## Virgil K. Leach Interview

Company I, 318th Inf Reg

(Library of Congress: Veterans History Project; interviewed by William L. Dunsmore)

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

00:00:15 Speaker 1

Good.

00:00:15 Speaker 1

This is Monday the 9th of November 2009, with the Northern Arizona VA Medical Center in Prescott, AZ.

00:00:24 Speaker 1

My name is William Dunsmore. I'm the interviewer.

00:00:27 Speaker 1

We also have.

00:00:28

Jane channel horn.

00:00:29 Speaker 1

Camera.

00:00:30 Speaker 1

Gary gift observer.

00:00:32 Speaker 1

Wally Gilbert, observer.

00:00:34 Speaker 1

Bill Morrison monitor.

00:00:36 Speaker 2

Ron Johnson, observer.

00:00:38 Speaker 1

We have the pleasure of interviewing.

00:00:41 Speaker 1

Virgil Leach and Virgil you are in World War 2.

00:00:47 Speaker 1

Over in Europe and where, where and when were you born? 00:00:51 Speaker 3 I was born in Gratia County, Michigan. 00:00:58 Speaker 3 Ignore. 00:00:58 Speaker 1 Yeah, when we born. 00:01:01 Speaker 3 By date, July 17th, 1926. 00:01:07 Mm. 00:01:09 Speaker 3 Up. 00:01:11 Speaker 1 You're born on a farm. 00:01:12 Speaker 3 Out of five, I was. 00:01:17 Speaker 3 Drafted at 18. 00:01:20 The. 00:01:25 Speaker 3 They let they all walk enough to harvest crowds. 00:01:30 Speaker 3 And. 00:01:31 Speaker 1 What kind of farm did you work on? 00:01:36 Speaker 1 Dairy farmers.

00:01:37 Speaker 3 Everything had. 00:01:41 Speaker 3 The hogs and cattle and. 00:01:46 Speaker 3 Worked with horseshoes. 00:01:51 Speaker 3 No. 00:01:55 Speaker 3 Raised a lot of checks. 00:01:58 Speaker 1 So you had to register for the draft, then they got, then you got a draft notice. 00:02:04 Speaker 3 And I went. 00:02:07 Speaker 3 I went over. 00:02:13 Speaker 3 I went to Fort Sheridan. 00:02:17 Speaker 3 Held it. 00:02:17 Speaker 3 So I had that. 00:02:20 Speaker 1 This is in September of 1944. 00:02:23 Speaker 3 222. 00:02:26 Speaker 3 Oh. 00:02:28 Speaker 3

To have Robinson, Arkansas. 00:02:38 Speaker 3 The Battle of the Bulge got the worst. 00:02:43 Speaker 3 So they. 00:02:46 Speaker 3 They shipped us out earlier. 00:02:50 Speaker 1 Kind of training were you getting? 00:02:55 Speaker 3 We were a dozen of us, was taken the electrical generator. 00:03:04 Speaker 3 Even though it never appeared on my. 00:03:09 Speaker 3 Records. 00:03:12 Speaker 3 It it helped me later. 00:03:23 Speaker 3 I went home for three days. 00:03:30 Speaker 3 That went to New York. 00:03:36 Speaker 3 We went on board the. 00:03:40 Speaker 3 Louis posture. 00:03:45 Speaker 3 It was an old French lighter. 00:03:50 Speaker 3 We went alone.

00:03:54 Speaker 3

Because it was a bigger ship.

00:03:58 Speaker 3

It was faster.

00:04:06 Speaker 3

March, the North Atlantic was.

00:04:11 Speaker 3

Quite a rough.

00:04:12 Speaker 3

Well, they were sure, right.

00:04:15 Speaker 3

That big thing?

00:04:20 Speaker 3

That was awful.

00:04:25 Speaker 3

We were out.

00:04:28 Speaker 3

Off the coast of Scotland.

00:04:34 Speaker 3

And it was at night.

00:04:35 Speaker 3

They shared through a depth charges.

00:04:39 Speaker 3

And a death charge even made that big ship Joe.

00:04:47 Speaker 3

I was so far down in that ship.

00:04:51 Speaker 3

And affair to God hip.

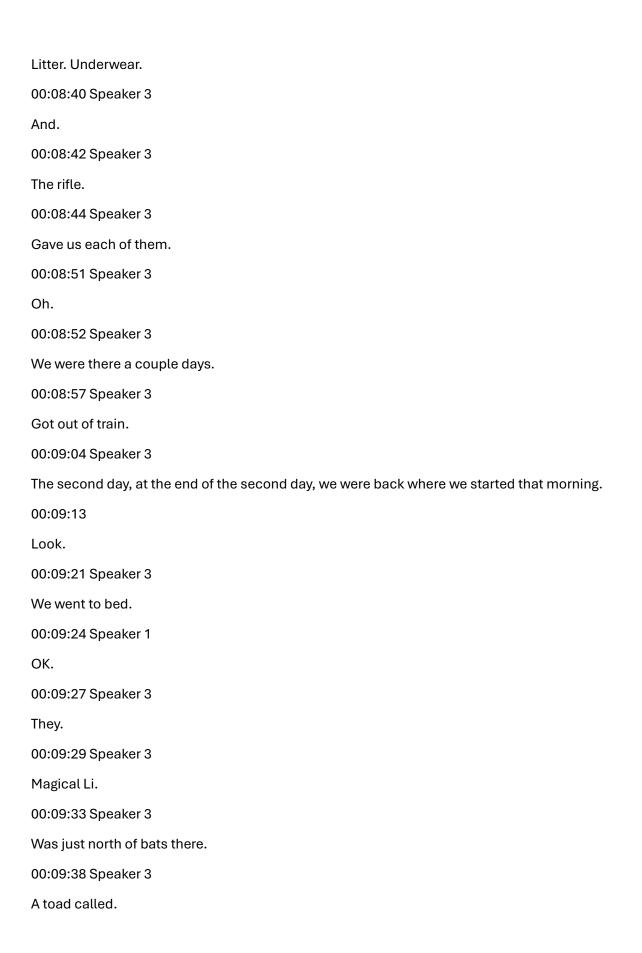
00:04:54 Speaker 3

I don't think I could have got. 00:04:56 Speaker 3 Of there. 00:04:58 Speaker 3 'Cause it was. 00:05:00 Speaker 3 It was an old old ship. 00:05:04 Speaker 3 The stairways were Daryl and there was a lot of bed, all that \*\*\*\*. 00:05:11 Speaker 1 You know how many people were on that ship? 00:05:13 Speaker 1 No idea, OK. 00:05:14 Speaker 3 Dealt with or idea it was made by English crew but. 00:05:21 Speaker 3 They're not the best cooks. 00:05:26 Speaker 3 A. 00:05:31 Speaker 3 The next morning there was. 00:05:34 Speaker 3 There was a half a dozen Davy vehicles were swinging in around us. 00:05:42 Speaker 3 And. 00:05:44 Speaker 3 So that shove lost a bed right there. 00:05:48 Speaker 1 So they're convoy, you end.

00:05:50 Speaker 1 They did a convoy with you in. 00:05:52 Speaker 3 Oh, don't talk, boy. We were alone. 00:05:54 Speaker 1 Yeah, but when in the next morning and the Navy ships came in? 00:05:57 Speaker 3 Well, they were Davey destroyers. 00:06:06 Speaker 3 Oh. 00:06:09 Speaker 3 They were. 00:06:12 Speaker 3 Hello. 00:06:15 Speaker 3 I don't know what some of the Navy ships were, but there was. There was a half a dozen. 00:06:20 Speaker 1 OK. 00:06:23 Speaker 3 That we landed. 00:06:29 Speaker 1 Where did you land? 00:06:31 Speaker 3 Did scoutlet. 00:06:32 Speaker 1 In Scotland, OK. 00:06:34 Speaker 3 And that night. 00:06:39 Speaker 3

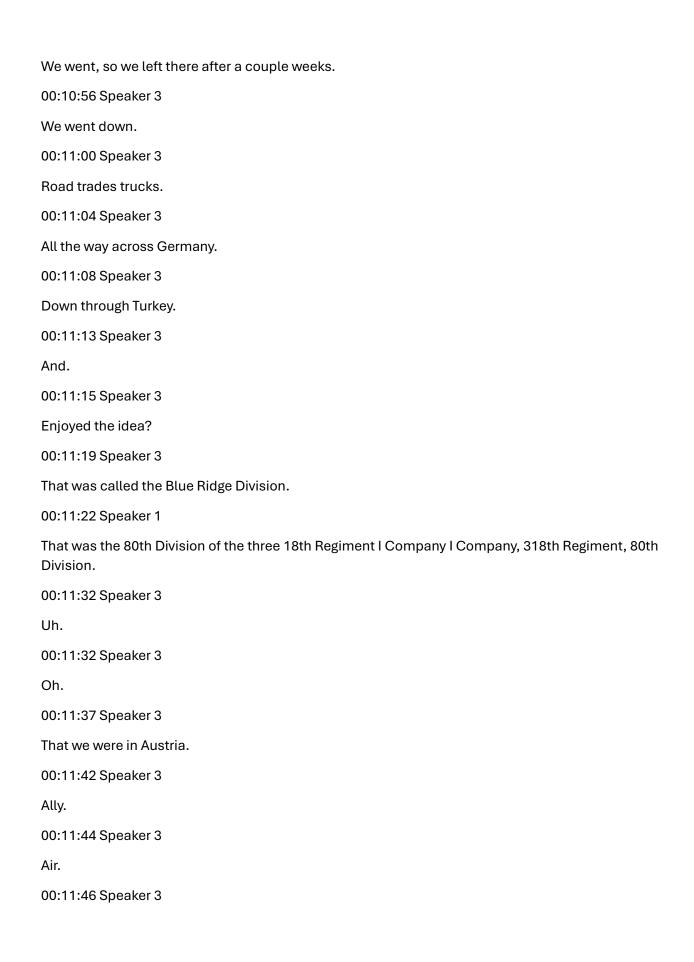
Are we that road a tray down to?
00:06:45 Speaker 3
Southampton, England.
00:06:49 Speaker 3
And we borrowed a dog.
00:06:55 Speaker 3
Lci or.
00:06:58 Speaker 3
I don't know. It was one that.
00:07:01 Speaker 3
The ladders in the front let down or the steps.
00:07:08 Speaker 3
And that was in Lahar.
00:07:17 Speaker 3
They are.
00:07:20
Oh.
00:07:24 Speaker 3
Rub the nose the ship right up by the shore.
00:07:29
There.
00:07:30 Speaker 1
Like a landing craft game up there. Yeah, OK.
00:07:32
Yeah.
00:07:38 Speaker 3
Said OK.
00:07:40 Speaker 3
The first guy down.

00:07:44 Speaker 3 He yelled something about it being deep, they said. 00:07:48 Speaker 3 Off he went down and he disappeared. 00:07:52 Speaker 3 He comes back. 00:07:55 Speaker 3 That water was awful. 00:07:59 Speaker 3 And. 00:08:04 Speaker 3 That way marched up that Long Hill out of lahar there. 00:08:10 Yeah. 00:08:12 Speaker 3 Add to a calend. 00:08:16 Speaker 3 They took away part of our. 00:08:23 Speaker 3 We had barracks, bags and. 00:08:27 Uh. 00:08:29 Speaker 3 We had everything. 00:08:32 Speaker 3 Boots. Overcoats. 00:08:33 Yeah. 00:08:35 Speaker 3



00:09:42 Speaker 3 Fiat bill or something like that. 00:09:47 Speaker 3 And we. 00:09:49 Speaker 3 Another guy and I. 00:09:53 Speaker 3 We took off that dust afternoon to see. 00:09:57 Speaker 3 Look over that magical night. 00:10:03 Speaker 3 We found the door that was open. We went down in. 00:10:10 Speaker 3 That our flashlight started to give out. 00:10:16 Speaker 3 So we followed the steps going out, but that door was locked. 00:10:21 Speaker 3 We had to go back down to find our way out. The way we went in. 00:10:30 Speaker 3 It smelled all right down there. It was clean. 00:10:36 Speaker 3 No. 00:10:38 Speaker 3 But it was different, I'll tell you. 00:10:42 Speaker 3 Dead. 00:10:45 Speaker 3

00:10:48 Speaker 3



The army had put barbed wire around it. 00:11:51 Speaker 3 Remnants of the German army was covered in. 00:11:59 Speaker 3 Given up. 00:12:06 Speaker 3 They were mustering out the German army there. 00:12:19 Speaker 3 I was. 00:12:23 Speaker 3 High operated a generator for Todd Dice. 00:12:28 Speaker 3 The. 00:12:33 Speaker 3 That generator had. 00:12:37 Speaker 3 Had. 00:12:39 Speaker 3 A Buick. 00:12:41 Speaker 3 Straight edge. 00:12:44 Speaker 3 Was still painted white blue. 00:12:53 Speaker 3 After the war, I had. 00:12:56 Speaker 3 Old Buick that had that same as. 00:13:01 Oh.

00:13:04 Speaker 1

You're supplying electricity and lighting to to the.

00:13:10 Speaker 3

They had lights around.

00:13:12 Speaker 1

The barbed wire and the yeah.

00:13:20 Speaker 3

Dead.

00:13:22 Speaker 1

Did you encounter any of the Germans at all?

00:13:25 Speaker 1

Any interaction with the prisoners or the.

00:13:30 Speaker 3

Well, they were on the road when I when I.

00:13:35 Speaker 3

I joined the the 80th. The Germans were on the road.

00:13:42 Speaker 3

And.

00:13:45 Speaker 3

Oh.

00:13:48 Speaker 3

We get in or get.

00:13:52 Speaker 3

Deer, cow and.

00:13:54 Speaker 3

If there was one shot fired.

00:13:58 Speaker 3

Well, the takers would take care of that.

00:14:02 Speaker 3

He'd blow that. 00:14:06 Speaker 3 Staple off. That's where the out shoot observation was from. 00:14:15 Speaker 3 And. 00:14:23 Speaker 3 But I walked all day and. 00:14:28 Speaker 3 Did do to the outfit. 00:14:31 Speaker 3 I got the guard duty annoyed. 00:14:36 Speaker 3 Lotteries, IA lot of days. I didn't sleep at all. 00:14:42 Speaker 3 Uh. 00:14:44 Speaker 3 What diet I was on? 00:14:49 Speaker 3 Or. 00:14:50 Speaker 3 Was guarding the. 00:14:53 Speaker 3 Gasoline Dome. 00:14:58 Speaker 3 They had barrels. 00:15:01 Speaker 3 They'd uh. 00:15:05 Speaker 3 The quartermaster would haul up barrels of gas for the.

00:15:12 Speaker 3

Deposit. Tell them they had guards. They had to guard them.

00:15:21 Speaker 3

I was standing by.

00:15:25 Speaker 3

Barrel.

00:15:28 Speaker 3

That was empty.

00:15:30 Speaker 3

Well, the days were warm.

00:15:33 Speaker 3

The nights were cold.

00:15:39 Speaker 3

I was standing there about half asleep and that barrel went boring.

00:15:45 Speaker 3

Like the jump right out of my skin.

00:15:49 Speaker 3

818 years old.

00:15:58 Speaker 3

But it was interesting, rusty.

00:16:06 Speaker 1

Were you involved in any firefighting at all?

00:16:09 Speaker 1

Any.

00:16:09 Speaker 3

Well, I heard shots fired, but.

00:16:13 Speaker 3

There wasn't any.

00:16:14 Speaker 3

To be.
00:16:15
OK.
00:16:15 Speaker 3
I shot some but I don't think I had anybody.
00:16:20 Speaker 3
I hope.
00:16:23
Uh.
00:16:28 Speaker 3
Usually.
00:16:30 Speaker 3
Read. Go ahead one side of town today. They'd go out the other.
00:16:37 Speaker 3
So.
00:16:37 Speaker 1
You're helping clearing the towns and as you move, kept pushing them back.
00:16:43
OK.
00:16:44 Speaker 3
All.
00:16:46 Speaker 3
Dead. We heard that.
00:16:51 Speaker 3
Roosevelt had died.
00:16:56 Speaker 3
And.
00:16:56
Hmm.

00:17:00 Speaker 3

Then we added up and.

00:17:03 Speaker 3

In Austria.

00:17:06 Speaker 1

Where in Austria?

00:17:08 Speaker 1

Remember where in Austria?

00:17:11 Speaker 3

Well, III thought I remembered the town.

00:17:16 Speaker 3

But I was back over there.

00:17:22 Speaker 3

Uh.

00:17:23 Speaker 3

Some people from Sperry where I worked.

00:17:28 Speaker 3

And.

00:17:30 Speaker 3

One couple from where we live you.

00:17:34 Speaker 3

I lived in cordless lakes.

00:17:38 Speaker 3

We went back what the European Tour of bus tour.

00:17:45 Speaker 3

And I tried.

00:17:48 Speaker 3

To find that on a map, I thought it was BIOS version.

00:17:55 Speaker 3

But we couldn't find it.

00:18:04 Speaker 3

That's a mistake I made go about the bus tour I did over there and find out that I could.

00:18:12 Speaker 3

I could have gone alone.

00:18:20 Speaker 3

Rented a car. The wet where I wanted.

00:18:26

Uh.

00:18:28 Speaker 3

Lot of interesting places that I wanted to go back to.

00:18:35 Speaker 1

Well, can we go back to 1945 when you're over there?

00:18:39 Speaker 1

And tell me more of your experiences.

00:18:42 Speaker 3

What? We went back.

00:18:44 Speaker 1

The first time when you were in there in the war, right after the war.

00:18:53 Speaker 3

Well, the 80th moved around so.

00:18:57 Speaker 3

We moved.

00:19:03 Speaker 3

It was called the Hitler School.

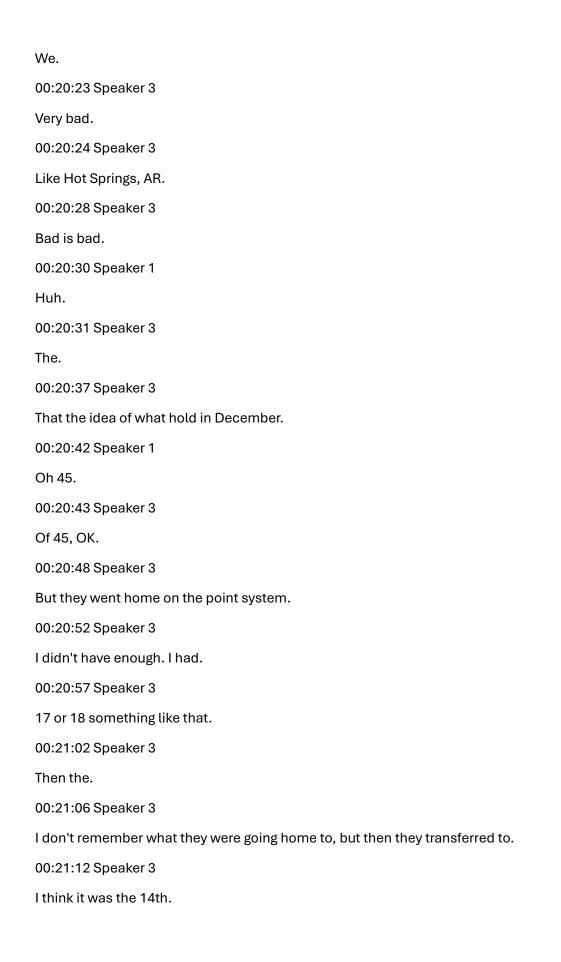
00:19:07 Speaker 3

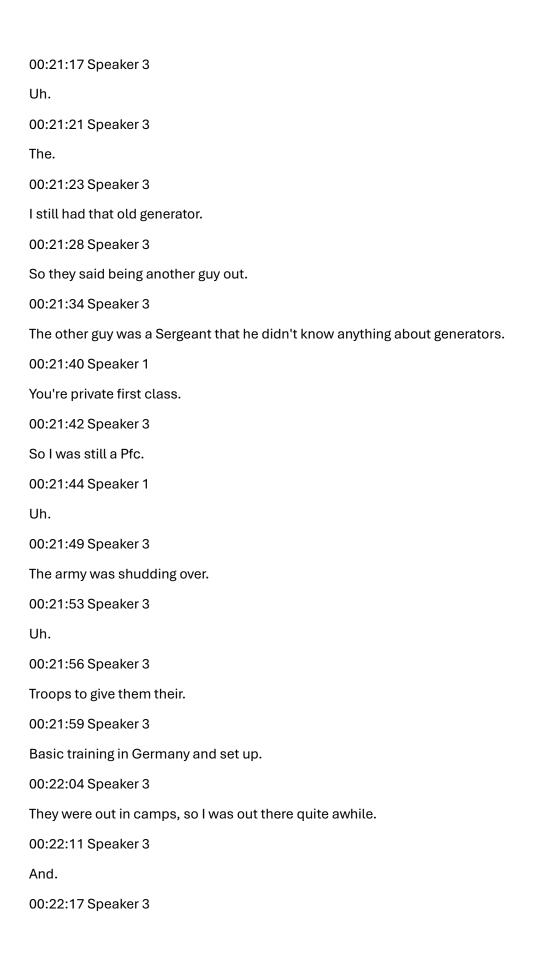
In the Ouch.

00:19:11 Speaker 3

Wonderful build.

00:19:14 Speaker 3
Beautiful.
00:19:17 Speaker 3
Oh.
00:19:20 Speaker 3
We were there for.
00:19:24
Oh.
00:19:28 Speaker 3
I'd say better than both.
00:19:29 Speaker 1
You remember where that was at?
00:19:32 Speaker 1
Where?
00:19:42 Speaker 3
Shod hopefully I thought it was.
00:19:49 Speaker 3
That.
00:19:54 Speaker 3
The 80th went to Czechoslovakia.
00:19:59 Speaker 3
The 388 dead.
00:20:03 Speaker 3
The way we're.
00:20:08 Speaker 3
Very Edge key Lorenz.
00:20:13 Speaker 3
And.
00:20:18





Then I went from there to a castle where a general was living. 00:22:26 Speaker 3 His grandsons were his guards. 00:22:34 Speaker 3 Lavish weather. 00:22:38 Go on. 00:22:40 Speaker 3 So that loud mouth, Sergeant. 00:22:45 Speaker 3 He didn't know that. 00:22:47 Speaker 3 The guards were the grandsons of the general. 00:22:53 Speaker 3 He shot his mouth off and we lost that job. 00:23:03 Speaker 3 So that. 00:23:07 Speaker 3 Was playing basketball. 00:23:12 Speaker 3 With the. 00:23:15 Speaker 3 Guys from Audra. 00:23:18 Speaker 3 United Relief and rehabilitation. 00:23:24 Speaker 3 Oh. 00:23:27 Speaker 3 So I was with them.

00:23:31 Speaker 3

Well, we played a couple of.

00:23:37 Speaker 3

Couple of teams, black guys from the present.

00:23:41 Speaker 3

So we quit playing basketball.

00:23:45 Speaker 3

Them guys made us look.

00:23:47 Speaker 3

Dollar 98.

00:23:54

So.

00:23:58 Speaker 3

I finally had her dog poached to come home.

00:24:01 Speaker 3

I did.

00:24:04 Speaker 1

Let's go.

00:24:05 Speaker 1

A few your pictures that you have here.

00:24:08 Speaker 1

Point to the first one up there. Review. That's you, right?

00:24:12 Speaker 3

Well, I'm not sure about this one.

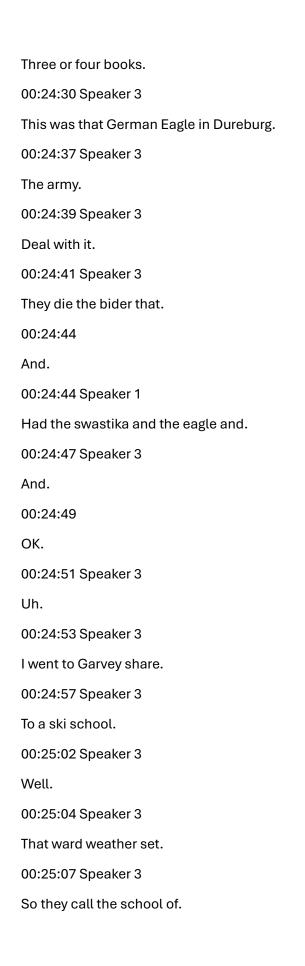
00:24:16 Speaker 3

Where that was.

00:24:19 Speaker 3

But I think it was within the 1st.

00:24:27 Speaker 3

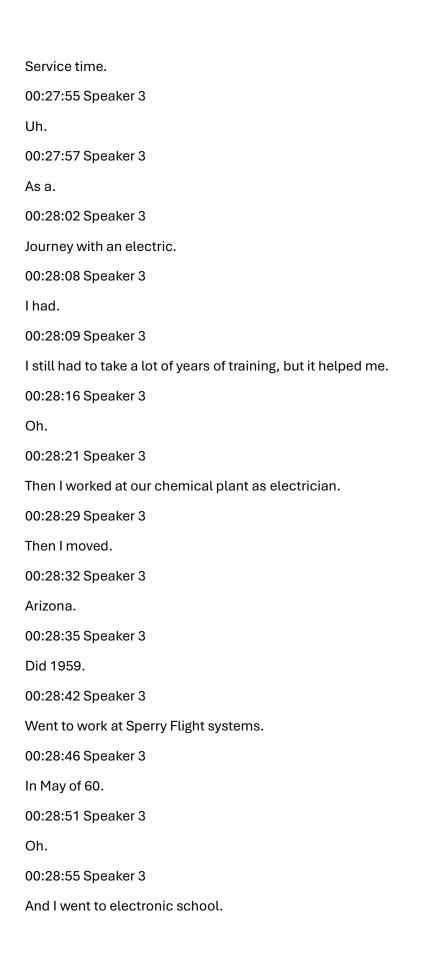


00:25:11 Speaker 3 This was the. 00:25:16 Speaker 3 The camp where the German army was given up. 00:25:23 Speaker 3 We were heading out Kay. Russians by the. 00:25:28 Speaker 1 Cases. 00:25:29 Speaker 3 Actual. 00:25:31 Speaker 1 Yeah, they had. 00:25:32 Speaker 1 The barbed wire around it and. 00:25:36 Speaker 3 lt. 00:25:39 Speaker 3 Lot of times at night you'd hear rifle shots you would hear. 00:25:45 Speaker 3 Shot, you'd hear 8 and there's some guy yelling. 00:25:50 Speaker 3 Sergeant of the guard. 00:25:54 Speaker 3 They go out, they find a cow reduction warning. 00:25:59 And. 00:26:02 Speaker 3 Uh. 00:26:04 Speaker 1

About the middle pictures there. 00:26:06 Speaker 3 This is the railroad going up to the. 00:26:11 Speaker 3 Peptic it was a card railroad. 00:26:16 Run. 00:26:16 Speaker 3 That was that was up there. 00:26:21 Speaker 3 And. 00:26:28 Speaker 1 Where to get on that railroad going up? 00:26:31 Speaker 1 You ever get on the rail train going up there? 00:26:34 Speaker 3 Yeah, I was out of Detroit, OK. 00:26:35 Speaker 1 OK. 00:26:39 Speaker 3 A part of it was underground. 00:26:42 Speaker 1 Tunnels, yeah. 00:26:46 Speaker 3 But what a beautiful place. 00:26:57 Speaker 3 I came home. 00:27:01 Speaker 3 Went back to school.

00:27:06 Speaker 1 You get out of service, you get out of service. 00:27:11 Speaker 1 That was an August of 46. 00:27:14 And. 00:27:16 Speaker 1 Where'd you go to school? 00:27:19 Speaker 1 Did you go to school? 00:27:20 Speaker 3 So I went to. 00:27:24 Speaker 3 Electrical school. 00:27:28 Speaker 3 At Willow Rd. 00:27:31 Speaker 3 OK. 00:27:31 Speaker 1 OK. 00:27:34 Speaker 3 And I was working at the Pontiac Boulders. 00:27:42 Speaker 3 Try to get. 00:27:45 Speaker 3 I was able to count by. 00:27:49 Speaker 3 Most of my.

00:27:52 Speaker 3

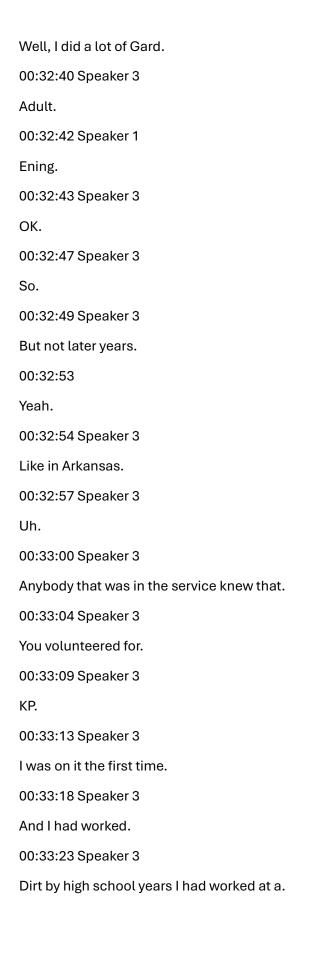




A little bit about. 00:29:57 Speaker 3 Bowl. 00:30:02 Speaker 3 Then I retired. 00:30:05 Speaker 3 Did 80 shovel. 00:30:08 Speaker 3 Moved to cordless legs. 00:30:11 Speaker 1 In Arizona, yeah. 00:30:20 Speaker 3 I I've enjoyed time sleeps. 00:30:24 Speaker 3 And I move it right away to. 00:30:28 Speaker 3 Assisted living. 00:30:31 Speaker 3 Here in Prescott. 00:30:32 Speaker 1 OK, we married we ever married. 00:30:35 Speaker 3 I was married. 00:30:36 Speaker 1 How did you meet your wife? 00:30:40 Speaker 3 33 years. 00:30:42 Speaker 1 Wow. What was her name?

00:30:45 Speaker 3 That build redevelopment. 00:30:47 Speaker 1 Meet her. 00:30:49 Speaker 1 How did you meet her? 00:30:50 Speaker 3 How? 00:30:53 Speaker 3 At a dance. 00:30:55 Speaker 3 You've all heard of Little Jimmy Dickens. 00:30:59 Speaker 3 Well, he was. He was at. 00:31:06 Speaker 3 Uh. 00:31:08 Speaker 3 That checked American club. 00:31:12 Speaker 3 Outside of Alba, MI. 00:31:16 Speaker 3 That he was there. 00:31:20 Speaker 3 Actuary that my wife. 00:31:25 Speaker 1 How many children do you have any children? 00:31:26 Who? 00:31:28 Speaker 3

That two. I got a daughter. 00:31:32 Speaker 3 Did did popped wood and what did Chado valley? 00:31:38 OK. 00:31:42 Speaker 3 There. 00:31:44 Speaker 3 Both good hard work and girls. I'm proud of them. 00:32:00 Speaker 3 I still pay support to my wife. 00:32:04 Speaker 3 After 28 years. 00:32:09 Speaker 3 ls. 00:32:14 Speaker 3 But I've been lucky. 00:32:16 Speaker 3 I've been lucky in life. 00:32:20 Speaker 3 The other. 00:32:21 Speaker 3 Other. 00:32:25 Speaker 1 Did you learn? Besides the electrician work over there and working with generators? What else did you do when in the army? 00:32:33 Speaker 3 What did I do? 00:32:38 Speaker 3



00:33:28 Speaker 3 Swift and company. 00:33:32 Speaker 3 Plants in Alba, MI. 00:33:37 Speaker 3 During the war you could get all the time you wanted, but. 00:33:42 Speaker 3 \$0.19 an hour. 00:33:47 Speaker 3 So I. 00:33:50 Speaker 3 I'd go up at work and to play it. 00:33:55 Speaker 3 The. 00:33:58 So. 00:34:01 Speaker 3 What butcher? 00:34:02 Speaker 1 A butchering, OK. 00:34:04 Speaker 3 Butcher a chicken duck. 00:34:11 Speaker 3 Naked butter. 00:34:14 Speaker 3 So what I was down in Arkansas and I went on KP. 00:34:22 Uh. 00:34:25 Speaker 3

They put they are the. 00:34:28 Speaker 3 Garbage detail the first time. 00:34:33 Speaker 3 Well. 00:34:35 Speaker 3 Oh. 00:34:39 Speaker 3 What are the trips I made in back in Ketchu by? 00:34:45 Speaker 3 They had a young kid, well, 18. 00:34:49 Yeah. 00:34:51 Speaker 3 And he cupped up chickens. 00:34:57 Speaker 3 Deb cooks show sure given have the hard time. 00:35:02 Speaker 3 The guy had never. 00:35:05 Speaker 3 Never cut up a chicken or never got a sandwich or. 00:35:11 Speaker 3 Anything you know? 00:35:15 Speaker 3 So all the way out, I happen to grid her smile. 00:35:20 Speaker 3 Did one of the cookie. 00:35:24 Speaker 3 He let out a hell.

00:35:28 Speaker 3

If you think it's so funny, get over here.

00:35:32 Speaker 3

Hey I showed the guys how to cut check out.

00:35:37 Speaker 3

Their their cooks, the Shriner out there.

00:35:43 Speaker 3

And they wanted to know my day.

00:35:46

Yeah, yeah.

00:35:46 Speaker 3

So the rest of the time I was.

00:35:50 Speaker 3

At Arkansas.

00:35:54 Speaker 3

I do what my job of KP was.

00:35:59 Speaker 3

Chip stuff.

00:36:01 Speaker 3

Cutting up turkeys? Ducks.

00:36:06

Check out.

00:36:13 Speaker 3

I don't know.

00:36:13 Speaker 3

I learned a lot of things.

00:36:17 Speaker 3

I think it was good for me. Good.

00:36:28 Speaker 3

No.
00:36:31 Speaker 3
Robbed here and I.
00:36:35 Speaker 3
Rod got an idea and start.
00:36:40 Speaker 3
Collegiate here at Carnegie.
00:36:45 Speaker 1
American Legion.
00:36:49 Speaker 3
I was one of his.
00:36:53
Turn.
00:36:56 Speaker 2
Chicken cut.
00:36:56 Speaker 1
Charlie Cray rippers OK.
00:37:00 Speaker 3
Anyway.
00:37:03 Speaker 3
I can't remember what I held what I was.
00:37:07 Speaker 3
Vaish commanded.
00:37:09 Speaker 3
Something.
00:37:11 Speaker 3
The first.
00:37:12 Speaker 2
1st vice commander.

00:37:14 Speaker 3 And charter member. 00:37:17 Mm. 00:37:18 Speaker 3 Then what I the service officer. 00:37:24 Speaker 3 Was handed out. 00:37:28 Speaker 3 Applications for VA hospital cards. 00:37:34 Speaker 3 Oh. 00:37:36 Speaker 3 I had never been there. 00:37:40 Speaker 3 Of the a hospital. 00:37:43 Or. 00:37:44 Speaker 3 Even though I. 00:37:47 Speaker 3 So. 00:37:51 Speaker 3 I well, I had been here to visit. 00:37:53 Speaker 3 A couple times. 00:37:58 Speaker 3 But I made that application out that was handed me a. 00:38:03 Speaker 3

Gene. 00:38:05 Speaker 3 00:38:09 Speaker 2 Yes, Gene is a service officer. 00:38:11 Speaker 3 Dated out shattered in. 00:38:15 Speaker 3 Uh. 00:38:18 Speaker 3 That's one of the luckiest days, right? 00:38:22 Speaker 2 May I say something? When we first gave him the application to fill out, he says I didn't do nothing to war to deserve that. 00:38:22 Speaker 1 Sure. Please. 00:38:31 Speaker 2 And we had a heck of a time to convince him that. 00:38:35 Speaker 2 You did what you were supposed to. 00:38:38 Speaker 2 And whether it was four years, two years or no years, you still deserved since you were honorably discharged. 00:38:47 Speaker 2 To come to the VA and. 00:38:49 Speaker 2 Take part in their benefits.

00:38:52 Speaker 1

Very good.

00:38:55 Speaker 2

Where Equiton convinced him because he's very stubborn. 00:38:57 Speaker 1 Yeah. 00:39:00 Yeah. 00:39:01 Speaker 1 Virgil, where were you at the end of the war when you heard that? 00:39:05 Speaker 1 War was over there in Europe. 00:39:07 Speaker 1 Where were you actually at? 00:39:12 Speaker 3 After the war, no. 00:39:14 Speaker 1 When when you heard the war is over, where were you? 00:39:18 Speaker 3 We were. 00:39:21 Speaker 3 While they were still running that barbed wire around that airfield, when we got there at the war just ended. 00:39:29 Speaker 1 You heard that the war is over, right? 00:39:32 Speaker 1 What was your first impression? 00:39:37 Speaker 3 Well, I don't know. I think we. 00:39:43 Speaker 3 We've been expecting it for quite a while. 00:39:49 Speaker 3

Oh.

00:39:53 Speaker 3

But the way we did.

00:40:01 Speaker 3

We were just glad it was over, that's all.

00:40:04 Speaker 1

Did anybody have a celebration or anything?

00:40:07 Speaker 3

Oh yeah, somebody.

00:40:10 Speaker 3

Raider, the place in town. You got a keg of beers.

00:40:16 Speaker 3

We have celebration.

00:40:17 Speaker 1

And this was in Germany itself, right?

00:40:20 Speaker 1

This was in Germany.

00:40:22 Speaker 3

They'll be Austria.

00:40:23 Speaker 1

In Austria at that time, OK.

00:40:28 Speaker 1

The only bite you're coming home?

00:40:30 Speaker 1

How did you get home from, from, from Czechoslovakia?

00:40:34 Speaker 1

You went went from.

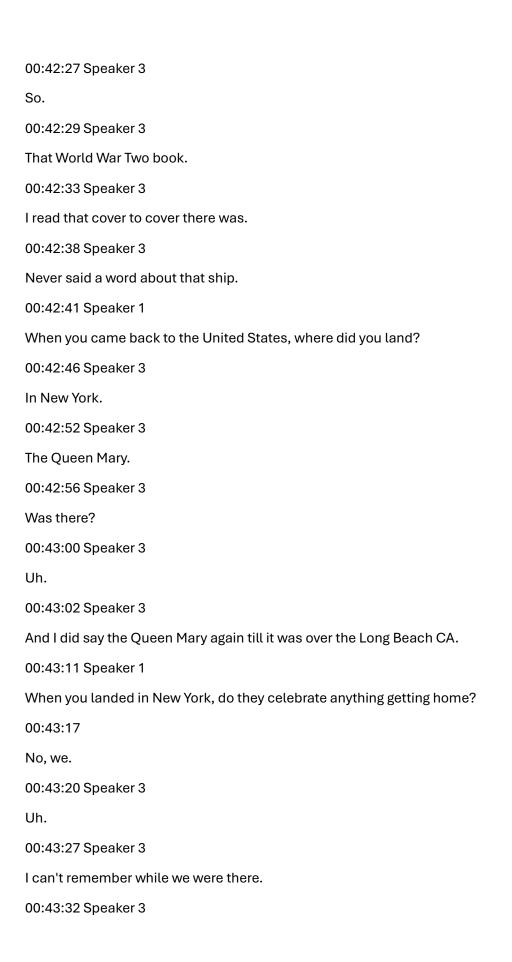
00:40:36 Speaker 1

From Germany into Austria, into Czechoslovakia, you said.

00:40:40 Speaker 1 Then you came home. 00:40:42 Speaker 1 Tell me about your coming home. 00:40:44 Speaker 3 Well, rode a trade up to. 00:40:52 Speaker 3 The sheep are not the nor sheep. 00:41:00 Speaker 3 I can't think. 00:41:01 Speaker 1 OK, Antwerp. 00:41:04 Speaker 1 Antwerp. 00:41:10 Well. 00:41:16 Speaker 3 That we are only there one day will be caught a ship. 00:41:22 Speaker 3 She came home. It was. 00:41:26 Speaker 1 Tell me about that ship. 00:41:27 Speaker 3 It was the victory ship. 00:41:29 Speaker 1 OK. 00:41:31 Speaker 3 I can't remember the day.

00:41:32 Speaker 1

That's OK. 00:41:34 Speaker 1 Remember how many folk? How many? 00:41:37 Speaker 1 U.S. military was. 00:41:38 Speaker 1 lt. 00:41:38 Speaker 3 Yeah, the thing was loaded with. 00:41:43 Speaker 3 Military. 00:41:45 Speaker 1 Hundreds. Thousands. 00:41:49 Speaker 3 The party was at least 1000 long. 00:41:53 Speaker 1 So coming back across Atlantic, how long did that take you remember? 00:41:58 Speaker 1 Approximately. 00:41:59 Speaker 3 Well longer than going over. 00:42:03 Speaker 1 We didn't have the submarines, the Wolf Pack, EU boats to contend with this time. 00:42:12 Speaker 3 I I tried to find out after the war what happened to the that. 00:42:20 Speaker 3 Old, old French. Lighter but. 00:42:24 Speaker 3 Even that.



A while. 00:43:34 Speaker 3 Couple days anyway. 00:43:37 Speaker 3 Then we caught a trade. 00:43:39 Speaker 1 When you came into the sea into the harbor there, did you get a chance to see the Statue of Liberty? 00:43:44 Speaker 3 Yeah, we see the Statue of Liberty. 00:43:46 Speaker 1 What was your? What was your feelings? 00:43:54 Speaker 3 I was very glad to get home, that's all. 00:43:57 Yeah. 00:43:59 Speaker 1 Get off that ship. 00:44:01 Speaker 3 It was. 00:44:10 Speaker 3 I don't. 00:44:10 Speaker 3 You see a lot of movies. 00:44:14 Speaker 3 I've seen a lot of movies and half the guys have got the towns and submachine gun. 00:44:22 Speaker 3 I never say the tops in shovel. 00:44:28 Speaker 3 I know will I join the idea?

00:44:32 Speaker 3

They took my my brand new air.

00:44:35 Speaker 3

They gave me an old beat up Brownie BIR.

00:44:42 Speaker 3

So glad I that should have very well.

00:44:48 Speaker 3

Could I never shave? Would.

00:44:51 Speaker 3

Call.

00:44:59 Speaker 3

The eye company was very good shape.

00:45:04 Speaker 3

It wasn't very many of them.

00:45:10 Speaker 3

The share yet?

00:45:15 Speaker 3

Call.

00:45:18 Speaker 3

But yet.

00:45:21 Speaker 3

History of World War 2.

00:45:25 Speaker 3

It never gave very much history of.

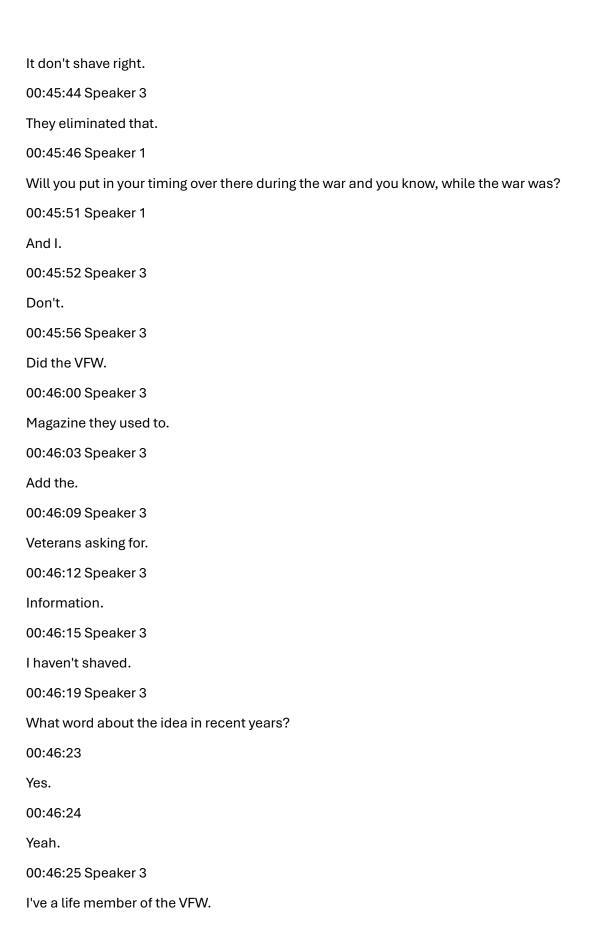
00:45:29 Speaker 3

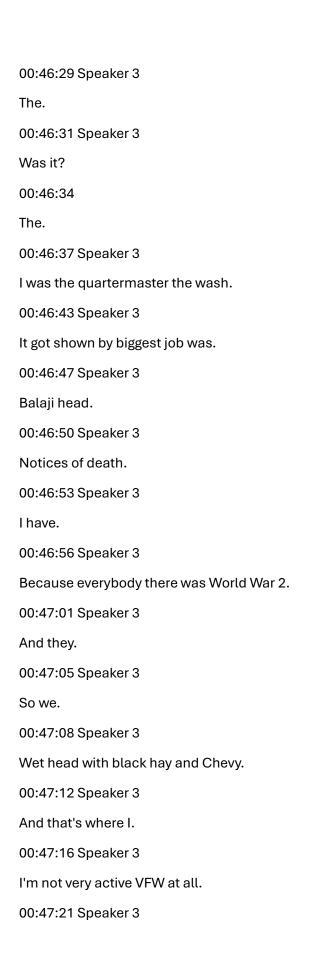
Of the idea.

00:45:32 Speaker 3

I don't know why.

00:45:39 Speaker 3





Well, I'm not too active with. 00:47:27 Speaker 3 And. 00:47:28 Speaker 1 How did you meet Ron? 00:47:30 Speaker 1 How did you meet him? 00:47:33 Speaker 3 I don't know. 00:47:36 Speaker 3 I had lived there. 00:47:39 Speaker 3 I had lived there since 80. 00:47:42 Speaker 3 Well, I built Daily Show. 00:47:44 Speaker 3 I retired Daily Show. 00:47:49 Speaker 3 And. 00:47:52 Speaker 3 I don't know. 00:47:53 Speaker 2 We met at association meeting. 00:47:57 Speaker 2 You were on the board. 00:47:58 Speaker 2 You were trying to get me to join. 00:48:02 Speaker 2 Association and.

00:48:05 Speaker 2 We became friends there after. 00:48:09 Speaker 3 Uh. 00:48:11 Speaker 3 I don't know. 00:48:14 Speaker 3 Back then. 00:48:17 Speaker 3 They were mostly older. 00:48:20 Speaker 3 They work together now. I think most of them were. 00:48:26 Speaker 3 Most everybody is got kids. 00:48:29 Speaker 3 They're raising families. 00:48:33 Speaker 3 We don't. 00:48:34 Speaker 3 So they don't do what they do. 00:48:38 Speaker 3 So I sold my house. 00:48:43 Speaker 3 Likewise, and I. 00:48:47 Speaker 3 Bought a trailer and I moved up to the. 00:48:52 Speaker 3 Uh. 00:48:56 Speaker 3

That corres Junction RV park. 00:49:01 Speaker 3 And for the lash. 00:49:03 Speaker 3 Year and a half I've lived in the motel room for. 00:49:11 Speaker 3 But the 20th time. 00:49:16 Speaker 3 And the 22nd. 00:49:19 Speaker 3 I'll be moving to Prescott. 00:49:21 Speaker 1 OK. Did you ever receive any medals or accommodations for your work over there? 00:49:30 Speaker 3 No 'cause. 00:49:34 Speaker 3 I did get a Battlestar because I was wasn't actually in a battle. 00:49:41 Speaker 3 They don't give battles for being down in a ship. 00:49:47 Speaker 1 Well, your. 00:49:48 Speaker 1 You were still supporting the whole group and everything. 00:49:51 Speaker 3 Oh. 00:49:53 Speaker 3 As for guarding gasoline Cokes, they don't. 00:49:59 Speaker 1 You ever get to any USO over there?

00:50:05 Speaker 3

One of these pictures has got a USO show in it. I was going to.

00:50:09 Speaker 3

That I forgot what she what it was.

00:50:14 Speaker 3

But I remember flying high, which over there, whether that was yet.

00:50:21 Speaker 3

I don't know.

00:50:28 Speaker 3

I wish another guard at.

00:50:34 Speaker 3

General Patterson.

00:50:38 Speaker 3

Field row.

00:50:41 Speaker 3

But I never saw the.

00:50:45 Speaker 3

The possession.

00:50:47 Speaker 3

Never. So many guys are they were. We were about 3 streets away.

00:50:54 Speaker 3

Where they came up with all the white helmets.

00:51:02 Speaker 3

The white.

00:51:10 Speaker 3

Sam Browning bounce. Is that what they called it?

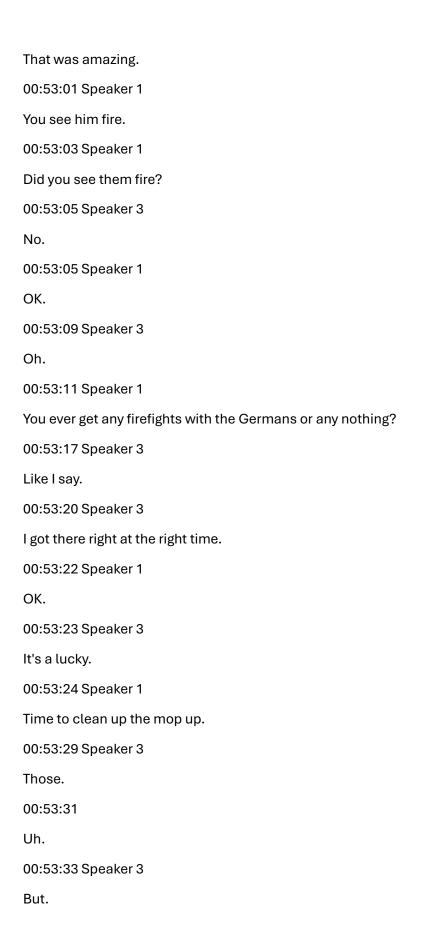
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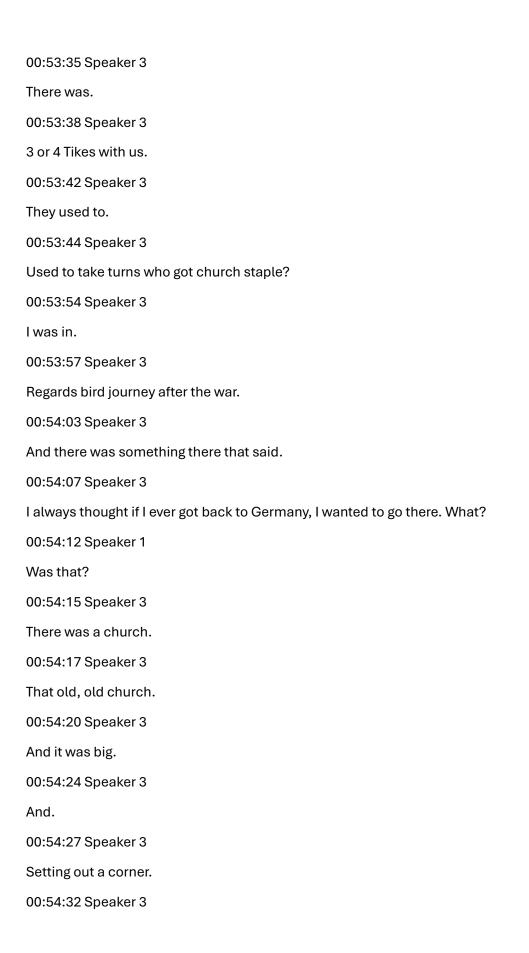
Sam brown.

00:51:14 Speaker 1

Sam Brown belt. 00:51:17 Speaker 3 Whitewash. 00:51:20 Speaker 3 But. 00:51:24 Speaker 3 But anyway. 00:51:30 Speaker 3 I never did see. 00:51:34 Speaker 3 It must have had 3-4 blocks away. 00:51:38 Speaker 1 You said that you had a they took away your weapon. 00:51:42 Speaker 1 Gave you an old Browning. 00:51:45 Speaker 1 VAR you said. 00:51:47 Speaker 1 You fire that a few times. 00:51:51 Speaker 1 You had to fire that. They're going after the Germans or. 00:51:56 Speaker 3 Well. 00:51:59 Speaker 3 We did some shooting one day at a. 00:52:06 Speaker 3 I really didn't see anything. 00:52:08 Speaker 3 Showed up.

00:52:10 Speaker 3 That I got rid of so bad the addition. 00:52:12 Speaker 1 And. 00:52:15 You. 00:52:18 Speaker 1 See any of the pans or tanks over there. 00:52:22 Speaker 1 Seeing the Panzer tanks. 00:52:26 Speaker 3 You see a lot of them. They used to. 00:52:31 Speaker 3 Knock down tank they used to bury. 00:52:36 Speaker 3 Not very, but. 00:52:39 Speaker 3 They just have to go that far off the ground. 00:52:44 Speaker 1 Put in the, put it in a gully. 00:52:45 Speaker 1 They could be lower. 00:52:47 Speaker 3 About the streets. 00:52:51 Speaker 3 I see the couple of tiger tanks. 00:52:55 Speaker 3 Uh. 00:52:58 Speaker 3



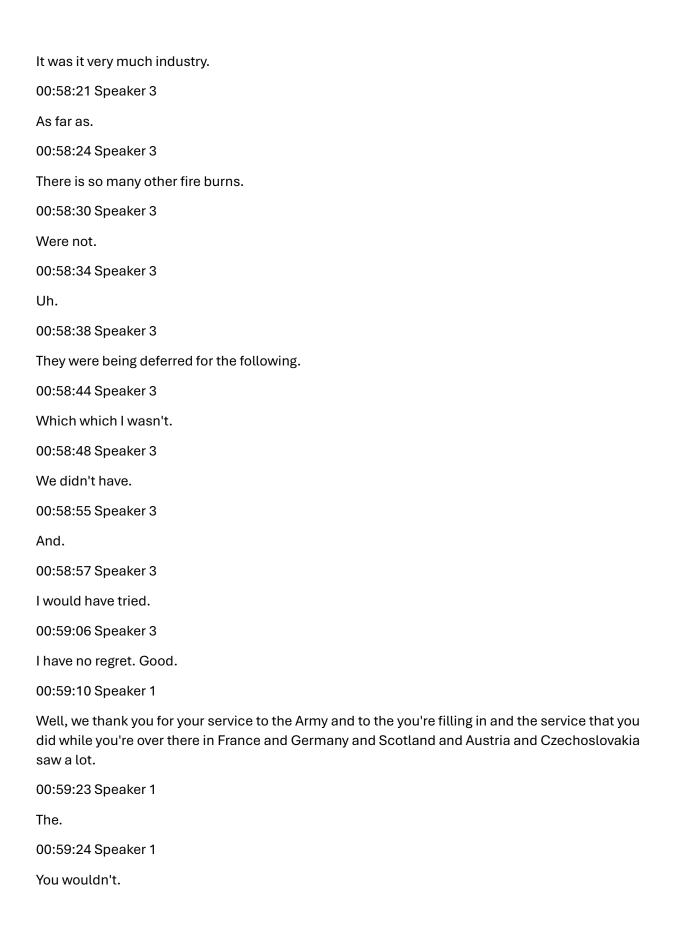


Across the street. 00:54:38 Speaker 3 And here. 00:54:42 Speaker 3 Plant here was a God plant. 00:54:45 Speaker 3 There was the biggest lathe that I ever seen. 00:54:49 Speaker 3 Was so big that. 00:54:52 Speaker 3 Two bedroomed it. 00:54:54 Speaker 3 They made big duck barrels. 00:54:58 Replay. 00:54:59 Speaker 3 The plant was bobbed out. 00:55:03 Speaker 3 And right across the other side was. 00:55:07 Speaker 3 I don't. 00:55:08 Speaker 3 What they did, because the RV had that. 00:55:13 The. 00:55:14 Speaker 3 Roped off for some reason. 00:55:18 Speaker 3 And that was abolished.

00:55:22 Speaker 3 But that church. 00:55:25 Speaker 3 Stood there like. 00:55:29 Speaker 3 It was never touched just across the street. 00:55:34 Speaker 3 And I thought, oh gosh. 00:55:38 Speaker 3 Wonderful that. 00:55:41 Speaker 3 8 therefore. 00:55:43 Speaker 3 And that's who was bobbing it because. 00:55:48 Speaker 3 A guy named. 00:55:51 Speaker 3 A friend of mine. 00:55:53 Speaker 3 Led to cordless, she built a house. 00:55:58 Speaker 3 Dwayne Gray. 00:56:00 Speaker 3 He was a bobber pilot. 00:56:05 Speaker 3 And I was telling him. 00:56:08 Speaker 3 The next time he came out from Ohio. 00:56:12 Speaker 3

He brought his love book. 00:56:17 Speaker 3 And he handed it there that he had. 00:56:20 Speaker 3 They had Bob Dragonsburg. 00:56:25 Speaker 3 All that. 00:56:27 Speaker 3 In my mind that is being good, but you could. 00:56:34 Speaker 3 No. 00:56:35 Speaker 3 About a building. 00:56:39 Speaker 3 A factory that way. 00:56:42 Speaker 3 Did not do any real damage to that church. 00:56:50 Speaker 3 So I've always ever since I went back to Europe though. 00:56:55 Speaker 3 11-12 years ago. 00:57:00 Speaker 3 I always wish that I had one along. 00:57:05 Speaker 3 Rented a car. 00:57:08 Speaker 3 Rent to places where I wanted to go. 00:57:13 Speaker 3 But I did.

00:57:19 Speaker 1 Well, Virgil, we thank you very much for your story. 00:57:23 Speaker 1 Is there any? 00:57:23 Speaker 1 Last words you like to say to the youngsters coming into the military or graduating from high school. 00:57:31 Speaker 1 You think the military is a good place for them? 00:57:34 Speaker 3 Well, I did graduate. 00:57:39 Speaker 3 They they, they told me they were going to take me. 00:57:45 Speaker 3 But I did. 00:57:47 Speaker 3 I went to. 00:57:52 Speaker 3 Electronic school in Phoenix. 00:57:55 Speaker 3 At the same time, I got my GED. 00:58:00 Speaker 3 And. 00:58:07 Uh. 00:58:09 Speaker 3 Gracia County, Michigan was. 00:58:13 Speaker 3 Uh. 00:58:17 Speaker 3



00:59:25 Speaker 1

Seen if you just been Michigan all this time.

00:59:28 Speaker 3

Lot of people did.

00:59:34 Speaker 3

I guess I I.

00:59:37 Speaker 3

Was aware of beauty more than a lot of them.

00:59:43 Speaker 3

A lot of the guys.

00:59:47 Speaker 3

A lot of those buildings were.

00:59:51 Speaker 3

Just fantastic.

00:59:57 Speaker 1

Well, I'd like to thank shake your hand and say thank you for your service.

01:00:03 Speaker 1

Thank you very much for coming in. Telling your story to us.

01:00:07 Speaker 3

OK.

01:00:07 Speaker 1

Ron, thank you for coming and joining us this morning this afternoon also thank you.