

Joseph Lukitsch Interview

Headquarters Battery, 905th Field Artillery Battalion

(Library of Congress: Veterans History Project; interviewed by Mark Stuttner)

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

00:00:05 Speaker 1

Washington, DC malls.

00:00:09 Speaker 1

30 May 2004.

00:00:12 Speaker 1

About to interview a World War 2 veteran.

00:00:16 Speaker 1

His history to be archived, Library of Congress.

00:00:20

Could.

00:00:20 Speaker 1

You please give me your name.

00:00:21 Speaker 1

And date of birth, Sir.

00:00:22 Speaker 2

Joseph F Peach UK, HCH.

00:00:27 Speaker 2

4/17/21.

00:00:31 Speaker 1

And where do you live now, Sir?

00:00:34 Speaker 2

I.

00:00:35 Speaker 2

Living in Severna Park, MD. I have.

00:00:41 Speaker 2

All my life I live in Pittsburgh.

00:00:43 Speaker 2

And then it's probably great spells it's. But when my wife died, there were two guys.

00:00:55 Speaker 1

What branch of service did you serve?

00:00:57 Speaker 2

I was in the Army division.

00:01:01 Speaker 2

905232 R 2 is the radio operator I started out as. The battalion is actually operator.

00:01:12 Speaker 2

No.

00:01:17 Speaker 2

We've lost so many.

00:01:21 Speaker 2

I was just. I knew this somebody up there and they need somebody up right away with pulling servers. Then I go out there for a couple days and got a replacement and it's the backbone got I was all right.

00:01:37 Speaker 2

I'm just gonna go.

00:01:38 Speaker 2

Back.

00:01:39 Speaker 1

And what theater?

00:01:42 Speaker 2

World War 2 of in Europe.

00:01:44 Speaker 2

Each year.

00:01:47 Speaker 1

And what parts of Europe did you serve?

00:01:50 Speaker 2

Friends.

00:01:51 Speaker 2

Latin word Germany.

00:01:58 Speaker 2

Operation.

00:02:00 Speaker 1

And what was your most memorable experience there?

00:02:03 Speaker 2

For me, being stupid.

00:02:06 Speaker 2

We were being straight and I don't.

00:02:11 Speaker 2

Big truck.

00:02:13 Speaker 2

They went by and I would not go with ammunition and they will find a piece of me that was a dumb thing I did.

00:02:22 Speaker 1

It is memorable.

00:02:25 Speaker 2

Never forget that.

00:02:30 Speaker 2

They would have never know you were going, you'd.

00:02:32 Speaker 2

Have been missing.

00:02:37 Speaker 1

What year was that?

00:02:43 Speaker 2

France and Germany.

00:02:52 Speaker 2

He was a.

00:02:52 Speaker 2

Man.

00:02:55 Speaker 2

Thing we would say, ask somebody to do something. The division, no question they did. They really like to make that.

00:03:05 Speaker 2

I never heard a bad word about it.

00:03:07 Speaker 1

Did you ever meet?

00:03:08 Speaker 1

Him.

00:03:09

Yep.

00:03:14 Speaker 2

That we could say too much, you know, we all. We all that you've seen her one time.

00:03:21 Speaker 2

It's in the lines lines.

00:03:23 Speaker 2

With you, where's my height?

00:03:34 Speaker 2

That's the reason and they want to. They told us to do something. You did it. You didn't care. You didn't forgive me.

00:03:43 Speaker 1

And how long did you serve?

00:03:46 Speaker 2

39 months.

00:03:49 Speaker 2

You will see about 22 months.

00:03:55 Speaker 1

And when did you return to the United?

00:03:57 Speaker 1

States.

00:04:02 Speaker 1

Remember what month?

00:04:04 Speaker 2

I think it was October.

00:04:10 Speaker 2

I got most of my history all written down. I had a.

00:04:17 Speaker 2

Five or six years.

00:04:18 Speaker 2

Ago.

00:04:19 Speaker 2

I had a mini stroke and sort of wiped by that stuff.

00:04:23 Speaker 2

What would what would happen?

00:04:26 Speaker 2

My wife is in the nursing home.

00:04:30 Speaker 2

Up here.

00:04:31 Speaker 2

She got well.

00:04:32 Speaker 2

She had up on there. It's generally stayed together and then.

00:04:37 Speaker 2

When I went up there.

00:04:41 Speaker 2

Young kid, my name's Joe he.

00:04:48 Speaker 2

Said my dad's in there.

00:04:56 Speaker 2

He had had a heart attack.

00:04:58 Speaker 2

It was really, I mean, I was really great, I mean.

00:05:01 Speaker 2

Today I've begun here living with him when I get my wife. After she started with him and take her down at the beginning and take it down in a wheelchair, and then his wife had gone together and that was really.

00:05:19 Speaker 2

Yeah, it was great because.

00:05:22 Speaker 2

We had a lot to.

00:05:22 Speaker 2

Talk about here because we both of Memorial went through the whole war together.

00:05:27 Speaker 2

That was just really nice to think about and.

00:05:34 Speaker 1

What do you think of the World War 2 memorial?

00:05:37 Speaker 2

Oh.

00:05:39

Good night.

00:05:43 Speaker 2

The only thing is.

00:05:46 Speaker 2

Don't know.

00:05:53 Speaker 2

They don't know how senior now. My my daughter, they said they.

00:06:01 Speaker 2

There's quite a few.

00:06:03 Speaker 2

It's there now, they sometimes it's different. They pull this yard on. I'm not in almost three months of my life. And then you got my damn.

00:06:18 Speaker 2

Straightened out.

00:06:22 Speaker 1

Are you a member of any service organization in there?

00:06:25 Speaker 2

No, I I used to I.

00:06:27 Speaker 2

Went to the day.

00:06:28 Speaker 2

At the couple of times but.

00:06:31 Speaker 2

I just seem to me I've just been getting interested.

00:06:37 Speaker 2

Gaming done.

00:06:39 Speaker 2

Mostly I think I wanted to forget that stuff.

00:06:42 Speaker 2

In fact.

00:06:43 Speaker 2

I just put.

00:06:44 Speaker 2

That wall is out of my head so long, long time.

00:06:48 Speaker 2

And when I really did recharge, like I said, and went for the nursing home, there's body empire in there. And we started hearing back.

00:06:56 Speaker 2

But otherwise, that's sort of.

00:07:01 Speaker 2

There's other things to see and did.

00:07:08 Speaker 2

Just like my wife, my one daughter says.

00:07:12 Speaker 2

Did you ever see him back? I said no. And then I never got there.

00:07:17 Speaker 2

I noticed it by hell.

00:07:28 Speaker 1

You mentioned that you have some of your history written down.

00:07:28 Speaker 2

Yes, Sir.

00:07:33 Speaker 2

Ah.

00:07:33 Speaker 1

We're going to send you a package from the library and anything you want to add to this, just mail it back to the library and we will include that with your history.

00:07:43 Speaker 2

My daughters, my daughter's not here with me. She's sort of taking care of this.

00:07:49 Speaker 2

She's she had worked with you and she couldn't come. She was really.

00:07:52 Speaker 2

Upset she wanted.

00:07:55 Speaker 2

But she was down here. She brought.

00:07:57 Speaker 2

Me down here couple weeks ago when they.

00:07:59 Speaker 2

Were building this stuff.

00:08:01 Speaker 2

We were.

00:08:03

OK.

00:08:04 Speaker 1

They will as soon as we get the card. You can have your daughter put this package together. Just send it and.

00:08:09 Speaker 1

We'll.

00:08:09 Speaker 1

Include it with this OK.

00:08:13 Speaker 1

Well, thank you very much for your just anything you.

00:08:15 Speaker 1

Want to add?

00:08:18 Speaker 2

Down here.

00:08:21 Speaker 1

Good place.

00:08:22 Speaker 2

That's the way they.

