take this little stupid town when they were really not fighting at such at the time they.

00:18:18 Speaker 2

Story was that they were low on ammunition and we were part of the arm.

00:18:23 Speaker 2

I mean.

00:18:23 Speaker 2

Not casting any aspersions on patent. I never met the gentleman.

00:18:27 Speaker 2

But it was.

00:18:29 Speaker 2

It's a very.

00:18:32 Speaker 2

Unhappy time they took me from.

00:18:35 Speaker 2

They took me to a a mash outfit and then they sent me to a General Hospital in Nancy, which was, I don't know how far but it.

00:18:45 Speaker 2

That far away.

00:18:47 Speaker 2

And.

00:18:50 Speaker 2

There they took two bullets out of my leg and.

00:18:55 Speaker 2

I was hit 4 * 2, went through and two they removed.

00:19:01 Speaker 2

Wish I have at home.

00:19:03 Speaker 2

My only momentum.

00:19:05 Speaker 2

And then after Nancy, they sent me to Paris for a week where I just was waiting for air transportation home.

00:19:13 Speaker 2

They use it expression Zi zone of interior which we back to the United States. But I never did go by air.

00:19:20 Speaker 2

They I wound up on a converted freighter and we were convoy.

00:19:27 Speaker 2

It took 16 days to get home because you can only go as fast as a slower ship.

00:19:32 Speaker 1

Right.

00:19:34 Speaker 2

And it was a not a good experience. I couldn't.

00:19:38 Speaker 2

Was confined to my.

00:19:41 Speaker 2

You know, we had a double Decker.

00:19:44 Speaker 2

So it was 16 horrible days until.

00:19:47 Speaker 2

Came back.

00:19:48 Speaker 1

Did you have a nurse?

00:19:51 Speaker 2

Well, they had war boys, you know.

00:19:53 Speaker 2

I don't remember seeing. They didn't do anything on the boat except try to make me comfortable.

00:20:00 Speaker 2

Know to give you drugs and for your pain.

00:20:05 Speaker 2

My leg was in the chaos.

00:20:06 Speaker 2

They never touched that.

00:20:09 Speaker 1

So the bones were broken.

00:20:11 Speaker 2

Well.

00:20:12

Well.

00:20:12 Speaker 2

My knee. I was hit at the knee and below.

00:20:18 Speaker 2

And it wasn't that.

00:20:20 Speaker 2

Except that I developed osteomyelitis, a disease of the bone.

00:20:24 Speaker 1

When did you develop that?

00:20:26 Speaker 2

Well, they discovered that when I got into the hospital in back in the states.

00:20:32 Speaker 1

No. How do you?

00:20:33 Speaker 1

How do you develop that from getting shot a disease?

00:20:35 Speaker 2

Well, this infection derives because the disease is a an infection in the bones.

00:20:41 Speaker 1

So you didn't get good medical care if you got an infection.

00:20:43 Speaker 2

No, it's just that it happened so quickly that as far as I know, they.

00:20:49 Speaker 1

But it doesn't have to do with. You were laying there for a whole.

00:20:52 Speaker 1

And no one evacuated you? Yeah.

00:20:53 Speaker 2

It couldn't be.

00:20:54 Speaker 2

Couldn't be that it was, you know, that I was out there for like 10-12 hours.

00:20:59 Speaker 2

I don't know.

00:21:00 Speaker 1

What was that like for you this 10 or 12 hours? Oh, you said that.

00:21:03 Speaker 2

I slept.

00:21:03 Speaker 2

They had given me morphine and I and it was only that they woke me up to see whether I was still alive.

00:21:09 Speaker 2

Guess you know, because most of the guys that were hit I guess were were killed.

00:21:13 Speaker 1

So it's not like you were in contact with the others who were also abandoned there.

00:21:18 Speaker 2

I didn't.

00:21:18 Speaker 2

I didn't know, but I mean that we were being.

00:21:22 Speaker 2

I mean, I know some of the fellows that were wounded might have got killed with the shelling after that, you know.

00:21:27 Speaker 1

Ever hear what happened to your company that? Did they retreat from that position?

00:21:31 Speaker 2

They yes. When they took me back.

00:21:34 Speaker 2

They they took me.

00:21:35 Speaker 2

Whoever survives, I said what whatever was left.

00:21:38 Speaker 2

20 men.

00:21:40 Speaker 2

Rejoined me.

00:21:41 Speaker 2

The kitchen area, the headquarters, whatever it was, and the rest were. The other 100 killed were captured.

00:21:48 Speaker 1

But while you were laying, there were the men who were still fighting on your side. Were they retreating?

00:21:53 Speaker 2

I have no idea.

00:21:54 Speaker 1

Oh, you never found out?

00:21:55 Speaker 1

I know.

00:21:56 Speaker 1

Yeah, you must wonder about that.

00:21:58 Speaker 2

Well, I I don't.

00:22:01 Speaker 2

They were under fire and it was only after dark and they were land mines and other things that you had to be careful about.

00:22:09 Speaker 2

So I don't know whether.

00:22:10 Speaker 2

Of them, actually.

00:22:11 Speaker 2

That's why they sent this this young second Lieutenant, who joined the outfit down to bring them back. Whoever was survived, you know, everything survived.

00:22:19 Speaker 2

But I didn't know what I wanted.

00:22:22 Speaker 2

That they.

00:22:23 Speaker 2

I guess they saw me breathing otherwise because I was out.

00:22:27 Speaker 2

Was totally out. No idea.

00:22:30 Speaker 2

When I've tried to call the aid man after I got hurt, every time I said, I started to speak, I felt like I was going to pass out, so I just lay there until somebody came.

00:22:39 Speaker 2

I couldn't move.

00:22:40 Speaker 1

Going into shock.

00:22:41 Speaker 2

Whatever.

00:22:43 Speaker 1

What's the next thing that you remember?

00:22:45 Speaker 2

Well, the next thing was this mesh outfit where I spent just part of a day and then from there they took me to.

00:22:56 Speaker 1

Remember, anybody from that day?

00:22:58 Speaker 2

I didn't. Nobody, no stranger, no stranger.

00:23:03 Speaker 2

I met some of the fellas back in the states at the summer at a hospital, but just hurry, anybody.

00:23:10 Speaker 2

We were replacement, so most of the people that were there were people I didn't know.

00:23:14 Speaker 2

You know, we didn't train together. You know, maybe you become.

00:23:18 Speaker 2

Have a relationship.

00:23:21 Speaker 2

So these are all we're real strangers.

00:23:23 Speaker 1

So where geographically where in France did that happen?

00:23:28 Speaker 2

Near Nancy.

00:23:30 Speaker 1

Northern France.

00:23:31 Speaker 2

That's northern France.

00:23:34 Speaker 2

And it's near the German borderline and messes them Major City on the German side of.

00:23:39 Speaker 1

The line and that would have been your.

00:23:41 Speaker 1

Battle.

00:23:41 Speaker 2

Well, they were already.

00:23:43 Speaker 2

That would have been where they were going heading that jurisd.

00:23:47 Speaker 1

That was a big one. That's right.

00:23:48

lction.

00:23:48 Speaker 2

That area, there was a lot of fighting after that. Then during the time of the bulge was now that's December. I was in this hospital in England.

00:23:56 Speaker 2

Spent six months in that house.

00:23:59 Speaker 2

Prepared me to ship me back to the states because I was in no shape to be in return to the states.

00:24:05 Speaker 1

In those six.

00:24:06 Speaker 1

Did you hear from your family?

00:24:10 Speaker 2

That's interesting.

00:24:12 Speaker 2

I grew up when I.

00:24:14 Speaker 2

In.

00:24:15 Speaker 2

I grew up.

00:24:17 Speaker 2

I spoke to one of the nurses, one of the aides, Red Cross women that were there at station at the hospital when I left my the States, my wife was pregnant and I wanted to know whether they could find out what her condition was.

00:24:34 Speaker 2

So that I shipped out.

00:24:36 Speaker 2

So I went from.

00:24:38 Speaker 2

They sent me to England, so I know.

00:24:41 Speaker 2

I found out they never did contact me ever, even when I mean they had. They knew where I went. But I got a letter from home and unfortunately she had a miscarriage.

00:24:54 Speaker 2

And I was getting packages that were sent to me all over the finally found me in the hospital.

00:25:02 Speaker 1

Oh, they all found you on one day or eventually found you.

00:25:04 Speaker 2

Over the months my my family and relatives have studied the care packages.

00:25:10 Speaker 2

Know which I never got.

00:25:11 Speaker 1

But getting them must have been wonderful. Yeah.

00:25:13

Well.

00:25:15 Speaker 2

And then I had another experience which I must have.

00:25:19 Speaker 2

As a fellow that I was raised with, I raised we grew up together.

00:25:23 Speaker 2

Both about 8-9 years old when we met.

00:25:26 Speaker 2

And we were friends all the time.

00:25:29 Speaker 2

And he went in before I did. And he was a chef.

00:25:34 Speaker 2

And he was stationed in a in England at a hospital in the northeastern part of the country.

00:25:41 Speaker 2

I wound up in a hospital near Bristol, which is the southwest.

00:25:44 Speaker 2

Is this probably as far away as you?

00:25:46 Speaker 2

Be in that in the in.

00:25:49 Speaker 2

And he found out my apo number. So I guess his where he was saying.

00:25:56 Speaker 2

And then he walks one morning.

00:25:59 Speaker 2

With a duffel bag of food.

00:26:01 Speaker 2

Matt.

00:26:02 Speaker 2

I must have lost 25 lbs and I must have been eating about 300 calories a day. At that point. I mean, no.

00:26:08 Speaker 2

For food.

00:26:09 Speaker 2

There's a lot of pain and I was in.

00:26:11 Speaker 2

They had me attraction for several weeks.

00:26:15 Speaker 2

And then he walks with this and including a duffel bags, a box of chorizo that his wife has sent him for his birthday, which he never opens up.

00:26:27 Speaker 2

Anyway, he spent three days there, grabbed the cot, was awarded about 20 or 30% and he would walk around and he'd walk around.

00:26:36 Speaker 2

And then he would tell me that, you know, they would bring in was the same type of hospital I was in only.

00:26:41 Speaker 2

Part of the country where they were bringing is it back from England, from France.

00:26:47 Speaker 2

And he would.

00:26:51 Speaker 2

They become in all hours of the day or night. If you heard they were coming in, no matter 2/3 4:00.

00:26:52 Speaker 2

He would.

00:26:56 Speaker 2

Ran into the kitchen to stop making food for them, I said. Gee, Joe.

00:27:01 Speaker 2

Isn't that nice? He said.

00:27:02 Speaker 2

He said.

00:27:03 Speaker 2

I can never be more appreciative of the fact that they never gave me a rifle and kept me there because they were pulling guys out of their hospitals, giving him a rifle and sending him.

00:27:13 Speaker 2

Was during the the Bolshevik period.

00:27:14 Speaker 1

I see.

00:27:16 Speaker 2

Wasted a slaughter. You know what I mean.

00:27:18 Speaker 2

They were not prepared to fight and so he was so appreciative of the fact that they didn't take him, he said.

00:27:20 Speaker 1

I did realize that.

00:27:27 Speaker 2

And then, of course, we've been. We remained friends ever since.

00:27:31 Speaker 2

Mean we haven't.

00:27:33 Speaker 2

He's in terrible shape physically now, but.

00:27:36 Speaker 1

It's a wonderful bond to have shared.

00:27:39 Speaker 2

He was.

00:27:40 Speaker 2

He was that kind of a man, you know, he was about a year older than I, so he was in his mid 20s. But even at 75 and 80, he was the same man.

00:27:49 Speaker 2

Just.

00:27:50 Speaker 2

Greatest guy in the world. Very soft.

00:27:53 Speaker 1

I bet you were never so happy to see him as the day he walked in.

00:27:56 Speaker 2

Oh man, somebody from.

00:27:56 Speaker 1

You'll never forget that, yeah.

00:27:59 Speaker 1

Does he know why he was never pulled out of the hospital?

00:28:02 Speaker 2

Well, I tell you, he was so good that they'd be stupid to pull him out.

00:28:06 Speaker 2

I mean, he was so good. I mean, he didn't go forth.

00:28:12 Speaker 2

I mean that would have been a big mistake to move him out.

00:28:15 Speaker 1

And did the food that he brought you stimulate your appetite?

00:28:17 Speaker 2

Well, no. He brought no canned goods and stuff that, I mean things.

00:28:22 Speaker 2

Delicacies. I don't remember exactly the candies, the thing that, but he passed it out among the other fellows.

00:28:30 Speaker 2

Know 'cause I had no desire to eat.

00:28:30

Show.

00:28:33 Speaker 1

That was nice.

00:28:35 Speaker 1

Maybe if you weren't so far away from where he worked, he could have brought.

00:28:38 Speaker 1

A hot meal or something?

00:28:39 Speaker 2

Well, yeah, but we were.

00:28:40 Speaker 1

Something that he cooked.

00:28:41 Speaker 2

Don't.

00:28:41 Speaker 2

Heck, you know I don't know you.

00:28:44 Speaker 2

It's probably a couple 100 miles I.

00:28:46 Speaker 2

I don't know how far it can be more than that because the country.

00:28:50 Speaker 2

That long?

00:28:51 Speaker 1

Did he ever tell you how far, how long he'd been on a?

00:28:54 Speaker 1

Or whatever. Well.

00:28:54 Speaker 2

Couple of days because I don't think there was any through training or change in maybe two days or.

00:28:59 Speaker 2

You know.

00:29:01 Speaker 1

Amazing. He could get that much time off, right. And then go out of his.

00:29:04 Speaker 2

Well, they, I guess he's an I guess he just worked it out with his office commanding officer, you know.

00:29:10 Speaker 1

It's miraculous, really, if you think about it.

00:29:12 Speaker 2

He was on 24 hour call at the hospital and he never.

00:29:15 Speaker 1

Right, right.

00:29:16 Speaker 2

Try to get out of anything, so I guess they felt that he deserved a little change of scenery, I think.

00:29:21 Speaker 2

Don't.

00:29:21 Speaker 2

I never asked.

00:29:22 Speaker 2

He's just just showed it.

00:29:25 Speaker 2

That was a good experience.

00:29:27 Speaker 1

Do you think he would be able to come and sit down with me?

00:29:30 Speaker 2

No, he's he's had several strokes.

00:29:34 Speaker 2

He's confined to a.

00:29:35 Speaker 2

He doesn't speak anymore. He's practically deaf.

00:29:39 Speaker 2

And all he does is sit in a chair with his big eyes wide open and looks at you, and I dread going over to see him because there's no communication.

00:29:49 Speaker 1

Nursing home.

00:29:50 Speaker 2

No, he's at his home.

00:29:52 Speaker 2

Will she's killing herself and she's hired help to help wash him. Shave him, dress him, feed him.

00:30:01 Speaker 2

And and she has two women.

00:30:03 Speaker 2

You could give her.

00:30:04 Speaker 2

Half of a day each.

00:30:07 Speaker 2

And.

00:30:09 Speaker 2

Is dead for all purposes, but she wants to keep him alive.

00:30:16 Speaker 2

It's very, very hard, but it's just like a living.

00:30:21 Speaker 2

A living.

00:30:21 Speaker 2

He's he's dead, you know.

00:30:23 Speaker 2

Did or whatever.

00:30:24 Speaker 1

Oh, I see.

00:30:27 Speaker 2

He doesn't respond at all.

00:30:30 Speaker 2

Hold his.

00:30:31 Speaker 2

I grabbed my hug and gave no response.

00:30:35 Speaker 2

Very same.

00:30:37 Speaker 1

It's very nice though, that you still go see.

00:30:39 Speaker 2

Yeah, well, he.

00:30:42 Speaker 2

He's a good guy.

00:30:43 Speaker 2

A good guy.

00:30:43

Mm.

00:30:45 Speaker 2

He's got a whoever meets him remembers him.

00:30:48 Speaker 2

He's short.

00:30:49 Speaker 2

Well, well, this is when he was.

00:30:51 Speaker 1

Right.

00:30:52 Speaker 2

Getting around.

00:30:56 Speaker 1

How was it for you coming home?

00:30:59 Speaker 1

You said you had Ward boys that gave you the morphine or whatever you needed.

00:31:03 Speaker 2

Well, that was in the field in the hospital. They we had nurses and they would give me sleeping pills and then pain pills and.

00:31:13 Speaker 2

But I was always afraid.

00:31:15 Speaker 2

Of becoming addicted.

00:31:18 Speaker 2

So I grabbed.

00:31:19 Speaker 2

I had one of those bags that they kept.

00:31:23 Speaker 2

Meals and things in and when I came back to the state, I had a bag like that of stuff I didn't take.

00:31:29 Speaker 2

Didn't want to tell him to take me off it, but they I didn't take.

00:31:32 Speaker 2

I get home. I threw it away because I was.

00:31:35 Speaker 2

I remember before I went overseas there was a famous boxer, Barney Ross.

00:31:40 Speaker 2

Probably never heard that he was famous when I was a young man and he was. I think he got malaria in the Pacific.

00:31:41 Speaker 1

No. OK.

00:31:49 Speaker 2

And he became a drug addict.

00:31:51 Speaker 2

And he had a terrible time getting off the drug. So I was always afraid that.

00:31:55 Speaker 2

To overdo it. But they were generous with giving you pain pills.

00:32:00 Speaker 2

You know they would.

00:32:04 Speaker 2

I.

00:32:05 Speaker 2

I was in traction for about 3-4 weeks.

00:32:07 Speaker 2

They had a needle through my ankle.

00:32:10 Speaker 2

They thought this leg had gotten shorter than the other one and.

00:32:14 Speaker 2

One day a Colonel came in making a.

00:32:19 Speaker 2

Checking out he was from another, not from our hospital, but if he's one of these fellows that went around from hospital hospital.

00:32:28 Speaker 2

And he stopped in my bed and he asked for my chart.

00:32:32 Speaker 2

And he says just take this man out of traction. He says there's no reason. If you look at both easy, they're both the same, you know, so for three weeks, I was in traction for no reason at all.

00:32:43 Speaker 2

Mean these things happen I couldn't get.

00:32:46 Speaker 2

I mean, I was stuck in bed, although I was not ambulatory. If it got me out of bed, they had to put me in a wheelchair.

00:32:51 Speaker 2

I.

00:32:51 Speaker 2

Was in a cast.

00:32:54 Speaker 2

I went through 17 operations with over a period of time.

00:32:58 Speaker 2

Uh. Every time they would.

00:33:00 Speaker 2

There's a lot of drainage.

00:33:03 Speaker 2

Foul smelling.

00:33:05 Speaker 2

And so they, in order to change my chaos, they had to put me out.

00:33:10 Speaker 2

And then they would they used to do bone scraping to try to limit, get rid of the osteo, which was this disease.

00:33:17 Speaker 2

But they can only do a little bit at a time.

00:33:21 Speaker 2

When I get back to the states, they continue doing that and.

00:33:27 Speaker 2

I've sent to a hospital in Butler, PA. When I came back.

00:33:30 Speaker 2

And I was there for several months.

00:33:34 Speaker 2

My wife came out there too.

00:33:36 Speaker 2

She joined.

00:33:36 Speaker 2

She moved into a small apartment.

00:33:40 Speaker 2

Actually, she rented a room and somebody's private home.

00:33:45 Speaker 2

And.

00:33:46 Speaker 2

Then they gave me a.

00:33:48 Speaker 2

I came home on crutches and I had.

00:33:51 Speaker 2

You.

00:33:53 Speaker 2

The uh.

00:33:55 Speaker 2

On my leg down a shoe, they had the.

00:33:59 Speaker 2

Well, anyway, I came home with a.

00:34:01 Speaker 2

And then when it's time to report back after 30 days, I didn't want to go back out there because our families were here in New Jersey.

00:34:10 Speaker 2

So I checked into Fort Dix.

00:34:14 Speaker 1

You had a brace on.

00:34:15 Speaker 1

Leg brace, yeah.

00:34:18 Speaker 2

When I went to Fort Dix, they wanted to send me back out there. I had a check in, otherwise I would have been able.

00:34:26 Speaker 2

So I said I wanted to stay at Fort Dix because my family lived in Jersey.

00:34:33 Speaker 2

Just to go back and we were supposed to be sense about closest hospital to where we lived.

00:34:38 Speaker 2

Actually, Butler PA was not the closest place for me to be.

00:34:42 Speaker 2

For ***** was the closest.

00:34:44 Speaker 2

Anyway, they they kept me there, but they didn't do anything for.

00:34:47 Speaker 2

They would just change the dressing. They would give me, they would feed me, you know? But they didn't do anything and waiting for me to be well enough to ship back out to Fort.

00:34:58 Speaker 2

And then one day I'm in a mess room and there's a guy I remembered from the hospital. I said, what are you doing here?

00:35:05 Speaker 2

Said they closed Butler up the Desert General Hospital. They closed it up and everybody's shift here for.

00:35:12 Speaker 2

No. Nobody ever said anything to.

00:35:14 Speaker 2

So finally my records came were sent but I was there for. It was ridiculous that after several weeks they finally decided that I could stay there.

00:35:29 Speaker 2

Anyway, that's where I finally was discharged from the.

00:35:34 Speaker 1

There's a hospital at Fort Dix.

00:35:36 Speaker 2

Yeah, it's called Tilton General Hospital.

00:35:38 Speaker 1

Is it still there?

00:35:39 Speaker 2

Don't know.

00:35:41 Speaker 2

It could be, I don't know.

00:35:43 Speaker 2

But while I was there between surgeries, I would get somebody for my family, would pick me up and bring me up north for a couple of weeks, and then I have to go back with more surgery and I spent 2 1/2 years in the hospital.

00:35:57 Speaker 2

In various hospitals.

00:36:01 Speaker 1

Where in your leg were you shot?

00:36:04 Speaker 2

Well, I don't know if I want to.

00:36:05 Speaker 2

The.

00:36:06 Speaker 2

You see, but I was shot down through here.

00:36:11 Speaker 2

And when I came back to the states, the leg is very harbor, Lee disfigured.

00:36:17 Speaker 2

The two legs looked.

00:36:18 Speaker 2

There was nothing to indicate except the little holes, but by the time they get through with all these, all the surgery I had a cavity in this leg like that.

00:36:29 Speaker 2

And they took bone from my hip and other places and filled the kid. They thought they killed it. But it's still it's a lot better than a look then. And then they grafted skin from my thighs and my hip to cover it over.

00:36:44 Speaker 2

And so. But my leg is stiff it when it heals, it fused the bones fused so that there's no bend.

00:36:55 Speaker 2

And after I was out of service, I acquired about they were putting plates in at the time.

00:37:02 Speaker 2

That was in and then eventually when they start having knee replacements several years ago.

00:37:09 Speaker 2

It was too late already.

00:37:10 Speaker 2

The leg was.

00:37:14 Speaker 2

Muscles.

00:37:14 Speaker 1

Atrophied.

00:37:16 Speaker 2

Muscles.

00:37:18 Speaker 1

Were your surgeries done?

00:37:20 Speaker 1

I mean, shouldn't you have been?

00:37:21 Speaker 2

I don't know.

00:37:22 Speaker 1

Shouldn't you have had physical therapy?

00:37:24 Speaker 1

When it fuse.

00:37:24 Speaker 2

Never. Never.

00:37:28 Speaker 1

No one in the army had physical therapy.

00:37:29 Speaker 2

No.

00:37:32 Speaker 1

No, it's too bad.

00:37:35 Speaker 2

Well, I don't know whether they could have done anything because by the time it healed.

00:37:40

It.

00:37:40 Speaker 2

Was already too late I guess, but I don't know.

00:37:43 Speaker 2

Don't know where the physical therapy would have done?

00:37:47 Speaker 1

So again, go ahead.

00:37:47 Speaker 2

But like she's my Angel had fused it almost.

00:37:51 Speaker 2

But I was able to bend over and keep working on it.

00:37:55 Speaker 2

But now it's causing me a lot of.

00:37:57 Speaker 2

This become arthritic and I have to use a cane because.

00:38:00 Speaker 1

That was my.

00:38:01 Speaker 1

Have you used the cane since then?

00:38:03 Speaker 2

No.

00:38:03 Speaker 1

No.

00:38:04 Speaker 2

Once I get rid of my cane and then first I get rid of the crutches and then the cane and I walk just fine and I used to walk.

00:38:13 Speaker 1

It just was stiff.

00:38:15 Speaker 1

You couldn't bend it.

00:38:15 Speaker 2

Distinct now with stiff, but I developed.

00:38:18 Speaker 2

I was able to walk so there are people that knew me for years after I came out that never noticed a limp until once in a while.

00:38:25 Speaker 2

When it was uncomfortable, but I just didn't limp.

00:38:30 Speaker 2

They they.

00:38:31 Speaker 2

When they set this leg.

00:38:34 Speaker 2

They set a little.

00:38:36 Speaker 2

You know, so that I dislike.

00:38:38 Speaker 2

Be a little bit shorter than this one so that I wouldn't have to drag it out.

00:38:42 Speaker 2

Can just walk.

00:38:44 Speaker 2

Just bring it up.

00:38:45 Speaker 2

Otherwise, I'd have to bring my leg out to.

00:38:47 Speaker 2

It in front of me.

00:38:48 Speaker 2

What I'm saying?

00:38:49 Speaker 1

Because the bones refused.

00:38:50 Speaker 2

Because if no, if it, if they had said it, where would be perfectly straight.

00:38:52

Oh.

00:38:56 Speaker 2

But by setting it with a little bend I was able to use it.

00:39:00 Speaker 2

Just walk as it normally.

00:39:04 Speaker 2

But there's only so many last year or two that I've been having to use the.

00:39:09 Speaker 2

A lot.

00:39:09 Speaker 2

There's some days I don't use it because I'm not paying in paying, but otherwise I.

00:39:16 Speaker 1

So you're considered disabled by the VA.

00:39:19 Speaker 2

Have 100% discipline.

00:39:20 Speaker 1

Right.

00:39:22 Speaker 2

Which was another.

00:39:23 Speaker 2

But I wasn't up until a couple years ago.

00:39:26

Oh.

00:39:28 Speaker 1

So someone had to help you get it.

00:39:30 Speaker 2

Well, they had me at 90% and that included.

00:39:36 Speaker 2

Arthritis in my ankle and other things I developed kidney stones when I was in the army, which I never had before, and so it's 50 for this and 20 for that and 20 for that.

00:39:46 Speaker 2

But it wasn't 100%, but I I I wasn't able to work.

00:39:51 Speaker 2

I had to.

00:39:53 Speaker 2

And so it took 15 years for me to get the thing go from 90% to 100%.

00:39:59 Speaker 2

100% his number of features that are advantageous to him.

00:40:05 Speaker 1

Don't to pay taxes.

00:40:09 Speaker 2

Just enough federal tax. Just real estate.

00:40:13 Speaker 1

Oh, OK.

00:40:14 Speaker 2

For your primary home, we have an apartment down at the beach which I have to pay taxes.

00:40:19

OK.

00:40:25 Speaker 1

Do you keep in touch with anyone that you served with?

00:40:28 Speaker 2

No.

00:40:28 Speaker 1

You were a replacement.

00:40:29 Speaker 1

Said that.

00:40:30 Speaker 1

What about do you go to reunions of the 80th?

00:40:32 Speaker 2

No, I went to one once. I met a fellow that was in the same same division as I was.

00:40:39 Speaker 2

And we decided to go out to they had a.

00:40:42 Speaker 2

Reunion out in York, PA.

00:40:45 Speaker 2

The 80th Division represented 3 states whose West Virginia, Virginia and Pennsylvania, the Blue Ridge Mountains like a three mountain little humps representing 3 states.

00:40:59 Speaker 2

So we went out there, spell this friend of mine and.

00:41:01 Speaker 2

And.

00:41:02 Speaker 2

It was so boring.

00:41:03 Speaker 2

Didn't know anybody.

00:41:06 Speaker 2

I've been paying dues to three veterans groups.

00:41:11 Speaker 2

I just want to support. I just, I don't know.

00:41:12 Speaker 1

DFW, American Legion.

00:41:15 Speaker 2

Don't belong to the American Legion.

00:41:16 Speaker 1

Disable American veterans.

00:41:16 Speaker 2

I've long to.

00:41:18 Speaker 2

And I belong to.

00:41:20 Speaker 2

The Purple Heart that belong to the Jewish War veterans.

00:41:25 Speaker 2

Go to meetings. I just.

00:41:29 Speaker 2

I don't have the patience to sit.

00:41:37 Speaker 1

So which of those groups do you get the most out of?

00:41:40 Speaker 1

Purple Heart maybe.

00:41:41 Speaker 2

Well, DAV was the one I got involved with for that purpose to they have a representative in Newark and then they have one in East Orange and they're the people I approached. I was told that they have the better the best.

00:41:57 Speaker 2

The situation they're most familiar.

00:41:58 Speaker 1

Resources the best resources for you.

00:42:01 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:42:03 Speaker 2

And it was through their effort that I finally got that 100% discipline.

00:42:08 Speaker 2

Well, what they do is they they they file applications for.

00:42:12 Speaker 2

They don't.

00:42:13 Speaker 2

They don't make any appearances for you.

00:42:15 Speaker 2

I have to, but I've I've been.

00:42:17 Speaker 2

I had to make several.

00:42:19 Speaker 2

I was interviewed several times by different people at the VA when I made these applications, they they sometimes would send a representative with me, but they didn't do any of the they I had to answer all the questions, but they were there.

00:42:33 Speaker 2

Moral support.

00:42:34 Speaker 1

And you had to come up with your own records.

00:42:37 Speaker 2

Well, the records were in the VAI have a file that must be used.

00:42:42 Speaker 2

Huge. Huge.

00:42:44 Speaker 1

But you didn't have to track down.

00:42:46 Speaker 1

Records or?

00:42:46 Speaker 2

No. All I had to do is I kept bringing letters from doctors I went to.

00:42:52 Speaker 2

Current.

00:42:52

Right.

00:42:54 Speaker 2

And so.

00:42:57 Speaker 2

Use the VA.

00:42:59 Speaker 2

When I had to, I most of my doctors were civilian doctors.

00:43:03 Speaker 2

Went to my.

00:43:06 Speaker 1

What did they have to say about how you were treated by the army?

00:43:12 Speaker 1

Oh, OK.

00:43:13 Speaker 2

They thought I should have gotten that 100% a lot earlier than I did.

00:43:18 Speaker 1

Do you go to a VA clinic now?

00:43:20 Speaker 2

I go to V.

00:43:21 Speaker 2

I get most of my medicines from them.

00:43:23 Speaker 2

I've developed a heart problem. I take Coumadin, which is a blood thinner, and I'm on a heart pill and I'm on 6 or 8 different pills.

00:43:27 Speaker 1

Blood.

00:43:34 Speaker 2

I buy some because they don't.

00:43:36 Speaker 2

Only handle the generics.

00:43:38 Speaker 2

And some of my doctors don't want me to use generics for whatever reason.

00:43:41 Speaker 2

I buy those.

00:43:44 Speaker 2

But I go every six months for a visit to one of the each of the VA hospital.

00:43:51 Speaker 2

And then we discuss things.

00:43:52 Speaker 2

Check my weight.

00:43:53 Speaker 2

Not important to ask questions. They renew my medicines.

00:43:58 Speaker 1

Do you have any lasting kidney problems with your?

00:44:01 Speaker 2

I had kidney stones I developed when I was lying in the hospital.

00:44:05 Speaker 1

And now you.

00:44:06 Speaker 2

And I.

00:44:08 Speaker 2

That I had my first attack in the hospital bed. I thought I was going to deliver a child. I said it was comparable to childbirth and then I passed kidney stones several times since. But basically.

00:44:21 Speaker 2

Yes, it's OK.

00:44:24 Speaker 1

How did serving in the army affect the rest of your life other than what we just talked about?

00:44:31 Speaker 2

Well, when I came out of the army.

00:44:35 Speaker 2

We had nothing. I mean literally nothing.

00:44:40 Speaker 2

We had a child a second. I've had a second pregnancy and she delivered a little girl when I was in a hospital. But I used to come in the back.

00:44:49 Speaker 2

And we lost that child at nine months.

00:44:52 Speaker 2

We lost that child the week before I came out of.

00:44:52 Speaker 1

Hmm.

00:44:56 Speaker 2

Hospital I was being discharged and the interim I had.

00:45:01 Speaker 2

Gotten a job for a company in Linden, NJ, as a buyer, purchaser, I had done that work before I went to sales.

00:45:11 Speaker 2

I had to tell him and I couldn't come to work for several days and they said don't bother.

00:45:17 Speaker 2

Did you?

00:45:18 Speaker 1

Tell them why.

00:45:21 Speaker 2

We just lost a.

00:45:22 Speaker 2

I'd like to take a few days of juris.

00:45:26 Speaker 2

But I.

00:45:28 Speaker 2

I found my way eventually.

00:45:30 Speaker 1

Did you ever really get to see your baby? Well, while you were in the hospital?

00:45:33 Speaker 2

Oh yeah, I see.

00:45:35 Speaker 2

Well, I'd be come home for furloughs in between surgery.

00:45:39 Speaker 1

Oh, you said that, yeah.

00:45:41 Speaker 2

Yeah, but we knew that she wasn't going to survive.

00:45:44 Speaker 2

Was born with a defect.

00:45:47 Speaker 2

My wife had taken her over to the Mount Sinai Hospital with some allegedly a.

00:45:55 Speaker 2

Specialist over there.

00:45:58 Speaker 2

Something lacking in her.

00:46:00 Speaker 2

Something missing in the liver biop.

00:46:05 Speaker 2

Sy, joints and.

00:46:06 Speaker 1

Right.

00:46:09 Speaker 2

But we did get blessed with two more children's.

00:46:11 Speaker 1

Oh.

00:46:13 Speaker 2

Become grandparents.

00:46:15 Speaker 2

Oh.

00:46:17 Speaker 1

Wow, that's so you've really endured quite a bit, both you and your wife.

00:46:18

Run.

00:46:22 Speaker 2

All right.

00:46:23 Speaker 1

You stood the test of time and right off the bat.

00:46:23 Speaker 2

Well, we've had other things happen to us which also we were hijacked on a cruise.

00:46:31 Speaker 1

Oh no.

00:46:32 Speaker 2

We're on the Kelly Lori, Laura.

00:46:34

My gosh.

00:46:37 Speaker 2

And.

00:46:38 Speaker 2

I wasn't sure sightseeing. My wife was on the ship because she wasn't up to going.

00:46:45 Speaker 2

That man that was murdered Leon Clay Copper was part of our group.

00:46:49 Speaker 1

Oh, I'm so sorry.

00:46:50 Speaker 2

And my wife, we found out.

00:46:52 Speaker 2

Hijackers left the ship and her passport was on top after they shuffled it.

00:46:57 Speaker 2

And she we the next one to go if they decided to kill any more Americans.

00:47:02 Speaker 1

Wow.

00:47:03 Speaker 2

But fortunately.

00:47:05 Speaker 2

They decided they had enough.

00:47:08 Speaker 2

So interesting thing we haven't cruised or say or close and that's 20 years ago.

00:47:11 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:47:15 Speaker 1

Years 1980. You said you were unsure and she was on the ship.

00:47:19 Speaker 2

Yeah, she wasn't feeling well, so I went short.

00:47:23 Speaker 2

Precise thing with some other of our we had 10 people in our party, 5 stayed on board and the other five of us went ashore and we were supposed to meet the ship and the this this was in Egypt.

00:47:39 Speaker 2

We debarked and.

00:47:42 Speaker 2

Alexandria. And then we were going to meet this ship in Port and Suez Canal at the Suez Canal in Port Zion, which is where the canal starts.

00:47:53 Speaker 2

And the ship was supposed to sail to that point.

00:47:55 Speaker 2

We'd come back at night and.

00:47:59 Speaker 2

After waiting a couple hours, they finally found out the ship was hidden.

00:48:03 Speaker 1

Oh my goodness, how did that make you feel?

00:48:05 Speaker 1

You think you'd never see your wife again?

00:48:08 Speaker 2

Well, that thought came to me.

00:48:11 Speaker 2

So fortunately after a few.

00:48:13 Speaker 1

Were you on your own or who was with you?

00:48:15 Speaker 2

Well, we had several friends of ours that were in our group.

00:48:17 Speaker 2

Were about.

00:48:18 Speaker 2

7-8 buses of passengers who went on a sightseeing trip.

00:48:23 Speaker 2

Rest of the time.

00:48:24 Speaker 2

Board it wasn't a large ship, so there.

00:48:27 Speaker 1

But you had like, a tour guide with you.

00:48:29 Speaker 2

Oh yeah, organized.

00:48:30 Speaker 2

Part of our deal, you know, it took us to to the, to the pyramids and to the all the things of interest.

00:48:32 Speaker 1

But nobody. Yeah.

00:48:36 Speaker 1

So what did your tour guide do with you while?

00:48:39 Speaker 2

Well, they they had dropped us off.

00:48:41 Speaker 2

Well, though actually she was a she.

00:48:43 Speaker 2

Was on the bus.

00:48:45 Speaker 2

We were the.

00:48:46 Speaker 2

We sat on the bus waiting for the the ship to come into port.

00:48:49 Speaker 1

OK.

00:48:51 Speaker 2

We're supposed to come in at 10:30 that night.

00:48:53 Speaker 1

Machine. There were no cell phones back then.

00:48:57 Speaker 2

And the question was where's the boat and the?

00:49:00 Speaker 2

Well, there's a lot of traffic in the canal, you know, and so they're delayed.

00:49:04 Speaker 2

And I don't think they knew that there was a hijacking because after they found out, they first then had to find a place to put us up.

00:49:12 Speaker 1

When did the world find out you could have?

00:49:14 Speaker 2

Well, they must have found out before we did because we got to a motel that we were sent to, someone to the, to hotels in this in Cairo. And we were sent to a place on the fringe of the airport in Cairo. 'cause, there weren't enough, they couldn't.

00:49:15 Speaker 1

On a TV.

00:49:17 Speaker 1

Wow.

00:49:31 Speaker 2

Enough rooms for everybody in one place.

00:49:33 Speaker 2

And the press was there.

00:49:35 Speaker 2

Got there.

00:49:36 Speaker 1

And that's how you found out.

00:49:40 Speaker 2

True, we were when we.

00:49:42 Speaker 2

But when we no, we found out, they told us in they announced while we sitting in the buses around midnight, which is like an hour and a half after the the ship was due in that there was a hijacking.

00:49:55 Speaker 2

And they took us to a little hotel in Port Said.

00:49:59 Speaker 2

Something that Humphrey Bogart must have looked.

00:50:01 Speaker 2

It was a very picturesque old dumpy place and we were sitting in the lobby waiting for the the American.

00:50:11 Speaker 2

To make arrangements for us.

00:50:15 Speaker 2

And.

00:50:17 Speaker 2

Three or four young German reporters and photographers walked into the hotel.

00:50:23 Speaker 2

You know they're German because they spoke with the German accent and they were telling us about what they knew about the hijacking.

00:50:32 Speaker 2

Apparently they found out where we were staying, so that's what.

00:50:35 Speaker 1

Oh I.

00:50:35 Speaker 2

And they were they found they were telling us about the hijack, and they said there was one murder.

00:50:44 Speaker 2

Emerging one of the passengers, one of the Americans.

00:50:48 Speaker 2

Happened to be this Leon Klinghoffer, who was our friend, who was a wheelchair in a wheelchair.

00:50:54 Speaker 1

He was your friend.

00:50:55 Speaker 1

Was he from?

00:50:56 Speaker 2

But he had a he had a condo where we do in Long Branch.

00:51:00 Speaker 2

So he became friendly for years.

00:51:00 Speaker 1

Oh.

00:51:03 Speaker 2

Because we spent our summers together and during the winter we socialized.

00:51:06 Speaker 2

So he lived in a city.

00:51:09 Speaker 1

I forget who was with Leon on the.

00:51:10 Speaker 1

This way.

00:51:11 Speaker 2

His wife? Yeah.

00:51:15 Speaker 2

Such a sad story.

00:51:17 Speaker 2

She was in.

00:51:18 Speaker 2

She had been treated for cancer.

00:51:21 Speaker 2

And she had a birthday coming up, so we decided to take this cruise.

00:51:27 Speaker 2

We celebrate her birthday on board ship.

00:51:31 Speaker 2

Because he got murdered and she died about four months later from her cancer.

00:51:36 Speaker 1

Oh, I see.

00:51:39 Speaker 2

Yeah, that's it.

00:51:41 Speaker 2

We're very sad. Time, very sad.

00:51:43 Speaker 1

How long was the ship hijacked for?

00:51:46 Speaker 2

Four days.

00:51:47 Speaker 2

Seem like for years what happened was, as I get the stories that the the hijackers were persuaded at the killing more by the by the allegedly by the Palestinian, by NASA.

00:52:02 Speaker 2

Arab I'm sorry, Arafat allegedly told him. No more killing.

00:52:06 Speaker 2

And Nasser, who was the?

00:52:12 Speaker 2

The President of Egypt also.

00:52:13 Speaker 1

Siddharth he was assassinated.

00:52:17 Speaker 2

No, he this is after Saddam Saddam already been killed.

00:52:21 Speaker 1

Oh, OK.

00:52:22 Speaker 2

They.

00:52:23 Speaker 1

Idiomy.

00:52:27 Speaker 2

I can't think of his name, but whatever.

00:52:30 Speaker 2

Was the President of Egypt?

00:52:32 Speaker 1

So they got on in Egypt, but.

00:52:34 Speaker 1

Were PLO.

00:52:34 Speaker 2

They got off and got on.

00:52:36 Speaker 2

Don't.

00:52:36 Speaker 2

They may have gotten on in Italy, where the boat originated, but you never know that they were who they were.

00:52:41 Speaker 2

Were well.

00:52:42 Speaker 2

They looked like everybody else.

00:52:45 Speaker 2

Those four.

00:52:46 Speaker 1

Were you on guard at?

00:52:47 Speaker 1

I know it's a completely different time from the times we live in now, but what were the politics?

00:52:52 Speaker 2

Does secure you know the boat left generally and seal for about four or five hours?

00:53:01 Speaker 2

I mean, we came to Milan.

00:53:07 Speaker 2

And we were picking up more passengers there and vendors came aboard the ship with their tables and their goods trying to sell to the tourists. You know, whatever they were selling trinkets and whatever. You can walk on on and off the ship.

00:53:22 Speaker 2

Was nobody to talk. Nobody to stop you or nobody to interview you.

00:53:25 Speaker 1

Could have had a stellar win.

00:53:26 Speaker 2

But that was typical. I think of the times there was no nobody thought of it.

00:53:31 Speaker 2

And then from there we sail to Alexandria.

00:53:35 Speaker 2

From Italy, Alexandria was a 14 day cruise which would have been.

00:53:42 Speaker 2

We would have wound up in the river, Guerrero for four days. It was.

00:53:45 Speaker 2

Was a beautiful trip which we haven't got.

00:53:47 Speaker 1

Hmm.

00:53:49 Speaker 2

But anyway.

00:53:50 Speaker 1

You must have been glued to the coverage of everything and talking.

00:53:52 Speaker 2

Well, the press was unbearable.

00:53:53 Speaker 1

The reporters.

00:53:56 Speaker 2

They were honest all the time.

00:53:59 Speaker 2

When the ship finally came in, it was it couldn't.

00:54:03 Speaker 2

Couldn't dock at a.

00:54:04 Speaker 2

That was where they brought us, but there must have been hundreds and hundreds of photographers and reporters.

00:54:13 Speaker 2

We couldn't walk through them to get to the edge of the pier over and then they took us.

00:54:18 Speaker 2

Put these plank. They could walk on after the ship because.

00:54:25 Speaker 2

The ship was a couple 100 yards offshore.

00:54:28 Speaker 2

They put these temporary platoon pontoons around so you can walk on them, and then when we all got there, they then.

00:54:31 Speaker 1

Right.

00:54:38 Speaker 2

Sail. Sail us to another point where?

00:54:40 Speaker 2

Debarked.

00:54:40 Speaker 2

Because the ship was not going to continue the cruise because of the murder of Leon.

00:54:44 Speaker 1

Had to investigate everything.

00:54:46 Speaker 2

So then.

00:54:48 Speaker 1

Did you have to be?

00:54:49 Speaker 1

Part of the investigation.

00:54:49

They.

00:54:52 Speaker 2

Well, they took.

00:54:52 Speaker 2

What happened was we wound up with these at the.

00:54:59 Speaker 2

We wound up.

00:55:00 Speaker 2

And Cairo, where they put us up, and we were going to go home, we were going to go home as soon as possible on a commercial flight.

00:55:12 Speaker 2

Then that's the following.

00:55:14 Speaker 2

I mean, whatever the date is that.

00:55:16 Speaker 2

And then we got a call from the embassy that they thought that wasn't a good idea at the Air Force was going to send a plane for us. There were.

00:55:28 Speaker 2

At 80 or 90, Americans in this group.

00:55:32 Speaker 2

That were on the hot being hijacked the rest of the passengers were Europeans and they weren't bothered.

00:55:40 Speaker 1

President at the time.

00:55:41 Speaker 2

Reagan.

00:55:44 Speaker 2

He was very solicitous of missus cling.

00:55:48 Speaker 2

She she went down to Washington a Treasury.

00:55:55 Speaker 2

We were.

00:55:56 Speaker 2

They brought this plane in and we got on and.

00:56:00 Speaker 2

We're going to fly to Germany for refueling, but they asked us if they we had any objections to stop in Italy.

00:56:09 Speaker 2

The hijackers, when they were brought ashore.

00:56:14 Speaker 2

Instead of being held by the Egyptian Government.

00:56:17 Speaker 2

Put on an Egyptian plane.

00:56:20 Speaker 2

And flown out of the country in spite of what the President of Egypt said, he didn't know where they were.

00:56:28 Speaker 2

They try to lay in that plane in Tunisia and some of the other Arab countries that wouldn't allow them to come in.

00:56:28

Hello.

00:56:35 Speaker 2

Our Navy hit a aircraft carry in the Mediterranean, but tonight.

00:56:40 Speaker 2

And they set up a couple of planes.

00:56:41 Speaker 2

Diverted the Egyptian plane to.

00:56:47 Speaker 2

Where we had a large base.

00:56:49 Speaker 2

And that's how we got a hold of these guys.

00:56:52 Speaker 2

But the Italians won't let us bring it back to America.

00:56:56 Speaker 2

I say we our country because we had the death penalty.

00:57:00 Speaker 2

But we stopped to. They were brought in to where we were.

00:57:05 Speaker 2

We stopped them, deadly to to identify these people.

00:57:11 Speaker 2

When I say I not me, but those who are on board the ship and they identify these 18 to 27 year old young young kids.

00:57:21 Speaker 2

And they eventually were.

00:57:23 Speaker 2

And it was sent to jail.

00:57:27 Speaker 2

Italian.

00:57:31 Speaker 2

They were sent to jail the after a couple of years they were allowed to go out on furlough.

00:57:35 Speaker 2

What would you do on if you were allowed to go on a furlough?

00:57:38 Speaker 2

Didn't want to go back to jail.

00:57:39 Speaker 2

Took off and that was.

00:57:43 Speaker 2

It that was their punishment.

00:57:45 Speaker 2

I believe ridiculous.

00:57:48 Speaker 2

Yeah, we've been. The FBI has kept in touch with us over the years to see how.

00:57:52 Speaker 2

Wife is doing and things like that.

00:57:56 Speaker 1

Was it like seeing your wife on the ship again?

00:57:58 Speaker 2

Oh, so pretty good. Let's play.

00:58:06 Speaker 2

No, my sister and.

00:58:08 Speaker 2

No in that group. I'm sure on on a ship and I had a cousin on a ship and then the klinghoffers.

00:58:18 Speaker 2

Anyway.

00:58:20 Speaker 1

What did President Reagan say to the?

00:58:23 Speaker 1

How that might be prevented? How he'll make sure it never happens again.

00:58:25 Speaker 2

Well, he he was.

00:58:27 Speaker 2

He was very kind to her.

00:58:30 Speaker 2

He.

00:58:31 Speaker 2

Try to console her and Mrs. Reagan too is very was very nice to her.

00:58:38 Speaker 2

She appeared before the Senate committee. Some kind of committee testified.

00:58:44 Speaker 2

Never going to do this and never do.

00:58:46 Speaker 2

I think that's when they first started thinking in terms of having security, you know.

00:58:53 Speaker 2

On board ships you know and be more careful of how they who those who boarded.

00:59:00 Speaker 2

Prior to that, if you showed a ticket.

00:59:02 Speaker 2

Walk right up.

00:59:04 Speaker 1

Now picture ID and all.

00:59:07 Speaker 2

It wasn't.

00:59:08 Speaker 2

Your passport.

00:59:10 Speaker 1

Oh, OK.

00:59:12 Speaker 1

So when you were in Cairo and you just had the tour guide over, you did the Egyptian police or authorities?

00:59:20 Speaker 1

Escort you anywhere. Like you said, you could even get back to the ship. Didn't they have security forces around you trying to help you get there were.

00:59:21 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:59:28 Speaker 2

You mean when we get back on the ship after the ship?

00:59:31 Speaker 2

Came back in again.

00:59:32 Speaker 1

You described the difficulty getting through the throng of.

00:59:34 Speaker 2

That was the well, they, they.

00:59:36 Speaker 2

There were some people from the embassy with us, so they helped try to clear out the the mob scene.

00:59:41 Speaker 1

Oh, OK.

00:59:42 Speaker 1

And they had.

00:59:44 Speaker 1

They had MPs with them or oh OK.

00:59:45 Speaker 2

I don't recall. I don't think she.

00:59:48 Speaker 1

But at the time, didn't the American public demand that we make take measures that this would never happen again?

00:59:57 Speaker 2

I assume so.

00:59:58 Speaker 2

I.

00:59:58 Speaker 2

Lot of these things are what did also.

01:00:03

Then.

01:00:04 Speaker 2

Left some bad taste in my mouth when we were over there, my children and the children of the others that in our group kept calling the State Department to find out what was happening.

01:00:15 Speaker 2

It got very little satisfaction, very.

01:00:18 Speaker 1

You couldn't call home from Kyra.

01:00:20 Speaker 2

No, they wanted to know what was.

01:00:22 Speaker 2

Wanted to know what?

01:00:24 Speaker 2

No, I couldn't call home. Kyle at the time, we had no phones.

01:00:27 Speaker 2

It was only when we were in Cairo that we were able to call in, but this is before we got back to Cairo.

01:00:34

Once.

01:00:34 Speaker 2

They found out the ship was hijacked. They didn't want to know how we were taking.

01:00:38 Speaker 2

Were on medication and things, you know, I didn't know how we.

01:00:42 Speaker 2

Was everything we had was on the ship.

01:00:46 Speaker 2

Anyway, we packed when the boat came, then we packed up and got out of this.

01:00:49 Speaker 1

So your kids didn't even know that you weren't on the ship?

01:00:51 Speaker 2

No, they.

01:00:51 Speaker 2

Only knew because I called them.

01:00:55 Speaker 1

Oh, OK.

01:00:56

OK.

01:00:56 Speaker 2

Otherwise they.

01:00:57 Speaker 2

They they didn't know who was on the.

01:00:58 Speaker 2

They didn't know whether my wife was on the ship or.

01:01:01 Speaker 2

Whether both or either of us.

01:01:03 Speaker 2

So I finally got through to a phone and.

01:01:07 Speaker 2

Where was that now that?

01:01:11 Speaker 2

That wasn't that wasn't in Cairo.

01:01:11 Speaker 1

Alexandria.

01:01:14 Speaker 2

It was in Cairo.

01:01:15 Speaker 1

Quartzite.

01:01:15

I'm trying to.

01:01:16 Speaker 2

Remember whether it was from the hotel we were at or whether it was from the embassy.

01:01:21 Speaker 2

Finally got the somebody to bring us to one of their offices and I think I called from there. I'm not sure now.

01:01:28 Speaker 1

Yeah, that makes sense.

01:01:29 Speaker 2

But my wife and my kids are first home.

01:01:32 Speaker 2

Know more about what was happening than.

01:01:33

We.

01:01:33 Speaker 2

Did you know? Because of the press?

01:01:37 Speaker 1

How did?

01:01:38 Speaker 1

Get your medicine. When you were on shore.

01:01:40 Speaker 1

The embassy help you?

01:01:41 Speaker 2

I had to wait until the book came in.

01:01:43 Speaker 1

When you were you in pain with your legs.

01:01:45 Speaker 2

No, no. But I was taking something with my heart.

01:01:50 Speaker 2

No, I was just.

01:01:51 Speaker 1

You were in your late 60s then?

01:01:54 Speaker 2

Then I was.

01:01:55 Speaker 1

66 or so.

01:01:57 Speaker 1

You had just retired.

01:01:58 Speaker 2

Well, actually I never really retired.

01:02:00 Speaker 2

I sort of packed slowly.

01:02:02 Speaker 2

Quit 1920 years ago.

01:02:06 Speaker 2

I was 65.

01:02:08 Speaker 2

And I'm 86 so.

01:02:13 Speaker 2

But we didn't feel 65.

01:02:17 Speaker 1

That's really incredible experience that you survived.

01:02:21 Speaker 2

Well, she went through a lot too, though I bet I got shot.

01:02:24 Speaker 2

Suffered with.

01:02:26 Speaker 1

I would like to bring her over and ask her what the four days were like for her.

01:02:32 Speaker 2

You want to be interviewed.

01:02:35 Speaker 2

You want to discuss your.

01:02:36 Speaker 1

You don't want to talk about the four days on the ship.

01:02:39 Speaker 2

She she we had a lot of lot of press and she she she always refused to be interviewed.

01:02:41 Speaker 1

OK.

01:02:44

Forget it.

01:02:48 Speaker 2

We we we were asked to come down to Washington to testify.

01:02:48 Speaker 1

OK.

01:02:53 Speaker 2

And she didn't want to.

01:02:54 Speaker 2

And then there was a we were offered to come out to San Francisco, some group to testify.

01:03:00 Speaker 2

She wouldn't go.

01:03:01 Speaker 2

And there are other things that we, you know, they asked us to do, but she wouldn't go so.

01:03:07 Speaker 2

Pursue.

01:03:09 Speaker 1

But what about the other people on the tour?

01:03:10 Speaker 2

Some of the others went.

01:03:13

So.

01:03:13 Speaker 2

And made appearances. Who were who were on the ship.

01:03:17 Speaker 1

So they spoke up and the truth got out about.

01:03:18 Speaker 2

Well, they spoke up at these inquiries, but I mean all everything the newspapers carried these when I came back between my daughter and one of my friends, I I had about 1520 tapes.

01:03:32 Speaker 2

Of the television reporting, you know, most of them are a lot of my duplicates.

01:03:38 Speaker 2

You know, each channel has their own.

01:03:40 Speaker 1

Oh yeah.

01:03:41 Speaker 2

You know, and some of them had both all the same channels because they were done.

01:03:45 Speaker 2

Taping was done independently.

01:03:49 Speaker 2

And I've got my daughter made two large catalogs of newspaper clippings.

01:03:55 Speaker 1

Wow. Wow. Wow, wow.

01:03:55 Speaker 2

I mean, if I we had no conception.

01:04:00 Speaker 2

Listening.

01:04:01 Speaker 1

So were you actually on TV when those German people, German reporters, were in the motel and filming you?

01:04:07 Speaker 2

Oh yeah.

01:04:08

Oh yeah.

01:04:08 Speaker 1

And where did that air that air here?

01:04:10 Speaker 1

Yeah.

01:04:11

Oh yeah.

01:04:11 Speaker 2

It was on the well.

01:04:13 Speaker 2

Wasn't German.

01:04:14 Speaker 2

No, no. The German reporters, just that was just a conversation.

01:04:18 Speaker 2

But I was interviewed by CNN, then we were brought over to.

01:04:24 Speaker 2

They were going to put me on NBC.

01:04:29 Speaker 2

And my daughter was going to be in a studio. Was the morning show.

01:04:33 Speaker 2

I'd forgotten. Jane Pauley, I think.

01:04:35 Speaker 2

And Brian Gumbel, yeah.

01:04:36 Speaker 1

The Today show.

01:04:39 Speaker 2

And then ABC wanted to interview us following it.

01:04:42 Speaker 2

So they took us to this, took us to this gorgeous building in Cairo, which is a studio.

01:04:46 Speaker 1

Wow. Wow.

01:04:49 Speaker 2

And we walked in there.

01:04:50 Speaker 2

You wonder where this inside came from because it didn't look anything like the look like a slug.

01:04:57 Speaker 2

A mess.

01:04:59 Speaker 2

And nothing was working.

01:05:01 Speaker 2

Elevators didn't.

01:05:02 Speaker 2

I mean from the outside, you just couldn't believe it was the same building as they turn us to the studio, that all the major networks used.

01:05:10 Speaker 2

There were sign times where they could use it as it had a backup.

01:05:13 Speaker 2

Well, unfortunately.

01:05:15 Speaker 2

The thing that was flying around of stuff on up in space was was out of whack and I spoke to my daughter on the phone, but we could never be interviewed on television because we couldn't transmit.

01:05:20 Speaker 1

The satellite.

01:05:28 Speaker 1

OK.

01:05:30 Speaker 1

You know, there was no satellite hookup or whatever.

01:05:32 Speaker 2

Yeah. So, but we just speak on the phone briefly.

01:05:35 Speaker 1

Well.

01:05:39 Speaker 2

You know, looking back now, it was an interesting thing. If it weren't for the how Santa was, you know, the tragedy of it.

01:05:44 Speaker 1

Yeah, it's a huge tragedy.

01:05:47

It's.

01:05:49 Speaker 2

It's good.

01:05:52 Speaker 2

Is.

01:05:53 Speaker 1

There anything that we left out about your timing army or World War 2?

01:05:58 Speaker 2

Nothing happened to me. That was that exciting, except I got shot.

01:06:03 Speaker 2

I didn't spend that much time in combat.

01:06:06 Speaker 1

Right.

01:06:07 Speaker 2

Because I mean, I got shot early in my fighting career.

01:06:13 Speaker 2

Maybe I was lucky I didn't have to go through. All I know is.

01:06:16 Speaker 2

When that little bulge was going on and I'm laying in this clean bed and I thought, I thought.

01:06:22 Speaker 2

Poor guys out there and the mud and the slop and everything.

01:06:25 Speaker 2

Laying in a clean benefit.

01:06:28

Yeah.

01:06:30 Speaker 1

Do you talk?

01:06:31 Speaker 1

Your experiences to any students or anyone else.

01:06:36 Speaker 2

Nobody's interested.

01:06:37 Speaker 2

I'm not interested if they ask me something I answer.

01:06:41 Speaker 2

I don't volunteer.

01:06:46 Speaker 2

Hi. It's just. Oh, we did speak before.

01:06:49 Speaker 2

Number of years ago a client of mine lived up in North Jersey, was involved in some kind of a senior group and they would have the speakers once a month or so.

01:06:59 Speaker 2

So he invited my wife and I to go.

01:07:03 Speaker 2

Spoke. She she would answer some of the questions, but she didn't want to actually do this.

01:07:08 Speaker 2

Speaking.

01:07:10 Speaker 2

We spent a couple of hours there. Very pleasant.

01:07:15 Speaker 1

Do you have any words of wisdom for today's generation about how to prevent war, or how to maintain peace?

01:07:24 Speaker 2

Free. I'm not that wise.

01:07:26 Speaker 2

I think that were directed were led like cattle by our government, by our politicians.

01:07:35 Speaker 2

And I very unfavorable.

01:07:38 Speaker 2

I mean, I feel terrible about what's going on in Iraq now.

01:07:41 Speaker 2

Waste of lives and Allah and the suffering going on.

01:07:46 Speaker 2

The subject here that was involved.

01:07:50 Speaker 2

Setting up this private war or whatever it was.

01:07:54 Speaker 2

And it's a it's a tragedy.

01:07:58 Speaker 2

Like to see these kids over there. 'cause. It's my son.

01:08:01 Speaker 2

Of course, he's in his almost 60 now, but I could be my grandson, you know, if he were a volunteer. And it's just tragic.

01:08:13 Speaker 1

Well, Frank, thank you so much for coming.

01:08:14 Speaker 2

Sport.

01:08:16 Speaker 1

I'm honored and humbled that you came and spoke today of your sacrifices and your contributions that you made in service to your country.

01:08:24 Speaker 1

Thank you, Frank and God bless.

01:08:26 Speaker 2

Thank you.