

Joseph Golfman Interview

Company K, 318th Inf Reg

(Library of Congress: Veterans History Project; interviewed by Mary Adkins)

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

00:00:00 Speaker 1

60 sign up.

00:00:02 Speaker 3

Yeah. So.

00:00:04

We've.

00:00:05 Speaker 1

Really been trying to push it with the veterans.

00:00:07 Speaker 1

Know so we can get.

00:00:08 Speaker 1

This documented as much as possible because it.

00:00:11 Speaker 2

We're not going to last too much longer. They keep reminding us how many times, how many.

00:00:16

But.

00:00:16 Speaker 2

I'm ***** 87 myself.

00:00:18 Speaker 3

Wow.

00:00:19 Speaker 1

You look great.

00:00:21

You really do.

00:00:22 Speaker 3

Yeah, me too.

00:00:24

OK, we're ready. OK.

00:00:30 Speaker 1

The date is March 23rd, 2006 and we are at the new branch, New Richmond Branch Library of the Clermont County Public Library, New Richmond. OH.

00:00:43 Speaker 1

Can you please state your name?

00:00:45 Speaker 2

Joseph goffman.

00:00:47 Speaker 1

What is your birthday?

00:00:48 Speaker 2

May 27, 1919.

00:00:54 Speaker 1

Tammy Craig will be running the camera and Mary Atkins will be doing the interview.

00:01:03 Speaker 1

What war and branch of the service?

00:01:06 Speaker 1

Were you in?

00:01:07 Speaker 2

I was in the army in World War 2.

00:01:10 Speaker 1

And what was your rank?

00:01:12 Speaker 1

Technical sarcin and where did you serve?

00:01:17 Speaker 2

Both in the United States and Europe.

00:01:23 Speaker 1

Were you drafted or did you enlist?

00:01:25 Speaker 2

I was drafted.

00:01:27 Speaker 2

I could have got out of it because I worked in a defense plant.

00:01:30 Speaker 2

They said we can get you out of and I said no better than anybody else. I'm going.

00:01:37 Speaker 3

At the time.

00:01:38 Speaker 2

In Cincinnati.

00:01:42 Speaker 2

Had lived in Claremont County until got married, and then we moved to Cincinnati and lived there about a year and a half.

00:01:49 Speaker 1

Do you recall the first days of your service?

00:01:52 Speaker 2

Yeah, I was.

00:01:55 Speaker 2

Had a report to Fort Thomas, KY.

00:01:57 Speaker 2

Was an Army base over there then, and of course they give you all the shots and all that.

00:02:06 Speaker 2

Kind of stuff, you know.

00:02:09 Speaker 2

Everything told you all about the army and that. And I can remember they had us all stripped off naked, sitting on a long wooden bench, sliding down to it, guy giving you shots in his arm, another one giving you shots now.

00:02:27 Speaker 2

Then I had two weeks to come home and this was done at 4th St. Down Cincinnati and I had two weeks to come home, get my affairs in order, and then had a report to Fort Thomas, KY and.

00:02:42 Speaker 2

As they're about 11 days and they sent me to Camp Forest and tell the home of Tennessee.

00:02:50 Speaker 2

And I spent about 13 months there.

00:02:55 Speaker 2

You don't want to know all this right now to hear.

00:02:58 Speaker 2

Well.

00:02:59 Speaker 3

It was.

00:02:59 Speaker 1

Did that have to do with your boot camp?

00:03:02 Speaker 2

Yeah. Get for that. Yeah.

00:03:03 Speaker 1

OK.

00:03:04 Speaker 1

Yeah, we do want to know about.

00:03:05 Speaker 1

Camping and your training is.

00:03:07 Speaker 2

Yeah, that was in uh, Tullahoma, TN.

00:03:10 Speaker 2

We had 13 weeks basic training there and then I was there a year and we had maneuvers there. And then from there we transferred out to.

00:03:22 Speaker 2

Camp Phillips. It's a line of Kansas and we was there for training for about 3 months.

00:03:29 Speaker 2

From there, we went to the desert Humira outside of Yuma, AZ and we done some Desi desert training there and from there we went for *****, New Jersey, Camp Gilmer, New Jersey and then.

00:03:45 Speaker 2

Loaded up on the Queen Mary in that landed in Scotland.

00:03:51 Speaker 1

OK. Do you remember anything about your instructors?

00:03:54 Speaker 1

Boot camp or.

00:03:56 Speaker 2

Yeah, I have.

00:03:57 Speaker 2

Sergeant Davis George.

00:03:59 Speaker 2

M Davis was our platoon Sergeant and and our we had our first Lieutenant.

00:04:06 Speaker 2

That.

00:04:08 Speaker 2

Thought of his name just a little while ago, but I can't think of her right now.

00:04:11 Speaker 2

Have an awful time thinking a name.

00:04:13 Speaker 2

I had a firstly attended Clark. His name was and they done most of the basic training. Then after I was promoted to the Sergeant, then I got.

00:04:24 Speaker 2

Do.

00:04:28 Speaker 1

OK, after you got out of boot camp, you.

00:04:32 Speaker 1

You went to Scotland?

00:04:34 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:04:35 Speaker 1

Is that where?

00:04:36 Speaker 2

Went into first to Clyde in Scotland, then we went on into England.

00:04:42 Speaker 2

In England, about 3 weeks and then into France.

00:04:46 Speaker 2

Landed at Utah Beach in France.

00:04:50 Speaker 1

Could you just is there anything in those?

00:04:53 Speaker 1

Is there any experiences you want to talk about?

00:04:56 Speaker 1

In each of those places.

00:05:00 Speaker 2

In in France you mean?

00:05:03 Speaker 2

Well, the first thing, the first thing we seen was really good for your morale was a big cemetery was crosses as far as you could look.

00:05:16 Speaker 2

But our first combat we got into was a place called Argentan.

00:05:23 Speaker 2

And I can remember being out in the middle of an open field and German tanks coming at you.

00:05:31 Speaker 2

I'm telling you, there's no more scary feeling than that to be out.

00:05:36 Speaker 2

But that was our first.

00:05:37 Speaker 2

Then we pretty well drove pretty fast across.

00:05:42 Speaker 2

You know, we got into some pretty tough battles, but that was the first one we got into and then we got into another one called Oregon.

00:05:52 Speaker 2

For a gap where they had a bunch of Germans surrounded and they captured about 75,000, but about that many got away too.

00:06:03 Speaker 2

That was one of our first battles we got into.

00:06:09 Speaker 2

And then we would move from one town to another. I mean, you take 1 town and then maybe there be troops, Germans that have been bypassed maybe 1520 miles over here in another direction. We'd head over that way.

00:06:24 Speaker 2

And you know, take take them on and we captured a lot of towns and that.

00:06:31 Speaker 2

Like I said, we fought all the.

00:06:33 Speaker 2

We was 102 days consecutive contact with the enemy before we ever got a break.

00:06:44 Speaker 2

And I can only remember.

00:06:47 Speaker 2

From the time we started in combat in August until I was moved, we had a a rest period in the first part of December. I think about the 6th December, something like that. I can only remember having 3-1 warm meals.

00:07:05 Speaker 2

Everything else was OK and you got the same clothes on.

00:07:09 Speaker 2

I mean, had the same clothes on when I was wounded.

00:07:11 Speaker 2

I had one that landed over.

00:07:16 Speaker 1

What was your job?

00:07:18 Speaker 2

Rifle platoon Sergeant.

00:07:21 Speaker 1

OK. And what did this involve exactly?

00:07:25 Speaker 2

Bleeding Platoon, a platoon when it's up to full strength to be 41 men.

00:07:32 Speaker 2

And I would we had a platoon leader part of that time about half the time at one if they got wounded or something, and I had to take over.

00:07:43 Speaker 2

Leading, they've had their three squads in a platoon.

00:07:47 Speaker 2

Again, I was platoon Sergeant, of course, and let them in combat.

00:07:55 Speaker 2

And I was one that said.

00:07:58 Speaker 2

I said what we're going to.

00:07:59 Speaker 2

I'm not what you guys are going to do.

00:08:01 Speaker 2

Is what we're going to do.

00:08:02 Speaker 2

Was always up front.

00:08:04 Speaker 2

Not to be bragging, but I was always right up front.

00:08:08 Speaker 1

Were there very many casualties in your unit?

00:08:12 Speaker 2

Yeah, we this one particular place, we took a big. I can show you a picture of it.

00:08:20 Speaker 2

Big Hill, like more like a small.

00:08:25 Speaker 2

I guess it had a castle up on top of it at Panamous on France.

00:08:31 Speaker 2

We took that and.

00:08:33 Speaker 2

Our second platoon, it had a big high wall.

00:08:37 Speaker 2

Well, about three times high this ceiling maybe four times our second platoon.

00:08:42 Speaker 2

Thought they would be safe getting to that wall.

00:08:47 Speaker 2

The Germans was up on the top where this old castle was.

00:08:51 Speaker 2

They dropped hand grenades down, killed 17 at one time.

00:08:57 Speaker 2

That was about the middle of September by like I say, we went in combat in August 1st part of August and by the middle of September.

00:09:05 Speaker 2

I was a top Sergeant in the company.

00:09:07 Speaker 2

There was 3.

00:09:09 Speaker 2

It was over higher than me when we went into combat, but by that time I was a top Sergeant in the company from then on.

00:09:19 Speaker 1

You tell us about.

00:09:20 Speaker 1

A couple of your more memorable experiences.

00:09:25 Speaker 2

Well, like I say on this.

00:09:29 Speaker 2

Hill, where these Germans dropped that.

00:09:32 Speaker 2

Crump. Well, I'll tell you something.

00:09:35 Speaker 2

Thing we was making waiting to cross the Moselle river.

00:09:40 Speaker 2

Was pouring down.

00:09:41 Speaker 2

We're waiting for engineers to get a bridge built.

00:09:44 Speaker 2

We stood in this woods all day long, waiting for them to get a bridge built.

00:09:51 Speaker 2

The Germans had an artillery training school at a place called Mets France, and they knew all that.

00:09:59 Speaker 2

Area around her as soon as the engineers get a bridge built, they blow it up.

00:10:06 Speaker 2

We stood there in this woods all day waiting for get a bridge up, but.

00:10:12 Speaker 2

The river wasn't any bigger than 12 Mile Creek out here, but it was at speed banks and of course tanks and trucks, and that couldn't get across.

00:10:23 Speaker 2

So we waited all day.

00:10:26 Speaker 2

And while I'm standing there in this woods, there's a.

00:10:28 Speaker 2

Big Tree right here by me.

00:10:31 Speaker 2

And carved in this tree with a man's name.

00:10:35 Speaker 2

Cleveland, OH, 1918.

00:10:39 Speaker 2

Some guy from Ohio had been in that same spot in World War 1 and I was stand right for that same tree.

00:10:48 Speaker 2

First thought was to cut that feature, see if I could cut that piece of bark out, but didn't have anything but bayonet bit.

00:10:55 Speaker 2

Cut it with and see if I can locate him and mail it to him.

00:10:59 Speaker 2

That would have been real neat, you know.

00:11:02

But.

00:11:03 Speaker 2

I just didn't do.

00:11:04 Speaker 2

Of course, maybe he wasn't around either. Till you know you don't know.

00:11:09 Speaker 2

But this same him, when we finally crossed the Moselle river.

00:11:18 Speaker 2

They didn't get the bridge built till after dark, but when it's dark, getting dark, they gave us orders.

00:11:23 Speaker 2

Get across the river. Best way you can.

00:11:27 Speaker 2

So we just went down to speak bank and walk.

00:11:30 Speaker 2

Walked across it.

00:11:31 Speaker 2

Just.

00:11:33 Speaker 2

Wrong.

00:11:35 Speaker 2

Took the ground on the other side of it.

00:11:40 Speaker 2

And company commander, there was a big hill up to the right and the company commander said.

00:11:47 Speaker 2

Sergeant Gulfman, take your platoon up on the hill and set up a an outpost. And I told him a man. I said. Boy is sure stuck us out here on the limb that while we was up there, they started yelling.

00:12:01 Speaker 2

And shelling down in in the valley and all around us too. You know, our children shells coming in and the next morning there was the awfulest battle down there in the valley where the rest of.

00:12:11 Speaker 2

Company was.

00:12:13 Speaker 2

Germans let tanks just roll down the hill.

00:12:16 Speaker 2

And they got a bridge up during the night.

00:12:20

And.

00:12:20 Speaker 2

They pushed.

00:12:21 Speaker 2

They could cross that trucks, tanks, not tanks, but artillery and everything, you know.

00:12:29 Speaker 2

And these Germans come right down in there.

00:12:33 Speaker 2

Right on on on them, you know.

00:12:36 Speaker 2

Well, artillery supposed to be behind you on fire over your head, but they push the artillery in there and they said that artillery was far in point. Blanket tanks right about 30 feet in front of them.

00:12:48 Speaker 2

And we was up there.

00:12:49 Speaker 2

We had a ringside seat. I mean, we.

00:12:52 Speaker 2

Was safe. We thought we was in the spot, but we were safer than anybody.

00:12:57 Speaker 2

So we then the next day we attack.

00:13:01 Speaker 2

If they're punished somewhere, I.

00:13:03 Speaker 2

But they dropped those hand grenades and that's where I got my first wound.

00:13:10 Speaker 2

Used to, I had a foxhole outside of a big wall that had a hole blown in the bottom of it and up a little bit higher.

00:13:17 Speaker 2

Had like a courtyard that had these little buildings, you know, like you've seen guards stand in these little building.

00:13:27 Speaker 2

When there wasn't shellness, I would crawl through that foxhole and you could see all over the whole valley, you know?

00:13:35 Speaker 2

And when they would throw some shells in, I'd crawl through that thing and get them a foxhole outside the wall.

00:13:43 Speaker 2

Well, this one time I.

00:13:44 Speaker 2

Well, there I'm going to throw half a dozen shells in here.

00:13:47 Speaker 2

I'm not going to purl through that little holes.

00:13:49 Speaker 2

Just step in this little building.

00:13:53 Speaker 2

And then much more step in until Pam, the whole roof came off.

00:13:58 Speaker 2

She'll hit the rooftop. The whole rope of oven dust. Ryan and I felt something burning in my knee, and that's why I got my first wound. I got a piece of shrapnel in my left knee right there.

00:14:11 Speaker 2

But before we took that hill, the company commander told me, he says, take your platoon out and set up a road block.

00:14:18 Speaker 2

Have to keep keep from coming in and I didn't much more get out there to accommodate your comments at the captain. Want you to come.

00:14:27 Speaker 2

Help take the hill.

00:14:29 Speaker 2

I said if they pull us out of here, I said the Germans gonna move right back in.

00:14:34 Speaker 2

So we had to go, you know, and then they did.

00:14:37 Speaker 2

Moved back in next.

00:14:39 Speaker 2

We were surrounded for four days.

00:14:42 Speaker 2

That's one of the many things I can remember, but I mean.

00:14:48 Speaker 1

Now you is with General Patton.

00:14:51 Speaker 1

You.

00:14:52 Speaker 1

To us a little bit about that.

00:14:52 Speaker 2

3rd Army general.

00:14:54 Speaker 2

3rd Army, our division was.

00:14:57 Speaker 1

Can you tell us some experiences with the patent or?

00:15:02 Speaker 2

Well, like I said, I was never real close to doing, but he believed in once you had him on the run. Don't give him a chance to stop and dig in.

00:15:11 Speaker 2

On going as a matter of fact, we did make one drive so.

00:15:15 Speaker 2

Fast that we ran our land line of supplies and had to stop and wait till they we we got replaced with supplies. We was in foxholes for about 13 days.

00:15:30 Speaker 1

Could you tell us about your supplies?

00:15:32 Speaker 1

You have.

00:15:33 Speaker 1

All the time that you needed or.

00:15:35 Speaker 2

Most of the time, yeah, yeah. Most of the time, yeah.

00:15:39 Speaker 2

Had two different kinds.

00:15:40 Speaker 2

We had plenty of ammunition. I mean, I had a cartridge belt that held 10 clips of eight each, and I looked like one of these Mexican banditos. I used to have two bandoliers of bullets on me.

00:15:55 Speaker 2

Two or three hand grenades hanging on a lot of guys you know lazy didn't want to carry ammunition. But I always carried plenty in case we needed, you know.

00:16:07 Speaker 2

Bandoliers had 10 clips, about 80.

00:16:12 Speaker 2

Will teach.

00:16:16 Speaker 1

Did you tell us enough?

00:16:16 Speaker 2

And then the rations, you know, we had two different kind of rations, K rations and sea rations.

00:16:23 Speaker 2

We usually had plenty.

00:16:27 Speaker 2

Oh, there's been times when you get wouldn't have a tight chance, you know, but get so hungry and disgusted and you don't care if you get killed in the next second. You know, you just get tired and disgusted.

00:16:43 Speaker 1

Could you talk about some of your medals and citations that you were awarded?

00:16:49 Speaker 2

Well, I was worried.

00:16:51 Speaker 2

I was worried.

00:16:53 Speaker 2

Purple Heart 3. Purple hearts.

00:16:55 Speaker 2

I got a wounded in the in my right arm. Just a nick.

00:16:59 Speaker 2

Not bad.

00:17:01 Speaker 2

The worst one? I got a big hole blood through my upper thigh.

00:17:05 Speaker 2

But the doctors, described as a 2 inch hole where it went in the four inch hole. It went out, it blows a bigger hole where it's shrapnel, you know, it's a piece of metal.

00:17:13 Speaker 2

Been not like a bullet. A bullet goes through, makes it pretty clean hole. But that piece of metal just flopped and you know.

00:17:23 Speaker 2

It's instant surgery without an anesthetic.

00:17:29 Speaker 2

And that and.

00:17:32 Speaker 2

Got the Bronze star and when they pinned that on me they told me it.

00:17:35 Speaker 2

Have been a silver star.

00:17:38 Speaker 2

I said well, they should have been a silver star, wouldn't they?

00:17:40 Speaker 2

It a silver.

00:17:41 Speaker 2

But the company commander wrote it up as a bronze * silver, you know higher.

00:17:52 Speaker 2

And then.

00:17:54 Speaker 2

The Good Conduct medal, they said. I could get the ribbon, but then I got the medal later.

00:18:00 Speaker 2

But when they got the Bronze star, they pinned that on me right out in a field open field.

00:18:08 Speaker 2

Excellent it is.

00:18:09 Speaker 2

Come on, hand it to you.

00:18:14 Speaker 1

OK. You mentioned you got one of the medals from helping to rescue somebody.

00:18:20 Speaker 1

That.

00:18:20 Speaker 2

Oh, you read that there.

00:18:22 Speaker 2

That what you read?

00:18:23 Speaker 1

Could you tell us about that situation?

00:18:26 Speaker 2

I was always a platoon's archent on the 1st platoon when we went overseas.

00:18:32 Speaker 2

I became platoon Sergeant when we was out in Arizona desert.

00:18:38 Speaker 2

I was a pretender Sergeant when we went oversea.

00:18:41 Speaker 2

First platoon, I've been in it for over 2 about two years.

00:18:47 Speaker 2

We took this town in France.

00:18:51 Speaker 2

In five Certs, Sergeant from the third platoon caught a chicken.

00:18:59 Speaker 2

And they was cooking it upstairs in the house, and the Germans put a shell right through the window and killed all five of them.

00:19:08 Speaker 2

So I had a first Lieutenant with me.

00:19:12 Speaker 2

And he.

00:19:14 Speaker 2

Had to go to a company meeting.

00:19:17 Speaker 2

But for the cabin in when he came back, he had a buck Sergeant with him and he told us what happened. And he says this buck sergeant's the only one in the third platoon that's left.

00:19:30 Speaker 2

And he's ready. Can't handle the job. And the captain wants you to take over the third platoon.

00:19:37 Speaker 2

So with that, the Lieutenant had to go back to another meeting within my mansard Grumman.

00:19:43 Speaker 2

Don't see why I can't sound a Lieutenant. Let you stay with us.

00:19:48 Speaker 2

But I had to.

00:19:50 Speaker 2

Do it you know. So I took it over about midnight and we made an attack about daylight the next morning.

00:19:59 Speaker 2

Well, I had to go to a meeting too. Later on about 3:00 in the morning and company commander.

00:20:07 Speaker 2

Sergeant golf. And you take the third platoon and reserve.

00:20:12 Speaker 2

Well, the reserve is about as short from here to the ball field about behind the rest of them. You're still down far.

00:20:20 Speaker 2

You're still under fire, you know.

00:20:23 Speaker 2

So we made an attack, we.

00:20:27 Speaker 2

Took a hill upon out of this town.

00:20:31 Speaker 2

And of course, my platoon was out in front of.

00:20:35 Speaker 2

The first platoon was out in front and I took the settlement and they they brought an 18 year old boy.

00:20:41 Speaker 2

Remember when I went to that?

00:20:43 Speaker 2

They had an 18 year old boy as a replacement.

00:20:46 Speaker 2

And a company commander says Sergeant Gautman.

00:20:49 Speaker 2

Take him with you.

00:20:51 Speaker 2

Next morning, that boy, we got him about midnight. I guess little later than that.

00:20:58 Speaker 2

Next morning, when we made that attack.

00:21:02 Speaker 2

When the guys told me that new boy was killed, he lasted about 8 hours.

00:21:08 Speaker 2

And of course, my first platoon. Like I said, we were supposed to be in reserved for platoon was up in front of me. All the men that I trained with and bled.

00:21:20 Speaker 2

So naturally, I'm walking up down the line checking on them.

00:21:25 Speaker 2

I saw this one in there.

00:21:31 Speaker 2

Face down, you know.

00:21:34 Speaker 2

And I thought, you know, something just don't look.

00:21:36 Speaker 2

His face looked like it was in a hole in the ground.

00:21:40 Speaker 2

I went over and turned him over.

00:21:44 Speaker 2

And his whole face was gone.

00:21:46 Speaker 2

Just blew it off.

00:21:49 Speaker 2

You know, that kind of gets to you. But I couldn't love to get to meet you bad because I'm responsible for, you know, these guys.

00:22:03 Speaker 2

And I seen this other one that was wounded in his his leg and was bleeding real bad.

00:22:10 Speaker 2

So I went over and bandaged him up and got him back where some of the other guys that got in a platoon that I just took over. I didn't even know him.

00:22:19 Speaker 2

Only one I knew was his Sergeant.

00:22:22 Speaker 2

I had no, I said.

00:22:24 Speaker 2

Take him back.

00:22:25 Speaker 2

Get him some medical aid.

00:22:28 Speaker 2

He.

00:22:28 Speaker 2

How we gonna?

00:22:29 Speaker 2

We don't have a stretcher, I said.

00:22:31 Speaker 2

Take a.

00:22:32 Speaker 2

Half we got each one of us had 1/2 of a pup tent. They could put him on the shelter.

00:22:37 Speaker 2

When I be get on each corner I'm taking back.

00:22:42 Speaker 2

And then another one that had been in my platoon, he got hit too.

00:22:47 Speaker 2

Was just a little farther up, so I went.

00:22:49 Speaker 2

He could.

00:22:50 Speaker 2

I went and helped him get back.

00:22:53 Speaker 2

And.

00:22:55 Speaker 2

I heard later that the one the first one died.

00:22:59 Speaker 2

And the second one, he made it OK, but he never did ever come back to be out of it.

00:23:05 Speaker 2

That's how I got the Bronze star.

00:23:09 Speaker 2

Bullets flying all.

00:23:10 Speaker 2

I mean, I'm. I'm walking them down the line checking on the guys.

00:23:15 Speaker 2

Everybody else is down Hunter belly.

00:23:19 Speaker 2

I don't know if something wrong my head I guess.

00:23:23 Speaker 1

You also mentioned you were in the Battle of the Bulge.

00:23:26 Speaker 2

Yeah, I was only in it a couple of days after I got.

00:23:31 Speaker 2

I'll tell you about C rations.

00:23:34 Speaker 2

They came in two different cans, like you'd have corn beef hash.

00:23:40 Speaker 2

Beef Stew or something like that in one of them.

00:23:44 Speaker 2

And the other one had biscuits like hard biscuits and maybe a little piece of.

00:23:51 Speaker 2

Chocolate or something like that, or fruit bar or something and nescafe that.

00:23:59 Speaker 2

All we ever done with that was put little bit of cold water and drank it.

00:24:02 Speaker 2

Know he couldn't never chance to heat it up.

00:24:06 Speaker 2

If you ever make any pot roast, vegetable soup or anything like that, you got any left. You put in a refrigerator and all this grease settles on the top.

00:24:18 Speaker 2

5:00 in the morning, of course, everything is black out and during the war there's no lights anywhere.

00:24:25 Speaker 2

We stayed in a barn, hanging out of a barn.

00:24:29 Speaker 2

Dark 5:00 in the morning.

00:24:32 Speaker 2

I opened that can of sea rations.

00:24:36 Speaker 2

For a spoonful, I got was a spoonful of cold grease for breakfast.

00:24:40

Oops.

00:24:41 Speaker 2

He went ahead and ate it. I mean, that's all you had needed.

00:24:44 Speaker 2

Go.

00:24:45 Speaker 2

Cold. If you got a chance of warming up 1-2 bed hardly ever got a chance to do that.

00:24:53 Speaker 2

Just that's what I had for breakfast on the morning I was wounded.

00:25:00 Speaker 2

We went over this 1 / a hill and down down in the valley.

00:25:05 Speaker 2

And a lot of other hills around us, you know, and.

00:25:11 Speaker 2

It down in this valley and they was shelling us and.

00:25:16

I.

00:25:17 Speaker 2

Got hit in the leg. A pepper thigh here.

00:25:21 Speaker 2

Heisman. You can get. And my Lieutenant has second Lieutenant with me, and he banished it up for me.

00:25:29 Speaker 2

But normally you call the first aid man, but he vanished.

00:25:35 Speaker 2

They got me back to a little like a concrete building about halfway up this hill.

00:25:41 Speaker 2

And I was sitting in there and they they must've called for the first aid man. And four guys came down.

00:25:49 Speaker 2

And when this we had a first date, man was name was holiday with Colin Dolph Holiday.

00:25:58 Speaker 2

Soon as he welcomed the building, he said. Oh, Joe, it's you, I said Yep.

00:26:03 Speaker 2

They want to put me on a stretcher and I said I can still walk.

00:26:06 Speaker 2

Said we get out of here a lot quicker.

00:26:10 Speaker 2

Said.

00:26:11 Speaker 2

So what the hell?

00:26:14 Speaker 2

And we had to go over.

00:26:16 Speaker 2

A level place up get on top of the hill.

00:26:20 Speaker 2

Germans were shelling us from our left.

00:26:24 Speaker 2

And then that Hill went down.

00:26:26 Speaker 2

Like where we had to go.

00:26:28 Speaker 2

It went down like this.

00:26:30 Speaker 2

And there's some trees down here.

00:26:34 Speaker 2

These shells was just hitting about halfway up in those trees, I told.

00:26:39 Speaker 2

I said don't go yet because it says those shells are just barely clearing the ground.

00:26:44 Speaker 2

And I'm talking about a shell about that long in that big round. If it would have hit anyone of us.

00:26:51 Speaker 2

Brought us all up, but I realized.

00:26:54 Speaker 2

It was just barely clear on the ground.

00:26:57 Speaker 2

So they said, well, you tell us when to go.

00:27:00 Speaker 2

So while we're standing there waiting, I was in front of them.

00:27:05 Speaker 2

There's a machine gunner over here on her right on the hill, way across the valley.

00:27:12 Speaker 2

About two inches of snow on the ground. Those.

00:27:14 Speaker 2

That bullets were skipped through the snow about that far in front of my feet.

00:27:21 Speaker 2

So at the right time, you know they would, they would 4 shells would come in at a time. I think the Germans learned that from us because our artillery had for what they call them artillery pieces.

00:27:35 Speaker 2

Don't call them guns.

00:27:36 Speaker 2

They would fire for boom, boom, boom, boom and when we captured.

00:27:42 Speaker 2

Some of the German soldiers they wanted this first thing.

00:27:46 Speaker 2

Asked was could we see your automatic artillery?

00:27:49 Speaker 2

There's no such thing as automatic artillery now, so then they must have. They used to just fire.

00:27:57 Speaker 2

You know, bang, bang, bang somewhere.

00:28:00 Speaker 2

You.

00:28:00 Speaker 2

But then they start doing the same as other so soon as they fired for them and you hear whizzing by it. It took them a few seconds to load up, I said.

00:28:11 Speaker 2

It's time to go.

00:28:13 Speaker 2

So we made it OK.

00:28:17 Speaker 2

And they put me on a stretcher.

00:28:20 Speaker 2

Took me to Mr. Field Littlefield, first aid station.

00:28:25 Speaker 2

Then they took me to a makeshift.

00:28:28 Speaker 2

I'm not sure what Lincoln was in Luxembourg City, but I'm not sure it was.

00:28:33 Speaker 2

Was in a school house.

00:28:36 Speaker 2

This happened about I was wounded about 8:00 in the morning, I guess.

00:28:41 Speaker 2

And they got me to this school house long in the afternoon.

00:28:47 Speaker 2

Laid on a stretcher in the hallway right by a big open door with cold.

00:28:52 Speaker 2

And they got around to operating on it about 1:00 the next morning.

00:28:57 Speaker 2

I stayed there the rest of the night and.

00:29:00 Speaker 2

Took me to an air base.

00:29:04 Speaker 2

In a big tent like a big hospital tent where we're on.

00:29:12 Speaker 2

Campus carts. You know, one guy was hollering, always hollering his cold.

00:29:17 Speaker 2

One of the guys that was taking care of us said that guys, dirt got 13 blankets on steel holler in these cold, but I spent Christmas Day on that in that tent.

00:29:28 Speaker 2

Then they loaded us on a on a plane and flew us to England.

00:29:32 Speaker 2

10 planes they would fly to see 47. They would fly supplies in and had bunks on the side that they could pull down.

00:29:42 Speaker 2

And they fly wounded back to England.

00:29:46 Speaker 2

And as we was arriving to England.

00:29:49 Speaker 2

Guy on a plane says it's all folded.

00:29:52 Speaker 2

We don't know if we're going to be able to land or not.

00:29:56 Speaker 2

Little man, after all you've been through, get killed in plane crash.

00:30:01 Speaker 2

But they all made it down.

00:30:04 Speaker 2

And then they took me to a hospital.

00:30:08 Speaker 2

Stayed overnight and then the next day Lam me and ambulance and drove for three or four hours to finally got to permanent hospital.

00:30:17 Speaker 2

As wounded on 23rd of December, they got around to sewing it up on New Year's Day 1945.

00:30:28 Speaker 2

When I got to this.

00:30:30 Speaker 2

Permanent hospital. The doctor looked at my leg. He.

00:30:34 Speaker 2

Did they do anything for you at that hospital last night?

00:30:37 Speaker 2

Said no, they didn't even look at it, he said.

00:30:40 Speaker 2

They leave all The Dirty work for us.

00:30:44 Speaker 2

Advantage it stuck or something and gauzy put in there, man. When they pulled that out there, I thought he took my whole leg with it. But.

00:30:58 Speaker 2

He's OK. Ended up with 27 penicillin shots.

00:31:04 Speaker 2

They.

00:31:07 Speaker 2

Penicillin shots. They said you had to.

00:31:10 Speaker 2

Them.

00:31:11 Speaker 2

Every four hours.

00:31:14 Speaker 2

20 You know, day and night they come, wake you up and give them to you at night.

00:31:19 Speaker 2

So I started counting, then, then later on I said, well, they don't last four hours and we'll last three.

00:31:27 Speaker 2

I start counting them and after I start counting I got 27 penicillin shots.

00:31:36 Speaker 1

You mentioned the German prisoners awards. Do you have any experiences with those?

00:31:42 Speaker 2

Yeah, we've captured several of them, yeah.

00:31:47 Speaker 2

But all we ever done was search them. Make sure they didn't have any weapons and have somebody take them back to the company headquarter.

00:32:00 Speaker 2

This one.

00:32:04 Speaker 2

You talk about experiences.

00:32:07 Speaker 2

We kind of got separated from our unit at one time and ended up with an A company.

00:32:12 Speaker 2

Was in K company.

00:32:13 Speaker 2

We ended up with them in a pine forest.

00:32:20 Speaker 2

And a machine gun was firing on us and the German.

00:32:25 Speaker 2

Machine Gun fired 1100 rounds of bullets a minute, or as far as 550.

00:32:32 Speaker 2

So many bullets hitting these pine trees and setting.

00:32:36 Speaker 2

On fire.

00:32:41 Speaker 2

There's a sniper.

00:32:44 Speaker 2

Had got every time somebody would move, a sniper would get him.

00:32:49 Speaker 2

Was four guys to my left.

00:32:52 Speaker 2

Every time somebody I was, I was up trying to get him to move 4 bullets, you know, try to get somebody to walk right into a machine gun.

00:33:00 Speaker 2

Pretty hard to do.

00:33:03 Speaker 2

Somebody as soon as somebody would move that sniper, get him, he got. I had another Sergeant with me.

00:33:10 Speaker 2

Jumped up.

00:33:11 Speaker 2

I'll get him to move and down he went.

00:33:15 Speaker 2

Killed 4 right off to my left.

00:33:19 Speaker 2

A little machine gunner on the right side here.

00:33:20 Speaker 2

Was gonna fire from the hip.

00:33:24 Speaker 2

He started shooting and turned around until the ammunition carrier bring the ammunition.

00:33:30 Speaker 2

Down he went, saw blood oozing out of his head.

00:33:35 Speaker 2

So I'm trying to get them to move.

00:33:39 Speaker 2

Felt like something hit my like you take a ball bat and hit my left shoulder.

00:33:44 Speaker 2

I looked.

00:33:45 Speaker 2

I had a raincoat on.

00:33:48 Speaker 2

Jacket and a wool shirt with that shoulder patches. I was talking about.

00:33:55 Speaker 2

I just looked down at it and seen it.

00:33:59 Speaker 2

I've heard the guys talking about later.

00:34:02 Speaker 2

All he done was look down at them, said Usob. You almost got me an empty he's gone up to the woods. That's what I've done.

00:34:10 Speaker 2

Only I didn't say ***, you know.

00:34:14 Speaker 2

But we didn't ever heard anymore out of them.

00:34:16 Speaker 2

Machine gun or the?

00:34:18 Speaker 2

I don't know if I came close to him, accidentally hit him, or never heard any more out of him.

00:34:26 Speaker 2

When I got a chance to take that raincoat out.

00:34:31 Speaker 2

There was a bullet hole through the raincoat, bullet holes through my field jacket.

00:34:37 Speaker 2

That shoulder patch on a different shirt was scorched.

00:34:44 Speaker 2

A brown market crossed the Plateau score ticket.

00:34:47 Speaker 2

Earned something?

00:34:48 Speaker 2

That's how close that sniper came to getting me.

00:34:52 Speaker 2

Turn like this. If I'd have been around straight, he would have at least got me in the.

00:34:57 Speaker 2

You know.

00:35:00 Speaker 2

But I mean, those are some of the experiences you have.

00:35:06 Speaker 1

In your mouth.

00:35:06 Speaker 2

But that just felt like you. Somebody hit you, you know, just ricocheted off of mine.

00:35:12 Speaker 2

It didn't draw any blood or just like I say, scored that shoulder patch.

00:35:17 Speaker 1

Did you have any experiences with the war dogs?

00:35:20 Speaker 1

Didn't they use war dogs during this time? And then?

00:35:23 Speaker 2

We was.

00:35:24 Speaker 2

We was told that one time to be on the when we was in these fox old like I say was waiting for supplies to catch up with.

00:35:31 Speaker 2

They said they had dogs trained to dive in that foxhole and grab you by its roots.

00:35:38 Speaker 2

So we drug a big we didn't dig.

00:35:40 Speaker 2

Well, we know the big long one where you could stretch out in it, and it was two of us in each one of them.

00:35:48 Speaker 2

So they told us get something like that. If your dog comes around, one of you threw a blanket over him or something.

00:35:56 Speaker 2

Other one took your bayonet and stabbed him.

00:35:59 Speaker 2

I mean, but we never had any experience about.

00:36:02 Speaker 1

Was that the German war dogs or?

00:36:04 Speaker 2

Germany up.

00:36:04 Speaker 1

But didn't the United States?

00:36:06 Speaker 1

Use its own war dogs to help, like find the snipers.

00:36:12 Speaker 2

No, I've never.

00:36:14 Speaker 2

We never had anything like that.

00:36:15 Speaker 1

OK.

00:36:21 Speaker 1

How did you stay in touch with your family during this time?

00:36:26 Speaker 1

How did you stay in touch with your family?

00:36:29 Speaker 2

Writing letters like that sent that one cablegram from England. But.

00:36:36 Speaker 2

That, you know, they didn't had a cable spreadsheet across the ocean.

00:36:39 Speaker 2

How that came here?

00:36:44 Speaker 1

How did the people entertain themselves?

00:36:47 Speaker 3

The soldiers.

00:36:49 Speaker 2

Well, here in the states, a lot of I never did go out a whole lot.

00:36:52 Speaker 2

Mean when I stationed home in Tennessee for.

00:36:56 Speaker 2

Year.

00:36:57

I.

00:36:58 Speaker 2

Was in Telehome about two times I guess.

00:37:02 Speaker 2

But the only thing I ever did do was I went to the Grand Ole Opry at Nashville.

00:37:08 Speaker 2

We had one guy that kept pestering me to go and pester me to go. I said OK, let's go.

00:37:14 Speaker 2

So we.

00:37:15 Speaker 2

And after about 1/2 hour he was charged of what he wanted to leave.

00:37:19 Speaker 2

I said no human testing.

00:37:21 Speaker 2

We're going to stare and see how.

00:37:25 Speaker 2

So that's about all I ever.

00:37:28 Speaker 2

Not write letters or something like that, and let them play cards and gambled and a lot of them went out on weekends and that my what, my family.

00:37:40 Speaker 2

Mom, my dad and little brother and my wife came down to visit me while I was in.

00:37:46 Speaker 2

In Tullahoma, TN and we went out over the weekend, you know, but I've heard tell me one night where I wrote letters and stuff like that.

00:38:01 Speaker 1

OK. Can you recall any humorous, unusual event that happened when you were in the cert when you were serving?

00:38:07 Speaker 2

Yeah, and the unusual.

00:38:15 Speaker 1

Did you recall any humors or unusual event?

00:38:17 Speaker 2

Oh yeah.

00:38:19 Speaker 2

Yeah, couple couples. And we, I had a guy who slept right alongside of me in the monks down in Tennessee.

00:38:27 Speaker 2

And he'd go out and get looped up once.

00:38:31 Speaker 2

So we would we had these bunks at the legs folded under, you know.

00:38:38 Speaker 2

We would fold those things under. So when he got in the bed to fall, fall down.

00:38:45 Speaker 2

Then we had short cheek, you know, pull the sheet up halfway so you couldn't get your feet stressed down.

00:38:54 Speaker 2

And.

00:38:55 Speaker 2

This one morning he commenced about half looped up and next morning when he woke up the head of his bed was down his feet with something from here.

00:39:04 Speaker 2

He was able to downer.

00:39:06 Speaker 2

He didn't know the difference.

00:39:09 Speaker 2

And he grudged his.

00:39:10 Speaker 2

He never heard anything like that in your life. That man, when he was asleep, he quitted his teeth so loud that the guys on the 2nd floor was complaining about it. I mean.

00:39:24 Speaker 2

I never heard anything like that in my life.

00:39:27 Speaker 2

I figured that time.

00:39:29 Speaker 2

30 years.

00:39:30 Speaker 2

He wouldn't have any teeth left the way he was, yeah.

00:39:34 Speaker 2

Noisy, you know.

00:39:37 Speaker 2

Then another time I they always told you if you couldn't get a guy out of bed, dump the bed over.

00:39:44 Speaker 2

So I done that.

00:39:45 Speaker 2

The guy you know.

00:39:48 Speaker 2

You darn Sardis, and all that. And they winked overseas.

00:39:51 Speaker 2

Sardines and blah blah blah, you know.

00:39:55 Speaker 2

After the war was over.

00:39:59 Speaker 2

Company commander came.

00:40:01 Speaker 2

We was in a Hitler youth camp, came through and he said if anybody you know, anybody that deserves any medals.

00:40:13 Speaker 2

Write them up. You know he.

00:40:15 Speaker 2

I know what Sergeant Goldman can do, but he said a lot of you other guys. I don't know.

00:40:21 Speaker 2

Somebody says well, write yourself one up.

00:40:23 Speaker 2

I said no, I'm not going to write myself up for a medal and this guy dumped down the bed, he says. Well, you didn't do anything. Just kidding, Joe.

00:40:33 Speaker 2

Kidding. And.

00:40:35 Speaker 2

When he went back in a room, I heard him tell his men that's the best.

00:40:40 Speaker 2

GD soldier the Army ever had.

00:40:48 Speaker 1

You think of your of the officers that you serve with and your fellow soldiers.

00:40:55 Speaker 2

Mostly officers we served with was was pretty good.

00:41:00 Speaker 2

I had one experience with one. I mean here in the states, if you talk to officers like you did overseas, you might be court martialed or something.

00:41:12 Speaker 2

We had a first Lieutenant with wounded.

00:41:17 Speaker 2

And they brought me a first Lieutenant. That was a replacement for him when we went in the service, they gave us the service manual.

00:41:27 Speaker 2

Telling you everything you had to do and everything we had to learn.

00:41:30 Speaker 2

Out of it.

00:41:33 Speaker 2

Messenger brought this first Lieutenant up.

00:41:37 Speaker 2

Introduced him he.

00:41:39 Speaker 2

This your new platoon leader.

00:41:43 Speaker 2

Advancing across this open field.

00:41:48 Speaker 2

He reaches in his pocket and gets his service manual out, starts them into.

00:41:53 Speaker 2

He didn't know what to do.

00:41:54 Speaker 2

Here, had all this experience.

00:41:58 Speaker 2

And he's someone through this service manual. And I couldn't believe it. And I couldn't keep my mouse yet. Normally I would.

00:42:05 Speaker 2

Quiet and just kept my mouth shut and I looked at him and I said, buddy, if you don't know that.

00:42:12 Speaker 2

Now it's too damn late.

00:42:16 Speaker 2

Messenger came back in about couple hours and pulled him out online.

00:42:22 Speaker 2

Couple days.

00:42:23 Speaker 2

Well, they left me in charge then.

00:42:25 Speaker 2

Couple days later, I said whatever do that Lieutenant says they put him in intelligence.

00:42:34 Speaker 2

When the battle balls broke down, they caught the Americans by surprise and I said no wonder they put guys like that in intelligence.

00:42:43 Speaker 2

Wonder they caught it by surprise.

00:42:48 Speaker 2

Then the next one I got was a second lieuten.

00:42:52 Speaker 2

And the first thing is that was Sergeant up and you've been here and I haven't. If you see me doing anything wrong, don't you hesitate to tell myself.

00:43:01 Speaker 2

So.

00:43:02 Speaker 2

We got along.

00:43:04 Speaker 2

You know, after I got in the hospital, let's say he was out on patrol and he was killed.

00:43:15 Speaker 1

Do you recall the day your service ended?

00:43:19 Speaker 2

Yeah, I was.

00:43:20 Speaker 2

My way back up to the front.

00:43:24 Speaker 2

After I got out of the hospital, I was in the hospital in mainland for six weeks.

00:43:28 Speaker 2

Then I was in rehab for six weeks.

00:43:32 Speaker 2

Then they gave me 10 days to get back to the port, what they call port of embarkation.

00:43:39 Speaker 2

You load up on a ship and go back over across the English Channel.

00:43:43 Speaker 2

I that's where I got my picture taken in London. I spent 8 days in London.

00:43:49 Speaker 2

And you're on your own.

00:43:50 Speaker 2

Know you get there.

00:43:52 Speaker 2

They don't load you on a truck or anything, you know.

00:43:55 Speaker 2

Good thing it was in England where you could understand, you know, when they talk English and that I had to catch trains and.

00:44:05 Speaker 2

Get information how to get to this port of embarkation, which was couple 100 miles from where I was.

00:44:12 Speaker 2

From London, you know I had a transfer of trains a couple of times.

00:44:17 Speaker 2

But then when I went overseas and I lived on a train and was on a train for about four days, I guess going back up to the front.

00:44:28 Speaker 2

I got back up to the front on May the 8th, the day the war ended ended up in Brownell, Austria, the town that Hitler was born in.

00:44:38 Speaker 2

And people ask you, you know what you done to celebrate the end of the war?

00:44:44 Speaker 2

Nothing. We accepted the surrender of 150 German troops.

00:44:51 Speaker 2

In regarding them, you know.

00:44:54 Speaker 2

I mean, no, there's no celebration.

00:44:56 Speaker 2

Was it?

00:44:57 Speaker 2

This war is over.

00:45:04

We don't need.

00:45:04 Speaker 2

Same way with these USO shows and that like you see where Bob opened.

00:45:08 Speaker 2

Never saw anything like that.

00:45:10 Speaker 2

We didn't see anything like that.

00:45:16 Speaker 1

Came back to this country.

00:45:17 Speaker 1

Did you go back to school?

00:45:20 Speaker 2

No, I could have.

00:45:20 Speaker 2

But that GI bill that I.

00:45:22 Speaker 2

I went right to work. As a matter of fact, my dad and I.

00:45:27 Speaker 2

A service station.

00:45:30 Speaker 2

Right. Was located right across from work. Frisians is here.

00:45:35 Speaker 2

It was a service station there and we bought it, had it for a while and then people come in and tell us how the flood gets and all that.

00:45:42 Speaker 2

We sold that and I bought a dump truck and.

00:45:46 Speaker 2

Construction work for about 5 years, and then I went to sitting out a melekron in 1951 and worked there for 31 years.

00:45:56 Speaker 2

I've been retired.

00:45:59 Speaker 2

And I'll be 20-3 years.

00:45:59

Ish.

00:46:05 Speaker 3

Did you join any veterans organizations?

00:46:08 Speaker 2

I belong to the.

00:46:11 Speaker 2

Disabled vets post 63 but not active in it of my life member.

00:46:21 Speaker 3

How did your service and experiences affect your life, do you think?

00:46:26 Speaker 2

Well, if it makes you appreciate what you got here in this country and.

00:46:35 Speaker 2

You find out that you can endure and tolerate a whole lot more than you think you can when you have to do it.

00:46:44 Speaker 2

Again, I think about it dozens of times every day.

00:46:48 Speaker 2

Just can't forget about something will come up.

00:46:52 Speaker 2

Think about it every day.

00:46:57 Speaker 2

And it seems like sometimes like it was years ago and other times seemed like it was only months ago, you know.

00:47:08 Speaker 3

Is there anything else you want to tell us about at this time that we might have left out any conflicts or any of the your other experiences?

00:47:21 Speaker 2

You talk about that humorous 1.

00:47:25 Speaker 2

We was on the front lines and.

00:47:28 Speaker 2

This company messenger wheel we call.

00:47:30 Speaker 2

Call him runner but.

00:47:34 Speaker 2

Messages to you when they want to have radio silence.

00:47:39 Speaker 2

We had these walkie-talkie walkie.

00:47:42 Speaker 2

We had not like these little cell phones you got now. Things about that long and about 3 or 4 inches square. Big, pretty big metal made out of metal.

00:47:54 Speaker 2

Anyway, they came up and he come up to me and he said, Joe, he says.

00:48:03

Think.

00:48:03 Speaker 2

One person from each company can go on a 2 day, go to Paris for two days and you're the highest ranking.

00:48:13 Speaker 2

Company so.

00:48:16 Speaker 2

You've got first choice.

00:48:20 Speaker 2

Well, if you're in the frontline with bullets lying around and you got a chance to go to Paris, I mean look like.

00:48:25

You.

00:48:26 Speaker 2

Jump at the chance, but I said.

00:48:31 Speaker 2

Oh no, I.

00:48:32 Speaker 2

I don't think I want to go.

00:48:34 Speaker 2

So he went back and when he came back again and he says.

00:48:40 Speaker 2

Nobody from headquarters wants to do, and, he said Sergeant harder.

00:48:45 Speaker 2

They said company kept cake and send two of them and Sergeant harder said he'll go if you'll go.

00:48:55 Speaker 2

I say, well, I sent him my.

00:48:57 Speaker 2

I sent him my money home and my wife saved it, you know.

00:49:01 Speaker 2

I said.

00:49:01 Speaker 2

I sent all my money home but don't have any money.

00:49:05 Speaker 2

So guys, I'll start digging in their pocket and come up with \$80.

00:49:10 Speaker 2

\$80.00 back in was quite a bit of money.

00:49:14 Speaker 2

I said, well, get paid. I'll.

00:49:16 Speaker 2

You got a little bang. You don't worry about it.

00:49:19 Speaker 2

Something happens to you.

00:49:21 Speaker 2

Just forget it.

00:49:23 Speaker 2

So we went to Paris.

00:49:26 Speaker 2

And on the way, they took us in through something humorous.

00:49:32 Speaker 2

These trucks but all.

00:49:34 Speaker 2

I had eight on each.

00:49:35 Speaker 2

I just pulled a seat down on the side, you know.

00:49:40 Speaker 2

And he's sitting back.

00:49:43 Speaker 2

I was sitting here and he was sitting at the end with a truck was open on the back.

00:49:50 Speaker 2

Muddy roads and wet weather, you know, and the results splashing all over his face. And all he'd done was just been bellyache about it. Too stubborn to wipe it off or clean it off like that on the other side.

00:50:05 Speaker 2

Thing was happening, but he was protecting me, so.

00:50:08 Speaker 2

You know he knows. Got belly aching, belly aching, belly aching.

00:50:13 Speaker 2

Good in Paris.

00:50:16 Speaker 2

And wanted to go do some shopping.

00:50:20 Speaker 2

You had this good looking French girl behind the counter.

00:50:23 Speaker 2

Was blinds.

00:50:25 Speaker 2

With this guy, every other word was AF word out of me, you know?

00:50:30 Speaker 2

Allie hating about everything.

00:50:34 Speaker 2

We bought this stuff and of course we didn't know how much it was, you know, in French money.

00:50:41 Speaker 2

So he threw it all his money out on the counter. And I take afma and F this and F that.

00:50:48 Speaker 2

Know. So this French girl took his money.

00:50:53

And.

00:50:54 Speaker 2

She'll buy something funny, she said.

00:50:56 Speaker 2

Sergeant does not talk.

00:50:57 Speaker 2

Nice talking like that.

00:50:59 Speaker 2

You shouldn't talk that way.

00:51:02 Speaker 2

In plain English.

00:51:05 Speaker 2

I just looked at him, his face covered.

00:51:15 Speaker 2

Really. I had a guy that was from another company run into him later on sometime.

00:51:21 Speaker 2

Says that God, it was with you still around, I said.

00:51:25 Speaker 2

He still around?

00:51:29 Speaker 2

He ended up being my second in command.

00:51:34 Speaker 2

Before we went into battle of Bulge.

00:51:38 Speaker 2

They came up with.

00:51:40 Speaker 2

A 30 day furlough. You.

00:51:42 Speaker 2

It was actually 90 days. You had 30 days to get home, 30 days at home and 30 days to get back to the your unit.

00:51:54 Speaker 2

And I was scheduled to go on January the 1st, but I got wounded on the 23rd December.

00:52:03 Speaker 2

So he was next in line for.

00:52:05 Speaker 2

So I heard later that when I went back to the outfit, I said whatever happened harder.

00:52:13 Speaker 2

He.

00:52:14 Speaker 2

Well, when you got wounded, they took him out of the line.

00:52:17 Speaker 2

He wouldn't get wounded.

00:52:20 Speaker 2

He went home on that 90 day furlough.

00:52:24 Speaker 2

Then he.

00:52:24 Speaker 2

He didn't report back when he was supposed to do any M.

00:52:27 Speaker 2

At a go getting.

00:52:30 Speaker 2

And all they done was restricted him to camp for one weekend, sent him down South somewhere to train troops.

00:52:44 Speaker 3

And do you attend any reunions?

00:52:47 Speaker 2

Part.

00:52:48 Speaker 3

Do you attend any reunions?

00:52:50 Speaker 2

No, I never.

00:52:51 Speaker 2

I have never been to one. Well, my grandson was my daughter, lived in Michigan and she had a little boy and I went up there to visit with them.

00:53:06 Speaker 2

Vacation.

00:53:08 Speaker 2

And.

00:53:11 Speaker 2

When I got home, my neighbor said there was two guys here looking for you.

00:53:16 Speaker 2

They said that they're in the army with you.

00:53:19 Speaker 2

And she said she couldn't remember what their names was or anything.

00:53:24 Speaker 2

So years later I heard at that same time that they was having.

00:53:32 Speaker 2

At that time it didn't belong to any veterans organization, so I didn't know when they had reunions in that. At that same time, I was in Michigan.

00:53:40 Speaker 2

Had it here in Cincinnati, if I'd have known that I would have.

00:53:45 Speaker 2

Went to it, you know, but I've called on several now since I'm in a dab, I get a.

00:53:52 Speaker 2

They tell you when they're having them, and I've called several times to see if anybody from my outfit had signed up for them.

00:54:00 Speaker 2

And never has been so.

00:54:04 Speaker 2

But this year, they're going to have it in Columbus, GA. I might possibly go.

00:54:12 Speaker 2

But I've never been any.

00:54:15 Speaker 3

Is there anything you can else you can think of before we end the interview?

00:54:22 Speaker 2

Well, no.

00:54:27 Speaker 2

Most real important.

00:54:30 Speaker 2

I've talked about others other stuff I could.

00:54:34 Speaker 2

Hand just can't think of it.

00:54:38 Speaker 1

OK, Joe, thank you so much for coming in and interviewing with us.

00:54:41 Speaker 1

Been an honor.

00:54:43 Speaker 2

Thank you.

00:54:45 Speaker 2

These people owned it in in Oi, Germany and that was a family that owned it and her husband.

00:54:52 Speaker 2

A prison.

00:54:54 Speaker 2

Therefore, I tell you, we was.

00:54:56 Speaker 2

When the battle of balls in our country, in a run against five other guys, two of them had believe it or not, the last name was Algiers and wasn't related.

00:55:07 Speaker 2

And that course, that's me.

00:55:10 Speaker 2

That was taken there in Germany. This is a family that owned the place.

00:55:16 Speaker 2

And the other these are new guys.

00:55:18 Speaker 2

I mean when I, that's when I came back from the hospital and they were all new to me.

00:55:25 Speaker 2

Didn't know any of them before I left.

00:55:29 Speaker 2

But I I just can't remember these other two names here.

00:55:35 Speaker 2

Easy. The original ones from I just put.

00:55:38 Speaker 2

Survey.

00:55:42 Speaker 2

Handle.

00:55:55 Speaker 2

Yeah, here it.

00:55:55 Speaker 2

It's the room. Later on I could bring it in if I get my just for.

00:56:05 Speaker 2

And anytime you get wounded, you get a purple.

00:56:09 Speaker 2

And anytime after that you get an oak leaf cluster which I got two of them.

00:56:14 Speaker 2

This is a bronze star and I got another bronze star at home in a in a case this got a valor device on it.

00:56:24 Speaker 2

A little silver V.

00:56:27 Speaker 2

That's supposed to be right on here.

00:56:30 Speaker 2

And this is a good conduct medal and this is a European theater of operations medal with four bronze stars.

00:56:38 Speaker 2

One represents a major battle campaign like France.

00:56:43 Speaker 2

The Arbenz were the Battle of Bulgaria was fought the Roman land in Germany.

00:56:48 Speaker 2

All the outfit you know.

00:56:51 Speaker 2

Battles our division was in.

00:56:54 Speaker 2

And this year is the World War 2 medal and the victory medal in a combat infantryman's bat.

00:57:03 Speaker 2

This is your discharge emblem.

00:57:08 Speaker 2

They always called that the ruptured duck.

00:57:14 Speaker 1

Green.

00:57:17 Speaker 2

Well, this is technical, Sergeant.

00:57:20 Speaker 2

Each one of these represents.

00:57:25 Speaker 2

Six months overseas and each one of these stripes is three years in the service in the army.

00:57:33 Speaker 2

And these little crossed rifles represents infantry.

00:57:38 Speaker 2

And like I was in the 80th Infantry Division, had enough points to come home, so they transferred me to 14th Armored.

00:57:47 Speaker 2

And that's what my discharge says.

00:57:49 Speaker 2

14th armor, but I always I try to get it changed once, but you know I trained and fought in the 80th and that's where I'd rather have my discharge say, but.

00:58:02 Speaker 2

I tried to get it changed once and got down at the VA office down on 7th St. says you just opened up a can of worms. If you try to do that, so he said. I'd recommend you just let it alone.