

Lee Roy Hatcher Interview #1

Battery A, 313th Field Artillery Battalion

(Library of Congress: Veterans History Project; interviewed by Michael Lloyd Willie)

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

00:00:01 Speaker 1

Today is Thursday, October 30th, 2003, and this is the beginning of an interview with Lee Roy Hatcher at the Erlanger Health Line Plus Office 975 E 3rd St. Chattanooga, TN.

00:00:17 Speaker 1

Mr. Hatcher was born on August 14th, 1921 and is now 82 years old. My name is Michael Willey, and I'll conduct this interview.

00:00:29 Speaker 1

Mr. Hatcher's name is spelled Lee Roy Hatcher.

00:00:33 Speaker 1

L EE.

00:00:35 Speaker 1

Roy.

00:00:37 Speaker 1

Hatcher.

00:00:41 Speaker 1

During which war did you serve, Mr. Hatcher?

00:00:45 Speaker 2

World War 2.

00:00:46 Speaker 1

OK. And in which branch of the service?

00:00:49 Speaker 2

Started with with the inventory.

00:00:53 Speaker 1

And then you move to the the Air Force after that. Is that correct?

00:00:58

Yeah.

00:01:00 Speaker 1

OK. And what was your highest rank?

00:01:04 Speaker 1

Tech Sergeant, where were you born, Mr. Hatcher?

00:01:10 Speaker 2

And and.

00:01:13 Speaker 2

Tennessee.

00:01:16 Speaker 3

Community.

00:01:18 Speaker 3

What? What community?

00:01:21 Speaker 2

I can't hear you.

00:01:23 Speaker 2

Oh.

00:01:26 Speaker 3

1st.

00:01:29 Speaker 2

I can't. I can't get it. It's and. And Amherst. Yeah.

00:01:31 Speaker 1

Did you say Amherst?

00:01:35 Speaker 3

Anne Hurst, Knox County.

00:01:39 Speaker 1

All right, now.

00:01:41 Speaker 1

Did you have any brothers or sisters when?

00:01:43 Speaker 2

You were growing up, yeah.

00:01:45 Speaker 1

Do you know how many?

00:01:51 Speaker 2

Sam George.

00:01:51

Right.

00:01:56 Speaker 2

France one earlier, that was what was it, Ralph?

00:02:02 Speaker 2

Francis.

00:02:06 Speaker 2

Joe, Joe and.

00:02:11 Speaker 2

Jack. Jack.

00:02:13

Wow.

00:02:14 Speaker 1

Pretty good size strapping boys, right? All boys.

00:02:16 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:02:19 Speaker 1

And one sister. OK, you have a sister also.

00:02:22 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:02:23 Speaker 1

OK. Do you remember her name?

00:02:25 Speaker 2

LMAO. A OVA OK.

00:02:30 Speaker 1

All right, now you were born in Amherst, Knox County, around Knoxville. And were you raised there? Did you spend most of your life there before you got into the service?

00:02:35 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:02:44 Speaker 1

It knocks. OK, now, how did you end up getting into?

00:02:45 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:02:48 Speaker 1

The the army.

00:02:55 Speaker 2

I guess I had. I had to get to go back in.

00:03:01 Speaker 1

Before, before the war. Was that right? OK.

00:03:06 Speaker 1

In 1940, and why did you join?

00:03:09 Speaker 1

The army then?

00:03:14 Speaker 2

I don't know.

00:03:16 Speaker 1

Do you need a job or you just feel like doing it?

00:03:20 Speaker 2

No, I was. I just enjoyed it.

00:03:23 Speaker 1

OK.

00:03:24 Speaker 1

All right. Or any of your other brothers in the in the service at that time when you joined back in 1940?

00:03:29 Speaker 2

Not.

00:03:32 Speaker 1

No. OK. Do you remember why you were discharged the first time?

00:03:38 Speaker 2

Yeah, I had a.

00:03:41 Speaker 2

Perforated eardrum.

00:03:42 Speaker 1

A perforated eardrum. How did that happen? Do you?

00:03:45 Speaker 1

Know.

00:03:46 Speaker 2

No.

00:03:47 Speaker 1

Just had a perforated ear drum, so they discharged you before the war then. Is that right? In 1941, OK.

00:03:58 Speaker 1

All right. Now, how did you end up?

00:03:59 Speaker 1

Getting back into the service.

00:04:03 Speaker 3

You were drafting.

00:04:06 Speaker 2

Hmm.

00:04:06 Speaker 3

Drafted.

00:04:08 Speaker 3

You were drafting.

00:04:09 Speaker 2

Has, yeah.

00:04:09 Speaker 1

You were drafted mad. Eardrum and all. They don't care about it then, right? OK. All right. How many of your other brothers were drafted, too? Well, were any of them drafted?

00:04:12 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:04:25 Speaker 2

No, they.

00:04:27 Speaker 2

That's.

00:04:29

OK.

00:04:30 Speaker 3

Honey.

00:04:33 Speaker 3

Francis and George and Jack, weren't they? All three drafted during the war they just joined.

00:04:39 Speaker 2

No.

00:04:40 Speaker 2

That's what I'm doing.

00:04:41 Speaker 1

OK, so you're the only lucky.

00:04:44 Speaker 1

One, the one with the bad eardrum.

00:04:46 Speaker 2

Or the dumbest, dumbest one, yeah.

00:04:51 Speaker 1

Did you have any problem with that though? Did you mind going back in? OK, all right. And were you drafted?

00:05:00 Speaker 1

Were you drafted after Pearl Harbor?

00:05:03 Speaker 3

1842.

00:05:04 Speaker 1

1942.

00:05:05 Speaker 2

MHM.

00:05:06 Speaker 1

OK.

00:05:08 Speaker 1

All right, so you're drafted into.

00:05:10 Speaker 1

The the regular army.

00:05:11 Speaker 1

Right. OK. Did you have to do?

00:05:14 Speaker 1

Basic training again.

00:05:16 Speaker 1

All over again.

00:05:17 Speaker 2

Every time.

00:05:18 Speaker 1

Well, it was easy. The second time, wasn't it?

00:05:21 Speaker 2

No, really, because I'm screwing up all the.

00:05:25 Speaker 2

Time screwed up.

00:05:30 Speaker 2

However, for free free.

00:05:34 Speaker 1

Spirit. Yeah, the mind of your own. That doesn't fit into the regular army, does it? I imagine that your drill Sergeant, your drill instructors were pretty understanding about that, though, right? But they're really nice to you.

00:05:40 Speaker 2

I know.

00:05:47 Speaker 2

Yeah, yeah, I.

00:05:51 Speaker 2

I don't know.

00:05:54 Speaker 1

Where did you go to basic training? Do you remember?

00:05:59 Speaker 2

To.

00:06:01 Speaker 2

Fort Devens. No, no, that was that was.

00:06:03 Speaker 3

Fort Oglethorpe.

00:06:11 Speaker 1

Yeah, didn't say here, but that's all right.

00:06:15 Speaker 1

That's all right. That's not important. So but you end up going into basic training and getting out after that. And then at that time there's a lot of people being drafted, right? A lot of people coming into the service. So they get you in and out of basic training pretty quick too.

00:06:25 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:06:33 Speaker 1

How long does it take? Does it take you a very long time to get used to army life again and get back into the the schedule and the swing of things?

00:06:41 Speaker 2

Now I just screwed it up enough. It do what they wanted to do and they caught. They caught me quite a bit.

00:06:46 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:06:52 Speaker 1

And what happens when they catch you doing that? I mean, do they bust you down or give you extra work or what?

00:06:57 Speaker 2

I couldn't couldn't buck my dad. I didn't have, you know, I just had extra duty.

00:07:00 Speaker 1

You didn't have anything to give up.

00:07:05 Speaker 1

Well, I kept you busy then, right?

00:07:08 Speaker 2

Yeah, I have to. I have to. I have to. I was are.

00:07:14 Speaker 1

So you just give up on some sleep then, right? You have to do without sleep and working, OK?

00:07:18 Speaker 2

No.

00:07:21 Speaker 1

All right.

00:07:24 Speaker 1

Let me ask you this. You had a perforated eardrum. That's how you were. How you were discharged the first time. Did that bother you at all? Did it slow you down from your regular?

00:07:30 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:07:32 Speaker 2

No, no.

00:07:33 Speaker 1

Work. It was just a.

00:07:34 Speaker 1

Technicality. They got you then, right?

00:07:37 Speaker 2

I think think so.

00:07:38 Speaker 1

OK.

00:07:39 Speaker 1

All right, now you go through basic training and are you in your basic training with anybody you know? Do you have any friends? You're in there basically on.

00:07:45 Speaker 2

No.

00:07:47 Speaker 1

Your own.

00:07:48 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:07:49 Speaker 1

Right now, does it help you having been in the army before, or does it really hurt you?

00:07:55 Speaker 1

Because you're basically saying you do. You know you're. You're a free spirit. You got a mind of your own. Does it help you out at all that you've already been in the service before?

00:08:06

Yeah.

00:08:08 Speaker 2

Yeah, I'm sure it did. OK. OK.

00:08:12 Speaker 1

That's all right, you made it.

00:08:13 Speaker 1

Through it. Right. OK.

00:08:14 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:08:17 Speaker 1

All right, now.

00:08:18 Speaker 1

After basic training where where do they send you next? You have an advanced training at that time.

00:08:25 Speaker 1

After basic training.

00:08:31 Speaker 2

It was in.

00:08:37 Speaker 2

Fort Devens.

00:08:39 Speaker 3

Not then you didn't go to Fort Devens.

00:08:41 Speaker 1

That's right. Do you have you have a. Do you remember what your job was or what you were trained to do? What kind of a job you.

00:08:48 Speaker 2

So I was in the safe signal core.

00:08:50 Speaker 1

OK. Did you have to go to a training for that to?

00:08:55 Speaker 1

To learn communications and things like that.

00:09:00 Speaker 2

Nothing to it really.

00:09:03 Speaker 1

I'd say probably quite a few people didn't that what kind of things were you doing?

00:09:09 Speaker 2

Running telephone lines.

00:09:14 Speaker 2

And switchboards.

00:09:19 Speaker 2

That was my main thing.

00:09:20 Speaker 1

OK, so well, you'll run telephone lines then up to the front lines. Is that basically what they're doing? Run the telephone line up to the front line so they can communicate?

00:09:32 Speaker 1

With the reader.

00:09:32 Speaker 2

Well, they they didn't have it in in in it.

00:09:37 Speaker 2

And the.

00:09:40 Speaker 2

By Lance.

00:09:46 Speaker 2

It was just signal signal core and they didn't have any.

00:09:52 Speaker 2

Any.

00:09:56 Speaker 3

You had a radio on your back, didn't you?

00:09:58 Speaker 2

What?

00:09:59 Speaker 3

Radio pack on your back.

00:10:02 Speaker 3

Did you have a radio pack on your back?

00:10:04 Speaker 2

No, we didn't. Didn't work packs.

00:10:09 Speaker 1

So it says.

00:10:12 Speaker 1

Lay wire, installed phones and switchboards, operated radio and telephone as a member of the Forward observer team assigned to the infantry. So is that. Does that mean you be up near the you're being trained to be up near the front lines, is that right?

00:10:29 Speaker 2

Yes.

00:10:31 Speaker 1

That sounds pretty safe.

00:10:33 Speaker 2

Yeah, that the first first part of it was.

00:10:36 Speaker 1

Right, OK. Now you're trained on that and pretty extensive training pretty. I mean they train you very well or is it just real easy and?

00:10:46 Speaker 1

They get you in and out.

00:10:49 Speaker 2

It was pretty easy, OK.

00:10:54 Speaker 1

And then you go on maneuvers. Do you remember maneuvers?

00:10:59 Speaker 1

Where did you go on maneuvers? Was it was it big, large scale maneuvers?

00:11:05 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:11:06 Speaker 1

You remember where they were?

00:11:10 Speaker 2

No.

00:11:12 Speaker 3

Like the Kansas the like the OK.

00:11:13 Speaker 2

Where you know it was printed in Tahoma.

00:11:19 Speaker 1

All right, now is that.

00:11:22 Speaker 1

Did that go pretty well that it seemed pretty organized and everybody was doing their job?

00:11:26 Speaker 2

Oh yeah, it was. It was tough.

00:11:29 Speaker 1

And how?

00:11:30 Speaker 3

We joined the 80th Division.

00:11:31 Speaker 1

OK, you joined the 80th Division there.

00:11:35 Speaker 3

All right.

00:11:38 Speaker 1

All right. And was it pretty realistic as far?

00:11:40 Speaker 1

As the conditions.

00:11:42 Speaker 1

As far as trying to simulate warfare.

00:11:43 Speaker 2

No.

00:11:47 Speaker 1

Or simulate your job at least. Was that pretty realistic? Did they do a good job with it?

00:11:52 Speaker 2

Yeah, they did, but.

00:11:56 Speaker 2

It was just simple.

00:11:58 Speaker 3

He said they didn't have enough guns to train them and they used broomsticks.

00:12:06 Speaker 1

And what what kind of how do they have?

00:12:09 Speaker 1

Enough equipment for everyone.

00:12:12 Speaker 1

What? What would they use it?

00:12:14 Speaker 1

What kind of equipment were they using? World War One equipment or or how are they getting by training all these new men?

00:12:25 Speaker 2

I don't know.

00:12:26 Speaker 3

Broomsticks. Honey for.

00:12:30 Speaker 2

Yeah, that's all right.

00:12:35 Speaker 1

OK, so you do these maneuvers and at this point, Are you ready? Are you prepared to go to war? Are you just waiting for the orders to go overseas?

00:12:49 Speaker 2

Yeah, it did a lot of.

00:12:57 Speaker 2

Preparation on it. I went on maneuver.

00:13:04 Speaker 2

Mm-hmm.

00:13:06 Speaker 2

In Belfountain, Ohio, in.

00:13:12 Speaker 1

I believe they have one in North Carolina.

00:13:14 Speaker 2

Oh no, that was.

00:13:16 Speaker 2

Not then, OK.

00:13:19 Speaker 2

Had some of the training.

00:13:23 Speaker 2

And.

00:13:26 Speaker 2

Desert.

00:13:32 Speaker 1

California. Yeah, where did?

00:13:33 Speaker 2

What?

00:13:34 Speaker 3

Is it California in the desert?

00:13:37 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:13:39 Speaker 1

OK. So were they preparing you to go to, to Africa then but?

00:13:45 Speaker 1

Just desert training just in case, OK.

00:13:49 Speaker 1

All right. Does that make you nervous? Do you start wondering where you're going to end up going at that time?

00:13:54 Speaker 2

Didn't give a damn.

00:13:55 Speaker 1

Really, you just do your training and get through.

00:13:59 Speaker 1

OK, in the meantime, are they? Do you have plenty of supplies? Do. Do they end up? Do they have enough food and enough uniforms and things like that?

00:14:10 Speaker 2

Yeah, we had. We had regular uniforms.

00:14:19 Speaker 1

At that time, did they have the? Were they still using the World War One helmets or the you had the the new equipment?

00:14:25 Speaker 1

Thing coming in.

00:14:28 Speaker 1

In the meantime, there's a lot of people coming into the army, right? A lot of people getting.

00:14:31 Speaker 2

Ohh yeah.

00:14:33 Speaker 1

In.

00:14:34 Speaker 1

All right.

00:14:36 Speaker 1

So.

00:14:38 Speaker 1

They simulate you did.

00:14:39 Speaker 1

The neighbors in the desert? Is that what it is or just regular?

00:14:42

OK.

00:14:44 Speaker 1

OK. Then at that time, do you have like a best friend? Do you have somebody that that?

00:14:50 Speaker 1

You guys work together and spend a lot of time together. That makes it easy getting through.

00:14:55 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:14:56 Speaker 1

Who is that?

00:14:59 Speaker 2

Almost everybody in.

00:15:02 Speaker 2

In the signal corps, where I was.

00:15:09 Speaker 2

We just did everything, got to get together and.

00:15:14 Speaker 1

So you guys all pretty close.

00:15:16 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:15:17 Speaker 1

Did you have a best friend though, or was it just everybody?

00:15:23 Speaker 2

Well, what was divided into?

00:15:26 Speaker 2

The units.

00:15:28 Speaker 2

Her.

00:15:36 Speaker 2

OK.

00:15:41 Speaker 1

That's all right. We can come back to that if you if you want to come back to it.

00:15:46 Speaker 2

I'll forget it again. That's all right.

00:15:50 Speaker 1

That's all right. OK.

00:15:53 Speaker 1

Let's take it. Can we take it from the desert maneuvers again? We're from the desert maneuvers. Where do you go after that?

00:15:56 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:16:07 Speaker 2

I went to the.

00:16:11 Speaker 2

Sigma core.

00:16:12 Speaker 3

Did you go back to Camp Forest?

00:16:15 Speaker 2

No, not at first.

00:16:21 Speaker 1

So you said you go to Signal Corp.

00:16:23 Speaker 2

At Fort Monmouth, NJ.

00:16:25 Speaker 1

OK.

00:16:28 Speaker 1

All right. And at this time.

00:16:31 Speaker 1

Have you gotten to go home and visit your family again?

00:16:35 Speaker 2

No.

00:16:35 Speaker 1

Since you got in, you haven't been home at all.

00:16:38 Speaker 1

All right. Did you hear? Had you heard anything about your brothers?

00:16:42 Speaker 2

No.

00:16:42 Speaker 1

OK, so you got a Fort Monmouth?

00:16:46 Speaker 2

New Jersey.

00:16:47 Speaker 1

New Jersey. All right now.

00:16:49 Speaker 1

Is this is this a?

00:16:50 Speaker 1

Port of embarkation. Are you getting ready?

00:16:52 Speaker 1

To go or is this just where?

00:16:53 Speaker 1

The signal core is.

00:16:54 Speaker 2

Wait and.

00:16:57 Speaker 3

More timing, more timing.

00:16:59 Speaker 2

What is this for? For?

00:17:02 Speaker 2

Communication training.

00:17:04 Speaker 1

Gotcha. So this is like going to classes and things like that. Is it still easy really easy for you to pick up or?

00:17:07 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:17:12 Speaker 1

Does it start getting pretty tough?

00:17:13 Speaker 2

For me it was.

00:17:16 Speaker 2

Nothing.

00:17:16 Speaker 1

Right. Well, I guess you you probably were, they picked the.

00:17:19 Speaker 1

Right. One for you.

00:17:20 Speaker 1

Then right? I mean it was pretty easy for you to pick up.

00:17:24 Speaker 2

It wouldn't.

00:17:28 Speaker 2

Very few of them might think completely.

00:17:32 Speaker 1

Really.

00:17:34 Speaker 1

People getting the couldn't make couldn't finish the training.

00:17:37 Speaker 2

Right.

00:17:38 Speaker 1

Well, obviously what matter is he then?

00:17:42 Speaker 2

It was, it was. I thought it was simple.

00:17:43 Speaker 1

Yeah, it was easy for you. It was easy for you.

00:17:45 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:17:48 Speaker 1

OK. What kind of things about like telephones and switchboards and things like that?

00:17:52 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:17:55 Speaker 3

All right.

00:17:57 Speaker 2

One thing later.

00:17:59 Speaker 2

I'd love to.

00:18:10 Speaker 2

I can't get it.

00:18:11 Speaker 1

That's all right.

00:18:13 Speaker 1

OK so.

00:18:15 Speaker 1

Was this a long training period? Then in Fort Monmouth? Are you there for a couple of months or was it?

00:18:20 Speaker 1

Just a a.

00:18:21 Speaker 1

A short time? Well, I guess a couple months is a short time in the.

00:18:25 Speaker 2

In the A.

00:18:30 Speaker 2

Three months of that I'm in the signal core.

00:18:37 Speaker 1

So you're there for three months, then you're probably getting up close to the end of 1942, right or early 1943?

00:18:48 Speaker 2

I'll have to pass on that.

00:18:49 Speaker 1

That's all right. That's all right. OK. So after, after you finish.

00:18:54 Speaker 1

Your training here.

00:18:56 Speaker 1

Where where are you set now?

00:19:00 Speaker 1

When you finish.

00:19:00 Speaker 1

Up at Fort Monmouth.

00:19:05 Speaker 2

Was.

00:19:06 Speaker 3

Go back.

00:19:06 Speaker 2

Olathe no, Olathe, KS.

00:19:10 Speaker 3

Alright.

00:19:11 Speaker 1

OK.

00:19:13 Speaker 1

All right. Is this more maneuvers? Yeah. OK.

00:19:18 Speaker 1

All right. And can you say can you tell when you go back here that that things are escalating, they're they're really trying to get you ready to go to war or is it basically the same kind?

00:19:30 Speaker 1

Of thing.

00:19:30 Speaker 2

Same old thing.

00:19:31 Speaker 1

OK.

00:19:34 Speaker 1

And how long did about how long do these maneuvers last? I mean, do they?

00:19:39 Speaker 2

At least three three months.

00:19:40 Speaker 1

OK.

00:19:42 Speaker 1

So it is pretty extensive then. I mean, they're really trying to get get people trained up pretty.

00:19:44 Speaker 2

Ohh yeah.

00:19:47 Speaker 2

When I say it's my my levels training for officers.

00:19:54

OK.

00:19:55 Speaker 2

And.

00:19:57 Speaker 2

We had a lot of young officers.

00:20:00 Speaker 2

And didn't know nothing.

00:20:03 Speaker 2

Couldn't we tell him?

00:20:04 Speaker 1

90 day wonders, or 30 day wonders, or what they call.

00:20:07 Speaker 2

Well, they thought it was going to be that.

00:20:09 Speaker 2

It wasn't.

00:20:13 Speaker 1

But by this time, do they start having enough getting enough guns in so everyone can have one? Are they starting to catch up with that equipment?

00:20:22 Speaker 2

Yeah, pretty much so.

00:20:24 Speaker 3

OK.

00:20:28 Speaker 1

All right, so.

00:20:30 Speaker 1

You got to be doing this.

00:20:31 Speaker 1

In Kansas, working with the Signal corps and then where do you go after that? Are you?

00:20:32 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:20:35 Speaker 1

Ready to go to war now?

00:20:37 Speaker 2

No.

00:20:37 Speaker 1

OK, where do you go?

00:20:40 Speaker 2

As in.

00:20:43 Speaker 2

Maneuvers and.

00:20:44 Speaker 3

Back to telephone.

00:20:45 Speaker 2

No.

00:20:49 Speaker 2

In.

00:20:55 Speaker 2

And the F4 in the army.

00:21:01 Speaker 1

Is it maneuvers?

00:21:02 Speaker 2

Yeah, listen, mountain warming overs.

00:21:03 Speaker 1

Is it down in the Augusta?

00:21:05 Speaker 2

No, I was out in, in the.

00:21:16 Speaker 2

Maneuver as an army now.

00:21:25 Speaker 3

Wasn't in Oklahoma, wasn't in Oklahoma, was it?

00:21:27 Speaker 2

What?

00:21:29 Speaker 2

Now.

00:21:36 Speaker 2

It's maneuvers and.

00:21:42 Speaker 1

You're alright? You're fine if you go on more maneuvers after that point that.

00:21:45 Speaker 1

Fine. So there basically is continued training and do you feel like there is the training more extensive with each maneuvers or you asked to do more things or do it quicker or is it basically the same kind of training and just getting used to it?

00:22:02 Speaker 2

Getting used to it.

00:22:03 Speaker 1

And used to and. Do you feel like it's that's doing the job that?

00:22:07 Speaker 1

That that you feel like?

00:22:09 Speaker 1

You can do your job pretty well.

00:22:11 Speaker 2

He helped those master was a master.

00:22:17 Speaker 1

All right. Now during the maneuvers though, are you thinking at all? I'm going to be doing this in the middle of gunfire and and real people. Do you not think of that at all?

00:22:26 Speaker 2

No.

00:22:27 Speaker 1

Are you enjoying yourself? Are you enjoying the maneuvers? Is it almost?

00:22:32 Speaker 1

Like a game when you're out there.

00:22:33 Speaker 2

It was, ma'am. I made it away.

00:22:35 Speaker 1

OK. Anybody else there were the guys you worked with? Did they treat it the same way or?

00:22:40 Speaker 2

Ohh yeah.

00:22:42 Speaker 1

It's good to be around some people. They can take it that way then, right? I mean, it makes it easier and makes you guys closer.

00:22:49 Speaker 1

OK, so you're doing more maneuvers and then where do you go after after this?

00:23:00 Speaker 2

Went to more, more movers more, yeah.

00:23:03 Speaker 1

Mormonism. So they're really doing.

00:23:07

OK.

00:23:11 Speaker 1

And it's each time. Are they doing it in different kind of in different environments like in the woods or the so you get?

00:23:19 Speaker 2

No, he's in the.

00:23:27 Speaker 2

Both now.

00:23:28 Speaker 1

Louisiana.

00:23:30 Speaker 2

Now I'm out in the in the.

00:23:31 Speaker 2

Desert.

00:23:32 Speaker 3

OK.

00:23:37 Speaker 2

Then I'll tell you now, Amber.

00:23:42 Speaker 3

No.

00:23:46 Speaker 3

OK.

00:23:46 Speaker 3

This is all for my.

00:23:47 Speaker 1

Tenant. All right, so they keep working. You're on the maneuvers. And do you start getting anxious at this time? Are you anxious to go to war or would you rather just stay and play?

00:23:48 Speaker 1

Yep.

00:24:02 Speaker 2

No.

00:24:08 Speaker 2

We weren't weren't we weren't to let the army. I mean the the.

00:24:10 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:24:14 Speaker 2

The finding, one anymore more than worried about it.

00:24:18 Speaker 1

But you don't think about it at all. You don't get nervous at all.

00:24:20

No.

00:24:21 Speaker 1

Or anything kind of.

00:24:21 Speaker 2

Nervous.

00:24:24 Speaker 3

OK.

00:24:26 Speaker 1

All right, so you're going on maneuvers and keep going on maneuvers and and then where do you go after?

00:24:31 Speaker 1

This next set.

00:24:34 Speaker 2

I say I want to.

00:24:36

Yeah.

00:24:39 Speaker 2

Olathe, KS, huh. OK.

00:24:42 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:24:43 Speaker 3

I've been to, I think you went back to Camp 4 to Tullahoma.

00:24:50 Speaker 1

You go back to Camp Forest after the maneuvers, OK? And what are you doing there?

00:24:53 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:24:56 Speaker 2

Same thing.

00:24:56 Speaker 1

I'm more maneuvers man like they're getting you guys ready then.

00:24:58 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:25:00 Speaker 1

Right.

00:25:01 Speaker 2

Well.

00:25:02 Speaker 1

Or getting the officers ready.

00:25:03 Speaker 2

Right.

00:25:04 Speaker 3

Different terrain and different weather situations.

00:25:08 Speaker 1

Right you got.

00:25:09 Speaker 1

That that there were some Louisiana maneuvers. Did you go there?

00:25:13 Speaker 2

No.

00:25:14 Speaker 1

OK, you went Tullahoma you went Kansas.

00:25:20 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:25:20 Speaker 1

Olathe, KS.

00:25:21 Speaker 3

California.

00:25:23 Speaker 2

In California.

00:25:23 Speaker 1

OK.

00:25:26 Speaker 1

All right.

00:25:30 Speaker 1

All right, then, after you finish up all your maneuvers, do you remember when you got orders? Do you remember the the time when they said?

00:25:38 Speaker 1

We're shipping.

00:25:38 Speaker 1

Out.

00:25:40 Speaker 2

No.

00:25:44

OK.

00:25:46 Speaker 1

Did you get to see your family at all before you got shipped over?

00:25:50 Speaker 1

No, you didn't get to see them at all.

00:25:53 Speaker 1

OK. Had you been riding them, do you remember?

00:25:56 Speaker 2

I wrote my mother's pretty, pretty much went in there. They had the three boys that was in the service, my brothers.

00:25:59 Speaker 1

OK.

00:26:09 Speaker 2

And my oldest.

00:26:11 Speaker 2

Brother.

00:26:13 Speaker 2

Was.

00:26:16 Speaker 2

Walking at Oak Ridge, Oak Ridge, and I know it was there, but I didn't contact him or not.

00:26:27 Speaker 1

What about your other brothers?

00:26:30 Speaker 2

We weren't real close.

00:26:36 Speaker 1

So.

00:26:39 Speaker 1

You're riding your mother and then you find out or you end up getting shipped out. Now, do you remember where you where you had to board a ship where you had to board your ship?

00:26:52 Speaker 3

That's New Jersey.

00:26:55 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:26:56 Speaker 1

OK.

00:26:58 Speaker 1

All right, so you set the fork decks.

00:27:01 Speaker 1

And did you get to go into into New York City at all? Did you want to?

00:27:10 Speaker 1

OK. But you know you're going by.

00:27:12 Speaker 3

Ship need this back, but this is after when they left in June, but I'll need it back. You can make up if you like. I just didn't have time.

00:27:12 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:27:17 Speaker 1

OK, that'll help.

00:27:20 Speaker 1

No, I think.

00:27:23 Speaker 1

No, that's fine. That's fine. All right now.

00:27:28 Speaker 1

Do you remember? Had you ever been on a ship before you before?

00:27:32 Speaker 1

You sail down.

00:27:34 Speaker 1

All right. And you got on the was it on?

00:27:36 Speaker 1

The Queen Mary.

00:27:37 Speaker 2

Yes.

00:27:38 Speaker 1

Well, that must have been a nice trip then. I'm luxury liner, was it?

00:27:40 Speaker 2

Yeah, it.

00:27:42 Speaker 2

Like, yeah.

00:27:46 Speaker 1

It had to be pretty nice. It's a luxury liner, isn't it?

00:27:48 Speaker 2

4.

00:27:50 Speaker 2

4 bucks.

00:27:54 Speaker 2

And four box.

00:27:56 Speaker 2

And Eddie?

00:27:58 Speaker 2

Couldn't hardly get out Halifax.

00:28:02 Speaker 1

Did you have to sleep in shifts or did they actually have?

00:28:05 Speaker 1

Room for all of you.

00:28:06 Speaker 2

No, we had we had plenty of room.

00:28:09 Speaker 1

About how many people you think were on there?

00:28:14 Speaker 2

Well, at least 13.

00:28:17 Speaker 2

15,000 men alone. That's a lot of people, right? Yeah.

00:28:27 Speaker 1

Did you have any trouble with seasickness? You didn't get seasick? Did anybody?

00:28:29 Speaker 2

No.

00:28:32 Speaker 2

Oh Lord, yes.

00:28:37 Speaker 1

The the rolling oceans and the rolling ocean.

00:28:37 Speaker 2

What?

00:28:40 Speaker 1

I've heard the.

00:28:41 Speaker 1

Atlantic can can get just about anybody except you, I guess.

00:28:45 Speaker 2

Now a whole bunch number is in, then get sick.

00:28:49 Speaker 1

Really. Really. I guess being on the Queen Mary helps though.

00:28:53 Speaker 2

No, I don't think so.

00:28:54 Speaker 1

Well, yeah, OK.

00:28:56 Speaker 2

We had.

00:28:59 Speaker 2

Had to get it in inform.

00:29:04 Speaker 2

In a.

00:29:11 Speaker 2

To get on the.

00:29:13 Speaker 2

Exercise.

00:29:16 Speaker 2

We line them up.

00:29:20 Speaker 2

Then go out and someone God gets sick about 15 of.

00:29:24 Speaker 1

Them hold on one second.

