

Robert Connor Interview #1

Company G, 318th Inf Reg

(Library of Congress: Veterans History Project; interviewed by Amy Judge)

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

00:00:08 Speaker 1

The date is June 21st, 2000.

00:00:11 Speaker 1

The interview was taking place at West Virginia University School of Journalism. The person being interviewed is Robert Connor. His date of birth is June 5th, 1922.

00:00:21 Speaker 1

Mr. Connors, current address.

00:00:23 Speaker 1

Is 602 Preston Rd. Morgantown, WV 26505 my name is Amy Judge and I am doing.

00:00:30 Speaker 1

In the interviewing I attend West Virginia University and I'm doing this project for the School of Journalism.

00:00:36 Speaker 1

The name of the cameraman is Joel Beason, the veteran I'm interviewing served in World War 2.

00:00:41 Speaker 1

Branch of service was Army Infantry 300 and 18th Battalion, the rank he held.

00:00:47 Speaker 2

318th infantry.

00:00:51 Speaker 1

The rank he held was first Lieutenant. The area he served in was French and Belgium.

00:00:56 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:00:59 Speaker 1

Right. You said you were in the ROTC program.

00:01:01 Speaker 2

Right.

00:01:02 Speaker 1

Can you tell me?

00:01:02 Speaker 1

Little bit about why you joined that.

00:01:06 Speaker 2

Well, what happens back then?

00:01:09 Speaker 2

All the.

00:01:12 Speaker 2

Male students had to take ROTC as undergraduates and get basic training, so to speak, at the end of the sophomore year.

00:01:22 Speaker 2

They could elect to take advanced military and when they completed that work, they got commissioned to 2nd Lieutenant lieutenants.

00:01:30 Speaker 2

And they had two fields.

00:01:32 Speaker 2

Was.

00:01:32 Speaker 2

So the engineering students.

00:01:35 Speaker 2

Were commissioned as Corps of Engineers and everybody else was infantry, and so I, as a result of that, I advanced military.

00:01:45 Speaker 2

I ended up going to OCS at Fort Benning and getting a Commission.

00:01:50 Speaker 2

2nd Lieutenant really because I started the military as a freshman in college.

00:01:57 Speaker 1

Where were you living at the time?

00:01:59 Speaker 2

Eyes limit my mother and dad's house up on Richwood Ave.

00:02:03 Speaker 2

Here in Morgantown.

00:02:04 Speaker 1

What did you do in training?

00:02:07 Speaker 2

Well, the basic training we had here was I guess it's called basic training, just the rudiments of military life.

00:02:18 Speaker 2

And we do close over drill and so forth and.

00:02:22 Speaker 2

Then when we went to OCS, that's the same officer training that all the they called them 90 day wonders.

00:02:28 Speaker 2

The army then was at war and they were trying to train as many leadership people as possible.

00:02:36 Speaker 2

And so the the training at Fort Benning was very.

00:02:39 Speaker 2

Severe and tough.

00:02:41 Speaker 1

Did you do specifically? What was the toughest part?

00:02:44 Speaker 2

Damon.

00:02:49 Speaker 2

Well, every day was.

00:02:51 Speaker 2

They would go out on artillery range and and learn how to operate under artillery.

00:02:58 Speaker 2

We would do out on a rifle range and and fire. We would go out on maneuvers.

00:03:04 Speaker 2

And so it was.

00:03:07 Speaker 2

It was trying to indoctrinate you so you'd be ready for battle.

00:03:11 Speaker 2

And I think it did a pretty good job.

00:03:18 Speaker 1

What about the pen strip suit?

00:03:21

I.

00:03:23 Speaker 2

We were the first group of ROTC students to be sent to Fort Benning for OCS and for some reason other they weren't ready for us.

00:03:33 Speaker 2

Didn't know what to do with us.

00:03:36 Speaker 2

And I had been informed by the people up here that I would be issued a uniform and sworn in the army down there.

00:03:43 Speaker 2

Well, when we got there, they didn't know exactly what to do with it, except go ahead and put us in a unit.

00:03:50 Speaker 2

And I didn't get a uniform for about 3 weeks and I lived in a black pinstripe suit, white shirt and tie for three weeks.

00:03:58 Speaker 2

Same one I wore down there.

00:04:01 Speaker 2

And did drill with the combat veterans and everybody that was in OCS.

00:04:08 Speaker 2

In a pinstripe suit. I was never so glad to get a uniform my whole life because I became part of the group.

00:04:13 Speaker 2

That time I was actually fairly well.

00:04:15 Speaker 2

We had an ROTC unit here at WVU that excelled really in preparation and.

00:04:22 Speaker 2

I wasn't behind in what I did, but I just was behind how I looked.

00:04:28 Speaker 1

Did you enjoy meeting new people?

00:04:30 Speaker 2

Oh, yeah, yeah, I I have some friends that I still have over the years that I met in ROTC and.

00:04:39 Speaker 1

Who is your favorite like from different areas of the country?

00:04:42 Speaker 1

You notice a lot of different some people.

00:04:44 Speaker 2

Well, I I have one I keep in touch with in North Dakota.

00:04:48 Speaker 2

He was an ROTC student also and we went overseas together.

00:04:53 Speaker 2

His family was in the car dealership and we correspond all the time.

00:04:58 Speaker 2

A lot of my friends are gone now.

00:05:00 Speaker 2

Mean they just.

00:05:01 Speaker 2

I've outlived a lot of them.

00:05:04 Speaker 2

But yeah, a lot of friendships.

00:05:07 Speaker 1

What were you doing when Pearl Harbor was bombed?

00:05:11 Speaker 2

As I can remember, I think I was sitting on the couches fraternity house.

00:05:16 Speaker 2

I was remember K fraternity when I was here in school and I think I was at the K house when we heard word that Pearl Harbor was bombed.

00:05:23 Speaker 1

Did you know you were going to be sent?

00:05:26 Speaker 2

No, we that didn't. Didn't necessarily I think several of them of the.

00:05:33 Speaker 2

Members of the fraternity dropped out of school and signed up.

00:05:38 Speaker 2

But we were because we're in advanced.

00:05:40 Speaker 2

They wanted us to stay here and finish our military so.

00:05:45

That.

00:05:46 Speaker 2

Sort of predestined that we finish what we're into. Then we'd be available.

00:05:51 Speaker 2

But others did drop out and.

00:05:55 Speaker 2

Signed up in Pearl Harbor happened.

00:05:58 Speaker 1

Do you remember what other people would do?

00:06:00 Speaker 1

Then it was bombed, or people scared.

00:06:03 Speaker 2

Don't remember too much about.

00:06:04 Speaker 2

Tell you the truth, I didn't have any personal.

00:06:10 Speaker 2

Later on, some of the members of the fraternity had joined the Air Force and were killed in in the South Pacific, but that was much after Pearl Harbor.

00:06:21 Speaker 2

But the actual Pearl Harbor itself didn't influence me too much.

00:06:25 Speaker 1

How long was it until you left for Europe?

00:06:29 Speaker 2

Well.

00:06:32 Speaker 2

I left for Europe.

00:06:35 Speaker 2

I think it was probably.

00:06:38 Speaker 2

Spring of 44.

00:06:41 Speaker 2

That sound?

00:06:41 Speaker 2

Either 4445 and then when I got to Europe, I was assigned in a training unit to train more soldiers to go overseas under the continent to fight over there.

00:06:56 Speaker 1

Replacement for training them first or later on.

00:07:00 Speaker 2

Well, that was that was a replacement.

00:07:03 Speaker 2

The what had?

00:07:04 Speaker 2

They they they knew they were going to have casualty on D-Day, but apparently they hadn't really figured out how to resupply and replace the ones that were.

00:07:15 Speaker 2

Casually from D-Day.

00:07:17 Speaker 2

And so all at once we had a.

00:07:18 Speaker 2

Program to make an infantry soldier out of anybody and that was our job for six weeks to take cooks and bakers and Candlestick makers.

00:07:29 Speaker 2

Whatever.

00:07:30 Speaker 2

And give them basic training so they could be shipped over to join an infantry outfit.

00:07:36 Speaker 2

Well, it wasn't very cooperative. A lot of them were old regular Army fellas that had been in the army all.

00:07:43 Speaker 2

And when it got down to this, they didn't want any part of going overseas or going on the continent and fighting. They wanted to remain as they were.

00:07:50 Speaker 2

And so sometimes it almost became belligerent.

00:07:53 Speaker 1

Do you remember any specific examples of somebody getting belligerent?

00:07:57 Speaker 2

Well, two.

00:08:00 Speaker 2

One, we had a company party after the training was over and we imported a bunch of women from neighboring towns that have a dance and a party form.

00:08:10 Speaker 2

And before that party was over, all hell broke.

00:08:13 Speaker 2

I mean, they just all wanted to fight and they were mad and they'd had enough beer to loosen them up.

00:08:19 Speaker 2

And one other one I thought was kind of sitting might have happened anywhere, but I was teaching.

00:08:25 Speaker 2

The use of the grenade and with the grenade it was used at that time.

00:08:29 Speaker 2

Think it still is.

00:08:32 Speaker 2

The.

00:08:34 Speaker 2

Outside, the grenade has a lever on it that's held in there by a pin.

00:08:39 Speaker 2

And when you pull the pin.

00:08:41 Speaker 2

And you release your grenade. The handle flies off and the grenade den is active. It'll blow up.

00:08:47 Speaker 2

And so you always say don't pull a pin until you're ready to throw it.

00:08:52 Speaker 2

I was teaching grenade use of the grenade and I had all these old.

00:08:57 Speaker 2

Worn out soldiers in front of Maine.

00:09:00 Speaker 2

And I deliberately got a dud, one that didn't have any powder in it wasn't going to explode.

00:09:06 Speaker 2

And so I went on to explain to my son now if I would pull his pin out. The grenade is armed, but I wouldn't dare release my hand because if I did, then the grenade would explode.

00:09:19 Speaker 2

And so purposely I pulled the pin out and then I dropped their grenade which made the.

00:09:37 Speaker 1

The date is June 21st, 2003. The interview was taking place at West Virginia University School of Journalism.

00:09:43 Speaker 1

The person being interviewed is Robert Connor. His date of birth is June 5th, 1922.

00:09:49 Speaker 1

Mr. Connors, current address is 602 Preston Rd. Morgantown, WV 26505.

00:09:57 Speaker 1

My name is Amy Judge and I am doing the.

00:09:59 Speaker 1

I attend West Virginia University and I'm doing this project for the School of Journalism.

00:10:04 Speaker 1

The name of the cameraman is Joelle Beason, the.

00:10:07 Speaker 1

I'm interviewing served in World War 2, his branch of service was Army Infantry 300 and 18th Battalion.

00:10:14 Speaker 1

The rank he held.

00:10:15 Speaker 2

319th infantry.

00:10:19 Speaker 1

The rank he held was first Lieutenant. The area he served in was French and Belgium.

00:10:28 Speaker 1

Alright, you said you were in the ROTC program.

00:10:30 Speaker 2

Right.

00:10:30 Speaker 1

Can you tell me a little bit about why you joined that?

00:10:35 Speaker 2

Well, what happens back then?

00:10:37 Speaker 2

Everybody, all the male.

00:10:41 Speaker 2

Students had to take ROTC as undergraduates and get basic training, so to speak, at the end of the sophomore year.

00:10:50 Speaker 2

They could elect to take advanced military and when they completed that work, they got commissioned to Commission a second Lieutenant.

00:10:58 Speaker 2

And they had two fields.

00:11:00 Speaker 2

Was.

00:11:01 Speaker 2

So the engineering students.

00:11:03 Speaker 2

Were commissioned as Corps of Engineers and everybody else was infantry, and so I, as a result of that, and I advanced military, I ended up going to OCS at Fort Benning and getting a Commission.

00:11:19 Speaker 2

2nd Lieutenant really because I started the military as a freshman in college.

00:11:25 Speaker 1

Where were you living at the time?

00:11:27 Speaker 2

I was living at my mother and dad's house up on Ridgewood Ave.

00:11:31 Speaker 2

Here in Morgantown.

00:11:32 Speaker 1

What did you do in training?

00:11:35 Speaker 2

Well, the basic training we had here was I guess it's called basic training, just the rigiments of military life.

00:11:46 Speaker 2

And and we do close over drill and so forth.

00:11:49 Speaker 2

And then when we went to OCS, that's the same officer training that all the they call them 90 day wonders.

00:11:56 Speaker 2

The army then was at war and they were trying to train as many leadership people as possible.

00:12:04 Speaker 2

And so the training at Fort Benning was very, very severe and tough.

00:12:09 Speaker 1

What did you do specifically?

00:12:12 Speaker 2

Hey.

00:12:12 Speaker 1

What was the toughest part?

00:12:17 Speaker 2

Well, every day was different.

00:12:19 Speaker 2

Would.

00:12:20 Speaker 2

We'd go out on our tails rings and and learn how to operate under artillery fire. We would do out on the rifle range and and fire. We would go out on maneuvers.

00:12:32 Speaker 2

And so it was.

00:12:35 Speaker 2

It was trying to indoctrinate you so you'd be ready for battle.

00:12:39 Speaker 2

And I think it did a pretty good job.

00:12:46 Speaker 1

What about the pen stripe suit?

00:12:51 Speaker 2

We were the first group of RTC students to be sent to Fort Benning for OCS and for some reason they were.

00:13:00 Speaker 2

Weren't ready for.

00:13:01 Speaker 2

They didn't know what to do with us.

00:13:03 Speaker 2

And I had been informed by the people up here that I would be issued a uniform and sworn in the army down there.

00:13:11 Speaker 2

Well, when we got there, they didn't know exactly what to do with it, except go ahead and put us in the unit.

00:13:18

I.

00:13:18 Speaker 2

And I didn't get a uniform for about 3 weeks and I lived in a black pinstripe suit, white shirt and tie for three weeks.

00:13:27 Speaker 2

Same one I wore down there.

00:13:29 Speaker 2

And did drill with the combat veterans and everybody that was in OCS.

00:13:36 Speaker 2

In a pinstripe suit. I was never so glad to get a uniform my whole life because.

00:13:40 Speaker 2

That I became part of the.

00:13:41 Speaker 2

At that time, I was actually fairly well.

00:13:44 Speaker 2

We had an ROTC unit here at WVU that excelled really in preparation.

00:13:50 Speaker 2

And I wasn't behind in what I did, but I just was behind how I looked.

00:13:56 Speaker 1

Did you enjoy meeting new people?

00:14:00 Speaker 2

I have some friends that I still have other years that I met in ROTC.

00:14:07 Speaker 1

Who is your favorite like from different areas of the country?

00:14:10 Speaker 1

You notice a lot of different some people.

00:14:13 Speaker 2

Well, I I have one I keep in touch with in North Dakota.

00:14:16 Speaker 2

He was an ROTC student also and we went overseas together.

00:14:21 Speaker 2

His family was in a car dealership and we correspond all the time.

00:14:27 Speaker 2

A lot of my friends are gone now.

00:14:28 Speaker 2

Mean they just.

00:14:29 Speaker 2

I've outlived a lot of them, but yeah, a lot of friendships.

00:14:36 Speaker 1

What were you doing when Pearl Harbor was bombed?

00:14:39 Speaker 2

As I can remember, I think I was sitting on the couch.

00:14:42 Speaker 2

Fraternity house.

00:14:44 Speaker 2

I was remember K fraternity when I was here in school and I think I was at the K house when we heard where did Pearl Harbor was bombed.

00:14:52 Speaker 1

Did you know you were going to be sent?

00:14:53

Yeah.

00:14:54 Speaker 2

No, that didn't.

00:14:57 Speaker 2

Necessarily, I think several of them of the.

00:15:01 Speaker 2

Members of the fraternity dropped out of school and signed up.

00:15:06 Speaker 2

But we were because we're an advanced.

00:15:08 Speaker 2

They wanted us to stay here and finish our military so.

00:15:14 Speaker 2

That sort of predestined that we finish what we were into then we'd be available.

00:15:19 Speaker 2

But I was did drop out and and.

00:15:24 Speaker 2

Signed up in Pearl Harbor happened.

00:15:26 Speaker 1

Do you remember what other people would do?

00:15:28 Speaker 1

It was bombed or people scared.

00:15:31 Speaker 2

Don't remember too much about that.

00:15:33 Speaker 2

You truth.

00:15:35 Speaker 2

I didn't have any personal.

00:15:38 Speaker 2

Later on, some of the members of the fraternity had joined the Air Force and were killed in in the South Pacific, but that was much after Pearl Harbor.

00:15:49 Speaker 2

But the actual Pearl Harbor itself didn't influence me too much.

00:15:54 Speaker 1

How long was it until you left for Europe?

00:15:57 Speaker 2

Well.

00:16:00 Speaker 2

I left for Europe.

00:16:03 Speaker 2

I think it was probably.

00:16:07 Speaker 2

Spring of 44.

00:16:09 Speaker 2

That sound?

00:16:10 Speaker 2

Either 4445 and then when I got to Europe, I was assigned in a training unit to train more soldiers to go overseas under the continent to fight over there.

00:16:23 Speaker 1

Was that the?

00:16:24 Speaker 1

Replacement for training them first or later on.

00:16:28 Speaker 2

Well, that was that was a replacement.

00:16:31 Speaker 2

The what have happened?

00:16:32 Speaker 2

They they.

00:16:33 Speaker 2

They were going to have casualty on D-Day.

00:16:37 Speaker 2

But apparently they hadn't really figured out how to resupply and replace the ones that were casually from D-Day.

00:16:45 Speaker 2

And so all at once we had a training program to make an infantry soldier out of anybody, and that was our job.

00:16:52 Speaker 2

For six weeks to take cooks and bakers and Candlestick makers and whatever and give them basic training so they could be shipped over to join an infantry outfit.

00:17:03 Speaker 1

Attitude like.

00:17:04 Speaker 2

Well, it wasn't pretty cooperative. A lot of them were old regular Army fellas that had been in the army all their.

00:17:10 Speaker 2

Life. And when I got down to this, they didn't want any part of going overseas or going on the continent fighting. They wanted to remain, as it were.

00:17:19 Speaker 2

And so sometimes it almost became belligerent.

00:17:22 Speaker 1

Do you remember any specific examples of somebody getting belligerent?

00:17:26 Speaker 2

Well, two examples.

00:17:28 Speaker 2

One, we had a company party after the training was over.

00:17:32 Speaker 2

And we imported a bunch of women from neighboring towns that have a dance in a party form.

00:17:39 Speaker 2

And before that party was over, all hell broke.

00:17:41 Speaker 2

I mean, they just all wanted to fight and they were mad and they had enough beer to loosen them up.

00:17:47 Speaker 2

And the other one I thought was kind of might have happened anywhere.

00:17:52 Speaker 2

But I was teaching.

00:17:54 Speaker 2

The use of the grenade.

00:17:56 Speaker 2

And with the grenade, it was used at that time, I think it still is the.

00:18:02 Speaker 2

Outside, the grenade has a lever on it that's held in there by a pin.

00:18:07 Speaker 2

And when you pull the pin out and you release your grenade, the handle flies off and the grenade den is active, it'll blow up.

00:18:15 Speaker 2

And so you always say don't pull a pin until you're ready to throw it.

00:18:20 Speaker 2

So I was teaching grenade uses of grenade and I had all these old.

00:18:26 Speaker 2

Worn out soldiers in front of me.

00:18:29 Speaker 2

And I deliberately got a dead one that didn't have any power. It wasn't.

00:18:35 Speaker 2

And so I went on to explain to my son that if I would.

00:18:37 Speaker 2

His.

00:18:38 Speaker 2

Out the grenade is armed, but I wouldn't dare release my hand.

00:18:43 Speaker 2

If I did, then the grenade would explode.

00:18:47 Speaker 2

And so purposely I pulled the pin out and then I dropped the grenade which made the the other thing fall off.

00:18:54 Speaker 2

And technically, if there'd been powder in it, it would have exploded.

00:18:59 Speaker 2

But you hear these stories about somebody throwing their body on the grenade to save the rest of the people. You know there was no soul through your body anywhere.

00:19:06 Speaker 2

All scrambled out. Trump over everybody had people go to hospital from the injuries trying to get away from that grenade. That wasn't even armed.

00:19:15 Speaker 2

So it was kind of fun.

00:19:18 Speaker 1

Did you have a girlfriend when you left for Europe?

00:19:21 Speaker 1

Did you have a girlfriend?

00:19:22 Speaker 2

Did I have a girlfriend?

00:19:24 Speaker 2

Not not back.

00:19:25 Speaker 2

Not till I got out of college.

00:19:26 Speaker 2

Not till I got out of the service.

00:19:28 Speaker 1

What did your family think when you left?

00:19:32 Speaker 2

Well, I guess my dad was tend to be more emotional than my mother, but.

00:19:39 Speaker 2

Back then, everybody knew that you had to.

00:19:41 Speaker 2

It wasn't a was a big deal because something they knew was going to happen sooner or later.

00:19:48 Speaker 1

Where exactly did you go first?

00:19:51

Yeah.

00:19:53 Speaker 2

Well, when I left home, I was stationed Fort Benning for a while.

00:19:56 Speaker 2

Gotten my Commission.

00:19:58 Speaker 2

And they.

00:19:59

Took.

00:20:00 Speaker 2

The a certain percentage of the graduating class and had them stay at Fort Benning and we had the job of training other ROTC students when they came down from other colleges.

00:20:11 Speaker 2

I had a real interesting experience.

00:20:15 Speaker 2

I was in charge of training be a company 200 men.

00:20:21 Speaker 2

And just by luck, the second group of Western University ROTC students came down.

00:20:26 Speaker 2

So here I am, an officer, and they're just recruits, so to speak. And they had heard so much about Fort Benning.

00:20:34 Speaker 2

Scared to?

00:20:35 Speaker 2

I mean, they were almost afraid to talk to these guys.

00:20:37 Speaker 2

Gone to grade school with.

00:20:39 Speaker 2

And suddenly, because I was an officer and they were enlisted men, it was like, you know, we can't even get close to you.

00:20:45 Speaker 2

So in order to loosen them up, they had to go to a dental clinic and and all have their teeth checked. And so I marched them down the company St. together. Dental pain, I said OK, you guys were going to sing Hare, West Virginia.

00:20:56 Speaker 2

So he had done the company St. in Fort many senior West Virginia to try to get the guys loosened up a little bit.

00:21:03 Speaker 2

But these were guys that I'd gone all through school with it.

00:21:06 Speaker 2

They.

00:21:06 Speaker 2

One semester behind me and I just happened to get my Commission a little bit before they did and stayed there to train him.

00:21:14 Speaker 2

It's kind of fun.

00:21:15 Speaker 2

We would go over to Auburn, AL.

00:21:17 Speaker 2

And date the college girls over.

00:21:19 Speaker 2

We had a car and so we would leave Fort Benning and drive to Auburn.

00:21:24 Speaker 2

And had three or four good weekends over there.

00:21:29 Speaker 1

What you do on the weekend?

00:21:31 Speaker 2

Well, we've been over Auburn, AL, and dated the girls over there.

00:21:35 Speaker 1

Do you remember?

00:21:38 Speaker 1

Arriving your first place in Europe when you left after.

00:21:40 Speaker 1

Benning, where did you go?

00:21:44 Speaker 2

While we were stationed at a old English.

00:21:49 Speaker 2

Barracks.

00:21:53 Speaker 2

Near Salisbury and I forget the name of the barracks. But it was a permanent English barracks that everybody had just been moved out of there to go to the invasion, go to, to France.

00:22:06 Speaker 2

And we were moved.

00:22:06 Speaker 2

There it was, right near the town of Bath.

00:22:10 Speaker 2

And there wasn't much going on, but.

00:22:14 Speaker 2

We we basic training and that's where we get the basic training to all the cooks and bakers and women.

00:22:22 Speaker 1

What was your first assignment?

00:22:23 Speaker 1

That training the replacements.

00:22:25 Speaker 2

Yeah, that's first time I ever overseas. Yeah.

00:22:28 Speaker 1

When did you see your first combat?

00:22:32 Speaker 2

I think it must have been in November sometime.

00:22:36 Speaker 2

We were moving across France and the the unit had been.

00:22:41 Speaker 2

The division had been fighting all the way across France and and I had been sent as a replacement.

00:22:49 Speaker 2

And I don't even know where the town was.

00:22:50 Speaker 2

We had to attack a little town.

00:22:54 Speaker 2

And I remember fighting our way into this town. And the thing that surprised me was how easily the Germans surrendered.

00:23:02 Speaker 2

They all came out waving white flags and holding their hands up, and I hadn't prepared for that.

00:23:09 Speaker 2

Matter fact, there wasn't anything in our train that told you what to do.

00:23:12 Speaker 2

Prisoners.

00:23:13 Speaker 2

And it confused me and it upset me because.

00:23:17 Speaker 2

They were in my.

00:23:18 Speaker 2

And I think they thought that I was going to be going to kill him on the spot.

00:23:24 Speaker 2

And finally I did get my senses about me. And when you take a prisoner, you'll send them back to rear. Somebody else takes care of them.

00:23:30 Speaker 2

But that was my first.

00:23:31 Speaker 2

We took this little town and had no, I don't know, maybe 20 or 25 prisoners surrender and I hadn't expected, but that that was probably in November.

00:23:41 Speaker 1

What was the Germans attitudes like when you surrender?

00:23:48 Speaker 2

Well, they were just kind of numb.

00:23:50 Speaker 2

Think they were?

00:23:51 Speaker 2

This particular is that they were afraid I was going to kill them on the spot because.

00:23:56 Speaker 2

I I was obviously.

00:23:57 Speaker 2

They'd upset my plants for the day.

00:24:00 Speaker 2

I I hadn't figured on taking any prisoners, but they were not belligerent.

00:24:06 Speaker 2

Were very docile and a lot of them were glad to.

00:24:09 Speaker 2

War was going to be over for them.

00:24:12 Speaker 1

Any of them speak English?

00:24:15 Speaker 2

Not in that group that I know of.

00:24:16 Speaker 2

They might have, I don't know.

00:24:17 Speaker 1

Were there any casualties in your unit?

00:24:20 Speaker 1

During that first battle.

00:24:21 Speaker 2

Not in the first battle that I know of.

00:24:24 Speaker 1

OK.

00:24:26

Umm.

00:24:28 Speaker 1

When did you go into the battle of Bulge?

00:24:31 Speaker 1

You tell me a little bit about that.

00:24:33 Speaker 2

Well, we were actually South of the area where the bulge occurred. Our unit was.

00:24:42 Speaker 2

Down around Nancy and Metz, which is down South of the area.

00:24:47 Speaker 2

And when the badge happened, Patton moved ours closer to the area where the bulge occurred.

00:24:54 Speaker 2

And at the time, I think our first move was near a little town called Edenbrook, which not too far from Bastone.

00:25:03 Speaker 2

But when I didn't even know there was a battle, the bulge.

00:25:08 Speaker 2

Mean you don't know what's going on.

00:25:10 Speaker 2

Last thing in the world is to find out what's going on.

00:25:15 Speaker 2

So I I didn't.

00:25:16 Speaker 2

I didn't know there was a bastone or any of that.

00:25:20 Speaker 2

So but our unit was moved in to reinforce the southern flank of the bulge, so that the wouldn't spread any further South.

00:25:31 Speaker 1

What was the weather like?

00:25:34 Speaker 2

Cold, cold snow.

00:25:38 Speaker 2

Bitter and wet and.

00:25:40 Speaker 2

As a.

00:25:41 Speaker 2

Of fact, a lot of people I don't think appreciate the fact that we almost lost the war because of our feet.

00:25:48 Speaker 2

Someone had designed a combat boot.

00:25:52 Speaker 2

And the main covering was a suede leather and I just absorb water, just put water right through it.

00:25:59 Speaker 2

And a lot of men had trench foot, which was because their feet got wet and couldn't get dried.

00:26:05 Speaker 2

And some of my, you might say, casualties were not from enemy fire.

00:26:10 Speaker 2

Were from bad feet.

00:26:12 Speaker 2

They their feet were so bad they couldn't walk.

00:26:15 Speaker 2

And they were sent back to the rear and some of them had frozen feet because the feet got cold.

00:26:20 Speaker 1

Did you have any feet problems?

00:26:23 Speaker 2

Yeah, I often thought that if I had to stay very many more days, I'd had to.

00:26:27 Speaker 2

Back with bad feet.

00:26:29 Speaker 2

My my feet were soaking wet and my way to drive to dry socks and dry shoes and to dry anything.

00:26:38

I.

00:26:42 Speaker 2

You have enough outer clothing on to stay warm, and one of the things that helps is a raincoat.

00:26:47 Speaker 2

The raincoat holds the body heat in so.

00:26:53 Speaker 2

I use a raincoat when I slept as a covering, but fuel jacket provides enough.

00:27:01 Speaker 2

Probably were actually.

00:27:03 Speaker 1

Is the food like did you?

00:27:06 Speaker 2

Well, the food was actually just.

00:27:08 Speaker 2

What we call sea rations.

00:27:12 Speaker 2

And they were little cans of condensed food.

00:27:17 Speaker 2

Or they once in a while you'd get a box of food. You might have some crackers in it, but you you didn't really get any prepared food.

00:27:25 Speaker 2

Just on the move and there's no way to cook hot food.

00:27:28 Speaker 2

Just pretty bad.

00:27:32 Speaker 1

And did you see a lot of casualties?

00:27:36

Well.

00:27:39 Speaker 2

See, the Germans were so intent on coming through that they used some of our uniforms. Some of our equipment and that kind of upset everybody.

00:27:50 Speaker 2

So I saw bodies laying around.

00:27:53 Speaker 2

With American uniforms on, and when I got up to them, they were actually Germans.

00:27:57 Speaker 2

And you know, you can imagine trying to fight a war when you don't know who you're shooting at because they were in the same kind of UN.

00:28:05 Speaker 2

And that the Germans were determined to try.

00:28:08 Speaker 2

Bluff us any way they could but.

00:28:12 Speaker 2

There were quite a few, but during the battlefield in an open fight like that, they might carry the bodies and the and the injured off pretty quick.

00:28:21 Speaker 1

Did that upset you?

00:28:23 Speaker 2

No, no particularly.

00:28:25 Speaker 2

I guess I expected it.

00:28:26 Speaker 1

How could you tell the difference between a German and American soldier if they?

00:28:30 Speaker 1

They're an American uniform.

00:28:32 Speaker 2

You couldn't really until you accept that they didn't always have a complete uniform. You know, they they might have a jacket and you look at the boots and the boots are obviously German boots or whatever, but.

00:28:45 Speaker 2

If they'd had a complete uniform matter fact, some of them even spoke such good English that it was hard to.

00:28:53 Speaker 2

To real detect who they were.

00:28:55 Speaker 1

Was there a lot of confusion there?

00:28:57 Speaker 2

Well, I.

00:28:59 Speaker 2

And when the first breakthrough came?

00:29:01 Speaker 2

There was a lot of confusion now. See, we came into it. The battle start on the 16th of December and when we started into it, our outfit was the 25th.

00:29:11 Speaker 2

That there'd been a lot happening in the meantime.

00:29:15 Speaker 2

And a lot of troops have been overrun and we lost an awful.

00:29:18 Speaker 2

Of men.

00:29:19 Speaker 2

They said it was a bigger battle than the than the invasion on Normandy.

00:29:23 Speaker 2

I don't know.

00:29:24 Speaker 1

Do you lose anybody?

00:29:26 Speaker 2

Did I lose anything? Oh, yeah, yeah.

00:29:29 Speaker 2

When we started into bastonia.

00:29:32 Speaker 1

What was that like?

00:29:35 Speaker 2

Well, you just see inform.

00:29:36 Speaker 2

Can't tell.

00:29:36 Speaker 2

About you got to keep going.

00:29:40 Speaker 2

When you.

00:29:41 Speaker 2

When you move forward.

00:29:44 Speaker 2

You're moving.

00:29:46 Speaker 2

And your troops are along with you.

00:29:49 Speaker 2

And if someone's getting hurt, you can't do anybody.

00:29:54 Speaker 2

It.

00:29:55 Speaker 2

Medics are right behind you and they come in and take over pretty quickly.

00:30:02 Speaker 2

So you're those who are alive are are taken back to hospital pretty quick.

00:30:07 Speaker 1

Would you like to talk about your injury?

00:30:10 Speaker 1

That you had with the camera.

00:30:13 Speaker 2

Well.

00:30:16 Speaker 2

I.

00:30:16 Speaker 2

Do you want?

00:30:17 Speaker 2

To talk about the camera 1st and.

00:30:19 Speaker 2

I happened to have that.

00:30:22 Speaker 2

When I got ready to ship out from the states to go overseas, my dad says yes. I'll take a camera.

00:30:29 Speaker 2

And since I didn't have one, he got one for my brothers bedroom.

00:30:35 Speaker 2

And after I got into it, I found out with a pretty good camera and pretty valuable.

00:30:40 Speaker 2

Since I didn't.

00:30:41 Speaker 2

Any way to return it?

00:30:44 Speaker 2

Easily I carried in my free jacket pocket constantly to make sure I wouldn't lose it.

00:30:50 Speaker 2

And so when we were on Christmas Day, when we were.

00:30:55 Speaker 2

Finding a way into bastone.

00:30:57

Uh.

00:30:59 Speaker 2

I got hit through the side with rifle bullet and it did knock me down.

00:31:03 Speaker 2

Just.

00:31:04 Speaker 2

I feel something tear through there.

00:31:07 Speaker 2

And I turned around.

00:31:10 Speaker 2

See if I could find someplace.

00:31:11 Speaker 2

Get out of the war.

00:31:13 Speaker 2

And then I got hit in the neck.

00:31:17 Speaker 2

Well, the one in the neck actually hit part of the spinal column and paralyzed me, knocked me down so.

00:31:25 Speaker 2

I was out of the war for sure then.

00:31:28 Speaker 2

And later when I got back in the hospital and they started take my clothes off.

00:31:34 Speaker 2

I told him that the camera was in my field jacket pocket.

00:31:37 Speaker 2

Want to make sure it was.

00:31:38 Speaker 2

With me.

00:31:40 Speaker 2

He pulled the camera out and the parts started to fall out of it.

00:31:44 Speaker 2

I assumed that the bullet had gone through the camera and down through my side because I had a bullet entry down here.

00:31:50 Speaker 2

So I didn't look at the camera for a couple days. Then when I did look at the camera, I discovered that actually the bullet was another bullet was still in the camera.

00:31:58 Speaker 2

Penetrated the front of the camera, but it never came out the back, so I actually was hit three times.

00:32:04 Speaker 2

And one time I didn't even know about.

00:32:06 Speaker 2

And if I had been for the camera, the place where the camera, such I'm sure, would have probably killed me.

00:32:12 Speaker 2

So I'm I'm alive thanks to the camera.

00:32:15 Speaker 1

Thanks to the camera.

00:32:18 Speaker 1

Whenever you were over there.

00:32:19 Speaker 1

You control us.

00:32:19

The camera.

00:32:20 Speaker 2

Oh yeah, this this is a camera.

00:32:25 Speaker 2

This is the area of penetration right here.

00:32:28 Speaker 2

And this was a fairly heavy.

00:32:29 Speaker 2

And then when they went in there, it tore everything up, getting through and then embedded back.

00:32:35 Speaker 2

In the.

00:32:35 Speaker 2

You can see where it stopped back there, but.

00:32:41 Speaker 2

It was enough to prop a billet and that's all I needed.

00:32:46 Speaker 2

Just fell apart, really.

00:32:51 Speaker 2

That's that's the entry point right there and.

00:32:55 Speaker 2

Would guess that it was probably about like that.

00:33:02 Speaker 1

For overseas, did you do anything for good?

00:33:04 Speaker 1

Did you have like maybe a special thing you did?

00:33:08 Speaker 2

No, really, I.

00:33:10 Speaker 2

I guess this is my war trophy. If you want to call it that. But I didn't carry for luck.

00:33:17 Speaker 2

Inhibity any special thing?

00:33:20 Speaker 1

What were your feelings about that?

00:33:23 Speaker 2

About death.

00:33:26 Speaker 2

I had some everybody from experience.

00:33:28 Speaker 2

I don't have any particular feelings about it.

00:33:31 Speaker 1

Did you?

00:33:32 Speaker 1

Did you expect today?

00:33:33 Speaker 2

Do I expect that?

00:33:34 Speaker 1

Whenever you were over there.

00:33:37 Speaker 2

Just probably one time when I was scared I was.

00:33:40

Thank you for calling.

00:33:41 Speaker 2

When I was hit.

00:33:43 Speaker 2

I was on the ground and like you see in the movies, they come and drop your rifle down and put your helmet on top of it to mark your location.

00:33:53 Speaker 2

And then the Medical Group come along and that's how they know where you are. They identify your location.

00:34:02 Speaker 2

I was proud I couldn't move my arms or legs for a while and I thought that might be permanent, so I was pretty scared then. And then the strange thing about it was it some of my men came along after me and saw this rifle and helmet.

00:34:20 Speaker 2

And said Lieutenant, we're going to move it where they can see it better. 'cause. We don't want them to miss you.

00:34:25 Speaker 2

So they picked the rifle and clung it to the ground.

00:34:29 Speaker 2

Another spot.

00:34:31 Speaker 2

Which probably would have been better, but after I left, the rifle fell down, so I didn't have a mark on. I thought, Oh my goodness, I'm I'm going to freeze to death out here because there's no, no, no, no way. I'm known where I am, but they came.

00:34:44 Speaker 2

Pretty quick picked me up.

00:34:48 Speaker 1

Religious outlook. When you left for war.

00:34:52 Speaker 2

Oh, probably like any other college student. I didn't have any strong convictions.

00:34:56 Speaker 2

I raising the Presbyterian Church and helped usher and things like that. But you know I'm.

00:35:02 Speaker 2

I didn't have any more than anybody else, I don't think.

00:35:06 Speaker 1

Did it change with your experiences?

00:35:09 Speaker 2

Not really, no, I think it.

00:35:14 Speaker 2

I stayed about the same.

00:35:17 Speaker 1

Did you capture any Germans?

00:35:20 Speaker 2

Well, I in that first episode, first encounter, we had captured some but after that it was driving him back rather than capturing.

00:35:31

OK.

00:35:32 Speaker 1

Your awards and medals.

00:35:33 Speaker 1

You like to talk about those?

00:35:36

Well.

00:35:37 Speaker 2

I've told people that I think the most important medals are one the Combine entry badge, because that's only awarded to people who have been in combat in the infantry.

00:35:50 Speaker 2

And then the bond star is awarded for.

00:35:56 Speaker 2

Some kind of special effort.

00:36:00 Speaker 2

And the barn star has been diluted because.

00:36:04 Speaker 2

Every sort of replace the silver.

00:36:06 Speaker 2

In some ways.

00:36:08 Speaker 2

And there were so many of them distributed that it lost its value.

00:36:11 Speaker 2

So now the Bronze Star has 2 categories 1.

00:36:16 Speaker 2

Would have AV down here called for valor and that's the one you get for combat work, and then the regular plane Bronze star you could get for being the good cook helper or whatever.

00:36:27 Speaker 2

Is just a a different evaluation altogether.

00:36:32 Speaker 2

And the Purple Heart you get if you're wounded.

00:36:36 Speaker 2

And I was wounded one other time and got I'd already had a Purple Heart when I got the second one.

00:36:43 Speaker 2

So those are the the metals that mean the most to me.

00:36:49

What did you get the Bronze star for?

00:36:51 Speaker 2

I don't know.

00:36:54 Speaker 2

I I they don't have a an army.

00:36:59 Speaker 2

Corrective that describes what it was for and I never found a copy of that. If there's a certificate somewhere.

00:37:10 Speaker 2

I guess it was just for feeding them and battle as far as I know.

00:37:15 Speaker 2

Sometimes they give them.

00:37:16 Speaker 2

Just.

00:37:17 Speaker 2

Because the guy's been around a long time and.

00:37:21 Speaker 2

They they think he's a nice guy, you know, it's just not for a specific thing.

00:37:25 Speaker 2

I really don't know what I got it for.

00:37:28 Speaker 2

The.

00:37:29 Speaker 2

The other one that's interesting.

00:37:32 Speaker 2

This is the called a unit citation presidential unit.

00:37:36 Speaker 2

This is awarded only to units, not individuals, and when a a group, A unit does something significant then this award.

00:37:48 Speaker 2

Goes on the right side of your tunic rather than the left side and.

00:37:55 Speaker 2

This was for endeavor getting into bastone.

00:37:59 Speaker 2

So I can wear the unit citation. If you see somebody with.

00:38:03 Speaker 2

That on the right hand side, that means their whole unit did something, not necessarily that individual.

00:38:10

OK.

00:38:11 Speaker 1

Just to skip back for a minute, you were injured on Christmas.

00:38:14 Speaker 2

Right.

00:38:15 Speaker 1

Can you tell me a little bit about Christmas leading up to that Christmas Eve?

00:38:21 Speaker 2

Well, we.

00:38:24 Speaker 2

Why? Don't know several miles away from where we were going to jump off to go into bastone, and we related into trucks and driven undercover darkness.

00:38:36 Speaker 2

And unladenness to the village and I don't know the name of that.

00:38:39 Speaker 2

Don't even know where it was.

00:38:42 Speaker 2

And we get off the trucks and there were some barns and we spent the night Christmas Eve in a barn just off in the stable.

00:38:50 Speaker 2

Might say.

00:38:53 Speaker 2

There's always a hope, and always the rumor going around that the war is going to have an Armistice on a holiday Thanksgiving hours. Nova was going to be over German want to surrender. And the same thing with true on Christmas. Everybody thought there won't be fighting on Christ.

00:39:07 Speaker 2

So there'll be an Armistice or.

00:39:10 Speaker 2

Germans will surrender.

00:39:12 Speaker 2

It didn't happen that.

00:39:13 Speaker 2

I mean, we woke up Christmas Day and we were right on the frontline and we didn't walk hardly across the street before we were fighting so.

00:39:24 Speaker 2

Christmas was disappointment in that sense.

00:39:27 Speaker 2

The other end of Christmas is kind of interesting.

00:39:31 Speaker 2

The armed service had.

00:39:33 Speaker 2

Policy of trying to get a good hot meal to everybody. They could on both Thanksgiving and Christmas. Hot Turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy. Just like you'd have at home.

00:39:45 Speaker 2

And I've had this at Thanksgiving.

00:39:48 Speaker 2

Surprise, a good hot meal.

00:39:50 Speaker 2

So when I got back to the hospital after being injured.

00:39:54 Speaker 2

The hospital staff was all serving hot Turkey and to all the patients and it was just.

00:39:58 Speaker 2

A.

00:39:59 Speaker 2

Delightful meal.

00:40:01 Speaker 2

But they wouldn't let me have any because they thought maybe my injuries were such that it wouldn't be appropriate.

00:40:07 Speaker 2

And then they made a mistake.

00:40:09 Speaker 2

And didn't take many operating room because there was another guy named Connor and they took him into my place and I laid in bed all day long, waiting to go to the operating room and missed out on the hot Turkey. When I finally did get something to eat.

00:40:22 Speaker 2

They decided it was safe for me to eat.

00:40:24 Speaker 2

I was left with some old cold greasy spaghetti, and that was my Christmas Day meal.

00:40:28 Speaker 2

Could have been hot Turkey if they take me when I supposed to get.

00:40:33

What? What was that Christmas Eve like in the bar?

00:40:37 Speaker 2

Where we're all worn.

00:40:38 Speaker 2

We just wanted to get to sleep, the Captain Carlinson and gave us that map I showed you.

00:40:44 Speaker 2

And he didn't know a whole lot more about what was going on, and we did and. And it was it was a chance for us to learn what was going to happen the next day and what the operation was about.

00:40:56 Speaker 2

But we were so worn out that soon as we heard something, we fell asleep.

00:41:07 Speaker 1

All right. How did you stay in touch with your family?

00:41:11 Speaker 2

Well, back then they had.

00:41:14 Speaker 2

A correspondence method called vmail.

00:41:17 Speaker 2

And you had a little blank and you wrote on that whatever message you wanted.

00:41:22 Speaker 2

And I think they photographed that and then sent it back to the States and then develop it again and sent that on to your parents.

00:41:30 Speaker 2

It it wasn't.

00:41:32 Speaker 2

The exact copy of what you wrote, but it was a photograph of.

00:41:34 Speaker 2

She wrote.

00:41:36 Speaker 2

And that clearly had to be censored before it was.

00:41:40 Speaker 2

So the vmail was very common way of communicating with folks back home.

00:41:46 Speaker 1

Did you write them a lot?

00:41:48 Speaker 2

Yeah, my mother saved.

00:41:50 Speaker 2

She had quite a quite a collection for a while.

00:41:53 Speaker 1

What did you write about?

00:41:55 Speaker 2

Mostly the weather and you really couldn't say what you were doing or where you were, so it wasn't a whole lot to write about, except that you were cold and hungry.

00:42:05 Speaker 1

Did you ever run out of supplies?

00:42:10 Speaker 2

Well, no, not really, but.

00:42:12 Speaker 2

Because we were moving, there was no way to to supply us with good hot food. So the.

00:42:21 Speaker 2

While we didn't run out, we didn't have.

00:42:25 Speaker 2

Top of the line stuff either.

00:42:28 Speaker 2

A funny story.

00:42:30 Speaker 2

The captain on one occasion called the other Lieutenant. There's the other platoon.

00:42:38 Speaker 2

Higher up that all.

00:42:40 Speaker 2

Units must have a recreation officer.

00:42:44 Speaker 2

Well, that's kinda because.

00:42:47 Speaker 2

We are in.

00:42:47 Speaker 2

We didn't have time for recreation.

00:42:51 Speaker 2

But he pointed us other Lieutenant recreation officer just as a joke.

00:42:54 Speaker 2

And so I kid, you and I said, well, captain, I said I'm hurt.

00:42:57 Speaker 2

Didn't let me have.

00:42:58 Speaker 2

Well, you can be mess officer.

00:43:00 Speaker 2

Well, that was just as silly because we we had a very good mess. Sergeant who could prepare a good meal for us if he had a chance.

00:43:08 Speaker 2

But there weren't many opportunities.

00:43:11 Speaker 2

It's a window somehow by misunderstanding.

00:43:17 Speaker 2

The Messiah prepared a hot breakfast for the whole company.

00:43:21 Speaker 2

And the men hadn't had anything hot to eat for maybe a week or more.

00:43:27 Speaker 2

And they lined up walking.

00:43:31 Speaker 2

The I have to call the Field Rangers where the food was hot.

00:43:34 Speaker 2

Starting to get to a breakfast, I looked at meal clerk as the head of the line and the mayor. Clerk really doesn't get into combat.

00:43:44 Speaker 2

What we call rear train, which may be half a mile back from where the action is.

00:43:49 Speaker 2

And it just kind of caught me by surprise. And I thought, well, I'm the mess officer. I'll take over.

00:43:55 Speaker 2

So I went across the quick and I said Kirby, you get to head back to the end of the line when every fight man the opposite side. All I want to.

00:44:03 Speaker 2

Can eat you understand that?

00:44:04 Speaker 2

Yes, Sir.

00:44:06 Speaker 2

And he did that.

00:44:06 Speaker 2

Know that's far as I.

00:44:07 Speaker 2

That was the end of it. When I went back on my way, returning to the states after I was injured.

00:44:15 Speaker 2

One of the first stops was Howler General Hospital in new.

00:44:18 Speaker 2

And I saw him.

00:44:20 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:44:20 Speaker 2

Soldier with the 8th Division patron.

00:44:24 Speaker 2

And I said, soldier, but I'll over you with and he said through 18th. That's well, that was my regiment.

00:44:30 Speaker 2

I.

00:44:30 Speaker 2

What company said G?

00:44:32 Speaker 2

So that was my company.

00:44:35 Speaker 2

And I said.

00:44:38 Speaker 2

What platoon?

00:44:39 Speaker 2

First platoon I.

00:44:40 Speaker 2

I was the 1st.

00:44:41 Speaker 2

Leader and I don't remember you.

00:44:44 Speaker 2

And I said, when did you join the office? In January? I asked.

00:44:47 Speaker 2

Then you wouldn't know me because I left on Christmas.

00:44:49 Speaker 2

So I'm here. You.

00:44:51 Speaker 2

You the New Times that you got the mail cook, aren't you?

00:44:53 Speaker 2

That's all I was famous for.

00:44:56 Speaker 2

I think that meant a lot to the memo because they didn't like to see him up there clouding the line either.

00:45:02 Speaker 1

So what did you do to entertain yourself?

00:45:06 Speaker 2

Rest you were just so.

00:45:09 Speaker 2

All the time that he there was there was no time for entertaining.

00:45:17 Speaker 1

Do you remember anything particularly humorous or unusual?

00:45:22 Speaker 1

Any events?

00:45:25 Speaker 2

I told you the ones that.

00:45:28 Speaker 2

Come to my mind.

00:45:30 Speaker 1

Did anyone ever play any pranks on each other?

00:45:32

I.

00:45:39 Speaker 2

One time I remember we had a Chinese boy that was a cook by training in.

00:45:47 Speaker 2

When you do inspection, arm with the rifle, you think you have cleared the rifle and you pull the trigger and nothing supposed to happen.

00:45:55 Speaker 2

Well, somehow another rear in formation and he hadn't cleared his.

00:45:58 Speaker 2

And he pulled the trigger and the bullet went way up in the air.

00:46:01 Speaker 2

Thought that was funny and he just laughed and kept it very funny.

00:46:06 Speaker 1

Replay.

00:46:06 Speaker 2

A certain amount of danger to it, I guess, but now.

00:46:10 Speaker 2

Supposed to do that?

00:46:12 Speaker 1

Do you have any?

00:46:15 Speaker 2

Well, there's one.

00:46:17 Speaker 1

Talk about it. Who's in it?

00:46:19 Speaker 2

Well, that was taken after I got back from overseas.

00:46:25 Speaker 2

Just to stand in uniform with the scattered medals on it.

00:46:34 Speaker 1

When was it taken?

00:46:35 Speaker 1

You got back.

00:46:36 Speaker 2

After I get back.

00:46:39 Speaker 1

Do you recall the day your service ended?

00:46:43 Speaker 2

Who made like it was?

00:46:47 Speaker 2

June of 46.

00:46:50 Speaker 2

I had a.

00:46:53 Speaker 2

Interesting assignment.

00:46:56 Speaker 2

Because my injuries, they didn't know what to.

00:46:58 Speaker 2

With me, they.

00:47:00 Speaker 2

I couldn't go back into active duty and there was everybody that time anyway.

00:47:06 Speaker 2

So I was classified limited service.

00:47:11 Speaker 2

And it's a.

00:47:13 Speaker 2

It was a policy them to send injured people back to a hospital nearest their home. The nearest hospital at that time was The Greenbrier Hotel. It had been converted into Ashford General Hospital.

00:47:25 Speaker 2

So when I come back from overseas, I was immediately sent to the Greenbrier as a patient.

00:47:32 Speaker 2

And they admitted to them anything they could do for me, but they weren't going to release me.

00:47:38 Speaker 2

And I said, what am I supposed to?

00:47:40 Speaker 2

So we'll get all stores and sign up for some kind of work.

00:47:43 Speaker 2

Silent down to sign up and one fella in front of me.

00:47:48 Speaker 2

Ready to sign up? And I said, what do?

00:47:50 Speaker 2

What are you going to apply?

00:47:51 Speaker 2

He said I'm going to get on here at the extra General Hospital.

00:47:55 Speaker 2

Said, well, what would you do here?

00:47:58 Speaker 2

He.

00:47:59 Speaker 2

I'll be a recreation officer, I.

00:48:01 Speaker 2

What does the recreation officer do in the hospital?

00:48:04 Speaker 2

He said you play golf all day.

00:48:06 Speaker 2

So I was always sign.

00:48:09 Speaker 2

I would have been a patient at the hospital for a year.

00:48:12 Speaker 2

And the Ryan frenemy said he was going to Ohio State.

00:48:14 Speaker 2

I thought how can you go Ohio State?

00:48:17 Speaker 2

There's no military post.

00:48:19 Speaker 2

Oh yes, there is the ROTC unit.

00:48:22 Speaker 2

So my thoughts started swirling midnight when I got ready to sign up. I said could I get a WBU in the RTC in?

00:48:29 Speaker 2

Sure, if you want to your excess baggage. And so instead of starting to run by and playing golf all year, I came up to morning town. I was on the staff for the Military department.

00:48:38 Speaker 2

My last year in service, teaching RTC students basic training so.

00:48:44 Speaker 2

Got a break in that stayed home and came down and I was officially.

00:48:51 Speaker 2

First Lieutenant. Basic training.

00:48:52 Speaker 2

But I was assistant PMS and T they call part of the military staff Professor of Military Science and tactics.

00:49:03 Speaker 2

That was kind of fun the way because most of the stuff that had never been overseas, they were just all army people and one other fella who was in the same category I was in.

00:49:16 Speaker 2

Had been assigned the same way and we became very good friends.

00:49:19 Speaker 2

He'd been in combat too.

00:49:21 Speaker 2

So I made a good friend that way and that's How I Met my first wife, actually.

00:49:27 Speaker 2

She was a senior college up here and I was on the staff of the Military Department.

00:49:33 Speaker 2

So we dated.

00:49:36 Speaker 2

Ran around together.

00:49:37 Speaker 1

How many of your friends do you keep in touch with?

00:49:41 Speaker 2

Not too many now because most them are gone. They keep.

00:49:46 Speaker 2

The one in North Dakota.

00:49:49 Speaker 2

We we correspond.

00:49:51 Speaker 2

We had gone overseas together and.

00:49:55 Speaker 2

So, but there aren't too many here.

00:49:59 Speaker 2

Actual more than I served with around that, some college friends and people like that still around, but.

00:50:07 Speaker 2

We'll run it out.

00:50:08 Speaker 1

Can you join a veterans association?

00:50:10 Speaker 2

They've joined many of them.

00:50:11 Speaker 2

Just.

00:50:12 Speaker 2

I.

00:50:13 Speaker 2

Don't know why I just.

00:50:19 Speaker 2

The American Legion wanted me to join the Veterans foreign, but I didn't really see a whole lot of benefit to me and I was busy doing other things so.

00:50:29 Speaker 1

Do we have time to talk about his?

