

## **Henry Burch Interview**

Company D, 319th Inf Reg

*(Library of Congress: Veterans History Project; interviewed by William M. Tilt)*

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

00:00:13 Speaker 1

Today is August 26, 2010, and we are gathered at the conference room at the visitors center of Lake Thurman Dam in South Carolina.

00:00:25 Speaker 1

Today, as part of the World War 2 oral history project, we will hear the story of Henry Birch.

00:00:35 Speaker 1

I am Bill tilt and I will conduct the interview and assisting with the interview is Stan Schrader.

00:00:43 Speaker 1

First of all, Mr. Birch, we want to thank you for being part of this project.

00:00:47 Speaker 1

Under the auspices of the Library of Congress in the Augusta, Richmond County Historical Society, why don't you just start us a little bit with where you were born and where you grew up and what you were doing prior to getting involved in the service?

00:01:02 Speaker 2

I was born and raised in Lincolnton, GA.

00:01:07 Speaker 2

And my dad, there was a country, Dr.

00:01:11

Huh.

00:01:12 Speaker 2

And.

00:01:14 Speaker 2

Doctor Aw Birch and my mother was Eunice Stephenson Burge.

00:01:20 Speaker 2

And.

00:01:23 Speaker 2

We live right there in Lincoln's in, you know, and he practiced medicine there and some 40 years.

00:01:30 Speaker 1

Made house calls to me.

00:01:32 Speaker 2

House calls and improve roads.

00:01:37 Speaker 2

And so anyway.

00:01:40 Speaker 2

Lexington was a small town not like McCormick, but very friendly, you know, and had tremendous football team.

00:01:47

Yeah.

00:01:51 Speaker 1

That when you went to school.

00:01:53 Speaker 2

I went to house.

00:01:54 Speaker 2

I went to school there in Lexington Gravel School. They call it then and high school.

00:02:02 Speaker 2

And.

00:02:06 Speaker 2

I used to my my eldest brother used to drive my dad when he got, you know, he got was getting old. And after that when he went to work, I kind of took over and started.

00:02:12

I.

00:02:22 Speaker 2

Driving for him, you know, making his house strong and.

00:02:27 Speaker 2

So.

00:02:30 Speaker 2

When I finished high school, I went to Georgia Military College.

00:02:34 Speaker 2

That's in Milledgeville, and it's a junior college.

00:02:38 Speaker 2

And after graduating from there, I went to Presbyterian College.

00:02:45 Speaker 2

In Clinton, SC.

00:02:49 Speaker 2

And got my bachelor's degree in business after that.

00:02:53 Speaker 1

Did you know what you wanted to be when?

00:02:55 Speaker 1

Grew up or?

00:02:56 Speaker 2

Well, I I you know. Yes I did.

00:03:00 Speaker 2

I wanted to be in business, you know, and get situated with a real good company.

00:03:09 Speaker 2

Which fortunately, I was able to do.

00:03:13 Speaker 2

And after after graduating from.

00:03:17 Speaker 2

PC.

00:03:20 Speaker 2

My class went to.

00:03:23 Speaker 2

For mag.

00:03:24 Speaker 2

Induction.

00:03:25 Speaker 1

But you had ROTC at both schools and just Georgia military, OK?

00:03:28 Speaker 2

Will.

00:03:30

You.

00:03:33 Speaker 2

And we went to Fort Mac for induction.

00:03:37 Speaker 1

So that was just a normal progression of things when you graduated with an ROTC degree, you went in the army.

00:03:42 Speaker 2

Drive me to drive directions and we we, you know, we skipped some of the year before so we would finish in April. You know so anyway.

00:03:43 Speaker 1

Knew you were going to the army.

00:03:53

Alright.

00:03:55 Speaker 2

We went there to be inducted and my that was my ROTC class.

00:04:04 Speaker 2

And I failed the physical.

00:04:06

Hmm.

00:04:06 Speaker 2

And I was just, you know, devastated because I thought I was in real good shape, you know.

00:04:15 Speaker 1

Why did they tell you weren't fit for service?

00:04:18 Speaker 2

Well, the examining officer said that that I had dry skin.

00:04:26 Speaker 2

A terrible ache.

00:04:30 Speaker 2

And.

00:04:31 Speaker 2

So I was trying to have so.

00:04:36 Speaker 2

I was in a real disappointing I went home and my dad had a good friend and Augusta, GA that was dermatologist and I went out and had him examine me and he wrote to him and made concerned letter.

00:04:54 Speaker 2

Saying that, I thoroughly examined Henry Bagge and find him in to be an excellent health and the dry skin condition in no way affect his service.

00:05:07 Speaker 2

So I took that that on went back for induction and they turned it down again. So anyway.

00:05:17

I.

00:05:19 Speaker 2

I then I I went to work for Bel Air Prep in Maryland and when the weekends went all I would rub my skin real good with baby on and lay in the sun.

00:05:35 Speaker 2

And I went back to third time and it just went right in, you know, no problem.

00:05:42 Speaker 2

I didn't mention the dry skin deal and they didn't. Even so.

00:05:46 Speaker 1

Don't ask, don't tell.

00:05:49 Speaker 2

So anyway anyway.

00:05:52 Speaker 2

Yeah, I went in there, went to.

00:05:55 Speaker 2

Port betting, you know just.

00:05:56 Speaker 2

My plans mates are doing, you know.

00:05:59 Speaker 1

The infantry school.

00:06:01 Speaker 2

Infantry school.

00:06:03 Speaker 2

And.

00:06:05 Speaker 2

From there I I feel I was went to Camp Phillips, Kansas.

00:06:12 Speaker 1

But you got married along the way.

00:06:13 Speaker 1

In here too, isn't it?

00:06:14 Speaker 2

Then yeah, right before I went in, I meant to tell you that that was a very important time of my life.

00:06:22 Speaker 2

And while I was working at Bill Aircraft in Marietta.

00:06:27 Speaker 2

American high school sweetheart Maryland phone.

00:06:34 Speaker 2

So anyways.

00:06:37 Speaker 2

I got out to jam Phillips and.

00:06:41 Speaker 2

They were getting ready to go to Arizona on desert maneuvers.

00:06:46 Speaker 1

Where is Camp Phillips?

00:06:48 Speaker 2

Is in Yuma, AZ.

00:06:52 Speaker 1

No, can't. Before you went to yoga, you were camping.

00:06:52 Speaker 2

When I met.

00:06:55 Speaker 2

Camp Phillips is in Kansas, in Salina, KS.

00:06:59 Speaker 1

Uh, huh. And that's where the unit was forming.

00:07:03 Speaker 2

Well, that's why, that's why.

00:07:08 Speaker 2

It was.

00:07:09 Speaker 2

Right.

00:07:09 Speaker 1

Good.

00:07:10 Speaker 2

And they were in the process of moving to Yuma for the desert maneuvers, and the Sony commanders, all the, and he said, but she just didn't hear and said.

00:07:24 Speaker 2

How would you like to have a furlough and this join us in Union?

00:07:28 Speaker 2

I said that would be great and that's what.

00:07:31 Speaker 1

And the newly married man you thought that was a good idea?

00:07:34 Speaker 2

Excellent out there.

00:07:38 Speaker 2

Anyway, this was before Christmas so.

00:07:44 Speaker 2

I thoroughly enjoyed my furlough and.

00:07:48 Speaker 2

You.

00:07:49 Speaker 2

Know I'm now.

00:07:52 Speaker 2

When I had to leave, give plenty of time to get to Yuma.

00:07:56 Speaker 2

To it'll take about four days by train.

00:08:01

And.

00:08:03 Speaker 2

I was telling.

00:08:06 Speaker 2

Stand and be on here. That on the train.

00:08:10

Of.

00:08:11 Speaker 2

Course you didn't have Al back then and on the train.

00:08:16 Speaker 2

We had all the windows down and we stopped in this little town and they were playing.

00:08:22 Speaker 2

I'll be home for Christmas, you know.

00:08:24



Uh.

00:08:26 Speaker 2

I think I might have choked me up a little bit.

00:08:29 Speaker 1

Very dead.

00:08:29 Speaker 2

But anyways.

00:08:32 Speaker 2

Got out before? Got out to you. My cable the junior and couldn't find a hotel room.

00:08:40 Speaker 2

So I found a place where they had cots.

00:08:46 Speaker 2

Save as many that had been assigned and spent tonight and the next morning I took a bus to Camp Laguna.

00:08:56 Speaker 1

And this is in about December.

00:08:58 Speaker 1

Three, I guess, huh?

00:08:59 Speaker 2

Right.

00:09:02 Speaker 2

Right, right before Christmas and.

00:09:04

Yeah.

00:09:07 Speaker 2

Anyways.

00:09:08 Speaker 2

And.

00:09:11 Speaker 2

When we had six man 10s right in the desert in a day, Floyds wind blew all the time.

00:09:12

I.

00:09:21 Speaker 1

So this is where you're married up with your division, right?

00:09:23 Speaker 2

Right, this is what I joined the 80th Division, three 19th Infantry.

00:09:28 Speaker 1

Babe.

00:09:31 Speaker 2

And I had excelled in heavy weapons.

00:09:36 Speaker 2

Was assigned to 319th Infantry Battalion.

00:09:42 Speaker 2

And we had that three months to you know.

00:09:49 Speaker 2

Three months to of.

00:09:53 Speaker 2

So the you know, the newer and everything.

00:09:55 Speaker 1

Yeah, the three month orientation and maneuver training with your unit and you were in what company?

00:09:57 Speaker 2

Oh wait.

00:10:04 Speaker 2

What company did heavy weapons company?

00:10:06

Gotcha. OK.

00:10:07 Speaker 1

What kind of weapons did the heavy weapons company have?

00:10:13 Speaker 2

And heavy.

00:10:14 Speaker 2

They had 81 millimeter mortars and 37 heavy machine guns. Water tube.

00:10:22 Speaker 1

And and what were you?

00:10:24 Speaker 1

Was your job.

00:10:26 Speaker 2

Well, my.

00:10:26 Speaker 2

Then I went in.

00:10:28 Speaker 2

A.

00:10:33 Speaker 2

Is a calling and I was what they call an instrument called during this time.

00:10:41 Speaker 2

And so anyway.

00:10:45 Speaker 2

After at three months maneuvers, it was.

00:10:51 Speaker 2

At night it was.

00:10:54 Speaker 2

You'd have ice in your Lister, Maggie Waterman. And during the day when you went on these marches, it would, it would get up.

00:11:03 Speaker 2

95°.

00:11:06 Speaker 2

And I can see guys now thinking it was.

00:11:10 Speaker 2

Underwear. You know that heavy underwear at home, you know, because.

00:11:17 Speaker 2

It was.

00:11:18 Speaker 2

Really hot.

00:11:20 Speaker 2

But anyway, that was rough trade.

00:11:23 Speaker 2

It really was.

00:11:24 Speaker 1

You didn't have much free time, did you?

00:11:26 Speaker 2

Well, not that much.

00:11:27 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:11:28 Speaker 2

And we.

00:11:29 Speaker 2

Do you know we can? We could go into Yuma and.

00:11:35 Speaker 2

Too much to do then it was a typical military town.

00:11:41 Speaker 2

And so anyway.

00:11:43 Speaker 1

But that was a chance that you got to work with your unit and learn the.

00:11:47 Speaker 1

And practice and stuff like that.

00:11:49 Speaker 2

Hey, I knew everybody in the company.

00:11:54 Speaker 2

And I guess I was a \*\*\*\*\* all the time previous to having been in payroll, you know, and.

00:12:05 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:12:07 Speaker 2

After that.

00:12:09 Speaker 2

You know, after that rough tour there.

00:12:14 Speaker 2

We went to boarding troop train and went to four days New Jersey.

00:12:22 Speaker 2

And that that was a real nice.

00:12:25 Speaker 2

Temp it was.

00:12:26 Speaker 1

Is that what you told me you were?

00:12:28 Speaker 1

You got in the payroll office and you got a little bit of chance to get the time off there, didn't you?

00:12:32 Speaker 2

Yeah, you're right. Yes, that's true.

00:12:36 Speaker 2

And I.

00:12:39 Speaker 2

Rented a little.

00:12:41 Speaker 2

I rented a a large room.

00:12:44 Speaker 2

And abiding House and Bordentown, NJ, which was just 14 miles from the Fort Dex and had Maverick come up and stay with me.

00:12:55 Speaker 2

And that was in the language that was right.

00:13:00 Speaker 1

How long were you there?

00:13:02 Speaker 2

Let's.

00:13:02 Speaker 2

This was launched, I think I told.

00:13:07 Speaker 2

And which day there by the book?

00:13:11 Speaker 2

Six weeks, something like that.

00:13:13 Speaker 1

Being in the payroll office, did you get a?

00:13:16 Speaker 1

To get off a little bit and.

00:13:18 Speaker 2

Well, yes, I.

00:13:19 Speaker 2

And you know in personnel like that, you know.

00:13:24 Speaker 2

I never did see anybody injured and.

00:13:27 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:13:29 Speaker 2

But anyway, I I told him.

00:13:32 Speaker 2

I said, man, you know, I'm training.

00:13:36 Speaker 2

I said I wanna, you know, I only did any action, you know? And they, you know, when I went over, they transferred me out of there into the chunky deed, you know.

00:13:50 Speaker 2

Or.

00:13:51

Yeah.

00:13:52 Speaker 2

Anyways, we we landed in Scotland.

00:13:56 Speaker 1

Well, tell me a little bit.

00:13:57 Speaker 1

How you got overseas?

00:13:58 Speaker 2

Oh yes, that's very important.

00:14:02 Speaker 2

Maybe.

00:14:02 Speaker 2

Took a tool around Manhattan Island and.

00:14:07 Speaker 2

I saw.

00:14:08 Speaker 2

We saw this huge ship you.

00:14:10 Speaker 2

Know and I I commented.

00:14:14 Speaker 2

It looks like the Queen Mary. You know, it didn't have his name on it, you know.

00:14:19 Speaker 2

And soon, as it was two days later, I was bullied.

00:14:24 Speaker 1

That tour is a circle line both.

00:14:26 Speaker 2

On second second round.

00:14:29 Speaker 1

All the way around Manhattan Island.

00:14:31 Speaker 2

Man, there now, that was delightful too, you know, and all of those.

00:14:36 Speaker 1

So she she got to see the boat that you went over on.

00:14:39 Speaker 2

Right. She sure did. And anyway.

00:14:45 Speaker 2

We went over the Queen maiden. I was told that they had 19,000 troops on it.

00:14:51 Speaker 2

And we had to take turns.

00:14:54 Speaker 2

Sleeping on the.

00:14:57 Speaker 2

When you call it.

00:14:58 Speaker 1

That.

00:15:00 Speaker 2

Well, diction inside, you know. Books. Yeah.

00:15:02 Speaker 1

The following.

00:15:05 Speaker 2

Yeah, there's no way they.



00:15:08 Speaker 2

Know you can sleep that many people you know.

00:15:10 Speaker 1

You didn't get your own stateroom on that luxury line.

00:15:15 Speaker 2

I think they were all taken.

00:15:18 Speaker 1

Yeah, the British just stripped all their their major.

00:15:22 Speaker 1

Uh ocean liners and use them for two transports.

00:15:25 Speaker 1

So he had a British crew going over there too.

00:15:28 Speaker 2

And his troop crew and British food. Yeah, which was, you know, a little.

00:15:33 Speaker 2

From ours.

00:15:36 Speaker 2

I shall know that the fellow is here and I will watch him loading supplies on the ship and.

00:15:45 Speaker 2

I was surprised at all the meat that they were putting on.

00:15:52 Speaker 2

In this British satisfact.

00:15:52

Yeah.

00:15:55 Speaker 2

Ion goat.

00:15:58 Speaker 2

I'm trying to imitate him a little bit there.

00:16:01 Speaker 1

Did you acquire a taste for goat?

00:16:05 Speaker 2

Well, we had about twice a day, you know.

00:16:08 Speaker 2

Don't steal it for breakfast was quite telling to do.

00:16:11

I.

00:16:12 Speaker 2

But we went over unestroitied because the Queen Mary was capable of making 45 knots with equivalent 50 miles an hour.

00:16:21

Yeah.

00:16:28 Speaker 2

And we went over undescore it because it cruises are destroying us. Couldn't keep up with it and.

00:16:33

Yeah.

00:16:38 Speaker 2

Bring you up.

00:16:40 Speaker 2

And a lot of people, you know? Yeah, I'd say sick.

00:16:42

I.

00:16:43

And.

00:16:44 Speaker 2

I was pointing that.

00:16:47 Speaker 2

Not to not to get seasick.

00:16:50 Speaker 1

They shook the zigzags all the time, too, to keep them keep the submarines from lining up on them.

00:16:54 Speaker 2

There are right they they told us that they would go, you know, after we were born and all that we would be changing courses every 7 minutes to keep the German submarines from locking in.

00:16:56 Speaker 1

They.

00:17:11

On.

00:17:13 Speaker 2

Many, many, many ships were lost, you know, even before we went into the war.

00:17:19

Yeah.

00:17:20 Speaker 2

What?

00:17:21 Speaker 2

Great Britain, you know. So anyway.

00:17:25 Speaker 2

We after five days we landed in Scotland.

00:17:32 Speaker 2

And we were on to that.

00:17:34 Speaker 2

A brief.

00:17:35 Speaker 2

Time you know.

00:17:38 Speaker 2

And the next day, we.

00:17:41 Speaker 2

We took a trip train to Southampton, England.

00:17:47 Speaker 2

And.

00:17:47 Speaker 1

Set alarm.

00:17:49 Speaker 2

Right. Right on the channel. Yeah and.

00:17:54 Speaker 2

It was right strange when we were going through the Lebanon we.

00:18:01 Speaker 2

With the train is stopped.

00:18:06 Speaker 2

Of.

00:18:07 Speaker 2

No air conditioning. Then the winners were down and we heard what we thought was a low flying plane.

00:18:15 Speaker 2

And all of a sudden the engine on it just stopped.

00:18:20 Speaker 2

And my two or three seconds later was a terrific explosion, and that was fairly close to the train.

00:18:28 Speaker 2

Those are the Germans had no way of knowing where it would hit, but London was about 20 by 30 miles square.

00:18:28

Yeah.

00:18:37 Speaker 2

When it ran out of gas, it just fell.

00:18:41 Speaker 1

What was it?

00:18:42 Speaker 2

It was AV2 rocket.

00:18:44 Speaker 1

Oh, Buzz bomb, huh?

00:18:45 Speaker 2

Buzz bomb, they called.

00:18:46 Speaker 2

Yeah, and it was in Heather. Powerful.

00:18:53 Speaker 2

They had a powerful magazine on it, you know.

00:18:59 Speaker 2

The RAF.

00:19:01 Speaker 2

If they could intercept it, the one the same way that it was, they were able to shoot some of them now, but they could not.

00:19:12 Speaker 2

Meet one and then turn.

00:19:13 Speaker 2

And they were said to they couldn't do that.

00:19:15 Speaker 1

Could get that turned quick enough.

00:19:17 Speaker 2

And then that one faster there.

00:19:23 Speaker 2

Anyways, we went on the South Hampton.

00:19:28 Speaker 2

Which was a staging area and.

00:19:32 Speaker 2

We, the Germans, thought that the crossing the invasion would be at.

00:19:40 Speaker 2

It Calais, France, which was a marriage part of the channel.

00:19:47 Speaker 2

And so, and they thought General Patton was going to lead the invasion.

00:19:55 Speaker 2

And they had concentrated in that area.

00:19:59

And.

00:19:59 Speaker 2

Lot of.

00:20:01 Speaker 2

Time was spent in the nation of Germans think that that was a launching area.

00:20:07 Speaker 1

2.

00:20:08 Speaker 2

Where we would take all from.

00:20:12 Speaker 2

Hit him in Kaleid and of course we do that.

00:20:18 Speaker 1

Tell me a little bit about how they were fooling the the Germans.

00:20:22

Oh.

00:20:24 Speaker 2

They had replicas, rubber tanks.

00:20:30 Speaker 2

And airplanes.

00:20:32

The.

00:20:32 Speaker 2

And just everything you can think of, you know.

00:20:36 Speaker 2

To this, guys, the Germans were they fly over, you know, and take snapshots of pictures.

00:20:44 Speaker 2

And that really kept them all fun.

00:20:49 Speaker 2

Confused, you know and.

00:20:52 Speaker 2

It was amazing to me.

00:20:55 Speaker 2

That invasion was.

00:20:58 Speaker 2

And you know, been able to have that a model of ships that were able to.

00:21:07 Speaker 2

The food of the gentleman's like.

00:21:09 Speaker 2

You know.

00:21:10 Speaker 2

But where were you?

00:21:12 Speaker 1

Standing during this time.

00:21:14 Speaker 2

I was at Southampton and we were doing additional training there.

00:21:20 Speaker 2

They had to hand, you know, from the ending of the lab.

00:21:24 Speaker 1

Were you staying at a British Army base or?

00:21:26 Speaker 2

Is British on this year right there?

00:21:29 Speaker 1

But the.

00:21:29

Well.

00:21:30 Speaker 1

They had gone in D-Day. It happened.

00:21:33 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:21:34 Speaker 2

Yeah, that's true.

00:21:36 Speaker 1

And the Germans still thought that that the 3rd Army baton was going to attack at Calais, didn't they?

00:21:43 Speaker 2

You know they did.

00:21:44 Speaker 2

But that was a that staging area was.

00:21:49 Speaker 2

Marriage.

00:21:52 Speaker 2

So anyway.

00:21:55 Speaker 2

Hitler was holding back.

00:21:59 Speaker 2

Their elite Penza or tank division.

00:22:04 Speaker 2

There because he was so sure.

00:22:05

I.

00:22:09 Speaker 2

That they were going to have it, you know, invasion enormous.



00:22:16 Speaker 2

I mean in Chile.

00:22:17 Speaker 1

Half past.

00:22:19 Speaker 2

And.

00:22:20 Speaker 1

Well, how did you guys and when did you?

00:22:23 Speaker 1

Go into France.

00:22:26 Speaker 2

We went over on.

00:22:29 Speaker 2

And one ALCDs it.

00:22:32 Speaker 2

It was a regular boat, you know, and then we would ferry, you know, on the shore.

00:22:41 Speaker 1

OK, so so in the in early August?

00:22:46 Speaker 1

You guys actually landed at Utah Beach, I guess, huh?

00:22:49 Speaker 2

Right. Yeah. And of course, the beach was.

00:22:53 Speaker 2

All except for a lot of the hazards. You know the welded cross wells and so forth that.

00:23:03 Speaker 2

I guess it was.

00:23:06 Speaker 2

Clean look like Father Hill trash. You know that type of right? Yeah.

00:23:10 Speaker 1

Yeah. Thank traps and stuff for that for landing craft.

00:23:15 Speaker 2

Right, everybody.

00:23:16 Speaker 1

But the fighting had moved inland by now.

00:23:19 Speaker 1

You you landed on a post, right?

00:23:22 Speaker 2

We landed on a Poles there and.

00:23:24

Yeah.

00:23:27 Speaker 1

Your equipment come over with you on the same ship.

00:23:30 Speaker 2

Yes, it's a mobile and it arrived a couple of days later, you know, but we were camped just beyond the beach, you know, window and window and all of that.

00:23:45 Speaker 2

Equipment to come over and everything.

00:23:48 Speaker 2

And.

00:23:51 Speaker 1

Well, when the 3rd Army was finally activated in France, the 80th Division become one of Patton's favorite units.

00:24:01 Speaker 2

Yeah, he did.

00:24:03 Speaker 2

He he really liked the 80th and.

00:24:07 Speaker 2

He made a.

00:24:08 Speaker 2

You know when the job was given to the 80s, they get it done, you.

00:24:13 Speaker 2

And but I was going to say that I will 1st combat mission was.

00:24:22 Speaker 2

In August, early August, August the 8th, I think.

00:24:23

I.

00:24:27 Speaker 2

And we went all the.

00:24:33 Speaker 2

I'd like to look at my nose to see if that would red.

00:24:35 Speaker 1

OK.

00:24:40 Speaker 1

Argentine.

00:24:41 Speaker 2

110.

00:24:42 Speaker 1

Yeah, they were on the 20th of August.

00:24:44 Speaker 2

When is the walrus year? And you know, we took that and cleared that up, you know.

00:24:50 Speaker 1

Well, that isn't that where they they close close the files gap.

00:24:55 Speaker 2

Right, yeah.

00:24:56 Speaker 1

And and trapped a whole bunch of German soldiers.

00:24:58 Speaker 1

They were trying to get away from that.

00:25:00 Speaker 2

Right. And they caught him unawares, too, you know, and that that.

00:25:07 Speaker 2

Surprise you.

00:25:08 Speaker 2

Liddy helped us, you know.

00:25:10 Speaker 1

So that was your first combat action.

00:25:12 Speaker 2

What is John by nature? Yeah.

00:25:12 Speaker 1

Time you were fired.

00:25:15 Speaker 2

And I believe I believe I commented that our next major combat was establishing a bridgehead over the Moselle River.

00:25:27 Speaker 2

And that was a lot of heavy, heavy fighting, you know.

00:25:33 Speaker 2

And.

00:25:34 Speaker 1

That was around 2.

00:25:36 Speaker 2

Cool, yeah.

00:25:38 Speaker 1

When, when did your unit first take casualties?

00:25:42 Speaker 2

Well, we were taking them there, you know, at the Moselle.

00:25:48 Speaker 2

Really, you know, establishing that breach head bridge head, but.

00:25:51

Move.

00:25:54 Speaker 1

You're telling me a story about your your company, commander, when you were talking with your company commander?

00:26:00 Speaker 1

Recount that for us.

00:26:02 Speaker 2

Right, we.

00:26:07 Speaker 2

Our company, machine gun heavy machine gun.

00:26:13 Speaker 2

Platoon leader told me.

00:26:15 Speaker 2

He.

00:26:16 Speaker 2

We're going to fire targeted opportunity because we think the Germans are just over there.

00:26:17

I.

00:26:25 Speaker 2

Rise now and said, but we need to notify the company that we attached to, which was a company rifle company.

00:26:27

I.

00:26:37 Speaker 2

And I was to notify the company.

00:26:40 Speaker 2

We were supposed to do that and he was up way up in front.

00:26:48 Speaker 2

And I I didn't get to tell him about the the targets of opportunity that they were going to start buying so.

00:26:58 Speaker 2

Shot dead.

00:27:02 Speaker 1

Not.

00:27:03 Speaker 1

Right, right in front of you, didn't it?

00:27:05

Yeah.

00:27:05

Yeah.

00:27:06 Speaker 1

That the first time you saw us scheduled me.

00:27:10 Speaker 2

That's the first casual.

00:27:11

Yeah.

00:27:13 Speaker 2

And after that, the Germans.

00:27:17 Speaker 2

Returning fire. You know the 20 million and I just knew.

00:27:22 Speaker 2

We were going to be shielded.

00:27:27 Speaker 1

Well, you were dug in.

00:27:29 Speaker 1

Uh, pretty good, I guess.

00:27:30 Speaker 1

Returned fire.

00:27:32 Speaker 2

After that, yeah.

00:27:33 Speaker 1

How about German air? Was it was German air active then or no, no.

00:27:39 Speaker 1

Artillery.

00:27:40 Speaker 2

I'll tell Rue was.

00:27:42 Speaker 2

Yeah, we had that 190 days.

00:27:43

All time in your hair.

00:27:44 Speaker 2

That was we just live with that constantly. Yeah.

00:27:51 Speaker 2

And.

00:27:52 Speaker 2

At night, you know. And that's when you know they had the.

00:27:57 Speaker 2

They have a lot of the shedding going on and you can hear a burp gun in the distance.

00:28:04 Speaker 2

Burp gun is automatic weapon that fired about.

00:28:09 Speaker 2

1500 rounds or a minute, or.

00:28:12 Speaker 2

You know.

00:28:13 Speaker 1

Makes a very distinct sound.

00:28:15 Speaker 2

Whoop whoop here.

00:28:16 Speaker 2

And they do that, you know, keeping, which they did a good job doing that.

00:28:20 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:28:23 Speaker 1

You guys used to shoot at them too in the middle of the night, just hoping you hit something, dude, didn't you?

00:28:29 Speaker 2

That's.

00:28:30 Speaker 2

Yeah, we did.

00:28:31 Speaker 2

Had.

00:28:33 Speaker 2

A full vomit.

00:28:34 Speaker 2

You know they would exchange fire, you know, all through the night and then.

00:28:42 Speaker 1

How did you move your machine?

00:28:44 Speaker 1

Did you have your own jeeps or trucks and stuff like that, or was it straight leg infantry?

00:28:50 Speaker 2

Yeah. Well, we had everything on Jeeps and the heavy weapons coming.

00:28:56 Speaker 2

And that that would burn down as well.

00:28:59 Speaker 2



Our machine gun.

00:29:01 Speaker 2

My machine gun.

00:29:04 Speaker 2

Was mounted on the dash of the Jeep with a windshield.

00:29:08 Speaker 2

Of course you know, whenever you moved around there was a bit of hole.

00:29:15 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:29:15 Speaker 2

And anyway we.

00:29:19

Were.

00:29:21 Speaker 2

I was.

00:29:22 Speaker 2

Let's see. I was.

00:29:25 Speaker 2

We were with down by the French.

00:29:29 Speaker 2

Safe on it and that's when.

00:29:32 Speaker 1

Down near czar. Broken.

00:29:33 Speaker 2

The right. Yeah. And that's when the battle of the Bulls.

00:29:41 Speaker 2

My dad, you know and.

00:29:46 Speaker 2

They had a meeting, I'm sure, and hadn't said he could be ready to, you know, be in Luxembourg the next morning and I was 125 mile drive.

00:29:58 Speaker 2

We did that through the night.

00:30:01 Speaker 2

With no lights, 10 eyes, you know on the Jeeps.

00:30:06 Speaker 2

And we arrived there in.

00:30:09 Speaker 2

The next morning and dug in, you know, and look well, we we assisted in the tank in Luxembourg. So that was a vital city, you know.

00:30:22 Speaker 2

And.

00:30:25 Speaker 2

Then.

00:30:27 Speaker 2

Pen.

00:30:30 Speaker 2

Along with the four ball.

00:30:33 Speaker 2

Started advanced tone to relieve the 101st.

00:30:40 Speaker 2

Amble and division, and the gentleman's we will attach to them from the rear, and they had expected that.

00:30:48 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:30:49 Speaker 1

So the other verses in Baston and the Germans were around 101st, they had them surrounded.

00:30:55 Speaker 2

And completely surrounded.

00:30:57 Speaker 1

And then you attacked from behind the Germans.

00:30:59 Speaker 2

We attacked the Germans from behind, you know, which really kept them off guard too.

00:31:07 Speaker 2

The 101st.

00:31:10 Speaker 2

We're here is native that they said they really didn't need any help.

00:31:15 Speaker 2

But we'll be glad to see us when we pushed in there, you know.

00:31:19 Speaker 1

Well, this is now in.

00:31:21 Speaker 1

This is around Christmas in 44. The weather was terrible.

00:31:26 Speaker 1

Talk to me about that a little bit.

00:31:28 Speaker 1

How did that hamper your movement?

00:31:30 Speaker 2

Well, I tell you what.

00:31:33

It was.

00:31:33 Speaker 2

It was better cold. The temperature of the day would get up during the day, would get up to about 14°.

00:31:42 Speaker 2

And at night it would get out into near 0.

00:31:45 Speaker 2

And.

00:31:47 Speaker 2

So anyway, you had trouble if you moved. You had trouble digging in.

00:31:53 Speaker 2

Most of the times you have to take up.

00:31:56 Speaker 2

Where? Where? Ontario, Michelle or Maha Shell hit and dig out from that, you know to.

00:32:04 Speaker 1

Ground was too frozen to dig box holes, huh?

00:32:06 Speaker 2

Right. Yeah. There's a little shovel that they supplied you with bounce back in your face almost.

00:32:13 Speaker 2

But.

00:32:15 Speaker 2

Anyway.

00:32:18 Speaker 2

Christmas morning.

00:32:22 Speaker 2

Well, Christmas, Christmas Eve day.

00:32:25 Speaker 2

I saw my first.

00:32:29 Speaker 2

Right, you know, anyway.

00:32:33 Speaker 2

What did I have it down as?

00:32:35 Speaker 1

Face to face.

00:32:36 Speaker 2

Please to face you and we.

00:32:41 Speaker 2

The Americans had.

00:32:42 Speaker 2

We had P40 sevens which were well armoured, but they weigh all that past.

00:32:48 Speaker 1

OK, that is airplanes now we're talking.

00:32:51 Speaker 2

Why we're talking about airplanes and that's a.

00:32:57 Speaker 2

And we and I saw my first jet aircraft that day.

00:33:03 Speaker 1

A German me 262 OK.

00:33:03

And.

00:33:05 Speaker 2

Ran and it was.

00:33:08 Speaker 2

It was almost twice as fast as I.

00:33:11 Speaker 2

Was.

00:33:12 Speaker 2

Before and said, but it had a serious limitation.

00:33:16 Speaker 2

Can only stay up a few minutes.

00:33:19 Speaker 2

Because of the.

00:33:22 Speaker 2

Filled consultant and so anyway they would.

00:33:29 Speaker 2

It took a while for our Air Force to figure out what was happening.

00:33:35 Speaker 2

Then they landed it on Audubon and pulled it off in into the woods. You know, between.

00:33:42 Speaker 2

All the barns.

00:33:43 Speaker 1

And the autobahn was the German Interstate highway that we have.

00:33:46 Speaker 2

That's the funny.

00:33:47 Speaker 2

The state highway that was known to everybody and.

00:33:51 Speaker 1

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

00:33:56 Speaker 2

I haven't mentioned that Canada attack Hella.

00:34:00 Speaker 2

China attack was Christmas Eve day.

00:34:07 Speaker 2

And it.

00:34:07 Speaker 2

It was pretty well limited to maybe a squad or platoon and we started firing on it and.

00:34:18 Speaker 2

Some of the journalists were killed.

00:34:22 Speaker 2

Fail and.

00:34:24 Speaker 2

When I saw a medic come out, I yell.

00:34:27 Speaker 2

Spy and.

00:34:31 Speaker 2

Apparently The Rifleman that we were attached to, he didn't hear it.

00:34:38 Speaker 2

And so he shot the movie, which you know.

00:34:45 Speaker 2

And.

00:34:47 Speaker 2

So anyway.

00:34:49 Speaker 2

The next morning.

00:34:53 Speaker 2

This is when I got shot there.

00:34:57 Speaker 2

They were keeping it.

00:34:58 Speaker 1

That out of that happen. What were you doing? And?

00:35:01 Speaker 2

Well, I was.

00:35:01 Speaker 2

I was in the box hole, you know.

00:35:06 Speaker 2

Then we had the counter attack and that's when I got.

00:35:12 Speaker 2

Shot, you know that I'm a good.

00:35:17 Speaker 2

In the left thigh, you know and I.

00:35:23 Speaker 2

Of course you know.

00:35:26 Speaker 2

Had to have blood and but.

00:35:29 Speaker 2

Any man wouldn't let, wouldn't let him evacuate me every time they would come down.

00:35:36 Speaker 2

With a stretcher, they would open up and I was able to be evacuated to until about 10:00.

00:35:44 Speaker 1

So you think that's a retaliation for the event the previous day?

00:35:49 Speaker 2

Brazier walls.

00:35:50 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:35:50 Speaker 1

Where did you say got hitting the left eye? They did.

00:35:54 Speaker 1

What kind of damage did it do?

00:35:55 Speaker 2

Well, it was a pedophile when the bullet went all the way through.

00:36:03 Speaker 2

I thought it was a bird doing, but I I'm not positive yet.

00:36:09 Speaker 2

It.

00:36:12 Speaker 2

You know, I was many jumped in a hole with me and gave me blood which saved my life because actually that bullet.

00:36:23 Speaker 2

Nicked that femoral artery that main armor into the leg and almost led to death.

00:36:28 Speaker 2

It gave me, I think, 3 units of blood in that and after the counter attack was quelled and stopped.

00:36:38 Speaker 2

I was moved into.



00:36:41 Speaker 2

State patagon and from there.

00:36:46 Speaker 2

And now went to.

00:36:49 Speaker 2

Belgium for my sad dream.

00:36:51 Speaker 1

Evac hospital in Belton.

00:36:52 Speaker 2

Right. Uh.

00:36:53 Speaker 1

Was it Army Medical facility?

00:36:58 Speaker 2

Primarily American too.

00:37:01

Uh.

00:37:04 Speaker 2

And I had surgery there.

00:37:08 Speaker 2

In my thigh and.

00:37:11 Speaker 2

It was they had a directive, medical directive, that if you have a wound that requires surgery, that you would.

00:37:25 Speaker 2

You'd have to.

00:37:27 Speaker 2

Leave it open for seven days and let it heal from the inside.

00:37:32 Speaker 1

Prevent infection.

00:37:33 Speaker 2

Right. And I was taking penicillin 600,000 units every four hours.

00:37:42

Well.

00:37:43 Speaker 2

About 3 or 4 days and I always credited that pen ascended to saving my leg.

00:37:51 Speaker 2

Because it was real new, you know.

00:37:55 Speaker 2

Then you said.

00:37:56 Speaker 2

It was and.

00:37:58 Speaker 2

When they got ready to sew up my leg or suit in my leg, it it swollen.

00:38:07 Speaker 2

3 lbs.

00:38:10 Speaker 2

And when they got ready to sew it up, they had two.

00:38:13

Replay.

00:38:15 Speaker 2

Nurses many who have.

00:38:19 Speaker 2

Could pull it together and have a doctor together.

00:38:22 Speaker 2

So two days later it popped open.

00:38:28 Speaker 2

And that you know.

00:38:31 Speaker 2

I had to have it researched, you know, recent.

00:38:37 Speaker 1

That delayed your recuperation even more.

00:38:39 Speaker 2

We did, yeah.

00:38:40 Speaker 1

Where did this operation take place?

00:38:42 Speaker 2

It took place in Belgium.

00:38:45 Speaker 2

Probably aware of that hospital was.

00:38:47 Speaker 1

Did you stay in Belgium then? Or did they evacuate you further?

00:38:51 Speaker 2

No, after after they got it squared away. You know where the bleeding stopped and all that.

00:39:00 Speaker 2

On the center, Birmingham, England.

00:39:04 Speaker 2

American Hospital lab for you know, for.

00:39:11 Speaker 2

Treatment and therapy and all that and was at right at two months.

00:39:17 Speaker 1

When you're in that evac hospital in Belgium, you know there was some real heavy fighting going on at that point in time. With that busy place.

00:39:22 Speaker 2

Or.

00:39:25 Speaker 2

I'm I'm you know, I miss that, you know.

00:39:27 Speaker 2

And.

00:39:28 Speaker 2

I always felt like, you know that \$1,000,000 wound was.

00:39:34 Speaker 2

'Cause you know what God saying in the way?

00:39:39 Speaker 2

God, it took me out of the action, you know.

00:39:41 Speaker 2

And.

00:39:44 Speaker 2

We went on hikes.

00:39:45 Speaker 2

You know those are head leg injuries with your own hikes and.

00:39:52 Speaker 2

Short wants to start off with to see how England in Birmingham and I went on a hike and we saw that's far enough. Let's turn around and we did.

00:39:54 Speaker 1

Visit in.

00:40:09 Speaker 2

I found something in the.

00:40:12 Speaker 2

Boot my.

00:40:14

I.

00:40:14 Speaker 2

It filled up with blood and.

00:40:18 Speaker 2

That, you know, further delayed that recuperation time.

00:40:23 Speaker 1

Did you ever.

00:40:24 Speaker 1

Get a chance to get into Birmingham.

00:40:27 Speaker 1

While you were at that.

00:40:28 Speaker 2

Yes, we we could go in on on weekends. Yeah, and.

00:40:34 Speaker 2

They.

00:40:34 Speaker 2

They were, you know, real nice to us.

00:40:37 Speaker 2

An American facility and everything and.

00:40:41 Speaker 2

They knew, you know, we had it rough.

00:40:44 Speaker 2

They were.

00:40:45 Speaker 2

They were real nice to us, you know, and so.

00:40:51 Speaker 2

Stayed there and I had requested to go back to my outfit.

00:40:57 Speaker 2

And.

00:40:59 Speaker 2

That was a long journey going from replacement center to replacement center.

00:41:06 Speaker 2

And I remember on April the 12th, they announced on the radio that President Moon had died.

00:41:13 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:41:15 Speaker 2

So anyway I.

00:41:17 Speaker 1

And you were still in England?

00:41:18

You're.

00:41:19 Speaker 2

Still in England.

00:41:21 Speaker 2

And.

00:41:23 Speaker 2

Then you know when I got over.

00:41:27 Speaker 2

Old world.

00:41:30 Speaker 2

To you know, to process where we will mission it, where it initially happened and everything I was going in one replacement center after the other and I finally got back to my outfit.

00:41:46 Speaker 2

Right before the.

00:41:50 Speaker 2

War was over.

00:41:51 Speaker 1

And where was your outfit when you finally married up with them again?

00:41:54 Speaker 2

Well, they were in Austria.

00:41:56 Speaker 1

Ah.

00:41:57 Speaker 2

And Germans were.

00:42:01 Speaker 2

Troll and file.

00:42:03 Speaker 2

By two to the file. This as far as you can see coming up in surrendering.

00:42:09 Speaker 2

And.

00:42:10 Speaker 1

Yeah, they were trying to surrender in the Americans, not the Russians.

00:42:14 Speaker 2

Right. They wanted to do that, yeah.

00:42:16 Speaker 1

Did you guys ever meet up with the Russians?

00:42:18 Speaker 2

No, we.

00:42:19 Speaker 2

We were on the border of the Ends River.

00:42:24 Speaker 2

And the Russians were on the.

00:42:26 Speaker 2

Of course we were on this side.

00:42:28 Speaker 2

And.

00:42:31 Speaker 2

Patent that given.

00:42:34 Speaker 2

Instructions. You know that we will not under any circumstances to frighten eyes with it. Gentlemen. See, he didn't like the Germans at all.

00:42:45 Speaker 1

The Russia.

00:42:46 Speaker 2

Hunting galesians.

00:42:46 Speaker 1

That's terrible.

00:42:49 Speaker 2

So.

00:42:51 Speaker 2

After that.

00:42:53 Speaker 2

They had promised Patton.

00:42:56 Speaker 2

You know, he was so disappointed because he couldn't do Normandy, that he would invade a section of Japan.

00:43:04 Speaker 2

And we had started maneuvers, you know.

00:43:08 Speaker 2

Well, you know.

00:43:09 Speaker 2

I'll put it that way.

00:43:11 Speaker 2

And you know.

00:43:14 Speaker 2

That kind of operation, you know?

00:43:17 Speaker 1

You guys thought you were going to Japan?

00:43:19 Speaker 1

Baton tonight.

00:43:20 Speaker 2

We thought we would. Yeah and.



00:43:21 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:43:23 Speaker 2

We heard that they dropped the bomb on Hiroshima and that now the guy in which one first.

00:43:31 Speaker 2

But.

00:43:32 Speaker 2

We.

00:43:33 Speaker 2

Were told that you could have general patent attorney.

00:43:38 Speaker 2

My 2.

00:43:39 Speaker 2

You know, because he knew the wall would soon be over. And after that, before they dropped it on, dropped it on Hiroshima.

00:43:48 Speaker 1

Yeah. Well, when did you wind up finally coming home?

00:43:53 Speaker 2

Well.

00:43:55 Speaker 2

We we were then Austria and.

00:44:00 Speaker 2

And some of those were some of the outfit was in the.

00:44:05 Speaker 2

Hotels, if you whatever they call.

00:44:08 Speaker 2

And some of us were in private homes.

00:44:13 Speaker 2

And I was in.

00:44:14 Speaker 2

Private home.

00:44:17 Speaker 1

As occupation proves.

00:44:20 Speaker 2

And.

00:44:22 Speaker 2

I remember the Germans.

00:44:23 Speaker 2

I was real nice couple.

00:44:25 Speaker 2

They had two kids, you know, and.

00:44:29 Speaker 2

We stayed upstairs and they stayed downstairs and I we had our meals.

00:44:36 Speaker 2

Had.

00:44:36 Speaker 2

We had missed all that. You know, when we when we were.

00:44:43 Speaker 2

Station there and.

00:44:45 Speaker 1

Did the Austrians that you were saying with, did they have trouble getting food or?

00:44:51 Speaker 2

They.

00:44:51 Speaker 2

Yeah, they really did.

00:44:54 Speaker 2

And.

00:44:56 Speaker 2

It was right finally there later there where we would stand.

00:45:01 Speaker 2

See, my birthday was coming around.

00:45:04 Speaker 2

And.

00:45:06 Speaker 2

She.

00:45:07 Speaker 2

Henry. That's Henry. Of course. In German, she.

00:45:10 Speaker 2

If you'll get me some \*\*\*\*\* \*\*\*\*\*, I'll make you a cake.

00:45:18 Speaker 2

Well, that's bacon.

00:45:19

Hello.

00:45:19 Speaker 2

Yeah. So I went to the massage.

00:45:23 Speaker 2

She fixed me a nice cake.

00:45:26 Speaker 1

That would be.

00:45:29 Speaker 2

Hold the tomb in there, you know, and not to hold the tomb.

00:45:35 Speaker 2

The two squads you know came in and changed and everything, and we we had, you know, we were able to go into town and write that.

00:45:44 Speaker 1

Where was this now?

00:45:45

This.

00:45:46 Speaker 2

Is in Austria.

00:45:47 Speaker 1

I mean, do you remember the name of the town?

00:45:50

Oh.

00:45:53

But.

00:45:54 Speaker 2

Funny.

00:45:55 Speaker 2

It's bought everything had bought in front of Bob Walters Hoffman.

00:45:55 Speaker 1

OK.

00:45:58 Speaker 1

Yeah. OK.

00:46:01 Speaker 2

You know, I never didn't know exactly how to spell it, but.

00:46:04 Speaker 1

At the resort area, then.

00:46:06 Speaker 2

Yeah. So the German and the Russian, excuse me, the Austrian people were real nice, you know, too.

00:46:08 Speaker 1

It does.

00:46:17 Speaker 2

But they had a roof, you know, because.

00:46:21 Speaker 2

The Germans are just about taking all the food and everything and.

00:46:26 Speaker 2

You made it to 400, Barry.

00:46:30 Speaker 2

They could have, you know, keep the Germans from getting.

00:46:34 Speaker 2

You know.

00:46:36 Speaker 2

But we stayed down until.

00:46:41 Speaker 2

December.

00:46:44 Speaker 2

And we started.

00:46:46 Speaker 2

You know, leaving that.

00:46:48 Speaker 1

Tell me about your trip.

00:46:49 Speaker 2

Well, we went over on a confided tanker called the USS C Robin and.

00:47:00 Speaker 2

The facilities have a very poor as far as leisure was concerned and.

00:47:07 Speaker 2

We were in North Atlantic.

00:47:10 Speaker 2

Head for New York and.

00:47:12 Speaker 2

They have violence whether you know.

00:47:15 Speaker 2

They had rope around.

00:47:21 Speaker 2

Around the barrans, around the banisters, you know, to keep.

00:47:27 Speaker 2

To keep from falling in, you know.

00:47:31 Speaker 2

And so many of the soldiers they got.

00:47:35 Speaker 1

Keep your head washed over and.

00:47:36 Speaker 2

CC.

00:47:36 Speaker 2

Right then.

00:47:39 Speaker 1

So you got back to New York Harbor, then you remember coming into New York and seeing the Statue of Liberty.

00:47:41 Speaker 2

Do.

00:47:42 Speaker 2

Call a woman.

00:47:45 Speaker 2

Yeah, one has a whole lady.

00:47:50 Speaker 2

If you want to see me again, you don't have to turn around.

00:47:54 Speaker 2

I know that was right.

00:47:56 Speaker 2

Too, for him to say that.

00:47:59 Speaker 2

But we know the truth, train.

00:48:02 Speaker 2

And.

00:48:07 Speaker 2

I went to Fort Lauderdale discharge and Fort Jordan.

00:48:15

And.

00:48:17 Speaker 2

New Year's Eve. Lovely.

00:48:19 Speaker 1

Is that?

00:48:20 Speaker 1

Well, that was a good. Then you went home, huh?

00:48:21

Alright.

00:48:23 Speaker 2

Then I went home to Lexington and.

00:48:27 Speaker 2

Mary was in Washington.

00:48:31 Speaker 2

I forgot to mention that while I was overseas, she she worked in mechanical.

00:48:36 Speaker 1

Oh, OK.

00:48:37 Speaker 2

She had a real good job then.

00:48:42 Speaker 2

In ale.

00:48:46 Speaker 2

Excuse me, they had.

00:48:49 Speaker 2

Air maintenance.

00:48:50 Speaker 2

Artillery maintenance.

00:48:52

Yeah.

00:48:54 Speaker 2

You know, primarily supplies.

00:48:59 Speaker 1

How long was it before you you got back with your brides?

00:49:02 Speaker 2

Well, I got back.

00:49:04 Speaker 2

At least she got home about.

00:49:07 Speaker 2

Second or third in January.

00:49:09 Speaker 1

Chopper, Chelsea.

00:49:10 Speaker 2

And.

00:49:12 Speaker 1

Well, tell me a little bit about what you did for the rest of your life.

00:49:16 Speaker 2

Well.

00:49:19 Speaker 2

I stayed there in Lexington for a while and.

00:49:23 Speaker 2

Lived with my sister and brother-in-law in Atlanta and when job hunting, you know.

00:49:33 Speaker 2

But prior to that.



00:49:36 Speaker 2

I hip my brother on his mail route and you know it was something to do, but I finally found a job.

00:49:47 Speaker 2

In Atlanta, with the Sherman Williams company.

00:49:52 Speaker 2

And.

00:49:54 Speaker 2

In Atlanta.

00:49:56 Speaker 1

Oh.

00:49:57 Speaker 2

And I was born in. I stayed.

00:50:01 Speaker 2

I was in good company and I stayed with them for 39 years.

00:50:06 Speaker 1

My heart is happy with your career.

00:50:07 Speaker 2

The Moon 3 moon three times. But it was all in the Atlanta area, you know.

00:50:16 Speaker 2

I had an opportunity, I think, to go to Chicago. If I had push for it, but I didn't push, you know.

00:50:25 Speaker 2

I'd rather stay right that.

00:50:26 Speaker 2

I wanted because I still had my family, my mom and my brother and his family and all, you know, in Lincoln, you know, at that time.

00:50:35

And.

00:50:38 Speaker 1

Oh, great, great.

00:50:41 Speaker 1

Thinking back to your your World War 2 times.

00:50:45 Speaker 1

When was your scariest time?

00:50:48 Speaker 1

What was it the time that really got your attention, I guess?

00:50:52 Speaker 2

Well, I think it was that we.

00:50:56 Speaker 2

We will find that target of opportunity.

00:51:00 Speaker 2

The Germans threw everything they had out of China and that, and also like I mentioned, you know our machine doing, we go to steaming. If it was, if you find it for any length of time.

00:51:00

Well.

00:51:18 Speaker 2

And I had a lot of stairs from artillery, you know, that was a dead giveaway with that steam for the artillery.

00:51:25 Speaker 1

So the water cooled machine.

00:51:27 Speaker 1

And when it fired, the water heated up and it created steam and gave you position away on.

00:51:32 Speaker 2

I think I mentioned that it was water food, you know, and then have.

00:51:40 Speaker 2

Ethylene lash. All right there. They used alcohol as.

00:51:43 Speaker 1

Del square.

00:51:45 Speaker 2

To keep it from freezing you.

00:51:50 Speaker 2

Freeze and.

00:51:52 Speaker 2

And alcohol addict, I think I said have a lowballing point.

00:51:57 Speaker 2

When it's steam, you know that was that was really something I timed hispodos I was.

00:52:04 Speaker 2

Death, you know, and we had.

00:52:07 Speaker 2

We had a lot of close calls.

00:52:09 Speaker 2

You know when.

00:52:10 Speaker 2

Shells falling and I had one instance that I.

00:52:19 Speaker 2

The.

00:52:21 Speaker 2

Shell it went over us, fell behind us, and the thrust of the shell was behind us.

00:52:30 Speaker 2

But the concussion, you know, blew out. Blew my helmet.

00:52:35 Speaker 2

And was I close, it was and.

00:52:39 Speaker 2

So anyway, I had after after the show and I heard them.

00:52:47 Speaker 2

Call for a manicure and a medic. Never did show up, you know, and I went back there.

00:52:55 Speaker 2

And he lost it.

00:53:00 Speaker 1

Well, listen, you. You were in the 3rd Army for a while.

00:53:04 Speaker 1

You ever see General Patton?

00:53:06 Speaker 1

No.

00:53:08

No.

00:53:08 Speaker 1

It's probably a good thing, but.

00:53:10 Speaker 2

I've never been.

00:53:11 Speaker 2

But I knew all about his slapping that GI.

00:53:16

A.

00:53:17 Speaker 2

And.

00:53:19 Speaker 2

It really made.

00:53:19 Speaker 1

Well, listen, if there any other stories you think we need to get down here for posterity?

00:53:24 Speaker 2

Well, I don't.

00:53:26 Speaker 2

I don't think so.

00:53:28 Speaker 2

I've taken a pretty good little while and I went through my files and all and got as much information as as I could retain and it was right funny. You know, this happened six to seven years ago and.

00:53:47 Speaker 2

One guy I.

00:53:48 Speaker 2

You know, when they asked me to recount something that happened that long ago, he said.

00:53:54 Speaker 2

Don't. Can't even remember what color underlay I'm yellow.

00:53:59 Speaker 2

Well anyway.

00:54:01 Speaker 2

I'm enjoying the interview and meeting you 2 gentlemen.

00:54:05 Speaker 2

I think it's wonderful that you're doing this and.

00:54:07

I.

00:54:11 Speaker 2

I'll. I'll be getting a copy of this and.

00:54:17 Speaker 1

Well, Sir, let me if you want final question.

00:54:21 Speaker 1

Thinking back on the days in World War 2 and what you and your generation went through.

00:54:28 Speaker 1

Do you think there's any lessons that we could learn that could be applied to today's situation?

00:54:33 Speaker 2

With you.

00:54:37 Speaker 2

I think you know if the outbreak of World War 2.

00:54:43 Speaker 2

Started as we really weren't prepared, you know, and his greatest generation, you know, took over and and supplied everything that we needed, you know, after a short.

00:54:46

Yeah.

00:54:57 Speaker 1

How did you get that done?

00:54:59 Speaker 2

Well, everybody pull.

00:55:03 Speaker 2

We didn't have any dissent or anything.

00:55:05

I.

00:55:07 Speaker 2

And.

00:55:09 Speaker 2

I think.

00:55:11 Speaker 2

Being prepared, you know.

00:55:14 Speaker 2

For any type of emergency, is what we should always do.

00:55:20 Speaker 2

Know because we never know.

00:55:23 Speaker 2

We've just pulled out of Iraq and the actions.

00:55:29 Speaker 2

The tags have already started up there, you.

00:55:32 Speaker 2

Know.

00:55:33 Speaker 2

And so.

00:55:36 Speaker 2

We figure that that would happen, you know, but they still live.

00:55:39 Speaker 2

Give me the troops over there. I think 50,000.

00:55:42 Speaker 2

Yeah, but.

00:55:45 Speaker 2

I think being prepared for any type of emergency is something that we always should do.

00:55:53 Speaker 2

Does.

00:55:55 Speaker 1

This follow the old Boy Scout model.

00:55:56 Speaker 2

We are always prepared and in our red wear store, Stonewall Jackson made the comment.

00:55:57 Speaker 1

Be prepared.

00:56:04 Speaker 2

We have an underestimate your enemy, you know, that was a terrible.

00:56:10 Speaker 2

Good.

00:56:10 Speaker 1

Well, Sir, again, I want to thank you for coming and participating and sharing your story with us. And we'd also like to thank you for your service to our country.

00:56:20 Speaker 2

Well, thank you very.

00:56:22 Speaker 2

And it was a wonderful experience and.

00:56:28 Speaker 2

One, I don't think you'd want to repeat but.

00:56:32 Speaker 2

I really enjoy it. Most of my time in the service.

00:56:37 Speaker 2

Made a lot of friends and most of them were from up north, you know, and they were telling me about my accent. But anyway, I I.

00:56:48 Speaker 2

I have a lot of lot of good friends and we kept in touch for a while and.

00:56:52 Speaker 1

Great. Great.

00:56:55 Speaker 2

Anyways, thank you very much for this opportunity.