

## **Gene Harold Hopkins Interview**

Company B, 318th Inf Reg

*(Library of Congress: Veterans History Project; interviewed by Cydney Stuart, Dennon King, Scott Watson)*

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

00:00:00 Speaker 1

I didn't get the extra stripe, but I had to do this job.

00:00:05

Guys. Ready. Yep.

00:00:07 Speaker 2

OK.

00:00:10 Speaker 3

The date is October 20th, 2009, and this interview is taking place at Turkey Middle School.

00:00:16 Speaker 3

Will be interviewing Jean Robert Hopkins.

00:00:23 Speaker 3

Miller, Sydney Stewart and Danny king.

00:00:25 Speaker 2

Yes, middle name is Harold.

00:00:31 Speaker 2

H You said Robert, didn't you?

00:00:33 Speaker 2

I did I misunderstand?

00:00:36

Did you say Robert?

00:00:38 Speaker 1

Hello. Hello, brother named Robert but.

00:00:43 Speaker 3

Mr. red.

00:00:43 Speaker 1

Yeah, you.

00:00:45

Want to start over again?

00:00:46

Just keep it running and just start over again.

00:00:51 Speaker 3

But the date is October 20th, 2009. In this interview is taking place at Turkey Middle School.

00:00:57 Speaker 3

Will be interviewing Jean Harold Hopkins, who was born on June 13th, 1925.

00:01:03 Speaker 3

Scott Watson, Logan Miller, Cindy Stewart and Danny King will all be taking part in this interview.

00:01:08 Speaker 3

Gene took part in World War 2.

00:01:10 Speaker 3

In the army.

00:01:11 Speaker 3

He was staff Sergeant stationed in Europe at the European Theater of Operation.

00:01:18 Speaker 3

First question, how did you wind up in the army?

00:01:22 Speaker 1

Pardon.

00:01:22 Speaker 3

Did you wind up in the army?

00:01:25 Speaker 1

Well.

00:01:27 Speaker 1

I think reason I chose the army was because I had two brothers already in and they wanted to put me in the Navy and I said, well, I don't want to be in the Navy.

00:01:41 Speaker 1

He said why don't you?

00:01:43 Speaker 1

You know, I was an 18 year old.

00:01:46 Speaker 1

He says go over there.

00:01:49 Speaker 1

And.

00:01:52 Speaker 1

Let me, army and.

00:01:54 Speaker 1

Then Jefferson barracks. And was there about a week and they sent us to Cape Coral, Texas, to take her training.

00:02:04 Speaker 1

And then we took 17 weeks of training.

00:02:09 Speaker 1

And we went overseas on November 15th.

00:02:17 Speaker 1

1944.

00:02:20 Speaker 1

And went as.

00:02:22 Speaker 1

So they put a certain, umm, 80th Infantry Division. They were in France.

00:02:28 Speaker 1

I think the city was St.

00:02:32 Speaker 1

Favor void.

00:02:34 Speaker 1

Avoid Abu and we was out for about a week or so.

00:02:39 Speaker 1

And then they throw this on the trucks, regional walls taking place. There's battle of the balls. You probably heard of that.

00:02:48 Speaker 1

So.

00:02:49 Speaker 1

They we went all night and part of the day and they dropped us off in a field few trees. And that was the front lines.

00:02:59 Speaker 1

Have no.

00:02:59 Speaker 1

We made it and we started forward and went all the way through to Bastone eventually, but.

00:03:09 Speaker 1

Start had some bad weather, had a lot of snow.

00:03:13 Speaker 1

Waist deep in places.

00:03:15 Speaker 1

And they told us that it was 30 below 0 and I believe it was, but we stayed out in it all night and day and but I think what helped me a lot was.

00:03:29 Speaker 1

Raised on them in the country on a farm. And no, we got them. I was born in Missouri and have a snow we got.

00:03:39 Speaker 1

Well, we get out in and stay all day.

00:03:42 Speaker 1

Know this used to weather that way so.

00:03:45 Speaker 3

Did you receive any frostbite?

00:03:48 Speaker 1

Well, my big toes little bit, but we had some guys that lost their feet and they gave us some pack.

00:03:58 Speaker 1

They call them and they didn't have as old one in the platoon that didn't give him because they were all too big and I wouldn't take the big shoes.

00:04:08 Speaker 1

Because he couldn't run in them and.

00:04:11 Speaker 1

So without man is I kept. I knew how to work my feet all time keeping warm.

00:04:18 Speaker 3

During your time in the military.

00:04:20

Happening.

00:04:21 Speaker 3

How did you keep in contact?

00:04:22 Speaker 3

Your family.

00:04:23 Speaker 1

Carol, what?

00:04:24 Speaker 3

While you're in the.

00:04:25 Speaker 3

How did you keep in contact with your family?

00:04:30 Speaker 1

To my mom and I had a sister.

00:04:33 Speaker 1

Who was living in California and this?

00:04:38 Speaker 1

And they when you wrote a letter.

00:04:40 Speaker 1

They censored it and sometimes it cut out a few words because on kind of military secret.

00:04:50 Speaker 2

Oh, I just wanted to interject.

00:04:52 Speaker 2

Volunteered for this.

00:04:54 Speaker 2

His mother was widowed and lived on a farm, and she had him deferred and he went to the draft board, told me he didn't want that one to go.

00:05:04 Speaker 2

Mama was quite unhappy with him, so.

00:05:07 Speaker 1

She's very happy about that.

00:05:08 Speaker 2

I took it.

00:05:11 Speaker 1

And went over, got my 18 card and.

00:05:16 Speaker 1

You know, they called it up and I went.

00:05:21 Speaker 3

While I was reading your report, I saw that you.

00:05:23 Speaker 3

Platoon Sergeant.

00:05:25 Speaker 1

Yeah, that was after the war when I realized and they made me a.

00:05:32 Speaker 1

It's hard to pin, but I made Sergeant on the front line cause I'll always tell everybody 'cause nobody else left.

00:05:41 Speaker 1

To make it but.

00:05:44 Speaker 1

I know the times our company got down to like in the 80s, you know, 80 GIS. That's it.

00:05:52 Speaker 1

Make buying replacements and then first I you know a big goal. He would cut the wounded and.

00:06:03 Speaker 3

I also saw that you received a bullet bullet wound.

00:06:07 Speaker 3

Where did you get shot?

00:06:09 Speaker 1

Oh I had.

00:06:12 Speaker 3

Well, how'd you get that?

00:06:15 Speaker 2

What? How did you get that?

00:06:18 Speaker 1

Oh, we were in Germany then and they.

00:06:22 Speaker 1

Shell was pretty bad and we did a little rooted area and.

00:06:26 Speaker 1

Didn't even know it till we got to the woods.

00:06:31 Speaker 1

And we jumped in where the German foxhole. And I thought my foot's starting to get warm.

00:06:38 Speaker 1

And I took what she offered a piece of shrapnel.

00:06:43 Speaker 1

All about that long something was it still sticking my ankle and I just pulled it out and cut that self about.

00:06:52 Speaker 1

Self powder. What I recall, I forget now anyway. Put some of that.

00:06:57 Speaker 1

I can put my shoe back on and I thought, well, I better go back to first aid so.

00:07:05 Speaker 1

I saw first.

00:07:07 Speaker 1

I told us I got a \*\*\*\*\* \*\* foot and he said he has.

00:07:12 Speaker 1

Maybe you better go.

00:07:13 Speaker 1

So I don't think it's very bad and we crossed back over a river in a boat.

00:07:21 Speaker 1

And had to walk up a hill.

00:07:22 Speaker 1

And then we picked us up in trucks.

00:07:25 Speaker 1

They took us to a tent hospital.

00:07:30 Speaker 1

All tents and.

00:07:33 Speaker 1

For us from there to Paris to a regular hospital, and I was there close to three months.

00:07:41 Speaker 1

But they put.

00:07:45 Speaker 1

Cast on my left leg up almost to.

00:07:49 Speaker 1

Knee and I didn't.

00:07:50 Speaker 1

Think it was that bad, but guess what?

00:07:53 Speaker 1

Thought so.

00:07:55 Speaker 3



Have you?

00:07:56 Speaker 3

Seen the HBO series, but band of brothers.

00:08:00 Speaker 1

What?

00:08:01 Speaker 3

Have you ever seen the series band of brothers?

00:08:05 Speaker 1

I saw all of it.

00:08:07 Speaker 1

I didn't see all of it.

00:08:09 Speaker 2

You have the book.

00:08:10 Speaker 1

Yeah, yeah. I have a book. Yeah.

00:08:13 Speaker 3

The reason why I say that is because throughout some of the.

00:08:17 Speaker 3

The bullet was going on.

00:08:24 Speaker 3

How often do you return to reunions?

00:08:27 Speaker 1

Why?

00:08:28 Speaker 3

You return to.

00:08:30 Speaker 3

Often.

00:08:32 Speaker 2

Reunions. How often do you go to your reunions? Oh.

00:08:38 Speaker 1

We go. What's a year?

00:08:41 Speaker 1

Usually in August, when it's the hardest.

00:08:45 Speaker 1

I usually wear this uniform to have a memoir on Saturday mornings, and they want you to wear your medals to have them all uniform, but not too many wears uniform anymore because they were.

00:09:02 Speaker 1

They don't fit.

00:09:04 Speaker 1

And.

00:09:05 Speaker 1

We always joke about, well, you're kept up in your socks while your camping, the saw close that they will.

00:09:11 Speaker 1

That don't matter how big you are in the middle or but anyway, it was one of the guy that was his.

00:09:20 Speaker 1

Now it used to be about 4.

00:09:22 Speaker 1

Of us. But they passed away several years back.

00:09:31 Speaker 3

During the follow, was there ever a moment that you thought you could have been taken prisoner?

00:09:38 Speaker 2

But was there a moment when you thought you could be taken prisoner?

00:09:44 Speaker 1

No, I don't think.

00:09:47 Speaker 2

Did you ever.

00:09:48 Speaker 2

That she could be taken as a prisoner.

00:09:55 Speaker 1

Hello.

00:09:58 Speaker 1

I carried ammunition were some people carry camera, little cameras and things that I carry their extra ammunition.

00:10:07 Speaker 1

Out of the way. Ammunition.

00:10:10 Speaker 1

Had big debt, Ben. Louise, you hung around to make, and then we had the the belt that had shells in there. And I'd always keep something. Stick it on this man lure.

00:10:23 Speaker 1

It tips with eight shells, four in a row and.

00:10:28 Speaker 1

The M1 grapple when you fought it, it go empty and that clip fly out and the chain would stay open. All you had to do is grab this one off your belt.

00:10:42 Speaker 1

Real quick and too far.

00:10:46 Speaker 1

The Germans to a signal shot their.

00:10:49 Speaker 1

They had both action. Had they had a load of time before, so we had a little bit of fire power of the mayhem.

00:11:00 Speaker 1

Except they had.

00:11:02 Speaker 1

Couple of little handheld machine gun recall.

00:11:07 Speaker 1

Gun.

00:11:08 Speaker 1

He did four, maybe three shots.

00:11:12 Speaker 1

All machine gun 1 and it it was pretty mean. I'm telling I think I got my rifle shot. Rifle stock, almost shot off and I think that's what did it. Did my.

00:11:26 Speaker 1

Bought my.

00:11:28 Speaker 1

Gun about that long.

00:11:31 Speaker 1

Hey, a lot of other necks and arms and different things that I can move back, first aid.

00:11:39 Speaker 3

Was looking up information on the Battle of Rhineland.

00:11:45 Speaker 3

The Battle of Rhineland.

00:11:48 Speaker 3

Can you?

00:11:49 Speaker 3

I couldn't find anything.

00:11:52 Speaker 2

The Battle of Rhineland.

00:11:54

I.

00:11:54

Don't.

00:11:54 Speaker 1

Call.

00:11:55 Speaker 2

Know anything about it?

00:11:57 Speaker 1

Not too much in the edge. I got a battle Star 4 'cause. I was in Rhineland.

00:12:05

But.

00:12:05 Speaker 1

Most.

00:12:08 Speaker 1

Fighting that did was it during the Battle of Bulles and I was a Rifleman.

00:12:15

And.

00:12:17 Speaker 1

It was pretty rough. If you ever see the movie Patton.

00:12:23 Speaker 1

Well, that that shows you pretty much how it was, but it's still if you're not there, you know you really don't know.

00:12:33 Speaker 1

Can say well, that's pretty rough and this and that, but.

00:12:37 Speaker 1

It is rough.

00:12:39 Speaker 1

When the cold weather was not as bad.

00:12:43 Speaker 3

Was there?

00:12:43 Speaker 3

There ever a moment that you felt overwhelmed during battle?

00:12:49 Speaker 2

Was there ever?

00:12:50 Speaker 2

Moment that you felt overwhelmed at the.

00:12:53 Speaker 2

Of the bulge.

00:12:54 Speaker 1

Yeah, yeah.

00:13:00 Speaker 1

There was a lot of incidents that happened around me and you know, you think.

00:13:10 Speaker 1

We'll all be next.

00:13:12 Speaker 1

But you just get up and go, you know?

00:13:16 Speaker 1

Panda.

00:13:18 Speaker 1

However, one time it was almost to Bastone, and he probably heard a bastone in the rear of the first airborne.

00:13:28 Speaker 1

Were there.

00:13:31 Speaker 1

Oh, just is almost.

00:13:34 Speaker 1

We got up this place and would really area, so they put out their guard. We did and.

00:13:45 Speaker 1

And.

00:13:46 Speaker 1

Was starting to eat her cake ration.

00:13:50 Speaker 1

Cake rations and ultimately got to see rations in Kansas because they had some way to carry.

00:13:57 Speaker 1

We didn't.

00:13:58

But.

00:13:58 Speaker 1

Anyway, we started to eat as I think supper. We called supper and.

00:14:06 Speaker 1

To share came in.

00:14:08 Speaker 1

Before Michelle came in.

00:14:12 Speaker 1

I sit right in front of this guy.

00:14:13 Speaker 1

Name is Miller and.

00:14:17 Speaker 1

He's telling us they.

00:14:20 Speaker 1

All know is water in the company says.

00:14:22 Speaker 1

Been here three months and.

00:14:26 Speaker 1

Anyway, Michelle came in, and so I thought.

00:14:31 Speaker 1

Was jetting in a caravan, a circle which you're not supposed to do. And so I jumped up and ran back.

00:14:40 Speaker 1

Get.

00:14:41 Speaker 1

Away and.

00:14:43 Speaker 1

The big when they when they start chill coming from other direction, you know big shrapnel and he was sitting up against a tree and the the trap will cut that tree almost half and two and just cut off his head off.

00:14:59 Speaker 1

And I got some Nicks and elbow from that, but.

00:15:04 Speaker 1

And our company commander got wounded and I don't know how many others.

00:15:13 Speaker 3

Why were you?

00:15:14 Speaker 3

Why were you going to?

00:15:17 Speaker 3

Bastone.

00:15:20 Speaker 1

Why?

00:15:21 Speaker 2

Were you going to Baston?

00:15:24 Speaker 1

Why? Oh German, you broke through the 1st Army.

00:15:30 Speaker 1

And.

00:15:32 Speaker 1

They they really they did it. I think they started one night 1 evening and they they were going to cut off all the way go all the way to the sea or ocean channel I think.

00:15:47 Speaker 1

In the, shall I say.

00:15:50 Speaker 1

And.

00:15:52 Speaker 1

So I think the way I understand it, Patton told him.

00:15:56 Speaker 1

He could have his, his, his.



00:16:00 Speaker 1

Army up there with in within a day in which he did.

00:16:08 Speaker 1

I heard that they said that we walked, but we did reloading trucks and I know it's the night that they did have the lights on and one truck.

00:16:19 Speaker 1

Right ahead of us went over into a ditch and I think maybe one guy was hurt. But then after that, they turn the lights on and we didn't get no bombs or anything.

00:16:31 Speaker 1

But then they dropped us.

00:16:33 Speaker 1

Like I said a little bit ago.

00:16:36 Speaker 1

And we were the front lines.

00:16:39 Speaker 1

Made her own fortune.

00:16:51 Speaker 3

I see that you have quite a few medals.

00:16:56 Speaker 3

Is are any of them?

00:16:58 Speaker 3

Are you proud about any one of them in particular?

00:17:03 Speaker 2

Anyone who anyone of your medals, I guess, are you proud of more than the others?

00:17:11 Speaker 1

Well, not really. They're just normal medals.

00:17:16 Speaker 1

Good conduct.

00:17:18 Speaker 1

A year of good conduct.

00:17:19 Speaker 1

Got a.

00:17:20 Speaker 1

That the one next to the Purple Heart.

00:17:23 Speaker 1

One here.

00:17:29 Speaker 1

The Purple Heart is the world over there.

00:17:31 Speaker 1

Is my division patch here.

00:17:37 Speaker 1

Well, it's over here.

00:17:42

Can you?

00:17:43 Speaker 2

Which one is?

00:17:46 Speaker 1

That's Purple Heart, and that's good conduct medal.

00:17:51 Speaker 1

And this was the area we were in and that's where the the battle started. You got.

00:17:58 Speaker 1

You read the paper sometimes they say.

00:18:01 Speaker 1

Don't starve. Well, the brown star and these stars are different.

00:18:07 Speaker 1

That's a brown Battlestar.

00:18:08 Speaker 1

And here is this. When you do something beyond the Call of Duty that the Dawn Star, it's just a big star.

00:18:18 Speaker 1

Bonds.

00:18:20 Speaker 1

In.

00:18:23 Speaker 1

Occupation medal.

00:18:27 Speaker 1

And that's World War 2 medal. And I had 1000.

00:18:31 Speaker 1

Call it the American American Medal or something like that.

00:18:37 Speaker 1

But I don't know. It's not on there.

00:18:40 Speaker 1

See I set my discharge into.

00:18:46 Speaker 1

Place out on page for the record for the keep all the army records and Navy and what have you.

00:18:53 Speaker 1

And they sit me all my medals new and I got one medal that I don't know what's different means out in the water.

00:19:03 Speaker 1

But anyway, but this is a presidential citation.

00:19:09 Speaker 1

That's combat badge and.

00:19:15 Speaker 1

Well, that that your luck sharp shooter.

00:19:20 Speaker 1

That these battles over here.

00:19:23 Speaker 1

That's what you qualify in training, and then I've got two or four other these saves that hangs on there, but I I don't put them on there, but.

00:19:34 Speaker 1

I got a rifle and pistols.

00:19:39 Speaker 1

Mortars, machine guns, and something else, I don't know.

00:19:45

But.

00:19:51 Speaker 1

But back when we were in.

00:19:56 Speaker 1

We could just, when everybody had to rest uniform on, you could tell what what they were and tell you what the artillery was.

00:20:06 Speaker 1

And the Calvary was yellow, and the medical core he went to solid color and.

00:20:13 Speaker 1

And all of my can't remember now what they were, but. And they all had.

00:20:20 Speaker 1

To see this.

00:20:23 Speaker 1

Sides home.

00:20:26 Speaker 1

If you had cross rifles in our till, we had crossed cannons. It's on there.

00:20:35 Speaker 1

November 23rd.

00:20:40 Speaker 1

Anyway.

00:20:42 Speaker 1

And now they don't have that. I noticed that.

00:20:46 Speaker 1

And the uniforms now approved. I like the uniforms they have now. Better. But because when we go to the Union, we have.

00:20:55 Speaker 1

It was still 80th.

00:20:57 Speaker 1

They come and we have color, color guards. They called them colors in the flags and then they take them back out.

00:21:09 Speaker 1

And there's still, there's not a regular.

00:21:13 Speaker 1

They train now the states, the 80th Division does.

00:21:23 Speaker 3

Were you going to say something?

00:21:26

No.

00:21:30

Boat.

00:21:30 Speaker 2

I can talk a lot about.

00:21:33 Speaker 2

Long time you.

00:21:35 Speaker 2

He's writing down some stuff because.

00:21:37 Speaker 2

Get our grandson.

00:21:40 Speaker 2

Wanted him to.

00:21:41 Speaker 2

He did an interview with him, I think. But then he says he forgets a lot of it. So.

00:21:49 Speaker 2

We weren't married until after he came.

00:21:53 Speaker 1

Tell all things.

00:21:55 Speaker 1

Happened to my ears.

00:21:56 Speaker 1

I got back down a few times, but concussion one time.

00:22:02 Speaker 1

Think that's what happened with left ear? It was.

00:22:06 Speaker 1

Out town and I got up and I couldn't hear nothing for rest that day. And it was.

00:22:12 Speaker 1

Know I could hear, but after that I could tell the difference.

00:22:17 Speaker 1

You know, and then as I got older, I just kept getting worse.

00:22:22

Worse.

00:22:28 Speaker 3

What were you?

00:22:29 Speaker 3

Where were you when you heard that?

00:22:32 Speaker 3

The war was over.

00:22:35 Speaker 1

What?

00:22:35 Speaker 1

Where were you?

00:22:39 Speaker 2

When you heard the war is over, who were you?

00:22:44 Speaker 1

The role of us one day.

00:22:48 Speaker 1

For cut back to my unit division, I was in the hospital's own way back to the frontline and.

00:22:57 Speaker 1

They were in Czechoslovakia.

00:23:00

And.

00:23:00 Speaker 1

So the next day, we.

00:23:03 Speaker 1

Back to our company and then we were there for.

00:23:07 Speaker 1

Maybe a?

00:23:08 Speaker 1

And then we went to Austria.

00:23:12 Speaker 1

Southern, southern Germany and then Alps out mountain.

00:23:17 Speaker 1

And then we start training.

00:23:20 Speaker 1

We're going to send this all to the Pacific and we took training until August, I think and then when?

00:23:30 Speaker 1

We heard that the war was over there, so we pretty much relieved.

00:23:37 Speaker 1

Took my rifle and dumped it up in the ground, you know. And then I had to go clean. It got dirty.

00:23:46 Speaker 1

Thing you.

00:23:47 Speaker 1

To do is keep the rifle clean.

00:23:52 Speaker 2

He was ready to go back to the front lines and they heard the.

00:23:56 Speaker 2

Was over with Charlie.

00:23:59

None.

00:24:01 Speaker 1

No, it's good night.

00:24:03 Speaker 1

It's.

00:24:04 Speaker 1

And we do.

00:24:06 Speaker 1

Well, we'd have been there that day. I guess the same day.

00:24:09 Speaker 1

To the.

00:24:10 Speaker 1

But war ended, so they didn't get to worry getting us back.

00:24:19 Speaker 3

When the war was over.

00:24:23

And you.

00:24:24 Speaker 3

Came back to the.

00:24:25 Speaker 3



Did you ever want to go back?

00:24:28 Speaker 3

To.

00:24:29 Speaker 3

Go back to the war.

00:24:31 Speaker 1

Go back to where?

00:24:32 Speaker 3

To the go back to Europe.

00:24:34 Speaker 1

Not.

00:24:35 Speaker 1

I had chances but.

00:24:39 Speaker 2

Go back.

00:24:40 Speaker 1

Well, yeah then.

00:24:43 Speaker 1

Afterwards, over December the 10th, 1945.

00:24:48 Speaker 1

They give us a deal that if you really miss for 18 months, you got \$300.00 and three months photo. So that sounds pretty good to me.

00:24:58 Speaker 1

Thought well, I want to go home.

00:25:01 Speaker 1

So they sent me home and I was there for three months and went back and that's when they put me in the Constabulary.

00:25:09 Speaker 1

They all hand picked people, I guess.

00:25:12 Speaker 1

I was pretty good glad but anyway.

00:25:17 Speaker 1

And then we patrolled German back.

00:25:21 Speaker 1

We are.

00:25:23 Speaker 1

It was patterned after the state police here in the United States.

00:25:27 Speaker 1

That's what we did. We patrol told the Germans.

00:25:32 Speaker 1

And it's.

00:25:33 Speaker 1

GIS too, for who knows if they give us any trouble, but we don't have no problem with them.

00:25:39 Speaker 1

And they started with telling police. And we go around. They had started doing police station police stations. So we go around the station.

00:25:49 Speaker 1

Anything we can do for you know, had any problems they couldn't handle and.

00:25:56 Speaker 1

Then I came home.

00:26:00 Speaker 1

I see it for.

00:26:03 Speaker 1

In Germany all the way through 46.

00:26:06 Speaker 1

And May 47.

00:26:08 Speaker 1

And then I came home.

00:26:11 Speaker 1

I was going to read this and then I got home and put together.

00:26:14 Speaker 1

Don't have a good time so that.

00:26:18 Speaker 1

I call it the. The funny bunch kept running off the funny bunch and.

00:26:26 Speaker 1

That was it.

00:26:29

Did you?

00:26:31 Speaker 3

While while the war was going on and.

00:26:32 Speaker 3

Were.

00:26:32 Speaker 3

Europe, didn't you ever get to enjoy the countryside?

00:26:37 Speaker 1

Any what?

00:26:38 Speaker 2

Did you get to enjoy the countryside?

00:26:41 Speaker 2

The war was going on and you were in Europe.

00:26:43 Speaker 1

No.

00:26:47 Speaker 1

We were all the frontline.

00:26:50 Speaker 1

All time.

00:26:52 Speaker 1

They took us back.

00:26:56 Speaker 1

During the Battle of the Bulls and Cavs new uniforms one time.

00:27:02 Speaker 1

And you wear the same clothes and you shave every day or every other day. If you wanted to.

00:27:08 Speaker 1

But.

00:27:10 Speaker 1

It's the cold we don't handle on the roads.

00:27:14 Speaker 1

We play two shows and.

00:27:19 Speaker 1

We call.

00:27:23 Speaker 1

Field jacket and that big overcoat.

00:27:26 Speaker 1

Same color of this and then they took them away from us.

00:27:32 Speaker 1

Come all that snow and we couldn't get around 'cause. They come down there and.

00:27:38 Speaker 1

They took the big heavy overclass, white phones on the front line and gave the parkers kind of a 10 foot with the hood on, which we didn't have.

00:27:49 Speaker 1

Just had the.

00:27:51 Speaker 1

The steel helmet with a helmet liner and you got pretty cold.

00:27:59 Speaker 3

Can we pause it for a second? I have something I.

00:28:00

I.

00:28:06

I.

00:28:10 Speaker 3

While you were.

00:28:12 Speaker 3

In Europe, did you ever see any concentration camps?

00:28:17 Speaker 1

Yeah, I saw one after after the war called. And Doc, how is the name of it?

00:28:26 Speaker 1

And we were stationed there for more company for about a week.

00:28:32 Speaker 1

And.

00:28:33 Speaker 1

To the head of thing cleaned up when we got, you know, but our division.

00:28:40 Speaker 1

When I was in the hospital, we.

00:28:42 Speaker 1

I don't remember the name of it, but they relieved.

00:28:47 Speaker 1

One of the concentration camps.

00:28:51 Speaker 1

Because one of the guys was telling about.

00:28:56 Speaker 1

I think he was a President of war and.

00:29:01 Speaker 1

But anyway.

00:29:05 Speaker 1

I can't remember the.

00:29:06 Speaker 1

The name of the cutter before anybody else.

00:29:14 Speaker 3

Whatever you went to your.

00:29:18 Speaker 3

Did where you went to Europe. Did you meet any other Americans that were from Missouri?

00:29:28 Speaker 1

Well, yes.

00:29:31 Speaker 1

In fact, one was from St.

00:29:34 Speaker 1

And he got killed.

00:29:37 Speaker 1

He was a replacement and.

00:29:41 Speaker 1

He stayed close to me all the.

00:29:42 Speaker 1

I don't know why I I got taken roll call House from Missouri too and.

00:29:48 Speaker 1

And was going to this little town, he says to me. He says you go take him to a house, he says.

00:29:55 Speaker 1

Go around that way and I'll go.

00:29:56 Speaker 1

This.

00:29:57 Speaker 1

And he was in five little body.

00:29:59 Speaker 1

Don't know.

00:30:00 Speaker 1

But so I got around there and he.

00:30:04 Speaker 1

He'd been shot.

00:30:06 Speaker 1

And we captured.

00:30:09 Speaker 1

6 or 8 Germans over in that one building and.

00:30:15 Speaker 1

I saw about 6 more.

00:30:19 Speaker 1

How far to home and my rifle jam so hard somebody else to come over and help?

00:30:28 Speaker 1

We looked around again.

00:30:29 Speaker 1

Were.

00:30:30 Speaker 1

They took off up the hedge row 5th row.

00:30:34 Speaker 1

Over to some more buildings.

00:30:36 Speaker 1

They got away.

00:30:38 Speaker 3

Did anyone close to you ever get taken prisoner?

00:30:44 Speaker 1

Take quite quite.

00:30:45 Speaker 2

Taken prisoner.

00:30:46 Speaker 2

Anyone.

00:30:47 Speaker 1

Well, yeah, we took quite a few.

00:30:50 Speaker 2

I mean that anyone close to you get taken prison.

00:30:54 Speaker 1

Oh no. Oh.

00:30:57 Speaker 3

Did you ever take any prisoners?

00:31:01 Speaker 1

Yeah, we we took some pictures.

00:31:04 Speaker 1

Yeah, we took six or eight right there.

00:31:08 Speaker 1

1.

00:31:08 Speaker 1

And then Peter was every little city.

00:31:12 Speaker 1

Well, they call them bows and.

00:31:16 Speaker 1

We you know.

00:31:17 Speaker 1

Take prisoner. They'd be hiding under the weed.

00:31:23 Speaker 1

Go in first thing we do, we go in the building. We go hand grenade and we have some good hand grenades.

00:31:33 Speaker 1

And still body hollow or anything, we just still have grenade in there.

00:31:37 Speaker 1

Somebody in there usually got killed.



00:31:41 Speaker 1

Pretty much so anyway.

00:31:44 Speaker 1

So.

00:31:47 Speaker 1

Actually, we took a lot of.

00:31:48 Speaker 1

You know, they were shrouded and they couldn't get out, so.

00:31:53 Speaker 1

They knew if they didn't say something to.

00:31:55 Speaker 1

Us right now.

00:31:57 Speaker 1

They had head grenades as little \*\*\*\* sized.

00:32:02 Speaker 1

And they were different colors, and they'd tell them at you, and sometimes they wouldn't go off.

00:32:08 Speaker 1

Were bloods and you pick them up and throw them back?

00:32:13 Speaker 1

But I think.

00:32:15 Speaker 1

They had long forced labor, you know, in their factories and.

00:32:21 Speaker 1

I know.

00:32:22 Speaker 1

Time.

00:32:24 Speaker 1

I was going under this little town and I.

00:32:28 Speaker 1

They were called to my left and there was about 6 guys calling in a rain going up this hill.

00:32:35 Speaker 1

How about spread out?

00:32:38 Speaker 1

And by that time, a big old tailor cell came in.

00:32:44 Speaker 1

Right in the middle of them.

00:32:45 Speaker 1

Right behind and it stuck open the ground. It was about that high but sticking out of the ground, stuck in the ground about that deep ground was frozen, didn't go off.

00:32:56 Speaker 1

To that, and that's probably made by the forced labours they had the Germans.

00:33:05 Speaker 3

How old were the men that you were fighting?

00:33:09 Speaker 1

How old?

00:33:10 Speaker 3

How old were the men that you were fighting?

00:33:14 Speaker 1

Well.

00:33:16 Speaker 1

Some are more.

00:33:18 Speaker 1

Regular troops. You know what, I.

00:33:20 Speaker 1

Regular troops was maybe had been in army years, but we had some that one building we captured 1SS troop. You probably heard of this and it was one.

00:33:33 Speaker 1

Of 16 year old, we found out on the 16 year old.

00:33:40 Speaker 1

And.

00:33:41 Speaker 1

He started crying and this whole s s troop got on to him and all four Sergeant came up and he said something to that whole what he said.

00:33:51 Speaker 1

I don't remember, but.

00:33:53 Speaker 1

I was asked to shut up right off. He didn't.

00:33:55 Speaker 1

Didn't say no more.

00:33:59 Speaker 1

With 16 year old.

00:34:03 Speaker 3

Did you ever feel sorry for?

00:34:05 Speaker 3

Any of the men that you were fighting?

00:34:08 Speaker 2

Did you ever feel?

00:34:09 Speaker 2

For any of them that you.

00:34:11 Speaker 1

No, not really, huh? No.

00:34:15 Speaker 3

The.

00:34:17 Speaker 3

How many men were in your platoon?

00:34:22 Speaker 1

Well, it's always 100 staff because.

00:34:26 Speaker 1

You know, you give them replacements, but you.

00:34:31 Speaker 1

Had one platoon.

00:34:32 Speaker 1

Spoke to them.

00:34:33 Speaker 1

12 quarter squad. That'd be 36 men, which is usually not that many.

00:34:40 Speaker 1

Good.

00:34:42 Speaker 1

You get in replacements. The first thing you know is bound.

00:34:46 Speaker 1

To.

00:34:47 Speaker 1

15 or 20 men, maybe less sometime.

00:34:51 Speaker 3

What was your opinion on replacements?

00:34:55 Speaker 1

Depending on what?

00:34:57 Speaker 3

Replacements.

00:35:00 Speaker 1

But yet keep an eye on like they did me, I guess.

00:35:11 Speaker 1

Yeah, both of them are pretty well trained.

00:35:13 Speaker 1

Know had the infantry training.

00:35:24 Speaker 3

I'm going to go back.

00:35:26 Speaker 3

How? How was your experience in boot camp?

00:35:31 Speaker 1

Experience what?

00:35:32 Speaker 2

In boot camp.

00:35:35 Speaker 1

Well, it wasn't bad for me, but we had some older guys that kind of hard on.

00:35:44 Speaker 1

Because he was summer in Texas and one day it rain.

00:35:49 Speaker 1

And within two or three hours we dried be dusk.

00:35:52 Speaker 1

We didn't drive that quick and it was hot.

00:35:55 Speaker 1

Hey, that they didn't seem to bother me.

00:35:58 Speaker 1

A lot of them here.

00:36:00 Speaker 1

They they gave us some good training and.

00:36:04 Speaker 1

Just like I was.

00:36:06 Speaker 1

You about guys, a bunch of up. That was one of the things they always say.

00:36:11 Speaker 1

Don't bunch up, you know, like try to keep spread apart cause like 1 shell come in and kill all of you so.

00:36:19 Speaker 3

Did you make any relationships? Any friendships with anyone in boot camp?

00:36:25 Speaker 1

Yeah, yeah.

00:36:29 Speaker 1

Adam.

00:36:32 Speaker 1

Father. So guys from the same county that I was from and we took training together.

00:36:41 Speaker 1

And Cape alders, Texas.

00:36:44 Speaker 1

And we went around together all the time.

00:36:47 Speaker 1

I got a picture of us we had.

00:36:50 Speaker 1

We were attacking uniforms in and you know, that was a dress uniform.

00:36:56 Speaker 1

It was a tab with these because too hot.

00:37:00 Speaker 1

But I couldn't.

00:37:02 Speaker 1

I forgot to look for.

00:37:03 Speaker 1

I got it someplace. I was going to bring it today. I didn't.

00:37:08 Speaker 1

Couldn't find it.

00:37:09 Speaker 1

I looked for it.

00:37:10 Speaker 1

Couldn't find it.

00:37:14 Speaker 3

Boot Camp did did those men come with you or did you get split up?

00:37:21 Speaker 1

They were all sitting all directions.

00:37:24 Speaker 1

Some of them went.

00:37:26 Speaker 1

I seen.

00:37:28 Speaker 1

One of one I believe to since we got out and they were in the 40s it to the 42nd Infantry Division 42nd.

00:37:39 Speaker 1

They had a rainbow for a patch.

00:37:41 Speaker 1

They call it the Rainbow division.

00:37:45 Speaker 1

And.

00:37:46 Speaker 1

They I guess we all went different directions, but.

00:37:52 Speaker 1

We didn't get a photo from training.

00:37:56 Speaker 1

Think well, 17 weeks were.

00:37:58 Speaker 1

We were there and they give us today and route they call it you went home.

00:38:06 Speaker 1

And then when you got home, you had 10 days there and then you had to go and we had to go back to.

00:38:10 Speaker 1

Louis catch a train and we went to Fort Meade, MD, and into Cape Cilba and Camp Kilmer was where we shipped out from to go see.

00:38:22 Speaker 1

We were in a George Washington ship.

00:38:28 Speaker 1

That's a big transport troop transport ship.

00:38:33 Speaker 3

Is there anyone important event that you want to tell us about something you think is for young people to know?

00:38:44

I.

00:38:51 Speaker 1

Hello.

00:38:53 Speaker 1

I think everybody didn't like Patton the general over.

00:39:14 Speaker 3

Repeat that question.

00:39:19 Speaker 3

Is there anyone important event that you want to tell us about something you think is important for us young?

00:39:25 Speaker 3

To know.

00:39:29 Speaker 1

Well.

00:39:34 Speaker 1

I'll talk to military is all right in peacetime.

00:39:39 Speaker 1

So I think it would be good for everybody if they had some experience in the military.

00:39:47 Speaker 1

But war time, I wouldn't recommend it at all.



00:39:59 Speaker 1

One good thing about the military was discipline, you know.

00:40:06 Speaker 1

According to what I hear now is different than what we had.

00:40:12 Speaker 1

They were pretty strict on us.

00:40:14 Speaker 1

Had.

00:40:16 Speaker 1

Who regulations yet go by and who had the?

00:40:22 Speaker 1

No certain thing for you. Even gotta pass to go out, like doing training.

00:40:30 Speaker 1

And they did inspect your uniform and everything.

00:40:35 Speaker 1

Pull you out.

00:40:37 Speaker 1

And then during wartime.

00:40:39 Speaker 1

You could get off the base.

00:40:43 Speaker 1

Very.

00:40:44 Speaker 1

And now not that way.

00:40:47 Speaker 1

The glare, screen, clothes or whatever you want. But what time you got to wear the uniform?

00:41:00

You.

00:41:02 Speaker 3

Said something about General Patton.

00:41:04 Speaker 3

Can you restate that?

00:41:07 Speaker 2

For what you said, something about General Patton.

00:41:10 Speaker 1

Hello.

00:41:11 Speaker 2

Can you restate that?

00:41:17 Speaker 1

So like.

00:41:20 Speaker 1

They didn't like Patton because he.

00:41:22

Was.

00:41:22 Speaker 1

He pushed the troops and well, that's what you got to do.

00:41:26 Speaker 1

Then later on, while everybody felt pretty well off it, you know, they.

00:41:31 Speaker 1

They thought, well, he's a good journal.

00:41:34 Speaker 1

I think I saw him one time, somebody said he.

00:41:40 Speaker 1

Riding a Jeep, somebody said.

00:41:44 Speaker 1

Peggle General Patton well, you know then.

00:41:48 Speaker 1

We can take what you know think much about. He's just a general class, nothing special.

00:41:55 Speaker 3

Did you ever get to meet him in person?

00:41:57 Speaker 1

You know what?

00:41:59 Speaker 2

Did you ever get to meet him? No.

00:42:10 Speaker 3

Have you ever met General Eisenhower?

00:42:18 Speaker 1

I remember seeing him.

00:42:20 Speaker 1

I just noticed President made President later on after.

00:42:27 Speaker 1

After the war.

00:42:34 Speaker 3

All right, we're going to.

00:42:37 Speaker 3

Do you have any comments that you'd like to make before we end?

00:42:44 Speaker 1

Well.

00:42:47 Speaker 1

Comment about the war.

00:42:51 Speaker 1

I think we all both waited too late to get into it.

00:42:55 Speaker 1

That's what I think and could have been a you maybe another six months.

00:43:01 Speaker 1

A year?

00:43:04 Speaker 1

We had all been speaking German.

00:43:08

I.

00:43:13 Speaker 3

Well, thank you for this interview and.

00:43:23 Speaker 1

Of staff Sergeant Gene Hopkins 37641237.

00:43:29 Speaker 1

And.

00:43:31 Speaker 1

What else?

00:43:33 Speaker 2

So they will give you.