

## **Lou Engelke Interview #1**

MP Platoon, 80th Division

*(Aug 2001, interviewed by COL(ret) Grant Porter)*

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

00:00:16 Speaker 1

My name is Luis Anglo king. I was born in Galveston, TX and I will soon be 84 years old. During the depression I worked my way through the University of Texas at Austin's degree in journalism.

00:00:32 Speaker 1

I was working on the newspaper and got about a year's work in when I was called a service.

00:00:39 Speaker 1

And so I had a basic training at Camp Walters, Texas, and I was destined to go to an aircraft and aircraft with the warning system like the Alaska on the allusions.

00:00:59 Speaker 1

And I volunteered for OCS in preschool and I got there and got my degree and got my Commission and then for free in May of 1940.

00:01:10 Speaker 1

Three. And then I was. I joined the I was sent to the 80th Division. They were already starting on maneuvers in the Tennessee and they were not in camp for us at the.

00:01:22 Speaker 1

Time.

00:01:23 Speaker 1

But when I reported they sent me, we were line of officers that I they sent us to team.

00:01:31 Speaker 1

Who was a major player?

00:01:33 Speaker 1

Very fine health facility leaders from South Carolina, very southern drawl. Anyway, he started talking to me and I there was somebody at the side to the back of me, a little bit listening in. And so I kind of.

00:01:52 Speaker 1

Passed around and his first two star General I saw ever seen that it was General McBride and I gave her as a Texas I was in involved in boxing and I was a light heavyweight champion in 1939.

00:02:10 Speaker 1

And he maybe, he said, ask me. Clayton did about what? What activities were? And I said when I was in that and then anyway, he said, how tall are you? And I said 6 foot 4 and weighs 220 lbs. And that was about 7 inches taller.

00:02:31 Speaker 1

And about 70 lbs heavier than most of our.

00:02:35 Speaker 1

People in the 80s coming in and so just about that time I saw gentleman pride swishes riding crop. So I got appointed out of the infantry into M people too. I like that because I call that my appointment swagger.

00:02:55 Speaker 1

Stick, he used to carry this swagger stick around very. You know, deep looking guy. You know, dressed so he frightens had high heights going with Lieutenant Fossier and.

00:03:07 Speaker 1

And Nashville and I said, well, I don't know, I was kind of not the middle about it and then that way what's going to try see how you like it. So I've got to going to Nashville and he said one of the things you got to do is to try to protect our people. And he said some of them.

00:03:27 Speaker 1

Will say things to the MP's in town and call them the service commando and stuff like that and they usually get beat up pretty bad on it sometimes, so you'll get them. Especially then drinking and get them back on the trucks. So that was a a good service.

00:03:45 Speaker 1

And so is there has some. Well, we had a lot of.

00:03:54 Speaker 1

Nobody might call it, and these bar owners would call us and we come in, break up fights a lot. I think the worst fight, right, it was really in such a bad condition. Drinking was a little bit of fella and he was fighting a fan and he just punching that cat fan around it.

00:04:13 Speaker 1

Good. Hit him again to come back and hit him, you know? And he'd be bloody. And we think things like that. And then sometime they would try to.

00:04:24 Speaker 1

Take over. Once we went to the bar and came into the bar, we had a guy with a Florida Highway Patrol, one of the MP's and two tankers hit him at one time. Well, this guy, he he knocked the other guy down against the wall.

00:04:42 Speaker 1

And then he he hit the other one so hard with an uppercut. He landed on the back of his head and he split his head as he had to take him and Banfield Hospital. So it was very active thing. It was a lot easier, some more fun, you know that.

00:04:58 Speaker 1

Some of that.

00:04:59 Speaker 1

Because they used to.

00:05:02 Speaker 1

See somebody I went to OCS with and I'd say who he is. And he said drive up alongside him in his teeth and then go say would say, hey, don't fix. And the guy looked up and so then he he say, look, my friend here has wheels.

00:05:22 Speaker 1

He would, under deep and spray the guy with gravel. You know, we had then, of course they left and we had a major huge. He was a captain 1st and then came in and they stated the problem Marshall through.

00:05:40 Speaker 1

Oh.

00:05:40 Speaker 1

They I was on two advanced parties and I got to be close to General Summers, who was really high Infantry General Owen Summers and he later was wounded. And I think of February or something and he he never came back.

00:05:58 Speaker 1

But.

00:06:01 Speaker 1

We had on the that gave me another job as a Provo Marshall of the on the advance party, Provo Marshall, acting on the way over the Atlantic and then the other one to Normandy. And that was about 40 officers and and and they had five M fees.

00:06:21 Speaker 1

With me by enlisted MP's.

00:06:25 Speaker 1

So we landed there and the the book is a little off on the time of the arrival advance party. Actually it was a nice day ahead of the rest of the division. So we had eight full working days to to get ready. We couldn't have been ready.

00:06:45 Speaker 1

Like it's fastest. That's how they just came ashore. But Lieutenant dentist Delaney was signal office on this.

00:06:54 Speaker 1

An advance party and he said he tried to get it corrected but somehow another they never did. So the latest book published by Turner and Under Right Banners direction they have a correction. I say he'd call setting. It's great.

00:07:13 Speaker 1

In the back, but now they all agree we couldn't have possibly done as well because I bought this paper here.

00:07:24 Speaker 1

The.

00:07:26 Speaker 1

Agent in general wanted to report on the outstanding achievement of different organizations and division and it says here major his his report entitled Outstanding Achievement of the MP Platoon 83 Division.

00:07:45 Speaker 1

Voted that by evening of August.

00:07:48 Speaker 1

The 4th day of the traffic movement, all units of the division were in place and on August 8th the division started. The action with the MP's blazing. The trail, no vehicles. The men had been lost during the movement across the beach and upon completing the mission.

00:08:08 Speaker 1

The 12th Floor representative in the transit area being commander, both acknowledged the excellent and speeding manner in which the division had crossed the beach in less than 4 full days, establishing record for any unit.

00:08:24 Speaker 1

Of division sized with full equipment, with the possible possible exception of some D-Day units whose records were not known.

00:08:34 Speaker 1

And I attribute this success that we had those days to work as a general summers let me run all around the area going sightseeing all that. And we we memorized the roads. That was a key thing to it. But of all the things and that the division MP's did.

00:08:54 Speaker 1

His thought that was the most outstanding and that is in the records of Washington.

00:09:02 Speaker 1

I believe I got.

00:09:03 Speaker 1

That that from the forum on that and the National Archive.

00:09:11 Speaker 1

Anyway.

00:09:13 Speaker 1

Oh.

00:09:15 Speaker 1

Get to my old chair.

00:09:26 Speaker 1

I stayed in the army of the National Army reserves in the National Guard for three years. Norman Beverly, and then the became a logistical command. Provo, Marshall and I got.

00:09:42 Speaker 1

A.

00:09:45 Speaker 1

And its assignment.

00:09:48 Speaker 1

In Washington, in the office, Army officer, chief information. And so I spent. I got 12 years in there and in the office of Chief Information, I got promoted to full Colonel at 19.

00:10:06 Speaker 1

67 I think it was and then us next six years.

00:10:11 Speaker 1

That was at the halfway point in my career there and the last six years I was to be the case of they said the case of balloon went up and World War 3. Then I would have been the sign, the chief of the public information for the Public Information Division.

00:10:31 Speaker 1

And officers Chief of Information Department of Army Worldwide. So it was a very interesting assignment and enjoyed it very much.

00:10:43 Speaker 1

Uh.

00:10:48 Speaker 1

I think about the MP's, so you know people could the MP sometime was.

00:10:54 Speaker 1

That I think the second time we went through the SIG three line and I got way ahead of the infantry there and my teeth and the 10th arm, it came over the hill with the guns, fire and everything and and so they I saw the commanding general look at what that's going doing out here, you know, and then they.

00:11:15 Speaker 1

It came along and said the town's off limits already and MP's are here.

00:11:22 Speaker 1

So anyway, that was one of the very interesting things I got. The things I remember very much about Fort Dix was Lieutenant General Leslie Jane McNair came to visit. He was chief of Army commanding general.

00:11:41 Speaker 1

I think they call it of the army ground forces, so he wanted to check the division out and he said that the division scored the highest ever on the desert and knew was with artillery. He was our touring man and he was supposed to maybe to get an army group and they came to Europe.

00:12:00 Speaker 1

And he he put in a good word for the division away and he said we were ready to go. And so we went on from there. He gave us an OK well, then a little later, McBride wanted to get the tallest guy as he could in the MP's and he would.

00:12:20 Speaker 1

And he was proud of that, he'd bragged to people about it, and he had a situation there because Under Secretary of the Army War, Robert Patterson, who is a lawyer, and he won the DSC and World War One.

00:12:28

The second.

00:12:36 Speaker 1

And he came up there, heard about. Look, I've got 5 foot 6 and he came up with a congressman, Lyndon Johnson, who about 6 foot four, I guess 3 or 4. And so afterwards I overheard the second we put on a big show there for him because it was a.

00:12:55 Speaker 1

Attack on the pill boxers and the engineers and infantry combined and those live firing, and anyway the.

00:13:09 Speaker 1

Johnson, McBride. Rather, they didn't want to embarrass the secretary by and mentioned comment and be so proud of his tall MP's. But Mr. Patterson told Johnson he said there's an MP.

00:13:28 Speaker 1

Very little. It's making taller than you are, Landon, and so I cried and said all the way he's from Texas said he said a lot of tall people from Texas.

00:13:39

Uh.