

Lou Engelke Interview #3

MP Platoon, 80th Division

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

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

00:00:02 Speaker 1

Mr. Engelke, you're going to tell us about General McBride.

00:00:06 Speaker 2

Yes, the General McBride was a a fine officer. He really was an expert on the field artillery again and again, the 80th Division scored among the highest in the field. Our children or so.

00:00:23 Speaker 2

And I think the field artillery had that gave a tremendous boost in the Argentine battle because we just an unusual number of battalions fire away. And the volleys after.

00:00:38 Speaker 2

Volleys you know.

00:00:40 Speaker 2

And the General McBride.

00:00:42 Speaker 2

Was always saluted his his vehicle by 75 yards. I think he appreciated that, you know.

00:00:52 Speaker 2

Anyway, McBride would be very he's very strict and he might jump all over you and then the next day, see you and be very.

00:01:06 Speaker 2

Very, very nice to you. He was a great gentleman. He became the Commandant of the Command and General Staff College, U.S. Army General Staff. I mean, Commander, Staff College and.

00:01:24 Speaker 2

He was between World War One, World War Two. He was a military attache to Poland.

00:01:34 Speaker 2

And power another name with a ward courage. And also I believe, Holland, Netherland.

00:01:43 Speaker 2

And he the main thing I remember about his results was that after the war that he came back, I think went to Turkey first after the war. And then he went to Leavenworth and he took the.

00:02:02 Speaker 2

General Max Me Colonel Max Johnson with him. He was our chief of staff. He very, extremely well educated. Johnson was he after he graduated from West Point, he got an extra degree, I think, in engineering and Cornell.

00:02:19 Speaker 2

And then he went from there to Johnson went from there to be the commandant at the Army War College at Carlisle Barracks. Then later, I believe it was U.S. news and World Report, they would carry his column with his picture.

00:02:39 Speaker 2

On drug military affairs, he was an expert on military back. Johnson. Yeah, they call him Mad Max at the school because they said he always had a better solution than any of the students.

00:02:44 Speaker 1

That was.

00:02:46 Speaker 1

Max Johnson.

00:02:54 Speaker 2

And and what I was getting at is that, well, I'd say to the army went to the paddle group plan from the triangular division or the three big three regiments, all the so many of the problems that the CGS.

00:03:14 Speaker 2

Where our 80th Division pop try, they did a certain thing. So we I figured we got ahead to find general. I don't think that he was.

00:03:25 Speaker 2

There's many that certainly not as flamboyant as patent he was not. He was kind of, I think kind of quiet in a way. You know, he he figured that sort of thing for general Pat, you know and.

00:03:41 Speaker 2

But he was always very nice to me, except when he got once while he got angry. I remember once he he couldn't find the.

00:03:49 Speaker 2

Nature and my nature and say with this, when we were ready to start in the from the lodgement area in Normandy to move forward after the just after the breakthrough and if he shouted at me and whether the G Boy asked me to be there for traffic.

00:04:10 Speaker 2

And he shouted and made, and he said I don't want you. I want Major Hughes. Where's Major Hughes? And boy, I I sound like a nickel and ready to cry, leaving there, having a two star general jump on me.

00:04:24 Speaker 2

Host staff, but the next day he saw me and he said to me how many hours you get to sleep last night and I said 1, Sir, and he was sympathetic and we had to work around the clock. But he was a good gentleman and he would find our tail.

00:04:44 Speaker 1

Now, General McBride, Major General, he was later promoted to Lieutenant General.

00:04:48 Speaker 2

Lieutenant Chen? Yes, yes.

00:04:50 Speaker 1

There's some footage of him going on a USO tour. It's an extensive film that's at the National Archives, and he, did you hear anything about that? He had helped Mae West on with the parachute.

00:04:57 Speaker 2

Oh really?

00:05:03 Speaker 2

No, I I don't know. Hey, the incidentally, we have the MP's, we got some of the best MP's to be his bodyguard. They went, escorted him and once in a while they have a firefight. He although many. How many people would see the general? He was out.

00:05:05

OK.

00:05:24 Speaker 2

Every day and he would get after people who were not getting out like they should.

00:05:32 Speaker 1

Well, so you go out to the front line.

00:05:33 Speaker 2

You go out with front. They didn't have the MP's added SOP and just how they would.

00:05:41 Speaker 2

Make a formation like a kind of like a SWAT team. If they if they needed to, they go throw hand grenades. It's like an infantry land wood and and they were all trained that way. One of the guys was a catcher in the Pittsburgh Pirate Farm system.

00:06:01 Speaker 2

And another one was at Philadelphia, Pittsburgh.

00:06:06 Speaker 2

And then another one I remember Marriott, he's, he's quoted a lot in that first book by Brett Bennett's book to turn to history. They got a lot of stuff. He talks about the pride and then he had had very high IQ, extremely high.

00:06:26 Speaker 2

He came to visit me one time in San Antonio, had his family with him, and one of his boys went to West Point.

00:06:34 Speaker 2

Hello.

00:06:35 Speaker 2

I was very pleased with the Colonel Johnson. The the first break at Argentine with shaving it up one of these improvised bath houses deal and he said Angle Key, he said. How would you like to go to West?

00:06:54 Speaker 2

What I said, what I said, Sir, I was glad you thought that much of me. But I said I'm already over age and I'm married.

00:07:04 Speaker 1

Plus, you were already in office. He wanted you to teach at.

00:07:07 Speaker 1

West Point.

00:07:07 Speaker 2

You know, he wanted me to go. I think they figured you had to be at West.

00:07:11 Speaker 2

Point.

00:07:12 Speaker 1

Ah, even though you are already a Lieutenant, right?

00:07:12 Speaker 2

You know, first Lieutenant, but he asked me. It was.

00:07:17 Speaker 2

A great compliment, Sir.

00:07:18 Speaker 1

Sure. That was Colonel Johnson.

00:07:19 Speaker 2

One of my neighbors, Max Johnson.

00:07:23 Speaker 2

He left about after the box he was he had planned. He did a he got a A.

00:07:30 Speaker 2

Legion of Merit for his planning of the votes because we really got up there fast. Incidentally, when we got up there, I was on general Summers. This task force. Well, the train came along come as we're getting all the tanks he could get. And if I may just shook hands and he said.

00:07:50 Speaker 2

I hope to see you again and I didn't hear anything serious going on. Well, I was a PM for the task force and summers was always one of these gumbo guys going fast, you know? And and.

00:08:06 Speaker 2

He he'd been like a pulling guard. Football. That's reminded me of. And then he. But it is going on as a train came along in Luxembourg and kind of caught and we went to rejoin it. Summers and his group was gone when the way the heck to leave the column.

00:08:25 Speaker 2

Insulated, say, and we got up down the Road junction and here was General McBride.

00:08:32 Speaker 2

And I remember dealing down and writing my instructions from him. I lost that map some way, but he's the gist of it was great. If you get the whole assemblies again, tell him to meet me at Eagle Tack. And I thought there was some Air Force saying because they're so chaotic there and the lights were on the city.

00:08:53 Speaker 2

You know, they would air any aircraft fire and bombs, Germany, German bombs and stuff.

00:09:00 Speaker 2

And so went into the town of Orlan, Belgium, down the hill.

00:09:06 Speaker 2

And when they got there, they said Colin sent me down and so they will. Some MP's were rolling up the wire, cutting it out. They were going to bug out, had to leave close to leave and the Luxembourg had their meat leaves and their type guys, you know, like free French.

00:09:25 Speaker 2

On every Rd. junction. But anyway, the last phone call came through.

00:09:33 Speaker 2

And it was General Summers and Luxembourg City. And he said bring the rest of the column and the Luxembourg city and the Eagle Tap. Well, Eagle Tack turned out to be Omar Bradley's headquarters. So all these fellas, we were very grimy and need to shave and whatnot and.

00:09:53 Speaker 2

Everywhere he went and hit a road jump, said the Middle East would come challenges. Well, we we came upon this, this, this, but I think it's a railroad station, the school big building and they took us to Bradley.

00:10:08 Speaker 2

And he told General Summers he said. Owen, I wants you to throw a ring around Luxembourg City and defended to the last man that was his order. And so he said, we don't want to lose Saint Pete or Luxembourg City because that would make us change our plans, right. He was always for.

00:10:28 Speaker 2

Building up the shoulder and so that we wouldn't wondered about that and Bradley was like they say the GI General and he had Donuts and coffee for enlisted man.

00:10:45 Speaker 2

And Colonel Hanston Chester Hanson was with him at the time Brandy was. And he was Brandy. Chief. Hey, you've read about him sometime. But anyway, General Patton showed up the next day in Luxembourg, standing up in his seat.

00:11:05 Speaker 2

Rode like Caesar, I thought thought all the time and then that was a big show when he came and the 80s.

00:11:06

So.

00:11:12 Speaker 2

Vision was there. The 4th Arment and the 26th Division, where the key ones in the beginning with the ones in the start and this book about power go farrago, and they weigh. He said that hadn't told Bradley.

00:11:33 Speaker 2

That let me send the the 80th Division, 4th armament and the 26th. These are three best divisions they come.

00:11:41 Speaker 1

The Iron Man.

00:11:42 Speaker 2

Yeah. And. And so that's what we was a kick.

00:11:46 Speaker 2

But anyway, General McBride came and then a division came in. I think that maybe about 24 hours later.

00:11:56 Speaker 2

But Patton was ready to roll, and I think McBride was a good man to serve under him.

00:12:04 Speaker 1

Thank you.

00:12:06 Speaker 2

Great.