Teofil Edmund Golec Interview

80th Infantry Division

(Library of Congress: Veterans History Project; interviewed by William J. Vollano)

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

00:00:05 Speaker 1

Today is the 15th of September.

00:00:09 Speaker 1

And 15 and I'm in the home of Theophil.

00:00:14 Speaker 1

Golic and I'm bill Villano with the Veterans History project.

00:00:21 Speaker 1

And this is the project that's sponsored by the Ypsilanti Rotary Club.

00:00:28 Speaker 1

And I see here you were born in Detroit.

00:00:33 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:00:34 Speaker 1

Oh my.

00:00:38

Umm.

00:00:41 Speaker 1

How long were you in Detroit?

00:00:43 Speaker 1

What should I call you feel, feel?

00:00:45 Speaker 2

10.

00:00:47 Speaker 1

You can call me.

00:00:48 Speaker 1

Okay see how long were you in Detroit?

00:00:53 Speaker 2

Many, many years almost done.

00:01:00 Speaker 2

About 25 years for sure, but I'm in East Point, which is very close to Detroit.

00:01:02 Speaker 1

Uh huh.

00:01:09 Speaker 2

Is a suburb.

00:01:10 Speaker 1

Yeah. Did you complete school there too?

00:01:10 Speaker 2

All my life.

00:01:16 Speaker 2

Through the 8th grade. And then I went to a cotton high school for two years.

00:01:24 Speaker 2

Then I went to a trade school.

00:01:25 Speaker 1

Uh, huh. What was?

00:01:27 Speaker 1

Was your.

00:01:28 Speaker 1

What did you specialize in for?

00:01:30 Speaker 2

It was more to do with tool and I it was a.

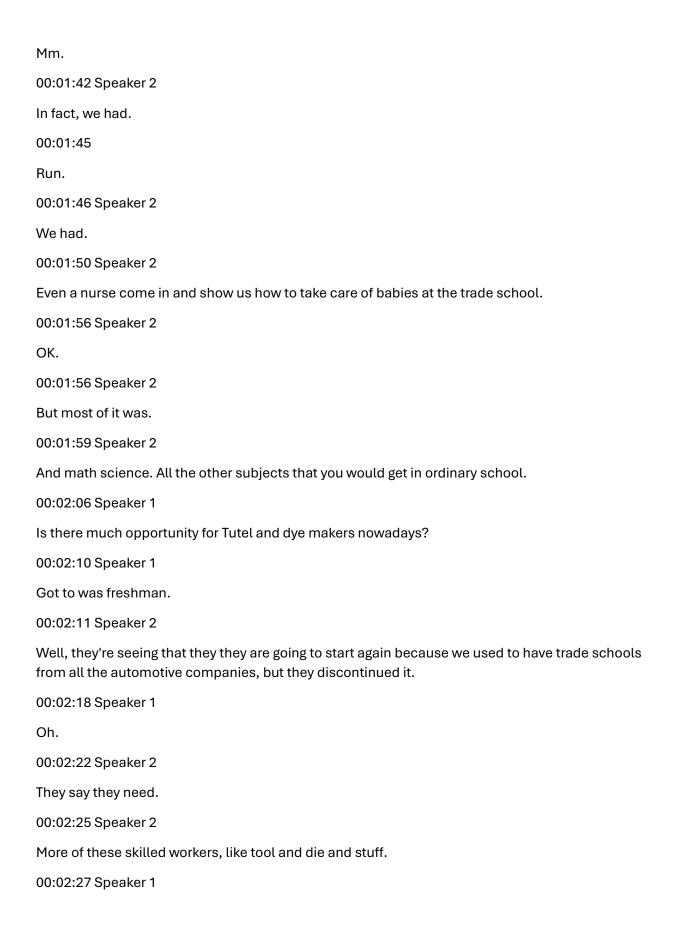
00:01:33 Speaker 1

Oh, right, uh.

00:01:35 Speaker 2

The school that I went to to trade school had regular education like a regular school.

00:01:42 Speaker 2



Yeah, kind of. 00:02:31 Speaker 1 Kind of cycles around, doesn't it? Yeah. 00:02:33 Speaker 2 Here. 00:02:36 Speaker 1 Did you go in the service? 00:02:40 Speaker 1 I guess it was in the army, yes. 00:02:42 Speaker 1 Did you go in the army right after Tri School? 00:02:46 Speaker 2 God and I had a deferment for a while. 00:02:49 Speaker 2 One year deferment because I was an important worker to make. 00:02:54 Uh. 00:02:59 Speaker 2 You know, parts for the for the army, you know, for making. 00:03:05 Speaker 1 Where did you work? 00:03:07 Speaker 2 It was a small, small company on Michigan Ave. 00:03:12 Speaker 1 Uh. 00:03:13 Speaker 2 Huh. And. 00:03:16 Speaker 2 I was.

00:03:18 Speaker 2

Actually training to people that were coming in how to do the job.

00:03:25 Speaker 1

So.

00:03:25 Speaker 2

It's it's.

00:03:26 Speaker 2

There I was more of a supervisor here.

00:03:32 Speaker 1

They gave you just a year deferment.

00:03:35 Speaker 2

Just one year deferment. Just.

00:03:36 Speaker 1

And then they drafted you.

00:03:39 Speaker 2

Then at this a year later, I got another call and I did not get deferred when I was getting married that year. So they gave me a 24 day furlough.

00:03:53 Speaker 1

Did you actually get married?

00:03:54 Speaker 2

Yes, again, I got married. We went on our.

00:03:58 Speaker 2

So right after the honeymoon we had, I had to go back and go into the service.

00:04:04 Speaker 1

Oh wait, where?

00:04:04 Speaker 2

We went to Great Lakes.

00:04:07 Speaker 2

Great Lakes Naval Center in Chicago, just for orientation.

00:04:13 Speaker 1 OK. Were they doing orientation even for the army at that time? 00:04:17 Speaker 2 Yes, for all the service from there, they decided if they're going to put you in the army or Navy or Air Force. 00:04:24 Speaker 1 Or marines, yes. 00:04:26

Yeah.

00:04:28 Speaker 1

I had a a cousin who went through that and they selected him.

00:04:30 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:04:33 Speaker 2

After he decided I was to be an army.

00:04:36 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:04:36 Speaker 2

So they send me to Fort Oglethorpe, GA.

00:04:40 Speaker 1

Fort huach.

00:04:41 Speaker 2

4th Oglethorpe Georgia.

00:04:43 Speaker 1

Oglethorpe, my goodness.

00:04:44 Speaker 2

Yeah, that was in Anniston, AL.

00:04:47 Speaker 1

I've not heard of hurt. A lot of them.

00:04:48 Speaker 2 Very close. It was a big they still have some. 00:04:53 Speaker 1 They do. 00:04:55 Speaker 2 In General Dynamics. 00:04:57 Speaker 2 Mm. 00:04:58 Speaker 2 Is is the owner? I think now of the property there they build a lot of stuff because my son used when he worked for General Dynamics. He used to go. 00:05:09 Speaker 2 That same place where I was stationed. 00:05:11 Speaker 1 And that interesting. 00:05:12 Speaker 2 My basic training and it was a Mani tank. 00:05:14 Yeah. 00:05:18 Speaker 2 Training that we did get. 00:05:20 Speaker 1 In in that same. 00:05:21 Speaker 2 And. 00:05:23 Speaker 1 So that was, was that your advanced training, the anti tank or was that was part of the base? 00:05:28 Speaker 2

Well, the dev is our basic training to get us in shape.

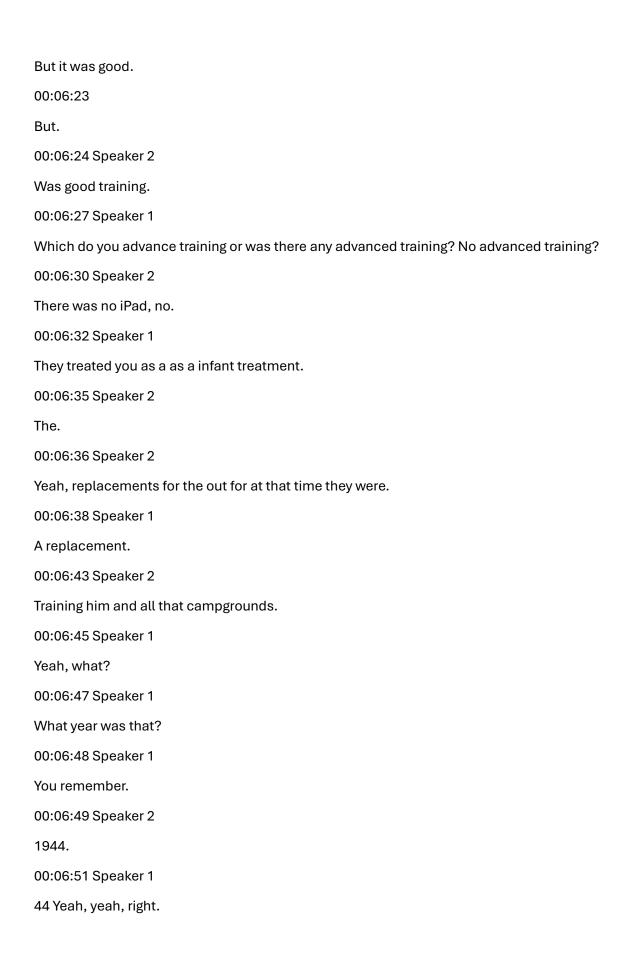
00:05:32 Speaker 2 All the physical and we went through a real rugged. 00:05:34 Speaker 1 Yeah, yeah, yeah. 00:05:37 Speaker 2 And it was a good thing they teach you discipline. 00:05:42 Speaker 1 Mm. 00:05:43 Speaker 2 Oh. 00:05:44 Speaker 2 Build you up. 00:05:46 Speaker 2 I was just a little runt of about 135 lbs or so, but when I got out of there I was 154 lbs and all muscle. 00:05:51 Speaker 1 Oh my. 00:05:57 Speaker 2 Straight, but then I go. 00:06:03 Speaker 2 I was so sore during basic first month. 00:06:09 Speaker 2 I had to go to into the shower every night. 00:06:11 Speaker 1 I know. 00:06:13 Speaker 2

And for that nice warm water and body to keep it, try to get the pain down.

Yeah, I I can't say that I missed that basic training.

00:06:20 Speaker 1

00:06:23 Speaker 2



00:06:55 Speaker 1 Yeah. 00:06:56 Speaker 2 And it's from January till June. I think we had her. 00:07:02 Mm. 00:07:04 Speaker 2 Basic training. 00:07:07 Speaker 1 So you were when you then sent overseas immediately or they give you some. 00:07:12 Speaker 2 I came on the week home. I think they're few days home and then we went to. 00:07:20 Speaker 2 Baltimore, MD. And prepare for overtures trip. 00:07:22 Speaker 1 Was that when we? 00:07:27 Speaker 1 Did you embark from Maryland or the? 00:07:29 Speaker 2 Yeah, for Boston. 00:07:31 Speaker 1 Oh yeah. 00:07:32 Speaker 2 We departed from Boston and went to England. 00:07:37 Speaker 2 It restated England about a week. 00:07:40 Speaker 1 Dijon. 00:07:40 Speaker 2

It's very foggy. When we woke up in the morning to go wash up, we couldn't hardly find their way. 00:07:51 Speaker 1 I. 00:07:51 Speaker 1 I bet you. 00:07:53 Speaker 2 And when they took us over into France after leaving England over there. 00:08:01 Speaker 1 Where'd you land in France? 00:08:03 Speaker 2 Ha ha. 00:08:09 Speaker 2 Lahar. 00:08:12 Speaker 2 It was one of the landing areas for the actual. 00:08:15 Speaker 1 Yeah. 00:08:17 Speaker 2 Invasion. That's very hot. 00:08:20 Speaker 2 And when I saw that, I couldn't imagine how our troops ever were able to get on the ground. 00:08:28 Speaker 3 They resolved. 00:08:30 Speaker 2 Sandy and going uphill. 00:08:32 Speaker 2 And I know a lot of soldiers were killed at that time. 00:08:36 Speaker 1

Hold on.

00:08:37 Speaker 1 An uncle who? 00:08:37 Speaker 2 Right, that's. 00:08:39 Speaker 2 Still can't understand how they made the landing were able to make a landing. 00:08:42 Speaker 1 Yeah, I. 00:08:46 Speaker 1 And it wasn't. It wasn't really. 00:08:50 Speaker 1 An accomplished fact until practically the next day. 00:08:55 Speaker 1 You know, still touch and go. 00:08:57 Speaker 2 Yeah. 00:08:57 Speaker 1 Yeah, I had an uncle who landed on the Omaha beach. 00:09:01 Speaker 2 Yeah. Well, that's I think forever. 00:09:05 Speaker 1 Is that where you were? 00:09:05 Speaker 2 Yeah, I think it was Ramona Beach. 00:09:10 ľm. 00:09:13 Speaker 1 I guess you saw some pretty good action at that time. 00:09:17 Speaker 2

Well, doubt he didn't. 00:09:18 Speaker 2 Just we were in the back. 00:09:23 Speaker 1 You were ready to replace. 00:09:24 Speaker 2 Just ready to replace. 00:09:27 Speaker 2 And we used to train. 00:09:30 Speaker 2 And watch the planes going over for maintenance to do the bombing. And it was constant all day long. The planes flying over. 00:09:34 Speaker 1 Mm. 00:09:40 Speaker 2 800. 00:09:41 Speaker 2 Into Germany. 00:09:44 Speaker 2 Into France bombing me installations of the German army. 00:09:51 Speaker 2 And then in. 00:09:58 Speaker 2 September. 00:10:03 Speaker 2 September I was there August. 00:10:06 Speaker 2 I've been into the front lines. 00:10:08 Speaker 1

Oh, in August. 00:10:10 Speaker 2 And I was when we first entered the combat zone. 00:10:18 Speaker 2 Weaver, just about. 00:10:22 Speaker 2 They send a mortar right in front of us. 00:10:24 Speaker 2 We were lucky we didn't get injured at that time. 00:10:28 Speaker 1 Oh, no. Yeah. 00:10:29 Speaker 2 But. 00:10:31 Speaker 2 Restated, now it was right by the Bazaar River. 00:10:36 Speaker 1 Were you? 00:10:36 Speaker 2 We. 00:10:37 Speaker 2 They were trying to make a crossing at the Moselle River, but they saw so many. 00:10:43 Speaker 2 German troops just across the river that they decided they would cross there. 00:10:50 Speaker 2 And they. 00:10:53 Speaker 2

00:11:01 Speaker 2 Left of that area.

They left the Dick's warning the whole company left.

00:11:05 Speaker 2

And they didn't even notify us that they were leaving.

00:11:09 Speaker 2

When we woke up, we saw there was no more troops there except us. Our little platoon honey.

00:11:13 Speaker 1

No.

00:11:16 Speaker 1

Oh, right.

00:11:17 Speaker 2

So we went back.

00:11:21 Speaker 2

Rob and start inquiring and we found out we're regular.

00:11:27 Speaker 2

Oh.

00:11:30 Speaker 2

But you know the platoon in that was so we joined them.

00:11:32 Speaker 1

Uh.

00:11:34 Speaker 1

OK.

00:11:35 Speaker 2

It was at the Bazel River and but it was already. They made the crossing over to Bozell River.

00:11:43 Speaker 2

After that, when we got into the camp, they start sending me.

00:11:50 Speaker 2

How about church in their radiates? Or the Germans were bombing that area? We were in an orchard.

00:12:01 Speaker 2

And they had a direct hit on one of the.

00:12:05 Speaker 1

Oh well, yeah.

00:12:06 Speaker 2

Gymestar. So I believe we're pretty close to being hit right there.

00:12:12 Speaker 1

Well, I heard that they they really and this was of course in primarily in the the bulge.

00:12:27 Speaker 1

Enhance in the what?

00:12:30 Speaker 1

In Belgium but.

00:12:30 Speaker 2

Well, we get these Germans on a run already. At that time, they were starting to retreat that time in September.

00:12:35 Speaker 1

Oh yeah, dude.

00:12:43 Speaker 1

The were you operating as a Rifleman or did you?

00:12:49 Speaker 2

Pray for me.

00:12:50 Speaker 1

You didn't get involved in machine guns or mortars or what.

00:12:54 Speaker 2

Well, I I was a machine gunner. Really. Actually after.

00:12:59 Speaker 2

After our machine gunner was killed.

00:13:03 Speaker 2

By they gave me the machine gun and was the light 30 calendar.

00:13:09 Speaker 1

Uh.

00:13:10 Speaker 2 Yeah, everybody just had to carry it on our shoulders. 00:13:12 Thank you for calling. 00:13:15 Speaker 2 I had one other person with me to carry the ammunition and we would switch over. 00:13:22 Speaker 2 Hmm. 00:13:25 Speaker 2 Carrying the gun, or else just the ammunition between the two of us. 00:13:32 Speaker 1 Saved by the bell. 00:13:38 Call from. 00:13:39 Speaker 1 When you were. 00:13:41 Speaker 1 When you were. 00:13:44 Speaker 1 Umm. 00:13:47 Speaker 1 Is you were still in France at the time, OK did you? 00:13:49 Speaker 2 Yes. 00:13:53 Speaker 1

Did you? 00:13:54 Speaker 1

Any other battles for that?

00:13:55 Speaker 2

Yes, yes, Weaver, Weaver, we made some attacks on.

00:14:02 Speaker 2

Some of the little cities.

00:14:04 Speaker 2

That we've gone through.

00:14:07 Speaker 2

Mm hmm. And I remember going through the forest.

00:14:12 Speaker 2

And they had snipers.

00:14:13 Speaker 2

We we only advanced a little bit.

00:14:16 Speaker 2

We hear.

00:14:17 Speaker 2

We had to hit the ground.

00:14:20 Speaker 2

And our Lieutenant, he was hit on the.

00:14:24 Speaker 2

Arm not not a major hit, but he happened to just see this sniper up in the tree and he shot him down.

00:14:33 Speaker 1

Oh.

00:14:34 Speaker 2

The Lieutenant. So he wasn't wounded too bad.

00:14:37 Speaker 1

Not if he could.

00:14:38 Speaker 2

But we we couldn't advance too far. Yet about every 10 or 15 minutes, we hear gunshots.

00:14:45 Speaker 1

Yeah. Well, as I'm yeah, it's my understanding that the Germans and this may or may not be true. Maybe it's just.

00:14:46 Speaker 2

That was true, the forests.

00:14:54 Speaker 1

You know.

00:14:55 Speaker 1

But they they had all of the trees and everything kind of zeroed in.

00:15:01 Speaker 1

So you know, they they knew just where to aim their mortars and and guns.

00:15:09 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:15:11 Speaker 1

You know.

00:15:12 Speaker 2

And then we've made-up and we got.

00:15:16

Repl.

00:15:16 Speaker 2

Get a little town. If we were supposed to attack.

00:15:20 Speaker 1

Uh.

00:15:23 Speaker 2

Ah, legend.

00:15:26 Speaker 2

We we what? What happened there is we were almost walking all night.

00:15:33 Speaker 2

We didn't get too much rest. It seemed like we were exhausted all the time because it was all marching my foot.

Hmm. 00:15:40 Speaker 1 Mm. 00:15:42 Speaker 2 No, no trucks or nothing or tanks. 00:15:43 Speaker 1 No. 00:15:46 Speaker 1 No. 00:15:46 Speaker 2 So we made an attack on this little town. 00:15:50 Speaker 2 I don't know the name of it, but that's when we lost almost all of our squad. 00:15:58 Speaker 2 We had. 00:16:00 Speaker 2 12 men and after that we only had about four. The rest were killed in I. 00:16:07 Speaker 2 Saw them when they were after the attack. 00:16:11 Speaker 2 Uh. 00:16:11 Speaker 2 The Germans are what happened was our tank got stuck. 00:16:16 Speaker 2 They had a big hole dug and the tank got in that hole and got stuck. 00:16:21 Speaker 2 So then they were sending artillery and against. 00:16:26 Speaker 2

00:15:35

And the concussion is what killed quite a few of the.

00:16:30 Speaker 1

Or generate.

00:16:31 Speaker 2

We were the foot soldiers going in and to take over the town and we had many people wounded besides.

00:16:41 Speaker 1

Besides the ones that were killed.

00:16:42 Speaker 2

If they were killed and I saw them when they were killed.

00:16:47 Speaker 2

And they were just doing frozen position.

00:16:52 Speaker 2

With their rifles pointed forward.

00:16:55 Speaker 1

Well, what was it that killed him?

00:16:57 Speaker 2

The concussions be out from the farming.

00:16:57 Speaker 1

Say it was concussion.

00:17:04 Speaker 2

And there is some wounded during the night. I don't. One of the medics wanted me to give a transfusion to one of the other soldiers there.

00:17:11

I should.

00:17:14 Speaker 2

Was bleeding real bad?

00:17:17 Speaker 2

But before I, before they had a chance to do that, he passed away.

00:17:23 Speaker 2 I didn't have to get the transfusion, but. 00:17:23 Mm. 00:17:27 Speaker 1 How have you been trained to do? 00:17:30 Speaker 1 Or did was he telling you how to do it or what's that? The transfusion. 00:17:34 Speaker 2 Well, the medic was going to do it. 00:17:36 Speaker 1 Oh, he was going to do it. 00:17:38 Speaker 2 Yeah, there was a medic. 00:17:40 Speaker 2 Ine and when we went into the town. 00:17:44 Speaker 2 The next day, the next morning, as we were pinned down for tonight. 00:17:48 Speaker 2 So the next morning, when we went in. 00:17:52 Speaker 2 Most of the soldiers had their the Germans had retreated already, so we had to go mop up the city. 00:17:56 Hmm.

00:18:00 Speaker 1

And kind of going from door to door.

00:18:02 Speaker 2

Dark, dark, right.

00:18:04 Speaker 2

And while I was in there, mopping up. 00:18:08 Speaker 2 We went into one house. 00:18:11 Speaker 2 To clean up the bottom, the lower floor, the upper floor, the Lieutenant was up in there. 00:18:19 Speaker 2 lt. 00:18:20 Speaker 2 For some reason he did some shooting towards the floor. 00:18:26 Speaker 2 Unless he saw somebody there, he was shooting at, but we yelled up there. We're down here. 00:18:32 Speaker 1 That's right. 00:18:33 Speaker 2 Quit shooting. 00:18:34 Speaker 1 Hold your fire. 00:18:36 Speaker 2 And when we went, did it, we were going to move up in a straight to the next building. 00:18:38 You do. 00:18:44 Speaker 2 Here comes a German. 00:18:47 Speaker 2 What is rifle and everything? And holler, comrade comrade. 00:18:52 Speaker 1 Oh. 00:18:53 Speaker 2

Come help me.

00:18:55 Speaker 2

And so he showed us where his buddy was bleeding.

00:19:00 Speaker 2

Got hit by.

00:19:02 Speaker 2

Shrapnel or something real bad.

00:19:04 Speaker 2

He was bleeding.

00:19:06 Speaker 2

So we got ahold of our one of our medics to go take care of him, and we went on doing the mopping up.

00:19:14 Speaker 1

So you don't know what happened to him.

00:19:18 Speaker 2

No, but then when we go.

00:19:25 Speaker 2

Bogged down from the night there.

00:19:28 Speaker 2

They woke us up at midnight and start marching again to the Dick's town.

00:19:33 Speaker 1

Oh.

00:19:34 Speaker 2

And while we were in the forest up there.

00:19:39 Speaker 2

They that's where I was captured in a forest.

00:19:42 Speaker 1

In the forest.

00:19:44 Speaker 2

Yeah, because what happened is they had moved out of the machine gun position.

00:19:51 Speaker 2

And we set up our machine gun in there and during the night they snuck up on us.

00:19:57 Speaker 2

We didn't even hear them.

00:19:58 Speaker 1

Oh, is that right?

00:19:59 Speaker 2

And they put the machine gun to us and.

00:20:04 Speaker 2

That was it.

00:20:07 Speaker 2

They arched us into the next town.

00:20:10 Speaker 2

To the town that they were coming from to feed their people, they didn't realize that their people.

00:20:17 Speaker 2

Left there. So we were in their nest.

00:20:24 Speaker 2

And.

00:20:26 Speaker 2

They captured us, took us into the town.

00:20:29 Speaker 2

And put us into.

00:20:29

Huh.

00:20:32 Speaker 2

A must have been a school gymnasium or something where they interrogated us, and while I was walking over to the interior interrogator, I still had my.

00:20:47 Speaker 2

Straps with my.

00:20:53 Speaker 2

What do you?

00:20:55 Speaker 2

Grenades hanging down off of Mike.

00:20:59 Speaker 2

And the first thing they wanted me to make sure that they had a Sergeant come over and take those off of my hanging off of my.

00:21:08 Speaker 4

Mm.

00:21:13 Speaker 2

Shirt there. Right in front.

00:21:14 Speaker 1

Were.

00:21:15 Speaker 1

Were they worried that you were booby trapping yourself?

00:21:18 Speaker 2

Yeah. Well, they thought maybe I would take one of those and throw it because the interrogators were high officers.

00:21:22 Speaker 1

Yeah, yeah.

00:21:27 Speaker 2

From you.

00:21:28 Speaker 2

From that were interrogating him, the two of us.

00:21:31 Speaker 2

Was two of us.

00:21:32 Speaker 2

They were captured.

00:21:35 Speaker 2

As a machine gunner and you'll get on the two that were US 2 together. 00:21:42 Speaker 1 How long you think you were you were in combat before you got. How long had you been? 00:21:48 Speaker 2 I think it was about. 00:21:52 Speaker 2 Two or three weeks, I think. 00:21:54 Speaker 1 Uh. 00:21:55 Speaker 2 Yeah, because no, no. 00:21:55 Speaker 1 Not very long. 00:21:57 Speaker 2 No, no, no, I wasn't. 00:22:00 Speaker 2 Have been a month. 00:22:02 Speaker 2 I got some dates someplace. I think, Sean, when I was a prisoner more. 00:22:03 Speaker 1 That's OK. Yeah. 00:22:06 Speaker 2 I mean, from the combat here. 00:22:07 We're. 00:22:10 Speaker 1 Where did they take you from? From there. 00:22:13 Speaker 2

To, well, they paraded us.

00:22:18 Speaker 2 While we were while we were. 00:22:18 Speaker 1 And. 00:22:19 Speaker 2 These soldiers that were. 00:22:23 Speaker 2 Wait in the trash. 00:22:25 Speaker 2 They took us into a house. 00:22:29 Speaker 2 And it was a French house. 00:22:31 Speaker 2 The guy had all his baked goods on a table that he was going to. 00:22:37 Speaker 2 And they just knocked everything off on the floor and had us all sit around this table and they had their Kodak. 00:22:47 Speaker 2 And they were drinking. 00:22:48 Speaker 1 Oh. 00:22:49 Speaker 2 Drinking the cognac and they tried to force us to take it too. 00:22:54 Speaker 2 So we had to sip a little bit with them. 00:22:57 Speaker 2 Otherwise they were they were already drunken. 00:23:00 Speaker 1 Oh.

00:23:01 Speaker 2

The fellow I was with, he he understood German.

00:23:05 Speaker 2

And he was saying they're talking about shooting us.

00:23:08 Speaker 1

Oh.

00:23:11 Speaker 2

So then they put us underneath the house.

00:23:15 Speaker 2

For the for the night.

00:23:16 Speaker 1

In the basement you mean?

00:23:18 Speaker 2

Well, they didn't have.

00:23:19 Speaker 1

Whole under.

00:23:19 Speaker 2

They had a just underneath the house.

00:23:22 Speaker 2

There was just crawl space.

00:23:24 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:23:25 Speaker 2

And we.

00:23:27 Speaker 2

We were not there very long and now?

00:23:34 Speaker 2

Hey, we'll put us up, put us on trucks to take us to the next town.

00:23:37 Speaker 1

Oh.

00:23:41 Speaker 2

And while we were before we got to the limbert where they were going to, that was the main city where they used to take all the Pows.

00:23:53 Speaker 2

And register them and everything. But before we got there, they had us parading to the streets just to show the people that they had a lot of prisoners because they.

00:24:01

Mm.

00:24:06 Speaker 2

Kind of gathered all of them from my all the little areas.

00:24:10

Hmm.

00:24:11 Speaker 2

And had us March down.

00:24:14 Speaker 2

Well, when I was on this truck.

00:24:17 Speaker 2

Right. Clothing got all bloody because it was bloody on the bed and.

00:24:24 Speaker 2

From other troops, they were injured or something.

00:24:29 Speaker 2

And it it I could see it.

00:24:34 Speaker 2

I was kind of just disturbed with all the blood on my calling.

00:24:39 Speaker 2

So then after we paraded through that street, they took us to Lindbergh, Germany, which was a registration for all prisoners of war.

00:24:49 Speaker 1

Is, yeah.

00:24:50 Speaker 2

We stayed there about a week.

00:24:53 Speaker 2

There's some blankets.

00:24:57 Speaker 2

In some things, to call them bloody stuff often.

00:24:58

Oh.

00:25:03 Speaker 2

Than we ever put in box cars.

00:25:07 Speaker 2

And they were sending us to.

00:25:11 Speaker 2

Mosburg Germany. But it took us about a week at a boxcar.

00:25:15 Speaker 1

Oh.

00:25:17 Speaker 2

And we it was terrible in there to I.

00:25:21 Speaker 2

I don't remember if we had a place to even urinate or.

00:25:26 Speaker 1

You didn't.

00:25:27 Speaker 2

We didn't know. I can't remember.

00:25:30 Speaker 2

They must have had some kind of a viral or something, but I don't rec.

00:25:35 Speaker 1

I recall interviewing somebody that was in one of these stuffed in one of these box cars.

00:25:41 Speaker 2

All. Yeah, we were. 00:25:42 Speaker 2 We had a lot of them in there. We tried to catch drops. 00:25:44 And. 00:25:48 Speaker 2 We would put a piece of paper or something and try to catch when it was raining. Catch the water and sip on it. 00:25:55 Mm. 00:25:57 Speaker 2 Because we didn't. 00:25:58 Speaker 2 I think they gave us something, but it couldn't have been very much. 00:26:01 Speaker 1 Did they stuff you in? 00:26:04 Speaker 2 Packed, but it was kind of congested in here and all you could do was. 00:26:05 Speaker 1 Oh yeah. 00:26:11 Speaker 1 Or you could sit. 00:26:12 Speaker 2 Yeah. 00:26:15 Speaker 1 The people I interviewed, they. 00:26:17 Speaker 1 They were stuffed in so much that they had to stand.

00:26:20 Speaker 2

Hey ya. 00:26:22 Speaker 2 But we were. 00:26:24 Speaker 2 They stopped at a shop. 00:26:26 Speaker 2 Search up places that we would stay. 00:26:30 Speaker 2 Maybe took us out-of-the-box cars and we just slept there. Next morning they would put us back in a box cars and go down to the next. 00:26:40 Speaker 2 It took about a week to get down here because. 00:26:43 Speaker 2 Every time a troop train would come by or something, we had to take a side drill. 00:26:51 Speaker 2 So we didn't get there very fast to mooseburg and that's where I was from. 00:26:56 Speaker 2 Lindbergh was a size Stella, 12A. 00:27:01 Speaker 2 And we went to Wisburg, which was 7. 00:27:06 Speaker 2 And that's where I was. 00:27:07 Private. 00:27:08 Speaker 2 Forget. 00:27:09 Speaker 2 For remainder of the time Vienna prisoner of war. 00:27:12 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:27:13 Speaker 2

Except it was about.

00:27:16 Speaker 2

Just about two weeks or three weeks.

00:27:22 Speaker 2

Before the before I was liberated, they took us out of the camp. A group of people and we were marching through the highways.

00:27:32 Speaker 2

Because they didn't want to the troops to know that the camp was overcrowded.

00:27:34 Speaker 1

The rasmuss.

00:27:40 Speaker 2

So they took.

00:27:42 Speaker 2

We marched for about 3 weeks, two or three weeks.

00:27:47 Speaker 2

Through the pre site stop in a different firms during the night to sleep.

00:27:54 Speaker 2

And I remember the little town, the last little town that we were in.

00:28:03 Speaker 2

Was ettricken.

00:28:09 Speaker 2

The other picture there this picture.

00:28:12 Speaker 2

No, there's another one someplace else.

00:28:16 Speaker 2

*****, where's the other stuff you got?

00:28:21 Speaker 1

Wanted to ask you when you were in the. 00:28:25 Speaker 1 Box cars. Was there any problem with the Allied strafing or anything? 00:28:31 Speaker 1 That was not unusual. 00:28:33 Speaker 2 No, not at that time. 00:28:36 Speaker 2 Although we did have a lot of strafing later on. 00:28:42 Speaker 2 In fact, we. 00:28:43 Speaker 2 They send us to a little town. 00:28:46 Speaker 2 We were still in Louisburg in a campground. 00:28:49 Speaker 4 This is all I have. 00:28:50 Speaker 4 Don't have any pictures. 00:28:51 Speaker 2 That little picture of the girls. 00:28:57 Right here. 00:28:59 Speaker 2 Yeah. 00:29:00 Repl. 00:29:05 Speaker 2 Let's go back again to word.

00:29:08 Speaker 2 Liberated in with Ethernet in Germany. 00:29:13 Speaker 2 See the name of a town there. 00:29:15 Speaker 1 Yeah. 00:29:17 Speaker 2 Metric. 00:29:17 Yet. 00:29:19 Speaker 1 Yeah. 00:29:20 Speaker 2 And. 00:29:21 Nose. 00:29:24 Speaker 1 You were liberated on. 00:29:26 Speaker 1 If yeah, my God, the war was just over. 00:29:32 Speaker 2 Well, it was April when we were liberated. 00:29:35 Speaker 2 Oh yeah, April 2829 or something like that. 00:29:44 Speaker 2 But. 00:29:45 Speaker 2 See the picture there. 00:29:47 Speaker 2

Those were the little children that worked that lived on that farm and they hang out with us.

00:29:54 Speaker 2

And they says when you get back to us, send us some chocolate.

00:29:59 Speaker 1

Isn't that straight?

00:30:00 Speaker 2

They were like very nice children and there it was in the Navy, colored, it said.

00:30:08 Speaker 2

They lived with their mother and in that farmhouse. How?

00:30:13 Speaker 1

Was the treatment while you were there?

00:30:17 Speaker 2

Well, we were.

00:30:19 Speaker 2

Do it forced labor.

00:30:22

Hello.

00:30:22 Speaker 2

They send us to Munich almost every day.

00:30:25 Speaker 1

Is that right?

00:30:27 Speaker 2

Right and now?

00:30:28

And.

00:30:28 Speaker 2

Now there was times when we says, well, we're not gonna go.

00:30:33 Speaker 2

Did they send the dogs in there and start rifle **** against and everything else to get to everybody to go out there? 00:30:41 Speaker 2 This was like 5:00 in the morning. 00:30:43 Speaker 2 Used to wake us up. 00:30:45 Speaker 2 It was still low. 00:30:47 Speaker 2 Can line us up? 00:30:50 Speaker 2 A box cars. 00:30:54 Speaker 2 And says we'd go to Munich to clean up buildings or to railroads. 00:31:03 Speaker 1 It was pretty well bombed. 00:31:05 Speaker 2 Here it was today. 00:31:06 Speaker 2 Well, we had some. 00:31:08 Speaker 2 We had to go into the shelters because they were bombing at that time that we were. 00:31:10 Speaker 2 Uh. 00:31:16 Speaker 1 Yeah, I visited Munich and it's hard to tell that it was decimated. So in World War Two, yeah. 00:31:24 Speaker 2

You know, it was pretty well bombed all the buildings.

00:31:26

Mm. 00:31:29 Speaker 2 And what we would do by going there, we would get some, maybe a little better meal. 00:31:37 Speaker 2 We get some soup or something. 00:31:39 Speaker 1 Uh. 00:31:40 Speaker 2 Whoever we were working for. 00:31:42 Speaker 1 Didn't get any of their same. 00:31:45 Speaker 1 Will endure. 00:31:45 Speaker 2 They've won. 00:31:47 Speaker 2 We're working to it. 00:31:49 Speaker 2 They are fleeting, out of brewery or something, so they gave us one. 00:31:55 Speaker 2 Glass of beer. 00:31:57 Speaker 2 That was the only time, but the civilians would always come. 00:32:03 Speaker 2 By us, you know, or the guards wanted. 00:32:09 Speaker 2 Coffee or tea?

And they would give us bread or for cigarettes.

00:32:12 Speaker 2

00:32:16 Speaker 2 And the. 00:32:17 Speaker 2 Same thing with the guards. 00:32:18 Speaker 2 They would get us bread if we gave them some cigarettes. 00:32:22 Speaker 1 Where'd you get the cigarettes? 00:32:23 Speaker 2 From the parcels from the the Red Cross persons, we would kind of save it. 00:32:25 Speaker 1 Red Cross. 00:32:27 Speaker 2 Uh. 00:32:29 Speaker 2 The cigarettes were just like dollar bills. 00:32:33 Speaker 1 I'll bet, yeah. 00:32:34 Speaker 2 You could get almost straight anybody if you had cigarettes. 00:32:38 Speaker 1 Yeah, American cigarettes were a premium, yeah. 00:32:39 Speaker 2 Yeah. 00:32:43 Speaker 2 But. 00:32:46 Speaker 2 I was fortunate enough that I didn't get very sick when I did get a lot of sick. I had a buddy and we had a buddy system. If I got sick, he took care of me. If he got sick, I took care of him.

00:33:02 Speaker 1 They allow you to. 00:33:05 Speaker 1 Skip your labor or. 00:33:08 Speaker 2 Oh yeah, Tennessee. 00:33:12 Speaker 2 The guy that was in charge of the barracks, he was an American. 00:33:17 Speaker 1 Oh. 00:33:18 Speaker 2 You know, he was in charge of getting up. 00:33:22 Speaker 1 Cruise together. 00:33:23 Speaker 2 Getting their proofs together well, he. 00:33:25 Speaker 2 If you guys don't go, I'm going to be in trouble. 00:33:29 Speaker 2 But we decided one day we wouldn't go and that's when they send the dogs and start rifle butting everybody out of bed. 00:33:37 Speaker 1 You say you were straped at one time by was that by American plants? 00:33:40 Speaker 2 Following that, while we were, yeah, we were in a cleaning up a railroad in a small town around there. 00:33:48 Speaker 2

This was not Munich, it was some other little town.

00:33:52 Speaker 2

And I don't know the name of it but.

00:33:56 Speaker 2

See, when we got there, all the tracks were like figure eights from bombing being bomb.

00:34:05 Speaker 2

And while we were there.

00:34:08 Speaker 2

The fighter planes came and start strafing, so the guards took us out in the field and had us lay out in the fields just to be safe from the strafing.

00:34:19

Did.

00:34:19 Speaker 1

They realize that they were.

00:34:20 Speaker 2

That well, that they they saw some box cars Mart, Red Cross and they knew that they had ammunition in them.

00:34:29 Speaker 2

That's why they were bombing those cars because they knew there was, you know.

00:34:37 Speaker 1

The Germans, with mark, a Red Cross with their hammer.

00:34:39 Speaker 2

Right, right. And put them on a railroad.

00:34:44 Speaker 2

And transport their ammunition and stuff in there.

00:34:48 Speaker 2

Should we? Did nobody got hurt during the striping because they took us out in time?

00:34:56 Speaker 2

They knew they were coming.

00:35:01 Speaker 1

Did did you have much to eat?

00:35:06 Speaker 1 Much to eat. 00:35:07 Speaker 2 No, no. 00:35:08 Speaker 2 We never had much. 00:35:10 Speaker 2 We called it head soup and the bread we got was sawdust. Bread real hard. 00:35:18 Speaker 2 But when we were in a camp, we. 00:35:20 Speaker 2 A little. 00:35:23 Speaker 2 Virgo. Those little things you crank and it's fun around and we were able to boil the water in there. 00:35:34 Speaker 2 And we used to save all our rations and sugar and stuff. 00:35:39 Speaker 2 And we made a cake. 00:35:41 Speaker 1 Did you? 00:35:42 Speaker 2 From the bread, we would grind up the bread just by scraping it on, made a little scraper scrap the bread. 00:35:52 Speaker 2 Are out of it. 00:35:54 Speaker 2 And we would make a cake and use the sugar. 00:35:58 Speaker 2

And chocolate or something? And we'd raffle that off for cigarettes. And that's how we got to we're able to get cigarettes, but not mine alone.

00:36:08 Speaker 2

Uh.

00:36:09 Speaker 2

There was a group of us that.

00:36:11 Speaker 2

Be all in on this cake and be able to get extra cigarettes.

00:36:16 Speaker 2

Great. Yeah. Yeah. His buddy of mine that was with me. He was real.

00:36:22 Speaker 2

Just take care.

00:36:23 Speaker 2

Of all the.

00:36:25 Speaker 2

Cigarettes and the trading that we did.

00:36:29 Speaker 1

You said that they you out because.

00:36:34 Speaker 1

I want to show the allies that they were overcrowded.

00:36:37 Speaker 2

Yeah, that's what I heard. The rumors we heard.

00:36:37

But.

00:36:40 Speaker 1

You.

00:36:41 Speaker 1

You weren't close to where the Russians were coming then?

00:36:45 Speaker 2

I don't think so. 00:36:46 Speaker 2 I think we. 00:36:47 Speaker 2 We were close to Austria. 00:36:50 Speaker 2 So they weren't around that that area. 00:36:53 Speaker 1 Yeah. OK. 00:36:54 Speaker 2 Cedar Russians were coming more by Berlin and then. 00:36:59 Speaker 2 And we were quite a ways away from that. 00:37:03 Speaker 2 Were close to Switzerland. 00:37:07 Speaker 2 Austria, I think. 00:37:08 Speaker 1 Oh yeah. 00:37:09 Speaker 2 That's where Gusberg and Munich are. 00:37:12 Speaker 1 Yeah. 00:37:14 Speaker 1 The some of the people that I've talked with have said that they were. 00:37:19 Speaker 1 They were marched much the way you were, but. 00:37:25 Speaker 1 The the purpose was to.

00:37:27 Speaker 1 To get away from the Russians. 00:37:30 Speaker 2 No, no, just no. 00:37:30 Speaker 1 So that was not no. 00:37:33 Speaker 2 They just for some reason we don't know for sure, even if it was, you know, but that's what we presume. 00:37:40 Who? 00:37:41 Speaker 1 Liberated you. When? 00:37:43 Speaker 2 These patterns are we. 00:37:45 Speaker 2 Oh, was it again because he liberated the camp too. But I think they liberated us before, even before the camp. 00:37:45 Speaker 1 Oh was. 00:37:55 Speaker 2 Mm. 00:37:56 Speaker 2 I think it was a last part of. 00:38:03 Speaker 2 Last part of April. 00:38:05 Speaker 1 April. 00:38:12 Speaker 2

Probably good. I had this little. 00:38:18 Speaker 2 Booklet address. 00:38:21 And. 00:38:25 Speaker 2 Every time we. 00:38:29 Speaker 2 If you notice, all the eights are marked. 00:38:31 Speaker 2 Was my anniversary on 8th. 00:38:36 Speaker 2 A little heart. 00:38:37 Uh. 00:38:38 Speaker 2 Remembering that. 00:38:40 Speaker 2 My pleading at my wife. 00:38:45 Speaker 2 There's some in a back and some in affront to dates. 00:38:48 Speaker 1 Let you keep this. 00:38:50 Speaker 1 Oh, they did. 00:38:50 Speaker 2 In fact, they let me keep my watch. 00:38:53 Speaker 2 But it was all broken.

00:38:55 Speaker 2 The crystals were broke on it. 00:38:59 Speaker 1 Oh my. 00:39:00 Speaker 1 Oh, that's that's. 00:39:05 Speaker 2 I think I may look at this here. 00:39:16 Speaker 1 Looking for that? The babies. 00:39:19 Speaker 1 One of these. 00:39:22 Speaker 1 Camps, you know, like lucky strike. 00:39:25 Speaker 2 Yeah, lucky strike. 00:39:27 Speaker 2 Yeah, after we were liberated to, Delaware says. 00:39:28 Speaker 1 After we were Liber. Ohh. Is that right? 00:39:31 Speaker 2 Yeah, and I had. 00:39:34 Speaker 2 I get. 00:39:37 Speaker 2 Sobriety at that time. 00:39:40 Speaker 2 And at Lucky Strike that I went to the clinic there, I showed them my psoriasis and all they did was put.

00:39:53 Speaker 2 Tape on it. 00:39:55 Speaker 2 And when they took the tape off, it took the scales off. 00:40:00 Speaker 2 Hello. 00:40:01 Speaker 2 So they didn't have much of A treatment for. 00:40:04 Speaker 1 You that must have been painful. 00:40:07 Speaker 2 Not too much, you know. 00:40:10 Speaker 2 That tape didn't know that much. 00:40:10 Yes. 00:40:13 Speaker 1 That's it's just kind of a strange way. 00:40:18 Speaker 1 Isis. 00:40:19 Speaker 2 Yeah. 00:40:24 Speaker 1 So how long do you stay in lucky Strike? 00:40:27 Speaker 2 I'd say maybe a week or. 00:40:31 Speaker 1 Be home by boat. 00:40:33 Speaker 2

By by boat. Yeah. Took US 7 days again to get. And we did run across a real bad storm and that.

00:40:44 Speaker 2

We thought that Bolt would fall apart.

00:40:46 Speaker 2

Because it would go way up and wave would disappear from the bottom and hit.

00:40:53 Speaker 2

And then after the storm was kind of little calmer, we would sit right up in the front and just watch that thing going up and down.

00:41:02 Speaker 2

Was everybody was throwing out the very nostalgic. Everybody was climbing up.

00:41:07 Speaker 2

See, we were.

00:41:08 Speaker 2

Our bunks were on the bottom.

00:41:11 Speaker 2

That's where we slept.

00:41:14 Speaker 2

And we would crawl up because we had.

00:41:15 Speaker 2

Throw up.

00:41:17 Speaker 2

And we didn't want to throw up in her beds or anything.

00:41:21 Speaker 1

So I take it it was a ship.

00:41:25 Speaker 1

Was.

00:41:26 Speaker 1

It wasn't canard and.

00:41:27 Speaker 2

And there wasn't a big freighter.

00:41:28 Speaker 1

It wasn't the Queen Mary or.

00:41:29 Speaker 2

Know.

00:41:30 Speaker 2

No, it was one of their ships. They used to just haul.

00:41:35 Speaker 2

Ships liberty ship.

00:41:36 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:41:39 Speaker 2

And but after the war, weather got beautiful, real sunny. In a few days and.

00:41:49 Speaker 2

Nice on there. You know, just try going along till we got into the Ark Harbour.

00:41:57 Speaker 2

Forget if it was Boston Harbor or.

00:42:03 Speaker 2

And then the.

00:42:07 Speaker 2

I forgot where we stayed there, but then we went.

00:42:10 Speaker 2

Were shipped home from there.

00:42:12 Speaker 1

Oh right, they were shipped you right home.

00:42:14 Speaker 1

Yeah. Did they discharge you at that time?

00:42:17 Speaker 2

No, just send us home for a furlough. And at that time.

00:42:23 Speaker 2 While I was home, they send us to. 00:42:28 Speaker 2 I got a letter to go to. 00:42:31 Speaker 2 Miami Beach. 00:42:35 Speaker 2 To get fattened up again. 00:42:39 Speaker 2 They run it for what do you call it? Rehabilitation and. 00:42:43 Speaker 2 No. 00:42:45 Speaker 2 We were treated like. 00:42:48 Speaker 2 OK. 00:42:48 Speaker 2 Kings are pots of food my. 00:42:51 Speaker 2 Wife and I both went. 00:42:53 Speaker 1 Oh, is that right? 00:42:55 Speaker 2 And I had to go. 00:42:57 Speaker 2 The dentist in the clinics and that almost every day. But after we were free to do whatever we wanted, it was we had to fancy hotels up there.

00:43:10 Speaker 1

Is that?

00:43:10 Speaker 2 Right. That's what they had all the. 00:43:13 Speaker 2 Well known bands for Dancing every evening. 00:43:19 Speaker 2 Cool. 00:43:20 Speaker 2 By the hotel. 00:43:23 Speaker 2 Almost all. 00:43:23 Speaker 2 Yeah, have their own food, you know? So they entertained us and gave us everything, all the goodies. 00:43:25 Speaker 1 Is that yeah, mm. 00:43:31 Speaker 1 Mm. 00:43:33 Speaker 1 When did you get this, George? 00:43:35 Speaker 2 Well from there. 00:43:38 Speaker 2 To another hospital in. 00:43:41 Speaker 2 Florida. 00:43:43 Speaker 2

And then my wife, she went on a train back then, and I had to go to the hospital.

For further treatments in.

00:43:52 Speaker 2

00:43:57 Speaker 2

And from there I went to.

00:44:02 Speaker 2

Georgia to another hospital.

00:44:06 Speaker 2

That was close to Chattanooga.

00:44:10 Speaker 2

And then from there they shipped me to.

00:44:15 Speaker 2

Oh.

00:44:17 Speaker 2

Indian gap, PA.

00:44:21 Speaker 2

And I was working with the doctors there, discharging people.

00:44:27 Speaker 2

Oh, I was writing down on everything as they went through the line.

00:44:33 Speaker 2

Everybody would be stripped and the doctor would look at all them and mark.

00:44:39 Speaker 2

Their charts, whatever ones they might have had.

00:44:44 Speaker 2

And I was discharged from.

00:44:46 Speaker 1

You were discharged from there.

00:44:47 Speaker 2

From from Pennsylvania, you know Indianapolis reservation.

00:44:53 Speaker 1

What's what you do once, once you got back to civilian life?

00:44:57 Speaker 2

There were. 00:44:58 Speaker 1 When when you got back to civilian life, what did you do? What? 00:45:02 Speaker 2 Well, I was unemployed for. 00:45:06 Speaker 2 For. 00:45:07 Speaker 2 I. 00:45:08 Speaker 2 Forget. 00:45:09 Speaker 2 Let me see. 00:45:10 Speaker 1 You didn't belong to the 5220 club. 00:45:14 Speaker 1 Do you remember what that was? 00:45:16 Speaker 2 The unemployment you mean? 00:45:18 Speaker 2 That's. 00:45:19 Speaker 2 Well, I just started it. 00:45:20 Speaker 2 Think I got 1. 00:45:23 Speaker 2 And then I went to work as a tool a day. 00:45:26 Speaker 1 Uh.

00:45:28 Speaker 2

My brother and my dad worked at a place and they hired me there.

00:45:35 Speaker 2

\$1.00 an hour.

00:45:36 Speaker 1

Oh boy, that was big bucks.

00:45:40 Speaker 2

\$40 a week. Wow.

00:45:43 Speaker 2

And everybody at the top, that was good at that tech.

00:45:48 Speaker 1

Absolutely, yeah.

00:45:51 Speaker 2

And when I tried to buy a house, you know, after.

00:45:57 Speaker 2

The finance company says you can't make the payments of \$43.00 because they wanted one one paycheck out of the bug to cover the payment for the.

00:46:10 Speaker 2

How's you know?

00:46:13 Speaker 1

Couldn't get it through.

00:46:14 Speaker 2

Says if I had a good real estate man, he talked him into giving, but just that \$3 difference and they were going to reject it my.

00:46:18 Speaker 1

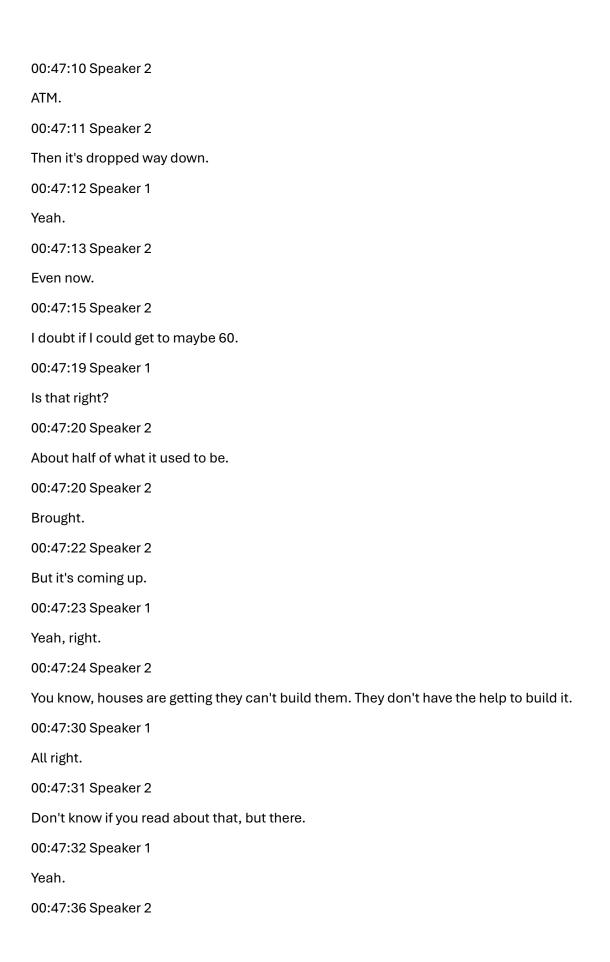
Uh.

00:46:25 Speaker 2

Offer to buy the house.

00:46:27 Speaker 1

Where did you buy the house? 00:46:28 Speaker 1 Was that in in this point? 00:46:29 Speaker 2 1947. 00:46:33 Speaker 1 Is that in East Point or was? 00:46:35 Speaker 2 There anything wrong? 00:46:37 Speaker 2 Yeah, and that's where I've been living for close to 70 years now, mid East Point. 00:46:39 Speaker 1 The. 00:46:44 Speaker 1 You think you could buy a house there now for \$40 a month? 00:46:49 Speaker 2 I don't think so. 00:46:49 Speaker 1 I don't think so, no. 00:46:53 Speaker 2 I think it's a bit cheaper house. 00:46:56 Speaker 2 The house was worth over \$100,000. 00:47:01 Speaker 2 Big drop off in what was at 29 or 10. 00:47:06 Speaker 2 When, when did we have an attribute? 00:47:08 Speaker 1 228 I think, yeah.



There's a net they all went to. 00:47:36 Speaker 1 Not enough to work on the Carpenter. 00:47:39 Speaker 2 Where was it? 00:47:40 Speaker 2 North Dakota, where all the jobs are because they started at big oil. 00:47:46 Speaker 1 Yeah. 00:47:49 Speaker 1 Not enough trades people. 00:47:50 Speaker 2 Alright, that's why Obama starting. 00:47:58 Speaker 2 Have them start all these trades again. 00:48:09 Speaker 1 So tell me now. 00:48:10 Speaker 1 I met 2 your daughters. 00:48:13 Speaker 1 Is that? 00:48:15 Speaker 1 Those the only children you have, not only. 00:48:17 Bye. 00:48:19 Speaker 2 Son, he lives in Sterling Heights. 00:48:23 Speaker 2 He's the one takes care of me every day.

00:48:25 Speaker 2

Oh yeah, he comes every morning.

00:48:29 Speaker 2

Brings newspaper and buys all the most of the food that I need.

00:48:38 Speaker 2

Daughters. My daughter Betty comes once a week at least.

00:48:43 Speaker 2

And she does the laundry and cleans the house.

00:48:48 Speaker 2

Why you say I'm on my own most of the day?

00:48:51 Speaker 1

You you live on.

00:49:02 Speaker 4

Dad, I didn't hear you tell him how.

00:49:06

They.

00:49:06 Speaker 4

Free how they handed you their guns.

00:49:10 Speaker 2

Oh yeah, I told him that.

00:49:12 Speaker 1

No, what they do.

00:49:13 Speaker 4

No, you didn't tell him.

00:49:15 Speaker 2

That's when I was in that town. Weaver, creaming up, mopping up.

00:49:21 Speaker 2

When after we got out of his one house.

00:49:25 Speaker 2

And we were going to the next one and the German soldier came up to me.

00:49:31 Speaker 2

And it says, Comrade, comrade, help me. And he took me to show me his buddy.

00:49:38 Speaker 2

That was all wounded from the.

00:49:40 Speaker 2

He had some real bad cuts, bleeding real bad.

00:49:46 Speaker 1

It's like.

00:49:47 Speaker 2

Like, yeah.

00:49:50 Speaker 2

We just got married to come there, take care of. We just went on to doing the mopping up again.

00:49:57 Speaker 1

Is that what you were talking about?

00:49:58 Speaker 4

Yeah. No, no, I was.

00:49:59 Speaker 4

Yeah, you did tell him that story.

00:50:01 Speaker 4

But I meant the story like when you were freed, when the war ended, you said the guards gave you their gun.

00:50:11 Speaker 2

Just gave up Holder, guns and metals and stuff to all the different soldiers.

00:50:17 Speaker 2

Afterward liberated in that town, we stayed over.

00:50:20 Speaker 2

I'd say maybe about a week getting there in that town after we were liberated, until.

00:50:28 Speaker 2

They flew us out of there, over to. 00:50:32 Speaker 2 Lucky strike. 00:50:33 Speaker 1 You know. 00:50:34 Speaker 2 Which, while we were dead about a week there. 00:50:38 Speaker 2 We were going through the town trying to start some cars that were there. 00:50:43 Speaker 2 We never. 00:50:44 Speaker 2 We pushed them more but couldn't start them. 00:50:49 Speaker 3 And you tell how your weight loss and your head to be sprayed. 00:50:53 Before. 00:50:53 Speaker 2 Oh yeah, that was in Lucky Strike. 00:50:56 Speaker 2 They had to. 00:50:59 Speaker 2 They shaved everything, all the hair and. 00:51:01 Speaker 1 That right? 00:51:03 None. 00:51:06 Speaker 2 Like almost steamed showers to get all the while we were in this prison camp. 00:51:13 Speaker 2

Were all full of lights.

00:51:15 Speaker 1

Who are you?

00:51:16 Speaker 2

Everybody, you couldn't sleep at night. The life would be.

00:51:20 Speaker 2

Bothering you, especially at night when you try to sleep.

00:51:24 Speaker 2

You're.

00:51:26 Speaker 2

I did get a big rash.

00:51:29 Speaker 2

We treat my.

00:51:30 Speaker 2

Here it is actually almost bleeding. I went to the.

00:51:36 Speaker 2

We had a little look. Whoever was in charge of it.

00:51:42 Speaker 2

American officers, they were the planning too.

00:51:46 Speaker 2

All they had was a green soaked put on it.

00:51:50 Speaker 2

It didn't have nothing else to put on it or nothing.

00:51:53 Speaker 2

They just washed it off with green soap.

00:51:58 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:52:00 Speaker 1

What? What were you in the hospital? 00:52:02 Speaker 1 You said you went from one hospital to another. 00:52:05 Speaker 1 Did you have pneumonia or? 00:52:08 Speaker 2 Not it. 00:52:10 Speaker 2 I think they're right ahead. 00:52:11 Speaker 2 I might ahead. 00:52:14 Speaker 2 Blood pressure maybe or something, but psoriasis too? 00:52:19 Speaker 2 For the psoriasis, I know David. 00:52:22 Speaker 2 Pam, I forgot what she gave me for that. 00:52:27 Speaker 2 At the hospital. 00:52:29 Speaker 1 That they weren't doing the tape tape job. 00:52:31 Speaker 2 No, no, no, not there. 00:52:32 Speaker 2 This was the US that was at Lucky Strike where David. 00:52:37 Speaker 2 That's.

00:52:38 Speaker 1

Always amazed me that these these.

00:52:42 Speaker 1

Separation camps were named Lucky Strike, Chesterfield and I don't know what else, but they were cigarette.

00:52:52 Speaker 2

Well, see, cigarettes were a popular name for Russians in the French.

00:52:52 Speaker 1

Names.

00:52:59 Speaker 2

Because everybody wanted to give me chesterfields.

00:53:04 Speaker 2

You know you got the chesterfields.

00:53:07 Speaker 1

Not lucky strike.

00:53:10 Speaker 2

And they all said that.

00:53:13 Speaker 2

Chicago gangsters. You know, everybody was a Chicago gate or just Chicago gangsters.

00:53:22 Speaker 2

There are.

00:53:23 Speaker 2

You know, Chicago is known for the gangsters.

00:53:25 Speaker 1

Yes.

00:53:29 Speaker 2

Oh.

00:53:31 Speaker 2

But we had people that when we were in Munich they would come and say you have any tea especially because we get somebody sick at home and they wanted to give him some tea.

00:53:43 Speaker 2

Know and they were willing to give us bread. 00:53:47 Replay. 00:53:47 Speaker 2 For the tea or something. 00:53:49 You know. 00:53:50 Speaker 1 What was the tea going to do for them? 00:53:52 Speaker 2 Well, you know T is a bit minute. 00:53:56 Speaker 2 Good thing to drink for something, for junior sick or something. And they believed in your auntie over in Europe. 00:53:57 Speaker 1 Yeah, yeah, yeah. 00:54:00 Speaker 1 Yeah. 00:54:05 Speaker 1 Mm. 00:54:08 Speaker 2 Yeah. 00:54:09 Speaker 2 But they were always looking for tea or coffee. 00:54:13 Speaker 2 Or cigarettes. 00:54:16 Speaker 2 The guards mostly wanted cigarettes. 00:54:17 Speaker 2

Figure out they would go and get this.

00:54:20 Speaker 2

We gave them cigarettes. They'd go and get some bread, maybe from their rations or something, and it was always it.

00:54:29 Speaker 2

Sawdust bread company.

00:54:32 Speaker 1

Spread. Yeah. Yeah, I I'm very naive about it.

00:54:32 Speaker 2

That's what it tasted like.

00:54:36 Speaker 2

Watch the even then you know.

00:54:37 Speaker 2

Was something.

00:54:38 Speaker 1

Yeah, right.

00:54:39 Speaker 1

Like better than nothing.

00:54:39 Speaker 2

Then the hedge suit for breakfast, they would give us that supposed to be coffee, but it was more like made out of head soup or something.

00:54:43 Speaker 1

Whatsoever.

00:54:50 Speaker 2

Was just brown, that's all.

00:54:55 Speaker 2

But it didn't taste like coffee or anything. Yeah.

00:54:55 Speaker 1

You know, colored warrior.

00:55:01 Speaker 2 And they give us a little piece of blood worse. 00:55:07 Speaker 2 Or maybe. 00:55:09 Speaker 2 Some little piece of meat, you know. You know, but it was. 00:55:10 Speaker 1 So yeah. 00:55:14 Speaker 2 Sliced thin slice. 00:55:17 Speaker 2 Once one piece, you know and. 00:55:18 Speaker 1 Do you get that every day or? 00:55:20 Speaker 2 Every day they would give it something like that. 00:55:22 Hmm. 00:55:24 And. 00:55:25 Speaker 2 Get when? I'll stay with you. Must. 00:55:29 Speaker 2 But it wasn't much. 00:55:30 Speaker 2 Yeah. Hurry we get. 00:55:33 Speaker 2 More on her try to make the use the most use of what we got from her parcel. 00:55:43 Speaker 1

Was there any food in the these packages other than cigarettes?

00:55:49 Speaker 2

Nothing big sick.

00:55:51 Speaker 2

Well, the cigarettes were gone most of time.

00:55:54 Speaker 2

Sometimes you were lucky enough to get, you know, and now it's spread among one package over 24 people.

00:56:03 Speaker 2

You know, we had.

00:56:05 Speaker 2

Like the sleeping area that lower bunk and the upper bunk.

00:56:09 Speaker 2

And there was 24 of us, you know, in one miss.

00:56:12 Speaker 1

In each hour, you know.

00:56:15 Speaker 2

Just one little area and then the whole building. There was about 300 people altogether in that building.

00:56:23 Speaker 2

And there was 2 halves of that building.

00:56:26 Speaker 2

In between was the water and we.

00:56:30 Speaker 2

At night, I would always.

00:56:34 Speaker 2

Strip down not every night but some.

00:56:38 Speaker 2

Strip down and just use the cold water to wash up.

00:56:44 Speaker 2 You know the whole body, like take a bath. 00:56:47 Speaker 2 But it was just a piece of cloth and the water. No soap. 00:56:50 Speaker 1 Did that. 00:56:50 Speaker 1 Anything with the lights or no? 00:56:54 Speaker 2 Well, the lace were real. 00:56:55 Speaker 2 Everybody had the lace, but you'd get all kind of rashes from it because they'd lighten you. Scratch 00:57:02 Speaker 1 Yeah. 00:57:03 Yeah. 00:57:06 Speaker 2 And I think. 00:57:09 Speaker 2 I still can't understand. 00:57:13 Speaker 2

We didn't, yeah.

00:57:16 Speaker 2

You know, cut all our hair off at that.

00:57:18 Speaker 2

Maybe one time, but it seems like I had the hair all the time and that's what made it worse because they they could tie it to hair, but they were always under the arms.

00:57:25 Speaker 1

Cool cut. Olive, get in here.

00:57:32 Speaker 2

In their legs, you know, between the legs.

00:57:35 Speaker 2

Where they most of the time.

00:57:38 Speaker 2

Waiting you out between the legs and under the arms and it. But it was also on a back.

00:57:38 Speaker 1

Where in Tri?

00:57:47 Speaker 1

Yeah. So you were then a a prisoner for better than a year, right?

00:57:55 Speaker 2

No, seven months. Seven months? Yeah.

00:57:58 Speaker 2

Yeah, 7:00.

00:58:02 Speaker 2

It was quite an experience, you know.

00:58:04 Speaker 1

Yeah, but seven months that you would not want to live again.

00:58:10 Speaker 1

No.

00:58:15 Speaker 1

You say you how long were you working when you retired?

00:58:22 Speaker 1

When you retired after you were in civilian life, how long were you working?

00:58:27 Speaker 2

After just about, I was off about a month and I got.

00:58:32 Speaker 2

Job, yeah.

00:58:34 Speaker 1

And how long before you retired?

00:58:37 Speaker 2

Oh, you mean after retirement?

00:58:40 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:58:42 Speaker 2

I retired after.

00:58:45 Speaker 2

Working, I think 38 years at.

00:58:50 Speaker 2

I worked at one shop where I'm dead and that was in Royal Oak. Detroit had moved from Detroit to railroad and then I went got a job in Detroit.

00:59:05 Speaker 2

And I worked there for 38 years as a tool and diet and also.

00:59:12 Speaker 2

I was always in charge of all the main jobs that I had to look after.

00:59:20 Speaker 2

Repair, general and I building real fancy.

00:59:27 Speaker 2

Dyes that.

00:59:29 Speaker 2

Great departs out of one big pile of steel.

00:59:33 Speaker 1

When the war ended, there was no more need for making.

00:59:39 Speaker 1

Munitions or?

00:59:44 Speaker 1

War video games. What?

00:59:45 Speaker 2

Not no, I I went to the place that I worked before they were closed up already and.

00:59:51 Speaker 2

Uh.

00:59:54 Speaker 2

I'd plan for.

00:59:57 Speaker 2

To some of the.

00:59:59 Speaker 2

Uh, higher ups that used to work at the 1st.

01:00:02 Speaker 2

I worked there before the Lord, before I went in the service, but they they weren't paying nothing.

01:00:09 Speaker 1

They weren't paying a buck an.

01:00:11 Speaker 1

You mean?

01:00:11 Speaker 2

They were paying.

01:00:14 Speaker 2

Like \$0.25 an hour or something and I didn't want to.

01:00:20 Speaker 2

Didn't even have a wouldn't pay for transportation on their.

01:00:24 Speaker 1

All right, absolutely.

01:00:31 Speaker 4

Well, another thing, when my dad is a prisoner *****, my mom didn't know whether he.

01:00:36 Speaker 4

Was dead or alive during that time.

01:00:38 Speaker 2

Now, if she got up, she got in just missing in action first.

01:00:42 Speaker 1

Yeah, that's what they know.

01:00:43 Speaker 2

Yeah. And then she got the notification that I was a prisoner court after we were registered there at that, you know, that's where they did all the registrations.

01:00:56 Speaker 1

They know much about you when you were.

01:01:00 Speaker 1

In the Pows in the stole, I mean did they?

01:01:05 Speaker 1

Do they know much about where you had worked or where you had gone to school? Oregon, anything?

01:01:10 Speaker 2

No.

01:01:10 Speaker 1

And that's no no.

01:01:12 Speaker 2

You mean the Germans? No.

01:01:14 Speaker 1

The.

01:01:14 Speaker 1

Yes.

01:01:17 Speaker 2

And just what they got out of us.

01:01:20 Speaker 2

They didn't get much out of us. You know, when we had.

01:01:27 Speaker 2

Be interrogated by him.

01:01:29 Speaker 2

There wasn't much we could tell.

01:01:33 Speaker 1

When did your wife finally find out that you were a POW?

01:01:37 Speaker 2

Oh, it must have been.

01:01:40 Speaker 2

Not until about December, it was around three months, maybe.

01:01:45 Speaker 1

September, but she didn't know whether you were.

01:01:49 Speaker 1

Alive or not?

01:01:52 Speaker 2

And.

01:01:54 Speaker 2

II did get some.

01:01:58 Speaker 2

Not much, John, I think.

01:02:01 Speaker 2

Then they couldn't write much anyway.

01:02:02 Speaker 1

That's what I'm gonna ask the chief.

01:02:04 Speaker 2

Yeah. And I I wrote to her because I.

01:02:04 Speaker 1

She able to write to you?

01:02:07 Speaker 2

Know.

01:02:08 Speaker 2

If she got the letters or not, you know. 01:02:13 Speaker 2 I think she did some, but it wasn't very much. 01:02:16 Speaker 2 We didn't have nothing to write on, even their envelopes or stamps or anything, so we we didn't. 01:02:18 Speaker 1 Did they say? 01:02:24 Speaker 2 I think they just let us write maybe one time or something there was. 01:02:30 Speaker 2 We couldn't send any mail. 01:02:34 Speaker 2 You know, whatever is, I think the orders there, we could not send anything off. 01:02:36 Speaker 1 Yeah. 01:02:39 Speaker 2 Were afraid we'd give some information. 01:02:41 Speaker 1 Yeah. Yeah, right. Uh. 01:02:44 Speaker 1 Did you have any? 01:02:47 Speaker 1 And your white had any. 01:02:49 Speaker 1 While you were away. 01:02:51 No.

01:02:51 Speaker 1

No. So.

01:02:52 Speaker 2 We had children after. 01:02:53 Speaker 1 Afterwards, so that that was not that was not an added burden. Not that that wasn't a burden enough. 01:02:59 Speaker 2 No, I was. No, I was 21 at that time. 01:03:05 Speaker 2 And she was 19. 01:03:09 Speaker 2 When we got married. 01:03:13 Speaker 1 And how long were you married? 01:03:16 Speaker 2 Just at 24 days when I was in Dub. 01:03:20 Speaker 1 No, no. 01:03:20 Speaker 1 But I mean. 01:03:21 Speaker 1 How long were you married? 01:03:24 Speaker 2 60. 01:03:27 Speaker 2 65 years. Was it there? 01:03:37 Speaker 1 65 years.

01:03:38 Speaker 1

Is that what you're?

01:03:39 Speaker 2

How many years have 65?

01:03:42 Speaker 2

Well, till 209, when she passed away.

01:03:47 Speaker 2

She passed away.

01:03:50 Speaker 2

And we were buried in 44.

01:03:52 Speaker 2

To 69.

01:03:56 Speaker 3

Just right.

01:03:57 Speaker 1

Well, let's see 44.

01:04:01 Speaker 1

656.

01:04:05 Speaker 2

Yeah, I was 60 something, yeah.

01:04:13 Speaker 2

We had a 65th, I think.

01:04:17 Speaker 2

Yeah, I know it was 65 for sure.

01:04:24 Speaker 2

Yeah, that was.

01:04:27 Speaker 2

My almost like.

01:04:30 Speaker 2

Christopher sweetheart or something?

01:04:32 Speaker 1

Oh yeah. Uh huh. 01:04:36 Speaker 1 Must been very difficult to be alone part. 01:04:46 Speaker 1 Yeah, my wife and I just celebrated our 61st. 01:04:49 Andrew. 01:04:51 Speaker 1 So I I know what how close you can get. 01:04:57 Speaker 2 But I always tell everybody I'm 29. 01:05:02 Speaker 2 I reversed 6092. 01:05:03 Speaker 1 You you don't look a day over 30. 01:05:12 Speaker 1 Even with your hearing aids and I got, I got mine. 01:05:15 Speaker 1 II put 2 new batteries in this morning because I wanted to make sure that they didn't go out while we were talking. 01:05:17 Speaker 2 3. 01:05:19 Speaker 2 Yeah. 01:05:22 Speaker 2 Mine are always working out and then they bring my daughter up to tell me they're ringing. You're ringing. 01:05:27 Speaker 1 Oh.

01:05:30 Speaker 1 It rings when you're you're going. 01:05:32 Speaker 2 I didn't get. 01:05:33 Speaker 2 Lots of treatment for VA. 01:05:37 Speaker 2 The VA here in Detroit. 01:05:39 Speaker 2 Good VA, isn't it? Detroit? I'm at the Detroit, the new one, you know. 01:05:43 Speaker 1 Oh, we went in Detroit. 01:05:45 Speaker 2 I had. 01:05:45 Speaker 2 I had surgery. 01:05:48 Speaker 2 At the Ann Arbor for my hearing, I had. 01:05:53 Speaker 2 2 sturpeys. 01:05:56 Speaker 2 Stirrups they call. 01:05:58 Speaker 1 Huh. 01:06:00 Speaker 2 The bones. 01:06:01 Speaker 1 Yeah, I know what you're talking about.

01:06:02 Speaker 2

You know, it vibrates and sends a message. 01:06:06 Speaker 2 But I had one done in. 01:06:10 Speaker 2 50. 01:06:12 Speaker 2 Eight, I think good enough. 01:06:15 Speaker 2 It was about a year apart. I had one of. 01:06:18 Speaker 2 They took the vein out of here and put it in there as the vibrator. 01:06:24 Speaker 2 Oh yeah, and the other one was some artificial. 01:06:28 Speaker 2 Thing that they put in the outer. 01:06:30 Speaker 1 Did it work? 01:06:32 Speaker 2 Yard for for about. 01:06:34 Speaker 2 I'd say at least 15 years I could be a real good. 01:06:37 Speaker 1 That's good. 01:06:37 Speaker 2 In fact, I was about 95 to 99% hearing back after they put those both of those. 01:06:48 Speaker 2 Things in. 01:06:49 Speaker 1

Those transplants? Uh.

01:06:50
Yeah.
01:06:52 Speaker 2
They cut out the ball and put this in there.
01:06:52
What?
01:06:55 Speaker 2
It's a very delicate operation.
01:06:58 Speaker 2
They just cut the eardrum from.
01:07:03 Speaker 2
Like 9.
01:07:06 Speaker 2
12:00 to 6:00.
01:07:09 Speaker 2
They cut the airbrush and just flip it open, and they did the surgery. You had to be very still too.
01:07:15 Speaker 2
You just were local anesthetic because they wanted to talk to you, to see what's going on.
01:07:17 Speaker 1
I was gonna say.
01:07:18 Speaker 1
Mean you're not?
01:07:20 Speaker 1
Oh.
01:07:23 Speaker 1
Oh, thanks a lot.
01:07:27 Speaker 2

But when I after the surgery, I could hear every step anybody was making and always, you know, I went there when they first built it, it was still smelling from the mortar and the paint and everything went out.

01:07:30 Speaker 2

١.

01:07:38 Speaker 1

Freight.

01:07:42 Speaker 1

The one in Detroit or the one here?

01:07:43 Speaker 2

No, no Ann Arbor. When they built that, it was just brand new.

01:07:49 Speaker 2

It's beautiful. The real.

01:07:50 Speaker 2

Food at that restaurant and then.

01:07:53 Speaker 2

Because after the surgeries I was in there for about a week, at least after the surgery.

01:07:59 Speaker 1

Is that all?

01:08:02 Speaker 2

Yeah. You know from here.

01:08:03

Yeah.

01:08:05 Speaker 2

I've had surgery complete prostectomy from Harper Hospital.

01:08:10 Speaker 1

Uh.

01:08:11 Speaker 2

And then I had two stints, but in at the Detroit House.

01:08:17 Speaker 1

How do they work?

01:08:17 Speaker 2

Well, one of them was Ann Arbor. The other one, Detroit.

01:08:21 Speaker 1

And how these things work, but have they?

01:08:25 Speaker 2

And I haven't had no problem.

01:08:27 Speaker 1

And how long have you had them?

01:08:30 Speaker 2

Well, the heart now is.

01:08:33 Speaker 2

Must be 1520 years, maybe from the heart.

01:08:36 Speaker 1

Wow.

01:08:39 Speaker 2

And karate is about maybe 80 years or so.

01:08:47 Speaker 1

You didn't have a bypass, you had just a stents.

01:08:50 Speaker 2

Just a step further.

01:08:53 Speaker 2

Your children page.

01:08:55 Speaker 2

Goodness this here.

01:08:59 Speaker 2

Yeah, they were both done through delayed.

01:09:03 Speaker 1

When you're fortunate for them to last that long, you're fortunate that they lasted that long.

01:09:10 Speaker 2

Yeah, because they said, you know, some of those stints, you know the material they used.

01:09:18 Speaker 2

Was.

01:09:20 Speaker 2

Was always a chance that something would happen, but it seemed mine worked out pretty good.

01:09:25 Speaker 2

Oh great.

01:09:26 Speaker 2

The one in her heart especially.

01:09:29 Speaker 1

Yeah.

01:09:31 Speaker 2

Yeah, they did. Good job.

01:09:36 Speaker 2

Well, and I get my teeth from.

01:09:40 Speaker 2

Do you my hearing aids and my glasses, all from the VA and lots of medication.

01:09:46 Speaker 1

That's the least they can do for you.

01:09:49 Speaker 1

Yeah, absolutely.

01:09:51 Speaker 2

They take pretty good care of me.

01:09:53 Speaker 1

What's that? He gets good care at.

01:09:54 Speaker 1

Beginning Oh yeah.

01:09:57 Speaker 3 Can you just explain? 01:09:58 Speaker 1 In the Detroit VA to. 01:10:00 Speaker 2 Yeah. 01:10:00 Speaker 3 His his home is around like eight Mile and Gratiot, Detroit. 01:10:04 Speaker 1 Oh yeah. 01:10:04 Speaker 3 It's very less. 01:10:06 Speaker 2 He's right here. Right around 8:00 PM fresh. 01:10:09 Speaker 2 I don't know if you're familiar with that area. 01:10:12 Speaker 1 Well. 01:10:15 Speaker 1 I I'm not. 01:10:16 Speaker 1 II know eight mile is kind of a the borderline of Detroit and I know that I shouldn't. 01:10:21 Speaker 2 Yeah, I'm ready, but he's point's a real nice city. 01:10:23 Speaker 1 Know when will? Yeah. 01:10:27 Speaker 2 It's only about. 01:10:30 Speaker 2

Mile square. 01:10:32 Speaker 2 And it's 2 miles square up. 01:10:33 Speaker 1 I invite you to. 01:10:36 It's not a real big. 01:10:37 Speaker 2 I think this morning. 01:10:40 Speaker 1 Well, I'm an Easterner still, even though I've been here for 37 years, I still think of myself as a a New Englander. 01:10:50 Speaker 2 No, I'm running out. 01:10:52 Speaker 2 Mike Younker years I was. 01:10:55 Speaker 2 This was been twist. 01:10:58 Speaker 2 And I lived. 01:11:00 Speaker 2 We almost lived off the land there if. 01:11:02 Speaker 2 Uh, huh. Wasn't very many. 01:11:08 Speaker 2 And lots of open fields and wild. 01:11:13 Speaker 2 Berries, all kinds of berries and nuts. 01:11:15

Yeah. 01:11:18 Speaker 2 So. 01:11:18 Speaker 1 No. Even in my 37 years here, I've seen an awful lot of change. 01:11:23 Speaker 2 No. Yeah, this was born. I gets hard to believe. I think back with what I had. 01:11:24 Speaker 2 Yeah. 01:11:25 Speaker 1 Yeah. 01:11:30 Speaker 2 If it's from. 01:11:32 Speaker 2 Was out all the time. 01:11:36 Speaker 2 We were. 01:11:37 Speaker 2 We were out outside, kids. There was. 01:11:43 Speaker 1 Nothing to keep you inside though. 01:11:45 Speaker 2 I had. 01:11:49 Speaker 2 Five brothers and true sisters. 01:11:54 Speaker 1 Five brothers and two sisters. 01:11:56 Speaker 1 So there were eight of you all told.

01:11:59 Speaker 1

There were eight of you, all told.

01:12:02

7.

01:12:05 Speaker 1

Oh, OK.

01:12:07 Speaker 2

Five and two sisters, yeah.

01:12:10 Speaker 2

And.

01:12:11 Speaker 1

What did your father do?

01:12:14 Speaker 2

He they were on well for all that time.

01:12:18 Speaker 2

He made lots of moonshine, beer, wine.

01:12:25 Speaker 2

And I guess he sold some of them in China to get some cash for some of them stuff they weren't getting from the welfare and he always had a great big garden.

01:12:31 Speaker 1

Mm.

01:12:38 Speaker 2

That's why we lived.

01:12:40 Speaker 2

And he he always buy a piglet in a spring.

01:12:44 Speaker 2

In the fall, when it was big, he'd slaughter it and we had.

01:12:48 Speaker 2

He had a small house.

01:12:51 Speaker 2 All that. 01:12:51 Speaker 2 So we could do. 01:12:53 Speaker 2 Were pretty good with the food. 01:12:55 Speaker 1 How did you keep it fresh? 01:12:58 Speaker 1 Did you have freezer sales? 01:12:59 Speaker 2 Place he need. 01:13:01 Speaker 2 Bury it in the ground and cover it with straw, or else we had a little place under the house. 01:13:08 Speaker 2 That's where we put it. 01:13:10 Speaker 2 What degree got told? 01:13:12 Speaker 2 We had a little bulldog and he was under the house. 01:13:17 Speaker 2 That was his night time place. 01:13:18 Speaker 2 And he throws 11 winner. 01:13:21 Speaker 1 Is that right? 01:13:21 Speaker 2 So it used to get pretty cold even there. 01:13:24

Mm. 01:13:25 Speaker 2 He would usually use straw and stuff to. 01:13:28 Mm. 01:13:29 Speaker 2 You know, sort of stuff like carrots, beets. 01:13:34 Speaker 2 We always are finding a popcorn for the winter. 01:13:39 Speaker 1 Well, that's, you know, that's the way they kept things fresh was to, you know, in the ground. 01:13:42 Speaker 2 And hold down. 01:13:47 Speaker 2 Mm. 01:13:48 Speaker 1 With a little straw on them or something. 01:13:49 Speaker 2 You know, his kids weave it. Some just walk by the garden with his stuff ripened. 01:13:56 Speaker 2 Pull it out at Drummond. 01:13:58 Speaker 2 Wipe it off or on a brass wedding dress and eat it just like that with the sand on and everything. Never got in real clean. 01:14:02 Speaker 1 They need it, right? 01:14:05 Speaker 1 Mm.

01:14:08 Speaker 2

In the card we used to eat, right, right off the cob when it got crap, we just try to catch it when it was before it ripened too much. When it was we used to like it when it was white yet.

01:14:22 Speaker 1

Oh uh.

01:14:26 Speaker 1

Well, is there anything else you want to tell me?

01:14:30 Speaker 2

No, I don't think so.

01:14:34 Speaker 2

You wanted the military stuff mostly anyway.

01:14:38 Speaker 1

Not necessarily.

01:14:41 Speaker 1

You know, all of all of this stuff.

01:14:43 Speaker 2

Thank you.

01:14:46 Speaker 1

No, I'm. I'm interested in you as a person and your military, of course, is important, but that doesn't define you completely. Yeah.

01:14:59 Speaker 1

I'm glad you survived the.

01:15:04 Speaker 1

The battles in World War 2.

01:15:07 Speaker 2

Yeah, we I had a lot of close calls.

01:15:11 Speaker 2

Lots of.

01:15:12 Speaker 4

With one other man. And weren't you in contact with him? Still not too long ago.

01:15:19 Speaker 2 No, not not till right after that. 01:15:22 Speaker 2 Weaver rock liver. 01:15:23 Repl. 01:15:24 Speaker 2 Wouldn't we resent that hall? 01:15:27 Speaker 2 You know, discharge take came and visited me. 01:15:30 Speaker 4 Oh, OK. 01:15:30 Speaker 2 And then there was one other family. 01:15:32 Speaker 2 Just drove by and. 01:15:35 Speaker 2 But I didn't have much contact with. 01:15:41 Speaker 2 In fact, I don't. 01:15:42 Speaker 2 I tried to call a lot of these people that were in a service with me. 01:15:50 Speaker 2 And I didn't have much addresses from the prisoners that I was with. 01:15:56 Mm. 01:15:57 Speaker 2 Except the one that we were buddies with. 01:15:59 Speaker 2

Try to get a hold of him. Maybe about. 01:15:59 Speaker 1 But. 01:16:05 Speaker 2 Five years ago or. 01:16:06 Speaker 2 And my son, he did all the calling and going on a computer. And but he couldn't. 01:16:12 Mm. 01:16:13 Speaker 2 Couldn't get in touch with because most of them moved and stuff. 01:16:14 Speaker 1 Couldn't find any. 01:16:17 Speaker 1 Yeah, right. 01:16:19 Speaker 1 Yeah, computer can do just so much. 01:16:22 Speaker 4 Yeah. And I think you even tried to find those kids. 01:16:25 Speaker 4 In France, yeah. 01:16:28 Speaker 4 All right. 01:16:28 Speaker 4 He tried to find those things. 01:16:29 They were to be. 01:16:30 Speaker 4 Growing up by now, you know.

01:16:31 Speaker 1 Yeah, yeah. 01:16:32 Speaker 2 That was a nice. 01:16:32 Speaker 4 Because I think there's an anger. 01:16:34 Speaker 2 Just, you know, having some contact with some German kids? 01:16:42 Speaker 1 I don't know if you can. 01:16:43 Speaker 1 I know you can trust me, but I'm just wondering if I might borrow these pictures so that I can copy them. 01:16:53 Speaker 1 And I promise I'll return them to your daughter here. 01:16:57 Speaker 2 Yeah. OK. 01:16:59 Speaker 1 Is that OK with you? All right. 01:17:01 Yeah. 01:17:02 Speaker 1 And what I'm going to do too is that. 01:17:08 Speaker 1 This interview is going to be put on a DVD on a disk and I will get you as many or as few as copy as you like. 01:17:22 Speaker 1 How many would you like?

01:17:23 Speaker 2

I don't know. It's that it can't. 01:17:24 Speaker 3 I know, Jim. 01:17:25 Speaker 3 What if you wanted one? 01:17:27 Speaker 4 Sure. 01:17:29 Speaker 3 We had a grandkids. 01:17:31 Speaker 1 Listen, I I've had. 01:17:31 Speaker 3 Let me think. I think Jennifer. 01:17:34 Speaker 1 I've had requests for as few as two and as many as 22. 01:17:36 ls. 01:17:37 Oh well, good. 01:17:38 Speaker 1 So you you're. 01:17:39 Speaker 1 You've not. You've not hit the record yet, OK? 01:17:39 Speaker 3 So 10 would be good. 01:17:42 Speaker 3 Then did you tell him too? About? 01:17:43 Speaker 3 Weight loss.

01:17:46 Speaker 4 You know, how much did you weigh when? 01:17:46 Speaker 2 Well. 01:17:47 Speaker 2 You got out. I don't remember. 01:17:49 Speaker 2 It wasn't too much Weaver. 01:17:51 Speaker 3 It was like under under 100. 01:17:53 Speaker 4 Is about 100. 01:17:54 Speaker 2 Or it was. Yeah, just over 100, I think because we heard, although I made when we were coming back over in the on the ship. 01:17:59 Speaker 1 And you went in. 01:18:06 Speaker 2 They were already feeding us. 01:18:08 Speaker 2 Oatmeal with milk. It tastes very good with. 01:18:11 Speaker 1 OK. 01:18:18 Speaker 1 But. 01:18:21 Speaker 1 You went in, you were over a. 01:18:23 Speaker 1

And 50 lbs.

01:18:25 Speaker 2 When I went in into the service. 01:18:26 Speaker 1 Yeah. 01:18:27 Speaker 1 Well, when you were. 01:18:30 Speaker 1 After basic. 01:18:31 Speaker 2 Yeah, 156. I was in good shape. But I mean, I was all muscle at that time. 01:18:39 Speaker 1 And you ended up. 01:18:40 Speaker 2 How do I? 01:18:42 Speaker 2 Was real sharp as far as calisthetics with. 01:18:48 Speaker 2 Doing all that I could be up one of these guys. 01:18:52 Speaker 2 Furl's that rifle all around and everything. When I got out of there, we were real good at that. 01:18:54 Speaker 1 Oh yeah. 01:19:01 Speaker 1 What do you have there? 01:19:05 Speaker 2

01:19:12 Speaker 4

That's what they used to send you.

Hey. Hey, son. Just metals or something?

01:19:13 Speaker 2

Here's.
01:19:15 Speaker 2
River.
01:19:18
Yeah.
01:19:18 Speaker 4
He keeps everything.
01:19:19 Speaker 4
You know, he's got paper.
01:19:20 Speaker 1
Well, absolutely should.
01:19:26 Speaker 1
What the award?
01:19:26
I.
01:19:28 Speaker 1
What awards do you have?
01:19:33 Speaker 2
Good conduct medal.
01:19:36 Speaker 2
The.
01:19:40 Speaker 2
Combat infantry bridge.
01:19:42 Speaker 2
I never.
01:19:42 Speaker 2
I don't know what happened to my combat infantryman.
01:19:47 Speaker 2
No, I don't have that. And I gotta feel W very well.

01:19:50 Speaker 1 We got the European. 01:19:53 Speaker 2 Yeah, I think I had one, but I don't know. 01:19:57 Speaker 2 I don't have it now. 01:19:59 Speaker 2 Right over what? 01:20:01 Speaker 2 You know what I did have that. 01:20:03 Speaker 1 Got 2 blind stars. 01:20:07 Speaker 1 Two bronze stars. 01:20:08 Speaker 2 Yeah. 01:20:10 Speaker 2 Well, congratulations. You know, they send me letters they don't even know if I was a combat veteran from so many letters like. 01:20:18 Speaker 2 From the VA. 01:20:19 Speaker 2 Hello. 01:20:23 Speaker 1 Well, now I don't know if I have. 01:20:27 Speaker 1 Copies of all of these, but. 01:20:32 Speaker 4 I'm like.

01:20:34 5 diabetics left one. 01:20:38 1:30. 01:20:40 Speaker 4 That's. 01:20:42 Speaker 2 See here was the first one when I was deferred. 01:20:48 Speaker 2 Did companies send in a letter? 01:20:50 Speaker 2 Deferred me for and then here's the next one I got when they took me into the service. 01:20:56 Speaker 4 Because I almost want 70, so I can't tell you. 01:20:57 Speaker 1 Could could you have gotten another deferment because you were? 01:21:01 Speaker 2 No, they they weren't giving deferments after that. 01:21:05 Speaker 2 They needed so many. 01:21:07 Speaker 1 OK, replacement. Yeah. 01:21:08 Speaker 2 Things you know, because I know some of them. 01:21:11 Speaker 2

Anderson, Alabama David already passed the aid like he was about 35 real heavy and he couldn't do a lot of this stuff.

That was in my group in.

01:21:16 Speaker 2

01:21:27 Speaker 2

That when he got through, he was doing everything else, just like all of us.

01:21:31 Speaker 1

So huh.

01:21:33 Speaker 2

You know.

01:21:35 Speaker 2

It was calisthenics all day long.

01:21:39 Speaker 1

Well, I remember.

01:21:39 Speaker 2

You know, marching and.

01:21:41 Speaker 1

In 44, they were really pressing and that that age group.

01:21:44 Speaker 2

Yelp.

01:21:47 Speaker 2

See, because they lost so many, you know, during the invasion, they needed replacements.

01:21:50 Speaker 1

Yeah, yeah.

01:21:53 Speaker 1

Yeah, they were going up close to 40 years old, yeah.

01:21:59 Speaker 1

Friends father was.

01:22:03 Speaker 1

In his late 30s, was almost called the only thing that saved him was he had.

01:22:08 Speaker 2

Did you have to go through basic training?

01:22:12 Speaker 1

I went through a basic training of sorts. 01:22:18 Umm. 01:22:19 Speaker 1 And I'm not. 01:22:21 Speaker 1 Especially proud of it, but it was 4 weeks. 01:22:29 Speaker 1 And we were in the field for. 01:22:34 Speaker 1 I think 3 days. 01:22:37 Speaker 1 One day was to. 01:22:42 Speaker 1 Have a demonstration. 01:22:45 Speaker 1 And I don't know what the second day was, but the last day was, oh, I know the 1st. 01:22:52 Speaker 1 Second day was they let us shoot guns. 01:22:56 Replay. 01:23:00 Speaker 1 The third day was they shot at us. 01:23:04 Speaker 1 They had us going through the infiltration course. 01:23:08 Speaker 1 And they went through that during the day and then through the night. And that was scary because they had tracer bullets, you know, and when you're on your back and you see those tracers, you're

sure they're going to shoot your toes off. And they keep going.

01:23:16 Speaker 2 Yeah. 01:23:24 Speaker 1 Don't shoot my toes off. 01:23:25 Speaker 2 Yeah, I remember going through that. 01:23:27 Speaker 2 We were on our hands and knees crawling, and they would be shooting above us for training. 01:23:29 Speaker 1 Yeah. 01:23:34 Speaker 1 But I I was fortunate that I went in between Vietnam and Korea. 01:23:41 Speaker 1 Got a direct Commission? 01:23:42 Speaker 1 They were given direct commissions to social workers at that time. 01:23:46 Speaker 1 So that was my. As I say, I I was fortunate. 01:23:50 Speaker 2 But you know, even after I got, you know. 01:23:55 Speaker 2 I figured it. 01:23:57 Speaker 2 They should continue that. 01:24:00 Speaker 2 Oh. 01:24:02 Speaker 2 Inducting people into the service because it's a good discipline training forms. 01:24:09 Speaker 1

I feel like. 01:24:10 Speaker 2 If you had, you had to, really. 01:24:14 Speaker 2 Do what they said. 01:24:16 Speaker 2 If you didn't, you did more. They would take you on a. 01:24:20 Speaker 2 And have. 01:24:20 Speaker 2 Gone over and over on that. 01:24:25 Speaker 2 But it it would teach a lot of these kids what discipline means. They would know how to obey the laws more and everything. What it means to obey the law. 01:24:38 Speaker 1 Well. 01:24:40 Speaker 1 I recall I was kind of a little man on the totem pole. 01:24:44 Speaker 1 You will. 01:24:47 Speaker 1 ١. 01:24:47 Speaker 1 I may I borrow some of these? And I I scouts on and I will bring them. 01:24:49 Speaker 2 Yeah, yeah, you can give me back with that other stuff too. 01:24:54 Speaker 1 Return them.

01:24:55 Speaker 4

It wasn't mom pregnant while you were there. 01:24:58 Speaker 4 No. Wasn't she pregnant when you guys went on that? 01:25:01 Speaker 4 To Miami. 01:25:01 Speaker 2 I was. 01:25:02 Speaker 2 I was still in a Serbia. 01:25:03 Speaker 2 She was breaking. That's. 01:25:04 Well, how did? 01:25:04 Speaker 4 She get. 01:25:05 Speaker 4 While you while when did when will you home forget about right? 01:25:08 Speaker 2 I was still in a service when I was home on a furlough. Right after I got. 01:25:13 Speaker 2 Of the air. 01:25:14 Speaker 1 But she wasn't pregnant while you were POW. 01:25:16 Speaker 4 No. 01:25:18 Speaker 4 So she got pregnant after you got home. 01:25:20 Speaker 2 After I got home.

01:25:21 Speaker 4 She got pregnant right away then. 01:25:23 Speaker 2 Yeah. 01:25:23 Speaker 4 'Cause. You said he had said she was sick in Miami. 01:25:26 Speaker 2 Yeah, right. 01:25:27 Speaker 4 Like morning sickness. Morning. 01:25:29 Speaker 2 She was. 01:25:30 Speaker 2 Sickness. 01:25:30 Speaker 4 So she must have been newly pregnant. 01:25:32 Speaker 2 Yeah, she was newly pregnant. 01:25:33 Speaker 2 Yeah. 01:25:35 Speaker 2 We went by bus. 01:25:35 Speaker 4 Yeah. 01:25:38 Speaker 2 We were supposed to go by train, but then they cancelled because they had no place to put us on the trains. 01:25:44 Speaker 2

They were all filled up.

01:25:46 Speaker 2

So they said this, but bus tickets?

01:25:49 Speaker 2

So we went by bus, greyhound bus.

01:25:51 Speaker 1

How long did it take you to get down there?

01:25:53 Speaker 2

I think it was about 3 days.

01:25:56 Speaker 2

Because they had to stop in different they were stopping at every little town in on Fort Street, you know, in Detroit and then stopping different little cities.

01:26:04 Speaker 1

Yeah.

01:26:09 Speaker 2

And we would.

01:26:12 Speaker 2

Have to get off the bus we were on and go on to another bus. Maybe like in Kentucky or somewhere.

01:26:17 Speaker 1

Hello.

01:26:22 Speaker 2

Yeah. So.

01:26:25 Speaker 2

It took at least 2-3 days, I'm not sure.

01:26:31 Speaker 1

Well.

01:26:32 Speaker 1

I'm going to do.

01:26:33 Speaker 1

I'm going to make sure I get this back and I guess I could get back. Get it back here.

01:26:38 Speaker 2 Get it to Bay. 01:26:39 Speaker 1 All right. OK. 01:26:41 Speaker 4 What? What war were you? 01:26:41 Speaker 2 Yeah. 01:26:44 Speaker 1 I was. 01:26:44 Speaker 1 In war. Oh, I. 01:26:46 Speaker 1 I was between Korea and Vietnam. 01:26:49 Speaker 4 That's what I thought. 01:26:51 Speaker 3 Didn't hit the no. 01:26:52 Speaker 4 Right. 01:26:52 Speaker 1 I was lucky to go right in between. 01:26:55 Speaker 4 Yeah, that's what Mike was. 01:26:56 Speaker 2 What was Jimmy Korea? 01:26:58 Speaker 4 I think Jimmy was Vietnam. 01:27:02 Speaker 2

What year? 01:27:04 Speaker 4 Vietnam. 01:27:07 Speaker 4 But he was in the. 01:27:08 Speaker 4 He wasn't on land, he was on a ship all the time. 01:27:11 Speaker 4 Never went on land, did he? 01:27:13 Speaker 3 No, he was in. 01:27:14 Speaker 3 Philippines. 01:27:14 Speaker 4 He was on a ship all the time. 01:27:17 Speaker 2 Each he went through the. 01:27:20 Speaker 2 What do you call the? 01:27:22 Speaker 2 Art car. 01:27:26 Speaker 1 With the strength. Oh, go ahead. 01:27:26 Speaker 2 But he said halfway. 01:27:29 Speaker 2 He became a from a polywog to a frog or something, yeah. 01:27:34 Speaker 3 I forget the.

01:27:36 Speaker 2

When you cross the equator.

01:27:38 Speaker 2

Great advance the time time zone. Yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah. He's at that because they initiated on a ship.

01:27:47 Speaker 2

You know the ones that with already?

01:27:50 Speaker 2

And the.

01:27:51 Speaker 2

One, he said he was initiating there, but he's gone to almost every.

01:27:57 Speaker 2

Country you know, with he was he was in there.

01:27:58 Speaker 4

Every Fort you know.

01:28:01 Speaker 2

A while.

01:28:02 Speaker 2

He joined when he was still in that high school.

01:28:06 Speaker 2

Add data.

01:28:12 Speaker 2

He went through, I don't Spain.

01:28:17 Speaker 2

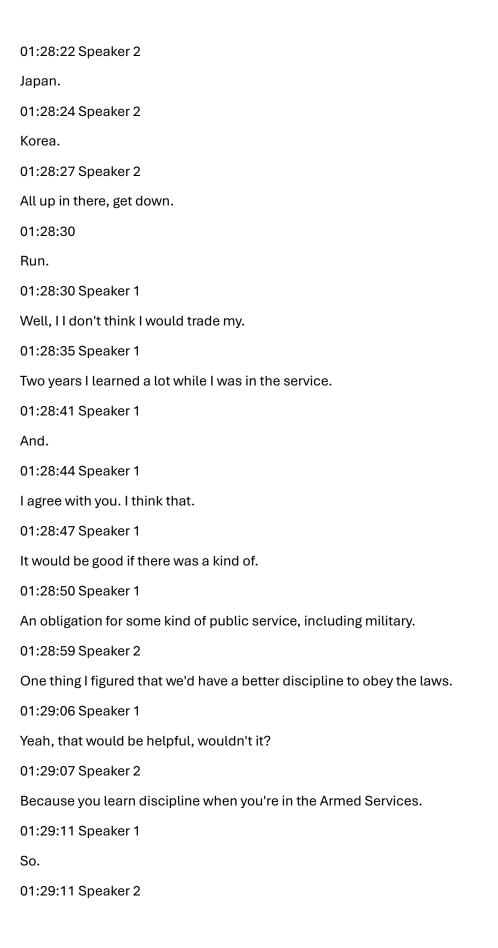
The canals, you know.

01:28:17 Speaker 4

Puerto Rico, that'll port somewhere.

01:28:20 Speaker 2

Mediterranean.



I don't know how it is now. 01:29:12 Speaker 2 Hear it's not. 01:29:15 Speaker 2 Not as strict as it used to. 01:29:16 Speaker 1 Be when we were. Well, you know, that's I don't know if that's a myth or what. 01:29:23 Speaker 1 When I was in the service 100 years ago. 01:29:26 Speaker 1 You know, there was always some Sergeant who was saying, well, it wasn't. 01:29:30 Speaker 1 Wasn't that way when I was, you know? 01:29:36 Speaker 1 It was an honor talking to you and and meeting with you. Really. And I do appreciate your time and and thank you. 01:29:43 So. 01:29:44 Speaker 1 You very much. 01:29:45 Speaker 1 Thank you for your service. 01:29:46 Speaker 2 Thank you for joining. 01:29:48 Speaker 2 And. 01:29:48 Speaker 2 My kids been after me for a long time to do these. 01:29:51 Speaker 1

Well, good.

01:29:52 Speaker 1

Good. Yeah.