

Benjamin Alvarado Interview #1

Company G, 317th Inf Reg

(Library of Congress: Veterans History Project; interviewed by Ronald Thomas Behm)

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

00:00:00 Speaker 1

An interview by Ronald.

00:00:01 Speaker 1

My address is 13830 Mackey St. in Overland Park, KS 66223. The name of our organization is volunteers at the Central Plains National Archives located in Kansas City, MO.

00:00:17 Speaker 1

Also assisting at this interview as Recorder is a.

00:00:20 Speaker 1

Kimberly Reed, our relationship to the interviewee is that of the interviewers.

00:00:26 Speaker 1

Interview today.

00:00:29 Speaker 1

December 20th, 2004 is with Benjamin Alvarez, who was born September 30, 1924.

00:00:39 Speaker 1

In Kansas City, KS, his current address is 11214 Palmer St. in Kansas City, MO.

00:00:47 Speaker 1

Phone number is area code number is area code 816763.

00:00:52 Speaker 1

1726.

00:00:54 Speaker 1

He served in the US Army and the Army Air Corps.

00:01:00 Speaker 1

His rank at the discharge was private and he served World War 2 in the European Theater of Operation. Ben. I want to thank you for taking the time this morning to come in and and share with us your military history. But before we get started on that.

00:01:06 Speaker 2

Beginning.

00:01:17 Speaker 1

Why don't you tell me about your mother and father, where you were born? Date of birth. What you recall about your early days?

00:01:27 Speaker 3

As I remember.

00:01:28 Speaker 2

The.

00:01:30 Speaker 3

Uh.

00:01:35 Speaker 1

Your mother and father's name.

00:01:36 Speaker 3

Well, my mother, my mother's name was Guadalupe Alvarado.

00:01:40 Speaker 2

Alright, gorilla.

00:01:41 Speaker 3

My father's name was Carrillo.

00:01:45 Speaker 3

Michael kurilla.

00:01:46 Speaker 2

Alright.

00:01:48 Speaker 3

And my mother died when she was about 25 years old.

00:01:51 Speaker 1

Ashley.

00:01:51 Speaker 3

So my mother died of tuberculosis.

00:01:55 Speaker 3

And my uncle's all decided to send her back to Mexico.

00:02:01 Speaker 3

And.

00:02:03 Speaker 3

Well, we.

00:02:03 Speaker 3

Went to Mexico with my mother. My, my.

00:02:05 Speaker 3

I have a brother and a sister.

00:02:07 Speaker 3

I did have.

00:02:08 Speaker 1

Tell me.

00:02:08 Speaker 1

Tell me the names of your siblings.

00:02:12 Speaker 3

My sister's name is Teresa.

00:02:15 Speaker 3

And my brothers name is Michael.

00:02:16 Speaker 1

Were they older than you?

00:02:18 Speaker 3

My sister was older.

00:02:20 Speaker 3

My brother was younger she.

00:02:21 Speaker 1

OK. OK. And you were born?

00:02:24 Speaker 3

In 1924.

00:02:25 Speaker 1

And where was that?

00:02:26 Speaker 3

That was the Kansas City.

00:02:28 Speaker 3

All right.

00:02:28 Speaker 2

Alright.

00:02:29 Speaker 1

So you lost your mother and uncles thought wearing a young Ben would be better in Mexico.

00:02:29 Speaker 2

Repl.

00:02:36 Speaker 1

How did you get to Mexico?

00:02:38 Speaker 3

Well, we went by railroad.

00:02:40 Speaker 3

My uncle's.

00:02:41 Speaker 3

Worked.

00:02:41 Speaker 3

The railroad and they figured that that would be the best because.

00:02:45 Speaker 3

Could get a pass.

00:02:46 Speaker 2

Nice one.

00:02:46 Speaker 3

Keeper. And so that's how we traveled.

00:02:50 Speaker 3

I don't remember who was in Missouri, Pacific or the.

00:02:52 Speaker 3

The Santa Fe.

00:02:53 Speaker 1

How old do you think you were when you returned to Mexico?

00:02:55 Speaker 3

I I was about maybe.

00:02:58 Speaker 3

6667.

00:03:00 Speaker 1

Do you remember your early days in Mexico?

00:03:01

Yes.

00:03:02 Speaker 3

Yes.

00:03:02 Speaker 1

So how long were you in Mexico at the answer?

00:03:04 Speaker 3

I was there about a year.

00:03:07 Speaker 1

About a year and where was that?

00:03:09 Speaker 3

That wasn't time, then sequel.

00:03:12 Speaker 1

And what state would that be?

00:03:19 Speaker 1

What?

00:03:19 Speaker 1

What happened that you're only there a year with life better in Kansas?

00:03:22 Speaker 3

Well, there was no schools at the time and.

00:03:27 Speaker 3

I just we were. Well, my mom died after being next two months.

00:03:33 Speaker 1

I see.

00:03:34 Speaker 1

So we look after you when your when your mother passed away.

00:03:37 Speaker 3

Some uncle and aunt.

00:03:39 Speaker 1

I see.

00:03:40 Speaker 3

And they were younger, you know, than my.

00:03:42 Speaker 3

I think I don't know, just they were just as I remember, they were unclean at.

00:03:47 Speaker 1

Right, so now you return to Kansas.

00:03:51 Speaker 1

And you remember where you live as the youngster.

00:03:55 Speaker 3

Yes.

00:03:58 Speaker 3

Well, we return to.

00:04:00 Speaker 3

My before my mom died, she wrote to my Uncle Jose Alvarado, and asked him to come and pick us up in case.

00:04:10 Speaker 3

Her dad.

00:04:11 Speaker 3

So that's what he did.

00:04:13 Speaker 3

And when we arrived, we arrived in also Watermark, Kansas.

00:04:18 Speaker 1

OK.

00:04:19 Speaker 3

And that's where we started our new beginnings.

00:04:23 Speaker 1

Live in.

00:04:24 Speaker 1

Did you go to school in Oswald?

00:04:25 Speaker 3

Yes, we did.

00:04:27 Speaker 1

But did you remember the name of the school?

00:04:29 Speaker 3

He stopped to learn the high school.

00:04:30 Speaker 1

In high school.

00:04:32 Speaker 1

But you must have gone to grade school now. Grade school.

00:04:32

He had.

00:04:33 Speaker 3

Grade school age. Yeah. And I also went to a Catholic Church called St.

00:04:39 Speaker 3

Catholic Church, St. Philip Church.

00:04:40 Speaker 1

Pickles alright.

00:04:44 Speaker 1

What grade did you complete?

00:04:46 Speaker 3

There. I don't remember that.

00:04:47 Speaker 2

In.

00:04:50 Speaker 1

OK, you never held your worry when you left school.

00:04:51 Speaker 3

I know that after.

00:04:56 Speaker 3

Well, I did go to high school in uh in Oslo.

00:04:59 Speaker 3

It was Oslo High School all right, until I was about.

00:05:05 Speaker 3

Oh 17.

00:05:06 Speaker 1

17 all right.

00:05:09 Speaker 1

What year would that have been?

00:05:11 Speaker 3

1942.

00:05:13 Speaker 1

42 Now the war World War 2 is is begun for America at the December 7th.

00:05:18 Speaker 3

Yes.

00:05:20 Speaker 1

The war is on.

00:05:23 Speaker 1

And you selected service.

00:05:26 Speaker 1

Was something you had to deal with?

00:05:28 Speaker 3

That's right.

00:05:29 Speaker 1

You were obviously a young man and you were rated for military service, yes.

00:05:35 Speaker 1

Were you drafted?

00:05:35 Speaker 3

I was trapped.

00:05:37 Speaker 1

But when were you drafted?

00:05:39 Speaker 3

It was on uh say July.

00:05:43 Speaker 3

July 19. I think it was July.

00:05:46 Speaker 1

In July, do.

00:05:47 Speaker 1

Remember where you reported it.

00:05:49 Speaker 3

Yes, I went to campaign in.

00:05:52 Speaker 3

That's where they told me to report you.

00:05:54 Speaker 1

Where is that again?

00:05:55 Speaker 3

Camp Bennett, Texas.

00:05:57 Speaker 1

What is? What's that near any?

00:06:00 Speaker 3

Well, it's near Tyler, TX.

00:06:02 Speaker 1

Near Tyler, TX.

00:06:06 Speaker 1

And is that where you began?

00:06:06 Speaker 2

Hmm.

00:06:07 Speaker 1

Your basic training, yes.

00:06:13 Speaker 1

Did you speak to English then? OK.

00:06:15 Speaker 3

Yes.

00:06:18 Speaker 1

Tell us about some of your experience with basic training.

00:06:22 Speaker 1

Do you recall?

00:06:24 Speaker 3

Well, we.

00:06:29 Speaker 3

We trained hand to hand combat.

00:06:33 Speaker 3

Trained in case we were attacked by tanks.

00:06:37 Speaker 3

Know how we to survive?

00:06:40 Speaker 2

The.

00:06:41 Speaker 3

We went through the immigration course.

00:06:47 Speaker 3

We went through.

00:06:49 Speaker 3

The A course where they would shoot live ammunition and we had to stay.

00:06:56 Speaker 1

Down, you know, had you had you fired? A rifle, fired a military service, or was that your first experience?

00:07:02 Speaker 3

Yes. No, I, well, my I did.

00:07:07 Speaker 3

A 22.

00:07:08 Speaker 2

OK.

00:07:08 Speaker 1

Well, you're a pretty good shot.

00:07:09 Speaker 3

For hunting.

00:07:10 Speaker 3

Yeah, I thought I was.

00:07:13 Speaker 1

We had seen earlier where you had a number of.

00:07:17 Speaker 1

Military.

00:07:19 Speaker 1

Metals and such, and I was wondering if you, as a Rifleman, how are you when you rated as a sharpshooter?

00:07:27 Speaker 3

Sharper. I was a sharp.

00:07:28 Speaker 1

Oh, you.

00:07:28 Speaker 1

You had a good eye, as I say, yeah.

00:07:31 Speaker 1

What other weapons did you fire?

00:07:34 Speaker 3

Well, I fired the.

00:07:41 Speaker 3

So I think I have a.

00:07:42 Speaker 3

Someplace. That's all right.

00:07:43 Speaker 2

That's.

00:07:44 Speaker 3

But anyways.

00:07:45 Speaker 1

Machine gun.

00:07:46 Speaker 1

The water cool machine, the 50 caliber.

00:07:50 Speaker 3

No. Is the BR the BA, the br. I try to put more motor for working with the motor shaving and.

00:07:52 Speaker 2

OK.

00:07:55 Speaker 2

The.

00:08:02 Speaker 3

Learn how to throw a hand grenade and also.

00:08:08 Speaker 3

Learn how to take the weapon off of another another.

00:08:11 Speaker 3

You know, that's kind of bane it. And then in case there's a little more wet, no more shells.

00:08:11 Speaker 2

Uh.

00:08:15 Speaker 1

How? How the hell are you now boot camp?

00:08:18 Speaker 1

You 17/8.

00:08:20 Speaker 3

How is yeah.

00:08:20 Speaker 1

Are you 818 years old, okay?

00:08:24 Speaker 1

Is this first time you were away from home?

00:08:28 Speaker 3

No, I have been working in the railroad when I was 16 on on during the summer times.

00:08:36 Speaker 1

For Vincent Cruz.

00:08:36 Speaker 3

There was a there was some shortage on men working at the time because of the war, and so they hired some 16 year olds, you know, to go work in the road or to put heavier steel on the railroads and new ties.

00:08:41 Speaker 2

Right.

00:08:51 Speaker 3

To have some heavy equipment go through the the.

00:08:56 Speaker 3

You know from one place to another.

00:08:57 Speaker 1

OK. So you had some exposure leaving leaving home. You know, the one thing that a lot of vets like you always used to say, complain about the food.

00:09:08 Speaker 1

How do you remember the food being indifferent than what you're accustomed to eating at home? Or?

00:09:17 Speaker 3

Not really.

00:09:17 Speaker 2

The.

00:09:18 Speaker 3

I eat more nuts today than I did before.

00:09:21 Speaker 2

OK, OK.

00:09:22 Speaker 3

But.

00:09:26 Speaker 3

No, we.

00:09:27 Speaker 3

Somehow we didn't have anything.

00:09:29 Speaker 3

No money as such.

00:09:31 Speaker 2

Mm.

00:09:32 Speaker 1

Now, how long did basic training last? How many weeks?

00:09:37 Speaker 3

I think it lasted about four months.

00:09:40 Speaker 1

And were you able to stay in touch with family members while you were basically training?

00:09:46 Speaker 3

I didn't write very much needed right back so.

00:09:49 Speaker 1

You were pretty much out there on your own. Do you remember any of the instructors?

00:09:55 Speaker 1

I realized it's many years ago for you, but anybody saying that your mind?

00:09:58 Speaker 3

No.

00:10:01 Speaker 3

Alright, now I remember their actions. You know, I know there was a cloak of there.

00:10:05 Speaker 3

Was pretty rough on me.

00:10:07 Speaker 1

He was, yeah, he was.

00:10:09 Speaker 1

In what way?

00:10:11 Speaker 3

Well, we'd be going forced marches, you know, and I'd be.

00:10:16 Speaker 3

Wrestling with other kids, you know, on a.

00:10:18 Speaker 3

And one day, he says, I honor honor. You seem like you have a lot.

00:10:22 Speaker 3

Pep.

00:10:23 Speaker 3

Carry my pack.

00:10:24 Speaker 3

I want to force March.

00:10:26 Speaker 1

So you pay 2 packs.

00:10:28 Speaker 3

Yeah, I carry my bag in his bag too.

00:10:30 Speaker 3

And I didn't like that because I was tired already.

00:10:33 Speaker 3

Except that you know, when I was wrestling with the kid, you know?

00:10:36 Speaker 2

The.

00:10:38

But.

00:10:39 Speaker 3

I didn't have my pack on and I was just 10 minute break and anyway, he said.

00:10:46 Speaker 3

Well, I was just my.

00:10:47 Speaker 3

He was, you know, 'cause, he started.

00:10:48 Speaker 3

Know his short breast? Sure.

00:10:49 Speaker 1

Sure.

00:10:51 Speaker 2

He didn't.

00:10:52 Speaker 3

He didn't.

00:10:55 Speaker 3

He didn't say.

00:10:55 Speaker 3

Nothing you know he.

00:10:56 Speaker 2

Right, right.

00:10:56 Speaker 3

I was the one that was going to be punished. Great.

00:11:00 Speaker 1

Back in the your days in the military service, if you remember.

00:11:05 Speaker 2

Replay.

00:11:06 Speaker 1

What your your military job was upon.

00:11:11 Speaker 1

When you completed basic training.

00:11:14 Speaker 3

Yeah, I was a rival man.

00:11:16 Speaker 1

Riflemen.

00:11:17 Speaker 1

And we used to call those Emma military occupation.

00:11:21 Speaker 1

But I'm I'm not sure if that term applied back then.

00:11:26 Speaker 1

But what kind of Rifleman?

00:11:29 Speaker 1

Let's see you.

00:11:31 Speaker 1

You have probably had an M1 rifle back then, did you not?

00:11:33 Speaker 3

Yeah.

00:11:34 Speaker 3

You ran Cameron, right?

00:11:35 Speaker 1

Right. It was a fine weapon.

00:11:37 Speaker 3

Very good.

00:11:39 Speaker 1

So did you feel that the the training was adequate at the time that was preparing you for combat?

00:11:46 Speaker 3

Not for what I went through.

00:11:49 Speaker 3

We were.

00:11:51 Speaker 3

Well, after after the basic training that I went, I was sent to Camp House, Texas.

00:11:58 Speaker 1

Say say the Captain house, OK.

00:11:59 Speaker 3

Camp house.

00:12:02 Speaker 3

Texas and there I I was there about 3 months and.

00:12:07 Speaker 2

From.

00:12:08 Speaker 3

There.

00:12:10 Speaker 3

Well, one day, you know, Sergeant came over and they wanted some volunteers to go overseas and I didn't know.

00:12:18 Speaker 3

You know what that all meant for going?

00:12:18 Speaker 2

The.

00:12:20 Speaker 3

You know, I've never been anywhere but sure. So anyway.

00:12:25 Speaker 3

Nobody said anything. So anyway, he says Alvarado.

00:12:28 Speaker 3

About you joining.

00:12:31 Speaker 3

Overseas I.

00:12:32 Speaker 3

Well, I'll go when my turn comes, I said.

00:12:33 Speaker 3

Your turn has come because I volunteered overseas.

00:12:38 Speaker 3

That's.

00:12:39 Speaker 3

When I joined the 1st Army to go on D8.

00:12:44 Speaker 1

Now, where did you join the 1st Army?

00:12:47 Speaker 3

In England.

00:12:49 Speaker 1

OK, you transferred to England and and they what time of year did you arrive there?

00:12:53 Speaker 2

Mm.

00:12:57 Speaker 3

Around April, April.

00:13:01 Speaker 1

And did you have continued training while in England or?

00:13:06 Speaker 3

Whatever, mostly.

00:13:09 Speaker 3

Lectures.

00:13:10 Speaker 2

Play me a song.

00:13:12 Speaker 3

And I can remember, you know, falling asleep in one of those.

00:13:16 Speaker 1

What were the lectures about?

00:13:17 Speaker 3

Because.

00:13:19 Speaker 3

Of you know, gun replacements, German gun.

00:13:22 Speaker 1

What to expect when you enter combat?

00:13:24 Speaker 3

Yeah, but I didn't.

00:13:25 Speaker 3

It didn't make sense to me either, because I mean I never experienced that before.

00:13:29 Speaker 3

Mean I I didn't.

00:13:32 Speaker 3

I he didn't seem to think on it.

00:13:34 Speaker 3

Was a a war?

00:13:38 Speaker 3

I just didn't seem interested.

00:13:41 Speaker 3

Because like I said, I fell asleep and one of the mixtures you know. And and I.

00:13:49 Speaker 3

The I think he was a.

00:13:52 Speaker 3

Somebody did giving the the lecture and he was the one.

00:13:56 Speaker 3

That pointed to me, he.

00:13:57 Speaker 3

Wake that man up and the guy next to me gave me a nodge.

00:14:00 Speaker 2

Mm.

00:14:02 Speaker 3

Now which I will cover says hey, you come here.

00:14:06 Speaker 3

So I said. Me. Yeah, you come here.

00:14:10 Speaker 3

So anyway, I had to go to the front and stand there watching. Listen.

00:14:16 Speaker 1

I think that standard procedure for people falling.

00:14:18 Speaker 1

Before I forget.

00:14:21 Speaker 1

Tell us a little bit about what you remember about how you traveled from Texas to England.

00:14:29 Speaker 3

Oh no.

00:14:29 Speaker 1

You you took.

00:14:31 Speaker 3

I mean, I don't mean.

00:14:32 Speaker 1

When are you took the train to the East Coast, obviously.

00:14:34 Speaker 3

Yeah, no, from from Texas I went to.

00:14:35 Speaker 1

It was it a troop.

00:14:36 Speaker 1

It a.

00:14:40 Speaker 3

Camp.

00:14:41 Speaker 3

How's Texas like training, right?

00:14:42 Speaker 2

All right.

00:14:43 Speaker 3

And then from camp housing, we of course we went to bike, train again to the coast.

00:14:50 Speaker 1

Did they give you?

00:14:51 Speaker 1

Military leave to go home before.

00:14:53 Speaker 3

I think they did, yeah.

00:14:56 Speaker 1

Did you go back to Kansas City, KS, except for visit?

00:14:57 Speaker 3

Maybe yes. Yes, I did.

00:15:00 Speaker 1

All right on the coast.

00:15:04 Speaker 1

How did you get to England?

00:15:06 Speaker 1

Bishop, when the Queen Mary.

00:15:06 Speaker 3

Went on the Queen Mary yet?

00:15:10 Speaker 1

Here's a boy from Kansas.

00:15:12 Speaker 3

Doing.

00:15:12 Speaker 3

Very.

00:15:13 Speaker 1

The first class on the queen.

00:15:15 Speaker 1

Tell us what you remember about being on board that ship and how long did it take to make the crossing?

00:15:19 Speaker 3

I can't think of the.

00:15:20 Speaker 3

They talk about a week, seven days, something like that.

00:15:24 Speaker 1

Was as smooth, smooth sailing or.

00:15:26 Speaker 3

No one's kind of rough.

00:15:27 Speaker 1

I was.

00:15:28 Speaker 3

Yeah, it was real.

00:15:28 Speaker 1

Do you get seasick?

00:15:29 Speaker 3

No, but I saw most of them get sick.

00:15:32

I.

00:15:33 Speaker 3

Mean after?

00:15:33 Speaker 3

After you see it, somebody gets sick.

00:15:36 Speaker 3

Not hungry anymore.

00:15:37 Speaker 1

That's right.

00:15:38 Speaker 2

That's right.

00:15:39 Speaker 1

What was your sleeping combination?

00:15:41 Speaker 3

Very uncomfortable, wherever you could find a place to sleep.

00:15:46 Speaker 1

Did they assign you a phone card?

00:15:47 Speaker 3

There was no such thing as a bunk.

00:15:50 Speaker 3

They just we just curl up someplace and go.

00:15:53 Speaker 3

It is crowded. Very crowded, yeah.

00:15:55 Speaker 2

Right.

00:15:58 Speaker 1

So how did you spend your days on ship?

00:16:01 Speaker 3

Just walking around it was.

00:16:05 Speaker 3

Go through the crowd.

00:16:07 Speaker 3

There'd be a lot of guys yelling.

00:16:07 Speaker 2

Up.

00:16:11 Speaker 3

Cars for dice, you know, family.

00:16:14 Speaker 1

Are you a? Are you a gambler?

00:16:15 Speaker 3

No.

00:16:16 Speaker 1

OK, you saved your money.

00:16:18 Speaker 3

I didn't have anybody.

00:16:21 Speaker 1

When you got into.

00:16:24 Speaker 1

What port did you arrive at in England you remember?

00:16:26 Speaker 3

You know, I don't remember that, but it was.

00:16:32 Speaker 3

We.

00:16:32 Speaker 3

We were sleeping in a big.

00:16:35 Speaker 3

You know, not a house is like a.

00:16:40 Speaker 3

Barn something. It was not a hay in it.

00:16:43 Speaker 2

Hello. Hey.

00:16:43

And.

00:16:43 Speaker 3

Yeah, they there was bug beds, but they were all just hanging on top of.

00:16:47 Speaker 1

Right. Was your name of the the Garrison or the?

00:16:50 Speaker 3

I don't remember that.

00:16:52 Speaker 1

You don't recall that. All right, when you got there, were you assigned a a unit accompany?

00:16:59 Speaker 3

Well.

00:17:00 Speaker 3

We went.

00:17:02 Speaker 3

From from the from the porch, we were trained again into further into England, and there were a lot of faucets and.

00:17:12 Speaker 2

With him.

00:17:16 Speaker 3

And.

00:17:18 Speaker 3

Anyway.

00:17:20 Speaker 3

I I asked several.

00:17:24 Speaker 3

Went out there in, you know, I wanted to know what else you guys. And they they didn't know.

00:17:31 Speaker 3

And some of them have come from different.

00:17:33 Speaker 3

They had patches and they were going to be taking our patches off.

00:17:37 Speaker 3

And so we didn't.

00:17:37 Speaker 2

The.

00:17:38 Speaker 3

I didn't know but but we.

00:17:41 Speaker 3

What are people going to be?

00:17:43 Speaker 3

Until later, until I came back.

00:17:45 Speaker 3

I realized without that I was in. That's right.

00:17:47 Speaker 1

Is that right?

00:17:50 Speaker 1

But when you were when you left the ship, obviously you left as a group.

00:17:55 Speaker 3

Yeah.

00:17:55 Speaker 1

And you must have reported in into a.

00:17:58 Speaker 1

Were you in a in a squad or or baton?

00:18:04 Speaker 3

I think it was like a.

00:18:05 Speaker 1

The entire platoon reported into this one company.

00:18:08 Speaker 3

But there was no name on it.

00:18:10 Speaker 3

Were just.

00:18:10 Speaker 3

You know, they they just said.

00:18:15 Speaker 3

There are names roster, they they read the roster and you know we have a present.

00:18:21 Speaker 1

Mm.

00:18:21 Speaker 3

And that was that was read quite often.

00:18:23 Speaker 1

And tell me again what time of what time of year that would have been when you reported in England.

00:18:30 Speaker 3

Run eBay.

00:18:30 Speaker 1

Around April, remember the weather.

00:18:34 Speaker 3

Yes.

00:18:36 Speaker 3

Very foggy.

00:18:39 Speaker 3

Considering much.

00:18:44 Speaker 2

From.

00:18:45 Speaker 1

What was?

00:18:48 Speaker 1

Where did you?

00:18:51 Speaker 1

Then go. I mean, were you preparing obviously for D-Day?

00:18:55 Speaker 3

Well, I didn't know that.

00:18:58 Speaker 3

I mean.

00:18:58 Speaker 1

I was what was going on around you that.

00:19:04 Speaker 3

This floor remembers going to Chao, you know, with this.

00:19:07

Mm.

00:19:09 Speaker 3

And in the rain.

00:19:12 Speaker 3

And you put you on a raincoat and your helmet. You go up, stand in line and.

00:19:21 Speaker 3

There were some inoculations too, there you know, and that kept us busy.

00:19:27 Speaker 3

Every time you leave, you know just some calisthenics.

00:19:30 Speaker 3

But there was nothing.

00:19:33 Speaker 3

No.

00:19:33 Speaker 3

As I remember.

00:19:35 Speaker 3

No shooting or nothing like.

00:19:37 Speaker 3

But however, there was some shells being dropped or some rockets.

00:19:43 Speaker 3

I know the one experience that I.

00:19:46 Speaker 3

It was the first time I heard of a big bomb hit. Wondering.

00:19:51 Speaker 3

Maintenance places that are big explosions that are the first time.

00:19:55 Speaker 1

There was.

00:19:56 Speaker 1

Germans were using the Rockets.

00:19:58 Speaker 3

That was the first time I realized, hey, this is war.

00:20:03 Speaker 1

What was the attitude of the fellow soldiers?

00:20:06 Speaker 3

They were just noisy.

00:20:08 Speaker 3

They were in good spirits.

00:20:11 Speaker 3

On mind, whether we're not very good in good spirits.

00:20:14 Speaker 3

Didn't allow us getting into.

00:20:16 Speaker 1

I say.

00:20:16 Speaker 3

I did not know.

00:20:17 Speaker 3

I was not very smart.

00:20:20 Speaker 1

Well, when did when did your group form up for the invasion?

00:20:29 Speaker 3

Let's see.

00:20:35 Speaker 2

You don't wake up.

00:20:37 Speaker 1

Do you have a sense of what the time was? You know, the the military is always famous for. Hurry up, hurry up and wait.

00:20:45 Speaker 1

But when you left your Garrison and you were moving.

00:20:50 Speaker 3

Well, we say.

00:20:51 Speaker 3

Towards the beach.

00:20:52 Speaker 1

Towards the base of the boat.

00:20:53 Speaker 3

Both she was during the day because when we got there, I remember seeing all these ships on the.

00:21:01 Speaker 3

On the document.

00:21:02 Speaker 1

On the water.

00:21:04 Speaker 3

And I try to remember some of the names.

00:21:08 Speaker 1

What? What? What type of?

00:21:11 Speaker 1

Ship. Did you board for the invasion?

00:21:14 Speaker 1

Was it a landing craft or?

00:21:16 Speaker 3

No, it was a ship.

00:21:18 Speaker 3

Just a ship. I think it was.

00:21:23 Speaker 3

Oh, I can't remember the.

00:21:25 Speaker 3

Samuel P chase.

00:21:28 Speaker 1

All.

00:21:29 Speaker 1

And then when you departed, how long were you?

00:21:31 Speaker 1

The water.

00:21:32 Speaker 3

I'd say about.

00:21:35 Speaker 3

Three days.

00:21:36 Speaker 1

Three days.

00:21:37 Speaker 1

And you were.

00:21:41 Speaker 1

Tell us about the invasion.

00:21:44 Speaker 1

What do you recall?

00:21:46 Speaker 3

Well.

00:21:51 Speaker 3

I had, you know, it's.

00:21:54 Speaker 3

During all this time, you know, I had a headache.

00:21:58 Speaker 3

And when I arrived there on D-Day with all the explosions going on, you know?

00:22:04 Speaker 3

Well, personally, I ride there real quiet.

00:22:07 Speaker 3

And I mean, like, we couldn't make any noise at all.

00:22:10 Speaker 3

No noise aboard a.

00:22:11 Speaker 1

Aboard the ship.

00:22:12 Speaker 3

Yeah, everything's real quiet and.

00:22:13 Speaker 2

All right.

00:22:18 Speaker 3

You.

00:22:18 Speaker 3

You didn't hear the both whistling or nothing like that.

00:22:21 Speaker 3

Was just a hush like something.

00:22:25 Speaker 3

Going to happen.

00:22:28 Speaker 3

And then about 6:00, then all this.

00:22:31 Speaker 1

6:00 in the morning.

00:22:31 Speaker 3

About six. Yeah, six more.

00:22:34 Speaker 3

Dogs.

00:22:34 Speaker 1

Have you been issued ammunition?

00:22:37 Speaker 3

Yeah. Yeah. We had been issued in.

00:22:40 Speaker 1

All right. I've had you had you leave the. How'd you leave the ship?

00:22:45 Speaker 3

Well, we there was some, you know, on the sides and that's what.

00:22:47 Speaker 1

Netting.

00:22:50 Speaker 2

Right.

00:22:50 Speaker 3

Did we?

00:22:52 Speaker 3

We got on that.

00:22:53 Speaker 1

That's pretty tricky. Climbing down there with all that gear.

00:22:55 Speaker 3

No, not only that, but the the water was very, very shallow and.

00:23:00 Speaker 2

Bro.

00:23:05 Speaker 3

One time you'd see the boats come up and the next time you see them go and you go back and forth, you know, and you get on the net and you don't know whether.

00:23:13 Speaker 3

Going.

00:23:13 Speaker 3

Hit the water or the boat. But the guys on the bottom.

00:23:14 Speaker 2

OK, alright.

00:23:16 Speaker 3

Held the ropes pretty.

00:23:18 Speaker 3

Try to cross as soon as we got down.

00:23:20 Speaker 3

Know they would help us get in it.

00:23:22 Speaker 1

So you got in the landing craft.

00:23:24

Direct.

00:23:24 Speaker 1

And any idea how many people in the landing craft at one time?

00:23:27 Speaker 3

Yeah, I.

00:23:28 Speaker 3

There were about 30.

00:23:29 Speaker 1

30.

00:23:30 Speaker 1

And this was your platoon, right?

00:23:32 Speaker 3

Yeah, but I didn't.

00:23:33 Speaker 3

There was just a different, more I just.

00:23:35 Speaker 2

OK.

00:23:38 Speaker 1

So there's a lot of myth about this organization in the military.

00:23:39 Speaker 3

The whole thing is improved.

00:23:41 Speaker 3

Nothing can.

00:23:42 Speaker 3

About who you were you. Everything was a secret.

00:23:45 Speaker 1

But did you ever tell me you had?

00:23:47 Speaker 1

Squad.

00:23:47 Speaker 1

I hope that was giving you direction.

00:23:49 Speaker 3

I yeah.

00:23:51 Speaker 3

But he had no strikes.

00:23:53 Speaker 3

Had no.

00:23:54 Speaker 3

He had nothing. Just another guy.

00:23:55 Speaker 2

OK, wow.

00:23:57 Speaker 3

You you all, we called him is your old man.

00:24:01 Speaker 3

This old man's here.

00:24:03 Speaker 1

Describe it. All right. All right, you're in.

00:24:04 Speaker 2

Yes.

00:24:06 Speaker 1

In the landing craft now.

00:24:09 Speaker 1

And tell us what.

00:24:10 Speaker 1

On the on the beach you landed at.

00:24:13 Speaker 3

I landed Omaha Beach and the reason I know that is because after we had landed.

00:24:14 Speaker 1

Omaha beach.

00:24:20 Speaker 2

The.

00:24:21 Speaker 3

And after we reach a.

00:24:25 Speaker 3

A place of protection shelf, you know.

00:24:28 Speaker 2

Mm.

00:24:31 Speaker 3

A man came.

00:24:32 Speaker 3

He had no identification, but I know he was another old man, he says.

00:24:36 Speaker 2

Google.

00:24:37 Speaker 3

This is all a hobby.

00:24:39 Speaker 3

You're an easy read.

00:24:40 Speaker 1

Is he right on on all big?

00:24:42 Speaker 3

Mm.

00:24:44 Speaker 1

That that landing craft did.

00:24:46 Speaker 1

Far, sure.

00:24:49 Speaker 1

We see pictures a lot of GIS in water.

00:24:51 Speaker 3

Yeah, but it wasn't when we got on the landing.

00:24:55 Speaker 3

You know what I was about 11 miles that we had to travel and that thing, and it was up and down, up and down.

00:25:02 Speaker 1

Did you when you left the landing craft, did you encounter any fire?

00:25:08 Speaker 3

Oh yeah, there's a.

00:25:09 Speaker 1

So how many? How deep in the water?

00:25:11 Speaker 3

Were you up to the chest? OK.

00:25:14 Speaker 1

And I'm sure it must been a mad scramble to get off that beach or get as far into that beach.

00:25:19 Speaker 3

When I.

00:25:20 Speaker 3

At home with the third one out and I'll tell you how scared I was really scared I.

00:25:31 Speaker 3

When when we got, when we started going in the water, you can still hear the shots, you know, and you it was just like a dream.

00:25:39 Speaker 3

Couldn't quite comprehend the whole thing because.

00:25:45 Speaker 3

It, like I said, you know.

00:25:46 Speaker 3

Didn't.

00:25:47 Speaker 3

Foresee all this stuff in my mind, you know.

00:25:48 Speaker 1

Right.

00:25:50 Speaker 3

And he.

00:25:51 Speaker 3

He was just an awakening.

00:25:54 Speaker 3

I should have paid attention all that sort of stuff.

00:25:56 Speaker 1

So what this is?

00:25:58 Speaker 1

You said 6:00 in the morning. So what?

00:26:00 Speaker 1

Time. Did you hit the beach?

00:26:02 Speaker 3

I'd say about 6:30.

00:26:04 Speaker 1

At 6:30.

00:26:06 Speaker 1

And.

00:26:08 Speaker 1

Tell us about your fighting on the beach.

00:26:10 Speaker 1

Mean what?

00:26:10 Speaker 1

What did you encounter?

00:26:11 Speaker 3

Well, the first thing.

00:26:13 Speaker 3

The first thing that we encountered was the 1st wave had been there already. That was on the second.

00:26:18 Speaker 3

And.

00:26:20 Speaker 3

And the first way had been there and they there's a lot of data around.

00:26:20 Speaker 2

The.

00:26:24 Speaker 3

You know, yes. And I tripped over some of them and I didn't know that's what it.

00:26:24 Speaker 1

See Bobbys floating in the water.

00:26:29 Speaker 3

And I'm until when I saw that all these dead guys are, you know, it really was scary to me.

00:26:35 Speaker 3

So anyway after that.

00:26:38 Speaker 3

There were a lot of tattoo guns, tattoo hands, tattoos, you know, metals obstacles on.

00:26:44 Speaker 1

Sure. And.

00:26:45 Speaker 3

I noticed a lot of guys were doing that.

00:26:47 Speaker 3

Knew better than that, I said.

00:26:49 Speaker 3

Well, these these are no protection because the shells are going straight.

00:26:53 Speaker 3

You know.

00:26:53 Speaker 2

Right.

00:26:55 Speaker 3

And you know, even if they even a shell gets behind you, it's going to hurt you anyway.

00:26:59 Speaker 3

Anyway, I just kept on running towards.

00:26:59 Speaker 1

Getching.

00:27:01 Speaker 1

You zig and zag then.

00:27:03 Speaker 3

Until I got to that, you know that shelf.

00:27:07 Speaker 3

And that's I think that's the way I.

00:27:10 Speaker 3

I just didn't look back, you know, at that time.

00:27:12 Speaker 3

Didn't look back.

00:27:13 Speaker 1

Those are probably the run of your life.

00:27:15 Speaker 3

Yeah, that's right, you.

00:27:16 Speaker 1

So now are you huddled up with other GIS here and?

00:27:20 Speaker 3

And there was.

00:27:21 Speaker 3

Fight. You can see the enemy.

00:27:24 Speaker 2

OK, right.

00:27:24 Speaker 3

You could not see them.

00:27:25 Speaker 3

You couldn't see what am I shooting at and nothing.

00:27:29 Speaker 1

So tell me more about what you did from there.

00:27:34 Speaker 3

Well.

00:27:37 Speaker 3

As we were in the.

00:27:39 Speaker 3

You know, I look back, you know, seeing well, how are we ever going to get out of this thing, you know, and my salary? I mean, because there was no, there's no app because everything was.

00:27:50 Speaker 3

Wires and obstacles and all that sort of stuff.

00:27:55 Speaker 3

And so I looked back and it was just. I knew that I was making a good back.

00:28:00 Speaker 3

It was just that my hearing, you know, guys were still coming in, falling all over the place.

00:28:04 Speaker 3

Know and.

00:28:05 Speaker 3

Fire.

00:28:08 Speaker 3

You know, just a lot of explosions built over a lot of noise, just very lots of noise.

00:28:13 Speaker 1

So as you move forward.

00:28:15 Speaker 3

Well, a man can do. Like I said, this this old man came over and says you're in almah beats and.

00:28:19 Speaker 1

Right.

00:28:24 Speaker 3

He says OK, man, let's get ready to move up so that I figured, well, we got a leader. Now let's go.

00:28:29 Speaker 3

So, but there was no definition of who was leading or what, or the meaning were not a group we were.

00:28:31 Speaker 1

Answer.

00:28:39 Speaker 3

We were something from the 1st wave of the second wave.

00:28:45 Speaker 3

The one the people on the right side of us, they were.

00:28:48 Speaker 3

Now I know they were the 29th Division.

00:28:52 Speaker 3

And I when I saw that, you know, one of them says I will 29th division because they knew about it because.

00:28:57 Speaker 3

Had been war before.

00:29:00 Speaker 3

So I thought, well, I must be in the 29th, but I was not.

00:29:04 Speaker 3

Was in.

00:29:04 Speaker 3

1st.

00:29:05 Speaker 2

OK.

00:29:06 Speaker 3

And they were side by side all.

00:29:07 Speaker 1

The way so I had a lot of mass confusion, but someone came in and took over the leadership and you followed the leader.

00:29:07 Speaker 2

Man.

00:29:12 Speaker 3

Said yeah and.

00:29:15 Speaker 1

And when was the first time you recall that you fired your weapon?

00:29:19 Speaker 3

Well, we went OK as we went up.

00:29:20 Speaker 1

You come back.

00:29:25 Speaker 3

You could see a lot of dead soldiers around where the mine had been and the engineers and the engineers were out there in front, you know.

00:29:27 Speaker 2

Right, right.

00:29:32 Speaker 3

Trying.

00:29:32 Speaker 3

To figure area for us to go.

00:29:32 Speaker 1

Trying to clear the minefield.

00:29:35 Speaker 3

And once we got there.

00:29:37 Speaker 3

Up.

00:29:38 Speaker 3

Then there was a machine gun placement that had to be dealt with and.

00:29:43 Speaker 3

This old man.

00:29:45 Speaker 2

Replay.

00:29:46 Speaker 3

He was the one that took care of that.

00:29:48 Speaker 3

He.

00:29:49 Speaker 3

He was seen how brave he was.

00:29:50 Speaker 3

Knew exactly what to.

00:29:51 Speaker 3

He had been trained a lot better, New England.

00:29:54 Speaker 2

Right.

00:29:55 Speaker 3

Was just.

00:29:56 Speaker 3

You know, just right following them along.

00:29:58 Speaker 1

So they cleared the machine gun nest.

00:29:59 Speaker 3

And then we went on on further up towards kumont and.

00:30:04 Speaker 1

Have you fired your weapon yet, okay?

00:30:06 Speaker 3

No, no, no, no, no.

00:30:08 Speaker 3

To fire nothing.

00:30:09 Speaker 1

OK.

00:30:11 Speaker 1

When was the first time you fired your weapon?

00:30:14 Speaker 3

Well, when we reached.

00:30:18 Speaker 3

The let's see.

00:30:25 Speaker 3

See where where we see circulating the. So we're getting too far ahead of me here.

00:30:32 Speaker 2

Sorry.

00:30:33 Speaker 3

OK, let me go through my story here.

00:30:36 Speaker 1

Tell your story please.

00:30:37 Speaker 2

OK.

00:30:39 Speaker 3

Well, as we went all the way up to Kuma, we are up there with the first one to reach our destination.

00:30:46 Speaker 3

And I don't know.

00:30:47 Speaker 3

Because we maybe we didn't meet any encounters other than some some soldiers that wanted to give.

00:30:54 Speaker 1

German is the one that's right there.

00:30:54 Speaker 3

Sold.

00:30:56 Speaker 2

Right.

00:30:57 Speaker 3

lers there because you know, I thought they were the superior race, you know.

00:31:02 Speaker 2

Right.

00:31:02 Speaker 3

And here they're just kids, you know, just like I was, you know, I mean, well, heck, there's nothing there.

00:31:08 Speaker 3

So we kept on going.

00:31:10 Speaker 3

And during this time.

00:31:16 Speaker 3

We did start to go forward and there was sporadic.

00:31:23 Speaker 3

Sharp shooters like.

00:31:24 Speaker 3

Or maybe a side snipers. They were shooting at us, but there was not a war where you get together and start shooting at each other.

00:31:26 Speaker 2

Select.

00:31:32 Speaker 3

Was just watching for snipers and of course, you know we by that time by time we reached our destination, we had tanks.

00:31:40 Speaker 3

Our.

00:31:40 Speaker 3

Men were coming in from the beach.

00:31:43 Speaker 3

And that's when our tanks will go over there and take.

00:31:46 Speaker 3

Of the snipers and all that.

00:31:47 Speaker 2

Uh.

00:31:48 Speaker 3

Then and then there was a breakthrough.

00:31:52 Speaker 3

We had to contend with because the Germans had formed a line.

00:31:58 Speaker 3

From Kumont all the way down to.

00:32:01 Speaker 3

The north part, yeah, of the of France.

00:32:07 Speaker 3

And we had to cut through in order to get to go around them.

00:32:14 Speaker 3

So that's when.

00:32:16 Speaker 3

Cobra.

00:32:18 Speaker 3

That was another state of.

00:32:24 Speaker 3

Campaign and.

00:32:28 Speaker 3

That's when they came in with a lot of bombers and bomb and area, you know, about a mile long and they devastated the German army at that time. They were about 70% lost there just on their side. But they had a lot of a lot of.

00:32:44 Speaker 3

A lot of tanks and a lot of.

00:32:46 Speaker 3

A lot.

00:32:46 Speaker 3

Interview.

00:32:47 Speaker 3

But.

00:32:49 Speaker 3

They noticed the wonder I, as I understand, one of the pilots said that there was nothing coming on their side, no replacement, nothing.

00:32:59 Speaker 3

But we had a lot of stuff coming in from the beach.

00:33:03 Speaker 3

So I didn't know.

00:33:04 Speaker 3

At that time. But anyway I understand.

00:33:07 Speaker 3

But then we went on to valid Sergeant Hand gap, but we inserted the Germans.

00:33:17 Speaker 2

On it.

00:33:17 Speaker 3

That's when.

00:33:19 Speaker 3

I fired my wife.

00:33:21 Speaker 3

OK. Because they were there.

00:33:25 Speaker 3

Thank.

00:33:25 Speaker 1

You can encounter the enemy.

00:33:30 Speaker 3

It was strange because we didn't. Like I said we were struggling.

00:33:33 Speaker 3

Didn't know who was fought.

00:33:36 Speaker 3

We heard a tractor.

00:33:36 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:33:37 Speaker 3

Or I mean a tank.

00:33:38 Speaker 3

We didn't know it was ours or theirs or what, because we were not familiar.

00:33:42 Speaker 3

The tanks.

00:33:45 Speaker 3

But anyway, we heard that it was at night.

00:33:47 Speaker 3

Oh, before that we were crossing this big field and that's the first time I saw Patton.

00:33:54 Speaker 3

And their tanks were over here to the right, and the Germans were over here, to the left. And the Germans were on the left, on the wooded area.

00:34:03 Speaker 3

So they were shooting with their hand guns.

00:34:09 Speaker 3

And.

00:34:10 Speaker 3

Tanks were shooting with their guns, and so we were right.

00:34:13 Speaker 3

The middle.

00:34:14 Speaker 3

And we were there for about a month until, I mean, not dawn until dark.

00:34:20 Speaker 3

And after dark, you know, everything stopped and things have gone and they stopped.

00:34:24 Speaker 3

So we just got up going on and went on to connect with our other outfit that was further up and that was the phase Argentina.

00:34:35 Speaker 3

And when we got there.

00:34:37 Speaker 3

Were the last ones in our outfit.

00:34:39 Speaker 3

Was the last platoon.

00:34:43 Speaker 3

Squad excuse.

00:34:44 Speaker 3

Squad going from 12:00. The last squad. That was we were behind everybody.

00:34:51 Speaker 2

The rear.

00:34:52 Speaker 3

We will bring it up the rear and.

00:34:56 Speaker 3

When we got there, we was a road was Argentine Rd. but it was a hedge Rd.

00:35:02 Speaker 3

And we got up to the hedgerow and we kind of were all about maybe 20 feet apart on the hedge and but we we heard this.

00:35:08 Speaker 2

Mm.

00:35:14 Speaker 3

Convoy coming a lot of drugs and tanks coming through that road and I thought it was ours.

00:35:18 Speaker 3

We're going the same direction.

00:35:20 Speaker 3

But see, we were.

00:35:21 Speaker 3

We were trying to encircle them and they were coming.

00:35:23 Speaker 3

Way too, and all of a sudden we discovered they were, well, one of, hey, they're German.

00:35:30 Speaker 3

Because of the cross on it, they were about the.

00:35:31 Speaker 1

Right.

00:35:32 Speaker 3

So that's when we encountered bursting as a motorcyclist, then 1/2 track.

00:35:39 Speaker 3

Then some.

00:35:40 Speaker 3

About 3 trucks and some tanks on further and I know how long that that line was, but it was long.

00:35:46 Speaker 1

So you need to open fire on.

00:35:47 Speaker 3

Well, yeah, as soon as.

00:35:49 Speaker 3

As soon as the motorcyclist he turn into where we were and.

00:35:55 Speaker 3

The alarm.

00:35:56 Speaker 3

And their cat herd, the old man. I can't say. I keep saying to Captain, Sergeant, whatever. He was the one that fired that shot that killed that motorcyclist. And that, of course, that did that. Did away with, I mean, all the secrecy and all that. So right away.

00:36:13 Speaker 3

The half track got stopped and the.

00:36:18 Speaker 3

And all the all the men on the trucks, the infantry that was on the trucks, they start climbing out of it.

00:36:24 Speaker 3

And they start going on the opposite direction and running and at the same time we were doing the same thing. We were going back.

00:36:31 Speaker 3

Was a ***** in the back about. There we go.

00:36:34 Speaker 3

Oh, like an orchard, you know?

00:36:36 Speaker 2

The.

00:36:38 Speaker 3

Foot ditch there and.

00:36:40 Speaker 2

The.

00:36:45 Speaker 3

And of course.

00:36:46 Speaker 3

Was just not not very many of us, you know. So they were all trying to figure.

00:36:49 Speaker 3

What to do? And but I was like going to stay down there.

00:36:53 Speaker 3

Wanted to see what was going to happen.

00:36:54 Speaker 3

Anyway, I got to get up to.

00:36:56 Speaker 3

Ridge of the ditch there and I started looking.

00:36:59 Speaker 3

And I saw these guys getting, organizing and going to start coming in.

00:37:03 Speaker 3

So I shouted to this guy.

00:37:05 Speaker 3

I'll just call him a Sergeant right now because I don't know.

00:37:07 Speaker 2

Right.

00:37:09 Speaker 3

I said, hey, Sergeant there.

00:37:13 Speaker 3

And I was a little excited about it.

00:37:15 Speaker 3

Know see they come.

00:37:16 Speaker 3

They come in.

00:37:17 Speaker 3

I think they're Germans.

00:37:18 Speaker 3

On.

00:37:19 Speaker 3

And you know, you just call that mean?

00:37:22 Speaker 3

They try to calm me down and.

00:37:26 Speaker 3

So anyway, he followed me up to the bridge.

00:37:28 Speaker 3

I I wasn't going to calm down. I.

00:37:30 Speaker 3

Going to speak it up.

00:37:32 Speaker 2

Sure.

00:37:33 Speaker 3

So anyway, I get up to the.

00:37:35 Speaker 3

And I asked.

00:37:36 Speaker 3

I said he was by me and they're looking and I said now.

00:37:40 Speaker 3

Those German.

00:37:42 Speaker 3

And he said, yeah.

00:37:45 Speaker 3

So they were.

00:37:46 Speaker 3

You know, running and then didn't hit the ground running and hit the ground and.

00:37:51 Speaker 3

And anyway, when I saw this guy get up with, you know when these potato meshes running the rest of the way, I shot him but.

00:38:02 Speaker 3

Anyway, vice.

00:38:03 Speaker 3

Then he went down and.

00:38:04 Speaker 3

The rest of the guys to come up.

00:38:06 Speaker 1

Yeah. Describe to him your engagement.

00:38:07 Speaker 3

Yeah, yeah.

00:38:09 Speaker 3

And then he says that's when he's doing his self.

00:38:14 Speaker 3

For the cubic combat badge.

00:38:18 Speaker 1

It's great.

00:38:20 Speaker 3

That's I got.

00:38:21 Speaker 3

That's I got the cover.

00:38:22 Speaker 3

They have.

00:38:23 Speaker 3

Kind of, but after that.

00:38:27 Speaker 3

We had no tanks. We had just 12 guys and they had a radio. They called in for help, so all was available was at one German tank. They came up.

00:38:39 Speaker 3

And as it came up, you could see them way out there in the distance, you know, just barely going in these German, German tankers.

00:38:48 Speaker 3

Up to the middle of the orchard and he stopped there and one of the Ironman had a bazooka.

00:38:55 Speaker 3

He shot the one of the tractions.

00:38:59 Speaker 3

And stopped him right there. Disabled him.

00:38:59 Speaker 1

Disable.

00:39:00 Speaker 3

He couldn't go any further.

00:39:01 Speaker 2

Uh.

00:39:03 Speaker 3

So anyway.

00:39:08 Speaker 3

By that time, well, he was shooting at us, trying to get his gun. His big bell down into us, you know?

00:39:14 Speaker 3

But he couldn't get far enough down to get us.

00:39:16 Speaker 2

I.

00:39:16 Speaker 3

The ditch so.

00:39:17 Speaker 3

He just stood there with his machine gun.

00:39:19 Speaker 3

Know, you know just.

00:39:20 Speaker 2

The.

00:39:20 Speaker 3

And forth, our our man came up.

00:39:23 Speaker 3

And we all were just engaged in there all.

00:39:27 Speaker 3

Our other.

00:39:29 Speaker 3

I mean.

00:39:30 Speaker 3

Tank came up and they he didn't know that about this tank and they didn't see each.

00:39:36 Speaker 3

Other than when they came up closer.

00:39:38 Speaker 2

Mm.

00:39:39 Speaker 3

So the turrets were pointed in the wrong direction.

00:39:41 Speaker 3

His disappointing eyes and the American tank was pointed at the other direction.

00:39:45 Speaker 2

I.

00:39:46 Speaker 3

So when they saw each other, you can see the tourists kind of like this, the German shot 1st and it ricocheted off with our tank.

00:39:54 Speaker 3

I could hear it, you know, just.

00:39:56 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:39:57 Speaker 3

And.

00:40:00 Speaker 3

But our tanks are firing and see, I noticed one of the things that Sherman has an advantage to that is that they don't have to stop the shoot.

00:40:10 Speaker 3

These people and going and.

00:40:12 Speaker 3

And in the German they have to get all settled down. Thank you.

00:40:18 Speaker 1

So did our Sherman take out the the German tank?

00:40:18 Speaker 2

He.

00:40:20 Speaker 3

Took him out immediately right away, and in fact a direct hit penetrated shell or something. I don't know how they did it, but they did it.

00:40:23 Speaker 2

Hi.

00:40:28 Speaker 3

And anyway, it begins to start popping and the guy in the chairman tank tried to get out from on the turret and with so much popping going on, he just swung back in and at the same time there was a red, a Red Cross truck.

00:40:45 Speaker 3

The German Red Cross truck came around, circled the the area there.

00:40:49 Speaker 3

There was nothing they could do for them.

00:40:52 Speaker 3

But we need to stop firing.

00:40:53 Speaker 3

Didn't fire.

00:40:54 Speaker 1

You in fire on the red carpet.

00:40:55 Speaker 3

No, absolutely not. So we.

00:40:58 Speaker 3

Kept on back and then another term thinks that coming in.

00:41:02 Speaker 3

But he was pushing all these struts out of way because they were in a way, you know, pushing them out. You know, people only pushing them.

00:41:09 Speaker 3

Up and at the same time we were we got out of our.

00:41:14 Speaker 3

The ditch there and start following our tank behind.

00:41:17 Speaker 3

That's when we start firing our arrivals screaming.

00:41:19 Speaker 2

Duncan's.

00:41:21 Speaker 3

We got 3 tanks.

00:41:23 Speaker 1

Did you suffer any casualties in your squad?

00:41:25 Speaker 3

No.

00:41:26 Speaker 1

You did all.

00:41:27 Speaker 1

You won the won the battle for the day.

00:41:29 Speaker 1

How give me some perspective on time.

00:41:33 Speaker 1

This the second.

00:41:34 Speaker 1

Same day of the that you landed on the beach or.

00:41:38 Speaker 3

Oh no, that was.

00:41:41 Speaker 3

But see, this is July.

00:41:48 Speaker 2

How?

00:41:54 Speaker 3

Somewhere in some time in July, July 28.

00:41:57 Speaker 1

OK, so like a month, six weeks after landing on the beach, did your unit push on from there?

00:42:00 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:42:05 Speaker 3

Yes, well, let me check recaptures 50,000.

00:42:06 Speaker 1

What? What other battles?

00:42:11 Speaker 3

Soldiers at that time, on the trapped.

00:42:15 Speaker 1

50,000 Germans all right.

00:42:18 Speaker 1

So it was a short walk for those young Germans.

00:42:19 Speaker 3

Yeah, yeah, I thought the bulls over.

00:42:22 Speaker 2

Your son who's always.

00:42:25 Speaker 2

Yeah. All right.

00:42:26 Speaker 1

But Uncle Sam had different ideas for you, right?

00:42:29 Speaker 1

What happened after that? Well.

00:42:33 Speaker 3

After that, we decided to.

00:42:37 Speaker 3

Go on further.

00:42:38 Speaker 3

That's when I heard my Sergeant. I was going side, said man.

00:42:42

I.

00:42:42 Speaker 3

You're in the third Division, 3rd army. They needed division.

00:42:47 Speaker 3

Army.

00:42:50 Speaker 3

18th Division, Third Patents, Army.

00:42:53 Speaker 3

That's a.

00:42:54 Speaker 3

I heard Patton, but I did see Patton before, you know, with the tanks, because he came over to my apartment and says, are you OK, soldier? I said yes, Sir.

00:42:55 Speaker 1

OK.

00:43:05 Speaker 3

That's all it was said. I didn't believe.

00:43:07 Speaker 1

Well, we always see pet in the dressed pretty fancy with the Pearl of with Pearl of handguns and and fancy helmet. And so is that the way you're talking?

00:43:10 Speaker 3

Oh yeah, there is one office dressed up, you know.

00:43:16 Speaker 3

Good work. Yeah, yeah.

00:43:21 Speaker 3

Yeah, I think crazy, all this war going on. And he's standing there, you know, walking like boots.

00:43:28 Speaker 1

Just like how I learned, right, OK.

00:43:31 Speaker 1

All right. So give us some idea what what other engagements you were involved with?

00:43:37 Speaker 3

OK, then we were.

00:43:42 Speaker 3

I had a free. Oh. In fact, it was such a.

00:43:48 Speaker 2

And.

00:43:51 Speaker 3

Call it felt good to just win the tour and anyway we were all regrouping.

00:43:57 Speaker 3

The office was.

00:43:59 Speaker 3

One area I'm not sure where it was, but it was close to Paris.

00:44:03 Speaker 3

And anyway, they said anybody wants to go to Paris and go on a pass for.

00:44:09 Speaker 3

For so many hours, you come back by 6:00.

00:44:14 Speaker 3

I said, yeah, I'll go to Paris.

00:44:16 Speaker 2

Strip club.

00:44:16 Speaker 3

Yeah.

00:44:17 Speaker 3

So anyway, we got in trucking on the Paris and anyway.

00:44:23 Speaker 3

We we kind of celebrated.

00:44:25 Speaker 1

Now, did you have to?

00:44:26 Speaker 1

I mean, you're in in your combat uniforms.

00:44:29 Speaker 1

You have a chance to clean up.

00:44:30 Speaker 3

Change.

00:44:31 Speaker 3

No.

00:44:32 Speaker 1

No, you just went in and saw the sights.

00:44:33 Speaker 2

Yeah, that way.

00:44:34 Speaker 3

Yeah.

00:44:35 Speaker 1

And such. What was it like?

00:44:40 Speaker 1

You know, getting your food and obviously you're sleeping probably in foxholes and.

00:44:48 Speaker 3

Yeah, there was no. Yeah.

00:44:52 Speaker 3

Foolish D rations C rations you know.

00:44:56 Speaker 3

Uh.

00:44:57 Speaker 1

Did you pitch a tent and sleep in tents or did?

00:45:01 Speaker 1

Tell us how you got your your rest.

00:45:04 Speaker 3

OK, but after we got back from Paris, you know, we celebrated their, you know, with the French because they had liberated.

00:45:12 Speaker 3

Branson was liberated the day before the latest GAT and.

00:45:13 Speaker 2

The.

00:45:18 Speaker 1

So you're the you're in Paris the day after they were Liverpool.

00:45:21 Speaker 3

That's.

00:45:21 Speaker 3

So they were still going on the festivities.

00:45:23 Speaker 1

They were.

00:45:24 Speaker 1

Grip of civilians all right.

00:45:25 Speaker 3

Yeah. Yes.

00:45:28 Speaker 3

So anyway, we came back and that's when we that's when I realized I was in a different outfit now.

00:45:34 Speaker 3

OK.

00:45:35 Speaker 3

And after that we started going to the right towards the Moselle river.

00:45:42 Speaker 1

Towards the South, then, right, right.

00:45:43 Speaker 3

To the South.

00:45:45 Speaker 3

And.

00:45:47 Speaker 3

Well, no, everybody was happy.

00:45:48 Speaker 3

I.

00:45:49 Speaker 3

We thought the war was over. You know, Paris is liberated. And here we captured 50,000.

00:45:55 Speaker 3

Mean you couldn't see the end of.

00:45:56 Speaker 3

I didn't know it was 50,000 because I.

00:45:58 Speaker 3

See the end of the parade of soldiers.

00:46:00 Speaker 3

In for to give up.

00:46:02 Speaker 3

Right. But.

00:46:05 Speaker 3

When we got close to.

00:46:08 Speaker 3

To the motel.

00:46:09 Speaker 3

I don't know where we were, but rode trees there and our sage says OK man, just list the time in 50 years your pup 10.

00:46:18 Speaker 3

We got. I got my hat and get another GI. Got his hat and he pitched our tent.

00:46:24 Speaker 3

After we had pitched the tent, you know?

00:46:27 Speaker 3

So I became more senior volunteer to go get some water.

00:46:30 Speaker 3

Go get some water.

00:46:31 Speaker 3

Is it?

00:46:33 Speaker 3

Lists are backed up up the road.

00:46:36 Speaker 3

So I decided did some canteens around there and I got a bunch of canteens and.

00:46:42 Speaker 3

And I went on to get some water. And just as I was about halfway down, I saw some airplanes on the on top of some trees.

00:46:43 Speaker 2

The.

00:46:54 Speaker 3

Kind of a hedgerow trees in the front.

00:46:57 Speaker 1

They're flying in free tub.

00:46:58 Speaker 3

Pretopia and there were three of them. And then the and I could see the pilots, but I didn't.

00:47:06 Speaker 3

Ignore.

00:47:06 Speaker 3

They were.

00:47:07 Speaker 3

Or maybe they.

00:47:08 Speaker 3

I'm not sure now because they have this cross, you know? And and it didn't bother me because they were should have made the war was over, I thought.

00:47:15 Speaker 1

Sure.

00:47:16 Speaker 3

Thought they were going to.

00:47:18 Speaker 3

Give up.

00:47:18 Speaker 3

I don't know what I thought, but anyway I so.

00:47:20 Speaker 3

Grew up like this and went around like this.

00:47:24 Speaker 3

Away from me.

00:47:25 Speaker 3

And then they came down on the road.

00:47:27 Speaker 3

Was coming in real low, very low.

00:47:31 Speaker 3

I saw the first one.

00:47:32 Speaker 3

I could see his face right there, almost like like a car coming at me.

00:47:36 Speaker 3

Know.

00:47:37 Speaker 3

And he start shooting.

00:47:39 Speaker 1

He's strafing, you know.

00:47:40 Speaker 3

Stroking it and when he started scraping me, I mean, I didn't hear the the Bang Bang bang until he passed, but I could hear the on the ground all around me and then he took off and kept on going the other end. The next plane came over.

00:47:57 Speaker 3

They were close, came over.

00:48:03 Speaker 3

I.

00:48:05 Speaker 1

Were.

00:48:06 Speaker 1

Were you jigging and Zach?

00:48:07 Speaker 3

Yeah, I was there by the third time.

00:48:11 Speaker 2

Yeah, well, I.

00:48:13 Speaker 1

Gotta ask you this question, did you?

00:48:14 Speaker 1

You end up getting.

00:48:15 Speaker 1

Water. Or did you return to the?

00:48:17 Speaker 3

I got the water.

00:48:18 Speaker 1

Boy, you are dedicated.

00:48:21 Speaker 2

All right, So what?

00:48:22 Speaker 3

I got the water and I came back and I said to my buddy, I said, did you guys hear some German planes go by here?

00:48:28 Speaker 3

He was that German planes.

00:48:31 Speaker 3

I heard some branches fall, but I didn't.

00:48:36 Speaker 3

So anyway, but I did hear later that they had been shot by our.

00:48:41 Speaker 2

Never shut down, all right.

00:48:43 Speaker 3

An.

00:48:43 Speaker 3

Yeah, they went past our.

00:48:45 Speaker 1

Pretty sure we're going to call you Mr. Lucky here.

00:48:46 Speaker 3

So.

00:48:50 Speaker 1

Have you had some bad encounters?

00:48:53 Speaker 3

Oh yeah.

00:48:56 Speaker 3

But after.

00:48:58 Speaker 3

Well.

00:49:00 Speaker 3

We tried to cross the the the Moselle river three times.

00:49:08 Speaker 3

There's.

00:49:09 Speaker 3

There's a canal, and then the Mosa River, and we were trapped inside of the between the canal and the Mosaic River.

00:49:19 Speaker 3

We crossed the the canal and then of course they blew up the bridge.

00:49:23 Speaker 3

Germ bleep the bridge in.

00:49:24 Speaker 3

Here we are stranded in the middle.

00:49:26 Speaker 3

And we wanted to get back and couldn't get back and.

00:49:27 Speaker 2

The.

00:49:31 Speaker 3

So we stayed.

00:49:32 Speaker 3

You know, just be careful that we didn't be shot at, that's all.

00:49:36 Speaker 3

But they were head. They had three machine guns, you know, scraping the area.

00:49:42 Speaker 3

And I guess they didn't have very many men.

00:49:47 Speaker 3

Maybe they just had a lot of firepower because there were no infantry like we were there were. There were a lot of us. Just machine guns, you know? Replacements.

00:49:59 Speaker 3

And you could once in a while, hear somebody holler. You know, I've been here, you know. And then of course, you know, somebody would either pick them up.

00:50:03 Speaker 2

The.

00:50:08 Speaker 1

So how did you get out of that?

00:50:09 Speaker 1

Had to get out in the situation.

00:50:10 Speaker 3

Well.

00:50:13 Speaker 3

My Sergeant, he went scouting around to see if he could find a boat.

00:50:18 Speaker 3

Boat and they tied a rope on both sides and little by little they made 5 or 6 guys at a time. Back and forth on the.

00:50:19 Speaker 2

Mm.

00:50:30 Speaker 1

You got him across the canal.

00:50:32 Speaker 3

That was the last one he set me up with a machine gun, not a machine.

00:50:37 Speaker 3

R he says.

00:50:38 Speaker 3

Benj, stay here and.

00:50:43 Speaker 3

And I'll come after you as soon as I, as soon as I get everybody out.

00:50:48 Speaker 3

It's bigger, so I stayed there.

00:50:51 Speaker 3

There was a guy coming in, you know, but he must have been shot. Shell shocked or something because he had.

00:50:55 Speaker 2

The.

00:50:58 Speaker 3

He thought.

00:50:58 Speaker 3

Was back in the states. Police in the area.

00:51:01 Speaker 3

He had a great big pile of stuff.

00:51:01 Speaker 2

The.

00:51:06 Speaker 3

From GIS that had left stuff there.

00:51:09 Speaker 3

You know, misguided rifles, ammunition.

00:51:12 Speaker 1

Tell a cheap party your squad or.

00:51:14 Speaker 3

He was part of our.

00:51:15 Speaker 3

I don't know what. Anyway, when we got back, we took him to the he was out of it, you know, he just didn't know what he was doing there.

00:51:25 Speaker 1

Alright, let's continue where you cross the river. And did you engage the enemy on the other side?

00:51:30 Speaker 3

No, no. You could be in.

00:51:33 Speaker 3

Now we back out in this little boat.

00:51:35 Speaker 1

All right.

00:51:36 Speaker 1

That's right, you retreated, really.

00:51:38 Speaker 3

And then then I was.

00:51:42 Speaker 3

My sighting came over and he wanted to try some three guys out. One of them was me on a bazooka.

00:51:50 Speaker 3

See which one was the best.

00:51:52 Speaker 3

Well, I was the best.

00:51:54 Speaker 3

There was a vehicle that they wanted to see if I could hit it, you know, just an old vehicle.

00:51:59 Speaker 1

So you were qualifying in the military?

00:52:01 Speaker 1

On on a.

00:52:02 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:52:03 Speaker 1

OK.

00:52:05 Speaker 3

So so anyway.

00:52:09 Speaker 3

Now I I could have missed.

00:52:12 Speaker 1

Good.

00:52:13 Speaker 1

So now you're a bazooka man.

00:52:14 Speaker 3

I'm a bazooka man, so anyway.

00:52:16 Speaker 1

Did you fire the Bazookan comeback?

00:52:19 Speaker 3

Well, let me tell you about.

00:52:20 Speaker 2

This all right.

00:52:21 Speaker 3

Excuse me.

00:52:26 Speaker 3

The northern fire bazooka can you need the three people that fire that one loads it, the other one aims at it.

00:52:35 Speaker 3

Me. I was supposed to aim.

00:52:37 Speaker 3

I was supposed to be the shooter trigger man.

00:52:40 Speaker 3

And the other guy, he's the.

00:52:41 Speaker 3

He has to inspect the whole thing and as soon as he attached the shoulder he just stipulated to shoot any time after that.

00:52:49 Speaker 3

So.

00:52:52 Speaker 3

We crossed the Moselle river.

00:52:55 Speaker 3

In both camps, boats. I think it was.

00:52:58 Speaker 3

I'm not sure exactly because I mean I was more looking in my head than I was looking and inspecting the thing.

00:53:04 Speaker 3

And we got on the other side.

00:53:06

And.

00:53:06 Speaker 3

The thing was, when you get across the side, you wait until the.

00:53:10 Speaker 3

Is blown.

00:53:12 Speaker 3

And then we'll all attack, making advance and making making a lot of noise, shouting and all that.

00:53:18 Speaker 3

Of stuff shooting, shouting.

00:53:21 Speaker 3

And anyway, it was still.

00:53:24 Speaker 3

So got the boats across the the.

00:53:30 Speaker 3

In Mozilla River and when we got on top when?

00:53:34 Speaker 3

When we got there, we waited for the whistle.

00:53:39 Speaker 3

And for him to.

00:53:40 Speaker 3

And soon they got that he got up the bridge there and start running towards the hill was playing about maybe. Oh.

00:53:43 Speaker 2

The.

00:53:51 Speaker 3

Like a football field and then a hill. And then that's where it saved interview was. And in this plain area, there were stacks of hay here and there. And as we were approaching we got pinned down by a.

00:53:52 Speaker 2

Great.

00:54:06 Speaker 3

Gun fire.

00:54:07 Speaker 3

So we hear we were three of us with this bazooka and we didn't know where the shots were coming from.

00:54:15 Speaker 3

All we heard was, you know, just whizzing by us, you know, and I'll tell you, they were just.

00:54:19 Speaker 3

I mean, they were just driving through my ears, you know, just that close 'cause we were down flat and.

00:54:27 Speaker 3

All of a sudden they must have run out of ammunition or something because they jumped out of this haystack.

00:54:32 Speaker 3

Of them. And that's when I got up and started shooting.

00:54:36 Speaker 3

I shot the first one.

00:54:37 Speaker 3

The one in the middle.

00:54:38 Speaker 1

Did you shoot the berserkit OK.

00:54:39 Speaker 3

No, I didn't shoot the bazooka. Just got shot in the right and then.

00:54:46 Speaker 3

The other guys, they didn't participate in the shooting. You know, shooting too.

00:54:52 Speaker 3

I guess they didn't want to.

00:54:54 Speaker 3

They were retreating and to me they were.

00:54:57 Speaker 3

Shot at.

00:54:58 Speaker 3

I mean, even for me to back.

00:55:00 Speaker 3

So anyway, I think I just moved him because they carried him out.

00:55:05 Speaker 3

They were dragging me.

00:55:07 Speaker 1

Tell another German Sheldon soldier taking him off the field of battle.

00:55:07 Speaker 3

Oh.

00:55:09 Speaker 3

Yeah.

00:55:11 Speaker 3

Oh yeah.

00:55:13 Speaker 1

And then you did.

00:55:15 Speaker 3

Not yet.

00:55:15 Speaker 1

You accomplished your mission that day.

00:55:17 Speaker 1

Yet.

00:55:18 Speaker 2

Not yet.

00:55:18 Speaker 3

Because then we went up to the hill.

00:55:22 Speaker 3

Oh, there was a Sergeant came over. I don't know.

00:55:25 Speaker 3

Came over and said.

00:55:28 Speaker 3

You guys were supposed to keep up with the 3/18.

00:55:32 Speaker 3

This is your way behind stuff like.

00:55:35 Speaker 3

Well, he didn't know that we had it been pinned down.

00:55:39 Speaker 3

And so anyway, he was a little bit off to and I kept.

00:55:44 Speaker 3

I mean, our men of us, you know, they were there.

00:55:48 Speaker 2

We.

00:55:49 Speaker 3

Were a little suspicious about him because he was a little bit off too.

00:55:52 Speaker 3

Don't.

00:55:53 Speaker 3

He seemed.

00:55:54 Speaker 3

He was too excited to.

00:55:58 Speaker 3

I don't know what he was going to do.

00:55:59 Speaker 3

He was all by.

00:56:00 Speaker 3

I don't know what he's doing over.

00:56:01 Speaker 3

With us.

00:56:02 Speaker 2

That's it.

00:56:04 Speaker 3

So anyway.

00:56:06 Speaker 3

We continue to trip up to the hill when we get up to the hill there, Saint Genevieve ran on the bottom. We saw that and there was a tank down there.

00:56:14 Speaker 3

My opportunity to shoot that tank and I got ready with my bazooka. My loader put the thing in there.

00:56:23 Speaker 3

And my inspector says hold it. There's a great big tank on this side.

00:56:28 Speaker 1

So the weapons act.

00:56:29 Speaker 3

Well, that is that he must have been.

00:56:31 Speaker 1

Not ready to be used.

00:56:33 Speaker 3

He must have been hit when we were pinned down.

00:56:35 Speaker 1

I see.

00:56:37 Speaker 3

So that we discarded that.

00:56:39 Speaker 2

OK.

00:56:40 Speaker 3

Never mind. Cheers.

00:56:41 Speaker 1

That was your only had you. Did you continue to be the bazooka man after that?

00:56:46 Speaker 3

No, we left the.

00:56:47 Speaker 1

They.

00:56:47 Speaker 2

All right.

00:56:48 Speaker 3

No sense in carrying out the bazooka.

00:56:50 Speaker 2

All right.

00:56:51 Speaker 1

So why don't you highlight to us some of the other?

00:56:55 Speaker 3

OK.

00:56:55 Speaker 1

Military engagements or or?

00:56:57 Speaker 3

Well, that one was.

00:56:58 Speaker 3

Yeah, I'm finished. Yet on that one.

00:57:00 Speaker 1

You're OK.