

Irving Richmond Interview

Company I, 318th Inf Reg

(Library of Congress: Veterans History Project; interviewed by Eric Hoyt)

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

00:00:01 Speaker 1

And I'm also recording the interview and.

00:00:08 Speaker 1

Mr. Richmond's wife is also present for the interview, so Mr. Richmond before we.

00:00:15 Speaker 1

Of go into.

00:00:18 Speaker 1

Your the details of your experience just a couple of quick questions.

00:00:25 Speaker 1

1st.

00:00:25 Speaker 1

What war did you serve in?

00:00:28 Speaker 2

World War 2.

00:00:29 Speaker 1

Ward 2 and what branch of service were you in?

00:00:32 Speaker 2

Infantry camp, yeah.

00:00:34 Speaker 1

What was your rank?

00:00:39 Speaker 2

I was a corporal because I was a battalion clerk in the states.

00:00:45 Speaker 2

And overseas on the Pfc. When I was discharged, was down.

00:00:50 Speaker 1

OK. And where did you serve, Sir?

00:00:54 Speaker 2

You mean just in the war? You mean overseas or in the states?

00:00:58 Speaker 1

Overseas.

00:01:00 Speaker 2

Europe.

00:01:01 Speaker 1

OK.

00:01:02 Speaker 1

Yeah, that's good enough, right?

00:01:02 Speaker 2

France, that's France.

00:01:03 Speaker 1

Yeah, you like monthly France, OK.

00:01:06 Speaker 1

So just to get started, can you talk about how you first got involved with the military?

00:01:13 Speaker 1

You drafted?

00:01:14 Speaker 2

OK, I was drafted.

00:01:16 Speaker 2

I've sent down to camp Wallace, Texas, which is between Galveston and Houston.

00:01:22 Speaker 2

Because I.

00:01:25 Speaker 2

Take shorting and typing.

00:01:28 Speaker 2

3rd week as in a service I was placed on special duty and made a battalion clerk.

00:01:35 Speaker 2

And make part of the permanent cadre at Camp Wallace, Texas, which is a replacement camp.

00:01:42 Speaker 2

Ordinarily, people stay.

00:01:44 Speaker 2

Eight weeks I stayed over a year.

00:01:46 Speaker 2

I helped close up the camps.

00:01:49 Speaker 2

Then I joined the 318 Infantry Division.

00:01:54 Speaker 1

So.

00:01:55 Speaker 1

What time was this when you were at Fort Wallace?

00:02:01 Speaker 2

Umm.

00:02:03 Speaker 2

I say January.

00:02:07 Speaker 2

Of 4444.

00:02:08 Speaker 1

OK. And what was your? I'm just.

00:02:12 Speaker 1

What was your life like before you entered the service and were you?

00:02:15 Speaker 1

What were you feeling about being drafted?

00:02:18 Speaker 1

You upset at all or?

00:02:21 Speaker 2

I would have but.

00:02:26 Speaker 2

My number finally came up and I went.

00:02:30 Speaker 1

Umm.

00:02:32 Speaker 1

Did you know a lot of people that were already involved in the war? I imagine by this.

00:02:36 Speaker 2

A lot of my friends were in the war. A lot of my friends died early during the war.

00:02:41 Speaker 2

I was an.

00:02:42 Speaker 2

My friends were great athletes and a lot of them were killed very early in their lives.

00:02:47 Speaker 2

Really, tragedy.

00:02:48 Speaker 1

Are there any particular memories you have of learning about that or?

00:02:54 Speaker 2

Of the people that were killed.

00:02:55 Speaker 1

Right. Yeah. Any particular?

00:02:57 Speaker 2

One guy was a great basketball player and he was a pilot or on a plane anyhow.

00:03:03 Speaker 2

And he was shot down. Two of them, in fact, were and.

00:03:08 Speaker 2

It's hard to remember the rest of them.

00:03:10 Speaker 2

Talking back 60 years, almost.

00:03:13 Speaker 1

Right. OK.

00:03:14 Speaker 2

I lost a lot of friends.

00:03:20 Speaker 1

So what was your life like at Fort Wallace?

00:03:25 Speaker 2

It was camp.

00:03:26 Speaker 2

I was a battalion clerk. I had been going with a girl in Chicago for many.

00:03:31 Speaker 2

Couldn't afford to get married because I was making. I was making \$15 a week when I was drafted.

00:03:37 Speaker 2

But she came down to Galveston, TX, where father, we were married May 18, 1943.

00:03:45 Speaker 2

And after we're 46 years, she passed away down of cancer.

00:03:52 Speaker 2

Married 46 years, but she stayed with me for a year and we had a great time because Galveston is like a resort town.

00:04:00 Speaker 2

Is that right? On the Gulf of Mexico and there's a beach there and a lot of things to do. And I had an office job. I left every day at 5:00 in back at 6:00 in the morning next day.

00:04:12 Speaker 2

It stood no formations and nothing.

00:04:15 Speaker 1

What was?

00:04:16 Speaker 1

What was your job like in the office?

00:04:18 Speaker 1

You talk about your typical day or the sort of assignments you.

00:04:22 Speaker 2

Where we handle the morning reports, which is the attendance for different companies.

00:04:29 Speaker 2

And all the clerical work that was necessary there was a Sergeant major and a corporal known about 6 privates.

00:04:35 Speaker 2

Was a.

00:04:36 Speaker 2

That was second in command over the proceedings.

00:04:42 Speaker 2

And I did take testimony in the court martial.

00:04:46 Speaker 2

I could do shorten.

00:04:49 Speaker 1

OK. Umm.

00:04:50 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:04:51 Speaker 1

When?

00:04:52 Speaker 1

When did things begin to change?

00:04:55 Speaker 2

Well, they started to close the camp.

00:04:57 Speaker 2

First of all, everybody that came originally was.

00:05:01 Speaker 2

Sent out within eight weeks or after 8 weeks, but then they decided to close the camp.

00:05:08 Speaker 2

It was an anti aircraft branch of the Army and when they closed the camp.

00:05:14 Speaker 2

***** was sent out and I joined the 318 Infantry Division about to go overseas and get into combat.

00:05:21 Speaker 1

What was? I'm just interested in what your reaction was to that.

00:05:27 Speaker 1

That frighten you at all, or.

00:05:29 Speaker 2

I had no.

00:05:30 Speaker 2

In fact, they made me a regimental clerk.

00:05:33 Speaker 2

Took advantage of my clerical ability, so I never had any real training.

00:05:38 Speaker 2

Fortunately, you start basic training third.

00:05:41 Speaker 2

I was in the Army, I was on special service.

00:05:43 Speaker 2

I never had any basic training.

00:05:45 Speaker 2

I didn't know how to take a gun apart. Nothing.

00:05:48 Speaker 1

So did that make you nervous going into that sort of situation without?

00:05:53 Speaker 2

Not particularly.

00:05:56 Speaker 2

I my nature is such as I can't change a situation, I'll accept it and go on, make the best of it.

00:06:05 Speaker 1

So so can you tell me about that period when you entered the infantry, I mean starting in the States and then?

00:06:14 Speaker 2

That was a regimental clerk from clerical work. We went overseas on the old Queen Mary.

00:06:21 Speaker 2

There's a Queen Mary and queen.

00:06:22 Speaker 2

Not QE 2, but Queen Elizabeth 2 sisterships and I think we had something like 23,000 aboard ship.

00:06:29 Speaker 2

Had a full division which is 15,000 and a nurses score was about 8000. We were.

00:06:37 Speaker 2

Double loaded. You spent 12 hours below deck and 12 hours above.

00:06:41 Speaker 2

We were eight in a stateroom that carries two people with our duffel bags. It was crowded.

00:06:50 Speaker 1

Relationship like between you and other soldiers because it seems like you're a little bit different in the sense that you joined up with this division late.

00:07:00 Speaker 2

Not necessarily so.

00:07:03 Speaker 2

You make close friends there because you're all in the same boat, so to speak.

00:07:07 Speaker 2

Same situation and you get to be real close to the guys you're with.

00:07:12 Speaker 2

I had a foxhole buddy has a great buddy of mine.

00:07:16 Speaker 2

In the Sergeant of the outer is a good friend of mine tell.

00:07:20 Speaker 2

Do you make friends because you're all?

00:07:25 Speaker 2

Again in the same boat.

00:07:25 Speaker 1

On the same are there do you have any particular memories of what it was like you talked about?

00:07:27 Speaker 2

Same situation.

00:07:33 Speaker 2

And the boat.

00:07:34 Speaker 1

Yeah, very crowded, but.

00:07:36 Speaker 2

Yeah, I play poker for six days.

00:07:37

Any.

00:07:39 Speaker 2

In fact, I wasn't broken some guy back me.

00:07:41 Speaker 2

Owned back about \$1000 or so.

00:07:44 Speaker 2

They pay tabled steaks and you can bet any amount that's on the table \$100 or whatever.

00:07:51 Speaker 2

And I've never gotten seasick.

00:07:54 Speaker 2

Never. So equally was good.

00:07:57 Speaker 1

So where did? Where did you land in Europe?

00:08:00 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:08:02 Speaker 2

But first of all, while we were cruising in the ocean, we changed course every six minutes, every then in case some planes are following us or something.

00:08:11 Speaker 2

And we landed at.

00:08:14 Speaker 2

I can't remember exactly where bombed as we landed.

00:08:19 Speaker 2

Is secret that we were crossing by the day we landed, we were bombed.

00:08:24 Speaker 2

I don't know what if you're any casualties.

00:08:26 Speaker 2

So he stayed in London.

00:08:29 Speaker 2

For.

00:08:32 Speaker 2

About two months.

00:08:35 Speaker 2

Near Manchester and Leeds.

00:08:39 Speaker 2

And England?

00:08:40 Speaker 1

What was your life like during that period in England?

00:08:47 Speaker 2

I all I remember is getting fish and chips.

00:08:50 Speaker 2

Which is very greasy and they would wrap it up in newspapers and newspapers would come off on the fish.

00:08:57 Speaker 1

We were all sort of aware that you would then be sent out into probably comments.

00:09:02 Speaker 2

You don't even think about that. If it's going to happen.

00:09:06 Speaker 2

So we land in the sea.

00:09:09 Speaker 2

Left sometime in June.

00:09:12 Speaker 2

And August 6th I landed Omaha beach.

00:09:16 Speaker 2

That's where the invasion took place 60 days after, exactly after the invasion. They're still fighting along the coast.

00:09:26 Speaker 2

And we got into the fighting.

00:09:30 Speaker 2

And August 17th.

00:09:33 Speaker 2

I started a letter to my wife saying it's sun shining. It's nice, quiet, peaceful day.

00:09:41 Speaker 2

And then I next line says it's now three days later we've been in a ferocious battle.

00:09:48 Speaker 2

Now, August 17th. Today I started a letter.

00:09:50 Speaker 2

Day my daughter was born.

00:09:53 Speaker 2

Many years later.

00:09:55 Speaker 1

What was that like? I mean having.

00:09:58 Speaker 1

You know a family overseas.

00:09:59 Speaker 2

This. No, I didn't have a family then I thought I.

00:10:02 Speaker 2

Wife and family came later.

00:10:06 Speaker 2

That's John's mother. She came later.

00:10:11 Speaker 2

The fighting was terrible.

00:10:13 Speaker 2

Just and we were up on a hill, couldn't get down for three days.

00:10:18 Speaker 2

Finally we the way I recall it is a battle of Argentine, which is one of the major battles in World War 2.

00:10:26 Speaker 2

We met the Canadians encircle the Germans, took 25,000 prisoners, is what I've heard.

00:10:34 Speaker 2

And after that it was almost free passage through the German border.

00:10:39 Speaker 2

I was with Pat and.

00:10:42 Speaker 2

And.

00:10:44 Speaker 2

Goes height 15 miles or whatever our pack big foxholes lives in foxholes all the time, and I tell myself, a kid you ever get out of this? You ain't never going to rough it again.

00:10:54 Speaker 2

Now my brother. I'll go to the wall of the story or something.

00:10:58 Speaker 2

I just walked rough and I won't join the Boy Scouts as a leader or anything.

00:11:02 Speaker 2

I've had it 110 days in combat in a foxhole.

00:11:06 Speaker 2

It's a miracle. The day I got shot.

00:11:10 Speaker 2

The squad consists of 12.

00:11:12 Speaker 2

The Sergeant and me, we're the only ones of the original 12 and under replacements. We had at least three 100% casualties.

00:11:20 Speaker 1

So you and the Sergeant were the only two.

00:11:23 Speaker 2

Took from the original squad. I was now the assistant squad leader because seniority.

00:11:30 Speaker 2

Papers papers were in for me to be made as Sergeant, except when I got shot, they accepted.

00:11:36 Speaker 1

Umm.

00:11:37 Speaker 1

How did you deal with with the loss of life around you?

00:11:41 Speaker 1

Mean you talked about how you became closer.

00:11:43 Speaker 2

Thank God is not me.

00:11:46 Speaker 2

It hurts.

00:11:47 Speaker 2

And indeed, you guys are friends with because again, you're in the same sick boat.

00:11:54 Speaker 2

Say you're very close to everybody, but you lose them.

00:11:59 Speaker 1

Can you talk a little bit more about that, the battle?

00:12:04 Speaker 1

In August.

00:12:06 Speaker 1

Your first one.

00:12:07 Speaker 2

But one big one was the one I was talking about, where we were up on a hill and couldn't get down.

00:12:11 Speaker 1

Right.

00:12:12 Speaker 2

Three days.

00:12:13 Speaker 1

What was sort of going through your mind during those three days? How?

00:12:17 Speaker 2

I hope I get out of here alive.

00:12:19 Speaker 2

Down and.

00:12:20 Speaker 1

Were there, were there any particular instances that were of closing halls, which is sort of the long period of?

00:12:24 Speaker 2

Not like.

00:12:25 Speaker 2

Not that I can recall.

00:12:28 Speaker 2

There, though, there was machine gunfire and our planes were.

00:12:32 Speaker 2

I thank God for the planes because we were controlling the skies at that time, I think, which was good, the airplane said.

00:12:40 Speaker 2

Are theirs.

00:12:43 Speaker 2

Something about Charlie the guy.

00:12:46 Speaker 2

A plane would come every night.

00:12:49 Speaker 2

I don't know why we call him Charlie dinner.

00:12:52 Speaker 2

Or something.

00:12:52 Speaker 2

A German plane and drop some bonds.

00:12:57 Speaker 1

What was it like being in Patton's Third Army?

00:13:02 Speaker 1

A lot of sort.

00:13:03 Speaker 1

I don't know if you call it Romanticism, maybe it's the opposite of romanticism, but obviously Patton is. You know, this sort of larger than life figure.

00:13:10 Speaker 2

Now it did make any difference.

00:13:13 Speaker 1

Wondering if.

00:13:15 Speaker 2

Some generals were known to be better than Patton as far as the men were concerned.

00:13:19 Speaker 2

And.

00:13:20 Speaker 2

Like the general in the 1st Army, I think was Hodges, I'm not sure.

00:13:24 Speaker 2

And the reputation is being more concerned about his men than Patton was.

00:13:28 Speaker 2

The food was either sea rations or K rations.

00:13:32 Speaker 2

K is like a box of Cracker Jacks.

00:13:35 Speaker 2

And spam or something?

00:13:36 Speaker 2

And the cans were.

00:13:41 Speaker 2

And that I remember how we open it.

00:13:44 Speaker 2

Don't remember.

00:13:45 Speaker 2

You were not allowed to light a fire.

00:13:47 Speaker 2

There are times I could hear the Germans talking.

00:13:51 Speaker 2

There over Fox Hills that close to where I was.

00:13:54 Speaker 2

I was in the front frontline.

00:13:59

Umm.

00:14:00 Speaker 2

And this is for 110 days, August 6th to November 16th.

00:14:05 Speaker 1

So did you consistently see combat during that time, or was it more?

00:14:10 Speaker 2

No, we.

00:14:12 Speaker 2

A lot of just traveling because after we captured a 25,000 German, there aren't too many battles in between till Mets.

00:14:21 Speaker 2

That was a big one.

00:14:23 Speaker 1

Yeah, we'll we'll get to that in just a little bit, but.

00:14:26 Speaker 2

OK.

00:14:28 Speaker 1

So you would you would hike and then dig in, were there, did you always have the same?

00:14:31 Speaker 2

They say digging.

00:14:34 Speaker 1

Sort of vocal.

00:14:34 Speaker 2

Yeah, I had a foxhole buddy who was a farmer from neither Iowa or Kansas.

00:14:40 Speaker 2

He had a varicose veins and they put him into infantry.

00:14:44 Speaker 2

But he could dig a hole.

00:14:45 Speaker 2

Not.

00:14:46 Speaker 2

Good. He's a good partner.

00:14:49 Speaker 1

Did you 2 become close?

00:14:51 Speaker 2

Very close sleeping at the other.

00:14:54 Speaker 1

Do you know whatever became of him?

00:14:56 Speaker 2

No. His name was Howard Markley.

00:15:00 Speaker 2

I remember it.

00:15:01 Speaker 2

And he's a farmer, Iowa, I think.

00:15:05 Speaker 1

Are there any other before?

00:15:07 Speaker 1

Any other instances of memories that are particularly?

00:15:11 Speaker 2

No. Every once in a while we'd.

00:15:15 Speaker 2

Be shot at by snipers or whatever. So.

00:15:21 Speaker 2

I was just part of the routine at times.

00:15:25 Speaker 2

Some of the men in my outfit would be walking and stepping on mine.

00:15:31 Speaker 2

Places mine and he lose a leg or die. One or the other.

00:15:38 Speaker 1

In the days leading up to MATS, were you aware that there was a a, a big battle?

00:15:44 Speaker 1

Of that was fermenting or.

00:15:46 Speaker 2

No, no. Go to starting to get colder.

00:15:49 Speaker 2

You talking about November?

00:15:50 Speaker 2

We're starting to see Snow.

00:15:52 Speaker 2

And.

00:15:55 Speaker 2

It's called when I did. When I got wounded, doctors told me I was in the first stages of frostbite just starting.

00:16:04 Speaker 1

Was that common among the men and?

00:16:07 Speaker 2

I have no way of knowing.

00:16:09 Speaker 1

So yeah, could he? Could he take me through your particular experience at the Battle of Mets both before and after?

00:16:15 Speaker 2

OK, the Battle of Mids.

00:16:20 Speaker 2

If I remember right then I think I do.

00:16:24 Speaker 2

We were in the trenches of World War One, just walking through them.

00:16:28 Speaker 2

I think it was in Belgium.

00:16:31 Speaker 2

And.

00:16:33 Speaker 2

Again, I was the.

00:16:36 Speaker 2

Assistant squad leader.

00:16:38 Speaker 2

And as I was in the rear of the column.

00:16:41 Speaker 2

And the shelves were going out all over the place and a mortar landed behind me.

00:16:48 Speaker 2

And the shrapnel went into my leg. Back of the thigh.

00:16:52 Speaker 2

And ama?

00:16:53 Speaker 2

First aid prepped me up against the tree.

00:16:56 Speaker 2

And has propped up against the tree for about four hours, and both sides are thrown shelves into the forest that I'm in, and I'm the only one there, paralyzed, unable to move.

00:17:09 Speaker 2

After four hours, my Sergeant came back to get me with a couple of other guys and a wheelbarrow.

00:17:15 Speaker 2

Took me to a measure I had gotten some first aid spot to they could fix, fix me up, and then provide transportation.

00:17:26 Speaker 2

Think I went back to Scotland and I was operated on.

00:17:30 Speaker 2

They had to clean me up. First of all, all the clothes I was wearing.

00:17:34 Speaker 2

Had gone into my body, had cleaned me out. Also get rid of the shrapnel.

00:17:41 Speaker 2

I spent 63 days as a bed patient, as paralyzed for a couple of.

00:17:47 Speaker 2

Couldn't move. The Red Cross is writing letters for me to my wife. I couldn't do anything.

00:17:53 Speaker 2

And.

00:17:56 Speaker 2

After 63 days.

00:17:59 Speaker 2

The doctor came along and he said you'd like to go.

00:18:02 Speaker 2

Of course I want to go home because you have to be ambulatory.

00:18:05 Speaker 2

Gotta walk the minute he left, I get up and I fell down.

00:18:09 Speaker 2

I hadn't.

00:18:11 Speaker 2

I learned how to walk again, and I went back on the Queen Elizabeth.

00:18:17 Speaker 2

Queen Mary going over Queen Elizabeth's in class.

00:18:22 Speaker 2

But this time is only about 4000, with a hospital ship.

00:18:25 Speaker 2

Can I keep on going great.

00:18:28 Speaker 2

We landed February 19, 1945.

00:18:34 Speaker 2

But very, very cold. We're all out on deck seeing Statue of Liberty in the skyline of New York as we got off the ship, each and every one of us gets the ground.

00:18:43 Speaker 2

Oh, everyone on a wounded veteran.

00:18:49 Speaker 2

And then I was sent to Fort Custer, MI.

00:18:54 Speaker 2

Percy John's hospitals at Fort Custer.

00:18:57 Speaker 2

And I was there until.

00:18:59 Speaker 2

As supposed to go in front of a board for on May 9th to decide what they would do with Mayweather, I should be put into limited service. Oregon discharge May 8th, luckily, was the end of the war in Europe.

00:19:13 Speaker 2

I was discharged.

00:19:14 Speaker 1

Do you remember that day well?

00:19:16 Speaker 2

Yes indeed.

00:19:18 Speaker 1

What was that like?

00:19:19 Speaker 2

Well, happy.

00:19:21 Speaker 2

Deliriously happy and I got out officially on May 28th.

00:19:26 Speaker 2

I can going back to D-Day.

00:19:29 Speaker 2

My wife was with me in Trenton, NJ because we were at Fort Dix, New Jersey. Before going overseas, she would hit me in Galveston and then also Fort Dix and.

00:19:43 Speaker 2

I had to get back to camp at six.

00:19:45 Speaker 2

In the.

00:19:45 Speaker 2

So I was catching a 4:00 bus.

00:19:49 Speaker 2

I got up at 3:00.

00:19:51 Speaker 2

And I got in the elevator and those days had elevator operators. The operator told me that they had just started D-Day.

00:19:57 Speaker 2

Was June 6th, so I went back, woke my wife up and told her about the day starting.

00:20:04 Speaker 1

While you were in France and fighting, did you know soldiers who had taken part in the invasion?

00:20:13 Speaker 1

I mean, did you have any contact with?

00:20:14 Speaker 1

That had.

00:20:15 Speaker 2

No, because it's different division.

00:20:17 Speaker 2

You.

00:20:17 Speaker 2

Your own division that was with the same people all the time occasionally would be with tanks and walk into a town behind them.

00:20:27 Speaker 2

I like to say this.

00:20:31 Speaker 2

We would liberate a lot of small towns on our way through and the people would come out and hug and kisses and bring out the champagne and wine they'd been hiding for five years from the Germans and offer it to us.

00:20:45 Speaker 2

I'm a non drinker, didn't help.

00:20:48 Speaker 2

But they're very happy to see us.

00:20:52 Speaker 1

Sort of a different point from what we've been talking about.

00:20:54

Yeah, yeah.

00:20:56 Speaker 1

I'm interested.

00:20:57 Speaker 1

You.

00:20:58 Speaker 1

Think.

00:20:58 Speaker 1

Was your experience different as a as a Jewish man participating in World War 2 or?

00:21:06 Speaker 2

Not as their participant.

00:21:09 Speaker 2

There's one irony which I recall when I was writing in the back of an ambulance or some transportation and two guys are talking.

00:21:17 Speaker 2

Were also wounded.

00:21:19 Speaker 2

And I heard one of them said to the.

00:21:21 Speaker 2

Ah, the Jews got all the soft jobs in the army.

00:21:24 Speaker 2

I'm wander with a whole my leg size my hand.

00:21:29 Speaker 2

I can have a soft job.

00:21:31 Speaker 2

I had one in the states.

00:21:34 Speaker 1

Were you aware while you're fighting of the the atrocities that were?

00:21:40 Speaker 2

I had to wear dog tags which indicated my religion.

00:21:43 Speaker 2

That's of a little concern to all all the Jewish soldiers because the Germans catch you.

00:21:50 Speaker 2

They won't treat you as well as they would anybody else.

00:21:57 Speaker 1

And was there any sort of?

00:21:57 Speaker 2

The reason for the dog tags having the religion in case you died, they know who offered services and what they needed a rabbi or a chaplain.

00:22:06 Speaker 2

That's the reason for it.

00:22:09 Speaker 1

Umm.

00:22:11

Listening.

00:22:13 Speaker 1

So what do you do after you were discharged then?

00:22:21 Speaker 1

From from the service.

00:22:22 Speaker 2

I'm trying to think.

00:22:24 Speaker 2

The Sun Times newspaper was offering a situation wanted.

00:22:31 Speaker 2

Opportunity to returning veterans, so I took advantage.

00:22:34 Speaker 2

Put a situation who wanted looking.

00:22:36 Speaker 2

Had no real.

00:22:37 Speaker 2

I graduated high school when I was 16, but I wasn't prepared for anything.

00:22:44 Speaker 2

I had taken a.

00:22:45 Speaker 2

I was hoping before my court reporter, which I stopped after that.

00:22:50 Speaker 2

I got 2.

00:22:51 Speaker 2

One was a camera outfit on Chicago Ave. near.

00:22:56 Speaker 2

They're still there. I think I went to see the guy and he offered me a job as a bookkeeper. I said I'm sorry.

00:23:04 Speaker 2

Know nothing about bookkeeping.

00:23:06 Speaker 2

And he says, well, we'll teach you and I don't care for it.

00:23:11 Speaker 2

There is an accountant.

00:23:14 Speaker 2

Strange and now the other guy was a man named Ado Kaufman, around 2425 S Michigan.

00:23:21 Speaker 2

He was a manufacturer's representative and I worked for him. Did office work.

00:23:30 Speaker 2

That's.

00:23:31 Speaker 2

Can I keep going? OK.

00:23:38 Speaker 2

I was at the furniture 19 years, I think.

00:23:41 Speaker 2

Thank God they built the Stevenson Expressway and this building came down well in the interim. I had seen an ad in the paper for take advantage of your GI bill.

00:23:51 Speaker 2

Course it's running.

00:23:52 Speaker 2

I think it runs out in seven years.

00:23:53 Speaker 2

Was the 7th year.

00:23:55 Speaker 2

So I answered and the guy came out and he told me I could send it for an accounting course.

00:24:00 Speaker 2

So I took an accounting course with LaSalle Extension University.

00:24:04 Speaker 2

Which is a correspondence course, but there are so many of us applying for the course, they made it a residence course. We went to classes.

00:24:13 Speaker 2

And I was number one in my class for four years.

00:24:16 Speaker 2

I had taken an accounting course about 20 years before at Northwestern.

00:24:20 Speaker 2

On Chicago.

00:24:21 Speaker 2

I didn't care for it this time.

00:24:23 Speaker 2

I was more mature.

00:24:24 Speaker 2

Professor was different.

00:24:25 Speaker 2

Loved it.

00:24:27 Speaker 2

So I got my accounting degree.

00:24:30 Speaker 2

And in the interim, and my wife had a baby.

00:24:32 Speaker 2

Was maybe four or five years old.

00:24:36 Speaker 2

I was studying for ACPA exam.

00:24:39 Speaker 2

And I got sick.

00:24:43 Speaker 2

My 3rd doctor tell me what you been doing the last few years. Working a 40 hour a week, going to school.

00:24:50

Hmm.

00:24:50 Speaker 2

And school consists mainly of working out problems, so extra work there.

00:24:56 Speaker 2

Yes, with one or the other.

00:24:58 Speaker 2

Let's go or quit work.

00:25:00 Speaker 2

I couldn't quit work.

00:25:02 Speaker 2

Sorry. What school? I got a letter from the Dean of LaSalle School.

00:25:07 Speaker 2

It's too bad you had to.

00:25:08 Speaker 2

You were hoping you would win one of the medals to give a medal of the person finishes first or second, then the CPA exam.

00:25:17 Speaker 2

And when that building came down, they had a bookkeeper at Auto Kaufman. That said it was too much for.

00:25:26 Speaker 2

I needed help so I was going to school so I was his helper and he finally left and they gave me the bookkeeping job.

00:25:35 Speaker 2

There was nothing to it.

00:25:36 Speaker 2

Was child's play.

00:25:39 Speaker 2

But then got it sort of going down.

00:25:44 Speaker 2

Oops, I know.

00:25:47 Speaker 2

When I was going to LaSalle.

00:25:51 Speaker 2

Some CPA and Lawrence and Broadway had contacted LaSalle.

00:25:56 Speaker 2

Wanted a young.

00:25:58 Speaker 2

Student who wanted an experience in ACPA office said.

00:26:02 Speaker 2

Sent me there.

00:26:04 Speaker 2

I worked for him for 14 tax seasons. He would.

00:26:07 Speaker 2

Taught me income tax. God bless him.

00:26:10 Speaker 2

Tax man.

00:26:12 Speaker 2

And.

00:26:14 Speaker 2

After the building was torn down, I had to go look for a job when it's a public accounting, which is where I blogged in the 1st place is my talent and I ended a job with Leslie.

00:26:25 Speaker 2

Jacob, 612 N Michigan.

00:26:29 Speaker 2

And from there went on other different jobs.

00:26:33 Speaker 2

All with public accountings CPA.

00:26:36 Speaker 2

Up until.

00:26:39 Speaker 2

Maybe five years ago.

00:26:43 Speaker 2

Can I go on with that? To me, it's very interesting. When I was 60 years old, sixty I was working for 11th on Harvard.

00:26:52 Speaker 2

Big CPA firm and I had been promised I was being doing nothing but text work.

00:26:58 Speaker 2

And a new partner came and took over.

00:27:00 Speaker 2

No, I was working for Roseburg and Cohn and one of the cones told me.

00:27:06 Speaker 2

That I wanted to transfer to the tax department, he said.

00:27:08 Speaker 2

Need you in my department.

00:27:10 Speaker 2

You will do nothing but tax work.

00:27:13 Speaker 2

Eventually they had another merger. A new guy came in to go over to the apartment. I'm going to send you out Middlefield. And like a fool, I said like hell you are.

00:27:24 Speaker 2

Because I knew I was in good with the head of the tax department and Cohen had told me. That's all I'm going to do is tax work.

00:27:31 Speaker 2

So they kept me through tax season.

00:27:32 Speaker 2

They discharged.

00:27:34 Speaker 2

The only time I ever fired in my life so then looking for work for one of these.

00:27:39 Speaker 2

As that I used to work for.

00:27:41 Speaker 2

He's now a partner in Hartley Young, which is right after Arthur Anderson at that time.

00:27:47 Speaker 2

Probably the second biggest accounting firm he serve.

00:27:49 Speaker 2

I know what you can do, but my hands are tied because you reached.

00:27:52 Speaker 2

And tell that story because that's how 60 years old.

00:27:57 Speaker 2

15 years later, I'm 75 years old now.

00:28:00 Speaker 2

I'm working for universal out there.

00:28:03 Speaker 2

I do all their tax work, but when they went public they had to get one of the big four to do their tax work and audit instead of yet price Waterhouse.

00:28:12 Speaker 2

The partner from taxpayer Price Waterhouse came to our office to go over with me as to what I had to do.

00:28:19 Speaker 2

Did the input input work on the tax return? They checked it and signed the return.

00:28:24 Speaker 2

After an hour talking, he said.

00:28:26 Speaker 2

You come work for us.

00:28:27 Speaker 2

I'm 75 years.

00:28:28 Speaker 2

And are you serious?

00:28:31 Speaker 2

I.

00:28:31 Speaker 2

Well, I got to tell you, I quit at 2:30.

00:28:33 Speaker 2

Can't have that.

00:28:34 Speaker 2

And you can't have me.

00:28:36 Speaker 2

I found it.

00:28:37 Speaker 2

At 75, he was hiring me. At 60. I was too old.

00:28:42 Speaker 2

And Oh no, I got a wonderful life.

00:28:46 Speaker 2

I feel that I've been granted almost 60 years, like a gift of life, and if not for that wound that I got, November 16th, there would be no Ann.

00:28:57 Speaker 2

Ual. Aaron. No, John.

00:29:00 Speaker 1

So you think you you would have likely been killed in combat if.

00:29:04 Speaker 2

It was one or the other.

00:29:05 Speaker 2

No other way out.

00:29:08 Speaker 2

Any day could have been your last day again.

00:29:11 Speaker 2

Replacements were gone.

00:29:13 Speaker 2

There's just two of us from the squad.

00:29:16 Speaker 2

The combat infantry is just what it says. You're in combat.

00:29:20 Speaker 2

Not everyday, but almost constantly in danger.

00:29:23

You should.

00:29:24 Speaker 2

And my battalion were part of the Battle of the Bulge.

00:29:29 Speaker 2

They also were the.

00:29:31 Speaker 2

They relieved 101st Airborne at Bastone.

00:29:35 Speaker 2

Read about it in the paper.

00:29:37 Speaker 2

I was in the hospital.

00:29:39 Speaker 2

But they relieved 101st.

00:29:44 Speaker 2

So like I say, if I hadn't gotten wounded, I'd been.

00:29:46 Speaker 2

There would have been a tragedy cause Anne and her family are wonderful.

00:29:53 Speaker 2

I would have missed a lot.

00:29:56 Speaker 1

Umm.

00:29:58 Speaker 1

How did you keep in touch with your with your wife during that time?

00:30:03 Speaker 2

We wrote to each other daily.

00:30:06 Speaker 2

Daily.

00:30:08 Speaker 2

When I was in the hospital, I was paralyzed.

00:30:10 Speaker 2

Red Cross was writing for me.

00:30:13 Speaker 2

They also, wherever I went, they they met me. However, I was transported, training her ambulance or whatever. They were there when.

00:30:23 Speaker 2

I.

00:30:25 Speaker 2

If there's anything they can do for me.

00:30:28 Speaker 2

That was very fun at the Red Cross, a lot of GI said.

00:30:32 Speaker 2

Didn't get good treatment.

00:30:33 Speaker 2

Depends on what they wanted in the Red Cross. I got what I wanted.

00:30:42 Speaker 1

Let me see. Just so you did a good job of sort of bringing us to today from the point.

00:30:51 Speaker 1

Of when you served in the forces.

00:30:53 Speaker 1

I'm just wondering how how you think that that experience, I mean you you said that you feel like you were, you were granted.

00:31:01 Speaker 2

Gift a gift? Just check your luck.

00:31:05 Speaker 1

Are there any other ways that you think that experience probably affected maybe your your viewpoint or the the course you took?

00:31:13 Speaker 2

Now, if something I wanted to forget it as quickly as I.

00:31:17 Speaker 2

It was the only bad experience in my life. I made the best of it.

00:31:22 Speaker 2

I had no choice.

00:31:24 Speaker 2

I wanted to stay alive.

00:31:26 Speaker 2

Had a lot to live for.

00:31:29 Speaker 2

So I'm still alive.

00:31:32 Speaker 1

Right.

00:31:32 Speaker 2

I'm still having a good time still enjoying life and still in great shape.

00:31:36 Speaker 2

I'm 85 years old.

00:31:38 Speaker 2

When I was seven years old, I could still spike a volleyball.

00:31:43 Speaker 2

At 5 feet 6, I could jump up and touch the net.

00:31:48 Speaker 2

Daniel was playing.

00:31:49 Speaker 2

He was 13 at time resort and playing volleyball with him and went up to spike a ball and two guys.

00:31:57 Speaker 2

You know Michigan football team.

00:32:00 Speaker 2

Up against me, they couldn't block it.

00:32:02 Speaker 2

Hear Daniel say Wow with his back to the net, he spikes the ball.

00:32:07 Speaker 2

Daniel went on to be captain of volleyball team in Evans High School Junior and senior year.

00:32:13 Speaker 1

Runs in the family I guess.

00:32:15 Speaker 2

Well, I got him started.

00:32:19 Speaker 1

Good teacher.

00:32:21 Speaker 1

Is there anything else?

00:32:24 Speaker 1

That I haven't asked you about.

00:32:27 Speaker 2

I don't think so.

00:32:27 Speaker 2

Think we currently.

00:32:28 Speaker 1

OK.

00:32:29 Speaker 1

So maybe maybe now we can take a look at some of the.

00:32:32 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:32:35 Speaker 1

All right. So now could you tell me a little bit about?

00:32:41 Speaker 1

These different.

00:32:44 Speaker 1

Things you preserved.

00:32:45 Speaker 2

Here.

00:32:47 Speaker 1

Yeah, the pictures in the uniform and the Purple Heart.

00:32:51 Speaker 2

The Purple Heart. Last time I chased.

00:32:52 Speaker 2

Yes.

00:32:56 Speaker 2

When?

00:32:57

I.

00:33:00 Speaker 2

Right.

00:33:00 Speaker 2

When I was being transported to a hospital, they put.

00:33:03 Speaker 2

I'm in chest.

00:33:07

Yeah.

00:33:09 Speaker 2

That's John's mother.

00:33:12 Speaker 2

10.

00:33:18 Speaker 2

Yes, my wife.

00:33:32 Speaker 1

These are pictures of.

00:33:36 Speaker 2

This is shortly before we were married.

00:33:40 Speaker 1

Where was that picture taken?

00:33:41 Speaker 1

You remember.

00:33:45 Speaker 2

Better in the.

00:33:46 Speaker 2

She was also a good athlete.

00:33:47 Speaker 2

She played on the girls teams that played other playgrounds.

00:33:50 Speaker 2

Bet on the boys team.

00:33:52 Speaker 2

One of the guys I.

00:33:53 Speaker 2

With was Ray Meyer.

00:33:55

Hmm.

00:34:01

Right.

00:34:02 Speaker 1

So are there any pictures of you?

00:34:05 Speaker 1

In uniform there or just?

00:34:06

Yeah.

00:34:25

Yeah.

00:34:33 Speaker 1

Was that taken when you were still in the states?

00:34:37 Speaker 2

Yes, it had to be.

00:34:44 Speaker 2

I wasn't dressed like this, obviously.

00:34:47 Speaker 2

Is formal.

00:34:49 Speaker 1

And is that the same suit that you have?

00:34:53 Speaker 1

Right over here.

00:34:56 Speaker 2

Yeah, I think so.

00:34:58 Speaker 2

I don't even know what this is for.

00:35:02 Speaker 2

That I think the 318.

00:35:06 Speaker 2

Something about West Virginia, I think I'm not sure.

00:35:23

I.

00:35:35 Speaker 2

This picture here.

00:35:38 Speaker 2

Fan.

00:35:41 Speaker 2

Ed assistant law that came to visit us many years later and she's playing with Daniel for a couple of days and I showed her his pictures as Daniel is Noah's hand.

00:35:52 Speaker 2

The same age.

00:36:02 Speaker 2

This is a hash mark.

00:36:03 Speaker 2

Where I don't know.

00:36:09 Speaker 1

You want to talk about?

00:36:11 Speaker 1

Talk about this.

00:36:26 Speaker 2

Not really.

00:36:28 Speaker 2

I said my place of entry is campground.

00:36:32 Speaker 2

I was hoping to wind up, stay for a shared or something like that.

00:36:35 Speaker 2

Goosebump.

00:36:40 Speaker 2

Head of an.

00:36:41 Speaker 2

Northern French and German campaign.

00:36:48 Speaker 2

Occupation in the Army is a clerk general. Oh, fire fire.

00:36:54 Speaker 2

Wounds received in action, France, 60 November 1944.

00:36:59 Speaker 2

I would have paid for that person.

00:37:03 Speaker 2

Get Me Out.

00:37:04

Hmm.

00:37:07 Speaker 1

And you were able to walk again.

00:37:10 Speaker 2

Absolutely right, yeah.

00:37:11 Speaker 2

Yeah, I I played well after that.

00:37:15 Speaker 2

Age of 70. I was so spiteful.

00:37:18 Speaker 2

First hand know the factors operated handling. I turned around, I said.

00:37:21 Speaker 2

Leg. Is this yours?

00:37:24 Speaker 2

I got a spinal.

00:37:26 Speaker 2

I said.

00:37:28 Speaker 2

But I would be able to play ball. Sure he's right.

00:37:36 Speaker 2

Trevor Bay dollars and \$0.50.

00:37:54 Speaker 2

I am a discharge papers as I got 2 brown stars. I never got one.

00:38:01 Speaker 2

I got credit for it.

00:38:04 Speaker 2

Purple Heart.

00:38:06 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:38:09 Speaker 1

Could you?

00:38:09 Speaker 1

Could you show us the Purple Heart right here?

00:38:15 Speaker 1

When were you presented that?

00:38:19 Speaker 1

I'm sorry. When when did you receive the Purple Heart?

00:38:22 Speaker 1

Mean after that sign up.

00:38:23 Speaker 2

I'm almost immediately not enough to I.

00:38:27 Speaker 2

I was in the field, but I think before I got into an army I was able to.

00:38:33 Speaker 2

The box.

00:38:37 Speaker 2

Yes, I heard these guys saying that you.

00:38:39 Speaker 2

All the soft jobs in the army.

00:38:47 Speaker 1

OK.

00:38:48 Speaker 1

And then.

00:38:49 Speaker 1

What's the telegram you have there?

00:38:54 Speaker 2

Submit.

00:38:59 Speaker 2

Apart.

00:39:01

People.

00:39:02 Speaker 2

Regret to inform your husband was seriously wounded in action in France 60 November.

00:39:08 Speaker 2

Until new addresses receive address manifold Private Irving Richmond serial number hospitalized in brackets.

00:39:17 Speaker 2

Central Post code directory, APO 640, care postmaster, New York, NY.

00:39:24 Speaker 2

UN quote, you will be advised, as reports of condition I received which of acting the Adjutant General.

00:39:33 Speaker 2

That you want to come over.

00:39:34 Speaker 2

It with letter.

00:39:36 Speaker 1

And what?

00:39:38 Speaker 1

And you were saying before that she was very reluctant to open it?

00:39:42 Speaker 1

Could you tell that story again?

00:39:44 Speaker 2

She got the telegram.

00:39:46 Speaker 2

Looked at it comes in an envelope and she's open the envelope.

00:39:51 Speaker 2

Afraid I was dead.

00:39:53 Speaker 2

The chances were very good.

00:39:57 Speaker 2

Finally, her brother came home.

00:39:59 Speaker 2

Opened it up together.

00:40:01 Speaker 2

She was relieved.

00:40:05 Speaker 2

Red Cross is writing letters for me.

00:40:10 Speaker 2

For quite a while, they caught up to where I was.

00:40:14 Speaker 2

Everything was.

00:40:17 Speaker 2

E-mail.

00:40:22 Speaker 1

Right, female.

00:40:24 Speaker 1

Female yeah, female.

00:40:27 Speaker 1

What was it like when you two were together again?

00:40:32

Kevin.

00:40:36 Speaker 1

How long had you been apart because of the war?

00:40:46 Speaker 2

Well, she was with me.

00:40:48 Speaker 2

First few years.

00:40:50 Speaker 2

About a year.

00:40:59 Speaker 1

Right is.

00:41:00 Speaker 1

Is there anything else you'd like to say or show us?

00:41:04 Speaker 2

And what as hell?

00:41:07 Speaker 2

You can't say it loud enough.

00:41:09 Speaker 2

Enough.

00:41:10 Speaker 2

Guarantee.

00:41:14 Speaker 1

And did serving an award just make you realize that or how? How has that affected your view of war today, I guess?

00:41:24 Speaker 2

It was then and is today the same Lord as hell. I didn't want to be there.

00:41:30 Speaker 2

Had to be.

00:41:31 Speaker 2

I had no choice. I made the best of the situation, which in my nature.

00:41:35 Speaker 2

That.

00:41:37 Speaker 2

I wouldn't want.

00:41:38 Speaker 2

I'd love to go through that.

00:41:42 Speaker 2

Well, not anybody go through it.