

Ed Bredbenner Interview #3

Company B, 318th Inf Reg

(Library of Congress: Veterans History Project; interviewed by John W. Felker)

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

Transcript

00:00:00 Speaker 1

Thanks. My name is Edgar.

00:00:03 Speaker 2

Where with that Edgar Dusty Bud banner, who's a veteran of the 80th Infantry Division, and he participated in many different combat operations in the European Theater of War.

00:00:19 Speaker 2

This is part of the veterans all History project sponsored by the Library of Congress.

00:00:23 Speaker 2

So dusty.

00:00:24 Speaker 2

Why don't you start off by telling us a little bit about yourself and what you were doing before the war and how you progressed into the army?

00:00:31 Speaker 1

Surely.

00:00:33 Speaker 1

Of course.

00:00:34 Speaker 1

Grew up, was born in Ithaca and grew up.

00:00:36 Speaker 1

My father was in the school system.

00:00:38 Speaker 1

He was director, director of physical education, recreation here in Ithaca.

00:00:44 Speaker 1

And I was fortunate. Had good parents and everything, and was active in the Boy Scouts and.

00:00:51 Speaker 1

Used to.

00:00:52 Speaker 1

Airplanes in the area prior when they had us, some of US scouts and others.

00:01:00 Speaker 1

They wanted to do something collective metal, you know.

00:01:02 Speaker 1

Things and.

00:01:05 Speaker 1

We, but then in the other there they the CCCS moved in and did a lot of the work around the area. Very few people know about the CC CS and of course I think it's a little unique with the area we have here with all the park trail.

00:01:20 Speaker 1

The lakes.

00:01:22 Speaker 1

And the stonework, which was done by these folks, woodwork, some of those benches they built 60 years ago, are still in use.

00:01:29 Speaker 1

And so, you know they the CC Cs.

00:01:34 Speaker 1

Participated in the community and everything.

00:01:37 Speaker 1

And I also when I was still in high school and my mother didn't like it, I she made me cut down in my hours of school, and I was going to Cascadilla prep school in the morning at 8:00, and I take three classes in the morning and then.

00:01:50 Speaker 1

The afternoon I go to the Lehigh Valley and I was a traveling baggage and mail clerk.

00:01:55 Speaker 1

And my job was to work at the stations only so as to not to delay the passenger train.

00:02:01 Speaker 1

Well, this doesn't seem like anything important, but every 3 or 4 minutes a freight train loaded with raw material came through. And of course it was important they had priority.

00:02:12 Speaker 1

And so our job like in Geneva, they had 45,000.

00:02:17 Speaker 1

Navy guys up there and there was an awful lot more mail went in than came out, so they had what they called bombs and these were large male sacks and they crammed them full of empty mails.

00:02:31 Speaker 1

About 90 lbs each.

00:02:34 Speaker 1

And I had five minutes and the train stopped there, and I had two or three of these platform cars with 2025 sacks on it, and I got to the point. I just pick those things up and just heaved them right in, you know, and I got.

00:02:48 Speaker 1

I was in good shape and I was determined that I was going to come home.

00:02:52 Speaker 1

And it was going to be not because I wasn't in shape now then I was.

00:02:56 Speaker 1

Was finally drafted. I had.

00:02:58 Speaker 1

Have gotten.

00:02:59 Speaker 1

Deferment from the military on that, but everybody in my high school class went in.

00:03:05 Speaker 1

You know, that's something.

00:03:06 Speaker 2

Did you go?

00:03:07 Speaker 2

Did y'all go in together?

00:03:08 Speaker 1

No, I was.

00:03:09 Speaker 1

A little later because of.

00:03:11 Speaker 1

Because Mother says you are not going to, you're not going to take a full load and work nights.

00:03:16 Speaker 1

Nights I was working until two or three in the morning and I had an 8:00.

00:03:20 Speaker 1

I had many.

00:03:22 Speaker 1

It's snowing in the Lehigh Valley station. Was downtown.

00:03:26 Speaker 1

And it was a three mile hike from their home and I had to hike there.

00:03:29 Speaker 1

Buses. No taxis, nothing.

00:03:31

So.

00:03:32 Speaker 1

I was in good shape.

00:03:33 Speaker 1

When I went in the service.

00:03:34 Speaker 1

And I trained and.

00:03:37 Speaker 1

Wheeler, Georgia in Macon, GA.

00:03:40 Speaker 1

And I guess I had a good test score or something 'cause they put me in combat intelligence at six weeks, infantry training and six and 12 weeks of combat intelligence training.

00:03:55 Speaker 1

You know map reading, doing overlays, patrolling radio communications and so forth like that.

00:04:04 Speaker 1

So after that was over, I had a chance to come home for a week.

00:04:09 Speaker 1

Then back and then next thing you know, I was alerted for shipping overseas.

00:04:14 Speaker 1

But we went over in a converted liberty ship that had been torpedoed twice, called the s s Beanville out of New Orleans. And I can remember in one section there were prisoners, and these guys were lifers from Leavenworth, which they were going to take over.

00:04:31 Speaker 1

And put them into combat with.

00:04:32 Speaker 1

Idea that if they survived.

00:04:36 Speaker 2

Relation.

00:04:36 Speaker 1

They would.

00:04:37 Speaker 1

They were free, say.

00:04:38 Speaker 1

Well this.

00:04:39 Speaker 1

Around and of course the officers didn't like.

00:04:43 Speaker 1

None of us liked it, so I don't think they ever used him to that.

00:04:47 Speaker 1

What they did with him, I don't know, but they were in the same hole we were, but they were locked up.

00:04:52 Speaker 1

In in, in in wire enclosures and stuff.

00:04:57 Speaker 2

But.

00:05:17 Speaker 2

So we.

00:05:18 Speaker 1

So.

00:05:18

Are down in camp.

00:05:19 Speaker 1

Where there is, I said in combat intelligence.

00:05:24 Speaker 1

And we were like any minute patrol and stuff and we would circle around. And these lot of these guys didn't train, you know, they goofed off and went to a bar or something some of these night problems and and.

00:05:36 Speaker 1

We were amazed me to think that they didn't spend a little more time.

00:05:40 Speaker 1

I never. Only one of my ever knew was a high school fellow from.

00:05:44 Speaker 1

And he was in regular infantry, and he had a story that he, he he ended up in a in a unit and he was captured the first night.

00:05:54 Speaker 1

They were asleep in a house and the Germans patrol came in with burp guns and that was it.

00:05:59 Speaker 1

Was during the Battle of the Bulge their first combat.

00:06:02 Speaker 1

Which amazed me that they didn't know about door guards and because regardless, you always had door guys, day or night, wherever they were.

00:06:09 Speaker 1

But anyway, so we're training down there and it was hot in Midsummer in Georgia 9000 humid.

00:06:19 Speaker 1

Terrible. Really.

00:06:21 Speaker 1

And the only one thing saved me like these 25 mile hikes that did it at night and I used to get 2 lemons and squeeze them in my canteen of water. And I ended up with water left. And most of these guys were just parched.

00:06:34 Speaker 1

You know, and stuff.

00:06:35 Speaker 1

Was how you help?

00:06:37 Speaker 1

We help other guys around and so forth because as I said, I was determined.

00:06:39

Sure.

00:06:41 Speaker 1

Was going to come home.

00:06:43 Speaker 1

So then I was alerted for shipment overseas and I told you I went.

00:06:47 Speaker 1

In the beanville.

00:06:49 Speaker 1

And I got to England.

00:06:51 Speaker 1

And I was there for hours.

00:06:54 Speaker 1

And we put on a channel steamer. Teak wood. Beautiful British ship with hammocks in it. The way they slept, and we were overnight in the channel.

00:07:03 Speaker 1

Was the South HAMP?

00:07:06 Speaker 1

And the guy were the most braids on the ship. Was the guy that made the teeth.

00:07:12 Speaker 1

They've had three or four big vats of hot water, and of course they lived on hot tea. As you know, the British do.

00:07:18 Speaker 1

Now we got over to Normandy, to Omaha, and even though these other ports were open, they had us climb down the side.

00:07:25 Speaker 1

Of the ship.

00:07:28 Speaker 1

You know, into these landing crafts and then we went and landed without any trouble.

00:07:33 Speaker 1

Three of the guys, though, missed the.

00:07:37 Speaker 1

The sway of the boat.

00:07:39 Speaker 1

And went down to the bottom and never came.

00:07:41 Speaker 1

Of course, they had some Navy divers, but they never found them because there's a lot of silt in the bottom of the channel there and stuff.

00:07:48 Speaker 2

How long? How long after D-Day did were you going into Omaha Beach?

00:07:52 Speaker 1

I was going in in late September.

00:07:54 Speaker 2

So probably 3-3 months or so.

00:07:58 Speaker 1

Our division actually went in in August, one with the 3rd Army and spent all their time with the 3rd Army. One of there were five divisions, what was called patents, workhorse divisions, and so forth.

00:08:10 Speaker 1

And we were one of them and so forth because I didn't know it at the time.

00:08:13 Speaker 1

So now we climbed up this nice steep hill and get it to the top. And what do we see?

00:08:18 Speaker 1

Think there were 11,000 crosses?

00:08:21 Speaker 1

And I thought, boy, what a place to bring it a.

00:08:23 Speaker 1

Of.

00:08:24 Speaker 1

Rookie recruits, you know, and so forth.

00:08:27 Speaker 1

So we spent some time I can remember there on a hillside.

00:08:31 Speaker 1

I think 10 miles. I had something like four extra helmets, 3 or 4 extra pairs of shoes.

00:08:37 Speaker 1

Really, a supply train taking over exercise besides our own.

00:08:41 Speaker 1

So I probably had a good 6070 extra pounds in here tychin 10 miles and stuff.

00:08:47 Speaker 2

You had been in really great shape.

00:08:48 Speaker 1

Yeah, some of the guys didn't make it and so forth, but I made it and we pitched prop tents and spent a.

00:08:55 Speaker 1

Close to a week there. And remember, we had three mils of spam.

00:09:00 Speaker 1

Put your hand out.

00:09:02 Speaker 1

Piece of steel white bread, piece of span, steel white bread and a cup of.

00:09:06 Speaker 1

See and we couldn't figure it out. 'cause. They talked about the great rations, but we found out also that what was happening.

00:09:14 Speaker 1

The cooks had girlfriends and their families and all the Class A rations were going to them and we were getting.

00:09:19 Speaker 1

Spam.

00:09:20 Speaker 1

We won't go into that.

00:09:22 Speaker 1

So anyway, then I was.

00:09:23 Speaker 1

By rail to near to near Nazi in France. And then I joined Company B, 318th Infantry Regiment.

00:09:31 Speaker 1

Of the 80th Infantry Division.

00:09:34 Speaker 1

And got into combat and the first thing they did was.

00:09:38 Speaker 1

In me the bazooka.

00:09:40 Speaker 1

Well, I never seen a bazooka before.

00:09:42 Speaker 1

Trained on it.

00:09:44 Speaker 1

I had a good Sergeant Sergeant who, as I remember, and he explained everything to me and everything. And then some wise guy says, you know, you're the 9th bazooka man we've had in 10 days. See.

00:09:55 Speaker 1

And I said, well, and I says, well, why didn't you take?

00:09:59 Speaker 1

You've been here and so forth, but this is what they did. Get some. Like the BAR, the mounting automatic. Get some big young guy that could handle it. He got it.

00:10:11 Speaker 1

Of course they were losing a lot of men or the BAR in bazooka.

00:10:14 Speaker 1

Were the vulnerable.

00:10:16 Speaker 1

Those are the vulnerable weapons and so forth. When the bazooka was fired, they shot everything at you like we did with them.

00:10:17 Speaker 2

Sure.

00:10:27 Speaker 1

They went.

00:10:27 Speaker 1

And I had to use it the next morning.

00:10:30 Speaker 1

And it bounced off a tread of a tank and and what the guy said is you, when you fire that move, I said.

00:10:38 Speaker 1

Do you?

00:10:40 Speaker 1

He.

00:10:40 Speaker 1

Well, you ought to be able to figure that.

00:10:41 Speaker 1

They're going to shoot at you. So I fired from behind a tree and I dove and crawled behind some rocks.

00:10:48 Speaker 1

With that tree just disintegrated. I've stayed there, so I looking for my assistant.

00:10:52 Speaker 1

He wasn't anywhere around here.

00:10:54 Speaker 1

Out.

00:10:54 Speaker 1

And of course The thing is.

00:10:55 Speaker 1

Got to get.

00:10:56 Speaker 1

So bazooka's A2 man deal, you know, to put the electronic charge and wire it and catch on ahead and get out of there.

00:11:04 Speaker 1

Take your head off. If there was no, there was no force to it when you fired it.

00:11:05 Speaker 2

Right, right.

00:11:10 Speaker 1

But no one's gonna know the number of times I fired the M1, and that my hearing is still fairly good.

00:11:16 Speaker 1

Know which which I'm fortunate.

00:11:19 Speaker 1

So I I was mad I went to.

00:11:23 Speaker 1

I got a new rookie with me and I kept that for a while.

00:11:30 Speaker 1

So I kept that for a while and.

00:11:36 Speaker 1

I use different time to time. I use a lot of phosphorus, white phosphorus on enemy.

00:11:41 Speaker 1

They'd be in certain areas and you throw a rocket in with phosphorus. You got them out of there and so forth.

00:11:46 Speaker 1

Know that was it because the phosphorus was?

00:11:51 Speaker 1

Like napalm, it was a wonderful weapon.

00:11:55 Speaker 1

So we went along and fought our way across France and the division when they came across France, they captured Argentine and Argentine philos was one of the what they call the gap there, where they surrounded the German 7th Army and other units.

00:12:13 Speaker 1

And unfortunately they didn't get at it the way they should have.

00:12:16 Speaker 1

They were afraid that the British and American troops would shoot at each.

00:12:20 Speaker 1

The British and Canadians were coming from the north and we were coming from the South and I wasn't there at the time and so forth. But I'm the historian of the vision, so I pretty well know what happened.

00:12:31 Speaker 1

And the guy that I've talked to, I've always been interested in talk with.

00:12:33 Speaker 1

Guys so.

00:12:36 Speaker 1

Anyway, we got to the Moselle river and the division did and we sat there for 10 days.

00:12:43 Speaker 1

Now our reconnaissance in the 4th Armored reconnaissance went to the German border and there was hardly a German soldier there, if you recall.

00:12:52 Speaker 1

With, when the patent there had pushed, pushed hard.

00:12:55 Speaker 1

There was not much in front of them.

00:12:56 Speaker 2

Right.

00:12:58 Speaker 1

The gas, the supplies.

00:12:59 Speaker 1

Going to Montgomery in that airborne drop.

00:13:02 Speaker 1

You have your pros and cons of this.

00:13:06 Speaker 1

We got to the division, got there and waited and the guys told me they could see the Germans. They evidently brought troops from the Balkans, Norway and all around and showed in the area.

00:13:20 Speaker 1

The 317th Regiment, one of our sister regiments and one of my best buddies there.

00:13:25 Speaker 1

They got across the river, they didn't have the support.

00:13:28 Speaker 1

Usually you have your tank destroyers and extra tanks and your quad 50s and so forth support.

00:13:36 Speaker 1

They weren't there.

00:13:37 Speaker 1

Some of these guys.

00:13:38 Speaker 1

Over on logs and stuff and wooden boats and things. And it was in the town and the Germans were right in the village and fire them and the medics went downstream and pulled the bodies out.

00:13:52 Speaker 1

And they lost.

00:13:54 Speaker 1

Almost two companies going across.

00:13:56 Speaker 1

Wow, some did get across and fought, but they ran out of everything. It had to surrender.

00:14:01 Speaker 1

Wounded.

00:14:03 Speaker 1

And you know, that's another story. Their story.

00:14:06 Speaker 1

But you know, actually it was in March, by the time they got to the German border and broke through there into Germany and the 3rd Army had over 100,000 casualties in that thing.

00:14:20 Speaker 2

When you were when you were moving across France and and obviously in in combat.

00:14:27 Speaker 2

All along the way.

00:14:29 Speaker 2

Did you?

00:14:30 Speaker 2

Did you did you make friends with the folks that you were with, did you?

00:14:34 Speaker 1

Very rarely saw a civilian.

00:14:34 Speaker 2

Ever.

00:14:36 Speaker 2

Yeah. How about the? How about the guys you were?

00:14:38 Speaker 2

With did you?

00:14:39 Speaker 2

Did you? Did you make friends with those guys or some of the veterans have told me that they tried not.

00:14:45 Speaker 2

Make friends true.

00:14:46 Speaker 1

You really didn't have an opportunity.

00:14:48 Speaker 1

Know your squad.

00:14:50 Speaker 1

I mean, I go to these, aren't reunions, and guys that were in my company.

00:14:53 Speaker 1

Never knew.

00:14:54 Speaker 1

And so forth over there. When I was sure and and, you know, you had your 4 platoons and so forth.

00:15:00 Speaker 2

Do you remember any of the guys that were in your in your squad and your platoons?

00:15:02 Speaker 1

Oh, yeah, yeah, there's there.

00:15:04 Speaker 2

Me about some of that.

00:15:05 Speaker 1

There's if.

00:15:06 Speaker 1

Recall, right now, when we went into edelbrook.

00:15:09 Speaker 1

Don't.

00:15:09 Speaker 1

If you want to go that far ahead.

00:15:11 Speaker 1

We went into edelbrook and fought there for three days and so forth, and I think right now.

00:15:17 Speaker 1

After I tell my story here, there two of us alive of that group.

00:15:23 Speaker 1

Now we went in with 220.

00:15:25 Speaker 1

We were over strength because we had come across France and the weather was horrible in.

00:15:31 Speaker 1

Mud, mud. Mud tanks couldn't get off the roads and stuff, and the Germans were fighting a battle.

00:15:38 Speaker 1

Always seem.

00:15:39 Speaker 1

Be fighting uphill in the Germans and so forth.

00:15:41 Speaker 1

That's the way it.

00:15:42 Speaker 1

The Moslem was up on the hill there and stuff had.

00:15:46 Speaker 1

360 observations.

00:15:50 Speaker 1

And of course, for their mortars in October the 88th, they could put it right in your.

00:15:55 Speaker 1

And so forth.

00:15:56 Speaker 2

So where you're obviously taking heavy casualties going across.

00:15:59 Speaker 1

We terrible casualties really in the mud and everything and of course all of us.

00:16:03 Speaker 1

Foot. Now the interesting thing is trench.

00:16:06 Speaker 1

Isn't considered.

00:16:11 Speaker 1

A combat casualty, you might say. Or a frozen fee.

00:16:15 Speaker 1

Of course I had trench foot and then I had frozen feet and legs.

00:16:20 Speaker 1

So this was a double jeopardy when I got up in the balls, and if I hadn't gotten out when I did, I'm sure I would have lost some feet or something like that, but anyway.

00:16:31 Speaker 1

We fought across and you knew your.

00:16:33 Speaker 1

Of course, it was a tremendous turnover and so forth.

00:16:36 Speaker 1

And you knew?

00:16:37 Speaker 1

Fox old buddy more than ever.

00:16:38 Speaker 1

Anything you lost them or you were out for a bit. And as I said, I got hit 13 times, so I was in, out, in and out.

00:16:46 Speaker 1

Really only spent one long time in the hospital, which I'll get into further, but we got over there. Then we got into.

00:16:55 Speaker 1

Reached finally reached the border.

00:16:59 Speaker 1

In late November, Santo Vol.

00:17:03 Speaker 1

And we're right now, one of the largest American cemeteries is over there.

00:17:07 Speaker 1

We still have 800 men buried there from our outfit.

00:17:11 Speaker 1

So we were there and we had six days core reserve, we had 129 days in combat.

00:17:20 Speaker 1

No time off. Constant battle. Every day you attack with patience.

00:17:24 Speaker 1

You kept the enemy off balance and so forth, and you worked with Tank 4th and 6th Armored Division and so forth. Some of the best going. Of course the 12th and 20th core were some of Patton's favorites.

00:17:37 Speaker 1

They were with him all the way across the Europe.

00:17:41 Speaker 1

And as we excuse me, and as we moved that we would core resolve December 4, I remember.

00:17:49 Speaker 1

I told you about my friend that that they had attacked this village Farber's villa.

00:17:55 Speaker 1

A few days before and had gotten forced out.

00:17:58 Speaker 1

So we hiked all.

00:17:59 Speaker 1

I don't know about 35 miles. We hiked to support him and we got up there and I remember they put me in a foxhole and as I was running and not running, but as I was, we were moving up.

00:18:11 Speaker 1

This guy came running down there hollering.

00:18:14 Speaker 1

Element you know, no helmet, no gun, nothing. Just like this.

00:18:18 Speaker 1

But what had happened is there was a telephone pole and an 88 shell that hit that pole and was a dud.

00:18:26 Speaker 1

And he just, you know, he just went to pull it.

00:18:30 Speaker 1

Now I was a bazooka.

00:18:31 Speaker 1

So that was my spot, I says.

00:18:33 Speaker 1

You get rid of that.

00:18:34 Speaker 1

The engineers took it out and I said OK, so we supported them.

00:18:39 Speaker 1

On December 3rd, the night we went back to this village.

00:18:43 Speaker 1

And they gave us some hot food, warmed us up, and we had a meeting and I'll never forget.

00:18:48 Speaker 1

We had this meeting there and that early in the morning we were going to attack the whole car, 12 car, 5 divisions and we got there like 10 as we came out, the civilian says.

00:18:59 Speaker 1

Us what we were going to do.

00:19:02 Speaker 1

So I thought, well, we'll do Germany.

00:19:04 Speaker 1

So we formed in the streets about 4:00 in the morning. And just as we were forming in the streets.

00:19:11 Speaker 1

The Germans know it, obviously.

00:19:12 Speaker 1

All of a sudden these 88 started coming in. No, that's their big.

00:19:17 Speaker 2

They're big enough.

00:19:18 Speaker 1

Anti aircraft and use it. The only thing that saved us is the street was like this and these are direct fire went over.

00:19:25 Speaker 1

8 or 10 guys showed up later.

00:19:27 Speaker 1

They knew what was going to happen, so we went out and we moved up and we relieved the unit that was there.

00:19:33 Speaker 1

Went out and we stretched out across the top of a of a hillside and here were.

00:19:39 Speaker 1

Were tanks.

00:19:40 Speaker 1

This.

00:19:42 Speaker 1

Tank destroyers, Quad 50s you know mounted together and that 50 caliber is a wonderful weapon. Let me tell you, it keeps their head down.

00:19:51 Speaker 1

We were there and we knew.

00:19:53 Speaker 1

And just at dawn, we were going.

00:19:55 Speaker 1

Attack well.

00:19:57 Speaker 1

But an hour before that, all of a sudden the Germans put up * shelves and we're sitting there on this hillside.

00:20:04 Speaker 1

Write and directly. When nobody said a thing, we just got up and charged because you know the tax started the artillery.

00:20:11 Speaker 1

Boomed in and we went through that village. Unbelievable and so forth.

00:20:15 Speaker 1

And I got on the other.

00:20:16 Speaker 1

And we reached our goal.

00:20:18 Speaker 1

It took 10 O clock in the morning on this hillside and I was over there and I was firing this bazooka down at some s s were in a house down below and this was a big high hill like and all of a sudden bingo. I got hit in.

00:20:31 Speaker 1

**** with a sniper with a wooden bullet.

00:20:35 Speaker 1

And.

00:20:35 Speaker 1

Wooden bullets. You know, some say they didn't use them for, but they used them a lot in Normandy.

00:20:40 Speaker 1

Talked to paratroopers and many times if the poison owner say.

00:20:45 Speaker 1

Well, the the medic checked me over and he says, well, I'm going to ship you back when we leave there myself, a Sergeant who was 69 had lumbago.

00:20:55 Speaker 1

Couldn't move.

00:20:56 Speaker 1

And another fellow had been hitting the leg 3 or 4 times with wooden bullets.

00:20:59 Speaker 1

We were all sort of huddled together in the sleep for six hours then.

00:21:03 Speaker 2

What?

00:21:04 Speaker 2

What's the purpose of using a wooden bullet as opposed to a regular lead bullet?

00:21:09 Speaker 1

Well it it it?

00:21:11 Speaker 1

Creates core.

00:21:13 Speaker 2

Sure.

00:21:13 Speaker 1

As I said, that's one way it's silent and there's no smoke and it's great for a sniper at short range.

00:21:20 Speaker 2

I see.

00:21:22 Speaker 1

And it takes four men to carry a.

00:21:23 Speaker 1

Out right.

00:21:25 Speaker 1

And that was some of their feeling, you know that the Germans had learned this from the Japanese.

00:21:30 Speaker 1

Japanese did this a lot too and.

00:21:32 Speaker 1

And but anyway, so I got hit there and finally I walked out and I went back to the aid station and.

00:21:39 Speaker 1

They patched it up and they sent me back to the kitchen.

00:21:44 Speaker 1

For three or four days.

00:21:45 Speaker 1

Not to the.

00:21:47 Speaker 1

And so.

00:21:48 Speaker 1

See, there's no record of this on the, you know, because I didn't go to a hospital, so I was back to the kitchen for four days until the rest of the division came back for.

00:21:56 Speaker 1

I had 10 days off the line.

00:21:58 Speaker 2

And you you went.

00:21:59 Speaker 2

So this was the first time you were you were injured in common.

00:22:02 Speaker 1

Bueno, I've been hit a couple times.

00:22:04

Oh, it's.

00:22:04 Speaker 1

The leg.

00:22:06 Speaker 1

I had two bazookas shot out of my hands at different times.

00:22:09

Oh yeah.

00:22:10 Speaker 1

As I said, I got hit quite a few times, but then anyway, so we got back to the rest of the vision came and then we were ordered to.

00:22:18 Speaker 1

That we were going to, I still had it.

00:22:21 Speaker 1

Know I had.

00:22:23 Speaker 1

I had this patch on my.

00:22:26 Speaker 1

And I got the the GIS. If you know what I mean.

00:22:29 Speaker 1

Diarrhea.

00:22:30 Speaker 1

So I had a nice time with that and so forth.

00:22:33 Speaker 2

Did every eternal was?

00:22:34 Speaker 2

Was there poison in this? No.

00:22:35 Speaker 1

There was no poison in it, luckily, and so forth.

00:22:38 Speaker 1

I wouldn't be here.

00:22:39 Speaker 1

Again, I don't know how sensitive that area is.

00:22:44 Speaker 1

In.

00:22:44 Speaker 1

That hurt more when I got hit later in the thigh.

00:22:48 Speaker 1

And in fact, that did not heal.

00:22:50 Speaker 1

This was December 4th that did not heal up until January 11th in the.

00:22:55 Speaker 1

It was bleeding all that time and you get on trucks fighting or digging or doing, you know, you don't realize and stuff like that.

00:23:02 Speaker 1

So anyway, I got back there and we were loading into the trucks and we were starting to go towards sidebrook and across some.

00:23:09 Speaker 1

Defenses in the West Wall, Siegfried Line or whatever you want to.

00:23:13 Speaker 1

It.

00:23:14 Speaker 1

So we got we.

00:23:16 Speaker 1

Got there. And just as we arrived, all of.

00:23:18 Speaker 1

Sudden we were alerted.

00:23:19 Speaker 1

The Battle of the Bulge started.

00:23:22 Speaker 1

We didn't know anything about it.

00:23:23 Speaker 1

Were on trucks.

00:23:26 Speaker 1

For two days and two nights.

00:23:29 Speaker 1

175 miles.

00:23:31 Speaker 1

No blankets, no overcoats, no covering freezing temperatures.

00:23:36 Speaker 1

Huddle together, packed in their 19.

00:23:39 Speaker 1

We moved out in the company and we had brought in replacements and casualties and so forth.

00:23:44 Speaker 1

We had 200 and.

00:23:45 Speaker 1

Men.

00:23:46 Speaker 1

Who never got off those trucks.

00:23:49 Speaker 1

We went through depots.

00:23:52 Speaker 1

And they threw gasoline, water and rations in.

00:23:55 Speaker 1

You used your helmet or whatever.

00:23:58 Speaker 1

Whatever they had.

00:24:01 Speaker 1

I suppose it was something to see a truckload of guys going by, well relieving themselves in a way, but I'm sure didn't bother the French.

00:24:09 Speaker 1

So we got there and we went through depots and they did this stuff and we took the driver would open the gas tank, the assistant driver would take the wheel and he put the thing in.

00:24:19 Speaker 1

We take the littlest guy, he.

00:24:21 Speaker 1

Funnel and take the littlest guy and we pick him up.

00:24:24 Speaker 1

Tipped him with five gallon gas.

00:24:28 Speaker 1

And that's how we kept going and we just kept.

00:24:30 Speaker 1

And MP's lights on at night. You know. You know, it was an emergency.

00:24:34 Speaker 2

Yeah, you were in a hurry.

00:24:36 Speaker 1

And and you know you don't drive this.

00:24:38 Speaker 1

Place up and stuff.

00:24:39 Speaker 1

But we didn't have any air.

00:24:41 Speaker 1

We heard planes, but we didn't have any air attack.

00:24:43 Speaker 1

I think the weather was so, so in that area, not that not as bad as it's going to get.

00:24:49 Speaker 1

So we got up and went through Luxembourg and city, you know, which is a very modern. I remember seeing glass houses there in 1944. Very modern, very, of course, very friendly and very autumn spoke English and so forth.

00:25:02 Speaker 1

So we dug in, then not too far.

00:25:04 Speaker 1

Above Luxembourg City, the idea to the 4th Infantry Division was withholding the tax. The 5th Entry Division was moving in and parts of the 10th Armoured 9th Armoured to help support that. You know to control the law.

00:25:17 Speaker 1

Was the law part of the bulge?

00:25:20 Speaker 1

The German 7th Army.

00:25:23 Speaker 1

What was his name anyway?

00:25:26 Speaker 1

And so.

00:25:29 Speaker 1

They we dug in up there and so.

00:25:31 Speaker 1

Then they called me and said want you to go on a listening post.

00:25:35 Speaker 1

They took myself in another.

00:25:38 Speaker 1

Another my.

00:25:40 Speaker 1

We went out there and we wanted.

00:25:42 Speaker 1

I went through the village and there were 90mm anti aircraft guns that they had.

00:25:48 Speaker 1

For direct fire, just in case.

00:25:52 Speaker 1

There were.

00:25:52 Speaker 1

Td's Unblurred everything, just all over the place on that one Rd.

00:25:57 Speaker 1

So we're out there in a dilapidated barn.

00:26:01 Speaker 1

I can remember a major from the from the engineers came up with a string of tank mines that had them on strings like.

00:26:09 Speaker 1

He.

00:26:09 Speaker 1

The German tanks come down.

00:26:11 Speaker 1

Put these under the threads and they says.

00:26:13 Speaker 1

What are we supposed to do?

00:26:15 Speaker 1

Run, I said. Yeah.

00:26:18 Speaker 1

I said major, you have.

00:26:21 Speaker 1

Bring them up and have them put them there.

00:26:23 Speaker 1

Now we.

00:26:24 Speaker 1

Because we don't know who's going to come down that road.

00:26:27 Speaker 1

Well, far as I know, they're still sitting outside of that barn.

00:26:31 Speaker 1

I already went back to find out. Never.

00:26:32 Speaker 1

I've been back 20 times.

00:26:34 Speaker 1

Never could find that.

00:26:35 Speaker 1

It's.

00:26:35 Speaker 1

So anyway, we're.

00:26:38 Speaker 1

And a little while later, a radio Jeep came in with some armored unit and so forth.

00:26:45 Speaker 1

And he was.

00:26:46 Speaker 1

Away. And I told him to turn the thing off.

00:26:48 Speaker 1

Couldn't hear.

00:26:49 Speaker 1

It's snowing out, wind blowing and everything, and all of a sudden about 1:00 in the morning we heard tanks.

00:26:56 Speaker 1

Usually you can tell the difference between the treads of a German or American tank, but without whether you couldn't do it.

00:27:03 Speaker 1

I really like this and I look around.

00:27:04 Speaker 1

This guy's going from a Jeep and my assistant's going and I'm all alone.

00:27:10 Speaker 1

I figured, well, what do I do take off?

00:27:13 Speaker 1

And I thought, well, if they're German tanks, they're.

00:27:17 Speaker 1

Going to get.

00:27:18 Speaker 1

Hit if they're American tanks are probably going to get hit.

00:27:22 Speaker 1

And if the American tanks we need, all we can get.

00:27:26 Speaker 1

So I go out with my rifle and Harlem, see, and luckily there were 12 a tonne of of American tanks that were lost.

00:27:35 Speaker 1

But I.

00:27:36 Speaker 1

I don't know if you know at that time.

00:27:38 Speaker 1

A lot of Germans were dressed in American uniforms and they spoke English, had equipment and everything.

00:27:43 Speaker 1

So the first 2 tanks I questioned every single one of those guys. The five in each of them.

00:27:49 Speaker 1

You know, ask him.

00:27:50 Speaker 1

Like Betty Grable.

00:27:51 Speaker 1

Is.

00:27:52 Speaker 1

Or Harry James baseball.

00:27:53 Speaker 2

Sure here.

00:27:54 Speaker 1

All these different.

00:27:55 Speaker 1

You know, one time during the.

00:27:56 Speaker 1

General Bradley was stopped for two or three hours because he didn't know the capital of something.

00:28:03 Speaker 1

General, he's done.

00:28:05 Speaker 1

And afterwards the general congratulated.

00:28:08 Speaker 1

He was mad as a could be, you know, and stuff, but then.

00:28:11 Speaker 1

Know.

00:28:12 Speaker 1

You gonna kill Eisenhower and all this?

00:28:14 Speaker 1

And they did change Rd. signs and then create a lot of problems up in the 1st Army area.

00:28:14

Mm.

00:28:19 Speaker 1

So anyway, then I.

00:28:21 Speaker 1

Finally I came.

00:28:22 Speaker 1

And all these kernels and everything came up, you know, and so forth and so forth to see what was going on and everything. You know, everything was all safe.

00:28:31 Speaker 1

They came up checking.

00:28:33 Speaker 1

So I went back and these two guys then came back and I gave them the Dickens. And I says, OK, you take over.

00:28:38 Speaker 1

Went and went to sleep.

00:28:41 Speaker 1

And back to that then.

00:28:42 Speaker 1

Got.

00:28:43 Speaker 1

Early in the morning, the 22nd of December.

00:28:46 Speaker 1

And this this was South of Edelbrock.

00:28:52 Speaker 1

And we were to attack Edelbrock and we got in that area and the.

00:28:58 Speaker 1

Some of the units we were in support I think at that time and we went way up on this hill and got fired at by our second battalion.

00:29:06 Speaker 1

Was the first battalion and came down and we came down and back and we rushed down this hill into the village and got into a few houses.

00:29:14 Speaker 1

And had some terrible fights in there.

00:29:16 Speaker 1

They said, well, there's just a few Germans.

00:29:18 Speaker 1

See whether it was a regimental headquarters there, say so. There were a lot of troops and equipment, tanks and everything in there and stuff, but I can remember just as we were running on this hill here were German bodies all over the landscape, really.

00:29:31 Speaker 1

And what it was they had just started using what they call the proximity FU.

00:29:37

Mm.

00:29:37 Speaker 1

And this was aircraft.

00:29:38 Speaker 1

This was where, you know, a certain distance from the ground. It explodes.

00:29:43 Speaker 2

Right, right.

00:29:44 Speaker 1

Well, these guys were caught with open foxholes and.

00:29:48 Speaker 1

And you know, it snowed. And you see the word shapes with the snow on these guys, like scarecrows or whatever it is, you know and stuff trying to get away and things. And I don't know, there were a lot of them. There must have been 100 or.

00:30:02 Speaker 1

And we went right through them and so forth and then down into the village.

00:30:06 Speaker 1

But it's an interesting thing.

00:30:08 Speaker 1

None of the Germans had a covering over their foxholes.

00:30:11 Speaker 1

I mean, they had to.

00:30:14 Speaker 1

So we got down in the village and fought there and we spent the night there.

00:30:19 Speaker 1

First day we lost every automatic weapon and every officer.

00:30:25 Speaker 1

And I think all but one Sergeant fighting in there. Luckily, that night they brought up more equipment and ammo and so forth.

00:30:33 Speaker 1

Next morning the battalion came in up the street, shooting away with tanks and everything.

00:30:38 Speaker 1

They got stopped cold. The Germans attack.

00:30:40 Speaker 1

Attacked back.

00:30:42 Speaker 1

Major Tulsi was injured severely, though he was our battalion commander. See you there.

00:30:49 Speaker 1

Then on the 24th.

00:30:53 Speaker 1

We withdrew and as we were withdrawing.

00:30:58 Speaker 1

Bob Wade, another fellow friend of mine from Rochester, originally Syracuse.

00:31:02 Speaker 1

And we were to be the rear guard and we were there as a rear guard and.

00:31:10 Speaker 1

They said don't wait too.

00:31:11 Speaker 1

5 minutes because they're going to our Turkey's going to open up at such and such a time.

00:31:18 Speaker 1

Sorry for.

00:31:19 Speaker 1

All of a sudden we heard a muscle cry and we went down.

00:31:22 Speaker 1

Here's a tanker on a stretcher.

00:31:26 Speaker 1

It up now why he was wounded on the 22nd. Why? This guy was still there. The 24th. We could not figure out.

00:31:34 Speaker 1

So we picked him up and started out just as we started out the activity coming in and so forth.

00:31:39 Speaker 1

Terrible snowy, terrible night and so forth.

00:31:43 Speaker 1

And we carry him for a while and I have.

00:31:44 Speaker 1

Shift you know.

00:31:46 Speaker 1

Big guy, two guys carrying it usually had straps or four guys on a stretcher.

00:31:52

So.

00:31:53 Speaker 1

We we finally got back down there and I can well remember we got near where we thought our lines were down below there.

00:32:01 Speaker 1

And British British gear was a place, and there was a little Chapel there and a big farm in the state like. And that was a Medical Center. And we heard Safety's click off and rifles.

00:32:16 Speaker 1

And we had a tough.

00:32:17 Speaker 1

We didn't know the news, counter sign or counter sign, but we got in there and so forth and they said we're going to dig out where we went in the barn and went to sleep.

00:32:26 Speaker 1

Heck, with that, you know.

00:32:28 Speaker 1

And then all of a sudden we were loaded in the trucks.

00:32:33 Speaker 1

I remember we went into this House and we were going to stay overnight and he said we're going to you're going to have your Christmas here.

00:32:39 Speaker 1

Get your Christmas stuff, say.

00:32:41 Speaker 1

Well, I thought.

00:32:43 Speaker 1

With all this going on, we're off the line and Christmas stuff.

00:32:47 Speaker 1

Actually I got mine in March so.

00:32:52 Speaker 1

But you know, it wasn't 10 minutes later.

00:32:54 Speaker 1

Load up and here's the open trucks again.

00:32:57 Speaker 1

We went around and we went down.

00:33:01 Speaker 1

In the near Luxembourg City and cut across and joined nearby, the Forest Farmer Division, which was attacking up that way and if you know, you know the forest was the one that liberated.

00:33:12 Speaker 1

Bastone, you know, broke in SO2 battalions of us the 1st and 2nd Battalion were attached to the flanks deep in the woods.

00:33:21 Speaker 1

And we were in there.

00:33:24 Speaker 1

I got hit.

00:33:25 Speaker 1

This was Christmas morning. Some of those guys were in there three and four days and they had no blankets, no overcoats, no camouflage.

00:33:34 Speaker 1

There were no buildings and there were no fires.

00:33:38 Speaker 1

Occasionally they had German artillery horse.

00:33:42 Speaker 1

You know, eat it raw.

00:33:45 Speaker 1

Try to cook it do.

00:33:47 Speaker 1

So you couldn't keep warm those guys and we didn't have the equipment you see?

00:33:52 Speaker 1

So we were attacking and I got hit well when when we.

00:33:57 Speaker 1

Off trucks.

00:33:59 Speaker 1

We were there.

00:34:00 Speaker 1

And we were milling.

00:34:02 Speaker 1

The guys are smoking and we were around the trucks and everything and and they brought up some.

00:34:08 Speaker 1

I like to say some cold hot chow.

00:34:12 Speaker 1

Pancakes are fire.

00:34:13 Speaker 1

Was.

00:34:14 Speaker 1

Couple pancakes with.

00:34:19 Speaker 1

When they have on a marmalade on it, it's rather than the syrup and oatmeal, the oatmeal, and so forth, and that they would give us that we'd be very happy every morning, hot or.

00:34:23 Speaker 2

And.

00:34:31 Speaker 1

Which we didn't get too often, of course.

00:34:34 Speaker 1

Now at least died at all.

00:34:36

I.

00:34:39 Speaker 1

Let me know when you're set.

00:34:40 Speaker 2

OK.

00:34:40

Go ahead.

00:34:41 Speaker 1

And so we went, went into got light just.

00:34:46 Speaker 1

We going on?

00:34:47 Speaker 1

We didn't go 50 feet.

00:34:49 Speaker 1

Were opened up on.

00:34:51 Speaker 1

Germans had dugouts there.

00:34:53 Speaker 1

Now why they never shot at us while we were in these trucks, I'll never know.

00:34:58 Speaker 1

But I had a little depression, so I got down and fired my hand.

00:35:03 Speaker 1

I got rid of my carbine.

00:35:04 Speaker 1

Wanted an M1.

00:35:06 Speaker 1

I wanted a little heavier so I started firing and all of a sudden bingo, I got hit right across the neck.

00:35:14 Speaker 1

Bert gun caught.

00:35:15 Speaker 1

You know, if they've been over that much, right?

00:35:18 Speaker 1

Shredded my. I had a towel around my neck for a scarf.

00:35:22 Speaker 1

That knocked my helmet.

00:35:23 Speaker 1

The sparks were flying and everything like that.

00:35:27 Speaker 1

Medic.

00:35:28 Speaker 1

Looked at.

00:35:29 Speaker 1

You're OK. So right back going, you said.

00:35:32 Speaker 1

A little later I had some shrapnel on the back and we were attacking in these woods and stuff, and then all of a sudden, you know?

00:35:41 Speaker 1

What the guys were doing is they were fixing bayonets because if they got hit.

00:35:46 Speaker 1

They hopefully.

00:35:47 Speaker 1

Put it in the ground so the medics could find them in the deep snow.

00:35:52 Speaker 1

And so forth.

00:35:52 Speaker 1

Well, I we were sort of gathered there and this one guy lit a fire.

00:35:58 Speaker 1

Crazy guy and all of a sudden boom and I.

00:36:02 Speaker 1

It right through here.

00:36:03 Speaker 1

Ripped me.

00:36:04 Speaker 1

They said 88. I get Archer something.

00:36:09 Speaker 1

And it took one guy's heel off, took another guy in.

00:36:12 Speaker 1

Back and so forth.

00:36:14 Speaker 1

And the medics told us that the no.

00:36:18 Speaker 1

Bears are getting.

00:36:19 Speaker 1

You've got to hike out or you're freezing.

00:36:23 Speaker 1

Was any option?

00:36:26 Speaker 1

Some of the guys started to crawl.

00:36:27 Speaker 1

You know, we tried to help each other out as much as we could.

00:36:31 Speaker 1

We hiked 5 miles to the aid station.

00:36:35 Speaker 1

We had three firefights with some of the Germans on the way out. We might have said take your bandoliers of ammo.

00:36:38 Speaker 2

On the way out.

00:36:44 Speaker 1

Your rifles and.

00:36:46 Speaker 1

So forth. So we helped each other.

00:36:48 Speaker 1

And we finally did get to the aid station.

00:36:50 Speaker 2

So the three of you that were hurt right there were roads are more than three.

00:36:53 Speaker 1

Well, there were a lot more injured and some of them were killed, of course. But this is happening all the way. I was on the far right and I was getting sniped up from the front side and rear, the Germans closing behind us as well as the weather.

00:36:54

OK.

00:37:05 Speaker 1

And so forth.

00:37:06 Speaker 1

Waiting the tanks were on the road.

00:37:08 Speaker 1

Never heard the tanks.

00:37:10 Speaker 1

The weather was so bad and it was distance where we were in there.

00:37:14 Speaker 1

Well, just to relate, I'll tell you what happened to me and then the division.

00:37:21 Speaker 1

So we hiked.

00:37:21 Speaker 1

Up back to the aid station.

00:37:25 Speaker 1

And.

00:37:27 Speaker 1

We got back there and they patched me up and says well.

00:37:33 Speaker 1

We've got so many casualties coming out of here.

00:37:35 Speaker 1

Going to put an air.

00:37:36 Speaker 1

You're going to hang on and possibly the states.

00:37:41 Speaker 1

Sorry, boy, that's.

00:37:42 Speaker 1

That \$1,000,000 wound you know.

00:37:44 Speaker 1

Well, we got up 500.

00:37:46 Speaker 1

German fighters brought us down.

00:37:49 Speaker 2

You were here in.

00:37:50 Speaker 2

Aircraft and you were shot down.

00:37:51 Speaker 1

Inner interaction.

00:37:53 Speaker 1

The M1 engine on fire 2 nurses killed some of the guys.

00:37:58 Speaker 1

Luckily, the pilots, one of them was wounded.

00:38:01 Speaker 1

They brought the plane around and landed it.

00:38:04 Speaker 1

And of course we we.

00:38:06 Speaker 1

Were all mobile, most of us, you know, we helped each other out. Pull the bodies about 10 minutes later.

00:38:13 Speaker 1

It.

00:38:14 Speaker 1

And so.

00:38:14 Speaker 1

So back to the aid station there.

00:38:17 Speaker 1

What?

00:38:17 Speaker 2

Are you doing back here?

00:38:20 Speaker 1

Got back to the 8 station. They put me in the chair.

00:38:23 Speaker 1

Then they gave me 7 shots of Novocaine and they just reopened that right up to the whole thing to clean it.

00:38:29 Speaker 1

They didn't stitch it up because they wanted to be sure you know wasn't infected, so they banished it, shipped me down to down to the 50th General Hospital in Commerce, France.

00:38:41 Speaker 1

And I.

00:38:41 Speaker 1

All 60-70 days there. I guess in there and so forth.

00:38:45 Speaker 1

General Patton came by and shook my.

00:38:47 Speaker 1

And so forth. You know, that's a story in itself and so forth, so.

00:38:54 Speaker 1

They, you know, as soon as they could, they got you going.

00:38:59 Speaker 1

Well, they got me out too soon. Really.

00:39:01 Speaker 1

I had an awful lot of trouble.

00:39:03 Speaker 2

Did you have infections and so?

00:39:04 Speaker 1

I didn't have infection, but a month later they stitched it up.

00:39:08 Speaker 1

But I had over 100 shots of penicillin.

00:39:13 Speaker 1

All of them in my shoulders.

00:39:14 Speaker 1

What used to get me so mad is they give you every three hours a shot and every four hours pills.

00:39:21 Speaker 1

Now, why are they combined?

00:39:22 Speaker 2

Yeah, really, because they kept waiting.

00:39:22 Speaker 1

If you're trying to get.

00:39:25 Speaker 1

Well, everyone of the guys had their feet out of the covers, couldn't take their feet, were frozen or, you know, frostbitten, whatever it was. And you're lying there and you're sort of praying and hope, you know, that that they don't turn black.

00:39:39 Speaker 2

They did come off well, did the.

00:39:40 Speaker 2

There.

00:39:41 Speaker 1

Go. Yeah.

00:39:43 Speaker 2

So so when you got when you were hit?

00:39:47 Speaker 2

Aside from the the injury that you had in your thigh, you were also starting to get frostbite on.

00:39:52 Speaker 2

Feet as well.

00:39:53 Speaker 1

Waist deep in the snow.

00:39:55

Yeah.

00:39:55 Speaker 1

You say you had already gotten it fighting prior in the cold on those trucks and everything. You know you did everything you could.

00:40:02 Speaker 2

So it's just like kind of combined everything all came together at once.

00:40:06

Sure.

00:40:08 Speaker 1

Yeah, and.

00:40:10 Speaker 1

It.

00:40:12 Speaker 1

Remember, with just a gross a bit, Patton came in. Captain came in, there were all split and polished.

00:40:18 Speaker 1

Patton's going to visit you.

00:40:20 Speaker 1

Want you all to come to attention.

00:40:22 Speaker 1

And I said, Captain, I said, these men are all bedridden.

00:40:26 Speaker 1

101st Airborne and 80th Division.

00:40:28 Speaker 1

Was in.

00:40:29 Speaker 1

They brought the guys down from Bastone and they said these men are all bedridden, he says.

00:40:35 Speaker 1

Then lie at attention.

00:40:39 Speaker 1

I felt like.

00:40:40 Speaker 1

He's probably a good West Point man.

00:40:41 Speaker 2

Of course, yeah.

00:40:43 Speaker 1

So anyway, he came in and Patton came in and he looked at me. And of course he was always suspicious about combat fatigue and so forth.

00:40:52 Speaker 1

He had sort of uttered something outside.

00:40:55 Speaker 1

High pitched.

00:40:56 Speaker 1

You know, I don't want to see, you know those.

00:41:00 Speaker 1

And so the captain was there for the medics and he had my chart and told me that I've been wounded this like that.

00:41:05 Speaker 1

He shook my hand.

00:41:06 Speaker 1

We'll get you the Purple Heart. And I said, well, I already have two.

00:41:09 Speaker 1

We'll get you another one and get you back into combat pretty soon.

00:41:16 Speaker 1

Which they.

00:41:17 Speaker 1

So instead of being in England in the states where I was and in the first day, I got back into combat.

00:41:24 Speaker 1

Well, I.

00:41:24 Speaker 1

I better tell about the division up there.

00:41:28 Speaker 1

So these guys fought up there.

00:41:30 Speaker 1

For them, up until the 28th.

00:41:34 Speaker 1

And on the 28th, they ran out of steam.

00:41:38 Speaker 1

They just they never did get the bastone, the second battalion on the other side of the world, did get the best stone.

00:41:44 Speaker 2

And this was the this was the common was going up to relieve bastomas.

00:41:46 Speaker 1

Correct, right. And of course, the Fort hammered made.

00:41:49 Speaker 1

And we never, we never got there. The 35th Division relieved US.

00:41:52 Speaker 1

Had just come up from France.

00:41:55 Speaker 1

The company there, after sick call, had 20 men left out of the 220.

00:41:59 Speaker 2

Well, and all the rest were killed or injured.

00:42:02 Speaker 1

Killed or whatever.

00:42:05 Speaker 1

And the sad part was that when the snows melted in the spring, there were thousands in German and American bodies all over the Arden.

00:42:13

You.

00:42:14 Speaker 1

Know right now in Near Hom Cemetery, where patents buried, they had one common grave, a German 7000 buried in one under one big Black Cross stone cross.

00:42:26

So.

00:42:27

Wow.

00:42:28 Speaker 1

You know just.

00:42:29 Speaker 2

There was a terrible battle for both sake.

00:42:31 Speaker 1

Oh, sure, yeah.

00:42:33 Speaker 2

And when you were in those, when you were in that in that particular battle or in any battle in general, what were you thinking about aside from just? Yeah.

00:42:42 Speaker 1

Bible. Of course, your buddies.

00:42:45 Speaker 1

You do anything for your buddies.

00:42:46 Speaker 2

And you were scared, obviously, but she had.

00:42:50 Speaker 2

You had to move on even though you were right.

00:42:50 Speaker 1

You had a door, but we also found out that in France, in most cases, when you're on the frontline, you're worried about rifle.

00:43:01 Speaker 1

And machine gun or boat gun or something?

00:43:04 Speaker 1

But when you were in support, you not only might get some of that, but you knew you were going to get artillery, mortars and no damn screaming Mimis, you know, needle offers. I don't know if you know what they were.

00:43:15 Speaker 1

Were the Rockets that were six of them.

00:43:17 Speaker 1

Cranked them and made noises.

00:43:20

Mm.

00:43:20 Speaker 1

And stuff like that, you know, scare the Dickens out of you.

00:43:24 Speaker 1

In fact, on December 22nd we came over a hill and they fired some of those over us and we called our artillery and boy, they just decimated those guys and stuff down there, you know.

00:43:34 Speaker 1

It caught him by surprise, sneaking down over this hill.

00:43:37

Uh.

00:43:39 Speaker 1

So where were we so then?

00:43:42 Speaker 2

You got. You're going back into combat now after you had a visit from Patton and they got you back on your feet and you're going back into combat.

00:43:48 Speaker 1

Yeah, I'm going back and this was early March and the unit was moving.

00:43:56 Speaker 1

Down into near Cyberg, Germany.

00:43:59 Speaker 1

On the Cyber river.

00:44:00 Speaker 1

And this was again the third time the division went through the W Wall.

00:44:06 Speaker 1

I think our general use of.

00:44:08 Speaker 1

I don't know the patent used to say anytime you put the 80th on something they know they get done.

00:44:13 Speaker 1

We.

00:44:14 Speaker 1

Two wars never failed to reach our.

00:44:16 Speaker 1

That was, you know, the 80th only moves forward.

00:44:20 Speaker 1

And our motto is we smote them strength of the mountains and stuff.

00:44:23 Speaker 1

Blue Ridge 'cause it originally was Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Virginia and so forth. In fact, our 318th Regiment was motto, was Old Virginia, never tired.

00:44:34 Speaker 1

And supposedly the heritage goes back to Picketts division and stuff way back.

00:44:37 Speaker 2

No kidding.

00:44:39 Speaker 1

So what? Yeah, yeah.

00:44:39 Speaker 2

That's a long way back.

00:44:40 Speaker 2

That's a lot of heritage.

00:44:43 Speaker 1

Run.

00:44:44 Speaker 1

So we got there and we what they did is scouts let us through the German area there, there was an open area that was at the 10th Armored and the 90.

00:44:57 Speaker 1

5th Division or 94th Division? We're having trouble.

00:45:01 Speaker 1

So we were there to help them. So we went across and at night we snuck underneath their guns through minefields and everything like that.

00:45:11 Speaker 1

And we attacked and moved up there.

00:45:13 Speaker 1

And we moved up pretty good and then knocked out the pill boxes and stuff and got there, but I couldn't keep up.

00:45:19 Speaker 1

Leg was just killing me. So they.

00:45:22 Speaker 1

Me down with prisoners.

00:45:25 Speaker 1

Three of us. I guess it was, came down with about 40-50 prisoners.

00:45:28 Speaker 1

And we got down on that flat land there and all of a sudden.

00:45:34 Speaker 1

Screaming, Mimi's came in.

00:45:35 Speaker 1

Our Tilbury came in.

00:45:37 Speaker 1

They of course they were shooting at their own guys as well as us and we realized we were in a minefield popping.

00:45:45 Speaker 1

And we hit the ground and the Screaming Mimi came in and one of them came in fairly close.

00:45:50 Speaker 1

Of course the you.

00:45:52 Speaker 1

Know if an artillery shell had a building.

00:45:54 Speaker 1

Put a hole through it.

00:45:56 Speaker 1

If the naval officer screaming, maybe that it took the whole building down because of that concussion, you were just a rocket, you know, a tremendous was like the Russians had the same type of thing, you know.

00:46:09 Speaker 1

So I hit near me and I went right up in the air.

00:46:12 Speaker 1

And another one came in and I went up higher.

00:46:14 Speaker 1

Never hit the ground.

00:46:16 Speaker 1

Of course it took me right out.

00:46:19 Speaker 1

I finally came to and here's a German Henry my rifle.

00:46:23 Speaker 2

What are the prisoners?

00:46:24 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:46:27 Speaker 1

Let's get out of here. Right, so far, so. And I let them lead me through the minefield. Or us. The one guy was killed. The other guy was injured with me and so forth.

00:46:36 Speaker 1

And supposedly I wasn't hurt, but boy, I tell you I was aching for weeks after that. I still can feel some of that stuff, you know.

00:46:43 Speaker 1

Anyway, so they put me in a med's aid station overnight next morning back into combat, so, and then we moved into.

00:46:51 Speaker 1

Into Germany and Kaiser's law. And then?

00:46:55 Speaker 1

Wendel, some of it crossed the Rhine, and Mintz, we got across the Rhine and the site.

00:47:01 Speaker 1

Never forget.

00:47:02 Speaker 1

And here's the autobahn. You know, which is the they're superhighway.

00:47:08 Speaker 1

From Frankfurt.

00:47:09 Speaker 1

To east Germany.

00:47:12 Speaker 1

Here's 4 columns of tanks and troops moving up 4th Armored 6th Armored.

00:47:19 Speaker 1

Thousands of vehicles, thousands of men and in the center, thousands of Germans marching packages sent them back, you know, keep moving, keep moving and stuff like that.

00:47:29 Speaker 1

It's been in the press since.

00:47:31 Speaker 1

We got up to Castle and we got there and.

00:47:36 Speaker 1

We fought.

00:47:37 Speaker 1

Days in Castle before we were in the main.

00:47:39 Speaker 1

There we fought in the streets and finally the Germans had a big citadel there and luckily we we got to the point where they were using psychological warfare to get some of these guys.

00:47:51 Speaker 1

To surrender.

00:47:54 Speaker 1

Well, they finally convinced the German general to surrender, you know? And he was in this underground citigold could have gone up.

00:47:59 Speaker 1

So here we were there.

00:48:00 Speaker 1

Here's the Germans.

00:48:01 Speaker 1

Praying by us, you know? Surrender.

00:48:04 Speaker 1

So then the next scene always started hiking, then on trucks and we got to Erfurt.

00:48:09 Speaker 1

We fought 3 days in the streets in the.

00:48:11 Speaker 1

I don't know why they always picked us for this great fighting and stuff.

00:48:15 Speaker 1

And at the same time we were there and it was right near Buchenwald and our unit. Then the 6th hour liberated this Buchenwald concentration camp. And so forth.

00:48:25 Speaker 1

But they were using psychological stuff and.

00:48:28 Speaker 1

Never remember.

00:48:30 Speaker 1

The.

00:48:33 Speaker 1

Had big speakers on tanks and they told the Germans to run.

00:48:37 Speaker 1

They gave them so much time to surrender, or else.

00:48:40 Speaker 1

Put the white flags out.

00:48:41 Speaker 1

Now the civilians all wanted.

00:48:43 Speaker 1

The civilians wanted the war over, of course.

00:48:46 Speaker 1

But if you had diehards.

00:48:50 Speaker 1

You know s s or what have you.

00:48:52 Speaker 1

Then it's a little different.

00:48:54 Speaker 1

Sometimes they held guns to somebody's, you know, at this time you were getting 1214 year old kids and 6070 year old men, you know, and Jesus, it just it was sad how these guys were getting killed.

00:49:06 Speaker 1

No training, nothing you know and stuff.

00:49:08 Speaker 1

You know the artillery doesn't have any.

00:49:12 Speaker 1

You know any sense as to who they're shooting at and stuff. And you know, we used to sign for him and try to get him to surrender and stuff and it wouldn't. Well, if they could, they would, you know, but it all. But once in a while, we.

00:49:13 Speaker 2

Sure, sure.

00:49:24 Speaker 1

Find a a German.

00:49:27 Speaker 1

S s captain with a bullet in his head.

00:49:30 Speaker 1

Which these guys had shot him and so forth.

00:49:30

Yeah. Oh ****.

00:49:33 Speaker 1

So we got there.

00:49:34 Speaker 1

We got to this one pretty good sized city.

00:49:37 Speaker 1

Was one of the older.

00:49:39 Speaker 1

Cities. I can't remember the name of it right now.

00:49:43 Speaker 1

A very important city. There a lot of German heritage and they got there and they ordered them to surrender and they had so much time. But just at that time, one of these thousand plus air raid planes going over say, and they told them that they didn't sur.

00:50:00 Speaker 1

Would be bombed, you know.

00:50:03 Speaker 1

5 minutes later there were the white flags came up.

00:50:05 Speaker 2

All over yet.

00:50:06 Speaker 1

You know, they've Obama now Berlin, but you know.

00:50:12 Speaker 1

The lead plains had already started bombing and so.

00:50:15 Speaker 1

And they heard him say. And of course they didn't know what these guys you see, 1000 flying Fortresses going over and stuff it just unbelievable.

00:50:20 Speaker 2

Oh, yeah, yeah, it's pretty.

00:50:23 Speaker 2

Tell me about tell me about.

00:50:26 Speaker 2

When you liberated book well.

00:50:28 Speaker 1

I wasn't there.

00:50:29

No.

00:50:29 Speaker 1

No, I never say anything I saw.

00:50:32 Speaker 1

Some of the guys.

00:50:34 Speaker 1

Or whoever was were on the had come out.

00:50:38 Speaker 1

Now the story is, is that they liberated.

00:50:41 Speaker 1

They had weapons and so forth like that. And of course if they caught any guards, you know they.

00:50:47 Speaker 1

Sure. We caught some.

00:50:47

Sure.

00:50:49 Speaker 1

I guess our unit caught some guards there trying to escape and so forth.

00:50:53 Speaker 1

And then you know, the prisoners wanted them, and of course.

00:50:58 Speaker 1

Some of those guys I'm sure got.

00:51:00 Speaker 1

Death on or something later.

00:51:03 Speaker 1

If they were identified.

00:51:04 Speaker 2

Did.

00:51:05 Speaker 2

Did you talk to any of the guys who were involved in, in, in the liberation of the camp?

00:51:10 Speaker 1

Well, you know, I talked more to six time, but I was associate member of the 6th Armor Division, which got there first and then our unit moved in and so our medics took over where the 6th armor. And of course we went on to you see why the.

00:51:16

Mm.

00:51:21

First up.

00:51:25 Speaker 1

17th Regiment was there and so.

00:51:28 Speaker 1

So.

00:51:28 Speaker 2

What are the six armored guys have to say?

00:51:31 Speaker 1

Well, of course it's a horrible situation.

00:51:34 Speaker 1

You mean they could?

00:51:35 Speaker 1

They could be, although we had some experience going to castle and so forth. As far as we were concerned, the only thing we knew about it was we, we we could smell.

00:51:46 Speaker 1

Human bodies really burning.

00:51:49 Speaker 1

And we know we never know anything about it.

00:51:52 Speaker 1

Really, we never were told about concentration.

00:51:54 Speaker 1

I don't know who knew it and who it.

00:51:56 Speaker 1

Really. And I mean, he even saw you couldn't have done much about.

00:52:00 Speaker 1

You couldn't just drop paratroopers in there and stuff. You know, the Germans would have surrounded them and killed them.

00:52:02 Speaker 2

Yeah, yeah.

00:52:06 Speaker 1

So you know, until we could get there and relieve them and you know then in Austria we release some more and stuff, you know. But I never really think that I ran into a lot of contact with the displaced people, Russians.

00:52:18 Speaker 1

And Polish and so forth. And you know, we tried to get them food and whatever and stuff I can remember in France. Thanksgiving.

00:52:29 Speaker 1

Is Captain Sweeney took us on an.

00:52:31 Speaker 1

And this is just before Thanksgiving.

00:52:34 Speaker 1

In November.

00:52:36 Speaker 1

And for some reason he he he got an obsession about capturing this village.

00:52:43 Speaker 1

Unfortunately, it was right near some of the.

00:52:46 Speaker 1

Marginal line area.

00:52:50 Speaker 1

With a lot of regiments house there, some of these forts you know house thousands of men.

00:52:55 Speaker 1

Big ones.

00:52:56 Speaker 1

So he took us an assignments of trying to tell him, you know, you can't.

00:53:00 Speaker 1

Had to at new lieutenants.

00:53:01 Speaker 1

You.

00:53:02 Speaker 1

You can't do.

00:53:03 Speaker 1

That's the biggest orders that we don't cross this line and so on.

00:53:06 Speaker 1

So we got there across this tank trap and got there and we got to this village and we got surrounded and got the Dickens beat out of us.

00:53:13 Speaker 1

The battalion came in next morning and they got surrounded, but we.

00:53:18 Speaker 1

That's the only time I ever saw our company disorganized was.

00:53:22 Speaker 1

Just was was the next morning there coming out of there and stuff.

00:53:26 Speaker 1

Luckily, 702 tankers.

00:53:29 Speaker 1

Around the area.

00:53:32 Speaker 1

We got back into that little village down there in the barn and every one of us signed a petition that we refused to serve under Captain Sweeney.

00:53:42 Speaker 1

Not serve but not serve under him.

00:53:45 Speaker 1

They had a Newman and Lieutenant took over or something like that. But it's the only time really that I felt that.

00:53:52 Speaker 2

You think you were being led?

00:53:54 Speaker 2

Poorly, yeah.

00:53:54 Speaker 1

Yeah, right.

00:53:55 Speaker 2

It's pretty much overall that you, you're obviously then you were pretty happy with.

00:54:00 Speaker 2

Aside from the fact that you are in a war, your leadership, your sergeants in your intelligence.

00:54:04 Speaker 1

You know, we're going to.

00:54:05 Speaker 1

Decor and you know and you know which is key in a battle.

00:54:09 Speaker 1

We have our pride, of course we used to.

00:54:11 Speaker 1

We used to be the best right company, the best battalion, the best and this we had competition like.

00:54:18 Speaker 2

So you finished up.

00:54:20 Speaker 2

You went.

00:54:21 Speaker 2

Buchenwald, and you pressed on past there.

00:54:22 Speaker 2

Did you get?

00:54:24 Speaker 1

And then the story came out about the readout, which was fighting in the Alps.

00:54:29 Speaker 2

Right, right.

00:54:30 Speaker 1

Hitler was supposed to.

00:54:31 Speaker 1

There and you know which he never did.

00:54:34 Speaker 1

So all of a sudden.

00:54:35 Speaker 1

Were down to Nuremberg and we were helping mop up Nuremberg.

00:54:40 Speaker 1

And we were down in the, you know, down in the Alpine area and so forth. And we fought in that area a bit. And I remember just a humorous thing.

00:54:51 Speaker 1

We were looking for snipers around Nuremberg and guarding the the railroad yards because the civilians wanted to get in and get food, and there was a lot of ammunition and a lot of stuff, you know, unexploded bombs. And our orders were to keep them out.

00:55:07 Speaker 1

Well, the displaced people and other people were, and there was one line there, evidently. And then we sort of looked the other way when they they were hungry. Of course, the civilians and.

00:55:19 Speaker 1

So we allow that all of a sudden I stepped and went right up to my thigh.

00:55:24 Speaker 1

In the hole the guys pulled me out.

00:55:26 Speaker 1

Looked out thousands of eggs.

00:55:29 Speaker 1

Acton brine. Now you can keep.

00:55:32 Speaker 1

You know quite a while, especially in salt.

00:55:36 Speaker 1

We found the entrance and took him and got us a lot of under the kitchen the next morning, a squat at a time we went.

00:55:44 Speaker 1

Took off and went to the kitchen and they fresh eggs. One one guy, 1214.

00:55:46 Speaker 2

Fresh eggs or before fresh.

00:55:52 Speaker 1

Pancakes and waffles. You know, you know earlier, before we cross the Rio.

00:55:59 Speaker 1

In the hills before we cross the road.

00:56:05 Speaker 1

We were in.

00:56:06 Speaker 1

Wendell and no, it's not.

00:56:09 Speaker 1

And we had a 2 day fight.

00:56:12 Speaker 1

12 roadblocks. We had a knockout and we lost a lot of men getting in there.

00:56:16 Speaker 1

Steep.

00:56:17 Speaker 1

There was a.

00:56:18 Speaker 1

There was a stream and there was a railroad and hills and so forth, and that was the only way to get through that. We had to put.

00:56:24 Speaker 1

Scrimmage line, so forth and snipers were shooting and everything. We finally got in there and got fighting in some of.

00:56:30 Speaker 1

Factories.

00:56:32 Speaker 1

And then the third lower level down there, there were thousands.

00:56:35 Speaker 1

Of cases of Nestle's condensed milk, thousands of.

00:56:41 Speaker 1

And we often wondered, you know, is this black market? The people were starving, you know, condensed.

00:56:43

Mm.

00:56:46 Speaker 1

You can cook a lot of stuff, so we got some of that to the kitchen too, of course.

00:56:50 Speaker 1

Absolutely sure.

00:56:53 Speaker 1

You know that that helped for them and their meals and stuff.

00:56:57 Speaker 1

They tried their best and so forth, so that way.

00:56:59 Speaker 1

Know.

00:57:00 Speaker 1

Then we went on.

00:57:00 Speaker 1

Ended up.

00:57:01 Speaker 1

In Austria, across some rivers and.

00:57:05 Speaker 1

Bird we crossed the Danube and so forth and we crossed the.

00:57:12 Speaker 1

What river it is, Donald.

00:57:15 Speaker 1

Which is Hitler's hometown.

00:57:18 Speaker 1

And we crossed this and got there. And I remember we walked down the street and here was this plaque berth.

00:57:27 Speaker 1

Place of Hitler, so forth, which I'm sure didn't stay.

00:57:31 Speaker 1

Very long.

00:57:32 Speaker 2

Probably not, yeah.

00:57:32 Speaker 1

I'm sure somebody absconded with that and then we.

00:57:35 Speaker 1

Up in Austria.

00:57:38 Speaker 1

Fighting in Austria and I can remember we.

00:57:43 Speaker 1

We had been up in the Alps and I remember them.

00:57:46 Speaker 1

Were put in this beautiful farm complex.

00:57:51 Speaker 1

And there were.

00:57:52 Speaker 1

Probably about 50-60 of us.

00:57:56 Speaker 1

A big, big, heavy oversized squad or patrol.

00:58:00 Speaker 1

More than two patrols.

00:58:02 Speaker 1

And we had orders not to leave the the surroundings, but to observe to the South.

00:58:09 Speaker 1

See where there 1 morning.

00:58:11 Speaker 1

Couple of MPs came out.

00:58:14 Speaker 1

And all of a sudden, out of the hills, I think was the.

00:58:17 Speaker 1

6th.

00:58:18 Speaker 1

6th Division came out of the Hills 2 or 300,000 of them.

00:58:24 Speaker 1

And they had orders to surrender by a certain date. By across this river, or surrender to the Russians.

00:58:30 Speaker 1

They were sort of holding back, and Eisenhower gave the order and boy, they came out of there walking on bicycles, limping and trucks. And, you know, everything like that.

00:58:42 Speaker 1

And they were stacking their weapons there, say, and then they put them down and they put them in compounds. And the engineers actually got a train going and we're moving them to different areas and stuff like that.

00:58:52 Speaker 1

Just to get him out of there.

00:58:53 Speaker 2

And they obviously wanted not to be, not to be surrendered to the to the Russians.

00:58:59 Speaker 1

Definitely so. And then I we were on border guard with the with the Germans coming with the Russians.

00:59:08

And they were.

00:59:09 Speaker 1

Pretty regular guys and we used to, you know, drink their vodka and caviar and they get our rations and, you know, you could sell a Mickey Mouse watch for a couple 100 bucks.

00:59:18

OK.

00:59:20 Speaker 1

Anything you know, anything American? And then and then all of a sudden, you know, the wall started coming down, as I said.

00:59:22 Speaker 2

Taking Marion.

00:59:31 Speaker 1

And I was up there and we were in foxholes. And here starting to get cold in the mountains of Czechoslovakia.

00:59:37 Speaker 1

So then I had.

00:59:38 Speaker 1

Got a.

00:59:38 Speaker 1

I'd like to have you come up to division headquarters for interviews.

00:59:43 Speaker 1

So I got up there and they asked me if I want to go to the apo.

00:59:48 Speaker 1

A lot of the older guys were going back home by points or some of the guys were shipped out because they didn't have enough points shipped up to Bremen area and were training and were going to go to the Pacific.

01:00:01 Speaker 1

We supposedly the.

01:00:03 Speaker 1

Vision and we had been training.

01:00:07 Speaker 1

In in the hills, Patton had US training in the mountains and we were going to go 33 combat regiments to land on the island of Japan, February fourty 6.

01:00:19 Speaker 1

So we're very happy that that bomb was dropped.

01:00:24 Speaker 1

But anyway.

01:00:26 Speaker 1

So I went to the Apo and I walked in the door and he was one of my best friends from home. He had.

01:00:31 Speaker 1

He had been shipped over to the 80th and caught pneumonia, so he never did put him in the infantry. By the time he got out of the hospital, they moved into the Apollo.

01:00:41 Speaker 1

Postmaster here in Ithaca.

01:00:43 Speaker 1

So I had worked some for the post office weekends and of course the railroad.

01:00:48 Speaker 1

So I went there and I handled all the mailing of the parcel post and those guys were sending home everything.

01:00:56 Speaker 2

Everything get their hands on, yeah.

01:00:58 Speaker 1

And then in November, they started a currency control.

01:01:03 Speaker 1

You if you got paid 100 bucks, you could ship home 100 bucks. You had a paybook you had.

01:01:09 Speaker 1

You can money order or whatever it was.

01:01:13 Speaker 1

So we went along there and they had.

01:01:15 Speaker 1

Days to get rid of it.

01:01:18 Speaker 1

Yeah.

01:01:20 Speaker 1

These guys were a bunch of scavengers, not shouldn't say.

01:01:23

OK.

01:01:24 Speaker 1

But they had 10 days to get rid.

01:01:26 Speaker 1

Surplus money.

01:01:30 Speaker 1

A million and a quarter dollars of money orders to get rid of surplus money.

01:01:34 Speaker 2

Oh wow.

01:01:35 Speaker 1

They had 10 days and the biggest money order was 100 bucks at that time.

01:01:41 Speaker 1

So they even had me writing money.

01:01:43 Speaker 1

At night.

01:01:45 Speaker 2

And they were sending all money.

01:01:47 Speaker 1

Yeah, it's in money. Home, 'cause. It could be gambling. Who knows what it was? Back market. Who knows? You know, you could get now, for instance.

01:01:54 Speaker 1

The cigarettes at that time, of course, we got him free during the war, candy and.

01:01:59 Speaker 1

And there were \$0.05 a pack or \$0.50, a carton if you had context, you could get \$65 account carton selling them to the Russians and stuff.

01:02:09 Speaker 1

I had a chain. The guy told me.

01:02:10 Speaker 1

Back you ran a cigarette.

01:02:12 Speaker 1

I'll send you over all you.

01:02:13 Speaker 1

I never did it, you know, but you know.

01:02:15 Speaker 1

Just didn't figure that was a way to make money.

01:02:19 Speaker 2

And one of the guys I spoke to yesterday.

01:02:21 Speaker 2

Pilot was flying an aircraft back to the to the state, the afterward and his whole.

01:02:26 Speaker 1

Yeah.

01:02:28 Speaker 2

They had two crab games going in in the airplane while start flying back one up forward, one back half because they had extra 10 folks aboard that they were carrying back.

01:02:31

Yeah.

01:02:36 Speaker 1

One of the good things was then we went back and I came home in the Queen.

01:02:41 Speaker 1

The division headquarters in the hold was the 82nd Airborne, which then traded up Broadway in mid January 46 and so forth.

01:02:49 Speaker 2

Where were you? When, when?

01:02:51 Speaker 2

Were you on VE Day in Czechoslovakia?

01:02:56 Speaker 1

Austria open the hills.

01:02:58 Speaker 1

We didn't.

01:02:59 Speaker 1

Celebrate a lot, you know.

01:03:02 Speaker 1

Was over.

01:03:03 Speaker 1

Goodness.

01:03:04 Speaker 1

And we were still on heavy patrols up in the hills.

01:03:06 Speaker 2

Because it was still shooting going on after.

01:03:08 Speaker 1

There were. We had some fights on the, you know, the 9th and 10th and stuff up there and we.

01:03:15 Speaker 1

I can remember what we did is we built a big bonfire.

01:03:20 Speaker 1

Outposts when somebody had some 20% beer.

01:03:28 Speaker 1

We had a couple of canteen cups of 20% beer and stuff like that and went to sleep and that was our celebration.

01:03:34 Speaker 1

Know we didn't have fires during the war.

01:03:38 Speaker 1

Hardly smoke you.

01:03:39 Speaker 1

It's not. If you were smart because as soon as you did Bing, you know the artillery or the air and so forth and things.

01:03:50 Speaker 2

When you went back to states from from, well, you were in Austria at the end of the war and you had some more mopping up to do it.

01:03:59 Speaker 1

Well, then we ended up in Czechoslovakia, in garment, in Marianbad, Maryland.

01:04:05 Speaker 1

Lana. They call it.

01:04:07 Speaker 1

Red it was core Headquarters division headquarters in the beautiful Red Cross Club. So we had it made there.

01:04:13 Speaker 2

And how long were you there?

01:04:15 Speaker 1

In Czechoslovakia, two or three months, I guess.

01:04:17 Speaker 2

Yeah.

01:04:17 Speaker 1

But the interesting thing is when I walked into the into the post office Apo there.

01:04:23 Speaker 1

Interesting thing there the captain there.

01:04:26 Speaker 1

You had all these guys that had served in the post office, experts, the captain used to be the sweeper in the Chicago Post Office, but it was a political job.

01:04:35 Speaker 1

Was a good Democrat, and with the Democrats in Washington, he got the job at EPO and it was made a captain and so forth and all these guys.

01:04:44 Speaker 1

Sergeants in their 40s and 50s knew all about post offices and they were the ones that really ran it.

01:04:50 Speaker 1

Versus Sergeant.

01:04:52 Speaker 1

The way our Lieutenant, I mean, it was a Lieutenant and then Captain McAllister.

01:04:57 Speaker 1

McAllister.

01:04:58 Speaker 1

He used.

01:04:59 Speaker 1

He used to go along and every once in awhile he say to me, bread, butter, he says.

01:05:04 Speaker 1

Lieutenant Jones.

01:05:06

To.

01:05:08 Speaker 1

And these were guys that were going to, you know.

01:05:12 Speaker 1

Like over in Iraq, we're going to blow up things and do this and.

01:05:16 Speaker 1

That all right.

01:05:17 Speaker 1

So we got up there and we moved along and we moved down over up this hill and just started down.

01:05:24 Speaker 1

Just started and machine guns opened up on us.

01:05:28 Speaker 1

And we got back on the other side.

01:05:31 Speaker 1

Luckily, they didn't wait until we got down away, but there was a tank disabled tank dug in down there.

01:05:39 Speaker 1

The road down here was where the battalion we didn't know it was going to be coming in.

01:05:43 Speaker 1

Were on the road and two machine gun nests deployed.

01:05:47 Speaker 1

It so.

01:05:49 Speaker 1

We had with us a major who had just come over from West Point.

01:05:55 Speaker 1

And he had no authority.

01:05:57 Speaker 1

And he was told he had no authority. He was there strictly for observation.

01:06:02 Speaker 1

We got down there and he started giving orders.

01:06:06 Speaker 1

But I was, I guess sort of the ranking Sergeant of the group and so forth.

01:06:11 Speaker 1

Had brand new Lieutenant who was just scared to death.

01:06:16 Speaker 1

1st combat and so we got back there, you know, and the major says, I understand you used to be a bazooka man.

01:06:25 Speaker 1

Said yeah, take a squad down.

01:06:27 Speaker 1

Knock it out.

01:06:29 Speaker 1

And I says I said, Sir, I said.

01:06:33 Speaker 1

The war is just about.

01:06:35 Speaker 1

And there's no.

01:06:36 Speaker 1

There's nothing I'm not going to lead men down there in these conditions.

01:06:42 Speaker 1

All we need to do is bless snow.

01:06:46 Speaker 1

So meantime, I had told one of the other guys to.

01:06:50 Speaker 1

Contact the you know the Sergeant.

01:06:54 Speaker 1

With the Arteri absorber, right?

01:06:58 Speaker 1

Well, this guy had already been on the phone.

01:07:01 Speaker 1

Getting coordinates and so forth. Looking this map out so forth.

01:07:06 Speaker 1

And the major says that's an.

01:07:08 Speaker 1

And I says Major, I'm sorry. I refuse.

01:07:12 Speaker 1

And he kept after.

01:07:13 Speaker 1

And so it came to the point where I say, Lieutenant, you tell the major the such and such.

01:07:19 Speaker 1

And the major, says Lieutenant, you tell the Sergeant such and such to, you know, we weren't talking to each other and stuff like that. But there's no way I'd be doing.

01:07:27 Speaker 1

I finally I got a little mad and I said OK.

01:07:29 Speaker 1

Read and I'll follow with my squad, see.

01:07:33 Speaker 1

You're busted.

01:07:34 Speaker 1

I'm going to prefer charges, say I said.

01:07:37 Speaker 1

I.

01:07:37 Speaker 1

But you still have no authority. And so forth.

01:07:40

That's OK.

01:07:41 Speaker 1

So the artillery came.

01:07:42 Speaker 1

Short long.

01:07:43 Speaker 1

And that was it. 5 minutes later the battalion came down the road.

01:07:46 Speaker 1

Lieutenant came up to me afterwards, the major said.

01:07:50 Speaker 1

Isn't going to prefer charges, he.

01:07:51 Speaker 1

But you're busted. And I said, fine, you know, so.

01:07:54 Speaker 2

Hey, what are you going to do? Take away my birthday?

01:07:58 Speaker 1

No, but just one of those things, you know. So you know, it's interesting not to change the subject here, but.

01:08:00

Sure.

01:08:04 Speaker 1

There was a.

01:08:05 Speaker 1

First things in the description in the cemetery.

01:08:10 Speaker 1

In Fort Benning, GA.

01:08:13 Speaker 1

And this.

01:08:14 Speaker 1

Tell you here. Lie the bones of Lieutenant Jones, a graduate of this institution. He died on the night of his very first fight while using the school solution.

01:08:26 Speaker 2

Yeah, that's kind of that proposal for the major, I think.

01:08:30 Speaker 1

And then a humor on a tombstone and an army meal named Maggie in memory of Maggie, who in her lifetime kicked one General 4 Colonels, 2 majors, 10 captains, 24 Lieutenants, 42 Sergeants, 454 privates, and one bomb.

01:08:51 Speaker 2

Well, you, you.

01:08:54 Speaker 2

You were in Czechoslovakia, Czechoslovakia, preparing to go to the Pacific and.

01:08:58 Speaker 1

Yes, well, we when the war was over in the Pacific, OK, we had trained in in Austria and Germany we were back and forth, back and forth in the Alps and stuff like that.

01:09:00 Speaker 2

Right.

01:09:04 Speaker 2

Oh, I see. I see.

01:09:09 Speaker 2

And then they, then the word came that you're going to go home and you loaded on the the Queen Mary and you went home on the Queen Mary and you ended up in New York.

01:09:18 Speaker 2

And what did you do after?

01:09:19 Speaker 2

What was your? What was the process for for kind of mustering you out of the army?

01:09:23 Speaker 2

Then what did you do when you when you got out of?

01:09:25 Speaker 2

Army got back into civilian life.

01:09:27 Speaker 1

Well.

01:09:30 Speaker 1

I when it got when mustard out, you know, in Fort Dix and.

01:09:36 Speaker 1

They went along and of course, what a lot of us made a mistake was not going little service for physicals and put in some claims on things right. They gave me 10% for a scar.

01:09:49 Speaker 1

And it's real.

01:09:50 Speaker 1

A year later, I was asked in Binghamton to go over there and they checked me over.

01:09:55 Speaker 1

And of.

01:09:55 Speaker 1

I had a lot of trouble with frozen feet, frozen legs and so forth.

01:10:00 Speaker 1

And as I found out.

01:10:01 Speaker 1

40 years later, they.

01:10:03 Speaker 1

I had a lot of problems about it.

01:10:06 Speaker 1

And they said, well, you never appealed.

01:10:07 Speaker 1

They never.

01:10:08 Speaker 1

An appeal process like there is no.

01:10:10 Speaker 1

So here I didn't know.

01:10:12 Speaker 1

And you know, and they ended up giving me 30% for each leg, which I could have had in 19.

01:10:19 Speaker 1

50467 or whatever and so forth.

01:10:24 Speaker 1

Please then I go ahead.

01:10:28 Speaker 1

When I came home and I remember like we were having some fun in New York, I started to come up on the Lehigh Valley.

01:10:35 Speaker 1

Missed.

01:10:36 Speaker 1

I started to come over in the DL and I missed it.

01:10:38 Speaker 1

I went back and.

01:10:39 Speaker 1

We had some drinks and so forth.

01:10:41 Speaker 1

Finally I came into Billington.

01:10:43 Speaker 1

And I took the train to Binghamton, and then the bus to Ithaca. The bus station then was down on Aurora St. in your state. And I walked over to the high school.

01:10:57 Speaker 1

Board of Education.

01:10:58 Speaker 1

And he saw me, and he took the day off. Of course, like that, you know, he had AI had my medals. He had a prayed me.

01:11:06 Speaker 1

The people you know and.

01:11:09 Speaker 1

Then what I did was I went back to.

01:11:12 Speaker 1

Cassadilla school.

01:11:15 Speaker 1

To upgrade.

01:11:16 Speaker 1

Then I went to college. You know, in business. And I was under the PL-16, you know, disabled veterans things.

01:11:24 Speaker 1

But the interesting thing is they gave you tests.

01:11:28 Speaker 1

Take Cabot.

01:11:29 Speaker 1

I took them to identify what your chosen fields should be really.

01:11:36 Speaker 1

You know, you take a long seat out administered medicine.

01:11:38 Speaker 1

Could have had.

01:11:40 Speaker 1

My whole doctorate paid for by the government.

01:11:42

Hmm.

01:11:44 Speaker 1

But a show business and so forth.

01:11:47 Speaker 1

And went along and then my my, my sisters had gone to Cornell and this and that. And the only thing at Cornell was the hotel school.

01:11:58 Speaker 1

Was the only business course where they took two people from Tompkins County and both of them were faculty kids.

01:12:06 Speaker 1

See, neither one of them finished the school.

01:12:08 Speaker 1

But then I, you know, dad knew Joe very well, played golf with him, doctor Job and he knew all the people 'cause his office was down there and he knew him and played golf with some of.

01:12:20 Speaker 1

And he found out about.

01:12:21 Speaker 1

So then I went in the Business School, of course.

01:12:23 Speaker 1

Graduated there and I was very happy.

01:12:26 Speaker 1

We didn't have a lot of facilities, but we had good teachers like lawyers or professional people in town taught us and so forth that, of course, your education, you had your history, and English professors and stuff.

01:12:41 Speaker 1

But the specialists you know in merchandising or whatever it was, the interesting thing about it is when you did it, about everything you took was the first time it was offered really.

01:12:54 Speaker 1

Well, you know it.

01:12:58 Speaker 1

Guinea pigs, we call.

01:12:59

Them.

01:13:01 Speaker 1

And I remember senior week, we had no exams.

01:13:06 Speaker 1

Senior Week was the week of exams to college.

01:13:10

And.

01:13:10 Speaker 1

Everything I had was a senior seminar which was about 1/2 an hour.

01:13:14 Speaker 1

Then we knew we had graduated and stuff and.

01:13:18 Speaker 1

Near to that fun.

01:13:19 Speaker 2

Did.

01:13:20 Speaker 2

Did you find the the experience that you had?

01:13:23 Speaker 2

In the army.

01:13:25

'S.

01:13:27 Speaker 2

Was useful to you in later life.

01:13:29 Speaker 1

Well, I think discipline wise is no doubt about it and respect.

01:13:35 Speaker 1

And liking or loving your human being. I mean, you had to rely on that other guy and he had to rely on you. And when you would do most anything.

01:13:48 Speaker 1

Guys got killed trying to help other guys out, although we were not supposed to stop. If a guy was wounded, we had medics and stuff to help out.

01:13:57

I.

01:13:57 Speaker 1

Just read a.

01:13:59 Speaker 1

Book on Company K, which was the 84th Division.

01:14:03 Speaker 1

And I couldn't believe they were.

01:14:04 Speaker 1

I couldn't believe the way these guys fought their colonels and officers hardly ever were up in the front lines.

01:14:14 Speaker 1

Now with patent, if you weren't up there, you're gone.

01:14:16

Mm.

01:14:18 Speaker 1

We lost kernels. We lost majors.

01:14:21 Speaker 1

Fighting and stuff like that, you know.

01:14:24 Speaker 1

Colonel doesn't sit back in the dugout and tell somebody do it.

01:14:27 Speaker 1

Got to be a leader.

01:14:28 Speaker 1

You don't expect him being the front lines, but this guy talked to, he said.

01:14:33 Speaker 1

Saw the Colonel once in two months of combat.

01:14:36 Speaker 2

Different leadership styles.

01:14:38 Speaker 1

And they took terrible casualties.

01:14:41 Speaker 1

And they were helping each other medically and stuff.

01:14:44 Speaker 1

They stopped to help a guy.

01:14:45 Speaker 1

Can't do that.

01:14:46

You.

01:14:47 Speaker 1

Know their job is to kill the enemy and.

01:14:49 Speaker 1

It ain't pleasant, but that was that was what your job was.

01:14:52 Speaker 2

That's the job. Yeah, if you if you had.

01:14:54 Speaker 1

Right.

01:14:58 Speaker 2

Some final thoughts to say to your.

01:15:03 Speaker 2

Your family or your friends and so forth.

01:15:05 Speaker 2

What would they be with regard to your your four time experience?

01:15:10 Speaker 1

Well, they all know about.

01:15:11 Speaker 1

I wasn't one to hold back and so.

01:15:15 Speaker 1

And mother, I know had told people she never expected me to survive the war.

01:15:22 Speaker 1

You know and and when I came back, of course.

01:15:26 Speaker 1

But we had a sad experience.

01:15:29 Speaker 1

My I had two older sisters. One of them now that is in Tucson. Her husband used to be Dean of Fine Arts at the University of Arizona and in fact, she's thinking of moving back up here.

01:15:39 Speaker 1

6-7 years older than I am and I had a sister, Carol, a beautiful redhead.

01:15:45 Speaker 1

That 18 finished one year at Cornell and died of acute appendicitis, which shortened my mother's life tremendously.

01:15:48

Hmm.

01:15:52 Speaker 1

And of course, I think that if I had been killed over there, that have been about.

01:15:56 Speaker 1

For her, she had some heart problems and stuff.

01:16:00 Speaker 1

But no, I I communicate and I kept I started.

01:16:04 Speaker 1

In 1947, went to my First Army reunion. This captain McAllister got us involved and things, and I ended up as National service officer.

01:16:14 Speaker 1

Ended up as commander.

01:16:16 Speaker 1

What you.

01:16:16 Speaker 1

Is you were elected a third vice commander three years later.

01:16:21 Speaker 1

It was your job to put on the National Convention or have it put on, which I did. Albany at turf in.

01:16:28 Speaker 1

And of course, my wife was very supportive. It's.

01:16:31 Speaker 1

We work together 18 years before we got married. Really. Yeah. And I've known her in high.

01:16:37 Speaker 1

We never were serious or anything and it just it just came. I don't know, 11 Sunday night.

01:16:43 Speaker 1

We talked about it and we married the following Friday in the church the next.

01:16:47 Speaker 1

We were both officers of the bank and the next Monday we had our national we had our annual meeting and stuff.

01:16:54 Speaker 1

So later in May, we took our honeymoon and went across the.

01:16:58 Speaker 1

Country and stuff. But she was excellent supportive, really been very good, very good.

01:16:59

OK.

01:17:05 Speaker 1

Supporter for itcha colleagues. In fact, last year at the Alumni Board meeting, they gave me a plaque.

01:17:13 Speaker 1

In her memory for all her support for her college.

01:17:14 Speaker 2

Oh, that's absolutely.

01:17:15 Speaker 2

Yeah, that's really wonderful.

01:17:17 Speaker 2

Well, Dusty, I want.

01:17:18 Speaker 2

I want to really thank you for for sharing with us today, your experiences and on behalf of the postcard auxiliary and the the Veterans Oral History project, we really appreciate you taking the time.

01:17:30 Speaker 2

And and.

01:17:32 Speaker 2

Thanks very much.

01:17:33 Speaker 2

Been wonderful.

01:17:33 Speaker 1

Wait, you're. You're welcome.

01:17:35 Speaker 1

I ended up too. Then, as commander of our group, as I said, and I started the.

01:17:39 Speaker 1

York Post.

01:17:42 Speaker 1

In fact, that's.

01:17:42 Speaker 1

I.

01:17:42 Speaker 1

Talking about two weeks from now, we're going to be here and going to the game and we're going to have a veterans night at the Elks and Tower Club and I organize all this stuff. They do three of them a year and.

01:17:55 Speaker 1

Like that.

01:17:56 Speaker 1

And 160 guys one time.

01:17:59 Speaker 1

We're now down to 45.

01:18:02 Speaker 1

Left so it just shows you nutrition. Yeah. So my motto things when you can't.