

Harrison Peter Goodspeed Interview

Company K, 317th Inf Reg

(Library of Congress: Veterans History Project; interviewed by James Smither)

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

00:00:08 Speaker 2

All right. Now, when you're talking today with Peter Goodspeed, that was your full name.

00:00:12 Speaker 2

And Peter goodspeed.

00:00:14 Speaker 1

Harrison is my real name.

00:00:16 Speaker 1

Is just a nickname.

00:00:18 Speaker 2

All right.

00:00:19 Speaker 2

Of Cascade, Michigan, the interviewer today is James Smither of the Grand Valley State University Veterans History project.

00:00:25 Speaker 2

Right, Mr. Goodspeed, why don't you start by telling us a little bit about your background?

00:00:29 Speaker 2

Know where were you born?

00:00:30 Speaker 2

Did you grow up?

00:00:32 Speaker 1

I was born right here in Grand Rapids, MI.

00:00:35 Speaker 1

I spent.

00:00:37 Speaker 1

And went to school East Grand Ebb's High School or a grade school.

00:00:42 Speaker 1

Me, then.

00:00:44 Speaker 1

A prep school was out in Massachusetts.

00:00:46 Speaker 1

Went there for four years.

00:00:48 Speaker 2

Which school did you go to?

00:00:49 Speaker 1

It's called Berkshire Berkshire School and after that graduated Fourty 2 and a war, of course, was going full bore by that time.

00:00:50 Speaker 2

OK.

00:00:59 Speaker 2

When you were in prep school, were you paying any attention to the events of the world, either before or after Pearl Harbor?

00:01:05 Speaker 1

After brew Arbor, when we were told that they that we were bombed, we were bombed by at Pearl Harbor.

00:01:14 Speaker 1

I don't think any of us knew where Pearl Harbor was, they said Hawaii.

00:01:18 Speaker 1

Would understood. So once we found out what it was, we got very.

00:01:23 Speaker 1

And that was in my senior year.

00:01:25 Speaker 2

Mm.

00:01:26 Speaker 1

So.

00:01:28 Speaker 1

And I went to Dartmouth for one semester, came home for Christmas vacation, and at that point.

00:01:37 Speaker 1

It was a case of.

00:01:39 Speaker 1

Being inducted or going in one way or another.

00:01:43 Speaker 2

Mm.

00:01:43 Speaker 1

No way to get out of it.

00:01:45 Speaker 1

And I decided to volunteer for induction, which is a form of listening, hoping to get what I wanted.

00:01:55 Speaker 1

Well, I got the inventory.

00:01:56 Speaker 2

What did you want originally?

00:01:58 Speaker 1

I didn't want the inventory because that's, you know, that's where everybody's getting shot at. But that's what they gave me and.

00:02:02 Speaker 2

Mm.

00:02:06 Speaker 1

I'm so glad that they look past that.

00:02:08 Speaker 1

Was able to be.

00:02:11 Speaker 1

Saw the war first hand, yeah.

00:02:13 Speaker 2

Certainly did.

00:02:14 Speaker 2

Can you tell us a little bit about the process once you decided that you were going to enlist?

00:02:21 Speaker 2

What did you do or what steps did you have to take to get into the army?

00:02:25 Speaker 1

Down to the.

00:02:29 Speaker 1

I guess it's the enlistment center or whatever is and got on the buses and went to Battle Creek or we're giving our uniforms and all that.

00:02:37 Speaker 1

Then then we turned, went to Camp Robinson, Arkansas for basic training.

00:02:41 Speaker 2

OK. Did you spend anytime in Battle Creek?

00:02:43 Speaker 2

It for Custer. You went to or.

00:02:46 Speaker 1

Exactly.

00:02:47 Speaker 2

And they just immediately ship.

00:02:48 Speaker 2

Out. Or did you?

00:02:49 Speaker 1

Within a day or two.

00:02:52 Speaker 1

Basic training was in place in.

00:02:57 Speaker 1

Arkansas.

00:02:58 Speaker 2

What do you do? You remember anything about the trip down to Arkansas?

00:03:03 Speaker 2

Just as an experience.

00:03:03 Speaker 1

It.

00:03:04 Speaker 1

It was a troop train, but it's too far back.

00:03:08 Speaker 2

Mm.

00:03:09 Speaker 1

Too much. There are other.

00:03:11 Speaker 1

The troop trains I took. I remember quite well.

00:03:14 Speaker 2

Well, you can take us down to the camp in Arkansas.

00:03:16 Speaker 2

Was that like?

00:03:16 Speaker 1

That was for.

00:03:20 Speaker 1

A typical GI camp class and Hudson, and then training grounds and they taught us quite well.

00:03:29 Speaker 1

And I almost accepted me for Officer candidate school down there until they found out that they had enough officers at that time.

00:03:37 Speaker 1

So they switched me all the way out to Camp Carson, Colorado for desert training.

00:03:44 Speaker 1

And that was that was rough. That training was real rough because it was hot, very hot and dry. And we were, you know, forced to go through combat conditions.

00:03:56 Speaker 2

What time of year were you out there?

00:03:59 Speaker 1

All summer of 1944.

00:04:03 Speaker 1

Excuse me.

00:04:03 Speaker 2

43 four.

00:04:04 Speaker 1

No 43 summer 43.

00:04:07 Speaker 1

And umm.

00:04:09 Speaker 1

Then after that.

00:04:12 Speaker 1

I signed up and was accepted to go to AST P Army specialized training program where you go.

00:04:18 Speaker 1

To college.

00:04:19 Speaker 2

Right.

00:04:21 Speaker 1

And I went up to to all places, University of South Dakota.

00:04:27 Speaker 1

And I was being trained as an engineer and they just said engineer and medical.

00:04:32 Speaker 1

And.

00:04:35 Speaker 1

Again, after a period of time while I was there, the army decided they had enough engineers, so they cut that school out entirely.

00:04:43 Speaker 1

They kept the medical school, so I was back in the imagery and they sent me down. By this time they down to.

00:04:44 Speaker 2

Mm.

00:04:52 Speaker 1

Camp.

00:04:54 Speaker 1

But was in Missouri.

00:04:56 Speaker 1

Prozac, I can't figure right.

00:04:58 Speaker 1

We were there a very short period of time.

00:05:02 Speaker 1

And then I was informed then that I was accepted for office of candidate school.

00:05:08 Speaker 1

And so they sent me to Fort Benning, GA.

00:05:12 Speaker 1

And.

00:05:14 Speaker 1

That was when I.

00:05:16 Speaker 1

Told my future bride that if I graduated from OCS I'll be guaranteed 3 months here in the state.

00:05:26 Speaker 1

Why don't we plan on getting married?

00:05:27 Speaker 1

So we went ahead with those plans and I did graduate from CS as a second Lieutenant.

00:05:32 Speaker 1

And was told to report for overseas.

00:05:36 Speaker 1

You can't do that. When right here, it says you're supposed to serve three months as a contain.

00:05:43 Speaker 1

Er, doctor, Lieutenant.

00:05:47 Speaker 1

He says it's less. It says unless otherwise authorized by the warrant.

00:05:52 Speaker 1

So.

00:05:53 Speaker 1

Our honeymoon was from Fort Benning, GA, to Grand Rapids, where we got married and then to.

00:06:01 Speaker 1

To Boston, MA, where?

00:06:05 Speaker 1

Got on the boat and went overseas.

00:06:09 Speaker 2

Before you joined the Army, how much of the country had you?

00:06:13 Speaker 2

I guess you've made it from Grand Rapids out to Boston or out to Massachusetts before.

00:06:17 Speaker 1

Yeah, yeah, I've been there. And then I've gone up to California.

00:06:22 Speaker 1

A couple of times.

00:06:23 Speaker 2

What did your father do for a living?

00:06:25 Speaker 1

Dad was in real estate commercial real estate.

00:06:29 Speaker 1

The Office office buildings and that sort of thing.

00:06:32 Speaker 2

So he was doing relatively well in the 30s, all things considered.

00:06:35 Speaker 1

Yeah. Yeah, not too bad.

00:06:39 Speaker 1

Umm, one of the properties you acquired was a bowling alley and suddenly we discovered we were going to be in the bowling business along other things.

00:06:50 Speaker 1

Yeah, that that bowling alley is still here in existence.

00:06:53 Speaker 1

Over here in eastbrook lanes.

00:06:55 Speaker 2

OK, that's still alright.

00:06:58 Speaker 1

Yeah. Although my brother and I who ran it and owned it and ran it have long since retired.

00:07:06 Speaker 2

It's a little bit of a sidetrack, but it was an interesting one.

00:07:08 Speaker 1

Yeah, yeah.

00:07:09 Speaker 2

I want to talk a little bit more about the.

00:07:12 Speaker 2

You said the training you got down at Arkansas was good training.

00:07:16 Speaker 2

Kind of people. Do you have as instructors at that point?

00:07:19 Speaker 1

I say mostly sergeants and and officers lieutenants.

00:07:27 Speaker 1

The best training I got was at OCS.

00:07:31 Speaker 1

They were a real professional in this.

00:07:34 Speaker 1

They taught us everything about the infantry in the army and all the.

00:07:40 Speaker 1

Things about it.

00:07:41 Speaker 2

Did you have instructors who were themselves combat veterans or?

00:07:46 Speaker 1

Yeah, I think so.

00:07:47 Speaker 1

Yeah, I'm sure there were definitely one or two.

00:07:53 Speaker 1

I did not get into comment till of course we got over to here.

00:07:57 Speaker 2

Right. It's the sort of thing, whether you're being taught by people who've actually been there and done it in the current war or the First World War or.

00:08:05 Speaker 1

Their hosts, the Second War veteran and I would say the majority of them had been.

00:08:10 Speaker 1

In comment.

00:08:14 Speaker 1

There were also good trainers too.

00:08:17 Speaker 2

OK.

00:08:18 Speaker 2

What separated the training you got at Officer candidate School? From what you got in Colorado or Missouri or elsewhere?

00:08:25 Speaker 1

Well.

00:08:27 Speaker 1

Much more in the detail.

00:08:30 Speaker 1

Normally this kind of.

00:08:34 Speaker 1

Officer Candidate School teaches has men become officers in in 90 days used to call them a 90 day wonder.

00:08:42 Speaker 1

And but because when I was in Officer care school, things got really hot. In Europe, things were really getting we had D-Day had come and gone and there was a lot of fighting.

00:08:52 Speaker 1

They needed us real quickly.

00:08:54 Speaker 1

So they changed it from 90 days to 60 days.

00:08:57 Speaker 1

So I was a 60 day wonder.

00:09:01 Speaker 1

They got out of second Lieutenant.

00:09:04 Speaker 2

What kind of skills or whatever were they trying to train you in at that level that they didn't otherwise?

00:09:09 Speaker 1

Well, a lot of the leadership.

00:09:13 Speaker 1

But not on the basic infantry and how to.

00:09:18 Speaker 1

Acting wortime and the enemy fire and all that. But a lot of us.

00:09:19 Speaker 2

Mm.

00:09:24 Speaker 1

To teach us how to train others.

00:09:29 Speaker 1

What what these various other cores were doing, like Quartermaster core and artillery core?

00:09:34 Speaker 1

Were their functions in the war that we talked were all taught that?

00:09:42 Speaker 1

It was very fast and furious.

00:09:46 Speaker 2

All right, so now we've gotten you as as far as Boston and you're ready to ship out. Do you remember roughly when that was?

00:09:57 Speaker 1

January the 1st, 1944.

00:09:59 Speaker 2

OK.

00:10:03 Speaker 1

My father came out and joined.

00:10:06 Speaker 1

My wife and myself.

00:10:09 Speaker 1

To see us off the me off on the boat so and also he could help her drive the car back to Grand Rapids.

00:10:18 Speaker 1

I was on on a boat for two weeks.

00:10:23 Speaker 1

This was much longer than you would normally take to cross the ocean and a boat, and the reason why is because there's a threat of you boats all the time and they had a zigzagging, constantly zigzagging.

00:10:32

Right.

00:10:35 Speaker 2

Did your ship go by itself or were you in convoy CONV?

00:10:38 Speaker 1

Don't worry.

00:10:39 Speaker 1

OK.

00:10:41 Speaker 2

What did you get to see? Much of what the convoy looked like or how they did things?

00:10:45 Speaker 1

Yeah. Once in a while you get up on deck and it's with a clear day you can.

00:10:48 Speaker 1

A boat here.

00:10:51 Speaker 1

Because they would be on the Verizon too.

00:10:53 Speaker 2

Right.

00:10:54 Speaker 1

We knew that they were there at one time. We were.

00:10:58 Speaker 1

Officers were at a meeting down below and the boat when the explosion hit the boat. Scared the hell out of us and they said OK, go back and tell your men not to be. We be worried.

00:11:13 Speaker 1

This is a bomb that we.

00:11:15 Speaker 1

It wasn't something like a torpedo from the enemy.

00:11:15 Speaker 2

Mm hmm.

00:11:18 Speaker 2

Right.

00:11:19 Speaker 1

It was a bomb that we.

00:11:22 Speaker 1

That we got because we thought I knew what was nearby.

00:11:24 Speaker 2

Correct.

00:11:25 Speaker 1

But I tell you, I had a lot of job to calm the men down, to make my company because.

00:11:32 Speaker 1

You know, they didn't know what it was they heard.

00:11:34 Speaker 1

They supposedly could be the whole.

00:11:36 Speaker 1

Going down OK.

00:11:36 Speaker 2

You're talking about your company at this point?

00:11:39 Speaker 2

Have you been assigned to a regular unit, or do you simply go over there replacements at this point?

00:11:43 Speaker 1

You're just going as a replacement.

00:11:45 Speaker 2

So your your company was sort of one that would be broken up and redistributed among units when they got there?

00:11:49 Speaker 1

Yeah, yeah. The the company that was on the boat.

00:11:52 Speaker 2

Mm.

00:11:54 Speaker 1

We got a little hard France and took a train all the way across to across France and then I joined my company in Luxembourg that I was assigned to.

00:12:04 Speaker 2

Mm.

00:12:08 Speaker 2

Right.

00:12:12 Speaker 1

The company consisted of 12 men.

00:12:15 Speaker 1

Normally there's 180 of them.

00:12:18 Speaker 2

Right.

00:12:18 Speaker 1

They just gone through the battle of the Bulge and they had the killing being killed and wounded.

00:12:26 Speaker 1

There was only 12 guys left.

00:12:29 Speaker 1

I was one of the replacements.

00:12:32 Speaker 2

Now about what date was this?

00:12:33 Speaker 2

When you joined them.

00:12:35 Speaker 1

Oh, I would say it took us two weeks to get across, so that would be January the 14th. I say the 15th or 16th.

00:12:42 Speaker 2

OK.

00:12:43 Speaker 2

So get a second-half of January.

00:12:45 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:12:46 Speaker 2

Do you have an idea basically where you were at that time?

00:12:50 Speaker 1

We were in Luxembourg near Belgium.

00:12:52 Speaker 2

OK.

00:12:53 Speaker 1

In fact, I think at one point we were in Belgium.

00:12:56 Speaker 1

Because.

00:12:57 Speaker 2

You're sort of then on sort of the southern end of what?

00:13:00 Speaker 2

The bulge at that point.

00:13:02 Speaker 2

Were you close to the German frontier at that point?

00:13:04 Speaker 1

Yes, very close.

00:13:06 Speaker 1

In fact, after we got got the company all set with all replacements and everything we had to do East.

00:13:16 Speaker 2

Did.

00:13:16 Speaker 2

How large did the company?

00:13:18 Speaker 2

Did they get it back to 180 or?

00:13:19 Speaker 1

Yeah, they got it to 180, yeah.

00:13:21 Speaker 2

OK.

00:13:23 Speaker 2

So they had 12 experienced men and everyone else were new men.

00:13:29 Speaker 2

What kind of?

00:13:31 Speaker 2

Interaction did you have with men who were already there were their officers or sergeants who could tell you about what was going on or what had?

00:13:38 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:13:41 Speaker 1

Where a couple of officers, one of whom like I, became very good close friends with, he's our accompanor.

00:13:49 Speaker 1

But my I was being the second Lieutenant was a platoon leader.

00:13:54 Speaker 1

And.

00:13:56 Speaker 1

And I joined the guys, my men.

00:13:58 Speaker 1

Knew.

00:13:58 Speaker 1

I.

00:13:59 Speaker 1

Had to be very careful because they had seen combat the hard way and I was green as they could be.

00:14:07 Speaker 1

So I got them together and I said all right, you guys, I've learned a lot about how to be an infantry. All we have to do and what we don't have to do.

00:14:18 Speaker 1

But you have been a.

00:14:19 Speaker 2

Mm.

00:14:19 Speaker 1

So I'm going to teach you and you are going to teach me.

00:14:23 Speaker 1

And when I said that, they suddenly let up.

00:14:26 Speaker 1

Know I wasn't getting.

00:14:30 Speaker 1

I wasn't concerned about what they might, you know, offend me or anything like that.

00:14:33

Mm.

00:14:35 Speaker 1

Though I was. I was.

00:14:37 Speaker 1

And then, of course, we were in a combat.

00:14:41 Speaker 1

And we had many instances.

00:14:45 Speaker 1

Which?

00:14:48 Speaker 1

Involved from the enemy itself.

00:14:50 Speaker 2

Can how long was it from the time when your company formed up to when you actually engage the enemy for the first time?

00:15:00 Speaker 1

I say maybe a week.

00:15:02 Speaker 2

OK. And had you just been marching before that or?

00:15:07 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:15:09 Speaker 1

Before that.

00:15:11 Speaker 1

It's hard to.

00:15:12 Speaker 1

I think we left in the vehicles up to a point. Then we all disembarked the vehicles and we marched down in Bermuda and set up camp.

00:15:25 Speaker 1

And I remember.

00:15:29 Speaker 1

After we established camp and decided what orders we're getting from the developer, which we're going to go, I was, I was told by my company manager to go out and do a little reconnaissance and I took one or two men with me.

00:15:45 Speaker 1

It was sort of late in the day and it was winter time.

00:15:49 Speaker 1

Was a.

00:15:49 Speaker 1

Of snow all over the place.

00:15:50 Speaker 2

Mm.

00:15:52 Speaker 1

And.

00:15:54 Speaker 1

I don't even the first shot I ever.

00:15:56 Speaker 1

That was fired in anger was directly at me, but fortunately for me he was a wealthy shot.

00:16:02 Speaker 1

He missed me and I had to tell the back to the company headquarters and reported to what they wanted to hear.

00:16:09 Speaker 2

Right.

00:16:13 Speaker 1

But that was my first encounter with the Germans.

00:16:16 Speaker 2

And then.

00:16:18 Speaker 2

How about the first time that you actually led your platoon into combat?

00:16:21

It's.

00:16:22 Speaker 2

You remember anything about that?

00:16:22 Speaker 1

Oh, I live in.

00:16:23 Speaker 1

There is one in particular that I remember. We were going down this road.

00:16:32 Speaker 1

Advancing.

00:16:34 Speaker 1

There was a hill on the right.

00:16:37 Speaker 1

And the left and the far down and right next to the road was a Catholic shrine. You see. Quite a few of those over here.

00:16:47 Speaker 1

And I was with another officer and we went up to the Catholic shrine to, you know, to see where the enemy was and what we're doing.

00:16:56 Speaker 1

And we poked her head around the thing and all of a sudden up on that hill, there was a machine gun nest and he let loose.

00:17:06 Speaker 1

They caught my friend, who was kind of fortunate.

00:17:11 Speaker 1

In the Thai right here.

00:17:12 Speaker 2

Mm.

00:17:13 Speaker 1

\$1,000,000 wound because.

00:17:16 Speaker 1

They couldn't fix it, so he can fight.

00:17:18 Speaker 1

And he had to go back to the state, and he was a professional soldier.

00:17:18 Speaker 2

Right.

00:17:24 Speaker 1

In fact, he was a paratrooper before he came to join us.

00:17:29 Speaker 1

He was mad or.

00:17:30 Speaker 1

Because he.

00:17:33 Speaker 1

Wanted to fight and he was a soldier.

00:17:36 Speaker 1

And he found out he was not going to.

00:17:38 Speaker 1

Going to be shut back.

00:17:41 Speaker 1

He told me that he went to a fortune teller at one time and a fortune teller and said don't worry about being shot, you're going to die by the blade.

00:17:50 Speaker 1

So he had No Fear for guns and all that stuff he know. He believed his fortune teller.

00:17:57 Speaker 1

Well, I don't really die by the Blair, not by the guy shipped by home by a bullet.

00:18:02 Speaker 2

At that point, when that happens, the machine gun opens up on you.

00:18:06 Speaker 2

Man goes.

00:18:07 Speaker 2

What then then? Did you and your unit do?

00:18:10 Speaker 1

I got mad.

00:18:11 Speaker 1

I got very angry.

00:18:13 Speaker 1

I went back to my men, who were farther back, told them what happened.

00:18:19 Speaker 1

And I said I'm going to get.

00:18:20 Speaker 1

Machine gunner in there.

00:18:22 Speaker 1

So I I started up the hill.

00:18:26 Speaker 1

Remember by a corporal.

00:18:27

It's.

00:18:28 Speaker 1

Part of my platoon and he's he's from Brooklyn, and he said, Lieutenant, just remember that.

00:18:39 Speaker 1

Go home.

00:18:47 Speaker 1

My heroism and the better part of valor or big discretion, is a better part of valor and.

00:18:50 Speaker 2

Yes.

00:18:54 Speaker 1

I want to get that machine gun as well. I noticed as I went up toward the Nassau, the hill was convex. So as long as I kept going, I couldn't see him because he was just over the.

00:19:07 Speaker 2

Right.

00:19:07 Speaker 1

Hill and then I realized that by the time.

00:19:10 Speaker 1

Did see him.

00:19:10 Speaker 1

We were as close as well, not you and me, but pretty, very close.

00:19:12 Speaker 2

Mm.

00:19:15 Speaker 1

I said we got to have another solution to this thing because he.

00:19:17 Speaker 1

My head off, so I went back and I ordered.

00:19:20 Speaker 1

Mortars to bring fire down on these on this machine gun is that did the trick, OK?

00:19:28 Speaker 2

How did you communicate with the mortar crew?

00:19:30 Speaker 2

You have a radio, OK?

00:19:31 Speaker 1

High.

00:19:32 Speaker 1

Radio.

00:19:34 Speaker 1

And.

00:19:35 Speaker 1

Yeah, the.

00:19:36 Speaker 1

I think we killed 1.

00:19:38 Speaker 1

I mean one German if not 2 and then the rest surrendered. And so that was that was one of my earliest adventures.

00:19:49 Speaker 2

Mm.

00:19:50 Speaker 1

They come out.

00:19:53 Speaker 2

At this stage here in the campaign, where you regularly moving and attacking, did you have periods where you just stayed in one place and didn't do very much?

00:20:04 Speaker 1

Case of each battalion is made-up of four companies. Four companies are made-up of four platoons.

00:20:11 Speaker 1

And what I deal?

00:20:13 Speaker 1

There are three that were inactive and one was in in reserve and when you're reserved, you didn't do too much.

00:20:20 Speaker 1

You got a chance to take a shower and a few other things.

00:20:24 Speaker 1

And so there were times when we were there and there were times when we were right at the front fighting.

00:20:32 Speaker 1

Yeah, 11 big battle we had.

00:20:35 Speaker 1

With a funny little tongue, Germantown.

00:20:39 Speaker 1

Name is gramerath anyway.

00:20:44 Speaker 1

It was at the base of this hill as we were going down the hill, there was a lot of craters from our territory.

00:20:50 Speaker 1

They've been used prior to we got there and all of a sudden they, they said the Germans started firing at us with rifles through windows and doors of the buildings that we were approaching.

00:21:01 Speaker 1

And so we got down as fast as we could.

00:21:05 Speaker 1

And I try to call my company commander my radio and Don Radio was out and I didn't realize that time he got wounded too from artillery coming from the Germans.

00:21:09 Speaker 2

Mm.

00:21:16 Speaker 1

So I grabbed a handful of my men and they said follow me. We're going to go in that building.

00:21:19 Speaker 1

They yelled at the rest of the guys.

00:21:22 Speaker 1

Train your rifles on every cotton picker window and door and that, as you can see it fire away.

00:21:25 Speaker 2

Mm.

00:21:27 Speaker 1

Come keep us covered and we want to reign in and all the Germans. When we captured a few and some had had taken off.

00:21:36 Speaker 2

Mm.

00:21:38 Speaker 1

And.

00:21:40 Speaker 1

We wanted the one.

00:21:42 Speaker 1

It was a kitchen and my gather was still on the on the on the, on the stove. And there was a bottle of champagne. So I said to my guy, OK, the war stops right for about 10 minutes, the war stops. So we ate the fish out and.

00:21:54 Speaker 2

Mm.

00:21:57 Speaker 1

Started off again.

00:21:58 Speaker 1

And then I went and I went down the basement and.

00:22:02 Speaker 1

It is all women and children down there.

00:22:05 Speaker 1

They were.

00:22:07 Speaker 1

I don't blame.

00:22:07 Speaker 1

They were because of the German propaganda was it was going to rape every woman and would keep the crowd.

00:22:13 Speaker 2

Mm.

00:22:15 Speaker 1

All I can tell him, I was just looking for a German soldier. Where his child, soldier. And then I left and they were probably couldn't believe it, but that was one when I got a bronze star.

00:22:28 Speaker 1

That one.

00:22:31 Speaker 2

Now is this before you reach the Rhine River?

00:22:33 Speaker 2

You're still in the Western?

00:22:34 Speaker 1

Yeah, that was before we had the ride, yeah.

00:22:37 Speaker 2

In general, what kind of condition did the German army seem to be in at that point? As far as you could tell?

00:22:44 Speaker 1

Well, soon we're pretty good, but some are pretty shabby.

00:22:49 Speaker 1

I remember.

00:22:51 Speaker 1

As we went along, we began to see dead bodies on the side of the road and they were all Germans.

00:22:55 Speaker 1

Not new GIS.

00:22:57 Speaker 1

And I think some of the Germans were just being outnumbered and some fought like heck, they're the.

00:23:06 Speaker 1

The German s s group there die hard.

00:23:10

All right.

00:23:11 Speaker 1

Surrender for any reason.

00:23:13 Speaker 1

We encountered them a couple of times.

00:23:17 Speaker 1

Then we got to the Rhine.

00:23:20 Speaker 1

And.

00:23:22 Speaker 1

We cross the line like they came.

00:23:24 Speaker 1

D-Day was a kind of LST boat that had a front landing craft.

00:23:28 Speaker 2

Right, so land and.

00:23:29 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:23:31 Speaker 1

We got the other side of the rain crossed over, continued that way.

00:23:36 Speaker 2

Were you crossing in an area that about where the other side had already been cleared?

00:23:40 Speaker 1

We were in reserve at that.

00:23:42 Speaker 1

We kind of a few Germans, but the three platoons ahead of us got quite a bit of.

00:23:47 Speaker 2

So your unit was initially your company was making an opposed crossing then or yeah.

00:23:53 Speaker 2

OK. And was this at a point when other American units were crossing other sectors?

00:24:00 Speaker 1

Oh yeah, yeah. To the South and to the north of us. They were trying to plant it.

00:24:05 Speaker 1

We could go much together on.

00:24:08 Speaker 1

As possible.

00:24:08 Speaker 2

Mm.

00:24:12 Speaker 1

And one story I think I should pass along.

00:24:17 Speaker 1

When we got over the other side.

00:24:20 Speaker 1

It was getting late in the day.

00:24:23 Speaker 1

And we were hard to stop.

00:24:26 Speaker 1

Take cover and wait until further orders before we moved out and we were in a little dining town. Very rustic farm to farm community and this there's a house.

00:24:36 Speaker 2

Mm.

00:24:39 Speaker 1

They're all built a stone.

00:24:41 Speaker 1

From big boulders and the walls are real.

00:24:43

Mm.

00:24:44 Speaker 1

And I looked at it, I said there's a good place to get down there and take cover.

00:24:49 Speaker 1

So we went in this.

00:24:51 Speaker 1

We decided we could go down to the.

00:24:53 Speaker 2

Mm.

00:24:54 Speaker 1

Which we did.

00:24:56 Speaker 1

We didn't realize it 'cause it was dark at that time. But where?

00:24:59 Speaker 1

Front door was this was the land.

00:25:03 Speaker 1

And then then the land sloped off like this.

00:25:06 Speaker 1

So what was the basement to this side?

00:25:06 Speaker 2

Mm.

00:25:08 Speaker 1

The first floor to this side.

00:25:11 Speaker 1

So we didn't know that.

00:25:12 Speaker 1

Anyway, we got our.

00:25:16 Speaker 1

Blankets out and all our gear and everything.

00:25:20 Speaker 1

When I go couple hours later, somebody is up above yelling out.

00:25:25 Speaker 1

Moving out and I said no, you know.

00:25:29 Speaker 1

When we're, if we're going to move out, I get those water directly from my company commander, not from some guy Ellen.

00:25:35 Speaker 1

Up there.

00:25:35 Speaker 1

But I went up there and I told him I'd come on up.

00:25:37 Speaker 1

I'd find out what's going on, which we did, and it was. Somebody had a rumor or something just about that time.

00:25:45 Speaker 1

There was a big explosion in the House we just left.

00:25:48 Speaker 2

Mm.

00:25:49 Speaker 1

And.

00:25:51 Speaker 1

I went down below down and there's a hole in the wall.

00:25:57 Speaker 1

I don't know how big it was and I can see there that hole and up on the hillside.

00:26:04 Speaker 1

Maybe a hundred 400 yards away with a German tank and he had fire that 88 missile.

00:26:11 Speaker 2

Mm.

00:26:12 Speaker 1

Those things are about yelling around and not that long.

00:26:16 Speaker 1

And went through the outer wall and two inner walls before it stopped.

00:26:21 Speaker 2

Right.

00:26:22 Speaker 1

And landed on the on the ground inside.

00:26:26 Speaker 1

And I went over and I was looking fishing for my gear and I said my stuff and I put my hand.

00:26:33 Speaker 1

And then I realized that was the s s that came in.

00:26:35 Speaker 1

That's exactly where my head was.

00:26:37

Wow. Wow.

00:26:38 Speaker 1

Before the guy called me called us to go out.

00:26:41 Speaker 2

Did you know?

00:26:42 Speaker 2

What did you have an unexploded shell?

00:26:44 Speaker 2

That.

00:26:45 Speaker 2

Yeah. So maybe armor piercing shot that didn't blow up her.

00:26:45 Speaker 1

The second arbirer piercing because they exploded against.

00:26:50 Speaker 1

Mean the explosion was actually the bricks.

00:26:53 Speaker 1

Mean the stone being.

00:26:54 Speaker 1

Bono park. But the shell itself didn't explode like after it cooled down.

00:26:55 Speaker 2

Mm.

00:27:00 Speaker 1

Thought I'd take it home for a souvenir. It was so heavy.

00:27:04 Speaker 1

Can no more one mile with that thing. I dropped it.

00:27:13 Speaker 1

I think another story, another so darn many of them.

00:27:18 Speaker 1

Came across the.

00:27:22 Speaker 1

Troop, I mean, our platoon came across some bunkers that the Germans had had been, in fact very short time before.

00:27:29 Speaker 1

And they had departed either by being shot at or just left, and I discovered on the floor of the bunker was a German pistol.

00:27:34 Speaker 2

Mm.

00:27:39 Speaker 1

They had a name for it called P38 because of 38 caliber and it was a beautiful thing.

00:27:46 Speaker 1

And so I I put that in my sack.

00:27:50 Speaker 1

As a souvenir when it turned out that Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

00:27:58 Speaker 1

His secondary.

00:28:00 Speaker 1

At that time.

00:28:02 Speaker 1

Was a veteran of the 80th Infantry Division back in World War I.

00:28:07 Speaker 1

And he came to visit his his outfit, and he wanted to know if he could take it back to Souvir to give to the president.

00:28:15 Speaker 1

And I said, what the heck do need this thing?

00:28:18 Speaker 1

So I offered to get my gun, but before I took it, I recorded the solar number of the gun and sent it, sent it to my father by mail.

00:28:29 Speaker 1

You know, we know that found out later that that, that it did go into the hands of our.

00:28:35 Speaker 1

And and we we compared numbers, numbers that that was Steven early that was the name of the the secondary, Steven, right. And he compared the numbers of that the.

00:28:46 Speaker 1

He had and the and the numbers that I wrote down the same numbers same.

00:28:51 Speaker 1

And then went to Hyde Park.

00:28:53 Speaker 1

So it's on display at Hyde Park.

00:28:54 Speaker 2

Weather.

00:28:56 Speaker 1

Now that is quite interesting.

00:28:58 Speaker 2

You're talking about the German bunkers and so.

00:29:00 Speaker 2

Were those heavy concrete positions or just things they dugout a little?

00:29:10 Speaker 1

Fortified.

00:29:14 Speaker 1

But.

00:29:16 Speaker 2

Did your unit have to fight its way through the sieve line fortifications or?

00:29:20 Speaker 1

No, that was.

00:29:20 Speaker 1

Fortunately, that was after I got there.

00:29:22

OK.

00:29:23 Speaker 1

And they they they knew that was all part of the Bulls, I think.

00:29:30 Speaker 1

Then.

00:29:33 Speaker 1

There's a lot of stories. It's hard to remember them all.

00:29:36 Speaker 1

Don't know how much you got time in that, but.

00:29:39 Speaker 2

Funny what helps us a lot is sort of things that sort of characterize different sorts of things that soldiers or men in your unit.

00:29:52 Speaker 2

Went through for instance. Do you have? Did you have much more interaction with civilians or as you got farther into Germany and so forth?

00:29:59 Speaker 1

Yes.

00:30:00 Speaker 2

What? What kind of relationship or communication did you have with them?

00:30:04 Speaker 1

Well.

00:30:07 Speaker 1

At one point, my dear friend.

00:30:11 Speaker 1

Went home in points. You have no points to go.

00:30:15 Speaker 1

And so he said. Pete, your company commander, I had just planned to go up and Mount Zoot stick and go do some skiing.

00:30:25 Speaker 1

I got to cancel that, so I was company commander.

00:30:27 Speaker 1

Anyways.

00:30:30 Speaker 1

Job was to contact the Germans as you go along and.

00:30:35 Speaker 1

Soldiers, they surrendered. Fine, they.

00:30:37 Speaker 1

But we had somewhat take care of.

00:30:39 Speaker 1

But civilians, entirely different man and I would always work with with their mayor, which is they call Burger master.

00:30:48 Speaker 1

And.

00:30:49 Speaker 1

Sometimes I could.

00:30:50 Speaker 1

I I learned a little German when I came in to Germany, and sometimes I I could communicate.

00:30:59 Speaker 1

I needed a interpreter.

00:31:01

Mm.

00:31:03 Speaker 1

So that's that's how we mostly didn't do.

00:31:06 Speaker 1

Course you have to watch out for the German girls.

00:31:09 Speaker 1

Of them were pretty cute.

00:31:12 Speaker 2

Is this after the German surrender? At this point when that kind of thing is going on, or were you doing this sort of thing even before that?

00:31:18 Speaker 1

Before and after two, but after after the war.

00:31:24 Speaker 1

Give me a little ahead of myself. We occupied in Bavaria and we had our camp set.

00:31:27 Speaker 2

Mm.

00:31:30 Speaker 1

We stayed the whole summer in Bavaria, so there was a little talk with a German civilians, but we were there and they knew it.

00:31:43 Speaker 1

Important thing is that we were headed toward Berlin.

00:31:47 Speaker 1

We're making a pretty good progress. The German army was beginning to fall apart.

00:31:53 Speaker 1

And all of a sudden we found out that Stalin and Churchill and Roosevelt had gotten together and changed our plans.

00:32:02 Speaker 1

Said OK, Russian is going to take Berlin. You guys are not. No, that was so damn disappointed.

00:32:06 Speaker 2

Mm.

00:32:10 Speaker 1

So we pointed us to South and before our way down to.

00:32:16 Speaker 1

Through Munich, Nuremberg, Munich and into the Austrian Alps.

00:32:21 Speaker 2

Mm.

00:32:23 Speaker 1

And that was there when the war ended and made it made 1/5.

00:32:27 Speaker 1

There was 11 battle that.

00:32:31 Speaker 1

I was in love with earworm.

00:32:34 Speaker 2

Mm.

00:32:36 Speaker 1

We came out of this one town going across a large field into another town.

00:32:43 Speaker 1

And I noticed off to our right, there was a.

00:32:46 Speaker 1

One of our tanks exploding fire. I could see men jumping out of the train.

00:32:53 Speaker 1

And then I looked.

00:32:54 Speaker 1

Where the heck was that coming?

00:32:55 Speaker 1

Right off the head of this and off to the right, a little bit was.

00:33:00 Speaker 1

A foxhole with. I think there's six Germans in there and they were using an anti tank weapons.

00:33:08 Speaker 1

Not they're like bazookas.

00:33:09 Speaker 2

Yeah, there's the.

00:33:10 Speaker 2

Shrek was the big bazooka thing, and the Panzerfaust was the little propelled grenade 1.

00:33:15 Speaker 1

Let's I think we didn't.

00:33:17 Speaker 1

It was happened so fast.

00:33:21 Speaker 1

And.

00:33:22 Speaker 1

And boy, was I mad at that because they were shooting our guys and our drakes.

00:33:27 Speaker 1

So I yelled at my man.

00:33:30 Speaker 1

I got a grenade.

00:33:31 Speaker 1

Get your *** down as far as you can go.

00:33:34 Speaker 1

And I threw this thing as hard as I could.

00:33:37 Speaker 1

Atlanta's short of the of the foxhole, but it was close enough. So.

00:33:41 Speaker 1

It off it caught a few Germans.

00:33:45 Speaker 1

Just before that.

00:33:46 Speaker 1

The reason why I really had to do they left their their job trying to shoot the tanks and went to a machine gun and I can see them turning a machine gun toward us, right.

00:33:58 Speaker 1

Them or me, you know, that's why I let loose with a grenade.

00:34:01 Speaker 2

Mm.

00:34:02 Speaker 1

And I took care of. There were six Guys, 6 Germans.

00:34:06 Speaker 1

I think they were already dead and dead when I got up to the foxhole.

00:34:10 Speaker 1

But if I if they weren't, they were when I left.

00:34:13 Speaker 1

So.

00:34:14 Speaker 1

And I if I hadn't done that, I think that we had a would have had 180 men.

00:34:20 Speaker 1

Me. That would be in trouble.

00:34:22 Speaker 2

Was it the sort of thing that would?

00:34:24 Speaker 2

Where if the Germans had one machine gun in the right place, the whole unit has to stop and.

00:34:30 Speaker 1

Well, one machine gun can do a heck of a lot of damage.

00:34:36 Speaker 1

Just rake it and there's one guy feeding the belt with the boats to it.

00:34:39 Speaker 2

Right.

00:34:42 Speaker 1

I do.

00:34:42 Speaker 1

Overall, I don't know how much damage they could.

00:34:47 Speaker 1

And my as I told you before, the only other account machine gun was early in the war.

00:34:53 Speaker 1

And they they can create some some problems for us.

00:34:58 Speaker 2

Aside from that one episode where there was a tank shooting into the side of the house, did you have to deal with German armor at all, or did you not see any of that?

00:35:07 Speaker 1

And now I don't believe we did. There was.

00:35:10 Speaker 1

We had a lot of our armor and.

00:35:14 Speaker 1

When we advance, if we were wide open fields.

00:35:18 Speaker 2

Mm.

00:35:20 Speaker 1

They they entangled 'cause they go fast.

00:35:22 Speaker 1

Won't protect it.

00:35:24 Speaker 1

But once we get forced then then it was our job as the infantry to continue going.

00:35:25 Speaker 2

Right.

00:35:32 Speaker 1

But as far as German tanks, I never did get that close to 1.

00:35:37 Speaker 2

Mm.

00:35:40 Speaker 1

Unlike a movie which I assure you saw a private land.

00:35:43 Speaker 2

Mm.

00:35:45 Speaker 1

The German tanks came close. No, I didn't.

00:35:48 Speaker 1

Didn't have that problem.

00:35:49 Speaker 2

By.

00:35:50 Speaker 2

The Germans didn't have much gas, so it's very hard to do that.

00:35:51 Speaker 1

They didn't have much gas there.

00:35:53 Speaker 1

A lot of them.

00:35:54 Speaker 1

There's just.

00:35:57 Speaker 1

Tanks and weapons that were pretty well shot.

00:36:00 Speaker 2

Mm.

00:36:01 Speaker 1

But on the other hand, we found out after they'd surrendered and we were in Austria, that there were well over 100, not 200,000 Germans still hiding in the mountains.

00:36:11 Speaker 1

And we're ready to attack this.

00:36:14 Speaker 1

But Hitler done himself in them.

00:36:16 Speaker 1

They killed. They surrendered.

00:36:18 Speaker 2

Did you have any problems after the surrender with some Germans who were refusing to surrender or sabotage or attacks or?

00:36:26 Speaker 1

No, I didn't know that was that was.

00:36:26 Speaker 2

Like that.

00:36:29 Speaker 1

Really.

00:36:30 Speaker 2

At the point when the war ended, did you have much of an understanding of some of the kinds of things the Germans had done with the concentration camps and the death camps and that kind of thing?

00:36:39 Speaker 1

You know that's.

00:36:40 Speaker 1

We didn't know a thing about those concentration camps.

00:36:44 Speaker 1

At all until after the war is over, with some of the GIS did the way they approached. They did hit those camps. We didn't.

00:36:53 Speaker 1

We must have gone around.

00:36:55 Speaker 1

We had no idea until after the war we found out.

00:36:59 Speaker 1

It was ugly as hell.

00:37:00 Speaker 2

Yeah, yeah.

00:37:03 Speaker 1

I wish we would.

00:37:05 Speaker 1

More involved with that?

00:37:09 Speaker 2

What kind could you describe?

00:37:11 Speaker 2

What happened to your platoon or company over the course of those last months of the war where you're taking a lot of losses?

00:37:20 Speaker 2

What was morale like in the unit?

00:37:22 Speaker 1

On the mall at Marlow's. Excellent because.

00:37:24 Speaker 1

We were.

00:37:25 Speaker 1

No, we weren't taking any losses at all.

00:37:28 Speaker 1

We had one bad artillery barrage.

00:37:32 Speaker 1

Shortly after this grammar thing and I got a piece of shrapnel on my shoulder.

00:37:34 Speaker 2

Mm.

00:37:41 Speaker 1

And I think we had one or two guys that were killed.

00:37:45 Speaker 1

Other than that, I think we were very fortunate because the war was coming to an end and the Germans on the road, but there were times when when they were very threatening.

00:37:59 Speaker 1

Remember, we use our artillery a few times on them.

00:38:02 Speaker 2

Mm.

00:38:04 Speaker 1

And that was after.

00:38:06 Speaker 1

This shell was invented, which was a proximity shell, and it would.

00:38:16 Speaker 1

You can send it for distances above the ground, and if it came down, it wouldn't go off the grass distances and we use that for the first time and that was very effective.

00:38:18 Speaker 2

Right.

00:38:30 Speaker 2

Can you just tell me a little bit about the the men in your unit?

00:38:33 Speaker 2

Were they?

00:38:34 Speaker 2

How old were they?

00:38:37 Speaker 1

Oh, my company commander, my dear friend, he came from Wisconsin.

00:38:45 Speaker 1

Small shoes. But he loved the ball. He had Wisconsin.

00:38:50 Speaker 1

Good bowling?

00:38:51 Speaker 1

He had a very good.

00:38:53 Speaker 1

I think he had an average of over well over.

00:38:54 Speaker 1

100 and a lot of my men seem to be going from.

00:39:01 Speaker 1

From the east.

00:39:03 Speaker 1

I wonder one guy came from Brooklyn, another another guy came from.

00:39:10 Speaker 1

The South somewhere.

00:39:13 Speaker 1

They more or less all over. There's not no rhyme or reason of it, just the way we are thrown together.

00:39:18 Speaker 2

How old were they?

00:39:20

Umm.

00:39:22 Speaker 1

Well, few were younger than me.

00:39:27 Speaker 1

Most of them are older than me, but I say age wise.

00:39:32 Speaker 1

You didn't find anybody? I was.

00:39:35 Speaker 1

I was 22.

00:39:37 Speaker 2

Mm.

00:39:40 Speaker 1

And I think most of my men were late teens or early 20s.

00:39:47

So.

00:39:47 Speaker 2

But there's still regular military age and not way too old or young or something like that.

00:39:51 Speaker 1

Oh, no, no. They're military agents.

00:39:54 Speaker 1

Of course, after after the war, we finally got our orders to ship back to.

00:40:01 Speaker 1

Branch to.

00:40:05 Speaker 1

Where we eventually got our boat and went home.

00:40:08 Speaker 1

Take a long time, though.

00:40:11 Speaker 2

When you were based in Bavaria, what did the unit do at that point once?

00:40:16 Speaker 2

War was over.

00:40:17 Speaker 1

It was still trained because.

00:40:21 Speaker 1

The Japanese war is still going on in the Pacific and we had no idea whether we were going to be called as a unit shipped over there or not.

00:40:22 Speaker 2

Mm.

00:40:31 Speaker 1

And some of the guys were not in our group, some other companies and other battalions.

00:40:36 Speaker 1

Worshipped over.

00:40:38 Speaker 1

Fortunately, they didn't want us.

00:40:40 Speaker 1

And of course.

00:40:43 Speaker 1

When the bomb they dropped, the receiver bomb was on August. Yeah. So by that time.

00:40:50 Speaker 1

Www.but to keep the men busy, we trained like you normally do and.

00:40:57 Speaker 1

I I had my crew dig a.

00:41:01 Speaker 1

A trench.

00:41:03 Speaker 1

So we can set up a rifle range and.

00:41:09 Speaker 1

We we trained them in that, but they really didn't need much training because they'd been through war.

00:41:14

Right.

00:41:15 Speaker 1

You had to get. You got.

00:41:16 Speaker 1

Get busy, that's for sure.

00:41:20 Speaker 2

How much contact did you have with sort of officers and superiors farther up the chain?

00:41:25 Speaker 2

Mean you need your company commander.

00:41:28 Speaker 2

Did you see much of anybody above that level?

00:41:29 Speaker 1

Yes, above that was our battalion commander, Colonel Black.

00:41:34 Speaker 1

He's from Chicago. Nice guy.

00:41:36 Speaker 1

Really nice guy and.

00:41:42 Speaker 1

But you know, when you get farther away, when you're in combat there, the officers think of the officers are the farther back they go.

00:41:47

For abstraction.

00:41:50 Speaker 1

And he was he came. He came down.

00:41:55 Speaker 1

Gave us some real talk. Good in morale talks after the war. He got married in Europe.

00:42:01 Speaker 1

Maybe probably a nurse or something like that.

00:42:07 Speaker 1

But I wish I'd seen him more.

00:42:11 Speaker 1

You gave me his pistol.

00:42:15 Speaker 1

I have that.

00:42:17 Speaker 1

Like on the metals over there.

00:42:20 Speaker 1

But well, even more than like my daughter.

00:42:28 Speaker 1

Put together.

00:42:37 Speaker 1

This is a history of me and the war with.

00:42:46 Speaker 1

Letters had written mostly to my father.

00:42:48 Speaker 2

Wow.

00:42:50 Speaker 1

That was that was just a delight to have my daughter do this for her long time.

00:42:55 Speaker 2

Well.

00:43:01 Speaker 2

Well, anything anybody does to.

00:43:05 Speaker 2

Preserve these now did a copy of this go anywhere to be archived or?

00:43:12 Speaker 1

Well.

00:43:13 Speaker 1

No, I don't think.

00:43:15 Speaker 1

I mean, our family. My brother's got a copy and my sister.

00:43:20 Speaker 2

If because one of the things that we can do with this project and so forth is if we can, you know, get or make copies of something like this, that can kind of be in the file along with the rest of it.

00:43:20 Speaker 1

My children do.

00:43:33 Speaker 2

Particularly because you've got.

00:43:36 Speaker 2

Your own photographs that are that are labeled so, so we know what they are and who they are as well as original letters.

00:43:42 Speaker 2

The kind of thing that.

00:43:45 Speaker 2

Would work very well.

00:43:46 Speaker 2

Goes very well into this kind of collection so.

00:43:50

Oh.

00:43:51 Speaker 2

But.

00:43:52 Speaker 1

Well.

00:43:54 Speaker 2

While we're still here engaged in the interview part of things.

00:43:59 Speaker 2

Do you have? Are there other things that you remember about the wartime experience and so forth, that kind of stick with you or that come back to you if you think about it?

00:44:10 Speaker 1

Well, I think it.

00:44:14 Speaker 1

Most of which are Pakistan.

00:44:17

Uh.

00:44:19 Speaker 1

To.

00:44:22 Speaker 1

It's hard to remember.

00:44:25 Speaker 1

Getting back into the states.

00:44:28 Speaker 1

When I learned, for example, when I learned that I was being.

00:44:32 Speaker 1

OCS, Our troop was on a troop train heading new West to California to practice.

00:44:42 Speaker 1

Landings on their beach.

00:44:46 Speaker 1

And they became Lieutenant, and a Sergeant came up to my seat at the train and said you accepted the OCS.

00:44:54 Speaker 1

I said, well, that's great, but we're going the wrong direction.

00:44:58 Speaker 1

I mean, we're heading off to Los Angeles and Fort Benny was in Georgia.

00:45:03 Speaker 1

So they.

00:45:03 Speaker 1

And so they.

00:45:05 Speaker 1

We can't change it right now, so I went all the way out to California.

00:45:10 Speaker 1

And did some paperwork or something to put me on a not a troop train, but a regular team. And I trained right back to to Georgia and.

00:45:19 Speaker 1

That was for some of our taxpayer money.

00:45:22 Speaker 1

Money went right.

00:45:26 Speaker 2

Now, at what point were?

00:45:28 Speaker 2

Did you get back to the United States then?

00:45:31 Speaker 1

Let me see. It was.

00:45:37 Speaker 1

December the 12th, I think.

00:45:39 Speaker 2

OK.

00:45:40 Speaker 1

We're on a boat.

00:45:43 Speaker 1

Gotten off with them?

00:45:45 Speaker 1

In New Jersey took a train to Camp Edderbury in Indiana.

00:45:52 Speaker 1

And that's where we got our discharge papers.

00:45:56 Speaker 1

And that's when I was able to.

00:45:57 Speaker 1

Wife and she came right down and.

00:46:03 Speaker 1

Then it was.

00:46:05 Speaker 1

Oh yeah, one more little PS.

00:46:10 Speaker 1

That time I.

00:46:13 Speaker 1

Go back from the war went to JC, which is now Grand Valley State College, which you will know about.

00:46:19 Speaker 2

Well, that's be the Community College, yeah.

00:46:22 Speaker 1

Now and then from then I went to Ann Arbor to get my degree at the University of Michigan.

00:46:29 Speaker 1

And some words along there.

00:46:31 Speaker 1

I got a letter in the mail.

00:46:34 Speaker 1

Greetings, you're going to go to Korea, so to speak, and I did.

00:46:37 Speaker 2

Uh.

00:46:39 Speaker 1

Couldn't believe it, I.

00:46:40 Speaker 1

I followed one word with one more enough.

00:46:44 Speaker 1

Then I noticed at the bottom of the letter was unless otherwise authorized by War Department.

00:46:49 Speaker 1

You have to have three or more dependents.

00:46:53 Speaker 1

Well, I had two 2 girls, 2 little girls in my life.

00:46:57 Speaker 1

When I fired that off, motorized and everything I got out of that one.

00:47:02 Speaker 1

But I don't know that would have been, yeah.

00:47:06 Speaker 2

Well, quite a few men did. Did get called up and they had to go back in.

00:47:08 Speaker 1

Sure.

00:47:08 Speaker 1

Do. Yeah.

00:47:10 Speaker 2

What did you study when you were?

00:47:12 Speaker 1

In Michigan engineering.

00:47:13 Speaker 2

OK.

00:47:14 Speaker 2

And then did you go into an engineering career or into a bowling high career?

00:47:19 Speaker 1

Or I went into.

00:47:21 Speaker 1

Engineering. I got my first job I got with a gentleman, a company called General Wire and Cable.

00:47:30 Speaker 1

Make electrical cables, electrical wires and.

00:47:35 Speaker 1

I joined the company.

00:47:39 Speaker 1

I guess.

00:47:39 Speaker 1

Yeah, right after I graduated, 1949.

00:47:43 Speaker 1

With him for a year. Well, I wanted to get back to Grand Rapids.

00:47:46 Speaker 1

Was the editor of east.

00:47:49 Speaker 1

Perth Amboy, NJ in all places.

00:47:52 Speaker 1

So I left and got a job in Grand Rapids.

00:47:58 Speaker 1

It was then called the American Boxport Company.

00:48:01 Speaker 2

Mm.

00:48:02 Speaker 1

And now to call packaging engine Packaging Corporation and.

00:48:08 Speaker 1

I was looking for quite a quite a few years as an engineer with a packaging engineer.

00:48:12 Speaker 2

Mm.

00:48:16 Speaker 1

So then of course, when we got the bowling business and and.

00:48:22 Speaker 1

My brother and I, my father, was still alive.

00:48:25 Speaker 1

Decided that.

00:48:28 Speaker 1

This this was too.

00:48:29 Speaker 1

Just a lesson manager handling. It's got to be run by the owners.

00:48:30 Speaker 2

Mm.

00:48:33 Speaker 1

And my brother Phil and I are both owners. We took over until.

00:48:39 Speaker 1

Until we retired.

00:48:43 Speaker 2

What kind of effect do you think your military experience could have had on you, either personally or the course that you took in your life?

00:48:52 Speaker 1

What?

00:48:54 Speaker 1

And they can maybe grow up a lot from just a kid. You know, I think back and I think the most 4 important years of my life.

00:48:58 Speaker 2

Mm.

00:49:04 Speaker 1

42 to 46.

00:49:06 Speaker 2

Mm.

00:49:07 Speaker 1

42 Graduated from Prep school in the Army and finally getting out. And by the way, I mentioned my wife and I are married. When I went overseas nine months later, she greeted me with a little baby girl.

00:49:22 Speaker 1

So that was all during those four years.

00:49:28 Speaker 2

And was she living with her parents at that point, or on her own?

00:49:30 Speaker 1

Yeah, she was living with her parents.

00:49:35 Speaker 1

Then when I came home, my father had a home he, like all the kids, grew up in in. He still owned it.

00:49:44 Speaker 1

I stayed there until I went to Dartmouth.

00:49:47 Speaker 1

Let me do I went to.

00:49:50 Speaker 1

The University of.

00:49:50 Speaker 2

Michigan, yeah.

00:49:56 Speaker 1

Yeah, those are some great memories.

00:49:59 Speaker 1

And made a lot of friends and all my all my army friends and passed away.

00:50:06 Speaker 1

I'm not getting any younger either.

00:50:12 Speaker 2

Well, thank you very much for talking with us.

00:50:15 Speaker 1

What you need?

00:50:16 Speaker 2

I think that we do here, OK.

00:50:18 Speaker 1

Right now.