

## **Benjamin Alvarado Interview #2**

Company G, 317th Inf Reg

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

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

Transcript

00:00:00 Speaker 1

After your short stint as a bazooka man.

00:00:05 Speaker 2

I just got.

00:00:06 Speaker 2

Membership, right?

00:00:07 Speaker 2

And then I decide we three of us decide to go.

00:00:12 Speaker 2

If we could find our Sergeant.

00:00:15 Speaker 2

And after we found.

00:00:19

Him.

00:00:19 Speaker 2

He said.

00:00:22 Speaker 2

I'm going to put you guys on an outpost.

00:00:25 Speaker 2

And because they had already, the Germans had already withdrawn from the Saint Genevieve.

00:00:30

The.

00:00:31 Speaker 2

So anyway we.

00:00:34 Speaker 2

He said.

00:00:34 Speaker 2

Find yourselves a a good place for outpost, and then then just let us know. What if you see any enemy coming?

00:00:43 Speaker 2

So that's what we did.

00:00:44 Speaker 1

Mm.

00:00:45 Speaker 2

Three of us went up there and and we found this place.

00:00:49 Speaker 2

That was a it was a house with a little window in the side, you know, and you could see the road little. Well, we just took turns off that night watching the road and all of a sudden.

00:01:02 Speaker 2

As we were watching, I mean, they started showing us with artillery and directly at our buildings.

00:01:05

The.

00:01:10 Speaker 2

And we didn't see.

00:01:12 Speaker 2

I mean, all you all you do, all you, all you ever experiencing, this the impact of these shelves coming closer.

00:01:18 Speaker 2

So we had to hide someplace to protect ourselves.

00:01:22 Speaker 2

So we went down.

00:01:23 Speaker 2

We went down the.

00:01:24 Speaker 2

There was a little basement way down there.

00:01:27 Speaker 2

And.

00:01:29 Speaker 2

And they kept on showing.

00:01:31 Speaker 2

And.

00:01:33 Speaker 2

Well, we were down there.

00:01:36 Speaker 2

They they encircle.

00:01:39 Speaker 2

The town the German encircle the town.

00:01:42 Speaker 2

There was a tank right in front of our house in that house.

00:01:46 Speaker 2

And there were about 20 guys in the back sleeping there that night.

00:01:51 Speaker 2

Their CP was upstairs where we were.

00:01:54 Speaker 1

You're in the same building.

00:01:55 Speaker 2

In the same build.

00:01:58 Speaker 1

ING my goodness.

00:01:58 Speaker 2

And here's you could hear this crank going talk talk, you know, in German. And they would click their heels, you know, and I'll, you know and all that.

00:02:07 Speaker 2

Of stuff and then.

00:02:07 Speaker 1

Nobody ventured into the basement.

00:02:10 Speaker 2

Yes, one guy did.

00:02:13 Speaker 2

And how it happened to hide there was a box like a grain box on top of some wooden horses.

00:02:14

The.

00:02:21

The.

00:02:25 Speaker 2

And I told these two guys to get in there.

00:02:26 Speaker 2

I'll put the lid on top and I'll find myself another hiding place, so I put them in there and I put the lid on there and I was going to go out into the because they had some chicken coop or something in the back, like a barn.

00:02:40 Speaker 1

Great.

00:02:40 Speaker 2

And.

00:02:43 Speaker 2

Is outside going out.

00:02:44 Speaker 2

Comes a magic.

00:02:45 Speaker 2

It's in there.

00:02:46 Speaker 2

I mean, you know, we're all together, you know.

00:02:49 Speaker 1

Sure.

00:02:49 Speaker 2

In the bunch.

00:02:50 Speaker 2

So I just packed up and there was no place to hide, but there was a pile of manure on the side. Is dry manure, so I just kept it underneath that thing.

00:02:59 Speaker 1

Get buried under the manure.

00:03:01 Speaker 2

That's up a little.

00:03:02 Speaker 2

It was dry.

00:03:05 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:03:05 Speaker 2

But I survived anyway about maybe 1/2 hour later after everybody was upstairs, you know, and all that the tank, I mean it already ruined, surrounded. We're in it.

00:03:18

Uh.

00:03:20 Speaker 2

A man came in with a luger. I could see him with.

00:03:22 Speaker 2

Eye you.

00:03:23 Speaker 2

Just bared because it's dark down there.

00:03:25 Speaker 1

He was coming to inspect.

00:03:26 Speaker 2

Yeah. Can you remember this movie? You know, if you kept around going?

00:03:30 Speaker 2

Like this you know.

00:03:32 Speaker 2

Just very carefully came up to the pile of manure and kept going.

00:03:37 Speaker 2

Just looking around, finally he just put his back in and outside.

00:03:42 Speaker 2

So it said something to him in.

00:03:44 Speaker 1

You hold your breath.

00:03:45 Speaker 2

What I don't know, but it was moments.

00:03:49 Speaker 1

But this is a very intriguing situation. You got the.

00:03:56 Speaker 1

Us.

00:03:56 Speaker 1

That's obviously going to do battle with these people, and you're in the same compound where they're going to be doing battle. Did it happen?

00:04:03 Speaker 2

That's right.

00:04:06 Speaker 2

Well, I mean, I mean in there properly.

00:04:08 Speaker 2

Behind the end of the lines now.

00:04:09 Speaker 1

Right, right.

00:04:11 Speaker 2

That's where the problem is. So anyway.

00:04:15 Speaker 2

Then the American planes came over and bombing the place and and that's when bomb.

00:04:23 Speaker 2

Took part of the building and left us with just the sunshine.

00:04:32 Speaker 2

So anyway, that we survive that, you know. But anyway, before that happened.

00:04:37 Speaker 2

Oh, oh, yeah. Let it go like that.

00:04:40 Speaker 2

After, after the noise, after the bombing.

00:04:43 Speaker 2

And all the.

00:04:44 Speaker 2

German you could hear the Germans scattered all over the tanks, turning 1 back, you know? Yeah.

00:04:48 Speaker 1

Mm.

00:04:49 Speaker 2

Everything is.

00:04:51 Speaker 2

Quiet all you can hear is a rumble in the distance and I got rumble.

00:04:56 Speaker 2

So I told my friends his name is Dietrich.

00:05:02 Speaker 2

I can't remember the other guy's name, but.

00:05:04 Speaker 2

These three I've been trying to find him for a long time.

00:05:06 Speaker 2

Haven't been able to.

00:05:08 Speaker 2

But I said you guys stay here until I get back. I'm going to go and see what's going on.

00:05:14 Speaker 2

So I took off from there.

00:05:16 Speaker 2

I crossed places, you know, houses. And I saw this column of tanks and jeeps and trucks all going.

00:05:24 Speaker 2

That direction.

00:05:26 Speaker 2

And I had to find out who's who's out that this was.

00:05:29 Speaker 2

So I stopped the.

00:05:30 Speaker 2

I says what outfit are you in? He said.

00:05:35 Speaker 2

So I went back to.

00:05:36 Speaker 2

Tell the other guys, hey.

00:05:40 Speaker 2

With the American come, we're going.

00:05:42 Speaker 2

But you know your place here. So I opened the lid, they got out and they were like, stretching all sorts of ways. We have been there three days.

00:05:51 Speaker 1

Thank goodness that's quite an experience.

00:05:52 Speaker 2

That's.

00:05:54 Speaker 2

So anyway, we went.

00:05:56 Speaker 2



Went there.

00:05:56 Speaker 1

So what about your Sergeant? When he finally catching him?

00:05:58 Speaker 2

No, we went back to check with our Sonny.

00:06:00 Speaker 2

Going on.

00:06:02 Speaker 2

And as we were going back.

00:06:03 Speaker 2

Back we there.

00:06:07 Speaker 2

3.

00:06:09 Speaker 2

First of all, I saw, I'll tell you what I saw. There was really terrible.

00:06:14 Speaker 2

I saw a pig about two houses down eating the man up.

00:06:20 Speaker 2

And that was really something to.

00:06:22 Speaker 2

I mean, but anyway we we went on down the hill and as we went down I there was some Germans.

00:06:22 Speaker 1

Right.

00:06:31 Speaker 2

Boy, the one that already prison, the other people that want to get out, give up.

00:06:36 Speaker 2

So I told the first guy come on out.

00:06:39 Speaker 2

It came out, of course, you know, the old car had our guns pointed at him, he said. Is there anymore out there?

00:06:44

The.

00:06:45 Speaker 2

Know two more.

00:06:46 Speaker 2

You have two more, you know. So they came out. We took them back to the Sergeant and.

00:06:54 Speaker 2

The way you.

00:06:55 Speaker 2

Know you talking about all of what had happened.

00:06:57 Speaker 2

Know I.

00:06:57 Speaker 2

You guys just you guys did the?

00:06:58 Speaker 2

Thing.

00:07:00 Speaker 2

But what do you want us to do?

00:07:02 Speaker 2

Each prisoners.

00:07:04 Speaker 2

He says threw his.

00:07:04 Speaker 2

AR at me and says shoot him.

00:07:07 Speaker 1

Hmm.

00:07:08 Speaker 2

And I said no, but through be our back at him.

00:07:12 Speaker 2

And.

00:07:14 Speaker 2

So I just and I told him, I said if you want him.

00:07:16 Speaker 2

You shoot him yourself so.

00:07:20

So he.

00:07:22 Speaker 2

Well, and that and that didn't look.

00:07:25 Speaker 2

That's and, you know it agrees me because I could have spent.

00:07:29 Speaker 2

I could have probably taken them back, but you know, I didn't think of it.

00:07:33 Speaker 2

And I can see why he was angry because.

00:07:36 Speaker 2

They when they overran the place, they had massacred some farmers.

00:07:41 Speaker 1

Excellent, excellent.

00:07:42 Speaker 2

And I can see why he was angry.

00:07:44 Speaker 2

So anyway, we went on to.

00:07:49 Speaker 2

There was another time that after that, after that happened, we had clearly said that now men, three of us same guys go and buy yourself another puzzle outpost.

00:08:02 Speaker 2

So we did, but this time go out there and dig a hole at the edge of the mountain on the edge of the hill.

00:08:09 Speaker 2

So we did that tree holes and.

00:08:14 Speaker 2

I had to renew myself.

00:08:16 Speaker 2

So anyway, I went to behind a.

00:08:19 Speaker 2

And when I came back in the line, my Sergeant came over today. Ben, did you?

00:08:26 Speaker 2

You know, you guys wait a minute.

00:08:28 Speaker 2

No, wait. As I came back, we saw a man coming down the field with a.

00:08:32 Speaker 2

You know, he was another man that wanted.

00:08:35 Speaker 2

To give up.

00:08:37 Speaker 2

Urimet so anyway.

00:08:41 Speaker 2

We took him.

00:08:42 Speaker 2

And you want to talk?

00:08:43 Speaker 2

Officer so.

00:08:46 Speaker 2

I told the Sergeant he.

00:08:47 Speaker 2

Talking to an officer.

00:08:48 Speaker 2

So anyway.

00:08:53 Speaker 2

He questioned him enough to find out how he knew we were there.

00:08:58 Speaker 2

So anyways, my Sergeant.

00:09:00

Nice.

00:09:00 Speaker 2

Were you behind a Bush today? I said.

00:09:03 Speaker 2

I was behind that Bush.

00:09:06 Speaker 2

He.

00:09:06 Speaker 2

OK, you guys, they.

00:09:08 Speaker 2

More parcels about 50 feet away from here.

00:09:12 Speaker 2

And that night.

00:09:15 Speaker 2

By the way, that that.

00:09:18 Speaker 2

Well, yeah, that that night.

00:09:22 Speaker 2

They are their charity was hitting on foxwood.

00:09:25 Speaker 1

I had Gerald in on it.

00:09:26 Speaker 2

Yeah, they had zeroed in with phosphorus and all that sort.

00:09:29

Of stuff.

00:09:30 Speaker 2

And.

00:09:31 Speaker 1

How long was the barrage?

00:09:32 Speaker 2

Oh, seemed like all night long.

00:09:36 Speaker 2

Finally, finally, in the mornings about 3:00 in the morning was still dark.

00:09:39

The.

00:09:40 Speaker 2

Could hear some like a stop.

00:09:46 Speaker 2

Coming up and I had to again relieve myself I had.

00:09:51 Speaker 2

Give me some.

00:09:52 Speaker 2

Plums from an orchard, that's what happened.

00:09:53

Mm.

00:09:55 Speaker 2

So.

00:09:57 Speaker 2

I didn't.

00:09:59 Speaker 2

Couldn't stop. So anyway, I couldn't stop what I was doing.

00:10:02 Speaker 2

Anyway, finally I saw this turret.

00:10:05 Speaker 2

Not that the turret begun part.

00:10:07 Speaker 1

Mm.

00:10:08 Speaker 2

The barrel.

00:10:10 Speaker 2

About all, just enough that I'd see the two of you.

00:10:14 Speaker 2

I saw that barrel, you know, and I said, yeah, that's.

00:10:16 Speaker 2

So anyway, it got closer and closer, so I got my pants ready to run hand. I ran up to the guys.

00:10:21 Speaker 2

Know.

00:10:22 Speaker 2

Were there with me and I said there's a tank coming.

00:10:25 Speaker 2

Said let's get out of here.

00:10:26 Speaker 2

We had nothing to fight a tank with.

00:10:28 Speaker 1

Sure.

00:10:29 Speaker 2

So anyway, we have no orders to.

00:10:32 Speaker 2

Out of.

00:10:32 Speaker 2

You know, we have orders to.

00:10:34 Speaker 2

Do not retreat if you guys want to stay here and fight that tank, fine.

00:10:37 Speaker 2

Going.

00:10:38 Speaker 2

So I took off down the hill.

00:10:40 Speaker 1

OK.

00:10:44 Speaker 1

Sounds like you're the leader.

00:10:46 Speaker 2

I always.

00:10:47 Speaker 2

Been so anyway, as I was going down 3 tanks appeared.

00:10:52 Speaker 2

I was about one tank was 3 tanks.

00:10:55 Speaker 2

They.

00:10:55 Speaker 2

All three coming in the road, just like just like 3 legs. And when we were running and they could hear him shooting all of them shooting 80 eights at us, you know.

00:11:04 Speaker 2

And they were.

00:11:05 Speaker 2

We were so close that their 80 eights were shooting up in front of us when they're on the shelves with, you know, they travel go forward.

00:11:13 Speaker 2



Find out there was a.

00:11:15 Speaker 2

We were going towards a barn and then first, you know, I said score, you know, one of the sad guys.

00:11:21 Speaker 2

Let's go inside.

00:11:22 Speaker 2

No, no, no. Go around it. Go around.

00:11:24 Speaker 2

So anyway, we went around it and the Germans came over and blew it barn up and.

00:11:28 Speaker 2

Went back.

00:11:29

Hmm.

00:11:29 Speaker 2

So we kept on going.

00:11:30 Speaker 2

Up to the Moselle river.

00:11:32 Speaker 1

Mm.

00:11:34 Speaker 2

And that's when I decided not to go back.

00:11:38 Speaker 2

So I got separated from my outfit.

00:11:42 Speaker 2

I joined the temporary join the I've been on sale this I'll do a rest.

00:11:50 Speaker 1

As long as you're not the Germans, but.

00:11:53 Speaker 2

I want to be a deserter, but I didn't.

00:11:56 Speaker 2

Want to go back to?

00:11:57 Speaker 1

Right, you get separated from your unit.

00:11:59 Speaker 2

Yeah. So anyway, by force, we were separated by our unit. So we went across the Moselle river again and the MPC, the.

00:12:01

Aye.

00:12:03

I.

00:12:06 Speaker 2

The bridges were built already by the engineers and they had MPs on both sides and now and the MPs was there.

00:12:13 Speaker 2

I'm.

00:12:14 Speaker 2

I have orders to shoot anybody cross cross across this bill.

00:12:16 Speaker 2

You want to go ahead.

00:12:17 Speaker 2

So we went across the thing. Now the bridge and.

00:12:22 Speaker 2

We want we were hungry, we had eaten for several days now.

00:12:26 Speaker 1

Sure.

00:12:26 Speaker 2

So anyway, I told the guy she's. I'll go see if I can find something.

00:12:31 Speaker 2

So I went up to the engineers.

00:12:33 Speaker 2

Methotrexate food.

00:12:35 Speaker 1

Uh.

00:12:36 Speaker 2

And I asked the.

00:12:39 Speaker 2

I said can we have some?

00:12:40 Speaker 2

He says you have to wait until child time when it's child time. I said, well pretty.

00:12:47 Speaker 2

So I waited by.

00:12:47

The.

00:12:48 Speaker 2

Flap of the.

00:12:49 Speaker 2

You know.

00:12:49 Speaker 2

And tent.

00:12:51 Speaker 2

After him looking at him several times, he says. What up there?

00:12:52

The.

00:12:54 Speaker 2

Promise is aided division.

00:12:57 Speaker 2

How many?

00:12:57 Speaker 2

How many are there of you? 3 hours.

00:12:59

Yeah.

00:13:00 Speaker 2

We'll come here.

00:13:01 Speaker 2

So you called me inside and you had a box to pull out of food.

00:13:05 Speaker 2

For me, so I took it back.

00:13:07 Speaker 1

OK.

00:13:07 Speaker 2

So we were fed, you know.

00:13:09 Speaker 2

So anyway, we were raising.

00:13:11 Speaker 2

That next space and I.

00:13:15 Speaker 2

So anyway, they want, well, the oldest guy he wanted to go back because he was going to be missing in action, he said.

00:13:21 Speaker 2

And he went to where he spoke and the other guy, he he know what he wanted to do. But he he said he'll work his way back.

00:13:28 Speaker 2

Well, me, I'm not going back.

00:13:33 Speaker 2

So I said I'm going to join the engineers.

00:13:37 Speaker 2

So anyway, I stayed.

00:13:38 Speaker 2

Maybe a day or so, and then I recognized it pretty soon.

00:13:40

The.

00:13:41 Speaker 2

So I went up and went forward and I got into the aircraft.

00:13:48 Speaker 2

And well, that was a different outfit.

00:13:50 Speaker 2

These guys were.

00:13:51 Speaker 2

They have looked at me like I was a.

00:13:54 Speaker 2

You know.

00:13:56 Speaker 2

And then I.

00:13:57 Speaker 2

Well, that that's not going to work.

00:14:00 Speaker 2

So anyway, I got a lift and I went to enjoying the artillery.

00:14:08 Speaker 1

You're pretty wise here at.

00:14:10 Speaker 1

Young man in 19.

00:14:12 Speaker 2

So so anyway they were.

00:14:16 Speaker 2

And I learned a few.

00:14:17 Speaker 2

How they work, the artillery. You know when they see a battery of artillery, they get all these five pieces of artillery all together.

00:14:26 Speaker 2

And they, they they.

00:14:27

The.

00:14:27 Speaker 2

Captain or whatever. Get something done and give the orders.

00:14:30 Speaker 2

They shoot, they.

00:14:32 Speaker 2

Of those boom boom, boom, boom.

00:14:34 Speaker 2

You know 5 at a time and they all go then. Then at first we had the Germans pull automatic artillery.

00:14:35

OK.

00:14:42 Speaker 2

But that's what I learned that.

00:14:44 Speaker 1

Well, tell us about when you get wounded.

00:14:46 Speaker 2

OK.

00:14:48 Speaker 1

What unit were you a part of?

00:14:49 Speaker 2

See, right now I was lost.

00:14:51 Speaker 2

Mean I was actually awake.

00:14:55 Speaker 2

I got separated from your artillery by my foolishness of you know, staying by the guy that was reading mail call.

00:14:56

The.

00:15:04 Speaker 2

I said, what am I staying here for?

00:15:05 Speaker 2

Was going to write to.

00:15:06 Speaker 2

Knows where.

00:15:07 Speaker 2

At and the person of the captain that was there, he says.

00:15:07 Speaker 1

YouTube.

00:15:10 Speaker 2

Out.

00:15:10 Speaker 2

You promised. Division says well, you get a.

00:15:13 Speaker 2

It's going up to the front in a few minutes.

00:15:17 Speaker 2

And of course, I stood by the road, thumbing and all the trucks are filled with GIS.

00:15:22 Speaker 2

Finally, the last vehicle was a Jeep with a little trailer behind it.

00:15:24

The.

00:15:29 Speaker 2

And it's in stock. And of course the Jeep have three of the guys, you know, they're, you know, municipal.

00:15:35 Speaker 2

The only place was left was that little trailer in the back.

00:15:38 Speaker 1

All right.

00:15:40 Speaker 2

So I got on top of.

00:15:42 Speaker 2

And it was a canvas and rope around there. So I grabbed a whole rope and here we go.

00:15:47 Speaker 2

As we got closer, the enemy got to be on us, so they start firing at.

00:15:52 Speaker 2

You know, land back in. Of course, the guy took off the road and sat on the side of it.

00:15:52

The.

00:15:56 Speaker 2

Cross country and that little trailer was going to like this, you know. And finally the boats came loose and I saw that little trainer was full of ammunition.

00:16:06 Speaker 2

Bazooka shells, artillery hand grenades, you name.

00:16:10 Speaker 2

Just full and I will just hang over dear life. You know, finally we have reached our destination and I got off of that.

00:16:17 Speaker 2

Be glad to get off but.

00:16:20 Speaker 2

As as soon as.

00:16:21 Speaker 2

Got off.



00:16:21

Oh.

00:16:22 Speaker 2

That's when one of the cabins came over, she told us.

00:16:26 Speaker 2

Is what had happened I just kept.

00:16:29 Speaker 2

You know, separate. So anyway, he said. Well, we.

00:16:30 Speaker 1

It separated.

00:16:32

Replay.

00:16:33 Speaker 2

We're short on sergeants. You have to be an acting Sergeant, I said.

00:16:38 Speaker 2

So here I.

00:16:38 Speaker 2

I actually started, you know, and.

00:16:39

The.

00:16:42 Speaker 2

Not knowing the first thing about Sergeantry.

00:16:46 Speaker 2

No, no, no schooling or nothing, you know.

00:16:48 Speaker 1

Right.

00:16:49 Speaker 2

So here I.

00:16:50 Speaker 2

So anyway.

00:16:53 Speaker 2

It was.

00:16:54 Speaker 2

It was dark already, so we dug a bust hole and went out to bed.

00:17:00 Speaker 2

The other three guys, they were, they were right close to me.

00:17:03 Speaker 2

I knew where.

00:17:03 Speaker 2

Were but during that night.

00:17:08 Speaker 2

My captain came over or Sergeant came over and says the captain's time is getting ready. We're going to.

00:17:15 Speaker 2

We're going to.

00:17:17 Speaker 2

Hey. Hi. No, no, too bad.

00:17:19 Speaker 2

So I said.

00:17:20 Speaker 2

So I started hollering for Dietrich Dietrich. He's one of these guys that can sleep anywhere.

00:17:27 Speaker 2

And activity would go around him and people wake up.

00:17:30 Speaker 1

Then where it came up.

00:17:31 Speaker 2

Couldn't wake him up.

00:17:32 Speaker 2

So anyway, through all my points where they would, they're trying to find you. I met.

00:17:36 Speaker 2

I bumped into 3 Germans.

00:17:39 Speaker 2

I mean just literally jumping bumps.

00:17:42

So.

00:17:42 Speaker 2

It's so dark.

00:17:43 Speaker 1

OK.

00:17:44 Speaker 2

And they said something in German. I know they were German.

00:17:47 Speaker 2

And I said, who the hell are you?

00:17:51 Speaker 2

And they didn't understand either. So I kind of retreated.

00:17:56 Speaker 2

I had left my rifle underneath my parcel.

00:17:59

OK.

00:18:00 Speaker 2

So I, you know, I couldn't unarmed because I thought the Disney was real close.

00:18:02 Speaker 1

You are an art.

00:18:07

Right.

00:18:07 Speaker 2

So anyway, I went to, got my rifle and I went to report back to the captain and he says Germans around here. This is old Bender they.

00:18:16 Speaker 2

Trying to find us all that they're trying to give up.

00:18:20 Speaker 2

Says oh OK.

00:18:22 Speaker 2

So there were no concentration there.

00:18:25 Speaker 2

So anyway, he said.

00:18:29 Speaker 2

Ben, get your men ready.

00:18:30 Speaker 2

Going.

00:18:31 Speaker 2

Move pretty soon. So anyway I got all these guys after the while. They they.

00:18:34 Speaker 2

Up and they.

00:18:36 Speaker 2

We all got together and we started going.

00:18:37 Speaker 2

The hill.

00:18:39 Speaker 2

And towards mos.

00:18:42 Speaker 2

And when we got reached a railroad track, our captain said one of our boys to get across there.

00:18:50 Speaker 2

And of.

00:18:50 Speaker 2

He got shot down by a machine gun fire.

00:18:53 Speaker 2

And the second.

00:18:53

The.

00:18:53 Speaker 2

He did the same thing and he got shot.

00:18:55 Speaker 2

So anyway, we waited.

00:18:58 Speaker 2

So after a while we heard a burst of fire going up thinking.

00:19:04 Speaker 2

Other outfit that was on our right got the machine gun.

00:19:07 Speaker 2

Yes. And so we went across and on the other side of the railroad there was a.

00:19:13 Speaker 2

And that's where we all landed. And of course, as soon as we got on that ditch, the water started coming at us.

00:19:18 Speaker 2

More shelves, one it closer and closer and closer, and finally one of and our captain says, hey, what are we going to do now? Since I was acting soggy and I should have been some help.

00:19:29 Speaker 2

And I just don't just wait and just wait it out.

00:19:32 Speaker 2

So anyway, one of the shelves finally hit the Ridge.

00:19:36 Speaker 2

And that they thought they got us, but they didn't.

00:19:39 Speaker 2

Anyway, I've been stopped and more.

00:19:42 Speaker 2

So we all got to start going towards my run.

00:19:46 Speaker 2

Two guys are in.

00:19:48 Speaker 2

And that's how we were going.

00:19:50 Speaker 2

Like that's when I got shot.

00:19:53 Speaker 1

You get shut by rack of fire where we hit.

00:19:55 Speaker 2

Yeah, I'm on my left. I think it was.

00:19:59 Speaker 2

I think it was rifle.

00:20:01 Speaker 2

I'm not really sure because it was like an explosion threw me back a little bit, you know?

00:20:02 Speaker 1

OK.

00:20:07 Speaker 1

So where were you hit?

00:20:09 Speaker 2

My left thigh.

00:20:12 Speaker 1

Did the medics come?

00:20:14 Speaker 1

In and ages at that point.

00:20:14 Speaker 2

Yeah. Well, actually, when I got here.

00:20:18 Speaker 2

It it just felt.

00:20:24 Speaker 2

Down here.

00:20:28 Speaker 2

Nothing up here is down here.

00:20:34 Speaker 2

And anyway I I I was going to go back, but I didn't know how to go back to.

00:20:40 Speaker 2

I didn't.

00:20:40 Speaker 2

Whether the first worst first stage was.

00:20:43 Speaker 1

Aid was.

00:20:45 Speaker 2

So I just sat down.

00:20:47 Speaker 2

And.

00:20:49 Speaker 2

For no reason at all, there's two guys coming out from the.

00:20:53 Speaker 2

There was a wall in Vibron. These guys start coming towards me and these guys were unarmed.

00:20:59 Speaker 2

They they were all well dressed military men.

00:21:01 Speaker 1

Is it German?

00:21:02 Speaker 2

No, these are Americans.

00:21:03 Speaker 1

American, sorry.

00:21:05 Speaker 2

They were like, I don't know.

00:21:06 Speaker 2

Looked like newspaper reporters.

00:21:07 Speaker 2

I'm not sure what they were, but they were not armed, they said. Soldier wounded says yeah.

00:21:09 Speaker 1

Thank you.

00:21:12

Replay.

00:21:14 Speaker 2

He.

00:21:15 Speaker 2

But there's another guy over.

00:21:16 Speaker 2

This person is because he I had already talked to him and.

00:21:21 Speaker 2

He says that he couldn't go back.

00:21:25 Speaker 2

He couldn't move just because he made sure he's his jacket, open his pajamas on side.

00:21:29

Nothing.

00:21:31 Speaker 1

I have a good one.

00:21:32 Speaker 2

So so anyway, he couldn't help, he says.

00:21:35 Speaker 2

Take care of him first and.

00:21:37 Speaker 2



I'll go.

00:21:38 Speaker 2

He's no we know about him.

00:21:39 Speaker 2

So anyways, they grabbed me by the arm and they took me underneath the railroad.

00:21:44 Speaker 2

Was a kind of a.

00:21:46 Speaker 2

Creeper.

00:21:48 Speaker 2

And they took me to the first aid.

00:21:51 Speaker 2

And just as I sat there, the medic came over and took some sulfur on my wound, took my rifle away, he said. You won't be needing this.

00:22:00 Speaker 2

And I really hate to park with that because I mean that.

00:22:03 Speaker 2

Like.

00:22:04 Speaker 2

My partner, you know? Sure. Get used to it.

00:22:05

OK.

00:22:07 Speaker 2

So anyway, I had to give.

00:22:08 Speaker 2

So anyway, uh about vitamins. Later they had a call all walking wounded.

00:22:13 Speaker 2

Had to get out of here.

00:22:14 Speaker 2

They were pushing and they're under pushing so.

00:22:18 Speaker 2

So anyway, the same two guys came over, picked me up, put me on the road.

00:22:25 Speaker 2

Way back.

00:22:25

Thank you.

00:22:28 Speaker 2

To Leicester each station, so that's noon. A GP by trucks went back real fast.

00:22:29

The.

00:22:33 Speaker 2

Mean finally, a Jeep came by.

00:22:35 Speaker 2

About 10 guys in that thing on top of each other, they were all wounded.

00:22:40 Speaker 2

And they stopped, he said.

00:22:43 Speaker 2

And it says that you and I room in there for me, the only answer is one hand put me on top of everybody.

00:22:52 Speaker 2

They they just. They were bigger than that was.

00:22:55 Speaker 1

So you were. You were evacuated to the 39th evacuation hospital in France, and then eventually you're returned to England.

00:23:01 Speaker 2

Uh.

00:23:04 Speaker 2

Yes.

00:23:05 Speaker 1

And how long were you did it take to recuperate?

00:23:10 Speaker 2

About 3 months.

00:23:11 Speaker 1

About 3 months.

00:23:13 Speaker 1

And then they returned you to duty.

00:23:17 Speaker 2

Yes.

00:23:17 Speaker 1

And this is when you joined the.

00:23:21 Speaker 1

Army Air force.

00:23:22 Speaker 2

Yeah, well, the circumstances was, you know, the doctor that.

00:23:27 Speaker 2

That was checking he.

00:23:28 Speaker 2

He says you're ready to go back to your house.

00:23:29 Speaker 2

Good. And I says, oh, my leg still hurts.

00:23:34 Speaker 2

I have a bad eye and besides this.

00:23:39 Speaker 2

I think you.

00:23:40 Speaker 2

All kinds of complaints, you know, and he looked at my record and said, oh, OK, let's see.

00:23:45 Speaker 2

Think you've had enough?

00:23:48 Speaker 1

Good.

00:23:48 Speaker 2

Cover noncombatant units. That's it.

00:23:50 Speaker 2

That's great Air Force.

00:23:53 Speaker 2

So I'm gonna get to fly now.

00:23:57 Speaker 2

That's my response.

00:24:00 Speaker 2

So anyway, I really.

00:24:01 Speaker 1

So then you get stationed with the 128 military police.

00:24:05 Speaker 2

Yes.

00:24:06 Speaker 1

And where was that in Germany?

00:24:10 Speaker 2

In fact, testing in Germany.

00:24:12 Speaker 1

And would you do with the military place?

00:24:15 Speaker 2

Well, I was very fortunate to get to, to be guard or guarding field, Marshall, General von Rundstedt and the two inventors of the V twos.

00:24:26 Speaker 1

Yes, you had high priority.

00:24:28 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:24:30 Speaker 1

The president, Sir.

00:24:30 Speaker 2

Yeah. In fact, you know, the first day I kind of tickled myself sometimes because of I was.

00:24:36 Speaker 2

Was.

00:24:36 Speaker 2

I was only a private and I gave commands to a general, you know, field Marshall.

00:24:43 Speaker 2

I just told.

00:24:44 Speaker 1

Now was that in the military present?

00:24:46 Speaker 2

Yeah, well, he.

00:24:47 Speaker 2

There was not a prison like you.

00:24:49 Speaker 2

It was just a house with a little picket fence around it.

00:24:52 Speaker 1

They're under house arrest.

00:24:53 Speaker 2

Yeah. And I didn't know.

00:24:58 Speaker 2

Why did he try escape?

00:25:01 Speaker 2

Could.

00:25:01 Speaker 2

Could have very easily done it.

00:25:04 Speaker 2

I know if I was a prisoner, I would escape.

00:25:06 Speaker 2

Other.

00:25:07 Speaker 2

But they were.

00:25:10 Speaker 2

3 prisoners altogether and the 2B2.

00:25:16 Speaker 2

Inventors. They spoke English field Marshall.

00:25:20 Speaker 1

Did you have conversation with during the day?

00:25:22 Speaker 2

Yeah, just a little.

00:25:23 Speaker 2

Just.

00:25:24 Speaker 1

Well, it looks like you were an MP from February to October 1945.

00:25:29 Speaker 2

Then I I go.

00:25:30 Speaker 2

I directed traffic. In fact, I think I have a picture of where I direct traffic.

00:25:35 Speaker 2

It's a beautiful little place in that kissing.

00:25:40 Speaker 2

I don't know if you want see it or.

00:25:41 Speaker 2

But anyway, it's there. And then I also guarded a plane one night.

00:25:47 Speaker 2

Had a two other plane that.

00:25:50 Speaker 2

Had been.

00:25:53 Speaker 2

When it landed.

00:25:54 Speaker 2

He lost his gear.

00:25:56 Speaker 2

Landed near Nice.

00:25:57 Speaker 1

You crash land.

00:25:57 Speaker 2

He didn't crash landing here.

00:26:00 Speaker 1

So now it looks like the war is coming to an end.

00:26:03 Speaker 2

Yes.

00:26:03 Speaker 1

And.

00:26:06 Speaker 1

You're going home.

00:26:07 Speaker 1

How they decide they had a point system back then.

00:26:11 Speaker 1

You go home by point system, you recall.

00:26:13 Speaker 2

Well, no, I don't recall that because they just said.

00:26:18 Speaker 2

That they had more than they needed now.

00:26:21 Speaker 2

So I guess that.

00:26:23 Speaker 1

You're ready to leave.

00:26:26 Speaker 2

I was going to go to Japan.

00:26:27 Speaker 2

I didn't say they didn't say nothing, but I thought I was going to get to go to Japan.

00:26:31 Speaker 2

However, the war was over, but Japan at the same time.

00:26:35 Speaker 2

So we I got to go home.

00:26:37 Speaker 1

And you return to the US to see more Johnson Field in North Carolina.

00:26:43 Speaker 2

Yes.

00:26:44 Speaker 1

And how long are you there before you mustered out?

00:26:47 Speaker 2

Well, there longer than I was supposed to because they they put me on this.

00:26:54 Speaker 2

Detail of sorting out clothing, the DI clothing, and.

00:27:03 Speaker 2

I noticed everybody was coming in and they'd be out in a Week 2.

00:27:07 Speaker 2

And I'd be there a whole month and a.

00:27:09 Speaker 2

You know.

00:27:11 Speaker 2



And finally, I went up there to the.

00:27:13 Speaker 2

I said, hey, I see. I notice that all these Gi's that come in through here, they they, they get to go home.

00:27:20 Speaker 2

Uh, right away. They pass through and I'm still here.

00:27:23

Mm.

00:27:24 Speaker 2

All women.

00:27:26 Speaker 2

Put down underneath the bladder, losers.

00:27:30 Speaker 1

He held you here.

00:27:32 Speaker 1

Oh, nice guy.

00:27:33 Speaker 2

Oh man, that's you know. So anyway.

00:27:36 Speaker 1

So here's for you to return.

00:27:38 Speaker 2

3 Kerry 3.

00:27:40 Speaker 1

Where were you mastered?

00:27:41 Speaker 1

Of the army.

00:27:44 Speaker 2

Well, North Carolina is that yeah.

00:27:46 Speaker 1

Is that where you?

00:27:47 Speaker 1

You're at and then you took the train back to Kansas City.

00:27:49

Yeah.

00:27:51 Speaker 1

OK. And how old are you now?

00:27:54 Speaker 1

Knowing when your must return to Kansas City.

00:27:56 Speaker 1

I'm returning to Kansas City.

00:27:59 Speaker 2

22.

00:28:01 Speaker 1

22 You got a girlfriend at this point.

00:28:03 Speaker 2

Yes.

00:28:05

Yeah.

00:28:06 Speaker 1

Where did you meet your your girlfriend?

00:28:08 Speaker 1

Future wife debate.

00:28:08 Speaker 2

Ferlin park.

00:28:10 Speaker 1

And Kansas City, MO. All right. And what was her name?

00:28:15 Speaker 2

Victoria Ramirez Ramirez.

00:28:16 Speaker 1

Your maiden name.

00:28:20 Speaker 1

And how soon after you return to Jamaica?

00:28:23 Speaker 2

Rodriguez magazine.

00:28:26

Resume.

00:28:27

Play.

00:28:29 Speaker 2

Well, yeah, three years.

00:28:30 Speaker 1

You had married in 1948.

00:28:32 Speaker 2

Four years.

00:28:34 Speaker 1

Two years after you got back, after you returned, did you take advantage of the GI Bill or did you get any additional schooling?

00:28:43 Speaker 2

Yes, I.

00:28:44 Speaker 2

I finished my high school with that. You.

00:28:45 Speaker 1

Got your high school degree?

00:28:46 Speaker 2

I went.

00:28:46 Speaker 2

And then I also took training and welding, tooth training and art commercial art.

00:28:49

Where'd?

00:28:54 Speaker 1

You go to school.

00:28:56 Speaker 2

The Kansas City Art Institute.

00:28:57 Speaker 1

Art institute.

00:29:00 Speaker 2

And I can't remember the name of the wedding, but it was.

00:29:03 Speaker 1

All right.

00:29:03 Speaker 2

Manual.

00:29:04 Speaker 2

Manual High school manual.

00:29:05 Speaker 1

Man, I know how it is going.

00:29:07 Speaker 1

OK, you guys got.

00:29:09 Speaker 1

What church? You get married in?

00:29:11 Speaker 2

What's in the Kansas City, KS?

00:29:12 Speaker 1

Guadalupe all right.

00:29:15 Speaker 2

No, Missouri.

00:29:16 Speaker 2

Missouri, that's.

00:29:17 Speaker 1

What kind of what kind of work did you do then? After you got out of military?

00:29:20 Speaker 2

Well, I I.

00:29:21 Speaker 2

Worked for Kansas City poster for 14 years as a.

00:29:24 Speaker 2

Some advertising company, SIL Screen Printing company.

00:29:29 Speaker 2

And then I decided to get on my own and I opened up my own shop. It's called advertising arts.

00:29:35 Speaker 1

Advertising art.

00:29:36 Speaker 2

And I opened it up in Grandview and I retired from there.

00:29:41 Speaker 1

What's that? Billboards or what kind of artwork?

00:29:43 Speaker 2

We did billboard, we did everything, everything.

00:29:47 Speaker 2

Anyway.

00:29:47 Speaker 1

How long do you own that business?

00:29:47

The.

00:29:49 Speaker 2

Blonde.

00:29:49 Speaker 2

Retired 65, so I don't know how long that. Anyway, my son took over that.

00:29:51 Speaker 1

OK.

00:29:54 Speaker 1

All right. It's still a family bed.

00:29:56

He owns.

00:29:57

I.

00:29:57

We'll just turn it over to.

00:29:58 Speaker 2

Gave.

00:29:59 Speaker 2

Time gave the business the building, the whole.

00:30:01 Speaker 1

It's wonderful. OK, from this marriage.

00:30:02

Replay.

00:30:05 Speaker 1

How many children did you have?

00:30:06 Speaker 2

5.

00:30:07 Speaker 1

Five and.

00:30:10 Speaker 1

Do they have children as?

00:30:11 Speaker 1

Grandchildren, would you share with us the names of your oldest child and and their children?

00:30:11 Speaker 2

Yes, yes.

00:30:17 Speaker 1

OK.

00:30:17 Speaker 2

Thomas is no.

00:30:19 Speaker 2

He's about 55. His name.

00:30:24 Speaker 2

His has a son called Derek and daughter Janet Peters, my second son.

00:30:26

OK.

00:30:31 Speaker 2

He's about 40, you know, 54.

00:30:33

Here we are younger than Tom.

00:30:36 Speaker 2

54 and he has Angela, Regina, Christina, Brandy and Neil, 5.

00:30:46 Speaker 2

And I have a little son called Daniel.

00:30:48

He.

00:30:48 Speaker 2

Has a son, Cameron, and then I have a daughter.

00:30:52

The.

00:30:53 Speaker 2

She's in her 40s.

00:30:58 Speaker 2

And some 40. Oh, Alicia.

00:30:58 Speaker 1

Did her name get your daughter's name?

00:31:02 Speaker 1

Eva.

00:31:03 Speaker 2

He.

00:31:04 Speaker 2

She has a son called Aaron, Andrew and Matthew.

00:31:07 Speaker 2

Andrew, I mean, Aaron, right now he's in Iraq.

00:31:09

Hear me.

00:31:12 Speaker 1

I said that's wonderful.

00:31:13 Speaker 2

So he's.

00:31:22 Speaker 2

Lance Corporal.

00:31:23 Speaker 2

Lance Corporal. He runs. He's a driver of MV.

00:31:30 Speaker 1

Marine Corps.

00:31:31 Speaker 2

All right and.

00:31:36 Speaker 2

Natalie is the youngest daughter.

00:31:38 Speaker 2

She has one little girl in April.

00:31:41 Speaker 1



April all.

00:31:42 Speaker 1

Sounds like a fine family.

00:31:45 Speaker 1

Well, you've had a very interesting wartime career. I'm sure that.

00:31:54 Speaker 1

It had some close friendships for you during that time and but as you look back over that and I know it's a 68 probably 60 years ago or so.

00:32:07 Speaker 1

How do you feel about the the time that you served in the military?

00:32:11 Speaker 2

Well, I wouldn't recommend anybody to go there.

00:32:14 Speaker 1

Right.

00:32:15 Speaker 2

In fact, when the time came for my sons to go into the service.

00:32:21 Speaker 2

I told.

00:32:21 Speaker 2

He says you don't go to the army. You.

00:32:23 Speaker 2

To.

00:32:23 Speaker 2

Navy and they all join the Navy.

00:32:26 Speaker 1

And they all came home.

00:32:26 Speaker 2

They all came home.

00:32:27 Speaker 1

That's wonderful. That's wonderful.

00:32:30 Speaker 1

Well, as a fellow citizen, I want to thank you for.

00:32:35 Speaker 1

Your service to your country and obviously you you.

00:32:41 Speaker 1

Seen the worst of mankind during wartime years, but you came home.

00:32:46 Speaker 1

You advanced yourself, you.

00:32:48 Speaker 1

Married the the lady your dreams and produced a fine family and had their own business.

00:32:55 Speaker 1

You are certainly part of the greater generation and we want.

00:33:00 Speaker 1

We not only admire you, but we thank you for your service to your country.

00:33:03 Speaker 2

Thank.