

Forrest Hart Interview

Medical Detachment, 317th Inf Reg

(Library of Congress: Veterans History Project; interviewed by Martin Severson)

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

00:00:01 Speaker 1

All.

00:00:01 Speaker 1

For us, if we could have you, we want to.

00:00:03 Speaker 1

Make sure we get the name right. If you could you want to spell his name too.

00:00:08

Just say it.

00:00:09 Speaker 1

Just say your name.

00:00:09 Speaker 2

Forest heart.

00:00:12 Speaker 2

Where I was born.

00:00:14 Speaker 2

Yeah. Born in Coma, Wisconsin and graduated from high school in 1943 and 40, two 1942 and drafted in April of 43 and spent.

00:00:31 Speaker 2

Time in.

00:00:34 Speaker 2

What?

00:00:39 Speaker 2

Down, boy, Wisconsin.

00:00:41 Speaker 2

Basic medical.

00:00:42 Speaker 2

From there I went to maybe and then Tennessee maneuvers.

00:00:51 Speaker 2

Up and down the hills in Tennessee and then from there to Camp Phillips, Kansas in Tar paper shacks and then Yuma, AZ, on desert manoeuvres.

00:01:02 Speaker 2

And then I shipped all the way back to Fort Dix, NJ and laid around in refreshing course on medical.

00:01:10 Speaker 2

And then one Sunday, all of a sudden they.

00:01:14 Speaker 2

As I feel more sorry one Sunday, they said.

00:01:19 Speaker 2

Fall out with a full fuel pack and all your belongings out in the middle of the Springfield. And I knew right then. I don't sound good and we got on the train and went to New York and got aboard Queen Mary.

00:01:35 Speaker 2

The biggest ship of fool I went overseas on the Queen Mary.

00:01:40 Speaker 1

Can we get can?

00:01:41 Speaker 1

Can we back up for just a minute?

00:01:43 Speaker 2

Yeah, my backup.

00:01:43 Speaker 1

Yeah. Tell us about.

00:01:46 Speaker 1

Your parents occupations a number. Your number of brothers and.

00:01:48 Speaker 2

Oh, mother.

00:01:50 Speaker 1

Tell us a little bit about your family and and a little what you were doing before you entered in the military before you.

00:01:51 Speaker 2

OK.

00:01:56 Speaker 2

OK, my dad was a railroad worker and I after I graduated from high school.

00:02:04 Speaker 2

I worked at Randy's dairy, a dairy in Toma, and then.

00:02:12 Speaker 2

I can't remember what you said.

00:02:14 Speaker 2

Other history.

00:02:15 Speaker 1

Brothers and sister.

00:02:16 Speaker 2

Oh yes, I have one, one brother. Four years.

00:02:20 Speaker 2

Me and I had one sister older than me and four sisters younger than me and my oldest sister.

00:02:29 Speaker 2

And another next younger sister, both dead now.

00:02:33 Speaker 2

Rest of them.

00:02:36 Speaker 1

What about specialized?

00:02:38 Speaker 1

Those you already talked about, your basic training is specialized training as a.

00:02:42 Speaker 1

Is that correct?

00:02:43 Speaker 2

It wasn't specialized.

00:02:45 Speaker 2

No. See, I started out as a little bear.

00:02:50 Speaker 2

That's the bottom of the tier. A lot of people don't even litter. One of my granddaughters said.

00:02:57 Speaker 2

A litter.

00:02:57 Speaker 2

Well, there's stretcher. They know as a stretcher, you know.

00:03:02 Speaker 2

And anyway, I started out as a little bear and then became a aid man.

00:03:07 Speaker 2

Then you know, as I got up, went into the aid station and worked with a surgeon or doctor.

00:03:08

Replay.

00:03:17 Speaker 1

What about?

00:03:19 Speaker 1

The barracks, the food, social life for you before you deploy, before you were sent overseas.

00:03:20 Speaker 2

Off.

00:03:26 Speaker 2

Yeah, I slept in a tent. A four man tent in Camp Grant, Illinois, where I took medical basic. And then from there I went to outside, living in a pup tent, two man pup tent.

00:03:41 Speaker 2

In Tennessee on manoeuvres.

00:03:44 Speaker 2

Is from the layout from the.

00:03:46 Speaker 2

We went to Camp Phillips, Kansas, in tarpaper shacks.

00:03:51 Speaker 2

No indoor plumbing, you.

00:03:53 Speaker 2

They had to go outside to go to the bathroom.

00:03:55 Speaker 2

Different building.

00:03:56 Speaker 2

Take a shower and wash up and everything.

00:03:59 Speaker 2

And no toilets.

00:04:00 Speaker 2

And then the kitchen was on the opposite end of the row of.

00:04:05 Speaker 2

You had to go all up there and go outside and go eat and walk up there and then from there I went in Arizona and lived in four band tents and on the desert.

00:04:16 Speaker 2

And we have no facilities there inside.

00:04:23 Speaker 2

And then when I got 4 ***** here, we had a two-story barracks.

00:04:28 Speaker 2

And inside plumbing and they were.

00:04:32 Speaker 1

We got drafted.

00:04:33 Speaker 1

You.

00:04:34 Speaker 1

That you're going to be going to the Pacific or the OR to the.

00:04:37 Speaker 1

Did you have any idea when did? When was tell us about that? The first indication you had that you were going to be deployed either to Europe?

00:04:38 Speaker 2

I had no idea.

00:04:45 Speaker 2

When left.

00:04:47 Speaker 2

Manoeuvres in Arizona went to Fort Dixon with more or less, I would say, for like 2 weeks or something.

00:04:54 Speaker 2

Do.

00:04:55 Speaker 2

They kind of let us do whatever we wanted to do and then that Sunday morning when they called us out.

00:05:01 Speaker 2

To deploy out in front of the barracks with all your belongings.

00:05:08 Speaker 2

Duffel bag and full field pack.

00:05:11 Speaker 2

Before that, we had had what they call fulfilled inspections, delay everything you own out on a bed, and then they made sure you had extra pair of socks and a handkerchief and toothbrush and toothpaste.

00:05:25 Speaker 2

E and soap and all that.

00:05:26 Speaker 2

You know, personal item and then change it under clothes and stuff like.

00:05:31 Speaker 2

Was.

00:05:32 Speaker 2

Make sure everybody had that.

00:05:35 Speaker 2

You know, so when they went overseas, we had it, but then we were issued a lot of things.

00:05:42 Speaker 2

Like impregnated.

00:05:43 Speaker 2

You know what that is?

00:05:45

Hmm.

00:05:46 Speaker 2

When they were worried about.

00:05:48 Speaker 2

When we first went over being gas and this impregnating, it was colder.

00:05:52 Speaker 2

Was regular army.

00:05:55 Speaker 2

Only had a coding of something on it that.

00:05:58 Speaker 2

Gas was not supposed to.

00:06:00 Speaker 2

And then we had the gas mask.

00:06:03 Speaker 1

Did you ever use them?

00:06:04 Speaker 2

No, I just want to say when we got off the I could carry that stuff.

00:06:11 Speaker 2

All that stuff in there bags and everything.

00:06:13 Speaker 2

Was heavy.

00:06:14 Speaker 2

And then we got.

00:06:17 Speaker 2

When we lit in France, we got off the we walked in on a treading and got one up and held up on top of the hill.

00:06:25 Speaker 2

Was Apple orchard old apple orchard? There was nothing left of it.

00:06:28 Speaker 2

Was all bombed and so they said. Empty your duffel bag.

00:06:34 Speaker 2

Out here and then they took empty. Our full field pack gave us a blanket in the shoulder.

00:06:41 Speaker 2

Hats out to half Eric Poncho, one of the two.

00:06:46 Speaker 2

And then they took our pack and clothing, took our gas mask and we never saw them again.

00:06:51 Speaker 2

Carried them all the way over there all that time. Never used, never saw them again.

00:06:56 Speaker 1

What was your trip across the Pacific Ocean? Atlantic on the Queen Mary alike. Was it funny or was it? Was it interesting?

00:07:03 Speaker 2

There was nothing on you because it was so fast. As a ship of fault at that time, Queen Mary was.

00:07:10 Speaker 2

They went in a zigzag all the way across so that nothing could catch up with them.

00:07:15 Speaker 2

They couldn't, you know, intercept them.

00:07:18 Speaker 2

But then we had escorts like 2 days out.

00:07:23 Speaker 2

Then escorts from England on two days before we came, they came. Planes and boats came out and escorted us.

00:07:31 Speaker 1

Because of EU boats.

00:07:33 Speaker 2

You know boats, right?

00:07:34 Speaker 1

How old were you at the time?

00:07:35 Speaker 2

Stuff I would like.

00:07:36 Speaker 1

I was 19 years old.

00:07:38 Speaker 1

Then you arrive.

00:07:39 Speaker 2

Well, actually yeah, 19.

00:07:41 Speaker 1

When he arrived in England.

00:07:44 Speaker 2

In Scotland actually, really. But then we got right off the boat and got on the trains and they pulled all the shades down and then we drove across England to whatever town I don't to this day, I don't know what the name of the town was.

00:07:59 Speaker 2

And it was just like that concentration camp.

00:08:01 Speaker 2

Was all enclosed.

00:08:03 Speaker 2

Great big high fences and we were sleeping in.

00:08:07 Speaker 2

Form intense again and we couldn't go anywhere and nobody's come in.

00:08:13 Speaker 2

Letters out or no letters in.

00:08:16 Speaker 2

We're supposed to be more or less hid. I guess you know, so the enemy wouldn't know where we were at at the time.

00:08:20

Google.

00:08:21 Speaker 2

I guess that was the principle.

00:08:24 Speaker 1

Take us from that. From where you are now in that in England, Scotland.

00:08:29 Speaker 1

Hidden away. Take us. Take us through your journey now from there to when you went into your first stop was in France, right?

00:08:30 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:08:38 Speaker 2

Lahore. I want we want across the English Channel and I departed in Lahore, friend. And now that map.

00:08:44 Speaker 1

Don't think I just need one to frames.

00:08:47 Speaker 2

That map in the back there, that'll show you exactly where we went.

00:08:54 Speaker 1

Saw this when I looked through the book and he's got it from all from back in the day and I didn't want to open it.

00:09:01 Speaker 2

I understand, ladies and gentlemen.

00:09:02 Speaker 1

I was afraid it would RIP or.

00:09:10 Speaker 1

This is the most.

00:09:12 Speaker 1

Amazing collection I put in that book.

00:09:15 Speaker 2

See now here's where we departed from.

00:09:19 Speaker 2

Schererburg no. Here, Southampton, England. We went across England. This channel Omaha, I said.

00:09:27 Speaker 2

Lahore. It was Omaha Beach.

00:09:29 Speaker 2

I made a mistake.

00:09:30 Speaker 2

Omaha had beef.

00:09:31 Speaker 2

Then we went down here.

00:09:34

Yeah.

00:09:34 Speaker 1

Here to Jolanda on Omaha Beach on D-Day.

00:09:36 Speaker 2

No, no, D + 3030 days after D-Day.

00:09:42 Speaker 2

And then there and all the way through France and up into Luxembourg, battle of the bulge and then back then we I was stationed.

00:09:53 Speaker 2

Through all through Germany, in down in Austria and after the war was over, we I spent.

00:09:59 Speaker 2

Oh, I don't know. Four or five months in Austria.

00:10:03 Speaker 2

That was after the war was over.

00:10:09 Speaker 2

If I only had one, then little cameras like they got now, it wouldn't matter.

00:10:16 Speaker 2

But see you.

00:10:16 Speaker 2

Big box cameras and everything old you carried on you. This sounds ridiculous, but it's true.

00:10:23 Speaker 2

You just carried everything you owned because you didn't have any place to go at night.

00:10:28 Speaker 2

When you got all you did when you were at, you rolled out the head. You sleeping bag? Then you went to sleep and maybe it was in a barn.

00:10:38 Speaker 2

It was in the basement of the.

00:10:39 Speaker 2

Maybe it was under vehicle or wherever it was.

00:10:43 Speaker 2

I told my grandkids. How would you like to live a whole year without a bed?

00:10:48 Speaker 2

And just wherever you were, you slept.

00:10:50 Speaker 2

Kind of laughed, you know.

00:10:53 Speaker 2

But it's true.

00:10:54 Speaker 2

It's just.

00:10:54 Speaker 2

That's just the way it was.

00:10:56 Speaker 2

And then you carried everything you.

00:10:58 Speaker 2

You the only thing you had was you had to put a carry on your personal.

00:11:04 Speaker 2

Can only carry so much.

00:11:06 Speaker 2

But if I would have one little camera with them be all in big cells in there now.

00:11:11 Speaker 2

Well, I could have photographed a lot of stuff.

00:11:15 Speaker 1

This was produced by the.

00:11:17 Speaker 1

So you could made to be sent home so you could show show people where you. That's what it says here, whiling home.

00:11:21 Speaker 2

Right, right, right.

00:11:23 Speaker 2

Yeah. And they did mail that home to me.

00:11:26 Speaker 1

1945, well, let's let's go.

00:11:29 Speaker 1

Go back to Omaha.

00:11:30 Speaker 1

You got there 30 days after after.

00:11:32 Speaker 1

Day take.

00:11:34 Speaker 1

What was your impression when you landed at Omaha Beach? And then we want to go on for hours and hours. But we, you know, want take take us along your journey here.

00:11:42 Speaker 2

OK. OK. This we were called MOP up.

00:11:42 Speaker 1

Take us along your journey.

00:11:48 Speaker 2

I say we it's more of the infantry. I was just in the.

00:11:51 Speaker 2

I was, you know, but the infant hopes the infantry were were the ones that did all the work.

00:11:58 Speaker 2

Know that we were just medics, but I said they would go into town.

00:12:04 Speaker 2

Say they it was a little town like Tomah, say just for instance.

00:12:08 Speaker 2

Well, they wouldn't.

00:12:11 Speaker 2

The US Army would bypass it more or less to go to the next town.

00:12:15 Speaker 2

Well then our unit would go in, they.

00:12:19 Speaker 2

What they called liberal liberated.

00:12:21 Speaker 2

And they'd go in and they'd run. All the Germans. Make sure there was no Germans in their snipers or anything else.

00:12:27 Speaker 2

Then when you got what they call liberated, they would go get the burglar in France.

00:12:33 Speaker 2

Wasn't the burglar my area was whatever the mayor.

00:12:36 Speaker 2

Is and they bring the church bell and everybody would assemble around the church.

00:12:42 Speaker 2

Oh, I'm I'm I'm wrong.

00:12:44 Speaker 2

That was in.

00:12:45 Speaker 2

In France, you didn't do that because you would be.

00:12:48 Speaker 2

I mean, they kept their arms, you know, but when we got in Germany, they.

00:12:55 Speaker 2

Burger.

00:12:56 Speaker 2

He came out, rang the bell and then they were supposed to turn their weapons in. Whatever kind of weapons they had. And you should have seen some of the nice weapons.

00:13:06 Speaker 2

Jodhpur's high price could everybody enter in their weapons?

00:13:11 Speaker 2

Well then not.

00:13:14 Speaker 2

Then, but now over in France.

00:13:20 Speaker 2

When you just go through this, liberate this town and after it was liberated, it was usually by foot like we would walk from.

00:13:29 Speaker 2

Corner Warren.

00:13:30 Speaker 2

We didn't have.

00:13:32 Speaker 2

It was all by foot and except when you go like this, when they walk through the line here and went across, then they went on 6 by sixes, they prayed for.

00:13:44 Speaker 2

That's when Patton took off. You heard about.

00:13:47 Speaker 2

Patton took off and went on across.

00:13:49 Speaker 2

Right. And drove and then they ran out of supplies. Patent in the army.

00:13:55 Speaker 2

Couldn't keep up supplies of.

00:13:57 Speaker 2

He was going so fast, but he was bypassing a lot of talents and seeing that's what we were doing behind him, mopping or what we call.

00:14:05 Speaker 2

Liberated.

00:14:07 Speaker 2

It wasn't really liberating France because they were our ally, but we called it liberate.

00:14:12 Speaker 2

But when you got in Germany then you could do take, take whatever you wanted.

00:14:19 Speaker 2

I mean, it's true.

00:14:21 Speaker 2

I mean, you could just loot houses and everything because we were occupying them, and then France. You couldn't do that.

00:14:30 Speaker 1

What about you got to the the battle of the bulge?

00:14:32 Speaker 1

Tell us about the battle of the ball.

00:14:34 Speaker 2

We vote.

00:14:35 Speaker 2

I was stationed at the time in Mets.

00:14:40 Speaker 2

And we're on Raspberry.

00:14:42 Speaker 2

A lot of time we need battle for a month and then you go back for 4-5 days and then go back and.

00:14:51 Speaker 2

Then we got to order in the middle of the night order to get on 6 by sixes that were moving out.

00:14:58 Speaker 2

Well, we had no idea where we were moving out.

00:15:01 Speaker 2

You know, they loaded us up in the back of 6 by sixes.

00:15:04 Speaker 2

No cover on it or nothing.

00:15:07 Speaker 2

And we drove all the way from Mets up to Luxembourg City all night long.

00:15:15 Speaker 1

And time here was in.

00:15:16 Speaker 2

That was in December.

00:15:19 Speaker 2

And I got up there.

00:15:23 Speaker 2

And as soon as I got out of the truck, I just shake, shake and shiver and shake and shake.

00:15:29 Speaker 2

I had chills all that.

00:15:32 Speaker 2

And I went and I had 103 or maybe even higher fever.

00:15:39 Speaker 2

And so they evacuated me.

00:15:42 Speaker 2

Back to a clearing company that is called and I stayed there 2 days.

00:15:49 Speaker 2

And then it subsided, and I went back, and I no sooner I got back in that night, it was right back up just as high as it was.

00:16:00 Speaker 2

And so then they sent me.

00:16:01 Speaker 2

They knew I had pneumonia. See, I had.

00:16:05 Speaker 2

I had contact with pneumonia, so then he shipped me all the way back down to Mets in a station hospital, which was really neat.

00:16:14 Speaker 2

You know it's a burglar building with.

00:16:17 Speaker 2

First, Kyle I slept on in the long time.

00:16:20 Speaker 2

Otherwise, in these clearing companies it was on literacy.

00:16:25 Speaker 2

That's a neat thing there.

00:16:28 Speaker 2

That.

00:16:34 Speaker 2

In South Korea.

00:16:36 Speaker 2

American army you were pilot?

00:16:41 Speaker 2

He was wondering you was in the Air Force?

00:16:44 Speaker 2

Call.

00:16:45 Speaker 2

No, not a pilot.

00:16:46 Speaker 2

I see.

00:16:47 Speaker 2

I'm I'm screwing this up probably this.

00:16:50 Speaker 1

Not at all.

00:16:51 Speaker 2

And anyway, they the Americans dropped them in Korea so that they would give up.

00:16:58 Speaker 2

Those.

00:17:00 Speaker 2

There it says in for.

00:17:01 Speaker 2

Give up and you'll be treated right. And I saved mine. And a lot of people have seen it. And they said, wow, that's going to be worth money because nobody ever saved that. So.

00:17:14 Speaker 1

So we're at the.

00:17:15 Speaker 1

Of the bones.

00:17:15 Speaker 2

Now we're both.

00:17:16 Speaker 1

They're gonna go through Korea.

00:17:17 Speaker 2

See, I'm getting you guys off to them, OK?

00:17:18 Speaker 1

No, no.

00:17:20 Speaker 1

We're so glad to be here. You can't believe.

00:17:22 Speaker 2

OK, the available and then I got an orange. I ended up down to met.

00:17:30 Speaker 1

And you had pneumonia?

00:17:31 Speaker 2

And they had pneumonia and I was.

00:17:33 Speaker 2

Probably they put me right on a cot and made me stay right in the cot.

00:17:38 Speaker 2

With.

00:17:42 Speaker 2

A spear on cup and I was coughing up all that phlegma.

00:17:47 Speaker 2

And then.

00:17:49 Speaker 2

When I got to stay there, probably 2, maybe 3 weeks ago.

00:17:56 Speaker 2

And then they.

00:17:56 Speaker 2

Sent me back to they called Ruffle Depot.

00:18:00 Speaker 2

They were replacement depots where after you went left the hospital after being.

00:18:06 Speaker 2

Moved out of your unit. They put you in a replacement ***** and then from that replacement ***** they could send you anywhere they wanted to.

00:18:16 Speaker 2

Well, I wanted to get back to my own unit.

00:18:19 Speaker 2

So I saw one of our trucks from my unit come there to get supplies and stuff.

00:18:25 Speaker 2

And so I hit ask him if I could hit the right button back to my and I went back to my unit on my own so I could be with my one buddies.

00:18:35 Speaker 1

But you just jumped on the truck and left.

00:18:36 Speaker 2

Just ask him if he's alright. If I write back with him, I thought.

00:18:40 Speaker 2

I was from and, he said.

00:18:41

Yeah, yeah.

00:18:43 Speaker 2

I.

00:18:44 Speaker 1

See you assigned yourself back to your.

00:18:49 Speaker 1

So what happened after you rejoined your?

00:18:51 Speaker 1

Then let's open.

00:18:51 Speaker 2

Then that's when we started.

00:18:53 Speaker 2

That's when we bulked across the.

00:18:56 Speaker 2

Rhine.

00:18:57 Speaker 2

That's that's when it was.

00:19:00 Speaker 2

We just kept going, going, going, going, going.

00:19:03 Speaker 2

You know, town one town, the next town. Next town clearing them up.

00:19:08 Speaker 2

They gave up.

00:19:09 Speaker 2

More or less they.

00:19:11 Speaker 2

I mean, the Germans had more or less given up by then.

00:19:15 Speaker 2

See, that would have been in.

00:19:21 Speaker 2

Ring.

00:19:23 Speaker 2

Of 45.

00:19:25 Speaker 2

Yeah, it's right. In 45 they had more or less, you know there were no fight left in them and all of the men.

00:19:35 Speaker 2

You could pick up a woman pretty easy.

00:19:39

Yeah.

00:19:40 Speaker 2

Because all the members.

00:19:42 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:19:43 Speaker 2

Want to give us some details?

00:19:46 Speaker 2

No, but all the men were drafted.

00:19:51 Speaker 2

German soldiers he took, they took everything.

00:19:56 Speaker 2

Yeah, they called it fraternization. Oh, yeah.

00:20:02 Speaker 1

It's only fraternization if you get caught. Right, Sir?

00:20:08 Speaker 1

Now I see up on the wall there. Obviously you said you had shrapnel when you picked up a Purple Heart, but you also have a Silver star and a bronze star.

00:20:16 Speaker 1

Bronze Star, of course, is, but it takes, you know, a Silver star is quite a jump up to.

00:20:21 Speaker 2

Yeah, that's in.

00:20:22 Speaker 2

It's a gallantry in action, I think.

00:20:23 Speaker 1

Was that in Korea or was that in?

00:20:25 Speaker 2

That was in Germany in.

00:20:27 Speaker 1

Tell us how you got how?

00:20:28 Speaker 1

Came how you went over there. The water there.

00:20:29 Speaker 2

OK, I.

00:20:30 Speaker 2

We were in this town, Paul and Moussan right here.

00:20:35 Speaker 2

And that's where Patton I was telling you how he rushed all the.

00:20:39 Speaker 2

Across here.

00:20:41 Speaker 2

And then he ran out of.

00:20:43 Speaker 2

So we dug or whatever we call it, digging it.

00:20:48 Speaker 2

We the dug hole with with a bulldozer, so we could for a place to sleep, you know, up in this hill mountain above this valley and then across the Valle in the middle of the valley was a river. And on the other side was another range of hill.

00:21:05 Speaker 2

The in between there the Germans on the opposite side of that field in the hills mountains there were mountains there, hills.

00:21:13 Speaker 2

So.

00:21:14 Speaker 2

They were dug in over there and we were dug in here.

00:21:18 Speaker 2

Well, then they I will lose there for a week, maybe 10 days, something like that.

00:21:25 Speaker 2

And then they decided to advance.

00:21:29 Speaker 2

Well, they thought there was going to advance Americans.

00:21:33 Speaker 2

And they they had it over on the German side. They had an outpost in the church people, which was supposedly not supposed to be done by the Geneva Convention, nor supposed to use churches as a, you know, and.

00:21:49 Speaker 2

What they did, they had a.

00:21:51 Speaker 2

So any any movement in this field, they had their mortar drilled in on every spot was zeroed in on.

00:22:00 Speaker 2

Movement in Bangor but we after a while we got to know from the Pope.

00:22:07 Speaker 2

The martyrs made a plot.

00:22:09 Speaker 2

No, it's like that where they shoot.

00:22:11 Speaker 2

Could just hear that.

00:22:12 Speaker 2

So as soon as you heard that pop, we hit the ground, see.

00:22:16 Speaker 2

Unless you hadn't been there long enough. Didn't realize that which happened to one of our aid men, he was known.

00:22:22 Speaker 2

He didn't used to hit in the ground, so they heard that and he got trapped in the kidney.

00:22:28 Speaker 2

Which at the time we thought we were taking a man back, he was helping get a man wounded man.

00:22:37 Speaker 2

And at the time, we didn't think it was bad because just that little hole in them, we didn't know what we kept the command on and said we'll be back and get you in just a minute.

00:22:47 Speaker 2

You know, by the time we got back from your dead 'cause, it killed them down just like that.

00:22:54 Speaker 2

But then we would take these wounded. Then we can assemble them in the river. But.

00:23:01 Speaker 2

In the in what do you call?

00:23:03 Speaker 2

River Embankment, 4th door there and also trap mode all go over the top of you.

00:23:09 Speaker 2

We had a whole bunch of. We waited till after dark.

00:23:16 Speaker 2

And took them out. But then I took.

00:23:20 Speaker 2

I.

00:23:21 Speaker 2

I kept busy all the.

00:23:23 Speaker 2

At that time, I was made literally corporal, which you're in charge of the literary.

00:23:29 Speaker 2

And I was just busy putting minor.

00:23:34 Speaker 2

That's what we did.

00:23:36 Speaker 2

First aid, more or less.

00:23:37 Speaker 2

You didn't do anything major.

00:23:41 Speaker 2

All band AIDS and pressure and tourniquets and stuff like that. There's nothing major out there.

00:23:46 Speaker 2

Pass them up to get them back to the AIDS nation.

00:23:49 Speaker 2

Then the doctor booked them all.

00:23:53 Speaker 2

Anyway, that's when I have no idea how I ever got the Silver star. I have no idea whoever wrote me up or I have no idea at all.

00:24:03 Speaker 2

And that's what I.

00:24:04 Speaker 2

It's kind of bad because there's guys right with me.

00:24:09 Speaker 2

I didn't take it too.

00:24:11 Speaker 2

You know what I mean?

00:24:14 Speaker 2

Look.

00:24:16 Speaker 1

What about the bronze star?

00:24:17 Speaker 2

That was issued to me, which I didn't even know, and I didn't get it till after the war was over.

00:24:23 Speaker 2

I see in there with issues when the date, but I forgot what it was but I didn't know I had that company.

00:24:34 Speaker 2

For being over there from certain time and in the front lines those certain time.

00:24:42 Speaker 1

Let's let's let's take you know from the Battle of the Bulge out through the rest of your your your journey in in Germany on Austria.

00:24:50 Speaker 2

Let's see. Here we went.

00:24:54 Speaker 2

All the way up the castles, Germany.

00:24:59 Speaker 2

And then this is over.

00:25:02 Speaker 2

This is or where we met. We came to this algorithm.

00:25:06 Speaker 2

Maybe you've heard about it and we could have went on across and.

00:25:14 Speaker 2

Went occupied the whole we could have went all the way across Germany.

00:25:18 Speaker 2

I mean, we were had the momentum to do it in the spine and everything, but the Russians didn't want us to.

00:25:28 Speaker 2

They wanted half it, half a Germany for occupation.

00:25:32 Speaker 2

So they stopped us here at the Alban, wouldn't let us go any further.

00:25:38 Speaker 2

So then we waited there till the Russians, in all the Germans from this area over here that was see what direction would that be? That would be what east?

00:25:50 Speaker 2

All of them civilians, they were going down the road with buggies.

00:25:54 Speaker 2

Just.

00:25:55 Speaker 2

You wouldn't believe it.

00:25:58 Speaker 2

This roads were three wide, with people trying to get out of that area before the Russians got there.

00:26:04 Speaker 2

They want nothing to do with the Russians.

00:26:06 Speaker 2

They they wouldn't kill them for, you know, they knew we wouldn't.

00:26:11 Speaker 2

It's same way with wounded men. We picked up our wounded and if there was a German wounded there after ours were all picked up and then we picked up the Germans and took them evacuated and treated them like we were Americans.

00:26:24 Speaker 1

Did you speak any German at all?

00:26:25 Speaker 2

Well, just a little.

00:26:26 Speaker 2

Enough to get booze and other stuff.

00:26:30 Speaker 2

Other stuff.

00:26:31 Speaker 2

Other other.

00:26:32 Speaker 2

Stuff.

00:26:35

Yeah.

00:26:35 Speaker 1

What about your trip from the from Vegas all the way out to to eastern Eastern Germany and then back into Austria? Was that was this an area a time when most of the German soldiers were just giving up, or was there?

00:26:41 Speaker 2

Help.

00:26:48 Speaker 2

They were given up when sooner reach this point right here.

00:26:49 Speaker 1

Was there a lot of action along that?

00:26:52 Speaker 2

Well, there wasn't too.

00:26:53 Speaker 2

That's when I said they had more or less.

00:26:55 Speaker 2

There wasn't a lot of fight left in them, you know, because they had come to the battle. They had spent most of their resources in the bones.

00:27:04 Speaker 2

Of the bones Hitler had thought he was going to go on breakthrough there and you that was going to be the end of it.

00:27:12 Speaker 2

They didn't have.

00:27:13 Speaker 2

You.

00:27:16 Speaker 2

And so they were pretty much weakened.

00:27:20 Speaker 2

They have a lot of people left. I mean, there were a lot of them killed.

00:27:24 Speaker 1

And then what about from here, London to Austria?

00:27:27 Speaker 1

That all about SA trip to Austria.

00:27:28 Speaker 2

This was just.

00:27:30 Speaker 2

This was just more or less scenic ride.

00:27:35 Speaker 2

And no fighting or no nothing, not no calm.

00:27:38 Speaker 2

We just went down and then this little Lipson. Listen, Austria, that's all we stayed for up and I was there for like I say four or five months, an army of occupation.

00:27:52 Speaker 2

So and then rotated back to states.

00:27:58 Speaker 2

In that in.

00:28:01 Speaker 2

Our rotation back to the states was based on how many years.

00:28:05 Speaker 2

Service you had in the army total then extra points for every month overseas.

00:28:13 Speaker 2

Extra points for the Silver Star, extra point for the Ron star.

00:28:16 Speaker 2

Points for the silver Purple Heart.

00:28:21 Speaker 2

So the more medal stuff you had, the better chance you had to come home earlier.

00:28:26 Speaker 2

So I came home in October for.

00:28:30 Speaker 2

Which I was lucky.

00:28:32 Speaker 1

And from October of 1944, what was it like when you got home?

00:28:36 Speaker 1

Tell us.

00:28:36 Speaker 1

When you came home from World War 2.

00:28:39 Speaker 2

I.

00:28:42 Speaker 2

One, actually, I think I went to work.

00:28:44 Speaker 2

Day I was home.

00:28:47 Speaker 2

I mean.

00:28:49 Speaker 2

If that's the way I was.

00:28:50 Speaker 2

If.

00:28:50 Speaker 1

You bring a boat back if you fly back.

00:28:52 Speaker 2

Oh no. I came back on.

00:28:56 Speaker 2

I don't know if it's called us.

00:28:58 Speaker 2

It's a base ship, but it wasn't as big as a Queen Mary.

00:29:01 Speaker 2

We came back on a ship.

00:29:05 Speaker 2

It took more days.

00:29:06 Speaker 2

Wasn't the biggest ship.

00:29:09 Speaker 2

And then we let in New York again. Oh then.

00:29:15 Speaker 2

Lit in New York. And then that's another little story.

00:29:20 Speaker 2

We stayed two days there, I think and they gave us cigarette rations and stuff like that.

00:29:27 Speaker 2

Let's go with the piac.

00:29:30 Speaker 2

For that first time.

00:29:32 Speaker 2

And then they put us on train. We went to Chicago.

00:29:37 Speaker 2

We got in Chicago and we're sitting in the this is like midnight or something.

00:29:42 Speaker 2

The train kept switching this way and this way and this way and all back and forth.

00:29:48 Speaker 2

Train for.

00:29:49 Speaker 2

Now what in the hell is going on?

00:29:51 Speaker 2

You know, I thought there's probably going to go to Fort Sheridan.

00:29:54 Speaker 2

That's where I left.

00:29:57 Speaker 2

And all of a sudden it took off and started north.

00:30:01 Speaker 2

Camp McCoy, sure enough.

00:30:05 Speaker 2

They come right up to Camp McCoy in the next morning. We got here like.

00:30:09 Speaker 2

5:00 in the morning at Camp McCoy, we unloaded.

00:30:15 Speaker 2

And I I worked for Ryanny stairly I told.

00:30:18 Speaker 2

So I knew the milk driver, that delivery milk, and I know where he was going to be.

00:30:23 Speaker 2

So I took my belongings from him out of bed in the barracks that were worth. I went over.

00:30:31 Speaker 2

To mess hall kitchen.

00:30:34 Speaker 2

And asked George Bartles. His name was. I've worked with him and I said, George, any chance you could hide me in the back of the truck? Because I wanted to get home.

00:30:42 Speaker 2

Said no, don't worry. Get back there, he said.

00:30:45 Speaker 2

Never stopped because he come every day.

00:30:49 Speaker 2

I came.

00:30:50 Speaker 2

I spent a day at home and then I went back on the milk truck, but I missed my whole group.

00:30:56 Speaker 2

Missed one day of being discharged, but that didn't matter to me.

00:31:02 Speaker 1

So you got out in April or October 1945? Yeah. Then it was it was four years later that you ended up back in the Army and ended up going to Korea.

00:31:13 Speaker 1

Happened between 1945 and April of 1949.

00:31:17 Speaker 2

I was working at different jobs in Toma.

00:31:19 Speaker 2

I went back to the Randy's dairy again.

00:31:24 Speaker 2

And I had learned a.

00:31:26 Speaker 2

I was only 18 and I didn't know **** about nothing.

00:31:30 Speaker 2

You know, I mean, I just wasn't growing up.

00:31:34 Speaker 2

And they used me down there that hour after hour and only got paid half the price.

00:31:41 Speaker 2

The only half they got, I'm out of the army. I learned a little bit. Then I got a little bit wiser.

00:31:46 Speaker 2

And they tried the same thing. When I went back and it was all a member of the one incident that really made me quit. It was I was working with a guy named Roy Crevasse from Tony and, you know. Oh, and he.

00:32:02 Speaker 2

Me had decided we'd go fessing up the opening day on Saturday on over by Kendall, and they're open at noon.

00:32:08 Speaker 2

Then they and so we got Burry and got our route done and everything. And we're checking out.

00:32:16 Speaker 2

Like checking our money out in the gold.

00:32:18 Speaker 2

One of my bosses came in Red Bell.

00:32:24 Speaker 2

He said would.

00:32:25 Speaker 2

They need you in the back.

00:32:26 Speaker 2

Let me help make ice cream and I said we've got plans arranged at me and we're going.

00:32:31 Speaker 2

You'll have to cancel.

00:32:33 Speaker 2

Because we need you back there bad, which I've already had eight hours in.

00:32:39 Speaker 2

It was started early, so we get done and he said, well, if you don't, you don't know he's coming back.

00:32:46 Speaker 2

I said, well, I guess I won't be back then, he said.

00:32:49 Speaker 2

Don't really mean.

00:32:50 Speaker 2

And I said, yeah, I mean that.

00:32:52 Speaker 2

And so I went hunting.

00:32:54 Speaker 2

Then I.

00:32:55 Speaker 2

The next day that was.

00:32:56 Speaker 2

I opened it no Sunday. I was supposed to every other week.

00:33:00 Speaker 2

Either me or Ray took care of the milk route in Toma.

00:33:04 Speaker 2

All alone.

00:33:05 Speaker 2

You know we.

00:33:06 Speaker 2

The the with the milk and the telephone rang and it was.

00:33:15 Speaker 2

My other boss, he said.

00:33:17 Speaker 2

Vernon Lawrence Burns said he said.

00:33:23 Speaker 2

What? Married, sick or some?

00:33:25 Speaker 2

I said no, I said. I see.

00:33:28 Speaker 2

We didn't come to work.

00:33:30 Speaker 2

I.

00:33:31 Speaker 2

Well, Red Bell told me if I went didn't stay yesterday.

00:33:34 Speaker 2

With ice cream.

00:33:35 Speaker 2

Was.

00:33:36 Speaker 2

So I I guess I'm done, he said.

00:33:38 Speaker 2

Not done, he says.

00:33:40 Speaker 2

He says come and work for me. And I said no, I'm not coming back.

00:33:45 Speaker 2

I.

00:33:46 Speaker 2

I'll find a job somewhere.

00:33:49 Speaker 2

So then he said, well, come on down here, this is.

00:33:55 Speaker 2

Lawrence.

00:33:57 Speaker 2

And he said, well, you know, you got vacation pay coming and stuff.

00:34:02 Speaker 2

I went.

00:34:03 Speaker 2

They gave me modification page and it was saying that.

00:34:08 Speaker 2

I was too, then bullheaded like, but I wasn't gonna take no more baloney. I mean, I take them all in here.

00:34:14 Speaker 1

Were you doing in April of 1940?

00:34:16 Speaker 1

We ended up back in the army and on your way to Korea.

00:34:19 Speaker 1

Were you doing?

00:34:20 Speaker 2

I was working.

00:34:24 Speaker 2

See, I went to.

00:34:27 Speaker 2

Plastic factory or whatever you want to call it until it's called deceptical.

00:34:32 Speaker 2

That what it's called.

00:34:33 Speaker 2

That's out by the railroad. That plastic, where they make plastic stuff that started up in the old trauma. I don't know if you know what the trauma building was up, down that they wrecked the demolished.

00:34:45 Speaker 2

Way up on the other town on me that used to be trauma that used to be.

00:34:50 Speaker 2

That's where the plastic factory started and I went in on the ground floor when they were just starting, they hired.

00:34:57 Speaker 2

Well then I work for Hallandale and then they said you're going to have to go on night.

00:35:01 Speaker 2

Well, I didn't want to go on night shift, so I didn't work very long. And then I went up.

00:35:03

Right.

00:35:07 Speaker 2

Up to.

00:35:09 Speaker 2

Chet Burns says that was Lawrence.

00:35:11 Speaker 2

Granny's brother, Chad.

00:35:12 Speaker 2

That's when he first started his store upon McLean Ave. up there and I knew him because my mother traded there for groceries and he said where you work and stuff.

00:35:24 Speaker 2

I said I just got just quit. If I had to. Quaker. I'm not working.

00:35:28 Speaker 2

You want to work for me and I said, yeah, I'm doing a lot. And he said make me.

00:35:34 Speaker 2

I say, oh, of course that means a good deal. They said. Yeah, come on here.

00:35:38 Speaker 2

I butchered for quite a while.

00:35:41 Speaker 2

And then I'll tell you the.

00:35:43 Speaker 2

Why am I going to tell you a lady from Toma came in there.

00:35:48 Speaker 2

And we and then the meat was displayed in a glass case and they put the meat on trays and you just set them out there and you had this tray with pork chop. This was round steak. This was beef. And this was liver on.

00:36:01 Speaker 2

Is.

00:36:01 Speaker 2

And then you look from.

00:36:03 Speaker 2

Outside and you picked out what you wanted and then you take it up, packed it up. Package it.

00:36:07 Speaker 2

This lady that she was one of the rich ones.

00:36:11

Yeah.

00:36:11 Speaker 2

And she came in there and she said, I don't like the looks any of that.

00:36:14 Speaker 2

Will you go get?

00:36:16 Speaker 2

Some new one I.

00:36:17 Speaker 2

Well, I have to carry a whole quarter of a beef hot.

00:36:22 Speaker 2

Dog, I don't.

00:36:23 Speaker 2

I won't do that, I.

00:36:26 Speaker 2

Everybody else has got to fix out of the.

00:36:28 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:36:30 Speaker 2

Stray there. You can pick out of it too. Crepes. I made her mad.

00:36:34 Speaker 2

She went and told Janet.

00:36:37 Speaker 2

Bernstein then I wouldn't treat.

00:36:40 Speaker 2

Wouldn't treat me.

00:36:41 Speaker 2

I treated her like.

00:36:43 Speaker 2

I didn't give her no advantage because she had money, you know.

00:36:47 Speaker 2

But I grew up poor.

00:36:50 Speaker 2

And so.

00:36:51 Speaker 2

Come and give me a big lecture.

00:36:54 Speaker 2

Told me that I had to get along.

00:36:57 Speaker 2

The customers.

00:36:57 Speaker 2

I just couldn't do.

00:36:58 Speaker 2

That was one of his better customers, I.

00:37:01 Speaker 2

Well, if you have to go through that, then I guess I'm done.

00:37:04 Speaker 2

I quit.

00:37:06 Speaker 2

Then I eventually went back in the army.

00:37:10 Speaker 1

Tell us about that, your trip and your experience going back into the army. And then from April of 1949 to when you went to Korea and tell us about your experience in Korea.

00:37:22 Speaker 2

In McCreary, we haven't done into.

00:37:24 Speaker 2

I was in the combat engineers and we were.

00:37:29 Speaker 2

Building Bailey in pontoon bridges.

00:37:32 Speaker 2

You know what, maybe well.

00:37:36 Speaker 2

The Bailey bridges that you'd build up say the span was here was out of the bridge, had been blown out on this side. You'd build a span twice, a little over twice as long as this span was.

00:37:52 Speaker 2

For counterbalance, then you put it on roller.

00:37:55 Speaker 2

And as you build it, you push it out, push it out, push it out.

00:38:00 Speaker 2

Until it reach the other side and then it would hit a set of rollers over there.

00:38:03 Speaker 2

Then you disassemble all the rest of this excess bridges.

00:38:07 Speaker 2

That's how you spin them. And then in the pontoon bridges, there was a inflatable.

00:38:15 Speaker 2

Great big rat.

00:38:16 Speaker 2

Raft.

00:38:17 Speaker 2

I call them rats.

00:38:18 Speaker 2

They were viewed.

00:38:21 Speaker 2

Bigger than they.

00:38:23 Speaker 2

Inflate that with a big compressor.

00:38:26 Speaker 2

They had trucks with big compressors on it and then truck. They called it. Well, the asset was inflated and it floated, pushed out into the water.

00:38:36 Speaker 2

The treadway truck would back up and drop the treadway on to the pontoon, and then the fasteners to the pontoon.

00:38:45 Speaker 2

Then they would start and they'd work all.

00:38:48 Speaker 2

Add one more, add one more, add 1.

00:38:51 Speaker 2

So they got the bridge all the way across the river.

00:38:54 Speaker 2

And then the vehicles could go across them.

00:38:59 Speaker 1

You were in the army on your second hitch from 1949 to 1953.

00:39:03 Speaker 1

Tell us about. Tell us about your year in Korea. From the time you arrived to.

00:39:08 Speaker 1

Time you left.

00:39:09 Speaker 2

See, that's what we was doing all the time putting up because you know how it was. I'm sure you read how.

00:39:16 Speaker 2

We went all the way out almost all the way in, and then the Chinese stepped in and drove us all the way back.

00:39:28 Speaker 2

And so we were putting up bridges that had been borne out by the North Koreans and.

00:39:36 Speaker 2

Stop our advance vehicles couldn't cross a lot of them. Rivers a lot.

00:39:41 Speaker 2

Bridges.

00:39:42 Speaker 2

And then.

00:39:46 Speaker 2

We would put the bridges up and all the way up there and then.

00:39:50 Speaker 2

The Chinese stepped in and we blew up or disassembled, mostly blown up though.

00:39:56 Speaker 2

The bridges and as we retreated and then we had a redo and all back again.

00:40:02 Speaker 2

No, this is no kidding.

00:40:04 Speaker 2

And we.

00:40:04 Speaker 2

We did the same ones over again, so that's always doing putting up baby bridges and I will call it a ***** outfit.

00:40:14 Speaker 2

That's because we weren't attached to anybody. Whoever they needed us.

00:40:18 Speaker 2

See, we worked with Australians for a little while.

00:40:23 Speaker 2

And the Canadians, we work with them for putting our bridges and.

00:40:28 Speaker 2

But that's what we were called. A ***** 11th combat engine.

00:40:33 Speaker 1

So where we were, you stationed anywhere in particular in Korea? And no, what was it like with your buddies?

00:40:40 Speaker 1

Was the same.

00:40:41 Speaker 1

Were you in Korea with the same unit the entire time you were in Korea and?

00:40:46 Speaker 2

No.

00:40:48 Speaker 2

In fact is I can hardly remember anybody.

00:40:54 Speaker 2

That I was with in Korea, but I can remember almost everybody that I was with in Europe, because I was with them.

00:41:04 Speaker 2

Steady for 2 1/2 years. We took all through the States and overseas and never changed.

00:41:11 Speaker 2

And then over in Korea with all new guys.

00:41:17 Speaker 2

Altogether different.

00:41:20 Speaker 2

And then in Korea, we had tents.

00:41:23 Speaker 2

At night to sleep.

00:41:24 Speaker 2

We didn't sleep.

00:41:26 Speaker 2

We, you know, like I said on the ground or in the building or in the rot basement potato bins was a good place.

00:41:33 Speaker 2

On top of potatoes.

00:41:36 Speaker 1

I'm gonna get off the golden.

00:41:41 Speaker 2

Oh, another thing, another little story. When we were in France, a buddy of mine.

00:41:47 Speaker 2

Chocolate and soap were the main bartering items, chocolate and soap.

00:41:54 Speaker 2

In France, we met this lady.

00:41:56 Speaker 2

Even our sleeping bags, which are called some of them, call them fart sack, and some of them call them a mummy bag.

00:42:04 Speaker 2

All they wore was a tarp with a blanket lined 1 thickness of blanket, you know, and they were not very warm.

00:42:12 Speaker 2

And so we talked with this guy, talked this old lady, she if we could find a comfortable, which she saw it inside, then my our secret bag sitcom.

00:42:24 Speaker 2

But we found one.

00:42:25 Speaker 2

We traded chocolate.

00:42:28 Speaker 2

So for for that Nice, we're the only two in the whole outfit that had the nice warm.

00:42:34 Speaker 2

Me back.

00:42:36

OK.

00:42:37 Speaker 2

You had to watch it then and you know a lot of times you when you were moving from one spot to the other, you threw your sleeping bags in a pile.

00:42:47 Speaker 2

In advance. And then they brought them back up to you later in the night to sleep wherever. You'll stop that and you better get there on time with them.

00:42:56 Speaker 2

Sleeping bags me and him were somebody else was going to have it, you know, he said.

00:43:02 Speaker 2

They.

00:43:02 Speaker 2

They knew it was a really good one.

00:43:04 Speaker 1

How cold did it get at night?

00:43:07 Speaker 2

Yeah, I would say.

00:43:10 Speaker 2

Probably like southern Illinois.

00:43:15 Speaker 2

It's called kind of cold winters, but see, we had tents like I said in Korea.

00:43:20 Speaker 2

So we didn't sleep outside all the time and they were tense and they had these.

00:43:26 Speaker 2

Pot bellied solo tin one.

00:43:31 Speaker 2

Fuel. Although we did use gas, which is very dangerous, but if we didn't have any fuel oil would burn with gas.

00:43:39 Speaker 1

You.

00:43:40 Speaker 1

You serve as a medic.

00:43:42 Speaker 2

That was World War One.

00:43:43 Speaker 1

World War 2 and then.

00:43:44 Speaker 2

2.

00:43:47 Speaker 1

And then.

00:43:48 Speaker 1

In Korea, you worked as a combat infant engineer, building bridges, correct?

00:43:52 Speaker 1

Had plate, we're not American.

00:43:52 Speaker 2

Right. Oh, no.

00:43:54 Speaker 2

I was all together different.

00:43:56 Speaker 2

See, when I went back in the.

00:43:58 Speaker 2

I was discharged.

00:43:59 Speaker 2

Then I went re.

00:44:01 Speaker 2

And when I re enlisted, I wanted to get in supply.

00:44:05 Speaker 2

And I thought with my medical background, I might get into medical supply and I kinda like that because in our units that I took care of the medical chest reordering, all the drugs that you had, they had to keep it up current.

00:44:21 Speaker 2

And so I already kind of liked that.

00:44:22 Speaker 2

And so I thought automatically they're going to put me in a medical.

00:44:28 Speaker 2

Well, they didn't.

00:44:30 Speaker 2

I got sent out to Cheyenne, WY.

00:44:34 Speaker 2

And they started new cattery on a new outfit they were.

00:44:39 Speaker 2

There were establishing which was.

00:44:43 Speaker 2

Aviation engineers.

00:44:46 Speaker 2

And I was.

00:44:49 Speaker 2

In the 80s that engineers and started a whole new unit there and they made the supply Sergeant in that and they had 6 foot rollers and all this damn stuff.

00:45:02 Speaker 2

I had no idea what a ***** sheep.

00:45:05 Speaker 2

Foot roll was.

00:45:06 Speaker 2

You know, I never was around heavy equipment, stuff like that.

00:45:10 Speaker 2

You know everything that came.

00:45:13 Speaker 2

On on your company, what do they call company property?

00:45:19 Speaker 2

You had to enter it and then all component parts had to be listed below and I was typing day and night.

00:45:24 Speaker 2

I was pretty good at typing.

00:45:27 Speaker 2

Day and night I was typing.

00:45:29 Speaker 2

I worked my **** off, and then we went out to lunch over field and stayed there for a short while. I guess just to reorganize.

00:45:39 Speaker 2

Then I'll ship the Goose Bay, NL.

00:45:43 Speaker 2

And they will extend an air strips up there for the new bombers.

00:45:47 Speaker 2

Strips weren't long enough for the new bomb.

00:45:51 Speaker 2

And I stayed there till I requested a transfer.

00:45:55 Speaker 2

I don't know why I did, but I did.

00:46:00 Speaker 2

And then they sent me the four door in the post and then here.

00:46:04 Speaker 1

And then you got out in 194949531984 back in 1953.

00:46:10 Speaker 2

Yeah, 5350.

00:46:13 Speaker 1

Were you?

00:46:13 Speaker 1

Were you involved in any any comet situations while you were in Korea or?

00:46:17 Speaker 2

Not really.

00:46:18 Speaker 2

Well, we were on the but there was infantry all around us, you know.

00:46:23 Speaker 2

But they did have some of the bird sites zeroed in, like over in Germany. They once they saw you putting up a bridge and they had an advantage above you.

00:46:35 Speaker 2

They would zero in on and so if you start any movement around it, they would just drop in a mortar artillery.

00:46:44 Speaker 2

But there's nothing like you're nowhere near like you.

00:46:49 Speaker 2

Laughter.

00:46:50 Speaker 2

You isolate scared most of the time.

00:46:54 Speaker 1

With different battles or campaigns where you're directly involved in besides the battle the ball.

00:47:00 Speaker 2

Now I would have to look that is all listed in that book.

00:47:04 Speaker 1

Well, maybe have to clean some of that from that afterwards.

00:47:06 Speaker 2

Yeah, they're all listed under your discharge in the back, whatever that form is.

00:47:15 Speaker 1

214 yeah, 214.

00:47:20 Speaker 1

So when you return, what was the reception by your family in the community?

00:47:23 Speaker 2

All electric coping.

00:47:26 Speaker 1

Both times are your second time.

00:47:29 Speaker 1

And you.

00:47:29 Speaker 1

You return from 2:00.

00:47:30 Speaker 1

There's not a lot of you.

00:47:31 Speaker 2

Yeah, I do return from the first one and actually I I got all I told you how I came home and ran these very snuff out.

00:47:40 Speaker 2

Well, I walked home from Ranys Dairy and I was walking home and my sister was just she was working at camp over there, two years younger. Helen. She she would call a bus right on Main Street.

00:47:52 Speaker 2

Just so happened that.

00:47:54 Speaker 2

We run into each other.

00:47:58 Speaker 2

And she said, I'm not going to work. I'm going to go home with you.

00:48:02 Speaker 2

So she came home and my dad came home from.

00:48:07 Speaker 2

From the railroad.

00:48:08 Speaker 2

I was less than that. Very nice.

00:48:11 Speaker 1

That was when he came over World War 2.

00:48:12 Speaker 2

Or two Korean War.

00:48:15 Speaker 2

Let me think.

00:48:18 Speaker 2

There was number big reception like that.

00:48:22 Speaker 2

But then I stayed.

00:48:25 Speaker 2

Drunk.

00:48:27 Speaker 2

Now a lot of people blaming on stress in the war, but I get really, you know, if that was ever if I just like beer that much. Well, that's when I I I stayed for a whole year, lived in the Tavern, didn't eat or no I thought I.

00:48:43

Got.

00:48:44 Speaker 2

Then I got.

00:48:46 Speaker 2

I was living at home.

00:48:48 Speaker 2

And.

00:48:49 Speaker 2

I got swept and.

00:48:52 Speaker 2

Then I get get out of bed and I ring and wet my sheets would be.

00:48:58 Speaker 2

And then I had to stand outside. While then I get the damn chill.

00:49:03 Speaker 2

Then I go back to bed and I ring and wet.

00:49:05 Speaker 2

Then, well, I was so damn sick that the doctor came to the house.

00:49:11 Speaker 2

Doctor kazar.

00:49:14 Speaker 2

He came to.

00:49:15 Speaker 2

House.

00:49:16 Speaker 2

And he said, well, you know what you got? I said I have no idea.

00:49:19 Speaker 2

You got malaria, I said malaria, he said.

00:49:23 Speaker 2

Had you got it in Korea?

00:49:28 Speaker 2

But you were in good enough shape that your resistance was enough to hold.

00:49:31 Speaker 2

But as soon as you started running your body like I did when I drinking, all I think my resistance was low, that it came out thousands of logical.

00:49:43

Hmm.

00:49:44 Speaker 1

Amazing. What about adjusting their civilian life after you got out?

00:49:50 Speaker 1

Was that was that a?

00:49:52 Speaker 2

For.

00:49:52 Speaker 2

I went to the oh, I applied out to the VA.

00:49:55 Speaker 1

When you get out of.

00:49:59 Speaker 2

As soon as I got out from back from Korea and they they wouldn't give me a lot, they didn't give me a job and my uncle was postmaster Kyle. So and the director at the VA was a Mason.

00:50:14 Speaker 2

Were both Masons.

00:50:16 Speaker 2

And so that had my uncle came and said you want to.

00:50:21 Speaker 2

Oh no, I was working for him too.

00:50:24 Speaker 2

Part time I took substitute mail carrier and told him.

00:50:28 Speaker 2

And within then IA man, I was just replacing one diet with on sick leave.

00:50:36 Speaker 2

And then he's when I got done there, I said I can't live on a part pay. Like I had to because I was married.

00:50:43 Speaker 2

I just got married and he said, well, the VA.

00:50:47 Speaker 2

I said, well, I've been trying.

00:50:49 Speaker 2

I tried the first one I got back.

00:50:52 Speaker 2

But I never they never called me.

00:50:54 Speaker 2

And he says all the steps. And so next that night, he calls. He brought the VA.

00:50:59 Speaker 2

Tomorrow he talked to his Mason buddy.

00:51:02 Speaker 2

The little director came.

00:51:05 Speaker 2

That's and he said to go out there and apply. I said, Wow, we're out there and applied. And they sent me over and had a physical issue, me, whites. And then by noon, I was working on the ward.

00:51:20 Speaker 2

That's how much advantage he had leg getting. Have a pool.

00:51:25 Speaker 1

Is who you know.

00:51:26 Speaker 1

Right. Stay in touch with any of your fellow veterans.

00:51:28 Speaker 1

Do.

00:51:31 Speaker 2

I did for a while and then it just faded away. They quit writing.

00:51:34 Speaker 2

Then I guess I quit writing.

00:51:38 Speaker 2

No, I really had in World War 2. Most of my buddies were all from Tennessee, Georgia, Mississippi, Alabama.

00:51:49 Speaker 2

And then West Virginia and Virginia, all in mountains, Southern Mountain states, they were all they called me Yankee. And I was from up here.

00:52:00 Speaker 2

And I was.

00:52:00 Speaker 2

I didn't shave.

00:52:02 Speaker 2

I had this fuzz.

00:52:04 Speaker 2

And they called me fuzzy, and I was so damn skinny.

00:52:08 Speaker 2

About £120.

00:52:10 Speaker 2

And they treated me just like a brother or younger brother or something.

00:52:15 Speaker 2

We go, go through the CHA line, you know, and they'd say. Father, get up there and go back through the line again.

00:52:23 Speaker 2

You got to get more meat on you, and that's all they'd send me up there.

00:52:28 Speaker 2

So they traded me really good.

00:52:31 Speaker 1

Do you add?

00:52:31 Speaker 1

Are you involved in any veterans organizations?

00:52:34 Speaker 2

I BFW in American Legion bfw in Warrens. I'm a life membership there. I paid \$100 for life membership and then.

00:52:36 Speaker 1

Both.

00:52:46 Speaker 1

Member for both for a long time, then.

00:52:49 Speaker 2

The American Legion Army VFW, longer than the American Legion.

00:52:57 Speaker 2

I got my remember.

00:52:59 Speaker 2

It's been.

00:53:02 Speaker 2

Well, that's the year is on here. It probably isn't.

00:53:07 Speaker 2

But it's been.

00:53:11 Speaker 2

I'll be 2530.

00:53:13 Speaker 2

No.

00:53:13 Speaker 2

Before I retired 3540 years I've been in India.

00:53:19 Speaker 2

At Warren's in my I was in a VFW.

00:53:24 Speaker 2

My grandma actually, my grandma Hart lived Milwaukee.

00:53:30 Speaker 2

Had me join the of the FW first.

00:53:35 Speaker 1

However, how would you say your wartime experiences have affected your life?

00:53:41 Speaker 2

This gave me more experience.

00:53:45 Speaker 2

I got nothing against the army or nothing. I don't.

00:53:48

What about?

00:53:48 Speaker 2

Really don't.

00:53:50 Speaker 1

What about life lessons learned from your military experience? Any ideas?

00:53:54 Speaker 2

Lots of.

00:53:56 Speaker 1

Any examples? Anything come to mind?

00:53:59 Speaker 2

Just like I said, they used me at Randy's dairy.

00:54:04 Speaker 2

The.

00:54:05 Speaker 2

They didn't use you. You got usually. I've seen majority of the time in the army. You were compensated for what you did and you didn't get compensation if you didn't do anything.

00:54:17 Speaker 2

That's how you got promotions and stuff. You know, it's according to what he did.

00:54:22 Speaker 2

I just learned a more harder reworker.

00:54:25 Speaker 2

I guess the more you learn, the better you're going to get.

00:54:30 Speaker 1

Excellent. Anything else, Sir?

00:54:34 Speaker 1

Well.

00:54:34 Speaker 1

Thank you for your service to our country.

00:54:36 Speaker 2

Oh yeah, thank you. You're a buddy.

00:54:38 Speaker 1

Greatly appreciated.

00:54:39 Speaker 2

We got all B buddies doing.

00:54:42 Speaker 1

Brothers and arms.

00:54:43 Speaker 2

Brothers, that's what I meant. Not buddies, brothers.

00:54:48 Speaker 1

Is there anything else that it?

00:54:51

You want to go over some of the book.

00:54:54 Speaker 1

You can if you.

00:54:54 Speaker 2

Can't.

00:54:55 Speaker 1

I was going to write down his medals.

00:54:57 Speaker 1

Person his DD214.

00:54:58

So right here.

00:55:00

Putting a little piece pan perfect.

00:55:05 Speaker 2

All my siblings.

00:55:05

There's the write up for the Silver star.

00:55:09 Speaker 1

No, it isn't. Yeah.

00:55:16 Speaker 1

Use it right down the middle, yeah.

00:55:20 Speaker 2

Tell me when.

00:55:24 Speaker 2

OK, once while stationed in Europe during World War 2, force was it is true in the commander who didn't know how to read a map very well.

00:55:35

Oh.

00:55:38 Speaker 2

Told the told the group to advance which the commander didn't know, that the village nearby was occupied by Germans and they had machine guns.

00:55:49 Speaker 2

The one that we got halfway across the field.

00:55:53 Speaker 2

They open fire on them hearts today, later fires. They could for what seemed like hours.

00:56:00 Speaker 2

And when they got reinforcements called in, the commander still had the map screwed up and there were bombed by artillery.

00:56:10 Speaker 2

The group finally made a cross field over railroad banquet at this time forced, and another man decided to get the wounded and they could take.

00:56:19 Speaker 2

Them into the basement or nearby farmhouse.

00:56:22 Speaker 2

Heart and his men left and were told that they would get some help later. They got 12 moon men into the basement and that far off, but their help never showed up. After taking care of a wounded, they heard a tank pull up outside.

00:56:37 Speaker 2

Of them made a sound.

00:56:39 Speaker 2

They heard a man yelling and German a man was selling them to come out of the house.

00:56:44 Speaker 2

Americans still didn't make them noise.

00:56:47 Speaker 2

The Germans then threw a grenade down in the basement.

00:56:50 Speaker 2

Luckily, no Americans were hurt after.

00:56:53 Speaker 2

The Americans yelled that they were only wounded men down there.

00:56:57 Speaker 2

Germans captured them and had them start walking.

00:57:01 Speaker 2

Down the road, the German soldiers couldn't get anything stuck to stop and pick up the Americans, to take them to a concentration camp.

00:57:08 Speaker 2

Was dark out and they saw what looked like the three American lying in alongside the road.

00:57:15 Speaker 2

Only two German soldiers were holding the Americans, one-on-one end of the column and 1:00 on the other.

00:57:22 Speaker 2

And when they when Americans got opposite, the Germans got opposite Americans, they jumped up and shot the two guards.

00:57:33 Speaker 2

This was what they called we called.

00:57:37 Speaker 2

Advanced night patrol. They every night after dark they would.

00:57:43 Speaker 2

Send men out from the unit to contact.

00:57:48 Speaker 2

Get in contact so they knew where the enemy was just to get contact. Not a fire or nothing.

00:57:53 Speaker 2

Anyway, that's what they were.

00:57:55 Speaker 2

And then they told us what direction to go to get back to our AUD.

00:58:02 Speaker 2

It wasn't our unit and we went across these fields and then we got over there to where?

00:58:08 Speaker 2

Were supposed.

00:58:10 Speaker 2

To.

00:58:13 Speaker 2

Umm, see the the.

00:58:17 Speaker 2

It's all real dark out, and the Americans yelled. Stop.

00:58:23 Speaker 2

Halt. And we've all holded and they said we yelled at. We were Americans and they wouldn't take, you know, they couldn't take our. And they said to take one man into advance.

00:58:36 Speaker 2

Well, I didn't go one of the other guys went up there.

00:58:39 Speaker 2

They asked him the password.

00:58:42 Speaker 2

See every night before, after you. You got the password, which could be Yankee or New York or Chicago or whatever.

00:58:49 Speaker 2

Was just a.

00:58:50 Speaker 2

So in case you got captured you, they'd ask you the password if you knew the password, they knew you were American.

00:58:57 Speaker 2

And then he finally they finally let us.

00:58:59 Speaker 2

And then we stayed there that night and they took their back to our unit.

00:59:05 Speaker 2

Next day, but we had all walked.

00:59:10 Speaker 2

See, we couldn't have carried no letters.

00:59:13 Speaker 1

So you were a prisoner.

00:59:14 Speaker 1

War for how long?

00:59:17 Speaker 2

Want to say 3 or 4 hours and that's all.

00:59:23 Speaker 1

What were you thinking during those 3 or 4 hours going through your mind?

00:59:27 Speaker 2

Scare. It'll heck.

00:59:29 Speaker 2

You know, walking in the dark and the guy behind you with a gun and the guy in front of you with a gun pointing at you.

00:59:36 Speaker 2

No, they.

00:59:37 Speaker 2

Or we're going to end up. We figured it would be in concentration camp, their own soldiers, truck driver.

00:59:44 Speaker 2

Wouldn't.

00:59:45 Speaker 2

They wanted to get out of there and they weren't stopping for nothing, which was lucky.

00:59:50 Speaker 1

How old are you?

00:59:53 Speaker 2

19 or 20.

00:59:56 Speaker 2

1950.

01:00:06 Speaker 2

Three hours.

01:00:08 Speaker 2

There were prisoners of war for only three hours.

01:00:11 Speaker 2

I got wrote in here so this is.

01:00:13 Speaker 2

So that's what I said when I talk like this that freehand, I don't want to get it wrong 'cause. I don't want to.

01:00:23 Speaker 2

This is this is pretty quick.

01:00:27 Speaker 1

That's an amazing collection.

01:00:30 Speaker 1

Let's just say.

01:00:31 Speaker 2

I bought that and I did it and then I.

01:00:34 Speaker 2

Had a copy.

01:00:35 Speaker 2

It was fairly new and my one granddaughter, Michelle, she wanted a copy too.

01:00:41 Speaker 2

We.

01:00:43 Speaker 2

She copied.

01:00:44 Speaker 2

She's got a.

01:00:45 Speaker 2

Not totally everything, but these are all original stuff and the stuff they look like original and the copy machine. But you know, like these, they're not original like these.

01:00:56 Speaker 2

These are the original receipt of, but in the copy machine they look like original.

01:01:02 Speaker 2

And then I made one for each one of my kids. They got a copy.

01:01:08 Speaker 2

Oh, thanks.

01:01:10 Speaker 2

Healthy living.

01:01:10 Speaker 1

That's all the pay you get today.

01:01:12 Speaker 1

Friend, that's it.

01:01:13 Speaker 2

That's.