

James Springer George Interview

Cannon Company, 317th Inf Reg

(Library of Congress: Veterans History Project; interviewed by Aaron Casas, Dawn Michelle Hill, Christiane Ngueha)

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

00:00:01 Speaker 1

Hi, I'm Christian geyha. I'm Don hill.

00:00:05

And I'm Aaron kasas.

00:00:06 Speaker 1

And we're.

00:00:07 Speaker 1

Here, with James Springer, George, also known as Jimmy, he served in the US Army in the 317th Infantry Division of the Artillery during World War 2.

00:00:20 Speaker 1

And were here on October 23rd, 2014 in Frisco, TX.

00:00:28 Speaker 1

And we're going to get started with this interview.

00:00:31 Speaker 1

Jimmy, where were you born and what year were you born?

00:00:34 Speaker 2

I was born March the 9th, 1923.

00:00:38 Speaker 1

Where were you born?

00:00:39 Speaker 1

Born.

00:00:41 Speaker 2

Solomon, Missouri.

00:00:42 Speaker 1

OK. Who are your parents and what did they do?

00:00:47 Speaker 2

Mother was Ollie.

00:00:49 Speaker 2

My father was Lydia Lydell.

00:00:51 Speaker 2

They were farmers.

00:00:54 Speaker 1

Did you have any siblings?

00:00:56 Speaker 2

I got 2 grand, two kids, a boy.

00:01:01 Speaker 2

Rusty and my daughter Sandy.

00:01:04 Speaker 1

OK. Who were your siblings and what were their names? What did they do?

00:01:09 Speaker 1

Your siblings.

00:01:12 Speaker 1

What were their names and what did they do?

00:01:15 Speaker 3

Your brother's is your brothers, that.

00:01:17 Speaker 3

In.

00:01:17 Speaker 3

World War 2. The names of your brother.

00:01:20 Speaker 2

My.

00:01:22 Speaker 2

Young brother Bob was in Japanese war and Leo, my older brother, was a pilot.

00:01:32

OK.

00:01:33

Pilot.

00:01:34 Speaker 1

A pilot.

00:01:35 Speaker 1

What were you doing before you entered the service?

00:01:37 Speaker 2

I was a.

00:01:40 Speaker 2

Work at Kroger grocery store.

00:01:43 Speaker 1

And did you enlist?

00:01:43 Speaker 2

Nightmare.

00:01:46 Speaker 2

No, I tried to but I didn't do it in time, so I was drafted.

00:01:55 Speaker 1

What happened when you left for training?

00:01:58 Speaker 1

Like what was your experience going to training camp?

00:02:01 Speaker 2

Training camp.

00:02:04 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:02:05 Speaker 2

It was something I never done before.

00:02:08 Speaker 2

It was.

00:02:08 Speaker 2

It was.

00:02:09 Speaker 2

It was hard, but they needed to teach us.

00:02:15 Speaker 2

How to survive and everything?

00:02:17 Speaker 2

It was. It was.

00:02:19 Speaker 2

Was great.

00:02:20 Speaker 1

Do you remember any of your instructors?

00:02:24 Speaker 2

Sergeant ball. I remember him telling.

00:02:27

Mm.

00:02:30 Speaker 1

OK.

00:02:32 Speaker 1

Did you receive any specialized training?

00:02:35 Speaker 2

No.

00:02:35 Speaker 1

Just the basics.

00:02:39 Speaker 1

How did you adapt to physical like regiment food living?

00:02:46 Speaker 1

Was it different?

00:02:47 Speaker 2

To to, to army or to their server.

00:02:51 Speaker 1

Let's say both first to the army and then through your service.

00:02:56 Speaker 2

It took a while adapt to it but.

00:03:00 Speaker 2

After you in a while, you become used to everything they do and.

00:03:07 Speaker 2

The service.

00:03:10 Speaker 2

Part kind of kind of rough.

00:03:14 Speaker 2

And it was hard.

00:03:16 Speaker 2

Hard a time spent in the winter time.

00:03:20 Speaker 2

And stuff like.

00:03:23 Speaker 2

I got frog feet my foot.

00:03:27 Speaker 2

Had be off duty for a while, but.

00:03:33 Speaker 2

It heal and after that it went pretty smooth.

00:03:38 Speaker 1

Can you tell us about getting to Europe?

00:03:41 Speaker 1

Like what was your trip like?

00:03:43 Speaker 1

Did you land?

00:03:45 Speaker 2

How'd I get to?

00:03:46 Speaker 2

I went over and left for New York on the premiere.

00:03:52 Speaker 2

And it took seven days.

00:03:57 Speaker 2

We don't know the cream by herself and we zigzag like that, so.

00:04:08 Speaker 2

Subs couldn't kick chasers.

00:04:10 Speaker 2

We made it in seven days and ended in Scotland.

00:04:15 Speaker 2

And then from Scotland we took a train to England.

00:04:22 Speaker 1

What was your passage like from England?

00:04:25 Speaker 1

Did you?

00:04:25 Speaker 1

You passed through France.

00:04:28 Speaker 2

For mainland, going across the channel to France.

00:04:29

Mm.

00:04:33 Speaker 2

When the Norman neighbours, after way after D-Day St.

00:04:38 Speaker 2

And.

00:04:40 Speaker 2

We.

00:04:43 Speaker 2

Later on a boat, just like they did the b-day and.

00:04:49 Speaker 2

Went up.

00:04:51 Speaker 2

We first meet the UP soldiers up there above us and was there before we were and we were scared and not that.

00:05:00 Speaker 2

And he was laughing at us because they went through the.

00:05:04

Same thing.

00:05:08 Speaker 1

Umm, what are some memories that you have from serving?

00:05:11 Speaker 2

Memories, good or bad?

00:05:14 Speaker 1

You can start with the good.

00:05:16 Speaker 2

Good memory.

00:05:22 Speaker 2

It was a.

00:05:24 Speaker 2

We get time off once in a while.

00:05:26 Speaker 2

One time we got a week off and they flew us to England back to England.

00:05:32 Speaker 2

And I went to Barber shop, get my haircut.

00:05:37 Speaker 2

And.

00:05:39 Speaker 2

Sitting to me, I look over at this guy. He looked at me.

00:05:44 Speaker 2

I looked at him.

00:05:46 Speaker 2

I said Lee, he said. Jim.

00:05:50 Speaker 2

We went school together.

00:05:53 Speaker 2

And we met in England.

00:05:56 Speaker 2

We met 2 girl.

00:06:00 Speaker 2

And.

00:06:01 Speaker 2

He ended up married her and brought it to the United States.

00:06:07 Speaker 1

Can you tell us about your experience in France with the family?

00:06:13 Speaker 2

Pardon me.

00:06:14 Speaker 1

Can you tell us about your experience in France with the family?

00:06:17 Speaker 2

Oh, OK.

00:06:20 Speaker 2

That was that was that was great.

00:06:25 Speaker 2

Let me hold it up.

00:06:26

Mm.

00:06:28 Speaker 1

None.

00:06:30

Right here.

00:06:33 Speaker 2

So we have a few days off of battle.

00:06:34

Yeah.

00:06:38 Speaker 2

And they said.

00:06:40 Speaker 2

These French family are wonderful with GI. They took us in.

00:06:46 Speaker 2

And 1st Bath I had and I know how.

00:06:48 Speaker 2

And it fell as I was about 3-3 days there and parents was great, wonderful and.

00:06:57 Speaker 2

She wrote my mother letter.

00:07:00 Speaker 2

And my mother never did write back.

00:07:05 Speaker 2

So I found this letter about a month ago.

00:07:09 Speaker 2

And I wrote her to her family and she got the letter after 74 years.

00:07:19

Yeah.

00:07:19 Speaker 2

And I thought that was great.

00:07:22 Speaker 2

Interesting. Doing my time over there.

00:07:25 Speaker 3

Jimmy, she still lives in the same house. She still lives in the same house, right? Yeah.

00:07:26 Speaker 2

Very much appreciated.

00:07:30 Speaker 2

Yes, she'll live the same house.

00:07:32

That is awesome.

00:07:34 Speaker 1

That's pretty.

00:07:35 Speaker 1

Can you tell us about some bad experiences?

00:07:38 Speaker 2

Daddy's Barry.

00:07:42 Speaker 2

Uh.

00:07:45 Speaker 2

My worst experience was that I was on this channel 105 housewife.

00:07:52 Speaker 2

It's made to shoot over the over the shoulder and to the enemy.

00:07:58 Speaker 2

And one day, a German tank would run through our lines and come at us, and we had to.

00:08:09 Speaker 2

Lower our gun and say direct to it.

00:08:12 Speaker 2

Wouldn't make that way to shoot direct.

00:08:16 Speaker 2

And lucky couple shot. We hit the tank.

00:08:21 Speaker 2

And H.

00:08:22 Speaker 2

And they got out there that comrade and we shot him right there.

00:08:29 Speaker 2

Had shot him.

00:08:32 Speaker 1

How did you feel about seeing casualties and so much destruction?

00:08:38 Speaker 1

How did you feel when you went through that about seeing destruction and casualties?

00:08:43 Speaker 1

Did you?

00:08:44 Speaker 2

It kind of hurts a little while a little bit.

00:08:49 Speaker 2

But be done a patent.

00:08:52 Speaker 2

Hadn't said when he came in, he won't talk to us. Yeah, she said.

00:08:57 Speaker 2

Now I don't want any soft hand scissors in my outfit.

00:09:01 Speaker 2

I don't want these *** in my company.

00:09:07 Speaker 1

Did you make any friends while you were there?

00:09:10 Speaker 2

Oh yeah, my new couple friend.

00:09:12 Speaker 2

Real good friend.

00:09:14 Speaker 2

One was Smitty.

00:09:17 Speaker 2

And other one was Earl angle.

00:09:20 Speaker 2

Smitty lived in Washington, DC, and I live in Indiana.

00:09:27 Speaker 2

And after war, I went to Washington there one time.

00:09:36 Speaker 1

So you guys, both you, all three of you made it back home.

00:09:39 Speaker 2

Yeah, all three made back home.

00:09:42 Speaker 1

How did you stay in touch while you were there with your family?

00:09:46 Speaker 2

Mostly by letter at all.

00:09:50 Speaker 1

And what did you do for like fun while you were off duty there?

00:09:55 Speaker 2

Off dated.

00:09:58 Speaker 2

During the war.

00:09:58 Speaker 1

After wall during the war, like when you got some time off, what did you do for fun?

00:10:05 Speaker 2

Well, most of that's all. I remember that one trip to England.

00:10:12 Speaker 2

And then meeting the.

00:10:14 Speaker 2

Girl.

00:10:15 Speaker 2

And her family.

00:10:17

She was.

00:10:18 Speaker 2

14 and I was 21 at the time.

00:10:23 Speaker 1

Where were you when the war ended?

00:10:25 Speaker 2

I was in Austria.

00:10:28 Speaker 1

And how did you react to that?

00:10:31 Speaker 2

Praise the Lord.

00:10:35 Speaker 2

I had.

00:10:36 Speaker 2

I got a picture.

00:10:37 Speaker 2

Couldn't find it.

00:10:40 Speaker 2

We sat on the stool and the big work, big picture said the war is over.

00:10:49 Speaker 2

I wish I had that to show you, but.

00:10:51 Speaker 2

And with some experience.

00:10:52 Speaker 1

Hmm hmm.

00:10:55 Speaker 2

Window go ahead.

00:10:57 Speaker 1

No, I was gonna ask you like, when the war ended. How did you and the German soldiers interact?

00:11:05 Speaker 2

Great.

00:11:07 Speaker 2

Second day of the war ended.

00:11:11 Speaker 2

Two Germans were walking down the street.

00:11:15 Speaker 2

Towards that and we went up to it and we shook hands.

00:11:19 Speaker 2

And so when we're OK with friends and no words over and we shook hands and God bless each other.

00:11:20 Speaker 1

And it was just simple.

00:11:21 Speaker 1

Was OK.

00:11:31 Speaker 1

How long did you stay in Europe after the war?

00:11:35 Speaker 2

About 3-4 months.

00:11:37

OK.

00:11:38 Speaker 2

There was no hurry. Get us home.

00:11:41 Speaker 2

They gotta throw them in a hurry, but slow down.

00:11:41

What did you do?

00:11:44

Thank you.

00:11:45 Speaker 1

What did you do while you were there for those 3-4 months?

00:11:51 Speaker 2

Ended up in our spirit. So I went through Obi and McGow.

00:12:01 Speaker 2

That were.

00:12:02 Speaker 2

The passion play every every four years.

00:12:06 Speaker 2

Know you heard of that not.

00:12:09 Speaker 2

Every four years they have passion play and it's people in the city is the only one can be in the to show in the play. They do a wonderful job and they also of Labor goes.

00:12:24 Speaker 2

Skiing in the Alps.

00:12:27 Speaker 2

Few days.

00:12:28 Speaker 1

OK.

00:12:31 Speaker 1

How did you get back home?

00:12:33 Speaker 2

On a flow boat to China.

00:12:37 Speaker 2

Lst you only held by 1818, so 18 people 18.

00:12:44 Speaker 2

18118 hundred and took us 18 days to get back.

00:12:46

Hi.

00:12:50 Speaker 2

I was on a water gun Christmas.

00:12:54 Speaker 1

And you said you missed the celebration coming home.

00:12:58 Speaker 2

I mean.

00:12:59 Speaker 1

You missed the celebration in your hometown. Coming home. Can you tell us about that?

00:13:02 Speaker 2

I missed, yeah.

00:13:05 Speaker 2

If I'm going to troop training in sentence sentences and it just said that they wouldn't let us off.

00:13:14 Speaker 2

Almost midnight. If I made it home.

00:13:18 Speaker 2

It would be New Year's Eve, but I didn't make any time.

00:13:21 Speaker 2

Got home the next day.

00:13:24 Speaker 1

And you said they were having a celebration for World War 2 veterans.

00:13:29 Speaker 1

That's one that.

00:13:31 Speaker 2

Not a whole lot, Dan.

00:13:32 Speaker 1

No. OK.

00:13:33 Speaker 2

Celebration, you know.

00:13:36 Speaker 1

How did you? How did your family and your community receive you?

00:13:41 Speaker 2

How the family?

00:13:42 Speaker 1

And your community receive you when you got home.

00:13:47 Speaker 2

Where negative.

00:13:50 Speaker 2

And.

00:13:53 Speaker 2

I.

00:13:56 Speaker 2

Went back to work for Kroger.

00:14:00 Speaker 2

Couple months.

00:14:03 Speaker 2

Then I moved it.

00:14:05 Speaker 2

Solomon to Dallas.

00:14:07

Yeah.

00:14:07 Speaker 2

And when it's time.

00:14:11 Speaker 2

And actually only have about 3 children my whole lifetime.

00:14:18 Speaker 1

How did you readjust like? Did you have a hard time readjusting?

00:14:23 Speaker 1

How did you readjust?

00:14:25 Speaker 1

Was it hard or was it easy?

00:14:27 Speaker 2

How do you get used to civilian life?

00:14:31 Speaker 1

Mm.

00:14:33 Speaker 2

Pretty good.

00:14:34 Speaker 2

Good.

00:14:36 Speaker 2

But seem like on 4th of July when the fire crackers go off it, it kind of upset me. 'cause the German had the German 88 John gun.

00:14:50 Speaker 2

Who can't hear coming over.

00:14:51 Speaker 2

Zoom, zoom, zoom.

00:14:54 Speaker 2

Is a scary sound.

00:14:57 Speaker 1

Have you remained in contact with other veterans?

00:15:01 Speaker 2

Veterans. No, I did right after war there, not nothing else.

00:15:12 Speaker 1

Are you in any organizations like veterans organizations?

00:15:15 Speaker 2

No, I would. It would be better.

00:15:16

No.

00:15:20 Speaker 2

For a while, but I dropped out the veterans.

00:15:23

Can you help me with?

00:15:26 Speaker 1

OK. Do you want to tell us about your medals?

00:15:32

I.

00:15:36 Speaker 2

Just regular.

00:15:38 Speaker 2

Metal. This is a signet on my uniform.

00:15:42 Speaker 2

Sure. What the company I was in.

00:15:46 Speaker 2

And this is.

00:15:50 Speaker 2

Good conduct.

00:15:52 Speaker 2

And.

00:15:54 Speaker 2

This is the battle I was in.

00:15:58 Speaker 2

France, Germany, Switzerland.

00:16:02 Speaker 2

And.

00:16:04 Speaker 2

Oscar.

00:16:06 Speaker 2

And.

00:16:09 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:16:12 Speaker 2

Mr. Reichman.

00:16:14 Speaker 2

Everybody got one.

00:16:18 Speaker 2

This is a different battle. I was in four stars 1234.

00:16:26 Speaker 2

Good conduct medal.

00:16:29 Speaker 2

In that area.

00:16:35 Speaker 1

And then can you tell us about these things on table, the gun?

00:16:40 Speaker 2

Your gun.

00:16:47 Speaker 2

Well afterwards over.

00:16:51 Speaker 2

They didn't need anymore.

00:16:53 Speaker 2

So I.

00:16:57 Speaker 2

Acted up with the German luger and sent it home and with all with that dagger all came.

00:17:06 Speaker 2

He got home safely.

00:17:09 Speaker 2

But mainly as.

00:17:13 Speaker 2

A bunch of dishes for my mother, Shiner dishes, and then get home.

00:17:19 Speaker 2

Have a dish party.

00:17:21

But the gun made it home.

00:17:23

The gun made at home.

00:17:26

Yes. Yeah.

00:17:32 Speaker 1

And then the next.

00:17:33 Speaker 3

Yeah, the other one.

00:17:36

You know this out.

00:17:40

Yeah.

00:17:44 Speaker 3

OK, Jimmy, you want to tell us about?

00:17:46

Yeah.

00:17:47 Speaker 3

The knife.

00:17:48 Speaker 3

This story behind that.

00:17:52 Speaker 2

German officer carried this on their uniform on the hip all the time.

00:18:00 Speaker 2

And.

00:18:03 Speaker 2

Was it?

00:18:07 Speaker 2

I never saw him use it.

00:18:10 Speaker 2

And after war?

00:18:13 Speaker 2

Gather this stuff up like I say I had it sent home but.

00:18:20 Speaker 2

And I don't know history if they ever killing geothermal, I don't know.

00:18:24 Speaker 2

It could have.

00:18:28 Speaker 2

That came out in Europe. All the GIS got it.

00:18:33 Speaker 2

And this is my infant division that wrote about 317 four through the drive through.

00:18:43 Speaker 2

France.

00:18:46 Speaker 2

Luxembourg, Germany and Austria, and it knew that what happened in some even have a cartoon on it for some soldier and it just helped by the battle with going through and.

00:19:02 Speaker 2

We once a month we got in the newspaper.

00:19:06 Speaker 3

So all the servicemen we serve this once a month.

00:19:07 Speaker 2

All the surfacings all the.

00:19:10 Speaker 2

OK.

00:19:10 Speaker 3

And it was this just during World War 2.

00:19:13 Speaker 3

Did they continue this after the war?

00:19:15 Speaker 2

A little while after the war, they continued about two years, and that's about all.

00:19:22 Speaker 2

Trying to keep.

00:19:23 Speaker 3

Up with their soldier Jimmy.

00:19:23

OK.

00:19:27 Speaker 3

I've got some of your memorabilia here and can you tell us about this?

00:19:34 Speaker 3

It came from France.

00:19:39 Speaker 2

Very smart.

00:19:43 Speaker 2

I've.

00:19:45 Speaker 2

Don't know how much it worth in all money, but.

00:19:50 Speaker 2

This is the I've got from the German family. They showed me their money.

00:19:55 Speaker 2

Was using and this is the one right there.

00:20:02

That was a.

00:20:02 Speaker 2

They'd use it.

00:20:03

Was it a German or French family that you?

00:20:05

Got that from.

00:20:06 Speaker 2

In French.

00:20:07 Speaker 2

French ticket. We got French family that yeah.

00:20:08 Speaker 3

The family was French then.

00:20:13

OK.

00:20:13 Speaker 3

OK. So you brought that home and you don't know how much that would have been worth back then?

00:20:17 Speaker 2

No. On the side I'm. I'm making it worth it.

00:20:22 Speaker 3

Five U.S. dollars mean.

00:20:24 Speaker 2

No, I think about 250 is odd number.

00:20:29

OK.

00:20:30

OK.

00:20:31 Speaker 2

\$2.50.

00:20:33

OK.

00:20:34 Speaker 3

OK. OK. Jimmy, can you?

00:20:36 Speaker 3

We've got some very interesting photos here, and these are of the German prisoners.

00:20:44 Speaker 2

That given up, I say that you got that.

00:20:49

Yeah.

00:20:50 Speaker 2

Got the hand over there head.

00:20:54 Speaker 3

Do you recall where you were at when you guys took the when you took these prisoners?

00:21:03 Speaker 2

I'm thinking but then.

00:21:06 Speaker 2

Ulster. But that's where it.

00:21:09 Speaker 2

So in France, they didn't surrender much of Luxembourg and Austria then?

00:21:16 Speaker 2

They began surrendered.

00:21:21 Speaker 2

And.

00:21:22 Speaker 3

Luxembourg is where they started surrendering and that would have been towards the end.

00:21:23 Speaker 2

Let's and burn. Yeah, let's burn.

00:21:26 Speaker 3

The war, right?

00:21:27 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:21:30 Speaker 3

OK, OK, Jimmy, here's another.

00:21:32 Speaker 2

1944.

00:21:34 Speaker 3

Here's another photo that you've got in your collection.

00:21:37 Speaker 3

Can you tell us about that photo?

00:21:40 Speaker 2

This is what we're looking for every day.

00:21:44 Speaker 2

Is mail call.

00:21:47 Speaker 2

And we're looking for a letter from home.

00:21:50 Speaker 3

I bet you really don't really appreciate those letters when you that far away from home.

00:21:54 Speaker 2

And when I first did, and some soldiers, they didn't get a letter.

00:22:00 Speaker 2

They're so disappointed, but usually I got a letter by once a month.

00:22:07 Speaker 3

Once a month.

00:22:09 Speaker 3

Were those letters from your mom or?

00:22:10 Speaker 2

Well, among my family. Yeah, yeah.

00:22:12 Speaker 3

OK.

00:22:14 Speaker 3

OK, we've got one more picture here and.

00:22:17 Speaker 3

I'll let you tell about that.

00:22:19 Speaker 2

This is.

00:22:25 Speaker 2

This is.

00:22:27 Speaker 2

Also same this is mail call again at different time.

00:22:34 Speaker 2

A different.

00:22:36

Week.

00:22:38 Speaker 2

Yeah, this is this mail call.

00:22:42 Speaker 3

Like at one time you get to relax a little.

00:22:45 Speaker 3

Yeah. Enjoy.

00:22:46 Speaker 2

Relax it, relax.

00:22:47 Speaker 3

And that was during mail call.

00:22:48 Speaker 2

Yes, two and two and.

00:22:51 Speaker 2

A.

00:22:52 Speaker 2

While we were able get warm meal.

00:22:57 Speaker 2

Can the truck come up and give us a warm meal and?

00:23:03 Speaker 2

Coffee with in a metal cup.

00:23:05 Speaker 2

You probably seen him before.

00:23:08 Speaker 2

And the good way to get a cup of coffee?

00:23:12 Speaker 2

And time to pour it in that metal cup.

00:23:15 Speaker 2

It was.

00:23:16 Speaker 2

It didn't last long now.

00:23:16 Speaker 3

Oh.

00:23:18 Speaker 3

Is this the US Army that was supplying your food? Yeah, OK.

00:23:20 Speaker 2

Yeah, it's only doing it.

00:23:22 Speaker 2

Yeah, it's on it.

00:23:24 Speaker 3

And with how many times a day would?

00:23:26 Speaker 3

Truck come.

00:23:26 Speaker 2

Around whenever they could not very often.

00:23:29 Speaker 3

Not very often.

00:23:30 Speaker 2

No, we had a ration most of the time.

00:23:35

Impressionism.

00:23:35 Speaker 3

Yeah. And what are K rations?

00:23:39 Speaker 2

Little package.

00:23:43 Speaker 2

Crackers in it and.

00:23:48 Speaker 2

A little can of fish a tuna.

00:23:52 Speaker 2

And.

00:23:54 Speaker 2

Metal can and.

00:23:57 Speaker 2

Very, very light, but nourishment to carry through until we got a meal.

00:24:03 Speaker 2

Yeah. Had everybody had one every.

00:24:07 Speaker 3

Day every day.

00:24:08 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:24:08 Speaker 3

So how many times a day would the truck come around?

00:24:12 Speaker 2

For food of our election, we just went over the little law in the battle in the food wagon.

00:24:14 Speaker 3

Not very often.

00:24:20 Speaker 2

Catch up with us and servers more meal.

00:24:25

OK.

00:24:26 Speaker 3

So sometimes you would only get like 1 ration a day.

00:24:30 Speaker 2

Yeah, sometimes one ration a day, yeah.

00:24:34

How many hours did you usually get of sleep?

00:24:38 Speaker 2

How many hours of sleep?

00:24:41 Speaker 2

How many?

00:24:42 Speaker 3

Hours of sleep.

00:24:43 Speaker 2

Oh.

00:24:47 Speaker 2

I don't remember.

00:24:50 Speaker 3

Probably not.

00:24:52 Speaker 2

Not many.

00:24:53 Speaker 2

You probably.

00:24:55 Speaker 2

Sleep when you could, you know.

00:24:58 Speaker 3

Did you ever fall asleep while you were on duty?

00:25:01 Speaker 2

No, no, no, no.

00:25:04

Yeah.

00:25:05 Speaker 3

What's the longest period of time that you were on duty?

00:25:12 Speaker 2

I guess not.

00:25:15 Speaker 2

Three days on duty.

00:25:17 Speaker 2

Well, without a break.

00:25:21 Speaker 2

Yeah, by three days.

00:25:22 Speaker 3

Wow.

00:25:26 Speaker 2

Wow. But.

00:25:28 Speaker 2

A lot of I can't remember, you know.

00:25:31 Speaker 2

Yeah, a lot happened that. Yeah, that.

00:25:37 Speaker 3

Yeah, a long time ago.

00:25:37 Speaker 2

I can't remember everything.

00:25:40 Speaker 3

About yeah, yeah.

00:25:41 Speaker 2

If they remember.

00:25:42 Speaker 3

A long time ago.

00:25:43 Speaker 3

Where would you?

00:25:44 Speaker 3

Did you have tents with cots? No.

00:25:48 Speaker 2

We just slept over.

00:25:49 Speaker 3

Good with a sleeping bag and pillow sleeping.

00:25:51 Speaker 2

Yeah, yeah.

00:25:52 Speaker 2

So you can bag.

00:25:53 Speaker 2

Bag sleeping bag.

00:25:55 Speaker 3

And what?

00:25:55 Speaker 3

Of temperatures was the weather over there?

00:25:59 Speaker 2

The summer wasn't bad, but winter was also bad.

00:26:02 Speaker 2

You can see.

00:26:04 Speaker 2

We had.

00:26:07 Speaker 2

Sometime and.

00:26:12 Speaker 2

It was real cold.

00:26:15 Speaker 3

You don't remember the temperatures? Would it be maybe 0 or?

00:26:20 Speaker 2

It was freedom.

00:26:21 Speaker 3

Freezing. Freezing. Yeah.

00:26:24

Did it snow often?

00:26:25 Speaker 2

It was snow a whole lot in winter time. Lots of.

00:26:31 Speaker 2

Actually fro winter service I went to Michigan train for ski patrol.

00:26:39 Speaker 2

And.

00:26:40 Speaker 2

They never did.

00:26:42 Speaker 2

Put it out again.

00:26:44 Speaker 2

I mean, we didn't didn't have it.

00:26:47 Speaker 2

But when a ski patrol?

00:26:48 Speaker 2

Thought that could be fun anyways.

00:26:54 Speaker 2

Snow.

00:26:57 Speaker 2

Had to walk in the snow.

00:26:59 Speaker 3

And that's all they taught you.

00:26:59

OK.

00:27:01 Speaker 2

Yes.

00:27:03 Speaker 2

And then put the ski on and sure how to stand on ski without sliding down the hill?

00:27:12 Speaker 2

So how to walk in them?

00:27:13 Speaker 2

But we never did get ski.

00:27:16 Speaker 2

Ah.

00:27:21 Speaker 2

And they did that outfit.

00:27:21 Speaker 3

Well.

00:27:23 Speaker 2

They changed me to October.

00:27:26 Speaker 2

October anyway, so.

00:27:28 Speaker 3

I.

00:27:29 Speaker 2

Got out of this Snow Patrol.

00:27:30 Speaker 3

And my daughter out of Snow Patrol.

00:27:35 Speaker 3

But you did learn how to ski after the war was over, up in the.

00:27:37

Yes.

00:27:38 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:27:41 Speaker 3

Out.

00:27:41 Speaker 2

You get on the train and you go up the mountain.

00:27:48 Speaker 2

Into this cave and came out in the beautiful snow on the other side.

00:27:53 Speaker 3

And where was this?

00:27:55 Speaker 2

App in Austria.

00:27:55 Speaker 3

Austria.

00:27:58 Speaker 2

Beautiful snow up there and we got skiing.

00:28:01

Mm.

00:28:02 Speaker 2

Him over there about four months or so before we came home.

00:28:08

Yeah.

00:28:10 Speaker 2

Long time, yeah, but we found a lot to do after the war was over. Was interesting.

00:28:15 Speaker 3

Yeah. Now, what would you do for the?

00:28:18 Speaker 3

'Cause, I know you were over there during the holidays in the war.

00:28:23 Speaker 3

Did you have no celebrations for Christmas or?

00:28:27 Speaker 2

We celebrate Christmas, but we probably didn't know middle of a battle and stuff, so we're good.

00:28:37 Speaker 2

So very much.

00:28:38 Speaker 3

And the civilians weren't celebrating over there, either, because it was wartime.

00:28:41 Speaker 2

No, they wouldn't sell very much.

00:28:43 Speaker 2

No, because.

00:28:43 Speaker 2

Was wartime war time?

00:28:47 Speaker 3

Right. So did they do anything for you during Thanksgiving for the troops?

00:28:55 Speaker 2

When war was over with good, we had big, big meals.

00:28:57 Speaker 3

Right.

00:29:00

That's good.

00:29:00 Speaker 2

Thanksgiving and stuff like.

00:29:05 Speaker 2

That, Chris, I was on the ship coming home during Christmas.

00:29:09 Speaker 3

Oh, OK, OK.

00:29:12 Speaker 2

As I said, 18 days coming home.

00:29:16 Speaker 2

Seven days going over there.

00:29:18 Speaker 3

And 18 days coming home.

00:29:19 Speaker 2

Glad kids over there.

00:29:22 Speaker 3

Take your time getting your home.

00:29:23 Speaker 2

Take your time.

00:29:24 Speaker 2

Us home.

00:29:25

Work.

00:29:27 Speaker 2

Before you.

00:29:30 Speaker 3

OK. Jimmy, can you tell us about the Queen Mary?

00:29:33 Speaker 2

Have Queen Mary was in the time with a luxury ship and they transferred over to troop ship.

00:29:42 Speaker 2

And a whole division could get on at one time, plus a bunch of Air Force and bunch of.

00:29:51 Speaker 2

Medical nurses was on the ship.

00:29:55 Speaker 2

It was crowded and we sleep anywhere we could, mostly on the deck on the floor.

00:30:00

OK.

00:30:01 Speaker 2

There's big ship and one day it was rough.

00:30:04 Speaker 2

It could be.

00:30:07 Speaker 2

And you wouldn't think it would bother that big ship, but water would come over the bow.

00:30:13 Speaker 2

And walking down the hallway.

00:30:17 Speaker 2

You up the hill and down.

00:30:20 Speaker 2

I've got sick one day.

00:30:23 Speaker 2

Down that it just grow, but I'd like to add.

00:30:25

Oh yeah.

00:30:28 Speaker 2

And after war is over, they doctored.

00:30:37 Speaker 2

What do you?

00:30:38 Speaker 3

California.

00:30:41

Uh.

00:30:44 Speaker 2

Adopt that.

00:30:50 Speaker 2

The doctor in California.

00:30:54 Speaker 2

And.

00:30:57 Speaker 2

More watching that we went up there and.

00:31:01 Speaker 2

It was open at the hotel then and we spend 3 days on on the ship.

00:31:09 Speaker 2

Again, I'm glad my wife got see.

00:31:12

And.

00:31:13 Speaker 2

Ship on window and we was in the Eisenhower suite.

00:31:21 Speaker 3

Yeah, yeah.

00:31:22 Speaker 2

Queen Mary Eisenhower.

00:31:28 Speaker 2

Who wrote the leader?

00:31:31 Speaker 2

Eisenhower.

00:31:33 Speaker 2

And a president.

00:31:37 Speaker 2

Sweet.

00:31:37 Speaker 3

In the presidential suite.

00:31:40

Did it bring back any memories of the war?

00:31:42 Speaker 2

Oh, it did.

00:31:44 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:31:47 Speaker 3

So how many years was that between the time that you went over there in the war and the time?

00:31:52 Speaker 3

You got to revisit it with your wife.

00:31:58 Speaker 2

Had to be about 19.

00:32:04 Speaker 2

65.

00:32:08 Speaker 2

For.

00:32:08 Speaker 3

OK so.

00:32:10

About 20 years.

00:32:12 Speaker 3

About 20 years. Yeah, and.

00:32:16 Speaker 2

That was quite an.

00:32:18 Speaker 2

I got 1 souvenir from. I got a little key about that big to one table address.

00:32:27 Speaker 2

Cabinet. OK, I I stole.

00:32:32 Speaker 2

Tiny I got on key ring somewhere.

00:32:37 Speaker 2

But that was.

00:32:40 Speaker 2

Spending on that.

00:32:43 Speaker 2

I heard they just sold it for some of my many \$1,000,000.

00:32:47 Speaker 3

Yeah, yeah, that is an American landmark, yeah.

00:32:49 Speaker 2

Million.

00:32:53 Speaker 2

About it.

00:32:56

OK.

00:32:56

So, Jim, how did you get this flag?

00:33:00 Speaker 2

After the war was over.

00:33:03 Speaker 2

We went all the Billy that was hanging.

00:33:05 Speaker 2

We're jerking him down and destroyed most of them, but I decided to send one home to show what?

00:33:15 Speaker 2

The American soldier went through to get it.

00:33:20 Speaker 2

It's the.

00:33:21 Speaker 2

Is this wonderful saving?

00:33:24 Speaker 2

Did not see, but it's United States history, yeah.

00:33:33 Speaker 3

Now, Jimmy, how old is this flag?

00:33:37 Speaker 3

And this was original German swastika.

00:33:39 Speaker 2

Get there, they build 1.

00:33:41 Speaker 2

I got in in 1940.

00:33:45 Speaker 2

Five, I got it. And it was probably made 20 years before that.

00:33:51 Speaker 2

It's got to be over.

00:33:52 Speaker 2

100 years old.

00:33:54 Speaker 3

OK. And tell us how you got it?

00:33:58 Speaker 2

I shipped it home.

00:34:00 Speaker 2

By mail.

00:34:01 Speaker 3

Through the US post office.

00:34:03 Speaker 2

My good guns and souvenir.

00:34:05 Speaker 3

So back then, you were allowed to mail stuff home.

00:34:08 Speaker 2

Oh, anyway, yeah. Male gun, they say through the yeah.

00:34:11 Speaker 3

OK, OK. OK then.

00:34:14

And that picture is the you carrying the flag?

00:34:17 Speaker 2

I wonder flag.

00:34:21 Speaker 2

So I figure.

00:34:23

OK.

00:34:24 Speaker 2

And.

00:34:25 Speaker 3

Was that the day that you got it that you came across the flag?

00:34:30 Speaker 2

Yeah, what day.

00:34:30 Speaker 3

Yes. Was that the day that you found the flag or?

00:34:34 Speaker 2

Yeah, it's by the same day, you know.

00:34:36 Speaker 3

And took the picture and then shipped it home.

00:34:38 Speaker 2

And then we pull it down here, OK?

00:34:44

And you, uh, you said earlier that you.

00:34:46

Served under patent.

00:34:47

Uh.

00:34:48 Speaker 2

Yes, I did.

00:34:49 Speaker 2

And I'm proud of it.

00:34:53 Speaker 2

He was.

00:34:55 Speaker 2

Very hard general to work under, but he he got the job done.

00:35:03 Speaker 2

He was under Eisenhower's commanders and Eisenhower did things that he didn't like.

00:35:11 Speaker 2

And sometimes he would go on and do it anyway.

00:35:15 Speaker 2

So he he did what he wanted and.

00:35:20 Speaker 2

During the Battle of the barge.

00:35:25 Speaker 2

Eisenhower asked Field Montgomery to come around the flank, and during that time.

00:35:35 Speaker 2

All the gas and ammunition was going to Montgomery and.

00:35:43 Speaker 2

Patton ran out of gas for a while.

00:35:45 Speaker 2

His tank couldn't move.

00:35:48 Speaker 2

But finally.

00:35:51 Speaker 2

Broke through and able to get the.

00:35:55 Speaker 2

Convoy trucks back to them and we've.

00:35:57 Speaker 2

Gas again.

00:35:58 Speaker 2

Keep on going.

00:36:00

So you, you.

00:36:00

Were actually in the battle of the bulge.

00:36:02 Speaker 2

In the Battle of ARM.

00:36:07 Speaker 2

What do you think about the board?

00:36:07 Speaker 3

Did.

00:36:09 Speaker 2

We we go over there at night time.

00:36:12

OK.

00:36:13 Speaker 2

And to be careful of booby traps.

00:36:16 Speaker 2

And next morning, we didn't hit a one, and next morning there was every word and we we missed him.

00:36:24

Really. What kind of booby traps were there?

00:36:29 Speaker 2

Mom to the in the ground that goes off.

00:36:32

So mines OK.

00:36:34 Speaker 2

At 9:00.

00:36:35

OK.

00:36:37 Speaker 3

When you win, the movie patent came out.

00:36:41 Speaker 3

Did you go see it?

00:36:42 Speaker 2

Hi.

00:36:43 Speaker 3

And what do you?

00:36:43 Speaker 3

What was your opinion of it?

00:36:45 Speaker 2

I thought it was great.

00:36:47 Speaker 2

The one thing.

00:36:50 Speaker 2

He visited hospital.

00:36:53 Speaker 2

And.

00:36:55 Speaker 2

Never during the war.

00:36:57 Speaker 2

GI was in hospital.

00:37:03 Speaker 2

Wounded what you call it, a fatigue, fatal fatigue.

00:37:07

Mm.

00:37:09 Speaker 2

And he wasn't.

00:37:11 Speaker 2

We need you on the front line. He slapped them.

00:37:15 Speaker 2

Right there and there were he was in trouble over that long time.

00:37:22 Speaker 3

So do you feel that the movie was accurate?

00:37:24 Speaker 3

Not accurate.

00:37:24 Speaker 2

Yeah, I think.

00:37:25 Speaker 3

It was accurate. OK.

00:37:26 Speaker 2

Yeah, he did do that. Yeah.

00:37:30 Speaker 3

OK, I can go and turn off.

00:37:31

Anything else?

00:37:33 Speaker 2

Also I want to answer I got another story about patent.

00:37:36 Speaker 3

Don't get me sure. Go ahead. Write it out. Yeah.

00:37:38 Speaker 2

And I it's that.

00:37:42 Speaker 2

I got a picture to show you.

00:37:45 Speaker 2

When more was over, he got a Jeep and walked across the pontoon bridge of the Rhine River.

00:37:53

OK.

00:37:54 Speaker 2

And halfway across Monroe into he relieved himself and urinated in the river.

00:38:02 Speaker 2

And that's what he had for he thought.

00:38:05

Are.

00:38:06

Oh, OK.

00:38:08 Speaker 3

There any more stories that you can remember?

00:38:12 Speaker 3

What about Patton? No.

00:38:13 Speaker 2

No, but.

00:38:15 Speaker 2

I just saw him briefly.

00:38:17 Speaker 3

Yeah.

00:38:18 Speaker 2

With a Big Apple.

00:38:19 Speaker 2

I just saw him in the Jeep one time go by.

00:38:22

OK.

00:38:24 Speaker 2

And better all I know about pen but he.

00:38:28 Speaker 2

Here we go. He's a pusher.

00:38:30 Speaker 3

OK.

00:38:31 Speaker 2

They did step on pushing.

00:38:34 Speaker 3

How did your wartime experiences affect your life?

00:38:39 Speaker 2

Right after over, it was kind of rough to get used to, but.

00:38:46 Speaker 2

That was in 1946 and now this is 19.

00:38:50 Speaker 2

I mean, 20 and 15 almost and.

00:38:54 Speaker 2

During the year I deal with it and everything is normal.

00:39:01 Speaker 2

Now it doesn't bother me.

00:39:04 Speaker 3

Hearing you had some damage to your hearing. Yes. And you want to tell us about the hearing?

00:39:05 Speaker 2

Yeah, it says my hair. Yeah.

00:39:09 Speaker 2

My hair.

00:39:12 Speaker 2

I was on the gunner on this 105 helicopter and I have the one that pulled the Lantern and hell, we did that. I have here 1 here.

00:39:24 Speaker 2

Can hold the other with an ear stopper like they have today.

00:39:28 Speaker 2

Ear plug so it kind of affect my ear a little bit.

00:39:34 Speaker 3

What are some life lessons you learned from the military service?

00:39:40 Speaker 2

Uh this?

00:39:40 Speaker 2

How to treat you felt soldier and I think that a good experience for any young person to be in the service.

00:39:55 Speaker 3

How has your military service impacted your feelings about war and the military in general?

00:40:03 Speaker 2

Uh.

00:40:05 Speaker 2

Since I was in World War 2.

00:40:10 Speaker 2

I feel if we have to go to the wall, it's a must.

00:40:15 Speaker 2

We have to.

00:40:18 Speaker 2

Thank God and be with and go with him.

00:40:22 Speaker 2

Go with a leader.

00:40:25 Speaker 3

What message would you like to leave for future generations?

00:40:29 Speaker 3

Who will view or hear this interview?

00:40:34 Speaker 2

As I said, I think before it's good for any young person to join the service.

00:40:42 Speaker 2

And.

00:40:44 Speaker 2

They would be.

00:40:48 Speaker 2

Very much appreciated by the whole world.

00:40:52 Speaker 2

Especially the United States.

00:40:53 Speaker 2

Have we tried to protect another country?

00:40:58 Speaker 2

And I think we need to understand.

00:41:04 Speaker 2

How it is that?

00:41:07 Speaker 2

Well, America.

00:41:11 Speaker 3

Is there anything you feel like we haven't discussed or should be added to this interview?

00:41:21 Speaker 2

Not a whole lot that I appreciated opportunity of doing this and I.

00:41:27 Speaker 2

That.

00:41:29 Speaker 2

What I have to say with?

00:41:33 Speaker 2

Yeah, other soldier.

00:41:35 Speaker 2

Whoever will see this but.

00:41:41 Speaker 2

And that's about it.

00:41:46 Speaker 3

Well, Jimmy, I want to thank you for this interview.

00:41:50 Speaker 3

And we were very, very lucky to find you.

00:41:53 Speaker 3

There's not very many.

00:41:56 Speaker 3

World War 2 veterans left. Most of them have passed away.

00:42:00 Speaker 3

We were very lucky to get you and that you have all this wonderful memorabilia and we want to thank you for the interview and all the.

00:42:11 Speaker 3

Historical information that's going to go down in your archives of the United States, and it will be there from now on for your family and historians in the future to come back and research.

00:42:15 Speaker 2

And.

00:42:22 Speaker 2

Yes.

00:42:24 Speaker 3

And we thank you very much and we thank you for your service to our country.

00:42:29

Thank you.

00:42:29 Speaker 3

Thank.

00:42:30 Speaker 3

Thank you. Thank you.