

Troy Munn Interview #1

Company K, 317th Inf Reg

(Library of Congress: Veterans History Project; interviewed by Ellen L. George)

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

00:00:27 Speaker 1

Two, as a frontline Lifeline patents 3rd army with the 80th Infantry Division and I'd like to start off interview by asking You, Troy, where were you in Pearl Harbor?

00:00:36 Speaker 1

Attacked.

00:00:36 Speaker 2

Well, I was still at.

00:00:38 Speaker 2

I was living on a farm down in Muskogee County, near Porter, OK, and I didn't know that it happened till I went school that morning.

00:00:45 Speaker 2

Had no radio.

00:00:48 Speaker 2

Of course, we had no lectures, but I found out in school and I was AI was a junior in high school.

00:00:54 Speaker 1

Until how old were you?

00:00:55 Speaker 1

You guessed.

00:00:56 Speaker 2

I was 16.

00:00:56 Speaker 1

And what were your feeling when you?

00:00:59 Speaker 1

Out who?

00:00:59 Speaker 2

Well, I didn't.

00:01:00 Speaker 2

Of course you have a.

00:01:01 Speaker 2

Let's do get him. You know, that's the first thing I found out.

00:01:05 Speaker 2

It's a long process, so those guys in that business, but I found out everything I came home. I told my folks and they didn't actually know what Pearl Harbor was. Neither did I.

00:01:16 Speaker 2

But we figured it out.

00:01:18 Speaker 2

We did get an A in the Haitian.

00:01:21 Speaker 2

And that's where I.

00:01:23 Speaker 2

I was on the farm down there and I.

00:01:24 Speaker 2

Ahead and went to high school that year. And then I I turned 17 that summer and next year I became a senior in high school.

00:01:34 Speaker 2

And I graduated in May of 1943.

00:01:38 Speaker 2

And then in June, July, then I became 18.

00:01:40 Speaker 2

Had to go register with the draft.

00:01:42 Speaker 2

Mm.

00:01:43 Speaker 2

So I had to.

00:01:45 Speaker 2

I had no car in the.

00:01:46 Speaker 2

But I walked from just east of Porter Old Wagoner. OK to register for the.

00:01:51 Speaker 2

How far was that?

00:01:54 Speaker 2

1242 Days walk is good days well.

00:01:59 Speaker 2

And I was going ahead and stayed on the phone then and till they call me.

00:02:05 Speaker 2

Seem like in February of 44 to come take a physical.

00:02:10 Speaker 2

I came to Tulsa past physical and they they call me then in April.

00:02:17 Speaker 2

To report for the army.

00:02:20 Speaker 2

So we wound up over at Fort Sail and I was sworn in to army on April the 29th, 1944.

00:02:26

Hmm.

00:02:27 Speaker 2

And we stayed there a couple 3 days and got some shots and some clothes and photos on the bus and they took a load of us to camp more Texas, which is out in free Mineral Wells and four, four hot place.

00:02:42 Speaker 2

And with with discussion I didn't know, I'd never been out of Oklahoma except over Fort Smith AR, which is just across the line.

00:02:49 Speaker 2

And more.

00:02:51 Speaker 2

And some tanks were screwed in there. Something. But you're driving in the bus stop.

00:02:57 Speaker 2

A big archway over there says.

00:03:00 Speaker 2

Camp Water, Texas irtc infantry Replacement training center.

00:03:06 Speaker 2

In English.

00:03:06 Speaker 2

So that's where my where I started with. The army was at Camp Waters, Texas.

00:03:15 Speaker 2

And we had referred to have 16 weeks of basic training.

00:03:20 Speaker 2

And course you start out mostly with getting in physical shape.

00:03:25 Speaker 2

And then you start.

00:03:26 Speaker 2

They start teaching you about the rifle and about the grenade.

00:03:31 Speaker 2

So forth so.

00:03:31 Speaker 2

Different weapons you learn to use all these things and learn to shoot, yet become at least.

00:03:39 Speaker 2

Qualify on the rifle, which was the whim when they had the M ones at that time, and then at the end of 16 weeks.

00:03:48 Speaker 2

Why I was allowed to come by home, which I drew the train into Muskogee, OK?

00:03:55 Speaker 2

And I was going to catch a little.

00:03:58 Speaker 2

Plane a train next morning came out through Porter just to Milk Run you might.

00:04:01 Speaker 2

But that's that's long, about ten 11:00 at night. I had to wait. Next morning, I standing outside the depot over there and my school and his cab driver sitting there and got talking to him. He said.

00:04:12 Speaker 2

Do you need to go?

00:04:14 Speaker 2

And I told him, he said, well, you know, that bridge is.

00:04:16 Speaker 2

I said, yeah, I understand, he said. We have to go all the way around to OK, we said.

00:04:21 Speaker 2

You got any money? I.

00:04:22 Speaker 2

I've got signed on and he's get in.

00:04:25 Speaker 2

So he took me all the way around to Oklahoma, back West, into a place called Tallahassee and South for about 9, he said. This not close enough.

00:04:34 Speaker 2

Said you better not go any further because roads getting there and bad so.

00:04:39 Speaker 2

I walked from there to home and I stayed at home 10 days.

00:04:42 Speaker 2

Had 10 days in route.

00:04:45 Speaker 2

And the thing they gave you is travel orders. You can ride any plane. I mean any train bus or however you need to travel. Just walk on.

00:04:55 Speaker 2

No money.

00:04:56 Speaker 2

So I've come around there from my dad and the boys were picking cotton and off we went there for a few days and I had to catch that little plane and train one in back in Muskogee so I could leave and my dad said to me, said you.

00:05:10 Speaker 2

Any money I?

00:05:10 Speaker 2

Not any money, he said.

00:05:12 Speaker 2

I won't need any, I said.

00:05:13 Speaker 2

Don't smoke.

00:05:16 Speaker 2

He.

00:05:16 Speaker 2

Well, you might need some.

00:05:17 Speaker 2

Seemed like he had \$7.00 in his pocket.

00:05:21 Speaker 2

I caught the try at small train into Muskogee, OK and I caught Katie into St. Books.

00:05:29 Speaker 2

From from.

00:05:30 Speaker 2

Louis I caught train.

00:05:31 Speaker 2

I wound up in Baltimore, MD, on the.

00:05:36 Speaker 2

And from there I took a electric train out to.

00:05:39 Speaker 2

Meade, Maryland.

00:05:42 Speaker 2

And.

00:05:44 Speaker 2

Stayed there for four days nicely.

00:05:47 Speaker 2

Some.

00:05:48 Speaker 2

Don't change, you change your whole line of clothing and baggage 'cause you're going overseas, there's no doubt about. Then they we were there for a few days and.

00:05:58 Speaker 2

They moved to SEPTA Camp Shanks, New York.

00:06:02 Speaker 2

And while I was there, my brother was in the Air Force.

00:06:05 Speaker 2

Was stationed over New York City in the Air Force.

00:06:08 Speaker 2

I went over and visited him one couple nights and day and and they got I was not to leave 'cause. He was going to ship out.

00:06:16 Speaker 2

When one lead loaded up and got on the ferry went.

00:06:21 Speaker 2

New York.

00:06:23 Speaker 2

Wooded to Queen Mary.

00:06:25 Speaker 2

At least they sent me overseas first class.

00:06:29 Speaker 2

And.

00:06:30 Speaker 2

I went on right on the board what they call D deck, which is just level 4.

00:06:36 Speaker 2

I thought, well, I've been up all night practising.

00:06:40 Speaker 2

Think I'll just take a nap.

00:06:42 Speaker 2

When I woke up, there wasn't nothing inside the seagulls.

00:06:46 Speaker 2

They push that thing away in the dock and went out through the harbor.

00:06:50 Speaker 2

I was that.

00:06:52 Speaker 2

I went sleep and he really let the Queen run across and cook her five days and nights, which is fast for.

00:06:59 Speaker 2

Some of the Religionship took 30 days.

00:07:02 Speaker 2

We sailed in with at that time, the crane could land in New York City, Southampton and Liverpool. Southampton and Liverpool were full, so we sailed up the coast through iron, around iron and Scotland, through Anchorage, out in the river, up around the Glasgow, Scotland.

00:07:21 Speaker 2

And we went over.

00:07:22 Speaker 2

We were on the small radio ships from the Queen into the docks.

00:07:28 Speaker 2

Went into docks and walked right into a big building right into a train.

00:07:34 Speaker 2

Which was dark by that time we took off on that train down through Scotland, into Amman.

00:07:41 Speaker 2

And we stopped and wound up.

00:07:42 Speaker 2

Get out and March into.

00:07:44 Speaker 2

Take over some British Army barracks which were quonset up like things.

00:07:50 Speaker 2

Next few days, then we start walking. Always.

00:07:54 Speaker 2

And a few days would ride.

00:07:58 Speaker 2

Roundup in Southampton.

00:08:01 Speaker 2

This is, well, the guy going back there when we sailed out of New York City was October the 12th, 1944.

00:08:11 Speaker 2

And then we landed over in France about.

00:08:19 Speaker 2

At the 17th of October, maybe around the 20th of October, and they moved us off the beach there into.

00:08:27 Speaker 2

It repaired some railroads and things and finally got us up to they called them ripple deposit equals.

00:08:35 Speaker 2

And.

00:08:36 Speaker 2

Begin to move us up.

00:08:39 Speaker 2

Bound in some barracks of a German army barracks. And on November the 8th.

00:08:45 Speaker 2

I joined Company K, the 317th Infantry, which is one of the infantry regiments of the 80th Division.

00:08:52 Speaker 2

It had three 17th, 18th and 19th infant.

00:08:55 Speaker 1

But these weren't men you trained with.

00:08:57 Speaker 1

You were plugged into this existing regiment, is that correct?

00:09:01 Speaker 1

And replacement.

00:09:02 Speaker 2

Straight to it because they they took us up there, we took a train bus act.

00:09:08 Speaker 2

I mean a truck after God, dark and wound up.

00:09:14 Speaker 2

Got off and walked away and took us into an old bombed out little town like a.

00:09:19 Speaker 2

And when there's some like a barn or something dark, you know, you couldn't see anything. There was no lights.

00:09:26 Speaker 2

Finally, someone heard some guy say that.

00:09:30 Speaker 2

My name's major bars and ****. You're in the 317th Infantry Regiment, the 80th Division.

00:09:36 Speaker 2

And pretty soon, he said, there'll be somebody to call your name after.

00:09:40 Speaker 2

So pretty soon some guy called my name and he said come on, go with me.

00:09:44 Speaker 2

Took four of us out and put us in talks. Told us shoulders were to.

00:09:51 Speaker 1

Time.

00:09:51 Speaker 1

So are you telling me that they?

00:09:53 Speaker 1

They put you.

00:09:54 Speaker 1

A replacement into this regiment and then right?

00:09:58 Speaker 2

Into a foxhole to a functional.

00:10:00 Speaker 1

OK.

00:10:01 Speaker 2

That's that's how I had primary training done.

00:10:04 Speaker 2

War, Texas.

00:10:05 Speaker 3

Sure.

00:10:05 Speaker 2

But I'm getting to my.

00:10:09 Speaker 2

Real training.

00:10:10 Speaker 1

OK, I'm with you.

00:10:11 Speaker 2

It happened right up on the frontline and I had some good introductions though. John soldiers were damn good instructors.

00:10:18 Speaker 2

That's where I got my advanced training, but right down the voxel. I knew how to work my.

00:10:24 Speaker 2

One I knew some round tactics you know about firing from the belly and firing from the knee and all that stuff. But what you what we learned up there?

00:10:34 Speaker 2

You learned quick.

00:10:37 Speaker 2

And that's how I lasted when I did.

00:10:39 Speaker 2

We began to take.

00:10:42 Speaker 2

Scrapping for those.

00:10:43 Speaker 2

No, people won't shoot at you.

00:10:45 Speaker 2

Is all new to.

00:10:46 Speaker 2

I'm just a big old kid.

00:10:48 Speaker 2

And soon I'd like to say I'll learn quick.

00:10:51 Speaker 2

In.

00:10:53 Speaker 2

We crossed the cross, the Mosel River up into northern corner N northern France, right up close to Germany.

00:11:01 Speaker 2

Do you imagine the lines where it were on Saint of old and the town of Metz? And that's where I really got.

00:11:09 Speaker 2

Featured and I nurse it to be kind of stopped because the patent third arm is running out a few running out of goods supplies.

00:11:19 Speaker 2

And we go on patrols and plug in at the old Maginot and in the seafood lines, just patrolling, see what they were. And so they.

00:11:31 Speaker 2

Told us you guys thought out there some trucks out front here in which you fall into some trucks. Well, that time I was just, I think.

00:11:37 Speaker 2

I made Corp.

00:11:40 Speaker 2

We got on these trucks and it came dark and we begin to travel.

00:11:46 Speaker 2

Stop. You know, we're so slow. Trucks you don't stop.

00:11:52 Speaker 2

There you go.

00:11:54 Speaker 2

Chaplain, come behind his Jeep. When the guy said, hey, Partners said, where are we going?

00:11:59 Speaker 2

Said son. I don't.

00:12:00 Speaker 2

I just follow the crowd and he was right, that's all.

00:12:04 Speaker 2

So that's where we got our first.

00:12:08 Speaker 2

Take of the Bulls. But before we got into bulls over round in northern France, there you got into those old bead fields and those old apple orchards. And that's where they had to hang out in the drawing school.

00:12:22 Speaker 2

Eat those apples and beets.

00:12:24 Speaker 2

And we kept taking those things and those little towns. That's where we learned what he's talking about.

00:12:29 Speaker 2

Warfare Sword field rockets.

00:12:32 Speaker 2

And.

00:12:34 Speaker 2

There was something to hear, especially if you were young and new and hadn't heard.

00:12:39 Speaker 2

And witchcraft reunion with him for a few days. And then you imagine the line there. They had. They'd use those old tank trap thing over big concrete bumper like thing.

00:12:49 Speaker 2

Get behind them and boy, they shouldn't stand over little.

00:12:53 Speaker 2

Where you throw head on that. That was one of the best weapons we had hand grenades.

00:12:58 Speaker 2

And we'd take them out of those.

00:13:00 Speaker 2

We scrapped them around Earth for a while around around St. of old, and Mets was a town that was never captured in World War One, but the 3rd Army captured World War 2.

00:13:10 Speaker 2

We didn't see a 4th Army Division, which we were.

00:13:14 Speaker 2

In ground support then.

00:13:15 Speaker 2

And then I'd say then we moved into the.

00:13:20 Speaker 2

Southern tip of Poles and begin to slug north.

00:13:25 Speaker 2

And that's when our summer uniforms got very inadequate.

00:13:30 Speaker 2

Because it turned cold up there, gentleman, it turned cold.

00:13:34 Speaker 2

And finally, they got us up some overshoes.

00:13:39 Speaker 2

Actually, I'm not the guy who's had trench foot, frozen foot and the thing about the infantry is.

00:13:47 Speaker 2

Your homes out there.

00:13:49 Speaker 2

Where you dig the hole and that that's really.

00:13:52 Speaker 2

And they said, well, how did you ever get?

00:13:55 Speaker 2

I said no, but I kept from freezing to death. That's about all we can do.

00:14:01 Speaker 2

And we scrapped him around there on that southern flank till we, of course, you lose an awful lot of men.

00:14:07 Speaker 2

In fact, there's more people lost in the battle for bullets, and there's been lost wins war right now in that one battle. And we slowed it out there with them.

00:14:17 Speaker 2

I don't.

00:14:17 Speaker 2

I just a big old, healthy country boy. I've been raised in down country and I could take that cold weather and I could take that physical.

00:14:25 Speaker 2

Streets that it took day after day.

00:14:29 Speaker 2

Walking through the snow.

00:14:31 Speaker 2

Carrying you everything you own was on your back.

00:14:36 Speaker 2

And you had to take your food along with you, carry your equipment.

00:14:44 Speaker 2

And it took a toll on some of the younger guys and.

00:14:49 Speaker 2

It can't be so that.

00:14:51 Speaker 2

That come and go and come and go and.

00:14:53 Speaker 2

I'm just lucky I didn't get hit except.

00:14:57 Speaker 2

For this Purple Heart.

00:14:58 Speaker 2

I took a tree burst up.

00:15:00 Speaker 2

Those tall trees? I guess they were fur.

00:15:05 Speaker 2

And artillery or mortar fire hit one in the cannon. Really. Flying a piece that taugth me right across the eye up here and told me they loose and they sent me back. The aid station stitched it up and then that's where I got to burn hard.

00:15:18 Speaker 1

Could you go ahead and show them in the shout box please?

00:15:22 Speaker 1

It says tree verse probably 88mm fire.

00:15:25 Speaker 2

People didn't know was even mortified.

00:15:27 Speaker 1

Got it.

00:15:29

Hello.

00:15:32 Speaker 2

Oh, it's that little getting some wind.

00:15:36 Speaker 1

There you go.

00:15:36

Yeah.

00:15:41 Speaker 1

And so this is basically caught the brow bridge right here and splits you open.

00:15:47 Speaker 2

And they thought he.

00:15:49 Speaker 2

I went back to a little age station like thing and some doctor there and medicine put the stitch in it.

00:15:54 Speaker 2

Take a picture of that.

00:15:57 Speaker 2

They give me a shot of penicillin, I guess.

00:15:59 Speaker 2

They didn't have penicillin pumps, but.

00:16:02 Speaker 3

Now this strap, although it wasn't the one that hit you.

00:16:04 Speaker 2

You know that just wanted it hidden, but you know that stuff.

00:16:07 Speaker 2

When Hip grew up like this mushroom.

00:16:10 Speaker 2

That was coming back and hit me right around here. Of course I had one.

00:16:14 Speaker 2

Tell you all about them clothes.

00:16:16

OK.

00:16:20 Speaker 2

That's that.

00:16:20 Speaker 2

One of the worst things about the down the Bulls over.

00:16:25 Speaker 2

And like I say, as an infantryman, that's your home.

00:16:28 Speaker 1

What you do to to dig a foxhole with the frozen ground?

00:16:31 Speaker 1

You guys do.

00:16:33

Really. So you're.

00:16:35 Speaker 2

We had entrenching tools and you get down under that snow while it go pretty good.

00:16:40 Speaker 2

Went through the crust.

00:16:41 Speaker 2

Yeah, you.

00:16:42 Speaker 2

You had a little show and you could use a shoulder or you.

00:16:44 Speaker 2

Bend it use like.

00:16:47 Speaker 2

And here you dig in.

00:16:50 Speaker 2

That's where we stayed.

00:16:51 Speaker 1

What did you do to stay warm?

00:16:53 Speaker 2

Well, I'm from tell you about that I had on, you know what? GI underwear or they're, they're all wool top drawers and top.

00:17:01 Speaker 2

All long sleeve, but and then I had on Roger OD pants and shirts which are the old olive.

00:17:07 Speaker 2

Their wool.

00:17:08 Speaker 2

Hat on my fatigues.

00:17:10 Speaker 2

In my head of, I had a sweater on and I had to.

00:17:15 Speaker 3

See your jacket.

00:17:17 Speaker 2

Our overcoat and your ankle, that's what it took.

00:17:21 Speaker 2

Now I was going to say you don't get real.

00:17:23 Speaker 2

You keep from freezing to death, and that's what I do. And socks your feet get.

00:17:29 Speaker 2

Had no way to keep your feet dry.

00:17:32 Speaker 2

But I had enough known that the Jeep had come up in Washington law with some cow.

00:17:36 Speaker 2

That if.

00:17:37 Speaker 2

Could get up there. I'd get me so they'd have dry socks on that Jeep.

00:17:40 Speaker 2

Get me to a free pair of them, but in my.

00:17:43 Speaker 2

Knapsack and I kept my feet from getting frostbitten or taking trench foot. Some of the guys didn't.

00:17:50

Hmm.

00:17:50 Speaker 2

They.

00:17:51 Speaker 2

They get them. Get them.

00:17:52 Speaker 2

Or take French food.

00:17:54 Speaker 2

But I managed to weather that in.

00:17:57 Speaker 2

I had made.

00:17:59 Speaker 2

I had made the Buck Sergeant in.

00:18:03 Speaker 2

Now see. In other words, I had a squad out of IT company caving.

00:18:08 Speaker 2

One night theft was dug in up there on the hillside and then cold and rock.

00:18:12 Speaker 2

On the platoon Sergeant was loaded like man, by the way, if some Oklahoma at that time his name was forgotten. His name, Darko, he said. Man, get out of that hole.

00:18:22 Speaker 2

Down.

00:18:23 Speaker 2

Get the company command won't talk.

00:18:24 Speaker 2

You, I thought.

00:18:25 Speaker 2

What have I done now?

00:18:26 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:18:27 Speaker 2

But he said well.

00:18:31 Speaker 2

Sergeant soldiers that he's going.

00:18:32 Speaker 2

He was older, like guys and he's going home.

00:18:35 Speaker 2

You're going to have to take over the first platoon, I said.

00:18:38 Speaker 2

Goodness, captain, I said.

00:18:41 Speaker 2

You know you're talking too I.

00:18:42 Speaker 2

I'm a 19 year old farmer boy from Oklahoma.

00:18:46 Speaker 2

And I only been up here about 18 about 8 weeks on the front lines, he said.

00:18:50 Speaker 2

Let me tell you mine, he said.

00:18:52 Speaker 2

You're 19, said you're a year older than.

00:18:54 Speaker 2

Them and said you've been up here about 6.

00:18:57 Speaker 2

Weeks longer than most of them.

00:18:59 Speaker 2

And he said.

00:19:00 Speaker 2

This is the case where we have no choice.

00:19:02 Speaker 2

There is nobody.

00:19:05 Speaker 2

And I thought I told him, I said, he said.

00:19:06 Speaker 2

Now you take over the first baton and he says not full strength and everyone of.

00:19:10 Speaker 2

You never full strength.

00:19:13 Speaker 2

So he said, you take it over.

00:19:15 Speaker 2

And he said. Now let me tell you that I can't help you much because he said I've got three other two.

00:19:19 Speaker 2

But he said I can give a little bit of advice, said don't let those guys dig in and sleep too long.

00:19:26 Speaker 2

Freeze to death, said aroused man there and make them walk.

00:19:29 Speaker 2

And that's what I had to.

00:19:31 Speaker 2

I had to see that they had K rations. Had to see that they wasn't sick.

00:19:36 Speaker 2

I had to rush them out of that hole and all they ***** about it.

00:19:40 Speaker 2

Hmm. Hmm. Hmm.

00:19:42 Speaker 2

They threatened, but they realized then that what it was all about keep from freeing course you ever got down and got warm and comfortable. You free to death.

00:19:43 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:19:52 Speaker 2

You didn't realize you were freezing, but that was the story of the Battle of bulls was.

00:19:58 Speaker 2

It was the weather and but you know those guys in my platoon here, they were.

00:20:05 Speaker 2

Were all draftees.

00:20:07 Speaker 2

Might.

00:20:07 Speaker 2

I think we had one volunteer younger.

00:20:11 Speaker 2

We're all draftees and.

00:20:13 Speaker 2

They want, but fighting men they want.

00:20:16 Speaker 2

That's what they were, and we need they.

00:20:19 Speaker 2

They were good.

00:20:20 Speaker 2

I have to give it to them.

00:20:22 Speaker 2

Were the platoon.

00:20:23 Speaker 2

Just.

00:20:24 Speaker 2

I just laid them up there to the valley.

00:20:25 Speaker 2

Knew how to do it and would.

00:20:27 Speaker 2

With it.

00:20:28 Speaker 2

Some of I had. I had boys from California, from Texas, from Pennsylvania, from New York.

00:20:34 Speaker 2

Hadn't got a small this united.

00:20:36 Speaker 2

They were all drafted and some of these guys, even when I was a 19 year old.

00:20:42 Speaker 2

Married men they had gotten.

00:20:45 Speaker 2

Deferred for one and drafted.

00:20:47

Mm.

00:20:48 Speaker 2

Sent him up there on the front lines and I did the best I could with that. Captain, visor told me.

00:20:53 Speaker 2

Well, you just have to figure this thing out to.

00:20:56 Speaker 2

Said you've been up here long enough and I thought lots of times.

00:21:00 Speaker 2

Old.

00:21:01 Speaker 2

Lots of times I.

00:21:02 Speaker 2

Did I do the best I could?

00:21:07 Speaker 2

Did I keep these men as warm as I could?

00:21:09 Speaker 2

I.

00:21:11 Speaker 2

Job that I will being young and not knowing any better.

00:21:16 Speaker 2

I guess I did. All I can do.

00:21:20 Speaker 2

It.

00:21:22 Speaker 2

The we fought the moon, that bull was there for quite a while. And you know, when they begin to fall.

00:21:29 Speaker 2

That's when the battle really began. When they fall back and begin to dig in, they had to be took.

00:21:35 Speaker 2

Of.

00:21:35 Speaker 2

They wouldn't even.

00:21:36 Speaker 2

We're getting close to Germany. In fact, we're right at the German border.

00:21:40 Speaker 2

In Luxembourg, where we were.

00:21:42 Speaker 2

They begin to want to fight and plead me they did and they still had enough stuff to do it with.

00:21:49 Speaker 2

Now, one of their troops were what they called Volkstern or Peoples Army. Young guys and old men.

00:21:55 Speaker 2

But they've been well trained.

00:21:57 Speaker 2

And there was a push that we made there from the Bush.

00:22:00 Speaker 2

On out through the.

00:22:02 Speaker 2

Luxembourg into Germany and we could tell after a while they beginning to weaken it because they wouldn't hold those little towns like they did at first they.

00:22:13 Speaker 2

You're smoking amount are pretty good.

00:22:15 Speaker 2

Leave.

00:22:16 Speaker 2

And.

00:22:18 Speaker 2

Not we had.

00:22:21 Speaker 2

We had good Rifleman.

00:22:22 Speaker 2

That's all we were, but we had good.

00:22:26 Speaker 2

We had the M1 Duran, then we had the Browning automatic rifle.

00:22:30 Speaker 2

The nations in my brown star that bottom out that how I use my machine gun well.

00:22:36 Speaker 2

The machine gun they were talking about was Browning automatic.

00:22:39 Speaker 2

Rifle you wouldn't.

00:22:41 Speaker 2

And that's what we have mostly now over India.

00:22:44 Speaker 2

I.

00:22:45 Speaker 2

Was in the first baton over in the fourth baton. They had mortars and.

00:22:50 Speaker 2

Small air cooled machine guns, but the rest of them were just plain old rattleman, which substitutes show that of all the millions of people who served in in Europe, only 3% of them were front line.

00:23:04 Speaker 2

Had much loss.

00:23:06 Speaker 1

Towards the casualties were occurred.

00:23:07 Speaker 2

And and we finally got him moving. And it got so that they moving back so fast that we got to riding with them all on tanks or half tracks, whatever.

00:23:17 Speaker 2

Truck then slow down and renew after several pitch battles within the little towns that.

00:23:26 Speaker 2

We were getting close to the Ryan River.

00:23:28 Speaker 2

Have to be.

00:23:30 Speaker 2

And I had pretty good maps available to me, but they were terrible accurate.

00:23:37 Speaker 2

They didn't exactly tell you where you.

00:23:39 Speaker 2

They gave you numbers of hills, you know, and where you weren't.

00:23:43 Speaker 2

But we find that when they told us we're getting close to Ryan River, we're going to have to cross.

00:23:52 Speaker 2

We did some riding always and begin to March and he went by some bunch of boats.

00:23:59 Speaker 2

Higgins.

00:24:02 Speaker 2

And we knew.

00:24:03 Speaker 2

So they said, yeah, we're going.

00:24:05 Speaker 2

Have to cross.

00:24:07 Speaker 2

So Captain Bynum, come up there and he.

00:24:10 Speaker 2

Mom said you get around. Get down here. Said they'll show you where to.

00:24:13 Speaker 2

So you get in that first between the boat and get across that river and he said we don't know what's over there.

00:24:20 Speaker 2

But he said if you get across, you get up and say get away from that river said. I can't tell you where to go and what.

00:24:27 Speaker 2

Because I don't know.

00:24:29 Speaker 2

But he said you get away from the river.

00:24:31 Speaker 2

Well, we took some artillery.

00:24:33 Speaker 2

That's about all this. Before we left the doctor.

00:24:37 Speaker 2

What they did, they backed up. I guess this guy was from the Navy.

00:24:39 Speaker 2

Right in the rear end of that thing.

00:24:42 Speaker 2

Back in this place and had.

00:24:44 Speaker 2

Threw it in.

00:24:45 Speaker 2

We won't put the.

00:24:47 Speaker 2

Cream right in there. I got the last number that he brought.

00:24:50 Speaker 2

Hump up.

00:24:53 Speaker 2

And it rhymes off of swift. Instead of going straight across, he went across like this.

00:25:00 Speaker 2

And when he got over to me, he just did like that and down with that ramp. And he told me said you only got a few seconds to get out of there. And so after Bob bailed out, we the guys up from, come on, let's go. Let's go.

00:25:11 Speaker 2

And he said, where are we going, man?

00:25:14 Speaker 2

All I could tell them was follow me. I didn't.

00:25:18 Speaker 2

I didn't have a man. I didn't have any instructions.

00:25:21 Speaker 2

The whole thing I could say to him, I wasn't going to say, I don't know, I said to follow me.

00:25:26 Speaker 2

So we scattered around after him, bouncing with old wooden like places there and got away. And after the other platoons come across where the company commander came across and it began to get dark.

00:25:37 Speaker 2

He said when you dug in up there to the other dug in, they'd be fine.

00:25:41 Speaker 2

He said I need a patrol to go up here about a mile on the.

00:25:44 Speaker 2

Road erosion is a crossroads, apparently.

00:25:47 Speaker 2

Know what's in the crossroads?

00:25:49 Speaker 2

Well, you know, he'd say sand.

00:25:52 Speaker 2

I didn't sand go.

00:25:53 Speaker 2

Why sand those guys out there and get them killed when they didn't know what to do and took them?

00:25:59 Speaker 2

I had a guy named Elmer Hess.

00:26:01 Speaker 2

Was staff.

00:26:02 Speaker 2

He was in German and he was an older man.

00:26:04 Speaker 2

Was my.

00:26:05 Speaker 2

He would take over the flee when I went.

00:26:09 Speaker 2

And it's it's a matter that you had to figure this thing out and and we went up there and it took four men with me.

00:26:17 Speaker 2

And his crossroads there.

00:26:20 Speaker 2

They call them a guest house it sound.

00:26:23 Speaker 2

A little Roadhouse. What he was and I told him. I said to you guys go around on that side, just building 2 of you go inside and I'm going up this road right here on this side of the build.

00:26:32 Speaker 2

So I stepped down.

00:26:33 Speaker 2

They went and.

00:26:35

I.

00:26:35 Speaker 2

Stepped around here and I just kind of standing behind a little.

00:26:38 Speaker 2

Building like thing and I heard one coming from.

00:26:42 Speaker 2

Then you walked right by me.

00:26:45 Speaker 2

Never saw me when I put I had a crease gun.

00:26:47 Speaker 2

Put that crease gun some.

00:26:48 Speaker 2

Knew who I was.

00:26:51 Speaker 2

He said.

00:26:51 Speaker 2

Come around and I said very conscious.

00:26:52

Hmm.

00:26:53 Speaker 2

Said yeah.

00:26:54 Speaker 2

And he.

00:26:55 Speaker 2

He was looking for me.

00:26:59 Speaker 2

So this now took him back and told cap we got one prison guy and he said well, no, there's nobody in there, just some women. So well, they're having kind of a little party in there or something.

00:27:11 Speaker 2

And so you guys can party answer the goat. So we took him back down there and they took him to, I guess he could get him some information.

00:27:13

OK.

00:27:19 Speaker 1

Hmm.

00:27:20 Speaker 2

If men on out, they we crossed the Rhine ever more or less a goose chase.

00:27:27 Speaker 2

They'd stop in the little old.

00:27:28 Speaker 2

You see them right there and they just small birds.

00:27:31 Speaker 2

Know they call them.

00:27:32 Speaker 2

Call them.

00:27:33 Speaker 2

They call them dorfs and birds and to her and.

00:27:40 Speaker 2

We'd rouse them out of there and.

00:27:41 Speaker 1

What's the tactics? Would you use to take a small town?

00:27:44 Speaker 1

Would you approach take some town?

00:27:47 Speaker 2

For instance, we send the edge of this stream. We knew this little town was down here.

00:27:52 Speaker 2

And again, Kevin Barnett told me said we can't take that town money.

00:27:57 Speaker 2

Right on through the town out there. That's a crossroads. And say we know there are. There are one passed away up or passed that crossroad.

00:28:03 Speaker 2

Said if we can take that town, get that crossroad, said we.

00:28:07 Speaker 2

We'll stop them so they don't have to.

00:28:09 Speaker 2

The other.

00:28:09 Speaker 2

Way so.

00:28:10 Speaker 2

Come up there and they can see.

00:28:13 Speaker 2

Yes, I said.

00:28:14 Speaker 2

Told.

00:28:15 Speaker 2

I said yes, I'm going to take one squad. I'm going to go right into your honorable right, straight to that crossroads, I.

00:28:21 Speaker 2

You take 3 Squad 3 squads and go around, come up to the center of it and see what you can find what he did.

00:28:27 Speaker 2

We went up and we took the Cross Road without firing the.

00:28:29 Speaker 2

It evidently they knew we were coming and they had gotten down some of them. If they get rid of those s s officer, a lot of time they wouldn't fight you.

00:28:42 Speaker 2

Anyhow, we didn't have to fire.

00:28:43 Speaker 2

We took that town, but that's how we did.

00:28:45 Speaker 2

That's I had. I talked showing us that'd be some fire in there.

00:28:48 Speaker 2

We had them spread out one.

00:28:51 Speaker 2

You take a.

00:28:54 Speaker 2

Platoon, the.

00:28:56 Speaker 2

All of them got ran rifles and a couple of brownie automatic rifles. You can put down.

00:29:01 Speaker 2

Awful lot.

00:29:01 Speaker 2

Lead an awful lot of lead.

00:29:05 Speaker 2

And if would he run into any real friend place, we could send your owner back, had 4th batting coach, mortar shells.

00:29:12 Speaker 2

Here and there.

00:29:13 Speaker 2

That's how you did it and once.

00:29:18 Speaker 2

He said kept by.

00:29:22 Speaker 2

Open field that past he.

00:29:23 Speaker 2

He's moving field and some woods, a person that they've got machine gun messed up. Earth run to the hill coming out of.

00:29:30 Speaker 2

Can you get a Fern? See out.

00:29:31 Speaker 2

Close enough, we.

00:29:32 Speaker 2

See how to get that out of there.

00:29:34 Speaker 2

Said, well, take a look at it.

00:29:36 Speaker 2

So I picked out four guys.

00:29:39 Speaker 2

And three took three guys with me.

00:29:42 Speaker 2

I told my two young gardeners in.

00:29:44 Speaker 2

So let's take a young guy with said he ain't singing this.

00:29:47 Speaker 2

Bring him.

00:29:49 Speaker 2

So we went up the edge of that woods and nerves just open feel and they cut loose that machine gun.

00:29:55 Speaker 2

Will be it.

00:29:56 Speaker 2

Kind of a little dish like thing down I said. Hey, Garcia, I said. Did you see where that machine gunfire comes?

00:30:03 Speaker 2

It did.

00:30:04 Speaker 2

I swim over.

00:30:05 Speaker 2

All left here is a.

00:30:07 Speaker 2

Little Crump of.

00:30:08 Speaker 2

A little bit of knowledge and I'm going to make a room for that and said when he turns that machine gun on me, you guys get him off of me.

00:30:15 Speaker 2

So sure enough, he when I took all he he turned on and he I could hear them on M1 just talking that they knew where he was at.

00:30:22 Speaker 1

So while they focus the machine that are focused on you, they went and eliminated machine gun with them on fire.

00:30:26 Speaker 2

Yeah, well, then, yeah, 'cause they was in.

00:30:29 Speaker 2

A dugout, but.

00:30:30 Speaker 2

Had some dogs in there, but they.

00:30:31 Speaker 2

They didn't get to kill them, but those floors are flying around.

00:30:35 Speaker 2

Got that machine gun off me.

00:30:37 Speaker 2

You know, I said.

00:30:40 Speaker 2

You OK?

00:30:40 Speaker 2

Yeah, we found us with reload.

00:30:43 Speaker 2

So they all reloaded.

00:30:46 Speaker 2

I said.

00:30:47 Speaker 2

Now there's right in front of that. Proper bushes were on that I said up there a little ways is known.

00:30:51 Speaker 2

Gonna make a room for that. I.

00:30:53 Speaker 2

I'd get me pretty close to him, I.

00:30:55 Speaker 2

No, you guys get him off me. I said when he turns on and I told him, I said I better hear some firing. I want to.

00:31:01 Speaker 2

This grenade back that way.

00:31:07 Speaker 2

I.

00:31:07

Yeah.

00:31:07 Speaker 2

Then I went to get him out, but he was evidently not very good with that machine gun.

00:31:12 Speaker 2

Shooting short all the.

00:31:13 Speaker 2

Time. But I made that Dave up. Very nice.

00:31:16 Speaker 2

Throw me behind and I just love that grenade where I knew I couldn't quite get it in.

00:31:20 Speaker 2

With them.

00:31:21 Speaker 1

But I just let you see them.

00:31:21 Speaker 2

Directly there.

00:31:22 Speaker 2

Oh yeah, yeah, I could see.

00:31:24 Speaker 2

But I got a close mouth that they come.

00:31:26 Speaker 2

Out of there.

00:31:27 Speaker 2

There's three of them in there, 2 of.

00:31:29 Speaker 2

Came up out of there.

00:31:31 Speaker 2

One of them broke the run towards him, got shot in and we took them two back with us and I told Kevin about it.

00:31:36 Speaker 2

Well, she guns up.

00:31:38 Speaker 2

One on the first thing though. Before I went back, I told that young guy.

00:31:41 Speaker 2

I said tell you know, where you came from, he said.

00:31:44 Speaker 2

I know I.

00:31:45 Speaker 2

Can you take these two prisoners back?

00:31:47 Speaker 2

Yeah, I can take them. I said, well, I said, well, let me tell you, I said.

00:31:50 Speaker 2

You get them out there about 1520 feet in front of you.

00:31:54 Speaker 2

And I said, don't don't let him turn on talk.

00:31:56 Speaker 2

Just make him.

00:31:57 Speaker 2

Walking he.

00:31:58 Speaker 2

I can handle it, I said.

00:31:59 Speaker 2

You'd be sure nothing.

00:32:00 Speaker 2

So he.

00:32:01 Speaker 2

He took him back.

00:32:03 Speaker 2

He said.

00:32:04 Speaker 2

Pulled him back down there and took him down to the company.

00:32:08 Speaker 2

Where'd you guys get these?

00:32:09 Speaker 2

You get these to.

00:32:11 Speaker 2

I saw them on the fair. He sent me down here, he said. What he tell you to do with them?

00:32:15 Speaker 2

So he told me to bring them back to Hessen and bring them down.

00:32:18 Speaker 2

And he said, well, he said you did all right. I said, what do you do?

00:32:22 Speaker 2

He said he told me to keep mounting for him in, say, give me a troubleshooting.

00:32:27 Speaker 2

Should you tell you were to shoot him today?

00:32:29

Hello.

00:32:32 Speaker 2

This kid, though, Garcia said.

00:32:36 Speaker 2

You scared that?

00:32:38 Speaker 2

That's why he said you, he thought.

00:32:39 Speaker 2

Won't fight hanging me back.

00:32:42 Speaker 2

I think they were.

00:32:44 Speaker 2

I'll tell you, they they were not to say they're all draftees. And the main thing was they was there for a purpose.

00:32:50 Speaker 2

Wanted to go home.

00:32:52 Speaker 2

And this is how you went on.

00:32:53 Speaker 1

So does it sound like any discipline problem sounds like the men do what they were told?

00:32:58 Speaker 2

I went into one night with them. Little 10 mounds get into a little town. They're way over in Germany. A bunch of them ganged up in a room there.

00:33:08 Speaker 2

Runner come up and say money going have to move out of here, said we going to get to.

00:33:12 Speaker 2

Down here to company headquarters. So we're going home and the whole company will move.

00:33:17 Speaker 2

So I.

00:33:18 Speaker 2

In there big enough that's going to get me up.

00:33:22 Speaker 2

When I was in months.

00:33:23 Speaker 2

One of these days I said yeah, but not today. Let's go.

00:33:27 Speaker 2

Oh, that's right.

00:33:29

Yeah.

00:33:30 Speaker 2

That I met one of them back at the reunion. Oh, fifty years later, he said you.

00:33:37 Speaker 2

He said I look like I in the morning, get that hole down deep enough that I get compliments.

00:33:42 Speaker 2

Come on, let's go.

00:33:45 Speaker 2

I.

00:33:45 Speaker 2

Well, I'll tell you.

00:33:46 Speaker 2

I don't lift you there, I said them in the sniper club, striker, he said.

00:33:51 Speaker 2

I understand he.

00:33:52 Speaker 2

I knew what you did.

00:33:54

But they were.

00:33:55 Speaker 2

Good boys and that's no, I didn't have any discipline enough trouble with them at all.

00:33:59 Speaker 1

No. Well, after you guys crossed the Rhine and you said it's kind of a goose chase. Did was that?

00:34:00

Run.

00:34:06 Speaker 1

You guys basically chase them until the end of the war.

00:34:09 Speaker 1

Mean.

00:34:09 Speaker 1

What happened after that?

00:34:11 Speaker 2

Well, we chased them over through.

00:34:13 Speaker 2

Don't know.

00:34:13 Speaker 2

You guys heard the word effort, effort trying to hear been two or three years ago. They had a killing over in a high school.

00:34:21 Speaker 2

Well, we captured the town of Irford.

00:34:23 Speaker 2

The last you might.

00:34:24 Speaker 2

Good scrap that we had and they had a roof off of a sticker, but it's about out of the business because artillery firing took it apart. But.

00:34:35 Speaker 2

At that time I had picked up a first Lieutenant.

00:34:38 Speaker 2

We're supposed to have an officer with.

00:34:42 Speaker 2

Lieutenant Morse, where he came from, I don't know.

00:34:44 Speaker 2

He's good old guy.

00:34:46 Speaker 2

You're in, he.

00:34:46 Speaker 1

Mm.

00:34:47 Speaker 2

Mama, take a squad down on this end of that.

00:34:50

I.

00:34:52 Speaker 2

Airport base and you take one.

00:34:56 Speaker 2

So I took that guys with me and I went up the little basket box and I climbed pointed box and got.

00:35:01 Speaker 2

On the dock.

00:35:04 Speaker 2

They followed me and I saw this one coming out of the big hangar and he ran, got in behind some little boxes.

00:35:09 Speaker 2

He didn't see me, but he sold. Lieutenant Morris didn't.

00:35:13 Speaker 2

You had a normal home mortgage rifle.

00:35:17 Speaker 2

Wife I've flown from here. Down there straight to him. He didn't see me and he got that rifle up there.

00:35:22 Speaker 2

Don't live at 10.

00:35:23 Speaker 2

I gave him a Bursa that.

00:35:26 Speaker 2

Grease.

00:35:27 Speaker 2

It's a 45 Cali.

00:35:29 Speaker 2

Ber he let go of that. Let go of that rifle.

00:35:30

That was it.

00:35:35 Speaker 2

Morrissey was shooting about. I said you didn't see him, he said. No. I said I get that guy over here, these shooting, shooting and that was over. There was pretty good sized town and the rest of the country went through town.

00:35:46 Speaker 2

And.

00:35:48 Speaker 2

We gained up around there and they knew that by straight on down the road around a complete curve like that. There's another little town over.

00:35:58 Speaker 2

And he wanted to.

00:35:59 Speaker 2

They want to send a patrol route and see if what was in that town.

00:36:02 Speaker 2

I said I'll take.

00:36:03 Speaker 2

He said no, I'm becoming more so.

00:36:05 Speaker 2

Want you to.

00:36:06 Speaker 2

We said we might have to take that town tonight and.

00:36:08 Speaker 2

I want you here.

00:36:10 Speaker 2

So we sent the Mexican Sergeant and they walked right out across an open field and walked right into a nest of men.

00:36:15 Speaker 2

Lost one man.

00:36:17 Speaker 2

They killed 1 caption.

00:36:19 Speaker 2

But we got those two back, of course, to kill one. We couldn't do anything about.

00:36:23 Speaker 2

That bothered me all my life because.

00:36:26 Speaker 2

That if I had went ahead and took that squad, I wouldn't have walked right out in the open field like he did because he didn't have that much experience.

00:36:35 Speaker 2

Maybe.

00:36:36 Speaker 2

I don't know.

00:36:39 Speaker 2

Order some orders.

00:36:41 Speaker 2

Anyhow, that night we did take that little town and he brought one Trone trim General Sherman tank up and we took off about walking right up beside it, and I can talk to the.

00:36:54 Speaker 2

If the.

00:36:55 Speaker 2

Sergeant up there and.

00:36:57 Speaker 2

Victim bouncing. Hold her up, I said.

00:36:58 Speaker 2

I see a white flag coming.

00:37:01 Speaker 2

Look right out. Down there. Come this.

00:37:03 Speaker 2

He was the burger master mayor.

00:37:06 Speaker 2

He's reading that German at me and I said, yeah, yeah.

00:37:09 Speaker 2

I.

00:37:10 Speaker 2

Said.

00:37:11 Speaker 2

And so it's 99, all of them's gone.

00:37:16 Speaker 2

And he said.

00:37:18 Speaker 2

Artillery bitter, please.

00:37:21 Speaker 2

He didn't want to tank Shields, OK.

00:37:25 Speaker 2

History, bran. So tell him we're going in there. And if we hear any firing, there's any shell that said we'll get him some artillery heist. Told him he saw. No.

00:37:34 Speaker 2

So went on in and they had left out, but they left those two guys there. They captured. They were there.

00:37:40

Hmm.

00:37:41 Speaker 2

And we got them back and that's that's about the last scrap that we had because boy, they were coming in by the Groves with their hands over their heads.

00:37:50 Speaker 1

Faith wars over.

00:37:53 Speaker 2

Then what they do, you just throw their helmets away and put their hands over their heads like this.

00:37:58 Speaker 2

In.

00:37:59 Speaker 2

That's about the end of it, we.

00:38:03 Speaker 2

At that time, we had went.

00:38:04 Speaker 2

Enough east.

00:38:05 Speaker 2

That we were almost to the Elba.

00:38:07 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:38:08 Speaker 2

That's when they pulled us back after that and took us S took the 3rd Army South.

00:38:14 Speaker 2

To get them away.

00:38:15 Speaker 2

The Russians.

00:38:16 Speaker 2

We went into Bavaria.

00:38:19 Speaker 2

Amen to Austria.

00:38:21 Speaker 2

To block the Russians down there, that's all we did.

00:38:23 Speaker 2

Just threw up on.

00:38:25 Speaker 2

Stuff down in dear Salzburg, Austria.

00:38:29

In.

00:38:31 Speaker 2

Didn't.

00:38:31 Speaker 2

We didn't bother me for the wars on and those German prisoners came out of the, I guess, out of Italy and through those mountains there in this mover, down through to the Alps in Bavaria, they called it, oh, by the hundreds. Come in there and move flat car.

00:38:45 Speaker 2

The foot.

00:38:45 Speaker 2

Everything else trying to get on.

00:38:47 Speaker 2

Hmm.

00:38:47 Speaker 2

And that's where the war ended for me in the 80s division. And we went over from there. We went over into Czechoslovakia and stayed about.

00:38:58 Speaker 2

60 days.

00:39:00 Speaker 2

And that was the last.

00:39:03 Speaker 2

Duty I did with the 80th Division.

00:39:05 Speaker 2

Came back around Frankfort.

00:39:08 Speaker 2

And the 80th came home and I didn't have enough points and I was too young, so they sent me back over into East Germany with 102nd Division.

00:39:17 Speaker 2

For just occupation duty. And I went back over to in East German town called Mark Fredericks.

00:39:27 Speaker 2

Side of town and all I did was.

00:39:31 Speaker 2

But while I was there.

00:39:34 Speaker 2

This young.

00:39:35 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:39:36 Speaker 2

First arbitrary look like you don't me in high school.

00:39:40 Speaker 2

He asked me one day and said, say, mom, he said.

00:39:43 Speaker 2

I've got some furl deals to Italy, he said. Most of these guys went through it said you want to go? Why not?

00:39:50 Speaker 2

I'm not doing anything.

00:39:52 Speaker 2

He was all paid for.

00:39:54 Speaker 2

It took us by I said, yeah, I'll go. Some took us over to a place called Books, which is right at the corner of France and Germany and Switzerland.

00:40:03 Speaker 2

Took a Swiss plane through Switzerland down into Rome and they took over a big.

00:40:10 Speaker 2

They call it.

00:40:12 Speaker 2

Any sports plats made GI bunks and earn the Swimboards right?

00:40:16 Speaker 2

A place.

00:40:17 Speaker 2

So we spent 10 days in room just.

00:40:22

Nice.

00:40:23 Speaker 2

I got with two or three more guys.

00:40:24 Speaker 2

Didn't know.

00:40:25 Speaker 2

They were from resident headboard.

00:40:27 Speaker 2

We'll be running this one those horse and buggy life affair and this guy drive us over Rome.

00:40:32

I.

00:40:33 Speaker 2

Big time operation, baby. He took us around the Coliseum near was palace and up close the Vatican.

00:40:39 Speaker 2

Wouldn't let you go into Vatican and.

00:40:42 Speaker 2

We saw wrong.

00:40:44 Speaker 2

I'll tell you while I was there, that's one thing about I see that I got out of being in the army.

00:40:49 Speaker 2

I was in at least nine different countries.

00:40:53 Speaker 2

In Scotland, England, France, Luxembourg, Belgium, Germany.

00:41:01 Speaker 2

Austria, Czechoslovakia, switz.

00:41:05 Speaker 2

On.

00:41:06 Speaker 2

And Italy, a 10 of them.

00:41:07 Speaker 2

Course the.

00:41:08 Speaker 1

Quality of the accommodations varied quite wildly from a dirt hole to a place with swimming pools.

00:41:12

Yeah.

00:41:15 Speaker 2

Well, you know, they say the kids had asked me in my classes, drawing all that during the Battle of Bull. And what did you do for a bath? What's that?

00:41:26 Speaker 2

Where you know when? No way.

00:41:28 Speaker 3

How did you get your Bronze star?

00:41:31 Speaker 2

That that was that the edge of Jeremy coming out. They locked him up and that's when I had them guys usually one of my best men up there and I said guys go back and get the brownie automatic rifle.

00:41:46 Speaker 2

Going to stop this.

00:41:48 Speaker 2

So they come at us.

00:41:49 Speaker 2

Some die hard troops, and I was.

00:41:53 Speaker 2

Brownie Automotics at each end of our firing line and of course with two of them, what they do, they help unbelievers 16 round the clip that take two clips and take them together and do dropping, clipping, giving 32 rounds. And boy, that's things in fire and they.

00:42:08 Speaker 2

Have any idea what they'd run into?

00:42:11 Speaker 2

So they didn't come to awful close, and that's what they're talking about right there is how I placed those brownie old mags at the each end of our firing line there and they thought, man, we had a machine gun or two up there and that's what they looked.

00:42:22 Speaker 2

Up as a machine gun, actually around the automatic rifle.

00:42:26 Speaker 2

But they should be fully automatic.

00:42:30 Speaker 2

And that's.

00:42:32

Well.

00:42:32 Speaker 2

The.

00:42:35 Speaker 2

Then that occupation dealer, when Czech, Slovakia. Well, that was quite an experience.

00:42:41 Speaker 2

Of course not suing the 80th.

00:42:43 Speaker 2

And we just woken around here. Of course they were bringing in their own troops.

00:42:47 Speaker 2

Fact they moved in right down the road from us.

00:42:49 Speaker 2

Troops.

00:42:51 Speaker 2

So one of the guys, he said, hey, mom, he.

00:42:54 Speaker 2

Change we'd get into one of these towns and pilots and pilots and checklists. Rocket big thing.

00:43:00 Speaker 2

That's well, yeah, I've seen one of them. So I went down. We didn't.

00:43:04 Speaker 2

Didn't take them.

00:43:06 Speaker 2

Ask for no passes.

00:43:08 Speaker 2

Reverse the past so.

00:43:12 Speaker 2

Missile guns missile named trendy Trend be a real nice guns trend. We're going to take a little trip into pills and I said we'd be gone all day.

00:43:20 Speaker 2

Might need some he.

00:43:22 Speaker 2

I'll have a clue. Fixture some sandwiches.

00:43:24 Speaker 2

So he fixed us up.

00:43:25 Speaker 2

We took off a foot.

00:43:27 Speaker 2

Some civilian come along with a little video.

00:43:30 Speaker 2

Seated car. We piled on that thing.

00:43:32 Speaker 2

Took us in the pills.

00:43:35 Speaker 2

In there and.

00:43:37 Speaker 2

One guy's named Tom Shepard is in North Carolina.

00:43:42 Speaker 2

Well, he didn't get a ban for his.

00:43:44 Speaker 2

Watch my other jewelry store. He walked in there and this girl came out to the boy. She was well dressed.

00:43:51 Speaker 2

Had a nice brown suit with high heels and old good looking old shepherds and like this.

00:43:57

And she said.

00:43:59 Speaker 2

Sir, is something wrong? He said.

00:44:01 Speaker 2

Man, I don't.

00:44:01

Hey.

00:44:04 Speaker 2

Oh boy, there's some clams, but favorite.

00:44:06 Speaker 2

Tell you one thing, the.

00:44:10 Speaker 2

Looked at our head and the things that we did were all after those guys in that platoon right there they were.

00:44:17 Speaker 2

Were the best. They were just guys from home, some of them. That one guy was a singer and a nightclub.

00:44:25 Speaker 2

Near Boston, one of them was an old man out of Hancock, MD, and his wife had a lovebirds and this one guy, and he and his wife and boyfriend making shades and stuff down in Alabama.

00:44:38 Speaker 2

Some of the missionaries from California, they're from Texas.

00:44:41 Speaker 2

Mexico.

00:44:43 Speaker 2

And we were just all in the world.

00:44:44 Speaker 2

Had one guy from North Dakota.

00:44:47 Speaker 1

How how well.

00:44:48 Speaker 1

The replacement system work in your opinion.

00:44:50 Speaker 2

Well, you know, I don't see how they kept up as well as they did.

00:44:54 Speaker 2

Realize.

00:44:55

It.

00:44:56 Speaker 2

All this movement of troops and everything else we did was some guy sitting there on the old manual pipeline.

00:45:03 Speaker 2

That's all they had.

00:45:05 Speaker 2

And this I don't see how they kept up with, I'll be honest with you. My hats off to them.

00:45:11 Speaker 2

How they kept our supplies running and all that stuff they hadn't known.

00:45:16 Speaker 2

No.

00:45:17 Speaker 2

Except that old manual type.

00:45:19

Do you?

00:45:19 Speaker 1

Some questions about what occurred earlier.

00:45:23 Speaker 1

Do you remember your first combat?

00:45:25 Speaker 2

The first company.

00:45:26 Speaker 1

When you first.

00:45:27 Speaker 1

Were getting shot at could.

00:45:28

Yeah.

00:45:28 Speaker 1

You describe that what you felt.

00:45:31 Speaker 2

Well, this guy took us out there and it's dark and said dig in here. Well, there's a.

00:45:39 Speaker 2

Rolling Hill like that in this town where we've said it here instead of him taking from this set just over the Crest that hill dug in and well, the next morning they could see us only begin.

00:45:53 Speaker 2

Where the naval workers rockets came in there.

00:45:57 Speaker 2

And you get in those holes and they quit.

00:45:59 Speaker 2

And that's where I got my first taste of enemy fire right there.

00:46:04 Speaker 2

And he comes out of there.

00:46:05 Speaker 2

That ain't he's not. I'm going to have to move. You see, I'm just about probably still going to have to take you off down here and put in. Dig in down here. Said we.

00:46:12 Speaker 2

This line is off a week.

00:46:14 Speaker 2

So I went off down there and I got dug down just about deep enough to lay down in there and they saw me for a mortar beginning through mortar fire at me.

00:46:24 Speaker 2

So I just.

00:46:25 Speaker 2

I got in what I could, they quit.

00:46:29 Speaker 2

And then get a little bit dark while I dug them down.

00:46:32 Speaker 2

I just got down in there and I thought, boy, this is going to be a long night way down here by myself. And he came down here about 11:00 at night. If he was a Buxar and he's from West Virginia named Smith.

00:46:44 Speaker 2

Said man, come on down.

00:46:45 Speaker 2

I said we're going to pull back in that we'd bend them. Holes are 6 days and nights said we're going to pull back this little Old Town for some reason.

00:46:53 Speaker 2

The most funny thing when we moved out of town and we were left down through little holes, were digging right across.

00:47:01 Speaker 2

Where I never did see any of them. I guess they left out there.

00:47:05 Speaker 2

First encounter I had with him and then later that day while he was moving through this town, there was some some kind of manufacturing business there, had some big steel racks and they got some snipers up there.

00:47:16 Speaker 2

Got shooting at some of the guys, some of us around.

00:47:19 Speaker 2

Racks and.

00:47:20 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:47:22 Speaker 2

I think that sometimes if you waited, it just disappeared.

00:47:27 Speaker 2

Time to change and a deal like that. I can remember when someone Lieutenant kept sticking his head up for one.

00:47:34 Speaker 2

Thought it was a little company.

00:47:36 Speaker 2

Well, they got shooting him close enough. He finally decided what nail company?

00:47:40 Speaker 2

But we stayed there for a while and the workers came up with, move out and then.

00:47:44 Speaker 2

Out over.

00:47:44 Speaker 2

Little snipers to shoot from and we never did find them.

00:47:47 Speaker 1

Were snipers a constant problem?

00:47:49 Speaker 2

This motion really.

00:47:50 Speaker 2

Yeah, they were.

00:47:51 Speaker 2

Were good.

00:47:53 Speaker 2

Yeah, I got my advanced training.

00:47:56 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:47:56 Speaker 2

They were good.

00:47:57 Speaker 1

What sort of things did you learn out in the field?

00:48:00 Speaker 1

Field that they didn't teach you in boot to help you survive.

00:48:05 Speaker 2

Well, of course they didn't.

00:48:06 Speaker 2

But when I way I survived over there and the Bulls was.

00:48:11 Speaker 2

To keep my feet dry because I'm doing infantryman, that's all you've got is those seat.

00:48:17 Speaker 2

That's your main mode of transportation, and I took good care of my feet and I've still got good feet. However, my I've got some work done on.

00:48:26 Speaker 2

But I've still got good feet and I've been mighty lucky, but.

00:48:33 Speaker 2

War actually ended there in.

00:48:36 Speaker 2

I'll go back to that part of right now.

00:48:38 Speaker 2

We could tell it was about over.

00:48:41 Speaker 2

This is a funny thing.

00:48:42 Speaker 2

I had to take the whole platoon on time out tonight to a road fourth woman's town. But just Dougie.

00:48:52 Speaker 2

And you never knew.

00:48:53 Speaker 2

Or 1 so long about 3:00 and 1:00 I slept.

00:48:57 Speaker 2

Little.

00:48:58 Speaker 2

In fact, one of the guys asked me one time. He came back to see me afterwards Monday.

00:49:02 Speaker 2

And you never sleep, I said.

00:49:03 Speaker 2

I heard his cheek coming.

00:49:07 Speaker 2

And rolled up out there and the.

00:49:09 Speaker 2

Stopped him.

00:49:11 Speaker 2

And I heard this roar say, who's in charge up here?

00:49:14 Speaker 2

He's got money. Sergeant Mungek, get him.

00:49:17 Speaker 2

Here.

00:49:18 Speaker 2

Went out there and was the battalion commander. Major Black wrote us.

00:49:24 Speaker 2

Good guy, he.

00:49:26 Speaker 2

Momma, what you doing up?

00:49:27 Speaker 2

I said Major, I have no idea.

00:49:29 Speaker 2

Just been left out.

00:49:30 Speaker 2

Totally get up here and dig and hold, he said.

00:49:32 Speaker 2

You're doing a good job, he.

00:49:34 Speaker 2

Let me clue you in on something he said that.

00:49:37 Speaker 2

We think this thing's coming to an end, so just try to hold out. And I said, well, of course I can always use some more, man, he said. We could all use more men.

00:49:47 Speaker 2

I told him. I said, well, the last few I've got just been these kids that send up here.

00:49:52 Speaker 2

He said well.

00:49:54 Speaker 2

That's all we've.

00:49:55 Speaker 2

Got.

00:49:55 Speaker 2

He started leaving, he said.

00:49:57 Speaker 2

Man, he.

00:49:58 Speaker 2

How old are?

00:49:58 Speaker 2

I said I'm 19, he.

00:50:00 Speaker 2

I haven't seen you anymore. Kids up here.

00:50:04 Speaker 2

I got me smart when he was.

00:50:07 Speaker 2

I never noticed how it sounded to me.

00:50:10 Speaker 1

Your kid yourself, right?

00:50:12 Speaker 2

So that's what he said.

00:50:13 Speaker 2

And I won't send you.

00:50:15 Speaker 2

More kids up.

00:50:15 Speaker 2

Anyhow, here's a nice little major black.

00:50:18 Speaker 1

Did your unit suffer a lot of casualties?

00:50:21 Speaker 1

Oh yeah.

00:50:23 Speaker 2

Oh yeah, I had you guys all time. Some of those guys come in there and take fro off by to get hit by mortar fire and machine gunshot or something.

00:50:32 Speaker 2

Never know the first names.

00:50:34 Speaker 2

And you're not looking at them?

00:50:36 Speaker 2

They come up there and tell me who they were and what they're going to do and for instance, us, the man was right.

00:50:43 Speaker 2

Slept very little.

00:50:44 Speaker 2

I'm standing up one night and I heard these two coming behind.

00:50:48 Speaker 2

Two young ones coming in.

00:50:50 Speaker 2

Walked right up to me and I said whoa.

00:50:52 Speaker 2

Said, where are you guys?

00:50:53 Speaker 2

On, he said.

00:50:54 Speaker 2

We're looking for sides of money and I said you found him.

00:50:57 Speaker 2

Said.

00:50:58 Speaker 2

What can I do for you? He.

00:50:59 Speaker 2

Well, they told us back here that back to come up here and see you.

00:51:02 Speaker 2

Said OK, I said come.

00:51:05 Speaker 2

So I'm looking up to a whole has an old program and I said, Yep, I got you a new.

00:51:09 Speaker 2

Needs to get in here boy.

00:51:10 Speaker 2

In his hole with me.

00:51:13 Speaker 2

I tried to figure I took the oven down to the same place and put him as somebody who could tell him to keep your head down. Watch yourself.

00:51:27 Speaker 2

And he was a he was a constant battle.

00:51:27

Right.

00:51:32 Speaker 2

On my part to keep him alive.

00:51:35 Speaker 2

Keep them free to death.

00:51:37 Speaker 2

I had to see if they had.

00:51:38 Speaker 2

That was the only I was the only contact to the.

00:51:41 Speaker 2

Now the Jeep would come up as close as he can get it, sending you to send a runner up and come and see Monsignor Moon down and get.

00:51:50 Speaker 2

With rations, you need, you know.

00:51:53 Speaker 2

Again, I don't see how.

00:51:57 Speaker 2

That they kept up with, supplying us with all the food and we that's one thing I can say. We were never short of ammunition. Never.

00:52:06 Speaker 3

Looking at your summary that you got here, you mentioned that dimensions in here that you guys were at at Weimar, which was near.

00:52:14 Speaker 3

Did you get to see the concentration camp?

00:52:16 Speaker 3

Was your impression of that?

00:52:16 Speaker 2

Bradley Manning ride.

00:52:18 Speaker 2

We could see him and knew what it.

00:52:19 Speaker 2

But.

00:52:21 Speaker 2

They wouldn't let us stop. See those left up to this civilian, something they took care of.

00:52:27 Speaker 2

Different parts of the army.

00:52:30 Speaker 2

In other words, if you were a plain old infant from your deal and the third eye was to go, go, go and Oh yeah, I can remember going right by it and hesitating.

00:52:40 Speaker 2

That old.

00:52:42 Speaker 2

Those old log as they call.

00:52:45 Speaker 2

Books them all.

00:52:46 Speaker 2

Oh, I'm empty pretty well.

00:52:47 Speaker 2

That's before we got over to the town of Oftford.

00:52:51 Speaker 1

Well, you mentioned a couple of close.

00:52:51 Speaker 2

On the wage.

00:52:55 Speaker 1

You have the enemy taking prisoners. Do you have any additional close contact with the Germans beyond taking Germans prisoners?

00:53:03 Speaker 2

Tell you a good one. A lot of people won't believe this, but it actually happened.

00:53:07 Speaker 2

They said.

00:53:10 Speaker 2

Little River off down near since about half mile down there and said.

00:53:15 Speaker 2

Pretty well covered in there. Since Woody places take a squat down and see.

00:53:21 Speaker 2

You can.

00:53:21 Speaker 2

Well, I took four men after that.

00:53:24 Speaker 2

If I didn't have a full full score and so we broke in that crossing through that 4th, we could see this group coming up through theres.

00:53:33 Speaker 2

There was 11 of them.

00:53:36 Speaker 2

And I can see they had their helmets off and then they were looking for us.

00:53:39

Hey.

00:53:42 Speaker 2

They got up.

00:53:43 Speaker 2

They saw us and I told.

00:53:45 Speaker 2

Them guys, I tell you guys get on that side. This family, two over here. I'm going to throw up here on the bank because I get right because I'm served. Because they get out there and get checking them.

00:53:54 Speaker 2

They don't know.

00:53:55 Speaker 2

See if anything will walk up and.

00:53:58 Speaker 2

I'm standing there watching them and just one broke loose and he's come walking toward me.

00:54:03 Speaker 2

He walked up.

00:54:05 Speaker 2

As you are then I just feel that what the listing 'cause I had to do pre screening.

00:54:10 Speaker 2

And he stopped, and he smiled, he said.

00:54:13 Speaker 2

Just like if you like me, he said.

00:54:15 Speaker 2

What are your men looking for?

00:54:17 Speaker 2

And before I thought I answered it.

00:54:20 Speaker 2

He spoke as good English as you're right and and I said, well, they just won't see if you've got any weapons or anything else you shouldn't have. I said, by the way.

00:54:29 Speaker 2

We speak awful good English, he smiled. He said.

00:54:32 Speaker 2

He called me a young man, he said.

00:54:34 Speaker 2

I lived in Chicago more years.

00:54:36 Speaker 2

You are old.

00:54:37 Speaker 2

Can you imagine?

00:54:38 Speaker 2

Me and meeting a guy like that.

00:54:40 Speaker 2

Is the gospel truth?

00:54:41 Speaker 2

That's the first words he said to me.

00:54:44 Speaker 2

I've lived in Chicago more years than you are old.

00:54:47 Speaker 2

He could tell no one and drive behind the ears of you.

00:54:51 Speaker 2

And he said, what'll happen to these young men?

00:54:53 Speaker 2

Said.

00:54:54 Speaker 2

Not much, I.

00:54:55 Speaker 2

We'll push you back through our lines up here and they'll go back and talk to you and.

00:54:58 Speaker 2

Probably send you home I.

00:54:59 Speaker 2

We got more of you now than we did.

00:55:02 Speaker 2

What we want to do?

00:55:03 Speaker 2

Go home. That's what we have to go back to.

00:55:04 Speaker 2

We'll take you back through the lines where these guys won't shoot at you.

00:55:09 Speaker 2

I never saw him again, but I thought, how unusual this.

00:55:13 Speaker 2

But he got caught over there, went back to see his folks or something, I guess. And they drafted him.

00:55:20 Speaker 1

Think of the.

00:55:21 Speaker 2

He's the guy up in his mid 50s.

00:55:26 Speaker 2

We had that troop, young guys.

00:55:29 Speaker 2

21 No, what happened?

00:55:32 Speaker 2

Was going to happen to me.

00:55:33 Speaker 2

Send you back and.

00:55:34 Speaker 2

To you a few days and probably send you home.

00:55:37 Speaker 2

But that's one and another little Old Town.

00:55:40 Speaker 2

The funniest thing?

00:55:42 Speaker 2

Took these guys and the companies are Rd. went down. So you went to a.

00:55:46 Speaker 2

Yeah, behind that cut.

00:55:48 Speaker 2

Here was a little Old Town.

00:55:49 Speaker 2

So we run here and gotten that cut and cut. The guy went way out front.

00:55:54 Speaker 2

In time for their here coming round come White Legion. So I told them guys I said stop right there.

00:56:02 Speaker 2

Me. See what he wants.

00:56:04 Speaker 2

He he want us to please don't drop any artillery on us.

00:56:10 Speaker 2

I said this dream soldier.

00:56:13 Speaker 2

He told me how many seem like he said 18.

00:56:16

And.

00:56:17 Speaker 2

You did like this, I said.

00:56:19 Speaker 2

OK, I said.

00:56:20 Speaker 2

But I ain't gonna be.

00:56:24 Speaker 2

Doing.

00:56:28 Speaker 2

Around here not doing get in behind me, you know.

00:56:32 Speaker 2

He had them out.

00:56:32 Speaker 2

The middle of the street down.

00:56:34 Speaker 2

Little towns. The houses come right up.

00:56:38 Speaker 2

Is.

00:56:38 Speaker 2

Sidewalks, you know, right up the street.

00:56:41 Speaker 2

And he lined up out in that street and I told those guys I said, you know, how to search and get on each side of me, but.

00:56:47 Speaker 2

And course they don't. Totally everything they had back. So you know, sitting there, some civilians hanging out the windows, some women and kids.

00:56:57 Speaker 2

And I stand there watching him God, and keep my eyes over, see what's going around her.

00:57:02 Speaker 2

Want to see?

00:57:04 Speaker 2

My.

00:57:05 Speaker 2

My mom is American America.

00:57:09 Speaker 2

Around this one was telling me her her man's in America.

00:57:13 Speaker 2

She said, yeah, yeah, Africa poor.

00:57:16 Speaker 2

I said, well, America, she said. Oklahoma.

00:57:23 Speaker 2

How can you run yourself like that? She didn't know.

00:57:27 Speaker 2

She knew he was in America and O'Connor, I guess he's written.

00:57:31 Speaker 2

That's two times around. People is it's just odd that we all tell you about those people feelings that they were just like we were. They didn't want that either.

00:57:32 Speaker 1

Have you?

00:57:42 Speaker 2

They didn't want there in.

00:57:46 Speaker 2

I was going to say I'm not going to say I got used to it and I never got to where I liked it, but I got to where I didn't mind it all that bad because like I said, we're all draftees and I wanted to come home.

00:57:58 Speaker 2

And so did these guys have with me. And I thought lots of times did I do all I could have done for those guys?

00:58:05 Speaker 2

Were all young.

00:58:06 Speaker 2

Some of them were married men with families, and I thought well.

00:58:12 Speaker 2

I asked one of them one day.

00:58:14 Speaker 2

He.

00:58:14 Speaker 2

Well, the money said you were afraid, young man said you did all right.

00:58:17 Speaker 2

Said you.

00:58:19 Speaker 2

It wasn't easy for any of us.

00:58:21 Speaker 2

He never would say he liked me.

00:58:25 Speaker 1

What can you probably do a good job?

00:58:29 Speaker 2

And wonder that.

00:58:29 Speaker 1

Did you speak German before the war?

00:58:30

God.

00:58:31 Speaker 1

You speak German before the war.

00:58:32 Speaker 2

I can pick up a few words, you know.

00:58:32 Speaker 1

I was just curious.

00:58:36 Speaker 2

Well, yes, there he was.

00:58:39 Speaker 2

The staff Sergeant he.

00:58:40 Speaker 2

He was one of the squad leader but also assistant to.

00:58:42 Speaker 2

Boy, he helped me more than anybody because a man, probably 2324 years old.

00:58:48 Speaker 2

And he spoke fluent German.

00:58:50 Speaker 1

I know she have a pretty well worn Bible in your shadow box.

00:58:54 Speaker 1

You tell us about that.

00:58:55 Speaker 2

That Bible was given to me down Camp War, Texas over to the Chapel one day, and you might say that Bible has been.

00:59:04 Speaker 2

Hell and back, there's.

00:59:07

Right there.

00:59:08 Speaker 2

I mean it's.

00:59:08 Speaker 2

And I cared that right here my.

00:59:11 Speaker 2

Pocket along.

00:59:12 Speaker 1

With any particular moment, you remember where you made question more tightly than others.

00:59:17 Speaker 2

Well, you think about it.

00:59:19 Speaker 2

They they call some of the guys that they call foxhole religion, but you do.

00:59:24 Speaker 2

Like me, who do I turn to captain by?

00:59:27 Speaker 2

And I can't help me.

00:59:30 Speaker 2

Who do I turn to?

00:59:32 Speaker 2

Likely told me one day this psychiatrist told him to.

00:59:37 Speaker 2

Up pull up.

00:59:38 Speaker 2

You get to thinking about somebody was guiding me because I like to say I what little I knew about the army. I learned basic training in the German style and I just knew farm boy from down here in eastern Oklahoma.

00:59:53 Speaker 1

Was there?

00:59:56 Speaker 1

Was there any particular moment in combat you experienced where you thought you might not? Was what was the most difficult for moment for you, your combat?

01:00:06 Speaker 2

In in.

01:00:07 Speaker 2

Bulge in the bulge.

01:00:08 Speaker 2

I thought there was times when I just could not go any farther.

01:00:13 Speaker 2

And I thought, well.

01:00:16 Speaker 2

I can't go back that way.

01:00:18 Speaker 2

And they're up this way.

01:00:21 Speaker 2

I won't live.

01:00:23 Speaker 2

And you know, and this may sound funny, but I got the poor that I respected those people. But and I was afraid. But I didn't fear those people.

01:00:33 Speaker 2

Because I saw what they what they did and what they wanted to do, and I was in the same business and I just thought it out.

01:00:44 Speaker 2

I had one night.

01:00:45 Speaker 2

Was.

01:00:46 Speaker 2

I was moving to platoon.

01:00:47 Speaker 2

In dark, heavy snow.

01:00:49 Speaker 2

This one young guy I accused of going to walk up and down to see this Altima, he said to me, he said.

01:00:55 Speaker 2

Go any further.

01:00:57 Speaker 2

I stopped at him, I said.

01:01:00 Speaker 2

I didn't hear that, I said.

01:01:01 Speaker 2

Wait, I'm not going to leave you here.

01:01:04 Speaker 2

I.

01:01:05 Speaker 2

You fall in behind me and step in my tracks.

01:01:07 Speaker 2

Me. Have your rifle.

01:01:08 Speaker 2

Go.

01:01:09 Speaker 2

So just a little few words of encouraging.

01:01:13 Speaker 2

And he come on. But I couldn't leave him.

01:01:17 Speaker 2

Defroster to death is to sure as I'm sitting here. But after I gave him a few words I said no. You know I can't leave you here, I said.

01:01:24 Speaker 2

In behind me, you're stepping on my.

01:01:25 Speaker 2

Let me have your rifle take a little weight off of it and get a little.

01:01:28 Speaker 2

Of turn and move on.

01:01:32 Speaker 2

It's time to retry you.

01:01:35 Speaker 1

Well, after living in holes all across France and being part of the occupation force, how did being a GI in World War 2 affect how you lived your life afterwards?

01:01:47 Speaker 2

Well, you know.

01:01:49 Speaker 2

I came home and I went back to the farm.

01:01:54 Speaker 2

Went back to farming and you know, I just kind of forgot all about it.

01:01:58 Speaker 2

Just didn't let it bother.

01:01:59 Speaker 2

I went right on back into farming and milking my cows and I got married and raised my family.

01:02:05 Speaker 2

And I thought about it a lot.

01:02:07 Speaker 2

I say it.

01:02:08 Speaker 2

Me that.

01:02:09 Speaker 2

I wondered last time if I did the right thing with those young men.

01:02:13 Speaker 2

And it keep me awake at night, but.

01:02:16 Speaker 2

Like I told my wife one time I said well, one thing that's kept me from worrying about this too much is we have these five children.

01:02:23 Speaker 2

A full time.

01:02:24 Speaker 2

I don't have time to worry.

01:02:27 Speaker 2

So I went ahead and worked two jobs and raised my family and since some of them to college fact guys got a son retired full time out there.

01:02:35 Speaker 2

What?

01:02:37 Speaker 2

But I didn't let it get me down. A lot of guys I understand nowadays they come back, they let it get to them.

01:02:46 Speaker 2

When I just wanted to get home and get on with my life. And that's just one idea.