

**Henry C. Einolf Interview**

Company L, 319th Inf Reg

*(Library of Congress: Veterans History Project; interviewed by Brian Bailey, Kai Dambach, Edward Green)*

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

00:00:04 Speaker 1

I'm Edward Greene and.

00:00:06 Speaker 2

I am Brian Bailey and we are going to be doing interview and tie dumb. Bach is going to be the.

00:00:12 Speaker 2

We are interviewing Henry C Ironoff.

00:00:17 Speaker 3

OK. Who just first?

00:00:20 Speaker 1

OK.

00:00:26 Speaker 1

Where's you live in?

00:00:27 Speaker 1

Have you lived here for a long time?

00:00:29 Speaker 3

Yeah, 87 years.

00:00:29 Speaker 3

Seven years.

00:00:32 Speaker 1

So you were born and raised here.

00:00:34 Speaker 3

Yeah, it.

00:00:34 Speaker 3

I was raised, born in Baltimore, raised in Baltimore.

00:00:38 Speaker 3

Didn't move until.

00:00:40 Speaker 3

1968 and moved into Laurel, MD.

00:00:43 Speaker 1

Mm.

00:00:44 Speaker 3

And I lived there ever since.

00:00:46 Speaker 1

Have you had a?

00:00:46 Speaker 1

Pretty much your whole family has lived here.

00:00:49 Speaker 3

Yes.

00:00:52 Speaker 1

When did you?

00:00:53 Speaker 1

Decide that you wanted to enlist in the army.

00:00:55 Speaker 3

When, when did I decide? I don't know what caused me to do it, but.

00:01:01 Speaker 3

In October of 1942, I just went and listened.

00:01:07 Speaker 3

Figured I'd get drafted.

00:01:09 Speaker 3

Some next year, something they might show me anywhere they wanted to it. If I if I enlisted, I could maybe choose my service.

00:01:20 Speaker 3

Well, comes out. You don't do that.

00:01:21

Yeah.

00:01:23 Speaker 3

So I wound up with the 88th Infantry Division in the camp. Gruber, Oklahoma, which is.

00:01:31 Speaker 3

In a little town called Muskogee. OK.

00:01:34 Speaker 4

Mm.

00:01:35 Speaker 3

And I was there only about 3 months and they called me up the headquarters and said take some tests.

00:01:45 Speaker 3

And I didn't know why I was doing it, but I took some tests and.

00:01:49 Speaker 3

Little while later, a couple couple weeks later, I guess it was, they said.

00:01:54 Speaker 3

You're going to college.

00:01:57 Speaker 3

Was put in the ASTP program.

00:02:00 Speaker 3

The army specialized.

00:02:01 Speaker 3

Program and what they were doing was trying to prepare these young fellas like myself.

00:02:09 Speaker 3

To be engineers to reconstruct Europe after we ruined it.

00:02:15 Speaker 3

Well, the program lasted only about 10 months because they had so many. What they said intelligent young men in this group and they needed intelligent young men in the service so.

00:02:30 Speaker 3

He broke it up and they sent me to.

00:02:33 Speaker 3

Yuma, AZ.

00:02:37 Speaker 3

And the 80th Infantry Division at the time was in Yuma, AZ. Training getting some of their last training in the desert.

00:02:44 Speaker 3

So we assumed it was so.

00:02:46 Speaker 3

There they were going to send us into the.

00:02:49 Speaker 3

But they didn't.

00:02:50 Speaker 3

We went back to.

00:02:53 Speaker 3

Fort Meade and around not Fort Meade, Fort whatever it was, wherever you leave from.

00:02:59 Speaker 3

In New Jersey, and I came over.

00:03:02 Speaker 3

Sees.

00:03:04 Speaker 3

To Macclesfield, England.

00:03:07 Speaker 3

And stay there for a couple of months and then.

00:03:09 Speaker 3

Over to Europe.

00:03:12 Speaker 3

Related in July, not in the we didn't go in and the first day invasion we landed in July.

00:03:19 Speaker 3

And we did a lot of lot of protecting of the roads while we were moving equipment and so forth.

00:03:27 Speaker 3

And then finally, we got into the point where we were ready to go.

00:03:30 Speaker 3

Battle.

00:03:32 Speaker 3

And Sam, we did.

00:03:34 Speaker 1

And what kind of training did you have?

00:03:37 Speaker 1

You were.

00:03:39 Speaker 1

What kind of training did you undergo?

00:03:41 Speaker 3

Very little.

00:03:43 Speaker 3

Very little because I was only in in the 88th for a couple of months and I got.

00:03:50 Speaker 3

Thrown out of the AST Peace School and writing into the desert.

00:03:54 Speaker 3

And so I had very little training.

00:03:56 Speaker 3

I got it all by action by going out and doing what I had to.

00:04:00 Speaker 3

Do and learning why not keep away from getting killed?

00:04:06 Speaker 3

If that's possible.

00:04:11 Speaker 1

Umm, what kind of supplies were standard when you were when you went out?

00:04:16 Speaker 3

Supplies. Yeah, like.

00:04:19 Speaker 2

A type of weaponry.

00:04:21 Speaker 2

Kind of close to what did you carry?

00:04:24 Speaker 2

Your back when you're.

00:04:25 Speaker 3

Well, we had.

00:04:27 Speaker 3

We had regular winter clothes and we had.

00:04:30 Speaker 3

For summertime and we had one set of.

00:04:34 Speaker 3

Or maybe we had two sets of khakis and one set of.

00:04:38 Speaker 3

And.

00:04:40 Speaker 3

They gave us everything from your feet up.

00:04:44 Speaker 3

Underwared, but the whole the whole work.

00:04:49 Speaker 3

And we always, we always had everything we needed as far as supplies and equipment and concerned while we were here in the States.

00:04:59 Speaker 3

Didn't necessarily, meaning we had it when we were.

00:05:03 Speaker 1

Pretty much just picked it up as.

00:05:05 Speaker 1

Went along, yeah.

00:05:11 Speaker 1

What was the first campaign that you actually were in action?

00:05:15 Speaker 3

For first time we went into action, yeah.

00:05:19 Speaker 3

We were called to make an attack on our woods that the Germans were supposedly being.

00:05:27 Speaker 3

And the entry to that wooded area was a vast, vast plain.

00:05:33 Speaker 3

And we made the attack in the morning and we started out across the plane.

00:05:40 Speaker 3

And the Germans evidently had it all zeroed in.

00:05:45 Speaker 3

And they slaughtered us.

00:05:47 Speaker 3

They had everything that they could throw at us. They threw at us, so we did we.

00:05:52 Speaker 3

It went back, but we lost our company commander that day and his runner and about 10 other guys.

00:06:01 Speaker 3

We lost a number of guys by losing their minds.

00:06:06 Speaker 3

It was just too much for some people to.

00:06:08 Speaker 3

That first.

00:06:09 Speaker 3

When the first show hits beside you, you know you made me mess your pants. But.

00:06:18 Speaker 1

Psychological effects.

00:06:20 Speaker 1

Pretty intense, you'd say.

00:06:22 Speaker 1

The psychological effects were pretty intense psychological effects for the men that were being shelled, basically.

00:06:32 Speaker 3

No, I don't understand what you're asking me.

00:06:36 Speaker 1

Did it affect them mentally?

00:06:37 Speaker 1

Like what do you see?

00:06:38 Speaker 3

Oh, yes, yes.

00:06:41 Speaker 3

Our company Sergeant.

00:06:44 Speaker 3

When he, when he. When he finally got back, he laid on the ground and oh, he says was Easter.

00:06:50 Speaker 3

Is a time for eggs and and Easter time is a time for eggs and time for eggs.

00:06:55 Speaker 3

Time and he said that.

00:06:57 Speaker 3

Over and over and over and over again.

00:07:00 Speaker 3

And they finally.

00:07:03 Speaker 3

Other guys just ran hell bent for election.

00:07:07 Speaker 3



They didn't come back to our line.

00:07:09 Speaker 3

Went they kept on going.

00:07:12 Speaker 3

It's it's a pretty frightening experience for the first shot. You know, when the bombs are dropping all around you, it's it's kind of frightening.

00:07:18 Speaker 1

Start off.

00:07:26 Speaker 1

Did you?

00:07:27 Speaker 2

I was wondering how long you're stationed in every place.

00:07:27

And.

00:07:30 Speaker 3

Watch it.

00:07:30 Speaker 2

How like for what lengths of periods of time were you at certain stations in Europe?

00:07:37 Speaker 3

I was.

00:07:38 Speaker 3

I was at the 88th Division for about 3 months with the.

00:07:44 Speaker 3

Astp about 10 months.

00:07:47 Speaker 3

And then from.

00:07:51 Speaker 3

About April of 1943.

00:07:52 Speaker 4

I.

00:07:56 Speaker 3

Through 1945, I was with the 80th Division.

00:08:01 Speaker 3

And we went from July to.

00:08:05 Speaker 3

Was.

00:08:06 Speaker 3

In from July to.

00:08:07 Speaker 3

18th of January when I got shot.

00:08:11 Speaker 3

Whatever that period is, six, 7-8 months.

00:08:15 Speaker 3

We were in from the time we left to go to to Europe.

00:08:20 Speaker 3

Were in absolute contact with the enemy all the way through January 18th except for Christmas Day before Christmas and Christmas.

00:08:30 Speaker 3

Day. I don't know whether they just decided to.

00:08:33 Speaker 3

Stop fighting and let us have Christmas or not. But it wasn't anything going on.

00:08:42 Speaker 2

What were the events leading up to the?

00:08:44 Speaker 2

Of the bulge.

00:08:45 Speaker 3

Away. Away. But.

00:08:45 Speaker 2

What were the events leading up to the Battle of Bulge? Yes.

00:08:48 Speaker 3

Defenses.

00:08:51 Speaker 3

And the house.

00:08:54 Speaker 3

The housing was just about the offences Bennett then.

00:08:59 Speaker 3

On on the outside of the.

00:09:02 Speaker 3

City of Stockholm.

00:09:06 Speaker 3

It was.

00:09:07 Speaker 3

As cold as cold as could be during the battle of.

00:09:12 Speaker 3

Unreasonable. How cold it was and I was with Patton's Third Army and we were down near Sarbrook. And when they battle, the bulge happened and we didn't have winter clothes, but they threw us on trucks and took us up to Luxembourg.

00:09:29 Speaker 3

And so we were there with with just.

00:09:32 Speaker 3

Jackets we had no winter boots or no gloves.

00:09:38 Speaker 3

It's fuel jackets. Joe is cold.

00:09:40 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:09:41 Speaker 3

Really cold.

00:09:44 Speaker 2

Do you think morale and the soldiers is a big factor during the battle?

00:09:45

OK.

00:09:47

Involved.

00:09:48 Speaker 2

You watch the morale of the soldiers.

00:09:52 Speaker 3

I don't know that that any the soldiers were.

00:09:57 Speaker 3

In despair about it.

00:09:59 Speaker 3

Knew where we had.

00:10:00 Speaker 3

Do when we got there and we did what we had to do.

00:10:05 Speaker 3

I.

00:10:05 Speaker 3

I didn't see any effect of anybody having a problem with it.

00:10:10 Speaker 3

The only problem we had was seeing.

00:10:14 Speaker 3

Guys that were dressed like Americans that were German.

00:10:19 Speaker 3

And that's what they.

00:10:20 Speaker 3

They captured the whole 106 division and captured the whole division.

00:10:26 Speaker 3

And that's about 15,000 men.

00:10:30 Speaker 3

Germans captured him in the.

00:10:32 Speaker 3

A bulge.

00:10:33

Mm.

00:10:34 Speaker 3

And.

00:10:37 Speaker 3

I met some of them.

00:10:38 Speaker 3

I've seen them at A at a dinner that they have every year in memory of their capture.

00:10:45 Speaker 3

Sounds stupid to do it, but they have a dinner to memory of their capture.

00:10:52 Speaker 1

Where they kept his prisoners award for where they kept his prisoners of war for a long period.

00:10:56 Speaker 3

Of time they had the dinner, just honored the fact that they got captured.

00:11:01 Speaker 3

The way I think about it.

00:11:03 Speaker 3

It's kind of dumb to me, but.

00:11:06 Speaker 3

They do it to go to Fort me every year.

00:11:09

Yeah.

00:11:09 Speaker 3

And he had this big dinner or big lunch.

00:11:16 Speaker 3

Over here.

00:11:16

Yeah.

00:11:17 Speaker 3

Question.

00:11:20 Speaker 2

I heard that the German offensive was surprising, that the Allies are preoccupied.

00:11:25 Speaker 3

Yes, it was.

00:11:26 Speaker 3

Yeah, nobody knew that was gonna happen. Even it.

00:11:29 Speaker 3

Eisenhower didn't know. We're gonna have.

00:11:32 Speaker 3

They figured Jagers were moving back so fast that they'd never be able to do anything but what they were doing is bringing everybody back. So they.

00:11:40 Speaker 3

Put them together.

00:11:40 Speaker 3

Together and make them go forward.

00:11:43 Speaker 3

Yeah, they the line where they hit, they probably had a division spread out over 10 miles.

00:11:49 Speaker 3

And then that's not much of A defense.

00:11:51 Speaker 3

10 miles with just one division is only 15,000 people.

00:11:57 Speaker 3

And you know that's not. It's not a lot of people.

00:12:00 Speaker 3

Particularly when you when they're sending in 100 and 150 tanks.

00:12:06 Speaker 3

Which they.

00:12:06 Speaker 3

You know, it was a really a tank.

00:12:09 Speaker 3

It was a tank battle on their part and we were trying to get their tanks with our guns.

00:12:16 Speaker 3

And it doesn't work. Doesn't work.

00:12:17 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:12:21 Speaker 3

And the Germans killed a lot of guys in Malmudi. Did you ever hear a malamudy? No.

00:12:28 Speaker 3

We're doing the battle to bulge when they captured a whole bunch of Americans, probably 80 or 90 Americans, and they had them in a in a forest area, and he brought up a.

00:12:42 Speaker 3

Drop the flat back down and truck near the machine gun there.

00:12:45 Speaker 3

Just BL.

00:12:46 Speaker 3

Yes.

00:12:47 Speaker 3

Killed everybody.

00:12:49 Speaker 3

I'm 90 guys.

00:12:51 Speaker 1

What was the wreath?

00:12:52 Speaker 1

Was there a reason for?

00:12:53 Speaker 1

Or.

00:12:54 Speaker 1

Was there a reason for it?

00:12:57 Speaker 3

Yeah, how they fight.

00:12:58

Well.

00:13:00 Speaker 3

You know, you don't need a reason to kill.

00:13:05 Speaker 3

When you're in a war anyway.

00:13:09 Speaker 1

Umm uh.

00:13:11 Speaker 1

What other significant things would you say that?

00:13:14 Speaker 1

What other significant things did you do in the battle of the bulge like that really stand out?

00:13:20 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:13:23 Speaker 3

Not not.

00:13:24 Speaker 3

It's the only significant thing happened is that I was shot as far as I'm concerned, but we were.

00:13:33 Speaker 3

We were attacking out of out of Luxembourg and we got up into a little town called Anoka NOCHER.

00:13:42 Speaker 3



And.

00:13:44 Speaker 3

The battalion commander called me to his headquarters one night and he said I want you to go.

00:13:51 Speaker 3

And tell me how many Germans are up in Wilkes.

00:13:55 Speaker 3

Of course I got.

00:13:55

So.

00:13:56 Speaker 3

How can I tell them that? So I went anyway.

00:14:01 Speaker 3

When I came back, I told him what I thought anyway and the Apollo themed Apollo Germond there could hear him moving around talking.

00:14:08 Speaker 3

Each other.

00:14:10 Speaker 3

And so we decided to attack them the next morning.

00:14:15 Speaker 3

And that's the morning when I starting across the field and there was a barn over here and there was a machine gunner there and my squad was lined out across this field.

00:14:28 Speaker 3

This guy shot got me.

00:14:31 Speaker 3

And knocked me out for good.

00:14:35 Speaker 3

That was the end of me.

00:14:37 Speaker 1

Doesn't.

00:14:38 Speaker 3

I got a wound that I couldn't go back.

00:14:45 Speaker 1

How do you fare with the medical attention you ruin?

00:14:48 Speaker 1

How did you get medical attention? You ruined.

00:14:51 Speaker 3

I was taken care of by German doctors.

00:14:54 Speaker 3

We had captured a couple German doctors and we had them in a barn and they took me into the barn.

00:15:00 Speaker 3

And a.

00:15:00 Speaker 3

So doctors treated me and then I think about two days later I was put in an ambulance and put in the rear.

00:15:11 Speaker 3

And they operated on me that the same day I got there and to see if there was any shells left in any parts of the show in the and it wasn't.

00:15:22 Speaker 3

Then I lived in on a hospital in England.

00:15:26 Speaker 3

And then I was here probably.

00:15:30 Speaker 3

Four or five.

00:15:31 Speaker 3

And then he decided to look to see what nerve damage there was.

00:15:36 Speaker 3

So he's open up the back of my leg and fixed a nerve.

00:15:41 Speaker 4

Yeah.

00:15:42 Speaker 3

And I got a discharge.

00:15:47 Speaker 1

The handbags was letting you allies or German ambulance?

00:15:53 Speaker 3

American yeah.

00:15:55 Speaker 1

We're Germans. Very friendly. I mean the.

00:15:58 Speaker 3

The doctors were Friendly's can be.

00:16:01 Speaker 3

They had no problem with the doctors.

00:16:03 Speaker 1

Didn't feel like they had any.

00:16:04 Speaker 3

Kind of. You know, they I guess they were. What a doctor supposed to be. Take care of anybody that's sick.

00:16:12 Speaker 3

And so that's the way they.

00:16:14 Speaker 3

I mean, they could have killed me as and they could have killed anybody in that barn.

00:16:18 Speaker 3

If they wanted to, but.

00:16:21 Speaker 3

They had no weapons, but they could.

00:16:23 Speaker 3

Choked us to death or get done something to it, you know.

00:16:32 Speaker 1

What? What sort of objectives were you assigned to?

00:16:37 Speaker 1

What sort of objectives were you assigned during your campaigns in the battle?

00:16:41 Speaker 1

The bulge. What objective?

00:16:43 Speaker 1

Yeah. Like, what were you?

00:16:44 Speaker 1

What was your goals?

00:16:46 Speaker 1

Your goals.

00:16:47 Speaker 3

The goal was to to.

00:16:50 Speaker 3

To cut off the Germans, the bulge was like this.

00:16:56 Speaker 3

And Patton was down here in Saarbrucken and we came.

00:17:00 Speaker 3

And.

00:17:00 Speaker 3

Hit this side and they had somebody in the north coming this side.

00:17:04 Speaker 3

We went that way, so we cut these guys off and then we went that way and wiped them out.

00:17:11 Speaker 3

And got the line back to where it was.

00:17:17 Speaker 1

Umm.

00:17:19 Speaker 1

Oh, the purple hearts that you obtained were those from.

00:17:23 Speaker 3

What's that?

00:17:23 Speaker 1

The awards you received were those.

00:17:26 Speaker 1

Being wounded in combat.

00:17:29 Speaker 3

Yeah. Well, the Purple Heart, of course, is one of the I got 3 purple hearts.

00:17:36 Speaker 3

I had two minor wounds that I got and then I got.

00:17:39 Speaker 3

One on the leg to.

00:17:41 Speaker 3

Paralyze me for a while.

00:17:45 Speaker 3

I got that in a bulge.

00:17:48 Speaker 1

Umm you had V for valor, was that?

00:17:52 Speaker 3

Right.

00:17:52 Speaker 1

What was the V for Valor award that you received for?

00:17:56 Speaker 3

I never did find out.

00:17:59 Speaker 3

Somebody must have seen me do something and told the commander in a.

00:18:04 Speaker 3

What?

00:18:05 Speaker 3

Somebody sees somebody do something and report it and then you get a.

00:18:10 Speaker 3

You don't know what you're doing. You know you don't know if that's spectacular or what you do, what you have to do.

00:18:17 Speaker 3

We were well trained soldiers.

00:18:20 Speaker 3

Very well trained.

00:18:23 Speaker 3

You know every guy I was with had gone through all the all the training that was necessary. There were everyone of good soldiers.

00:18:23 Speaker 1

How are you doing?

00:18:33 Speaker 1

Even though it was like, even though you were, you went into the warp relatively soon after enlisting.

00:18:39 Speaker 1

Was still. You got all the training.

00:18:39 Speaker 3

Yeah, I was only one of 12.

00:18:45 Speaker 3

So still the guys.

00:18:46 Speaker 3

Me as we went along, you know.

00:18:49 Speaker 1

Pretty.

00:18:52 Speaker 3

They taught me so well. I became nurse, their Sergeant.

00:18:56 Speaker 3

Allow was a staff Sergeant and squad leader.

00:19:00 Speaker 1

Was the what is that exactly like?

00:19:04 Speaker 3

It.

00:19:04 Speaker 1

Like well in rankings.

00:19:07 Speaker 1

Would that?

00:19:07 Speaker 3

Staff Sergeant.

00:19:08 Speaker 3

That's that's the Top Rank of a non commissioned officer.

00:19:12 Speaker 1

Your company.

00:19:14 Speaker 1

Being as start, what would some of your duties be a staff Sergeant like?

00:19:18 Speaker 3

In this case, leaders leader, squad of Rifleman.

00:19:23 Speaker 3

That's all you're doing. That's it.

00:19:27 Speaker 3

You know the commander they've attacked, they platoons leader, gets an objective.

00:19:32

Is it?

00:19:33 Speaker 3

And he calls us in the three staff sergeants, one in each put for each platoon.

00:19:39 Speaker 3

I mean, for each squad tells us what the objective is and we go back and tell our guys and then we go do it.

00:19:47 Speaker 2

So how many men were you in charge of?

00:19:49 Speaker 3

Alright.

00:19:49 Speaker 2

How many?

00:19:50 Speaker 2

Were you in charge of 12?

00:19:53 Speaker 3

Well, yeah. Every every platoon had three squads, so each squad had a staff Sergeant as the leader and a corporal as the second in command.

00:19:54 Speaker 1

Felt totally smug.

00:20:10 Speaker 3

Sometimes I'd come corporal would become Sergeant.

00:20:14 Speaker 3

Not too often.

00:20:14 Speaker 1

Umm.

00:20:16 Speaker 1

Why would that? When would that occur?

00:20:17 Speaker 3

Well, Remy did something maybe special.

00:20:23 Speaker 1

Umm after the after you were discharged, how did?

00:20:28 Speaker 1

Did you follow up with the war and follow up with the war and how things were?

00:20:30 Speaker 3

Did I what?



00:20:33 Speaker 3

Oh yes, I do to this day.

00:20:37 Speaker 3

I watched military history channel just about every night.

00:20:40 Speaker 3

Do you ever watch it all the time? So you know what it's like?

00:20:42 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:20:42

Yes.

00:20:45 Speaker 3

I watch it all the time.

00:20:48 Speaker 1

Some of the replicas I do now with the.

00:20:52 Speaker 1

Ah.

00:20:54 Speaker 1

By.

00:20:56 Speaker 1

Air fights.

00:20:59 Speaker 2

Fight.

00:20:59 Speaker 1

Dog fights and Dom, how they.

00:21:03 Speaker 1

Recreate some of the scenarios that the yeah, it's pretty amazing.

00:21:07 Speaker 3

Did you see Saving Private Ryan or something?

00:21:11 Speaker 1

Yeah, I heard that the.

00:21:15 Speaker 1

Accounts were a little different from the movie rather than.

00:21:19 Speaker 1

What actually happened?

00:21:19 Speaker 3

Fair.

00:21:20 Speaker 3

So probably so.

00:21:24 Speaker 3

They couldn't. I guess they had to make it more appealing.

00:21:29 Speaker 3

There was probably a lot more bloodshed than they showed, you know, and they don't.

00:21:32 Speaker 3

To show that.

00:21:33 Speaker 1

They had a fair amount, but some of the.

00:21:37 Speaker 1

Inaccuracies with the.

00:21:41 Speaker 1

Ah, killing them actually landing on.

00:21:43 Speaker 3

Yeah, running, seeing them run into a machine gun with machine gun fire. That, and they're running into the machine gun.

00:21:50 Speaker 3

Those kind of things don't happen, you know. Do you dead?

00:21:56 Speaker 3

You don't do those kind of crazy things.

00:22:01 Speaker 2

I want to know when you found out about Norman do when you found out about Normandy.

00:22:05 Speaker 3

What's that?

00:22:07 Speaker 3

When I found out about it.

00:22:11 Speaker 2

Umm.

00:22:14 Speaker 3

I think I was still.

00:22:15 Speaker 3

I was still.

00:22:17 Speaker 1

At.

00:22:18 Speaker 3

California maneuver.

00:22:21 Speaker 3

So that would have been.

00:22:23 Speaker 3

June or July of 1943.

00:22:28 Speaker 3

Yeah.

00:22:30 Speaker 1

When you were actually overseas, how was your when you were overseas? How was your?

00:22:36 Speaker 1

How are you able to relay back to I guess?

00:22:41 Speaker 1

The home front.

00:22:42 Speaker 1

Like were you able to get messages out relatively easily?

00:22:46 Speaker 3

Adults of Clay's understand what you're saying. Again it.

00:22:50 Speaker 1

When new, when any news like developed on the war overall, how able were you?

00:22:57 Speaker 1

Get that information.

00:22:58 Speaker 1

When you were actually out in the field.

00:22:59 Speaker 3

That's the.

00:23:02 Speaker 3

They had it in the in the English papers.

00:23:07 Speaker 3

And also we had the army had a paper that they put out, so we had good information.

00:23:15 Speaker 3

And almost up to date.

00:23:18 Speaker 3

Almost up to date.

00:23:20 Speaker 1

Maybe a couple days.

00:23:21 Speaker 3

Yeah, yeah.

00:23:22 Speaker 3

It takes a couple days for somebody to write it up and then run.

00:23:25 Speaker 3

And bring it out, you know.

00:23:27 Speaker 3

Yeah, you know, it wasn't instantaneous by any stretch of the imagination.

00:23:33 Speaker 2

Accurate weather is newspapers, did they?

00:23:33

Yeah.

00:23:37 Speaker 2

Lie about any events or.

00:23:39 Speaker 2

The newspapers leave out any events that, let's say, an ally. The Allies lost the battle.

00:23:44 Speaker 2

Leave stuff out like that to keep people out.

00:23:48 Speaker 3

To my knowledge, they never did write that up.

00:23:51 Speaker 3

We lost a number of.

00:23:52 Speaker 3

What do you believe it or not, we did.

00:23:56 Speaker 3

We've tried to attack a mountain called a month too long and they sent.

00:24:05 Speaker 3

They sent it.

00:24:08 Speaker 3

Platoon 2 platoons of of the company out up the mountainside and it got ripped to pieces and they bring them back down. The next day they send up a couple, a couple of squads from K company.

00:24:22 Speaker 3

Whip them.

00:24:24 Speaker 3

And finally, they asked us to do it.

00:24:28 Speaker 3

And I'm like bragging.

00:24:29 Speaker 3

But we did it.

00:24:30 Speaker 3

We got up to the top of the mountain.

00:24:34 Speaker 3

And that was a tough battle because.

00:24:37 Speaker 3

There was a long approach to get to the mountain and the Germans had 20mm A/C act guns and that's what they were firing at us.

00:24:48 Speaker 3

If one of them babies hit you, you know you're going.

00:24:50 Speaker 3

You're going to hurt.

00:24:51 Speaker 3

They were big shells about that big hunk of lead in the front that big, so they would hurt.

00:24:59 Speaker 3

And they were firing them right down on us.

00:25:02 Speaker 3

But we.

00:25:02 Speaker 3

We took them mountain.

00:25:06 Speaker 3

Still there.

00:25:07 Speaker 3

The mountains still there.

00:25:09 Speaker 1

Yeah. Is there like the more is there a memorial for?

00:25:12 Speaker 1

It or is it set up?

00:25:13 Speaker 1

As a memorial for.

00:25:15 Speaker 3

No, no, it says one of the things that you remember that's.

00:25:20 Speaker 3

You know.

00:25:21

Yeah.

00:25:24 Speaker 3

I'm not like a lot of.

00:25:26 Speaker 3

A lot of guys can almost tell you day instant.

00:25:30 Speaker 3

Incident minute. The minute what happened to him?

00:25:34 Speaker 3

I can't do that.

00:25:35 Speaker 1

Now.

00:25:35 Speaker 3

I just don't.

00:25:36 Speaker 3

I don't.

00:25:37 Speaker 3

And it's maybe because I don't want to remember. I guess if I would sit down and and.

00:25:42 Speaker 3

You.

00:25:43 Speaker 3

Tear my head apart. I could probably remember everything.

00:25:47 Speaker 3

But maybe I don't want to remember.

00:25:50 Speaker 3

It's not nice to see your friends get killed.

00:25:54 Speaker 3

You know, the day we went up went up the mountain, the guys right beside me got a bullet right in the Middle East head and he dropped.

00:26:05 Speaker 3

In a Senate and it's hard.

00:26:07 Speaker 3

It's hard to see the guys go.

00:26:10 Speaker 3

We had so.

00:26:11 Speaker 3

We've got replacements and before you knew the guy's name, they were gone.

00:26:16 Speaker 3

You know, you come in the morning.

00:26:17 Speaker 3

At night, they were thanked.

00:26:18 Speaker 3

Put him on an ambulance taking him out.

00:26:21 Speaker 3

That's the way it worked out.

00:26:24 Speaker 3

We had replacements replacement after replacement.

00:26:29 Speaker 3

And I think they did a disservice to some of the replacements. They took them from.

00:26:37 Speaker 3

Military police took him from that. They took it from quartermaster.

00:26:41 Speaker 3



They took it from all areas to fill in the units that were fighting and it was unfair to him because it really didn't have the proper training.

00:26:43 Speaker 4

Yeah.

00:26:52 Speaker 3

He didn't last long either.

00:26:57 Speaker 2

The turning point in the war where.

00:26:59 Speaker 2

Thought you.

00:27:01 Speaker 3

Turning point.

00:27:03 Speaker 3

Battle of vult? Yeah, I think so.

00:27:08 Speaker 3

That was it.

00:27:10 Speaker 3

It would have been the Saint.

00:27:11 Speaker 3

Breakout but.

00:27:12

The.

00:27:13 Speaker 3

Battle of Old Chapman.

00:27:16 Speaker 3

As we left, we left.

00:27:17 Speaker 3

Louis breakout and we went up and took Paris and not our outfit, but.

00:27:25 Speaker 3

The army took Paris and then we had to go back out of Paris and let go.

00:27:30 Speaker 3

Come in with his troops so that the French people would wave to go and say, oh man, you saved us.

00:27:38 Speaker 3

Wasn't true.

00:27:41 Speaker 3

But they let to go walk in there with his troops.

00:27:53 Speaker 1

Do you have any?

00:27:56 Speaker 2

When did you find?

00:27:57 Speaker 2

At the end of the war, what was your?

00:27:59 Speaker 2

Reaction to it.

00:28:01 Speaker 3

4/2 When did I found?

00:28:03 Speaker 3

About it, yeah.

00:28:07 Speaker 3

I guess when I was 20 years old.

00:28:11 Speaker 3

No.

00:28:12 Speaker 3

Where were we?

00:28:16 Speaker 3

Pearl Harbor happened.

00:28:19 Speaker 3

Yeah, we were down there at Neil Academy.

00:28:23 Speaker 4

Naval Academy.

00:28:24 Speaker 3

And yeah, we would enable Academy and we were they put us out of the out of the Naval Academy we were.

00:28:25 Speaker 4

The bells stop ringing and everything and they locked it. Lock to sit under.

00:28:30 Speaker 3

Way home and we down on a Hanover Street bridge and.

00:28:36 Speaker 3

Their cars all stopped and I rolled down the window and asked somebody next to it.

00:28:41 Speaker 3

You know, why do we get thrown out?

00:28:42 Speaker 3

The neighborhood.

00:28:45 Speaker 3

Pearl Harbor and of course, that was the beginning of the for us anyway.

00:28:53 Speaker 3

Because once that happened, then we had to go against Germany.

00:29:02 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:29:05 Speaker 1

After the after the war ended.

00:29:09 Speaker 1

How did you?

00:29:10 Speaker 1

You basically came back here and was it easy to restart like.

00:29:15 Speaker 1

Go back to.

00:29:16 Speaker 3

Was it easy?

00:29:17 Speaker 1

Yeah, like to just come back.

00:29:19 Speaker 3

Oh, it was easy, but I I wasn't.

00:29:21 Speaker 3

In too good of shape.

00:29:25 Speaker 3

I couldn't walk right.

00:29:26 Speaker 3

Was on crutches.

00:29:28 Speaker 3

And.

00:29:30 Speaker 3

But I got rid of the crutches finally and then I started to walk by myself.

00:29:35 Speaker 3

And I went back to.

00:29:37 Speaker 3

And I worked for the.

00:29:38 Speaker 3

For 43 years.

00:29:41 Speaker 3

And then retired.

00:29:43 Speaker 3

But I I got a little pretty well.

00:29:47 Speaker 3

Until 1991 and then this injury.

00:29:51 Speaker 3

Up with me.

00:29:53 Speaker 1

On the what happened?

00:29:55 Speaker 3

It's well, what has happened is I screwed up my back by walking with a limp.

00:30:02 Speaker 3

Favoring the leg just by just just my back out of shape, I went to a doctor not too long ago and he said you have a 40 year old need a 60 year old hip and a 200 year old back.

00:30:15 Speaker 1

So. Umm.

00:30:19 Speaker 3

My bag is really giving me all the problems.

00:30:22 Speaker 3

Even though the wound is in the in the leg.

00:30:25

Like.

00:30:29 Speaker 2

Your return home.

00:30:31 Speaker 3

Was how was.

00:30:34 Speaker 3

Yeah. Well, I didn't come home right away. I went to.

00:30:38 Speaker 3

Ashford General Hospital, which is down in white Sulphur Springs.

00:30:43 Speaker 3

And I stayed there for probably 3 months and then they told me I was discharged and.

00:30:51 Speaker 3

I.

00:30:51 Speaker 3

I hopped the plane general down there, had his private plane, and he was going up to Washington.

00:30:59 Speaker 3

He took me with him and dropped me in.

00:31:02 Speaker 3

And then I got him on a on a train or a bus and came home and.

00:31:08 Speaker 3

And got a taxi out of out of Baltimore Union Station.

00:31:13 Speaker 3

And surprise my.

00:31:14 Speaker 3

They didn't know I was coming.

00:31:23 Speaker 1

It surprises.

00:31:24 Speaker 3

Yeah.

00:31:24 Speaker 1

Good surprise to have him, have you?

00:31:26 Speaker 1

It was a good surprise to have you back, obviously.

00:31:30 Speaker 3

Hey again.

00:31:31 Speaker 1

It.

00:31:32 Speaker 1

It was good, good surprise for them.

00:31:34 Speaker 3

Oh yes, yeah.

00:31:36 Speaker 3

As for her to it?

00:31:39 Speaker 3

No.

00:31:41 Speaker 3

I went up to her house to see her and.

00:31:49 Speaker 3

She knew I was all crutches.

00:31:52 Speaker 3

My mother told her.

00:31:54 Speaker 3

And her father said, don't you dare say anything to that boy that.

00:31:54

Yeah.

00:31:59 Speaker 3

Bother him about being on crutches.

00:32:02 Speaker 3

And she didn't.

00:32:07 Speaker 2

You find out about Hitler's suicide.

00:32:10 Speaker 2

The end of the war.

00:32:12 Speaker 3

Just wanted.

00:32:14 Speaker 2

Your initial reaction.

00:32:18 Speaker 3

Have reaction really.

00:32:19

Yeah.

00:32:21 Speaker 3

No reason to be happy or sad about it, you know.

00:32:25 Speaker 3

I did what I had to do and I.

00:32:27 Speaker 3

Out of it, you know.

00:32:30 Speaker 3

I had your.

00:32:31 Speaker 3

I'm certainly glad that it happened, but I have, you know, I didn't throw the balloons up in here and all that stuff.

00:32:35

English.

00:32:44 Speaker 1

And.

00:32:47 Speaker 1

I think that's.

00:32:48

June.

00:32:49

32 minutes. What we've we've hit the 32 minute mark, so we're fine.

00:32:53 Speaker 1

Did you have any questions at all?

00:32:56 Speaker 3

Any questions?

00:32:57

I'm.

00:32:57 Speaker 3

Fine, no.

00:33:00 Speaker 3



Do you have any more?

00:33:05 Speaker 1

Really.

00:33:09 Speaker 2

Any closing statements you have.

00:33:11 Speaker 2

Any closing statements or memorable?

00:33:15 Speaker 3

No, the only closing statement I would make is that.

00:33:21 Speaker 3

Glad I enlisted in the service.

00:33:25 Speaker 3

Glad I got out of it alive.

00:33:29 Speaker 3

I'm sorry for all the guys that killed.

00:33:33 Speaker 3

And.

00:33:34 Speaker 3

For all.

00:33:34 Speaker 3

Guys that were wounded in or in pain now.

00:33:39 Speaker 3

Tonight.

00:33:43 Speaker 3

Were called it whatever well called called us.

00:33:48 Speaker 3

Some kind of generation?

00:33:51 Speaker 3

Tom Brokaw wrote a book.

00:33:53 Speaker 4

Great grandmother, greatest generation, greatest generation calls.

00:33:58 Speaker 3

Well.

00:34:00 Speaker 3

I guess what he said is true, but I don't think that if the same thing would have happened tomorrow.

00:34:07 Speaker 3

And I don't how old you guys are.

00:34:09 Speaker 3

What are you 1817817181817?

00:34:11

So each team.

00:34:13

17.

00:34:16 Speaker 3

In a couple of years, you'd probably join the service.

00:34:20 Speaker 3

And you would.

00:34:21 Speaker 3

And you would join it or you'd be be drafted, but you would do as well as we did.

00:34:24 Speaker 1

Grasshopper.

00:34:30 Speaker 3

You'd be trained to do.

00:34:32 Speaker 3

So. Umm.

00:34:34 Speaker 3

Know that anybody that would go today and is proving itself in Iraq and Afghanistan and places like that, the guys are doing a hell of a job and this generation can do the same thing that we did.

00:34:44

Yeah.

00:34:49 Speaker 3

I don't believe that we were the greatest generation.

00:34:52 Speaker 4

At.

00:34:52

The time.

00:34:53 Speaker 3

Maybe we were, but that's because of what we had to do.

00:34:56 Speaker 3

You guys are you guys would do it too.

00:35:00 Speaker 3

I know you would.

00:35:03 Speaker 3

Am I right?

00:35:04 Speaker 3

Yeah, you go.

00:35:06 Speaker 3

There you go.

00:35:10 Speaker 4

Hmm.

00:35:10 Speaker 3

You're next.

00:35:13 Speaker 1

Umm for closing statement.

00:35:16 Speaker 1

For.

00:35:18 Speaker 1

My questions.

00:35:19 Speaker 3

I don't have any more quest.

00:35:22 Speaker 1

ions, I think I'm good.

00:35:24 Speaker 3

You're done.

00:35:27 Speaker 3

Anymore.

00:35:29 Speaker 3

Get what you.

00:35:30 Speaker 3

Yes, yes.

00:35:34 Speaker 4

Exactly.

00:35:42 Speaker 3

Here I was.

00:35:44 Speaker 1

Picture.

00:35:46 Speaker 1

You were like 23, right?

00:35:48 Speaker 3

I was maybe 21.

00:35:50 Speaker 1

21.

00:35:51 Speaker 3

I know I had AB because I celebrated my 21st birthday in Camp Groover, Oklahoma.

00:36:01 Speaker 3

And.

00:36:03 Speaker 3

I went to the PX and bought a cupcake and put a match in it.

00:36:09 Speaker 3

Match blew it out and sang happy birthday to myself.

00:36:18 Speaker 3

You want to see that?

00:36:21 Speaker 4

Shirt.

00:36:24

Thanks.

00:36:26 Speaker 1

I see the awards as well. I see the awards as well.

00:36:26 Speaker 4

Get it?

00:36:27 Speaker 3

Yeah.

00:36:29 Speaker 3

Shared it in.

00:36:32 Speaker 4

Yeah.

00:36:37 Speaker 4

I.

00:36:41 Speaker 1

So this was.

00:36:43 Speaker 1

The Purple Heart.

00:36:44 Speaker 3

Hearts on top.

00:36:45 Speaker 1

The Yep.

00:36:47 Speaker 4

Three stars on it.

00:36:51 Speaker 4

3 exchanges.

00:36:57 Speaker 1

That was. Was this the V for valour in the middle?

00:37:00 Speaker 1

This is at the V for valour.

00:37:01 Speaker 3

Yeah. Let's see.

00:37:03 Speaker 3

This is the second.

00:37:05 Speaker 3

This is the third award, 33 there and three up here.

00:37:12 Speaker 3

One and 2/3.

00:37:13

Yeah.

00:37:14 Speaker 3

This is the.

00:37:15 Speaker 3

This is an infantry badge.

00:37:18 Speaker 3

And this is a combat entry bed.

00:37:20 Speaker 1

What's the difference beside?

00:37:22 Speaker 3

What do you think of the difference?

00:37:24 Speaker 1

Combat not in combat.

00:37:27 Speaker 3

When you're in the infantry, you get this.

00:37:30 Speaker 3

You go to war, you get that.

00:37:33

And.

00:37:35 Speaker 3

That's probably.

00:37:37 Speaker 3

I don't know what that machine gun.

00:37:40 Speaker 1

Sharp shooter.

00:37:41 Speaker 3

This is rifle.

00:37:45 Speaker 3

This is erupt your duck.

00:37:47 Speaker 1

Ruptured down.

00:37:48 Speaker 3

Means we we're out of the service.

00:37:53 Speaker 1

1.

00:37:57 Speaker 3

This is a battle.

00:37:59 Speaker 3

Battles three major.

00:38:00 Speaker 3

Engagements.

00:38:02 Speaker 1

The which ones with us?

00:38:04 Speaker 1

The.

00:38:05 Speaker 1

Which were the three major?

00:38:07 Speaker 3

Or Denzel, bulge and northern northern France, I guess wanted something like that.

00:38:14 Speaker 1

And.

00:38:19 Speaker 1

World War that was just for.

00:38:21 Speaker 3

It's a victory medal.

00:38:24 Speaker 1

And army.

00:38:27 Speaker 1

Occupation.

00:38:28 Speaker 3

Yeah, that's a sensation, man. Yeah.

00:38:29 Speaker 1

Just for being.

00:38:32 Speaker 3

Why I got that?

00:38:35 Speaker 3

I didn't occupy Germany.

00:38:37 Speaker 3

They gave it to me anyway.



00:38:41 Speaker 1

Was.

00:38:41 Speaker 1

Aren't we're just be for actually.

00:38:44 Speaker 3

My division was there.

00:38:45 Speaker 3

What it was.

00:38:46 Speaker 1

That might, yeah.

00:38:51 Speaker 1

Hmm hmm.

00:38:53 Speaker 3

Did you get that? Yes.

00:38:55 Speaker 4

Yeah.

00:39:06 Speaker 4

Yeah.

00:39:07 Speaker 3

If you'll know there's been a.

00:39:09 Speaker 3

This is our this is our patch.

00:39:12 Speaker 1

For your infantry.

00:39:13 Speaker 3

Everywhere on a shoulder.

00:39:16 Speaker 3

Shoulder patch.

00:39:17 Speaker 3

That's the 80th Division. These are the Blue Ridge Mountains.

00:39:30

Hmm.

00:39:32

Nice.

00:39:35 Speaker 3

You got it, got it.

00:39:42

Name.

00:39:47 Speaker 3

I think that's all I would.

00:39:50 Speaker 3

I did.

00:39:53

Yeah.

00:39:54 Speaker 4

Yeah.

00:40:00 Speaker 3

I was going to bring it a Blue Ridge.

00:40:05 Speaker 3

Division served in World War One in World War 2.

00:40:10 Speaker 3

And they had never, never broke the division up after World War One and actually formed a Veterans Association.

00:40:19 Speaker 3

And we've been in existence since 1919.

00:40:23 Speaker 3

And to this day, there's still the 80th Division.

00:40:26 Speaker 3

Oh, now they've changed it into a cattery and a cattery.

00:40:30 Speaker 3

That a training group for other divisions.

00:40:34 Speaker 3

So we're no longer a fighting division where cadre division.

00:40:38 Speaker 1

Just for teaching.

00:40:42

Uh.

00:40:44 Speaker 1

Just for teaching other divisions.

00:40:45 Speaker 3

Yeah.

00:40:47 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:40:53

So.

00:40:55

I think.