

Victor Arnopolin Interview

Company K, 317th Inf Reg

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

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

00:00:29 Speaker 1

Dan, do you have anything else to add?

00:00:32 Speaker 1

For posterity sake.

00:00:33 Speaker 2

What we should do is dairy should.

00:00:35 Speaker 3

Talk to your mother.

00:00:38 Speaker 2

Daddy should tell this war stories that you should feel.

00:00:43 Speaker 1

OK.

00:00:43 Speaker 3

What should I tell about?

00:00:49 Speaker 1

Which one you want to tell about?

00:00:50 Speaker 3

I'll tell you how it started out.

00:00:52 Speaker 1

OK.

00:00:54 Speaker 3

I want it to be in the air for the Air Force.

00:00:57

Mm.

00:00:58 Speaker 3

And I was 17 years old.

00:01:01 Speaker 3

And I went down.

00:01:03 Speaker 3

Was \$0.17.

00:01:04 Speaker 3

And a half.

00:01:05 Speaker 3

And it was.

00:01:06 Speaker 3

A deal for a marine Air Force Flyers.

00:01:10 Speaker 3

So I was going to.

00:01:10 Speaker 3

Was going.

00:01:13 Speaker 3

I don't know if.

00:01:14 Speaker 3

Taking or not?

00:01:16 Speaker 3

I was going to.

00:01:18 Speaker 3

Tryouts of Marine Air Force pliers and I got to the physical examination.

00:01:18

Yeah.

00:01:23 Speaker 3

Passed the physical the exception of depth perception.

00:01:27 Speaker 1

But how old were you?

00:01:29 Speaker 3

Was 17 1/2.

00:01:30 Speaker 1

You didn't need to be 18.

00:01:32 Speaker 3

There needed to be 18 to get out, but I was going to when I was 18, I was going to be graduating from high school, so they.

00:01:39 Speaker 3

They said I could wait, you know? So I took the depth of perception and they have to take a little strange from 40 feet away, bring them back and forth together.

00:01:41

Mm.

00:01:48 Speaker 3

And bring the two sticks together. I was off by about that much.

00:01:50

Mm.

00:01:52 Speaker 1

That could be a lot if you're dropping a bomb.

00:01:55 Speaker 3

Shooting an airplane machine gun.

00:01:58 Speaker 3

So I didn't get in.

00:01:59 Speaker 1

Oh, I never knew that.

00:01:59 Speaker 3

So then I heard about the you could go into the signal core.

00:02:04 Speaker 3

Early if you enlisted in the enlisted Reserve Court.

00:02:08 Speaker 1

What's the signal core?

00:02:09 Speaker 3

List radio.

00:02:11 Speaker 1

Oh.

00:02:12 Speaker 3

So I.

00:02:15 Speaker 3

I signed up for that.

00:02:17 Speaker 3

And five weeks after I was in college, I would fall out of high school.

00:02:21 Speaker 1

High school.

00:02:23 Speaker 3

Was called into active duty and I got on the.

00:02:27 Speaker 1

So you were.

00:02:27 Speaker 3

18 then I was 18.

00:02:29 Speaker 3

And I it was just.

00:02:32 Speaker 3

Five weeks after I got out of high school.

00:02:34 Speaker 3

It was I.

00:02:35 Speaker 3

It was my birthday was May 31st.

00:02:38 Speaker 3

Graduated June 12th.

00:02:39 Speaker 1

So this was 19.

00:02:41 Speaker 3

And just a couple weeks later, 1943. So I got on the plane on the train and they sent us to.

00:02:51 Speaker 3

Fort Custer in Michigan and from Fort Custer. I was supposed to go to the Army Signal corps.

00:02:58 Speaker 3

In Monmouth, NJ and they put me on the train there and before the train started, they called the 1st 50 names to go to Fort Bragg. The Artillery School, starting with the as and I was at top of the list.

00:03:08 Speaker 1

Georgia.

00:03:12 Speaker 3

So I went to Fort Greg and I went up in the infantry eventually.

00:03:12

Ah.

00:03:16 Speaker 1

So you would have been a radio man and you ended up an infantryman.

00:03:19 Speaker 3

I wanted up as an infantry.

00:03:22 Speaker 3

I did.

00:03:23 Speaker 3

I did artillery spotting.

00:03:25 Speaker 1

Which is what?

00:03:26 Speaker 3

I was with a.

00:03:29 Speaker 3

An officer and I ran his radio.

00:03:32 Speaker 3

Calling down artillery shells, you.

00:03:34 Speaker 1

Know no, I don't know what that means.

00:03:36 Speaker 3

Well, we would see where the artillery shells were spotting.

00:03:39 Speaker 2

Tell him how far I've come.

00:03:40 Speaker 3

Anyway, dumb hop right off with 300 yards short, 300 yards long.

00:03:44 Speaker 1

But is this in training or this was really out there?

00:03:45 Speaker 3

No, an actual Congress.

00:03:47 Speaker 1

So you're you're.

00:03:47

I.

00:03:48 Speaker 3

Learned.

00:03:48 Speaker 3

I learned to do that.

00:03:50 Speaker 1

So you saw a German target and you see where the bomb lands and you say move 20° to the right.

00:03:56 Speaker 3

That was one of the jobs I did.

00:03:58 Speaker 3

I was also an infantry scout.

00:04:00 Speaker 1

Which is what?

00:04:01 Speaker 3

Scott was a guy who went in front of everybody else and looked at checked out to see where the enemy was and said come, I would follow me.

00:04:09 Speaker 1

Oh my God, that's bad.

00:04:11 Speaker 3

I was pretty far much in the front, but the time I got wounded was I was in infantry. I was an observer.

00:04:13 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:04:19 Speaker 1

What?

00:04:21 Speaker 3

The artillery.

00:04:22 Speaker 2

Oh.

00:04:24 Speaker 3

And we're in France near Panama.

00:04:27 Speaker 3

We climbed up this hill and the artillery was firing down upon us and we were trying to get our killer to stop the enemy.

00:04:37 Speaker 1

Wait, you were being fired upon by your own?

00:04:39 Speaker 3

We got we were being shelled.

00:04:41 Speaker 1

By your own artillery.

00:04:43 Speaker 3

By the Germans and we were in a in a dugout trying, you know, in a foxhole, trying to shell the Germans.

00:04:44 Speaker 1

OK.

00:04:51 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:04:52 Speaker 3

And the Lieutenant got killed.

00:04:56 Speaker 3

And my radio.

00:04:57 Speaker 3

The my radio got partially split the day before and a sniper had hit the antenna on my radio, so I was holding the antenna together with my fingers.

00:05:09 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:05:10 Speaker 3

And and calling off the artillery observations at the same time. And a grenade came over the top of the hill and hit me in the face.

00:05:19 Speaker 1

A fragment.

00:05:20 Speaker 3

No, the grenade flank came up and I saw the grenade.

00:05:23 Speaker 3

I turned my head and exploded and I got hit in the face and the thigh and in the foot.

00:05:24 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:05:30 Speaker 1

And where's that scar on your face?

00:05:32 Speaker 3

The scars, the small little scar right over here. The one over here is.

00:05:35 Speaker 1

Yep.

00:05:37 Speaker 1

Oh no, I'm not even going to film that one. Because you lie about that one.

00:05:41 Speaker 1

No, I'm not even looking at. OK, that ones are.

00:05:44 Speaker 1

Let's see, that's gargant.

00:05:45 Speaker 3

This is not from the OSS.

00:05:47 Speaker 1

UAN.

00:05:48 Speaker 1

Face it. Yep.

00:05:49 Speaker 3

You can't.

00:05:49 Speaker 1

Oh, I see.

00:05:50 Speaker 1

I remember seeing it all growing up.

00:05:53 Speaker 3

Down the bottom of your ship.

00:05:54 Speaker 1

Yep. And So what happened then? You had a bloody face.

00:05:57 Speaker 3

Yeah, and I.

00:05:58 Speaker 3

A.

00:05:58 Speaker 3

There was a old dugout from World War from 19.

00:06:02 Speaker 3

French dugouts were on this hill and I ran into this dugout and there were several other guys who were in there that were wounded.

00:06:10 Speaker 1

Hand grenade.

00:06:12 Speaker 3

Combat there, that was there, you know, firing everything and about 1/2 hour, maybe 20 minutes later. Half hour later, the Germans were on top of the hill and they took prisoners.

00:06:15 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:06:22 Speaker 1

So you saw them coming over.

00:06:24 Speaker 3

Yeah, we. Well, we just, we just stayed in there and we had a first date man there and we were all screaming.

00:06:30 Speaker 3

Schifon.

00:06:31 Speaker 1

What does that mean? Don't you?

00:06:32 Speaker 3

Don't shoot, Alice. Camera friends, we surrender.

00:06:37 Speaker 1

Right.

00:06:38 Speaker 3

Alex wounded.

00:06:40 Speaker 1

Will you guys waive in a white flag at?

00:06:42 Speaker 1

Or anything.

00:06:44 Speaker 1

And did any of these Germans have, like, s s things on them or anything? This was regular German army guys.

00:06:47 Speaker 3

No, not at that time.

00:06:51 Speaker 3

They were dressed up in the uniform of the Air Force, German LUFTBUFFER soldiers.

00:06:54 Speaker 1

Uh.

00:06:57 Speaker 1

Huh.

00:06:58 Speaker 3

And they were both young men and old men.

00:07:00 Speaker 1

Were they mean to you or they were not?

00:07:03 Speaker 2

Really part of the Home Guard or something. Oh, you're.

00:07:05 Speaker 3

We don't know.

00:07:06 Speaker 3

We we don't.

00:07:07 Speaker 3

We don't what they were, but they were, you know, at that time they were using everybody they could possibly use, you know, is infantry and.

00:07:14 Speaker 1

Let me pause for one second.

00:07:16 Speaker 1

On a second.

00:07:19 Speaker 1

It's very.

00:07:20 Speaker 1

I'm getting a real nice picture.

00:07:21 Speaker 2

Hello.

00:07:22 Speaker 1

OK.

00:07:23 Speaker 1

So you just these guys just came over the hill?

00:07:25 Speaker 3

You're in this hill and there was a red crushed man there and he was whatever he could give. He was giving to us and he gave me a couple of shots of morphine.

00:07:34 Speaker 1

Would do you remember being in a lot of pain?

00:07:36 Speaker 3

Yeah, I remember being in pain, but the pain 1.

00:07:39 Speaker 3

And I started talking when I was under the morphine and we had a code as far as these hills were concerned, you know, New York Hill, New Jersey, so forth and so on.

00:07:43 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:07:51 Speaker 3

Things and I started giving out this code.

00:07:54 Speaker 1

Whoa.

00:07:55 Speaker 3

And this is what I was asleep.

00:07:57 Speaker 3

So when the Germans woke me up, one of the guys grabbed me and woke me up and slapped my face a couple times.

00:08:04 Speaker 3

Asked me what that meant and he asked me if I was the radio operator and I said yes. You know, before I even knew it.

00:08:11 Speaker 3

He.

00:08:11 Speaker 3

What does this mean?

00:08:12 Speaker 3

Says it doesn't.

00:08:13 Speaker 3

Anything. And he says he looked at my dog tags and says, ah, do Mr. Newton.

00:08:19 Speaker 3

He saw the H on my dog, his business H to Mr. Newton.

00:08:23 Speaker 3

I says no, he didn't.

00:08:24 Speaker 3

*** ** * *****.

00:08:26 Speaker 3

And he slapped my face and I kicked him in the balls.

00:08:30 Speaker 3

I.

00:08:30 Speaker 3

Greg and I, are you sitting at your right hand next to me?

00:08:33 Speaker 3

So I'd slap my face.

00:08:34 Speaker 1

This is the.

00:08:35 Speaker 1

The same thing with the hand.

00:08:37 Speaker 1

This is the same instant I thought, OK.

00:08:39 Speaker 3

The same instance, same day. And so when you slapped my face, I kicked him in the groin and he sat on my chest and he took a knife and put the knife to my throat.

00:08:43 Speaker 1

Yep.

00:08:48 Speaker 3

Was about to cut my throat and the German officer came in and stopped him.

00:08:54 Speaker 3

Just at that point and.

00:08:58 Speaker 3

They kicked me around, hit me a couple of times.

00:09:00 Speaker 3

Didn't tell them anything and they left me alone.

00:09:04 Speaker 3

And we were in that same.

00:09:07 Speaker 3

Dugout all day.

00:09:09 Speaker 3

And through the whole day that our troops were shelling the the dugout, you know, fairly well protected.

00:09:13 Speaker 2

Were the Germans with you all?

00:09:15 Speaker 2

Time or they look.

00:09:15 Speaker 3

No, the German word.

00:09:17 Speaker 3

Were.

00:09:17 Speaker 3

They were outside the.

00:09:18 Speaker 3

They didn't stay inside with us.

00:09:20 Speaker 2

Oh, but they.

00:09:21 Speaker 2

Just left you there. Do they kill anybody up?

00:09:22 Speaker 3

They left us there and they had a they had a card.

00:09:25 Speaker 2

Do they kill anybody in the?

00:09:27 Speaker 3

No, no. They took a couple of guys that were not wounded. They took out of the dugout, but the wounded and the wreck and the first aid man, they left there.

00:09:35 Speaker 1

So they were sort of almost like doing Geneva Conventions, sort of like.

00:09:38 Speaker 3

Five of us.

00:09:39 Speaker 1

Like you were wounded so.

00:09:40 Speaker 3

They yeah, they left us alone.

00:09:43 Speaker 3

And towards night, about eight 10:00 at night.

00:09:47 Speaker 3

Don't know if it's dark or anything.

00:09:51 Speaker 3

The Germans had.

00:09:52 Speaker 3

The diving was the shelling was very strong.

00:09:56 Speaker 3

Two Germans came into the dugout, an old man and a young man.

00:10:01 Speaker 3

And the young man put his rifle to my chest.

00:10:07 Speaker 1

This is still the same day, Dan, right?

00:10:08 Speaker 3

Same day and they were asking us if we had any weapons and I had a 45 caliber pistol automatic underneath me.

00:10:20 Speaker 3

He didn't know it's been laying on all this time. There was no way I could reach it because these Germans were right outside.

00:10:26 Speaker 3

Nothing I could do about it.

00:10:28 Speaker 1

Just a second.

00:10:29 Speaker 3

And he had this, and he started to he kept asking us if we had weapons.

00:10:35 Speaker 1

I'm sorry.

00:10:51 Speaker 3

Started to cook like this on the trigger.

00:10:54 Speaker 3

And I started to pass out.

00:10:58 Speaker 3

And I crapped in my pants.

00:10:59 Speaker 3

I defecated in my pants. I was so scared.

00:11:02 Speaker 1

Was there anybody else in there with you?

00:11:04 Speaker 1

The time.

00:11:04 Speaker 3

Yeah. The other guys were in there with us.

00:11:05 Speaker 1

Did they have the the gun to anybody?

00:11:08 Speaker 1

Chest or just your.

00:11:09 Speaker 3

The other German had somebody else to had. It had his gun on the other guys. They have it to the.

00:11:14 Speaker 3

Just covering the other two guys.

00:11:16 Speaker 1

So they weren't yelling at the other guys. They're just yelling at you.

00:11:18 Speaker 3

No, this was just yelling at me about we had new weapons.

00:11:21 Speaker 1

Alright.

00:11:21 Speaker 3

We only had both of us at all of us. You know, we had new weapons, you know, and he started doing this.

00:11:23 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:11:26 Speaker 3

I went.

00:11:27 Speaker 3

Back there, you know, all of a sudden the gun was taken off my chest.

00:11:29 Speaker 1

Mm hmm.

00:11:32 Speaker 3

And he took their two guns and they threw him out of the dugout.

00:11:36 Speaker 3

And they held up their hands and they said Tamura. They surrendered.

00:11:41 Speaker 3

They surrendered to us.

00:11:42 Speaker 3

They had orders to kill us.

00:11:45 Speaker 3

But they had decided to get out to surrender, and they didn't want them us to shoot them.

00:11:51 Speaker 3

You know, if they surrendered to us.

00:11:54 Speaker 1

But but I thought the other Germans were all around your.

00:11:54

It's.

00:11:57 Speaker 3

All the other Germans that they were all they were all.

00:12:00 Speaker 3

These two guys were among the last couple of men on this top of the hill there.

00:12:05 Speaker 3

The Germans you know? And but it was being shelled and their orders were to kill.

00:12:08 Speaker 1

They were retreating.

00:12:10 Speaker 3

Orders were to kill the prisoners and to.

00:12:11 Speaker 1

And get the hell out.

00:12:12 Speaker 3

Out.

00:12:13 Speaker 3

And so they decided they had decided to.

00:12:15 Speaker 3

This is the only way they could surrender to us to make sure that we wouldn't shoot down.

00:12:21 Speaker 3

In about 10-15 minutes later, our troops were on the top of the hill again and one of the majors. There was no captain, Captain Smith.

00:12:31 Speaker 3

Stuck his head in the air and he says, are you alright in there?

00:12:33 Speaker 3

Said yes, Sir. We've got 2 German prisoners, he says.

00:12:36 Speaker 3

Them.

00:12:37 Speaker 3

I'll take care of them. And I said no Sir, they surrendered to us.

00:12:41 Speaker 3

Had orders to shoot us and they surrendered to us.

00:12:44 Speaker 3

We will not send them out.

00:12:46

Mm.

00:12:46 Speaker 3

And they said, OK, we'll get somebody to take him back later on.

00:12:50 Speaker 3

And so we kept them with those two guys with us all night long.

00:12:53 Speaker 1

So he would they would have killed them.

00:12:55 Speaker 3

And the next morning, they were taken back to the prisoners.

00:12:58 Speaker 3

Were taken this prisoners of war.

00:13:00 Speaker 1

And did you ever get their names or?

00:13:01

They.

00:13:02 Speaker 3

Never got their name, so know who they are? Nothing about them.

00:13:05 Speaker 3

And that morning they took me off the hill and I was able to walk a little bit.

00:13:11 Speaker 3

Was.

00:13:11 Speaker 3

I was in between two guys, you know, walking downhill and this hill again was being shelled and bombed, and the hill was taken again by the Germans and it was taken 3 times.

00:13:13

Mm.

00:13:22 Speaker 3

Three times they got the top of the hill in three times we lost.

00:13:27 Speaker 3

Question.

00:13:28 Speaker 3

Get them going back and forth like that.

00:13:30 Speaker 2

The men killed each time.

00:13:33 Speaker 3

Were men killed each time?

00:13:37 Speaker 3

You know, it was one of those very it was a very, very tough place to be. And so I I don't know what happened to the rest of the people after that.

00:13:47 Speaker 1

What about the guys that were in?

00:13:48 Speaker 1

Foxhole with.

00:13:49 Speaker 1

Do you remember their names?

00:13:50

A couple of guys.

00:13:50 Speaker 3

The guys were no, I don't.

00:13:52 Speaker 3

Their names don't have their names or anything.

00:13:54 Speaker 3

Only one I know is Wick.

00:13:58 Speaker 3

And one was the first egg man's name was Frost.

00:14:02 Speaker 3

The other guys name was Wick and Wick I ran into in a in the hospital afterwards and he was like anti Semite.

00:14:13 Speaker 3

He hated Jews and he started making some kind of remark and I took him.

00:14:18 Speaker 3

And I said, you make one armor remark and I'm going to put you on the stove.

00:14:23 Speaker 3

Was a hot stove in the in the in the barracks, in the Kentucky, he says.

00:14:26 Speaker 1

The hospital.

00:14:28 Speaker 3

Couldn't do in a month or Sundays and I picked him up.

00:14:31 Speaker 3

I put him on the stove.

00:14:32 Speaker 1

This was the guy that was in the foxhole with you that almost got killed with you, and he's still being anti-Semitic to you.

00:14:42 Speaker 1

That's right. You burned the cedar on the heater.

00:14:46 Speaker 3

They separated us and nobody ever said anything about it.

00:14:50 Speaker 1

Yeah. Was he above you in rank at all?

00:14:56 Speaker 1

Was there a lot of anti-Semitism in the troops?

00:14:59 Speaker 1

Did you get?

00:15:00 Speaker 1

Uh.

00:15:02 Speaker 3

And.

00:15:04 Speaker 3

The other 10.

00:15:04 Speaker 2

I think when they were overseas studied, they didn't.

00:15:07 Speaker 3

Have time to be anti-Semitic and the other time it was really a bad time that we had was just before I went off before I had my trench foot.

00:15:09

Mm.

00:15:17 Speaker 3

A few days before.

00:15:20 Speaker 3

We were advancing and we came to 1 area that was.

00:15:25 Speaker 2

What word?

00:15:26 Speaker 3

In France, again, this was we've already crossed the Moselle river and we're in northern France and we.

00:15:34 Speaker 3

We came to 1 area where there was a large large field, farmland and everything you know ditches wide ditches in there, you know, looking for drainage ditches. And we got into this drainage ditch and there was a farmhouse.

00:15:45

Mm.

00:15:50 Speaker 3

Maybe 500 yards away or so and the Germans started coming out with this white flag.

00:15:56 Speaker 3

And somebody started shooting at them and they ran back into the farmhouse.

00:16:02 Speaker 3

Immediately after they run back into the farmhouse, mortar shells started dropping in the farm down the ditch.

00:16:10 Speaker 3

The same pitch that we were laying in mortar shells were dropping blood. No, the Germans.

00:16:14 Speaker 1

Your own.

00:16:15 Speaker 1

Your own guys.

00:16:18 Speaker 3

They have had they've had the.

00:16:22 Speaker 3

The mortar had already been zeroed in on this ditch you.

00:16:26 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:16:27 Speaker 3

So if any troops were in there, they could shoot it. You know, they could kill. And these shells were dropping one after the other. Every 2030 feet, they were coming down and we had just dug in.

00:16:30 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:16:39 Speaker 3

Like my foxhole buddy, Calvin Brighton, I had just dug it in slightly into the side of the hill.

00:16:44 Speaker 3

Of the things troops, Evelyn did the minute they stopped advancing, he started digging a hole.

00:16:50

Yeah.

00:16:52 Speaker 3

You know, to get under, get undercover, get below the the.

00:16:54 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:16:58 Speaker 1

Fire line.

00:16:58 Speaker 3

Round line below the ground level and we started digging the first minute we got in there, you know, before anybody even said to, we're going to continue going.

00:17:08 Speaker 3

So we had digging into, we had dug into the side of the ditch and the mortar shells were dropping.

00:17:15 Speaker 3

And I could hear them dropping and I'm sitting laying on top of.

00:17:19 Speaker 3

And he's against the against the dirt, and I'm practically smothering.

00:17:23 Speaker 3

It you know, we're figuring we're gonna be gone. We're praying like crazy.

00:17:27 Speaker 1

Right.

00:17:27 Speaker 3

And I hear a shell drop about 20.

00:17:29 Speaker 3

Feet away. Warm and I hear another show.

00:17:34 Speaker 1

Does it make an explosion after you hear?

00:17:36 Speaker 3

The next one, the next one.

00:17:38 Speaker 3

Boom, boom and then there is more.

00:17:41 Speaker 3

Will be further down about 20 minutes later, a tank came and destroyed this farmhouse, and the shelling stopped, and when we got out of this foxhole, this did this hole that we had.

00:17:54 Speaker 3

At the top of the, you know like at the top of the ditch there was a mortar shell.

00:18:01 Speaker 3

And it was a Dutch.

00:18:01 Speaker 1

Duh, duh, duh.

00:18:02 Speaker 3

And was stuck in the.

00:18:03 Speaker 3

It was about that much of a God of the.

00:18:06 Speaker 3

It was a big 120mm mortar and it would, if it had hit me it would have hit me right in the right in the small of the back.

00:18:14 Speaker 3

That's where it was.

00:18:16 Speaker 3

So we sat.

00:18:17 Speaker 3

We didn't know what to do with this thing, and nobody wanted to touch it.

00:18:20 Speaker 1

Right.

00:18:20 Speaker 3

You know, and we didn't want to do it. So they said somebody brought an ammunition box.

00:18:26 Speaker 3

And they put an ammunition box on top of it and they said you 2 guys keep anybody from kicking the ammunition box.

00:18:34 Speaker 3

And so so we were awake all night long.

00:18:37 Speaker 2

You're garrity.

00:18:38 Speaker 3

Garden this ammunition box guarding this shell. This shell that was laying there could have gone off at any time, but we couldn't leave it.

00:18:47 Speaker 3

We couldn't.

00:18:48 Speaker 3

And we couldn't.

00:18:49 Speaker 3

And we had to stay with this damn thing.

00:18:50 Speaker 1

Why did they do that?

00:18:52 Speaker 3

Well, if you would touch it, you know it's life.

00:18:55 Speaker 3

Fusions level the.

00:18:56 Speaker 1

Yet why did they put an ammunition box?

00:18:58 Speaker 1

Top of it.

00:18:58 Speaker 3

Because to protect it, you know, so anybody who would be walking would see that there's something there.

00:19:05 Speaker 1

Oh, not a live full ammunition box.

00:19:10 Speaker 1

I got it.

00:19:11 Speaker 3

So they they left this thing on top of there and they said you guys watch it.

00:19:15 Speaker 1

Great.

00:19:18 Speaker 1

You just survived that thing and then.

00:19:19 Speaker 3

Picture yeah.

00:19:25 Speaker 2

DJ.

00:19:28 Speaker 2

When he landed in France.

00:19:30 Speaker 3

So landed.

00:19:30

We had one question.

00:19:31 Speaker 1

These guys who surrendered was that like they they really weren't surrendering.

00:19:36 Speaker 3

Yeah, they, they they had decided to put the war.

00:19:38

The ones came out of the farmhouse.

00:19:40 Speaker 3

Yet they had decided to go in the far most they come out with the white flag.

00:19:43 Speaker 1

Yeah, we're at a decoy for you.

00:19:47

Guys.

00:19:47 Speaker 3

No.

00:19:47 Speaker 3

Oh no.

00:19:48 Speaker 3

They've come out and somebody, some foolish infantryman or somebody else had seen them and took a shot at.

00:19:55 Speaker 3

And the minute he took a shot at them, they ran back and they started firing.

00:19:59 Speaker 3

You know, and eventually they were.

00:20:01 Speaker 3

Were died.

00:20:02 Speaker 1

Because they got their farmhouse got bombed.

00:20:05 Speaker 3

Yeah.

00:20:06 Speaker 3

And then there was a well what mother said.

00:20:09 Speaker 3

I landed a few days after D-Day and it was d + 3 and when I landed there were still bodies in the water.

00:20:17 Speaker 1

Was it red? Like they say in the movie?

00:20:19 Speaker 3

Well, it wasn't so red.

00:20:20 Speaker 3

Because you know, the tide goes in and out and out.

00:20:22 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:20:23 Speaker 3

But what? There was a color to the water?

00:20:25 Speaker 1

And their dead bodies flooded.

00:20:27 Speaker 3

And as you would go up the hill, there was still the all the all the.

00:20:34 Speaker 3

Uh, the German?

00:20:38 Speaker 3

Uh, guns were still.

00:20:39 Speaker 3

Everything was still there, you know, and we just wait up and we went up.

00:20:44 Speaker 3

Then I finally became a replacement and I joined up with my unit.

00:20:48 Speaker 3

Went across France.

00:20:49 Speaker 3

Oh, I'll tell you the.

00:20:51 Speaker 1

But wait one second. When you were D-Day plus three, were you being fired on then or no?

00:20:57 Speaker 3

By the Germans.

00:20:57 Speaker 1

They were still there.

00:20:58 Speaker 3

No, they weren't.

00:20:59 Speaker 3

But the shells were still dropping on the on the beach.

00:21:03 Speaker 3

The shells were still dropping on the beach and the there were only about 1/2.

00:21:06 Speaker 3

Mile away.

00:21:08

Is that when you first come here?

00:21:10

Is that when you the 1st place you went?

00:21:12 Speaker 1

Oh, that's it.

00:21:12 Speaker 3

You got Atlantic and I.

00:21:15 Speaker 3

I was helping remove ammunition or bringing in.

00:21:19 Speaker 3

Wasn't.

00:21:19 Speaker 3

I had joined the unit or anything, but I was taking ammunition off the off the landing ships, landing ship, barges and everything.

00:21:28 Speaker 3

To the shore, just like all other members.

00:21:30 Speaker 3

You know these guys that weren't in units headed to had to do something.

00:21:34 Speaker 3

We're taking care of ammunition up.

00:21:36 Speaker 2

Victor, why weren't you?

00:21:38 Speaker 3

Because I was a replacement.

00:21:42 Speaker 3

I didn't go overseas. It was.

00:21:45 Speaker 3

The unit that I joined, I didn't go overseas.

00:21:48 Speaker 3

What they call the replacement.

00:21:52 Speaker 2

Was the unit. When you say the unit that I joined that you were in, I said, is that the signal for?

00:21:57 Speaker 3

When I was when I was in combat.

00:22:00 Speaker 2

You know.

00:22:00 Speaker 3

No, no. I went into this.

00:22:02 Speaker 3

I started with.

00:22:05 Speaker 3

I tried to get into the Sydney club.

00:22:06 Speaker 2

No, I know that.

00:22:06 Speaker 3

I wound up with the artillery.

00:22:08 Speaker 3

I wound up.

00:22:09 Speaker 3

I was in an infantry unit in the United States and I left there and went overseas as a replacement.

00:22:16 Speaker 1

And replace.

00:22:17 Speaker 2

So I mean, why did they just took men from units and set them overseas?

00:22:20 Speaker 1

Yeah. And then they form you into groups once you're.

00:22:23 Speaker 3

Yeah. And replacements were the guys who were killed. The first one they were.

00:22:27 Speaker 1

Right, the grunts, grunts.

00:22:28 Speaker 3

They had no unit cohesion with the Russian.

00:22:32 Speaker 1

And it was their first experience.

00:22:34 Speaker 1

So this was your so all this stuff with the German guy in the hand grenade and all the stuff came after you landed D-Day +3.

00:22:42 Speaker 3

Much later, two months later.

00:22:43 Speaker 2

Okay.

00:22:45 Speaker 3

And because I had when I joined with the 80th Infantry Division, I had joined them just as they reached St.

00:22:54 Speaker 3

And they had their first casualties that they had. There was at St.

00:22:59 Speaker 3

Fillets at the fillets, Argentine cap.

00:23:02 Speaker 3

And I joined them.

00:23:04 Speaker 3

There, that was in in in August.

00:23:08 Speaker 2

That was the 3rd Army.

00:23:09 Speaker 3

Yeah, they were in the.

00:23:10 Speaker 2

80th Division, 3rd army.

00:23:11 Speaker 3

80th Infantry Division and the third honor.

00:23:14 Speaker 3

And then we went across France, very fast on tanks and everything with the 4th Army, and we finally got to the Moselle River. We ran out of gasoline.

00:23:24 Speaker 3

We had no fuel.

00:23:25

Mm.

00:23:26 Speaker 3

And so that's when the war started in earnest.

00:23:29 Speaker 3

And there was one night there, the Kelvin Brighton. I was on guard duty.

00:23:36 Speaker 3

And it was very dark and we were in the woods and the planes were, you know, there's plane in front of U.S. Open in front of us. And we've been told that a German patrol had crossed our lines and was in the area.

00:23:49 Speaker 3

And we were watching for this German patrol and I saw something across the horizon crawling across the horizon, and Kelvin saw.

00:24:00 Speaker 3

You see it, he says.

00:24:03 Speaker 3

I hear him too.

00:24:04 Speaker 3

And we heard something clicking.

00:24:07 Speaker 3

Two pieces of metal clicking on each other.

00:24:09 Speaker 3

It's, you know, like it was equipment of a soldier, you know, metal equipment on a soldier.

00:24:13 Speaker 3

Was moving.

00:24:14 Speaker 3

We heard this equipment clicking and clicking clicking.

00:24:18 Speaker 3

And it's just getting closer and it's getting louder and louder.

00:24:22 Speaker 3

Know we didn't know what to do.

00:24:23 Speaker 3

Were just on.

00:24:24 Speaker 3

Duty, you know, and we couldn't reveal.

00:24:28 Speaker 3

And suddenly a.

00:24:30 Speaker 3

The sun the Moon came out from behind the clouds.

00:24:35 Speaker 3

And this is Victor.

00:24:37 Speaker 3

Look at your chest and I looked down at my chest and my heart was pounding like this.

00:24:44 Speaker 3

And the dog tags that.

00:24:45 Speaker 3

Had were clicking against each other and they couldn't have clicked against each other because I had a rubber.

00:24:48

Hmm.

00:24:52 Speaker 3

Had the rubber gasket now for my gas mask.

00:24:53 Speaker 1

The gas mask.

00:24:55 Speaker 3

Had the rubber gaskets on.

00:24:57 Speaker 3

I cut up the gas mask to keep him from making noise.

00:25:00 Speaker 3

But what was clicking?

00:25:02 Speaker 3

Was in Missoula on the on the.

00:25:06 Speaker 3

On the in between was hitting in between them and my heart was pounding so hard it made him click and it was so loud we thought the Germans.

00:25:15 Speaker 3

There and.

00:25:15 Speaker 1

Well, I thought you were just.

00:25:16 Speaker 3

Turned out to be a.

00:25:17 Speaker 3

A A some wild pigs that were running.

00:25:19 Speaker 1

That's what I thought you're going to say was wildlife or something.

00:25:21 Speaker 3

These wild pigs running across the horizon.

00:25:24 Speaker 3

Was a scary night.

00:25:28

Yeah.

00:25:28 Speaker 1

I'm like, well, scary. Nice to.

00:25:29 Speaker 3

Be Oh yeah.

00:25:30 Speaker 1

Now. Now what about the one about with the ring and the gun?

00:25:34 Speaker 3

What?

00:25:35 Speaker 1

The ring and the.

00:25:36 Speaker 1

The s s guy. Oh well, that's.

00:25:38 Speaker 2

Don't you should.

00:25:41 Speaker 3

Well I have.

00:25:42 Speaker 1

Hi.

00:25:44 Speaker 3

I had taken a ring and a gun from an s s soldier before I killed him.

00:25:53 Speaker 3

Because we're in.

00:25:54 Speaker 3

And it was very, very strenuous. And you don't you don't worry about whether you have a prisoner, you don't have a prisoner, you just kill him.

00:25:55

Yeah.

00:26:02 Speaker 3

Was s s.

00:26:03 Speaker 3

I killed him when I found.

00:26:05 Speaker 1

Where was the standard?

00:26:06 Speaker 3

It was in France.

00:26:07 Speaker 3

I don't remember where nearly all I think.

00:26:09 Speaker 3

And Le Mans near Le Mans, France and.

00:26:14 Speaker 3

He had an s s ring.

00:26:16 Speaker 3

It was a black Onyx ring and it was s s in diamonds.

00:26:23 Speaker 3

And so I had this ring, and I had this Luger gun and I was carrying that with me when I was taken prisoner.

00:26:31 Speaker 3

Just before.

00:26:32 Speaker 1

From the hill that that story that you just told.

00:26:34 Speaker 3

Yeah, I had it with me.

00:26:36 Speaker 3

With me. And so when I got into that dugout and I had this.

00:26:39 Speaker 3

With me were wounded.

00:26:42 Speaker 3

I took these two items and I took them and I put them.

00:26:46 Speaker 3

Bleeding and all. I knew what to do.

00:26:47 Speaker 3

I took them and I dug out some of the side of the dugout and I shoved them into there and I put the dirt on top of and I, you know, put the rocks and everything in there inside with them to bury them.

00:27:01 Speaker 3

So it says I wouldn't have them on my possession because we had those things on your possession for your government, no matter what happened and when they took me off the hill I forgot about.

00:27:07

Uh.

00:27:11 Speaker 3

And to this day, I think they're still there, although Mother thinks there may be a condominium on top of them.

00:27:17

It's.

00:27:18 Speaker 3

You don't know.

00:27:18 Speaker 1

But but but what was?

00:27:19 Speaker 3

I have never gone back to look.

00:27:22 Speaker 1

How did you kill that s s guy?

00:27:23 Speaker 1

That.

00:27:24 Speaker 1

Did somebody come into your foxhole or?

00:27:26 Speaker 3

Who's in?

00:27:27 Speaker 3

You know the you know you don't.

00:27:29 Speaker 1

Hand to hand or what?

00:27:30 Speaker 3

No, you're just.

00:27:31 Speaker 3

You see the guy? He's there.

00:27:33 Speaker 3

Van you shoot him? You know whether he's got his hands up or his hands down. You don't care.

00:27:34 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:27:37 Speaker 3

Mean you shoot him? He may have had his hands up and I didn't take any chances.

00:27:37 Speaker 1

Right, right.

00:27:42 Speaker 1

Alright.

00:27:42 Speaker 3

Those were the things that we did.

00:27:46 Speaker 3

There are a few things that like that that happened to me.

00:27:50

Yeah.

00:27:50 Speaker 3

But they.

00:27:51 Speaker 3

They weren't too bad.

00:27:52 Speaker 3

Other people had worse.

00:27:53

Ah.

00:27:55 Speaker 3

That's the end of my story.

00:27:58 Speaker 1

OK.

00:27:58 Speaker 1

Yep, OK, you're off.

00:27:59 Speaker 3

You can turn me off.

00:28:03 Speaker 3

You got it on June.

00:28:05 Speaker 2

Well, I I was trying to think if there were any.

00:28:07 Speaker 2

Stories that you told me that.

00:28:10 Speaker 3

I'm home.

00:28:13 Speaker 3

I want to jump into AI, don't want to jump into.

00:28:17 Speaker 3

At night, on a night patrol.

00:28:20 Speaker 3

I jumped into a foxhole and it was a German in there.

00:28:24 Speaker 1

Would you do?

00:28:26 Speaker 1

That you're going to say you guys.

00:28:27 Speaker 1

Like that scared to death.

00:28:28 Speaker 3

Oh no, we were.

00:28:30 Speaker 3

We were fighting hand to hand.

00:28:33 Speaker 3

Knife to knife.

00:28:35 Speaker 1

They don't do that much anymore.

00:28:37 Speaker 3

It was a scary thing, you know? But.

00:28:40 Speaker 1

This is in France too, daddy.

00:28:42 Speaker 3

France. But you gotta remember, I was 19 years old.

00:28:46 Speaker 1

Yep, Yep.

00:28:47 Speaker 3

All right.

00:28:48 Speaker 3

I did not think anything could ever kill me.

00:28:51 Speaker 3

Nothing could ever happen.

00:28:53 Speaker 1

Uh, yeah. That's why they get the young recruits.

00:28:54 Speaker 1

Why they?

00:28:56 Speaker 3

Why the young?

00:28:57 Speaker 3

That's why you use young people, young, 38 year old men to do this.

00:28:58 Speaker 1

Right.

00:29:01 Speaker 1

Right, right.

00:29:03 Speaker 3

And.

00:29:06 Speaker 3

It was a case.

00:29:09 Speaker 3

And when I jumped into this, we were on patrol and I they sent up a star show which lit up the area and I jumped into the 1st hole and there was the German.

00:29:21 Speaker 3

And I.

00:29:21 Speaker 1

Had A did you surprise?

00:29:23 Speaker 3

I don't.

00:29:24 Speaker 3

I don't know if I surprised him.

00:29:24 Speaker 3

He surprised me.

00:29:25 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:29:26 Speaker 3

I had always had a trench knife on the side of my boots.

00:29:30 Speaker 3

And I pulled the.

00:29:31 Speaker 3

I thought we struggled and I was able to subdue them.

00:29:34 Speaker 3

Kill them.

00:29:35 Speaker 1

Oh my God.

00:29:36 Speaker 1

And then were you still in that?

00:29:39 Speaker 1

With that dead guy.

00:29:40 Speaker 3

For a little while.

00:29:42 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:29:42 Speaker 3

But as soon as the show went.

00:29:44 Speaker 3

I got out of there and I was moving.

00:29:45 Speaker 1

Uh, huh. Now where's all your?

00:29:47 Speaker 3

And I peed my pants later.

00:29:49 Speaker 1

Oh yeah, well.

00:29:51 Speaker 1

That's the worst that could happen.

00:29:52 Speaker 3

Now, what did you say?

00:29:54 Speaker 1

Where's your buddies like? Don't you guys travel in, like, platoons and stuff and?

00:29:58 Speaker 3

Well, you travel in a squad and a platoon when you're in a patrol, you're together, but you're also.

00:30:05 Speaker 3

You know, we try to keep separated from close to each other and at this particular point, I didn't worry about where my buddies were.

00:30:14 Speaker 3

Only worried about who's in the hole with me.

00:30:17 Speaker 1

Or it got lit up and you didn't want to be exposed. So you just.

00:30:20 Speaker 1

Jumped in so like. But what were you guys trying to do?

00:30:24 Speaker 1

You aiming for to take over something? Yeah.

00:30:26 Speaker 3

Were out that.

00:30:27 Speaker 3

We were out that night looking for prisoners.

00:30:30 Speaker 1

I'm trying to think about it like how they do Vietnam.

00:30:33 Speaker 1

Know the stuff you see in.

00:30:35 Speaker 1

They go on these patrols to find other, you know, enemy troops and then kill them or.

00:30:40 Speaker 3

Well, that's that's a combat patrol, but we we, we.

00:30:42 Speaker 1

And that's what you were doing.

00:30:43 Speaker 3

On a reconnaissance patrol to find other prisoners and I could have taken.

00:30:48 Speaker 3

I could have held this.

00:30:49 Speaker 3

Maybe taking him a prisoner or something, but I wasn't going to take the chance as it is somebody else. We got another prisoner that night.

00:30:50 Speaker 1

Uh.

00:30:53 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:30:57 Speaker 1

What does that?

00:30:57 Speaker 1

A reconnaissance to look for prisoners.

00:30:59 Speaker 3

Patrol is to find somebody from the German units that are facing you to find out to get them and interrogate them to find out what kind of troops are facing you.

00:31:03 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:31:13 Speaker 3

What? How strong they are, what kind of strength?

00:31:15 Speaker 1

So you're trying to pick out a live 1 to.

00:31:17 Speaker 3

They question right.

00:31:19 Speaker 1

I see.

00:31:20 Speaker 3

And I got held for that but.

00:31:22 Speaker 1

Oh really?

00:31:24 Speaker 3

Why don't you just knock them out, save them? And I says what? And have myself killed? No, no. You know I didn't. I didn't.

00:31:31 Speaker 1

Who gave you help?

00:31:32 Speaker 3

Wanted the Sergeant.

00:31:33 Speaker 3

Why didn't, why didn't you?

00:31:35 Speaker 3

Didn't you stop doing?

00:31:36 Speaker 3

Said.

00:31:37 Speaker 3

I don't have time to subdue.

00:31:40

Mm.

00:31:40 Speaker 3

I only have time to survive.

00:31:42 Speaker 1

Yeah. And you're 19 years old.

00:31:44 Speaker 3

I was 19.

00:31:45 Speaker 1

Somebody barking at you and you almost just got killed.

00:31:48 Speaker 3

Yeah. So he didn't say too much about it after that.

00:31:52

Mm.

00:31:53 Speaker 3

Those are some of the.

00:31:54 Speaker 3

And then when I came off the line, I had trench foot. Trench foot is a.

00:31:57 Speaker 1

And what is that?

00:32:00 Speaker 3

Is a lack of circulation in the feet because your feet are constantly wet.

00:32:05 Speaker 3

You don't change your socks.

00:32:06 Speaker 3

Don't have circulation.

00:32:08 Speaker 3

You lose the circulation. You get the trench foot and your feet become like cloves.

00:32:14 Speaker 3

You feel like you're walking on wooden stumps.

00:32:17

Huh.

00:32:17 Speaker 3

You have no feeling in the feet. Nothing. There's no way that this can't walk.

00:32:19

Mm.

00:32:22 Speaker 3

And I got this trench.

00:32:24 Speaker 1

Is that?

00:32:24 Speaker 1

Did a lot of guys get that?

00:32:27 Speaker 3

I got this and.

00:32:30 Speaker 3

And I requested.

00:32:32 Speaker 3

I asked my unit in my Lieutenant I.

00:32:35 Speaker 3

I got to get some change of socks and shoes, he said.

00:32:38 Speaker 3

You and Kel and I both had this, he says.

00:32:42 Speaker 3

Back to the aid station. Get some socks.

00:32:45 Speaker 3

I didn't have any socks and I didn't have any other shoes.

00:32:49 Speaker 3

Because when I had been wounded.

00:32:51 Speaker 3

In in September, they cut off my shoe.

00:32:55 Speaker 3

When I when they found the piece of shell I have piece of shell shell fragment sticking out of my shoe and when they when they saw this sticking out of my foot when they saw this.

00:33:06 Speaker 3

Cut the shoe off.

00:33:07 Speaker 3

And now I had 12 triple E feet and they didn't have any.

00:33:11 Speaker 3

For me.

00:33:12 Speaker 3

So they tried to sew the shoe back up together as best they could.

00:33:16 Speaker 3

And I use those same shoes that I was in combatant in September, in July, August, September, October, November, I was wearing the same pair of shoes.

00:33:25 Speaker 1

Wet, wet, old moldy shoes.

00:33:27 Speaker 3

Yeah. And I was wearing, you know, the socks. I didn't get a chance to change.

00:33:31 Speaker 3

We didn't have.

00:33:31 Speaker 3

I didn't have any fresh.

00:33:33 Speaker 3

Warm socks or anything. So I would take these socks off at night, try and dry them off.

00:33:39 Speaker 3

Dry them.

00:33:40 Speaker 3

Put them back on again the next day, you know, and that's how it did every night.

00:33:45 Speaker 2

And.

00:33:46 Speaker 3

When I got the trench foot and he started coming off the line, we were walking back and we suddenly started getting sheltered by the Germans. And there was Sherman tanks that were coming.

00:34:01 Speaker 3

Alongside of us and all of a sudden the Sherman tank started turning and they started coming towards me and I'm trying to walk in the mud and the mud was up to my.

00:34:12 Speaker 3

My calf figure and I couldn't get my feet out of the mud.

00:34:16 Speaker 1

Did they see you the tanks?

00:34:18 Speaker 3

The Sherman tank did not see me.

00:34:20 Speaker 1

But you thought they did it first.

00:34:21 Speaker 3

Well, we didn't know.

00:34:23 Speaker 1

Uh.

00:34:24 Speaker 3

And and they were coming towards me. And I'm waving my hands and everything. And I thought he was going to run over me.

00:34:29 Speaker 1

Oh my God.

00:34:30 Speaker 3

And Calvin jumped up on the tank, and he's banging on the tank and everything, and the guy opened it up and he says there's a man out there and that that's when one of the tankers came out and then he and Calvin pulled me out of the mud.

00:34:43 Speaker 1

Wait a?

00:34:43 Speaker 1

The Sherman tanks are our tanks, the US.

00:34:45 Speaker 3

There were.

00:34:46 Speaker 1

I thought that was a German.

00:34:47 Speaker 1

Oh, so you almost got run over by the your own guys.

00:34:50 Speaker 3

Yeah. And so he pulled me out.

00:34:52 Speaker 3

They both pulled me out of the mud and we got off to the side.

00:34:53 Speaker 1

Oh my God.

00:34:55 Speaker 3

Were off of the.

00:34:56 Speaker 3

You know where the where the Sherman's were coming down? This one track over here and we were able to get finally back to an aid station and he he wound up in the United States. And I wound up in England.

00:35:08 Speaker 3

And I stayed overseas for another year.

00:35:10 Speaker 1

You mean Kelvin?

00:35:12 Speaker 1

Why did he go get to the United States?

00:35:14 Speaker 3

Well, he had trench with the same as I did, but we got separated, went to different hospitals and you know you this is what happens sometimes and.

00:35:24 Speaker 3

They had me.

00:35:26 Speaker 3

Preparatory to operating on my feet, they were going.

00:35:30 Speaker 3

They had making a decision. I had small spots of black and all on egg toes that was gangrene.

00:35:39 Speaker 3

Was beginning to set in.

00:35:41 Speaker 3

And they had decided either to cut off my toes.

00:35:45 Speaker 3

They had me on an operating.

00:35:47 Speaker 3

They had me preparatory for being operated on.

00:35:50 Speaker 3

Given me morphine and.

00:35:53 Speaker 3

Several doctors came along in this hospital.

00:35:56 Speaker 3

In the field hospital, they said, OK, we're going to cut off the toes and then one of them said, well, why don't we try the penicillin if we give him massive dosage of penicillin, it may stop. The gangrene may even help the help his feet.

00:36:10 Speaker 3

And if it doesn't stop it, we can cut off his toes, feet at the angles.

00:36:15 Speaker 1

They're saying this in front of you.

00:36:17 Speaker 3

I was laying there.

00:36:19 Speaker 3

And the other guys in the hospital bed alongside of me there, they said that I got.

00:36:25 Speaker 3

And I was under.

00:36:26 Speaker 3

I don't remember this. They.

00:36:27 Speaker 3

I got up and I started swaying at them.

00:36:31 Speaker 3

Oh, they said it this way.

00:36:32 Speaker 3

Will give them morphine.

00:36:34 Speaker 3

Now we can cut off the 8 toes now, or we can give them the penicillin and the penicillin works.

00:36:41 Speaker 3

Save his.

00:36:42 Speaker 3

If it doesn't work, we'll cut.

00:36:43 Speaker 3

Off at the ankles.

00:36:45 Speaker 3

Both feet and that's when I started it up and I started swinging at them.

00:36:46

Uh.

00:36:51 Speaker 3

Anyone said if you had this?

00:36:53 Speaker 3

Yeah, just if he's got this much fire, let's give him the penicillin.

00:36:58 Speaker 1

So that they can put you back out there.

00:36:59 Speaker 3

Yeah.

00:37:02 Speaker 3

No, they.

00:37:02 Speaker 3

I started getting.

00:37:03 Speaker 3

I got it from that that day in November.

00:37:06 Speaker 3

Got it. Through the month of February.

00:37:07 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:37:10 Speaker 3

I was getting penicillin.

00:37:12 Speaker 3

Every four hours.

00:37:14 Speaker 1

So you were in the hospital from then until February that whole time, yeah.

00:37:19 Speaker 3

I couldn't walk.

00:37:20 Speaker 1

But not in the states. The hospital in in front in England.

00:37:23 Speaker 3

Listen first in France and then I was shipped into England and you know, I don't remember how I got there.

00:37:30 Speaker 3

Think I went by boat.

00:37:33 Speaker 3

Calvin flew back to the United States.

00:37:37 Speaker 1

And then did Calvin ever get put back in?

00:37:38 Speaker 1

War.

00:37:39 Speaker 3

No, all all of us know. No.

00:37:40 Speaker 1

But you did.

00:37:42 Speaker 2

Go back to the.

00:37:43 Speaker 3

No, no. Both of us got what was known as limited service duty.

00:37:50 Speaker 3

And my limited service duty was I went.

00:37:52 Speaker 3

I rejoined a company that had.

00:37:57 Speaker 3

Italian prisoners of war and we were to we transported Italian prisoners of war.

00:38:05 Speaker 3

Different places in Germany to do repair work.

00:38:09 Speaker 2

But you were still overseas.

00:38:11 Speaker 3

I still was overseas at the time.

00:38:13 Speaker 1

You're still carrying a gun and you.

00:38:14 Speaker 1

Still get shot at.

00:38:16 Speaker 3

But I was way behind the line so and the night the the war ended.

00:38:23 Speaker 3

The first Sergeant.

00:38:24 Speaker 3

His name was Daniel Bellini and he came from Danville, IL.

00:38:29 Speaker 3

He and I were out and we started hearing firing guns firing, and somebody's a German sniper started shooting at us.

00:38:38 Speaker 3

This was at the night the war ended, right?

00:38:40

Mm.

00:38:41 Speaker 3

At that time, it was in Manhattan, Germany, so the two of us flushed out the German sniper.

00:38:47

A.

00:38:48

Mm.

00:38:48 Speaker 3

And we were able to find them. And this was the night the war ended.

00:38:52

Huh.

00:38:53 Speaker 3

And this was in Manhattan.

00:38:55 Speaker 3

Was scary, Daniel Bellini.

00:38:58 Speaker 3

Went overseas in 1940, he was in Iceland.

00:39:05 Speaker 3

He.

00:39:05 Speaker 3

I don't know how the hell he I remember. He told me he was a regular army and he went to Iceland in 19 early part of 1940.

00:39:13 Speaker 3

Is before the war.

00:39:15

Uh.

00:39:15 Speaker 3

And then he.

00:39:16 Speaker 3

He joined the 1st Division and he went from.

00:39:20 Speaker 3

He went into Africa and went all the way through the war all the way to the end of the war with.

00:39:25 Speaker 3

First Infantry Division before he was so severely.

00:39:29 Speaker 3

He couldn't.

00:39:30 Speaker 3

He had to go into limited combat.

00:39:32 Speaker 3

He had every damn he had a bronze star.

00:39:36 Speaker 3

A silver star.

00:39:37 Speaker 3

3 purple hearts. He had a distinguished serviceman.

00:39:42 Speaker 3

Had carried the gear, you know.

00:39:44 Speaker 1

What's that?

00:39:44 Speaker 3

Of.

00:39:45 Speaker 3

French friends get a Carter and you.

00:39:46

Hmm.

00:39:49 Speaker 3

And he was the quietest whooping that.

00:39:51 Speaker 3

Ever want to see?

00:39:52 Speaker 1

Now, wasn't there something else with Poison Ivy?

00:39:56 Speaker 3

Oh well, that was in basic training.

00:39:59 Speaker 1

Uh.

00:40:00 Speaker 3

When we're in, we're in Fort Bragg.

00:40:04 Speaker 3

I had a guy by the name of.

00:40:08 Speaker 3

Just a minute.

00:40:13 Speaker 3

Yakima, WA.

00:40:16 Speaker 3

I can't remember his last.

00:40:17 Speaker 3

I can't remember his.

00:40:18 Speaker 1

OK.

00:40:19 Speaker 3

Yakima, WA and he and I were.

00:40:25 Speaker 3

Were tent mix and we were on it on, we were on maneuvers.

00:40:31 Speaker 3

And I got Poison Ivy in Fort Gregg, and I got it on my hands.

00:40:38 Speaker 3

And when you get it on your hands and you urinate, you get it on your testicles.

00:40:44

Uh.

00:40:44 Speaker 3

So I had it on my my private parts and on my hands and I had to go into the hospital for six days.

00:40:52 Speaker 3

And then the rolling was in basic training. If you were in the hospital for seven days, you got sent back into an older outfit, you know, into.

00:41:01

A.

00:41:01

New.

00:41:01 Speaker 3

Replacement outfit.

00:41:02 Speaker 3

Really new training off.

00:41:04 Speaker 3

So I would lose my the guys I was with.

00:41:07 Speaker 3

So they put me in hospital for six days and they sent me back on into the unit again after six days.

00:41:14 Speaker 3

And that night, they speed.

00:41:16 Speaker 3

And we.

00:41:17 Speaker 3

We didn't have summer clothing.

00:41:19 Speaker 3

Had woolen clothing.

00:41:21 Speaker 3

And a speed marches when you go 7 miles in the space of an hour and a half, you need got to run fast and do everything in the first. The first night we're on the speed March. The Poison Ivy was back.

00:41:34 Speaker 3

I was back in the hospital for another 6 days.

00:41:37 Speaker 3

And he finally cured.

00:41:38 Speaker 3

And you don't cure really cure Poison Ivy.

00:41:42 Speaker 3

You use yellow soap and.

00:41:48 Speaker 3

Was this a ketamine?

00:41:50 Speaker 1

Calamine.

00:41:52 Speaker 3

Calamine lotion and yellow soap is the only thing that cured Poison Ivy in those days, and that's what I used to use it.

00:42:01

Yeah.

00:42:02 Speaker 3

And to this day, if I get near Poison Ivy, I start to break out.

00:42:08 Speaker 2

Poison Ivy, again with the woods with chocolate picnic.

00:42:12 Speaker 3

Yeah, you went to a temple.

00:42:16 Speaker 3

You were a baby and they were.

00:42:18 Speaker 3

I thought was playing Cowboys and Indians with the kids that I was. One of the Indians.

00:42:22 Speaker 3

I did.

00:42:23 Speaker 2

I remember, but I know you wanted to.

00:42:23 Speaker 3

I.

00:42:23 Speaker 3

I was crawling through the bushes.

00:42:25 Speaker 3

I was.

00:42:25 Speaker 1

Miami Woods or something?

00:42:26 Speaker 3

I was crawling through the Miami Woods, you know, as an Indian, I got Poison Ivy and it didn't come out on me until the next week when we were in New York on a convention, remember?

00:42:38 Speaker 3

Yeah, we went to a convention to went to convention, and the doctor at the New York.

00:42:43 Speaker 3

Treated me.

00:42:46

Hmm.

00:42:47 Speaker 3

And I I saw that I showed the doctor my hands and everything, and he said you've got Poison Ivy and he treated me a New York life medical doctor when I was a New York Life Home Office.

00:42:57 Speaker 1

What about? What did you get the Purple Heart for?

00:43:01 Speaker 3

Purple Heart was for the face.

00:43:03 Speaker 1

That the.

00:43:04 Speaker 3

The face, the thigh and the foot.

00:43:06 Speaker 1

When did they give you the Purple Heart?

00:43:09 Speaker 3

What is it? I don't.

00:43:09 Speaker 1

After the war or what?

00:43:11 Speaker 3

They didn't scare it to me at the hospital.

00:43:12 Speaker 3

Here you.

00:43:13 Speaker 3

You got a Purple Heart.

00:43:14 Speaker 1

They don't make any big ceremony. And what about this bronze starry?

00:43:16 Speaker 3

Oh no big show.

00:43:18 Speaker 3

But the one medal that I didn't get until the last day of the war was a good conduct medal.

00:43:25 Speaker 1

You think it might have had anything to do?

00:43:26 Speaker 1

Putting the guy on the heater.

00:43:28 Speaker 3

No, I always used to.

00:43:30 Speaker 3

I always used to trying to sneak out of sneak out of doing any of it.

00:43:34 Speaker 3

I was court martialed.

00:43:37 Speaker 3

After I was wounded in.

00:43:41 Speaker 3

September of 44, when I was coming back.

00:43:45 Speaker 3

To my troops, we were in a camp before going back to their unit and I realized I was right near a town that we had liberated to France.

00:43:57 Speaker 3

So I and another guy from the hospital picked up and we walked out of the hospital camp.

00:44:03 Speaker 3

And we went into the.

00:44:05 Speaker 3

And we were picked up by the M PS because we weren't in proper uniform.

00:44:11 Speaker 3

Proper uniform meant you have a tie, a classic tie, a helmet, you know, special kind, you know not.

00:44:18 Speaker 3

The helmet without the.

00:44:21 Speaker 1

Junk on it, yeah.

00:44:22 Speaker 3

Well, junk on freshly uniform and polished and everything. We just had the uniforms we had.

00:44:28 Speaker 3

We came into.

00:44:29 Speaker 1

So you were grungy.

00:44:30 Speaker 3

Work.

00:44:31 Speaker 3

Yeah. So we were brought before.

00:44:35 Speaker 3

And the Colonel says, what are you doing?

00:44:37 Speaker 3

How come you're out of uniform? Blah, blah, blah. And I said, well, Colonel, I said I happen to be one of the men that liberated this town a couple of months ago, he says.

00:44:44 Speaker 3

Do you mean he?

00:44:45 Speaker 3

I'm with the 80th Infantry Division.

00:44:47 Speaker 3

I'm an infantry. I'm an infantry scout.

00:44:50 Speaker 3

He says what?

00:44:51 Speaker 3

You're with the 80th Infantry Division, he says.

00:44:54 Speaker 3

My God, he says.

00:44:55 Speaker 3

I wish I was an.

00:44:57 Speaker 3

I was in the First World War and I never got a chance to do anything.

00:45:01 Speaker 3

Here I am a Colonel and I can't do anything on MP and.

00:45:05 Speaker 3

You were the best boy. You're the boy.

00:45:06 Speaker 3

You're the greatest people in the world.

00:45:08 Speaker 3

Prayers to the infantry and I find you guilty.

00:45:11 Speaker 3

Finest \$25.

00:45:14 Speaker 3

And that's exactly it's exactly how he.

00:45:17 Speaker 3

It.

00:45:18 Speaker 2

I thought she said something about you bought a bottle of Scotch or something.

00:45:21 Speaker 3

Oh, that was another time.

00:45:24 Speaker 2

That's I want to know if you are port martial.

00:45:29 Speaker 2

Glad the army is there. A police record here.

00:45:30

Yeah.

00:45:32 Speaker 3

No, no there is.

00:45:34 Speaker 1

But you didn't get court martialled. You got fine. No.

00:45:37 Speaker 3

No, no, it was a.

00:45:38 Speaker 3

It was called a summary court martial.

00:45:41 Speaker 2

If you're like arrested, you hit.

00:45:43 Speaker 3

Yeah, you tried and convicted. The fine was \$25.

00:45:43

Us all right.

00:45:46 Speaker 1

But they could have dishonorably discharged you.

00:45:49 Speaker 3

Not for that.

00:45:50 Speaker 1

Oh.

00:45:51

Mm.

00:45:52 Speaker 3

The time that mother was thinking of.

00:45:54

That.

00:45:55 Speaker 3

Was.

00:45:59 Speaker 3

That time was.

00:46:01 Speaker 3

When I'd gone over.

00:46:03 Speaker 3

When I'd gone overseas in March of 45.

00:46:08 Speaker 3

That was March of 45.

00:46:11

No.

00:46:14 Speaker 3

It was in May.

00:46:14 Speaker 2

I can't step beyond it.

00:46:15 Speaker 3

Was in.

00:46:16 Speaker 3

It was in May of 45.

00:46:17 Speaker 3

I'd gone.

00:46:18 Speaker 3

I'd gotten into this unit, this, this.

00:46:22 Speaker 1

Light light the light duty, that one.

00:46:23 Speaker 3

Wash your life duty.

00:46:26 Speaker 2

What's the difference?

00:46:27 Speaker 2

Just tell.

00:46:28 Speaker 3

The truth anyway.

00:46:30 Speaker 3

I was to I was to build.

00:46:33 Speaker 3

I was given seven days leave.

00:46:37 Speaker 1

Where was this? Where were you?

00:46:39 Speaker 3

I was in France and I was I was given 10 days to lay in Ruth and I would went back to.

00:46:40 Speaker 1

OK.

00:46:46 Speaker 3

I was able to get back to England and in England we had relatives who were very wealthy and took care of, took good care of me.

00:46:53 Speaker 3

And one of them gave me a buy.

00:46:56 Speaker 3

I stayed longer than the 10 days.

00:46:58 Speaker 1

What was his name?

00:47:00 Speaker 1

The uncle.

00:47:02 Speaker 1

Cousin.

00:47:03 Speaker 3

Charles and Isaac Wilson.

00:47:06 Speaker 3

They were very wealthy people.

00:47:07 Speaker 1

Like older men or something.

00:47:09 Speaker 3

Yeah. And my father had written to them and gotten hold of them.

00:47:13 Speaker 3

And they found me when I was in the hospital and they I went back to them in March of 45 that.

00:47:15 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:47:18 Speaker 3

Seen them anyway.

00:47:20 Speaker 3

In this particular instance, I was supposed to be back from.

00:47:24 Speaker 3

My leave in 7 or 10 days and I stayed longer.

00:47:29 Speaker 3

And one of the uncles had given me a bottle of black and white Scotch, and I took that back to my commanding officer. And I didn't get caught myself.

00:47:39 Speaker 1

Briable.

00:47:40 Speaker 3

Yeah. Well, I I brought him back. He was mad.

00:47:43 Speaker 3

But when I brought him that, he said it's OK.

00:47:45 Speaker 2

Tell one more story and I'll also tell Suzanne and Ryan about how you want to see your uncle.

00:47:47 Speaker 3

Just one.

00:47:57 Speaker 3

Oh.

00:47:57 Speaker 2

His wife and their daughter.

00:48:03 Speaker 3

This was in the.

00:48:06 Speaker 3

This was the war was still on.

00:48:09 Speaker 3

And this was in.

00:48:11 Speaker 3

This was.

00:48:11 Speaker 3

September, November 44, before I got trenched.

00:48:15

Replay.

00:48:15 Speaker 3

I was able. I got leave.

00:48:18 Speaker 3

In between there and I went back all the way back to Paris and I went to all the guys in my my unit.

00:48:27 Speaker 3

I said I have an uncle in Paris.

00:48:29 Speaker 3

And these relatives taking some stuff to they all gave me cigarettes, candy K erections.

00:48:36 Speaker 3

Everybody was giving me everything they possibly could.

00:48:39 Speaker 1

Why? Why is that 'cause they were like starving there.

00:48:43 Speaker 1

Rations stuff.

00:48:43 Speaker 3

And I came back to they lost two children.

00:48:47 Speaker 3

And I came back to them. I had, you know, the duffel bag is I had a duffel bag this high filled to the brim with stuff for them.

00:48:50 Speaker 1

Yes.

00:48:57 Speaker 3

Know cigarettes, candy, everything. You could possibly think of.

00:49:00 Speaker 3

And I.

00:49:01 Speaker 3

And I knew there my my folks had written me and gave me their address. And so I got to them. And I I knocked on their door and little tiny girl answered the door.

00:49:13 Speaker 3

And I said EC water cousin Victor, United States.

00:49:20 Speaker 3

You know, and and I said here, here is your cousin Victor from the United States and my uncle and my aunt opened the door.

00:49:29 Speaker 3

She my aunt.

00:49:31 Speaker 3

You.

00:49:32 Speaker 1

Remember their names.

00:49:33 Speaker 3

My uncle's wife, Emile Hodges, my uncle's wife, was the daughter of a Prussian general.

00:49:35

Mm.

00:49:40 Speaker 3

And so, even though he was Jewish, they never touched him because of her connections.

00:49:46 Speaker 3

And he worked.

00:49:48 Speaker 3

Fixing he worked for the he had to work for the Germans fixing.

00:49:52 Speaker 1

So he was Vichy.

00:49:53 Speaker 3

No, he wasn't a.

00:49:54 Speaker 3

He was forced to work for them, but he was working for them, fixing the.

00:50:01 Speaker 3

Gyroscope of the tank. All these tanks have gyroscopes, so you can keep the guns at a certain at a level of all times, and he repaired these gyroscopes, whether repaired them properly or not, I don't know.

00:50:04

Mm.

00:50:08

Uh.

00:50:15 Speaker 3

But that's why that's how you survive. And two of his daughters drank milk that have been poisoned somehow, and they died in the war.

00:50:26 Speaker 3

And she was the only survivor.

00:50:28 Speaker 1

The little girl.

00:50:29 Speaker 3

She came here.

00:50:30 Speaker 3

Many years.

00:50:31 Speaker 2

So what did they say?

00:50:34 Speaker 1

You came in with this duffel bag.

00:50:35 Speaker 3

Well, they couldn't believe what they never seen they.

00:50:39 Speaker 3

Here comes oh she remembers the first thing she remembers in her life was the gigantic American who came to the door.

00:50:48 Speaker 3

That's what it was.

00:50:49 Speaker 3

The Big American who came to the door and bought the food.

00:50:51 Speaker 1

That's what the little girl.

00:50:54 Speaker 1

What was the little girl's name?

00:50:56 Speaker 1

No.

00:50:59 Speaker 1

Is that where I got my? No. I got my name from Sally.

00:51:02 Speaker 3

You got your name for my father.

00:51:03 Speaker 1

Yeah, but it's.

00:51:05 Speaker 1

But did you remember that when you named me?

00:51:09 Speaker 1

So it's not very significant.

00:51:12 Speaker 3

And she came here. The first thing she said.

00:51:13 Speaker 2

I don't think you remember her name either.

00:51:16 Speaker 3

I don't even know.

00:51:17

Told me.

00:51:19 Speaker 1

So that was nobody.

00:51:20 Speaker 3

She came here.

00:51:21 Speaker 2

Knows what happened to her.

00:51:23 Speaker 3

You know, and she, she. She was here and she said she worked for the for the police.

00:51:29 Speaker 3

In France, that for something doing something with missing property and the police and friends, and when she returned to France, she disappeared.

00:51:37 Speaker 1

Well, but that's Gene you're talking about.

00:51:43 Speaker 1

Oh well, I know, Gene.

00:51:45 Speaker 1

Met her.

00:51:47 Speaker 1

Yeah. So, Suzanne, I don't know.

00:51:50 Speaker 1

Yeah. When she disappeared, she was in some sort of cult or something. Member.

00:51:56 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:51:57 Speaker 2

And.

00:51:58 Speaker 2

And nobody ever knew.

00:52:00 Speaker 2

To the money or took her. And I guess Lillian was still alive.

00:52:05 Speaker 2

Went to France.

00:52:06 Speaker 3

Need to look for and couldn't.

00:52:07 Speaker 1

Find it, but do you remember when I went to France?

00:52:08 Speaker 2

To work for her.

00:52:11 Speaker 1

Called because I brought a gift for her.

00:52:15 Speaker 1

A handbag with her name embroidered and I, well, I talked to somebody and it it was something was really mixed up.

00:52:21 Speaker 1

Was like, Nah, Nah, nobody by that name or. But I thought I was talking to her and it.

00:52:28 Speaker 1

So we thought you're gonna cult or something because.

00:52:30 Speaker 2

Terry.

00:52:31 Speaker 1

Terry Warnock and I tried to find it but I did not know that was the little girl that came to the door.

00:52:36 Speaker 3

It's now 1030. I talked enough.

00:52:38 Speaker 1

That was your uncle Emile.

00:52:40 Speaker 3

Yeah.

00:52:41 Speaker 1

And that's Grandma Lucy's brother.

00:52:45 Speaker 3

She had another brother, Raul, who had lived in Egypt all his life, and when he left Egypt when the.

00:52:47 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:52:53 Speaker 3

When the Egyptians got after the Jews there, he and his second wife, they took all their diamonds and jewels and sewed them up in their.

00:53:02 Speaker 1

Uh.

00:53:03 Speaker 3

And left Egypt with their coats loaded with jewelry and lived for the rest of their lives on the jewelry.

00:53:05 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:53:09 Speaker 3

In Italy, before they died.

00:53:11 Speaker 1

In Italy.

00:53:14 Speaker 2

OK.

00:53:15 Speaker 1

Well, thank you very much, Victor.

00:53:17 Speaker 3

That's enough for that, all right.

00:53:19 Speaker 1

Alright, OK.

00:53:20 Speaker 2

It's time for everybody to go, baby, go.

00:53:21 Speaker 3

Oh yeah, I'm tired.

00:53:22 Speaker 3

I talked to her.

00:53:23 Speaker 2

Hey, can you have a letter here and?

00:53:50 Speaker 1

Test 123. This is a test run interview for Judith Helen Jacobs Arnopoland.

00:53:59 Speaker 1

Could you talk to us for a second?

00:54:01 Speaker 2

Put in the date sits in.

00:54:03 Speaker 1

OK. What is the date?

00:54:05 Speaker 1

Check your memory.

00:54:08 Speaker 2

This.

00:54:08 Speaker 2

Well, I think it's November.

00:54:12 Speaker 2

Let's see. The 15th was Thursday.

00:54:15 Speaker 2

Friday was the 16th. I think it's November 17th, OK.

00:54:20 Speaker 1

We'll give that a try.

00:54:21 Speaker 2

It could be November 18th, but I think.

00:54:23 Speaker 2

November 17th, OK.

00:54:29 Speaker 1

OK, wiping your nose.

00:54:33 Speaker 1

This is mom.

00:54:35 Speaker 1

Judas.

00:54:37 Speaker 1

Ellen.

00:54:43

Well.

00:54:43 Speaker 2

That's my true.

00:54:44 Speaker 2

Because my nose is always surrounded.

00:54:46 Speaker 1

OK.

00:54:47 Speaker 2

So, hello, Judy. Hi, Susie.

00:54:50 Speaker 1

Umm, we're going to add this tape to the one that we just created of my father of your husband, Victor.

00:55:00 Speaker 1

Who talked a bunch about his war stories and stuff?

00:55:04 Speaker 1

And now we're going to add some info from Mom, OK?

00:55:10 Speaker 1

So you told me to come up with the questions, right?

00:55:13 Speaker 2

Right. Except that I think that we should.

00:55:15 Speaker 2

The date on it.

00:55:17 Speaker 2

This is on November 17th and we're at Waitly, Massachusetts.

00:55:26 Speaker 2

And Victor and I are visiting our daughter, Suzanne, and her partner Ronnie.

00:55:33 Speaker 2

And Suzanne is giving me the third degree and I feel like I'm doing my.

00:55:40 Speaker 2

Will and testament.

00:55:42 Speaker 2

Start with the question, OK, where's all the money hidden?

00:55:48 Speaker 1

All right.

00:55:49 Speaker 1

No, actually what I want to know is tell me about how you and Dad first met.

00:55:56 Speaker 2

All right, Daddy and I were fixed up on a blind date and.

00:56:05 Speaker 2

Daddy had a relative.

00:56:09 Speaker 2

A distant relative that was married.

00:56:11 Speaker 2

To a second or third cousin of mine.

00:56:15 Speaker 2

So we both had sort of mutual.

00:56:20 Speaker 2

Relations, but they weren't.

00:56:23 Speaker 2

Blood relatives.

00:56:27 Speaker 2

And they fixed us up and we went on a date and.

00:56:34 Speaker 2

This was the whole pattern, wherever we, whenever we were dating.

00:56:38 Speaker 2

I think it was.

00:56:39 Speaker 2

Is.

00:56:41 Speaker 2

In December.

00:56:44 Speaker 2

19.

00:56:46 Speaker 2

Umm 48.

00:56:51 Speaker 1

OK. And what do you mean? This was the pattern?

00:56:53 Speaker 2

What pattern the pattern was?

00:56:55 Speaker 2

We went to the movie and then we went to have a cup of coffee.

00:57:01

Mm.

00:57:02 Speaker 2

We never went out to dinner.

00:57:05 Speaker 2

The first time we went out to dinner, we were engaged and I paid the bill so.

00:57:12 Speaker 2

We had very modest beginnings.

00:57:16 Speaker 1

Did you want him to take you out to dinner?

00:57:18 Speaker 2

No, I never even thought about it.

00:57:20 Speaker 1

Did he pay for the movie?

00:57:22 Speaker 2

Oh yes.

00:57:23 Speaker 1

So the first date was to go out on a movie. The blind date set up where there was the other couple there as well or no.

00:57:31 Speaker 2

We went out by ourselves.

00:57:33 Speaker 1

Did he pick you up at the house?

00:57:36 Speaker 2

Yes, he lived in Logan Square.

00:57:39 Speaker 2

And I lived in Hyde Park.

00:57:42 Speaker 2

Which is quite a distance.

00:57:44 Speaker 2

And he picked me up in a big green Pontiac.

00:57:47 Speaker 2

Was it his so? Well, I thought it was.

00:57:52 Speaker 2

And it was very cold out and I wore my fur coat and I thought he was rich and he thought I was rich.

00:58:00 Speaker 2

We're really attracted to each other, but it so happened that.

00:58:06 Speaker 2

Victory Father was in Arizona recovering from something or other.

00:58:12 Speaker 2

And Victor had the car, but he did not have his own car.

00:58:16 Speaker 1

So this was his father's car. That's correct.

00:58:19 Speaker 1

OK.

00:58:19 Speaker 2

But that was not unusual in those days.

00:58:21 Speaker 2

I mean, there were.

00:58:22 Speaker 1

Mm.

00:58:23 Speaker 2

People took street cars and buses.

00:58:25 Speaker 1

Well, how old were you?

00:58:27 Speaker 2

I was.

00:58:31 Speaker 1

20 When you first met him.

00:58:34 Speaker 2

Yeah. OK.

00:58:35 Speaker 1

And do you?

00:58:36 Speaker 2

Remember what I was a student at Northwestern?

00:58:37 Speaker 1

Do you remember what movie you went to?

00:58:42 Speaker 1

Would be interesting to see if Dad remembered he would make it up.

00:58:46 Speaker 2

Right. But I think we went to the Capitol Theater, which was someplace in the South side, and they had.

00:58:56 Speaker 2

A ceiling full of stars.

00:58:58 Speaker 2

You know, they still had very fancy theaters.

00:59:03 Speaker 1

Did you?

00:59:03 Speaker 1

Up for this date? Oh, we always.

00:59:07 Speaker 1

Did Dad have a suit?

00:59:08 Speaker 1

Tie on a suit and a tie.

00:59:09 Speaker 2

And he had hair.

00:59:11 Speaker 1

And he had to meet Grandpa.

00:59:15 Speaker 2

That was not too successful.

00:59:16 Speaker 1

What happened there was that this is the first date. Now you're talking about.

00:59:21 Speaker 2

Well, he probably told a joke.

00:59:23 Speaker 2

And my father, I think your lightest feeling.

00:59:27 Speaker 1

OK.

00:59:29 Speaker 2

My father didn't think he was.

00:59:30

All right.

00:59:34 Speaker 1

1st.

00:59:37 Speaker 2

Anyway, when we were dating.

00:59:41 Speaker 2

His father came there from Arizona and he didn't have a car.

00:59:47 Speaker 2

I want to think back on.

00:59:49 Speaker 2

I wonder why it's Father didn't just let him.

00:59:51 Speaker 2

The car.

00:59:54 Speaker 2

There probably was some kind of problem here.

00:59:58 Speaker 2

He used to take.

01:00:01 Speaker 2

A Street car from Logan Square.

01:00:04 Speaker 2

Downtown to the Illinois central station.

01:00:09 Speaker 2

On Randolph Street and take, we call that the IC.

01:00:13 Speaker 2

The IC.

01:00:16 Speaker 2

To Hyde Park and then take a bus.

01:00:20 Speaker 2

From the IC station to our house.

01:00:23 Speaker 2

So he traveled about an hour and a half to two hours.

01:00:28 Speaker 2

To come and see me. But as I told them.

01:00:30

Mm.

01:00:31 Speaker 2

Was worth it?

01:00:33 Speaker 1

Well, that's.

01:00:33 Speaker 1

All right, hold on one second.

01:00:37 Speaker 1

So we're.

01:00:37 Speaker 1

We're a little technical difficulties here.

01:00:39 Speaker 1

So you were saying that it was worth it?

01:00:42 Speaker 1

Yeah. OK. For Dad to make that long trip.

01:00:47 Speaker 1

When did he first kiss you?

01:00:51

Umm.

01:00:55 Speaker 2

It probably was. I think the second date that we went out we.

01:01:02 Speaker 2

Had his father's car and we went to take his brother back to military school in Wheaton.

01:01:12 Speaker 2

I think we went out for something to eat or we went out for coffee, I don't remember.

01:01:17 Speaker 2

And when we on the way back, you know, we parked.

01:01:23 Speaker 1

Do you want parking with him?

01:01:26 Speaker 1

Yes. OK. So.

01:01:27 Speaker 2

It's just getting too personal.

01:01:29 Speaker 1

No, your children and everybody needs to know this.

01:01:31 Speaker 2

No, no, no.

01:01:33 Speaker 1

So that's pretty nice.

01:01:35 Speaker 1

So were you thinking you really you're starting to like them?

01:01:39 Speaker 2

It's OK.

01:01:41 Speaker 1

Did you date anybody before you dated Dad?

01:01:44 Speaker 2

Yeah, at school.

01:01:45 Speaker 2

Dated fellas.

01:01:50 Speaker 1

Do you remember anybody in particular?

01:01:52 Speaker 2

Well, a couple of them, but.

01:01:55 Speaker 2

And you know, that's water under the dam.

01:01:57 Speaker 1

Do you know what happened?

01:01:57 Speaker 2

Never went out.

01:01:59 Speaker 2

You know any length of time or anything serious.

01:02:03 Speaker 1

Did you date a lot?

01:02:05 Speaker 2

I wouldn't say a.

01:02:06 Speaker 1

Lot you know, do you date in high school?

01:02:08 Speaker 2

No. In high school I didn't.

01:02:11 Speaker 1

At University of Southern California.

01:02:14 Speaker 2

Yeah, I did.

01:02:15 Speaker 1

And then back at here.

01:02:18 Speaker 1

And after you met Dad.

01:02:20 Speaker 1

And you were.

01:02:22 Speaker 1

Did you date anybody else?

01:02:24 Speaker 1

So that was it.

01:02:25 Speaker 1

Signed, sealed and delivered. Right. OK.

01:02:30 Speaker 1

So where did he ask you to marry him or when did you decide you're getting engaged or?

01:02:38 Speaker 2

I can't.

01:02:39 Speaker 2

I know we were in the car.

01:02:41 Speaker 2

When he asked me to marry him and I don't remember when it was. Were you surprised?

01:02:47 Speaker 2

Yeah, I was.

01:02:49 Speaker 2

I really was surprised.

01:02:50 Speaker 1

And did he ever ring when he.

01:02:52 Speaker 1

You no.

01:02:54 Speaker 1

OK. And when did you?

01:02:55 Speaker 2

I I got to ring you later.

01:02:57 Speaker 1

And what kind of ring did you get?

01:03:00 Speaker 2

His mother had this ring with diamonds in it.

01:03:04 Speaker 2

And she took it to a jeweler and had a new setting made for it, and he gave me that.

01:03:10 Speaker 1

And did you like it?

01:03:11 Speaker 2

Yeah, it's beautiful.

01:03:12

I.

01:03:13 Speaker 2

Still have it.

01:03:19 Speaker 1

You guys, how'd you decide about when?

01:03:21 Speaker 1

Were gonna get married.

01:03:23 Speaker 2

Well, we were supposed to get married in June when I finished school.

01:03:28 Speaker 2

What we decided we wanted to get married earlier, so we got married in March.

01:03:34 Speaker 2

At spring break.

01:03:37 Speaker 1

Mm.

01:03:37 Speaker 2

I was at Northwestern then and they were on the quarters system.

01:03:42 Speaker 1

And.

01:03:43 Speaker 1

Why did you decide to get earlier married earlier?

01:03:45 Speaker 1

Was a rush.

01:03:46 Speaker 2

We probably wanted to go to bed.

01:03:47 Speaker 1

Think so? And what about? Were any of your friends getting married at this time?

01:03:54 Speaker 2

Yeah, a couple of my girlfriends were married.

01:03:57 Speaker 2

My girlfriend Joan was married.

01:04:01 Speaker 2

Rita got married after we got married.

01:04:04 Speaker 2

It wasn't like a rush of people got married and I.

01:04:08 Speaker 1

And who helped you pick out your wedding gown?

01:04:13 Speaker 2

It was.

01:04:14 Speaker 2

I had it made by some a dressmaker.

01:04:18 Speaker 1

And was at the the way that people used.

01:04:20 Speaker 1

Do it back there.

01:04:20 Speaker 2

No, it's just I.

01:04:23 Speaker 2

I was in school and I didn't really have time to go looking for a dress.

01:04:29 Speaker 1

And how did and I?

01:04:30 Speaker 2

Wanted a, you know, a small wedding at home.

01:04:32

Today.

01:04:33 Speaker 2

Immediate family, which I didn't get.

01:04:37 Speaker 2

Know but.

01:04:37 Speaker 1

Why didn't you get it?

01:04:38 Speaker 2

Well, Graham had to invite this one.

01:04:40 Speaker 2

That one.

01:04:41 Speaker 2

So it was deja foul.

01:04:43 Speaker 1

So it was grandma that was pushing to have a bigger wedding.

01:04:46 Speaker 2

Yeah, both grandmas.

01:04:48 Speaker 1

And where was the wedding held at?

01:04:50 Speaker 2

It was at our apartment. My parents.

01:04:54 Speaker 2

Was a very large.

01:04:55 Speaker 2

Apartment was at Merrill Ave. or no, that was in Greenwood Ave. and.

01:05:02 Speaker 1

Did you have music or anything or?

01:05:05 Speaker 2

Umm.

01:05:09 Speaker 2

We had music during the ceremony.

01:05:12 Speaker 2

I think.

01:05:12 Speaker 2

Had a violin and.

01:05:17 Speaker 2

I don't remember.

01:05:18 Speaker 2

I mean, there was no place to.

01:05:20 Speaker 2

That's what you mean.

01:05:21 Speaker 1

And did you have hors d'oeuvres or anything before?

01:05:23 Speaker 2

Well, it was supposed to be.

01:05:28

A.

01:05:28 Speaker 2

Hodurbs and drinks and cakes and things like that, like a cocktail party, you know? And somehow grandma snuck a dinner in there.

01:05:33

Mm.

01:05:40 Speaker 2

And so in the middle of practically the wedding, they were.

01:05:44 Speaker 2

Trying to set up, it was a mess.

01:05:47 Speaker 2

It was not what I wanted, and I don't even like to talk about it because I don't have a very.

01:05:53 Speaker 2

Memories, really.

01:05:54 Speaker 1

Do you remember saying your vows and everything?

01:05:59 Speaker 1

Did you guys have a hop up?

01:06:02 Speaker 2

We had a hop up.

01:06:04 Speaker 1

And who was your best?

01:06:09 Speaker 2

Man and my sister Charlotte was.

01:06:10 Speaker 1

Uh.

01:06:14 Speaker 1

Did you have any bridesmaids? No.

01:06:17 Speaker 1

Was it traditional at that time to have bridesmaids?

01:06:19 Speaker 2

You have big *****. Traditional, have big weddings and you know, so how many people do you think?

01:06:24 Speaker 1

Were there in that apartment?

01:06:25 Speaker 2

Oh, I would say that there were close to 100 people.

01:06:28 Speaker 1

There, in an apartment.

01:06:30 Speaker 2

Well, when I see apartment, it was these apartments in Hyde Park were tremendous service, tremendous living room, a big sun porch, a big dining 4 bedrooms.

01:06:42 Speaker 2

Mean it was really large.

01:06:43 Speaker 1

Mm.

01:06:44 Speaker 2

But it.

01:06:44 Speaker 2

Was not made for that kind of an appear.

01:06:48 Speaker 1

Ance. And did you go on a?

01:06:49 Speaker 1

We went to.

01:06:52 Speaker 2

First of all, on our wedding night, we went to the Drake Hotel and we had a beautiful room with two bathrooms.

01:07:03 Speaker 2

And I got undressed and put on this beautiful negligee. And we had champagne and there was a knock on the door. And there were my girlfriend Rita.

01:07:14 Speaker 2

And her husband or boyfriend?

01:07:16 Speaker 2

I think it was her first husband.

01:07:19 Speaker 2

And there was somebody else, but I can't remember who it is they came to visit us.

01:07:24 Speaker 2

That was, yeah, but that everybody tried always to do that, you know, and.

01:07:25 Speaker 1

On your wedding night.

01:07:29

Mm.

01:07:32 Speaker 2

Then we went to Oakton Manor for a week.

01:07:34 Speaker 2

Was a resort in Wisconsin.

01:07:38 Speaker 1

But did anything happen when they came through the door?

01:07:41 Speaker 2

Oh yeah, they sat down, you know.

01:07:43 Speaker 2

Everybody teases you and you know.

01:07:45 Speaker 1

Ever.

01:07:45 Speaker 1

Do you remember anything else about that?

01:07:48 Speaker 2

No, I you know, I I laughed.

01:07:50 Speaker 2

Was funny.

01:07:51 Speaker 1

Were you drinking at all when they came in? No.

01:07:55 Speaker 1

You didn't have any champagne.

01:07:57 Speaker 2

We hadn't opened it yet.

01:08:00 Speaker 1

That's very interesting.

01:08:01 Speaker 1

Let me just close this for a second.

01:08:06 Speaker 1

So we've had a little memory jogging.

01:08:08 Speaker 1

Now let's take it from the a little bit.

01:08:12 Speaker 1

You and Dad had just had your wedding.

01:08:14 Speaker 1

It was over.

01:08:15 Speaker 1

Investigating reporting. But so who drove you over from your parents house to the hotel?

01:08:25 Speaker 1

Did you get there?

01:08:26 Speaker 1

Did you have a car?

01:08:27 Speaker 2

We had a car who had.

01:08:29 Speaker 2

Car Grandpa gave us his old car was buying a new car. So we.

01:08:34 Speaker 2

So we had a car.

01:08:35 Speaker 1

Was it decorated?

01:08:36 Speaker 1

Married.

01:08:36 Speaker 2

No, I don't think so.

01:08:38 Speaker 2

Don't remember that anymore.

01:08:39 Speaker 1

And so then what happened?

01:08:41 Speaker 1

Was it?

01:08:41 Speaker 1

By the time you got out of there.

01:08:43 Speaker 2

Or probably I better remember the details. But Daddy is correct that we were.

01:08:46 Speaker 1

OK.

01:08:49 Speaker 2

I remember now opening champagne and I spilled it and we.

01:08:53 Speaker 2

Counting chicks.

01:08:55 Speaker 1

Did you make some food?

01:08:56 Speaker 2

What we wanted to know if we could pay for the honeymoon.

01:09:00 Speaker 1

Because you had planned a honeymoon and didn't even.

01:09:02 Speaker 2

Yeah, we took.

01:09:02 Speaker 1

The money for it.

01:09:03 Speaker 1

You did.

01:09:05 Speaker 1

What did your parents give you for a wedding gift?

01:09:07 Speaker 2

No, I don't think I want to say.

01:09:10 Speaker 2

Really. Yeah.

01:09:13 Speaker 1

What did Dad's parents give him?

01:09:15 Speaker 2

I just don't want to talk about that. That's.

01:09:19 Speaker 2

Person.

01:09:21 Speaker 1

That's very interesting and.

01:09:23 Speaker 1

I never asked you that question before.

01:09:24 Speaker 2

I don't.

01:09:25 Speaker 2

Well, I never heard.

01:09:27 Speaker 2

To talk about money, but one person gives.

01:09:28 Speaker 1

Oh. Oh, wait a minute. Did they? Father gave you the down payment for the house?

01:09:30 Speaker 2

The other one.

01:09:33 Speaker 1

Something oh.

01:09:34 Speaker 2

No, no.

01:09:35 Speaker 1

OK, all right. Anyway, all right.

01:09:36 Speaker 2

That's not good. Oh, all.

01:09:38 Speaker 1

So anyways, so they gave you a nice gift.

01:09:41 Speaker 2

They gave us a very nice gift and his parents gave us.

01:09:43 Speaker 1

Yeah, that's OK, right.

01:09:45 Speaker 1

Right, good.

01:09:46 Speaker 1

So then you how many nights did you stay in the Drake H1 night?

01:09:51 Speaker 1

OK. And so you had a little fancy little outfit though, Dad said.

01:09:56 Speaker 2

Oh yeah, beautiful suit.

01:10:00 Speaker 2

And fur coat.

01:10:00 Speaker 2

And a hat.

01:10:01 Speaker 2

And gloves, high heels, purse, you know.

01:10:05 Speaker 2

You remember.

01:10:07 Speaker 2

It's the same kind of outfit you used to wear when you got on an airplane and you were going somewhere.

01:10:12 Speaker 1

Do you remember feeling pretty excited and everything?

01:10:15 Speaker 2

Oh yeah, yeah. OK.

01:10:17 Speaker 1

So then did you have breakfast in bed?

01:10:20 Speaker 2

Or we had breakfast.

01:10:22 Speaker 2

At the I think it was called the fireside.

01:10:27 Speaker 2

And actually, it's where the Lincolnwood Hyatt is now. That was like.

01:10:33 Speaker 2

It was very few buildings around there, almost like country.

01:10:36 Speaker 1

Do you mean the one right across the street from where you live?

01:10:39 Speaker 2

Yeah. Uh.

01:10:41 Speaker 1

So that's where you had breakfast on your the day the your first day of marriage, right?

01:10:44 Speaker 2

Right.

01:10:47 Speaker 1

Was that all planned out or?

01:10:51 Speaker 2

I think we did plan it.

01:10:52 Speaker 1

Did you have with anybody else?

01:10:53 Speaker 1

Anybody meet you?

01:10:54 Speaker 2

Just the two of them.

01:10:55 Speaker 1

And then what happened?

01:10:57 Speaker 2

And then we went to, drove to Oton Manor and and described Oakden Manor to.

01:11:02 Speaker 1

Me a little bit. What was it?

01:11:04 Speaker 2

They don't have any places like that around here.

01:11:07 Speaker 2

They, you know, it's sort of like a junior Catskills when you think of the Catskills, you paid a flat rate. You got three meals a day or four meals a day.

01:11:12

Mm.

01:11:18 Speaker 2

And they had entertainment every night, and they had an orchestra and, you know, it was the closest thing I can think of to it is it was like.

01:11:27 Speaker 2

Land cruise.

01:11:29 Speaker 1

A what?

01:11:30 Speaker 2

Crew, a land cruise. I mean, it was like cruises are now.

01:11:33

Mm.

01:11:34

So.

01:11:35 Speaker 1

OK.

01:11:35 Speaker 1

Where's Ronnie? She's here.

01:11:37

Oh.

01:11:37 Speaker 1

Well, we'll just finish up this and then we'll add.

01:11:40 Speaker 1

A little bit later.

01:11:41 Speaker 1

So how long did you stay there?

01:11:43 Speaker 2

Stayed there for a week.

01:11:48 Speaker 1

And was there, like swimming there or like, what did you do during the day?

01:11:51 Speaker 2

They had swimming, they had a a pool and they.

01:11:57 Speaker 2

Sometimes we play cards.

01:12:00 Speaker 2

And I don't remember too much.

01:12:02 Speaker 1

Oh, they used to give lessons like Cha Cha lessons. So this was sort of like a honeymoon destination for people.

01:12:11 Speaker 2

Well, no.

01:12:11 Speaker 2

Lot of people went there during like for weekends and vacations and.

01:12:16 Speaker 2

It was very popular in the summer, but there were quite a few honeymooners there.

01:12:21 Speaker 1

OK, we'll stop here because I.

01:12:23 Speaker 1

We're running out of tape.