

## **Murrill Lowry Interview**

Company I, 318th Inf Reg

*(Library of Congress: Veterans History Project; interviewed by Angela M. Roman)*

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

00:00:01 Speaker 1

This interview is being conducted January 15th, 2002 in the office of Senator Richard Lugar with Mr. Merrill Lowry. He's an army veteran from World War Two. He served from May of 43 to February of 46. His highest rank attained was a Tech 5.

00:00:20 Speaker 1

Did you enlist or were you drafted?

00:00:24 Speaker 1

And and what were you doing when you?

00:00:25 Speaker 2

Were drafted well. I grew up on a farm in North Carolina and had never been out of the county. But after Pearl Harbor, there was a lot of money to be made in Baltimore. So I went to Baltimore to work in the shipyards for a little bit. So I was a sheet metal mechanic just before I was.

00:00:41 Speaker 2

Driving.

00:00:42 Speaker 2

But actually I was just.

00:00:44 Speaker 1

In North Carolina, and you were drafted into the army.

00:00:47 Speaker 2

Draft.

00:00:49 Speaker 1

What do you think about basic training?

00:00:51 Speaker 2

Basic training. I remember a lot of things, a lot of things I.

00:00:54 Speaker 2

Don't remember I.

00:00:57 Speaker 2

Conducted at Fort Bragg, NC, only about 30 miles from where I live, where my home was. And then I went to Fort Eustis, VA.

00:01:06 Speaker 2

And was put in an anti aircraft training battery after some initial.

00:01:11 Speaker 2

Learning to March and.

00:01:12 Speaker 2

Time and that sort of thing. I didn't learn any of those very well over here.

00:01:17 Speaker 2

Then they they tested me for a few things and I tested one of the things I tested well for was stereoscopic vision. So they put me on a height Finder. So.

00:01:27 Speaker 2

He could look through.

00:01:29 Speaker 2

This long.

00:01:31 Speaker 2

You're in the.

00:01:31 Speaker 2

Middle of the lenses on each end wouldn't have that sort of thing nowadays, but it was on an airplane CI that fed into a what was called a range Finder, which then zero to 90mm on the shoot down there. But we weren't shooting a guy in Virginia.

00:01:49 Speaker 2

Of course, we just.

00:01:51 Speaker 2

Practice.

00:01:54 Speaker 1

And your your MOS during your service was what?

00:02:00 Speaker 2

Well, you tell me what an.

00:02:01 Speaker 2

MOS is, you know.

00:02:02 Speaker 1

Your specialty, what was your job skill?

00:02:05 Speaker 2

My job skill was being able to shoot a rifle. It ain't because what happened fairly soon was it.

00:02:14 Speaker 2

Not they needed more.

00:02:15 Speaker 2

Or.

00:02:16 Speaker 2

Privates on the frontline than they needed any aircraft people. So they just busted up the anti aircraft units, gave us a few weeks training and and shooting bazookas and rifles and various other things that shoot.

00:02:30 Speaker 2

And sent us overseas. I went.

00:02:31 Speaker 2

Over to replace one actually.

00:02:33 Speaker 1

So you were an infantryman?

00:02:35 Speaker 2

I was an infantryman from from.

00:02:39 Speaker 2

A few weeks before I went overseas until I came home.

00:02:42 Speaker 1

And where did you go when you went overseas? Where were your replacement at?

00:02:46 Speaker 2

Well.

00:02:48 Speaker 2

Actually I wanted to tell you how I went overseas because I went over on.

00:02:52 Speaker 2

The Mauritania, which was.

00:02:54 Speaker 2

In those days, there were three ships that were too fast to have escorts, or two Queens in the Mauritania. So they put about 7 or \$8000 on the Mauritania. I had a hammock on the promenade deck, never knew what. Prominent deck, never.

00:03:07 Speaker 2

Seen the ship?

00:03:08 Speaker 2

Hadn't seen ocean, but I remember those names you see. So anyway, you just had enough room for that handler. I mean, the guys next to you, right?

00:03:15

The.

00:03:16 Speaker 2

Next year. So we zigzagged across the ocean and landed at Southampton and in England, and then almost immediately across the channel.

00:03:27 Speaker 2

Into got Omaha beach.

00:03:30 Speaker 2

After D-Day, but we went in on the beach the same way the boys did on D-Day, except nobody was shooting at us from Omaha Beach, we.

00:03:38 Speaker 2

We.

00:03:39 Speaker 2

Ship couldn't get near the shore, so we had to call down the roads on the side. Getting the landing boats and go into.

00:03:45 Speaker 2

Going.

00:03:46 Speaker 2

Sure. So I landed at Omaha Beach.

00:03:50 Speaker 2

Sometime after the.

00:03:53 Speaker 1

And where did you go from there?

00:03:55 Speaker 2

Well, from there we go up across France in various and sundry ways, partly on trains, partly on trucks.

00:04:03 Speaker 2

And I remember training. They used to have boxcar in World War One. They called it up to 40 and four, take four horses or 40 men.

00:04:11 Speaker 2

So they put about \$200. I'm exaggerating a little bit, but you couldn't stretch out. I mean, somebody's feet. When you own those box cars and they got us.

00:04:19 Speaker 2

Up Parkway on the.

00:04:21 Speaker 2

And then in the last bit just get.

00:04:23 Speaker 2

To the frontline.

00:04:24 Speaker 2

As you go up on it on open trucks, I remember the night we went up.

00:04:30 Speaker 2

Got there early in the evening.

00:04:31 Speaker 2

But we had to stay on the.

00:04:32 Speaker 2

Truck all night long because they were.

00:04:34 Speaker 2

Afraid of the land mines and whatever.

00:04:36 Speaker 2

The area. So we had to sit on.

00:04:38 Speaker 2

The truck until they like.

00:04:41 Speaker 2

And then after that, well along the way, we had some nice things happen to us. We French people give us nice fresh bread. That's I didn't know there were bag heads.

00:04:50 Speaker 2

At the time, they darling.

00:04:51

Yeah.

00:04:52 Speaker 2

That's what they were used.

00:04:54 Speaker 2

So we we went up through places like St. St. Low instead and went into to Omaha Beach. We could still see the bombs.

00:05:04 Speaker 2

Falling on Sherwood.

00:05:06 Speaker 2

That hadn't been completely captured, so we went through a lot of devastation and finding somewhere around Nancy or meds or before that.

00:05:18 Speaker 2

My unit, after various and sundry things.

00:05:23 Speaker 2

Like one night we spent a barn, I saw.

00:05:28 Speaker 2

Grenade in a through and I picked.

00:05:29 Speaker 2

It up and I got to yell at it.

00:05:31 Speaker 2

Because they thought it could have been, we would trip. But for from that bar and we, we could go outside and in the back of the barn because the Germans had the barn.

00:05:39 Speaker 2

Zeroed in.

00:05:40 Speaker 2

And it was a pill box.

00:05:43 Speaker 2

A big gun up there take.

00:05:44 Speaker 2

That out, I was just watching this, of course, because I hadn't gone into action.

00:05:49 Speaker 2

But finally, one night before.

00:05:53 Speaker 2

We were up on the front lines and so the next day, I guess from when I see the big stuff.

00:05:58 Speaker 2

So that's when the Chapmans came out of their nice warm tents and their clean sheets. You know, I told us how we should go out there and explain why it's a good thing to be killing Germans. One of them was a bird Colonel and the.

00:06:12 Speaker 2

Other.

00:06:12 Speaker 2

High-ranking to it. So they went back to bed and then we we went all out got.

00:06:23 Speaker 1

So you got to the front.

00:06:25 Speaker 1

And then.

00:06:26 Speaker 2

What? Well.

00:06:31 Speaker 2

My idea in the army was to stay alive and get home. I didn't pay.

00:06:34 Speaker 2

Much attention to.

00:06:35

OK.

00:06:35 Speaker 2

This thing in those days.

00:06:38 Speaker 2

If I had the wisdom man that I have now, I had no wisdom and I do have.

00:06:42 Speaker 2

Some now not help a lot.

00:06:45 Speaker 2

But anyway I can remember the first day and we're we're going up and we can come on.

00:06:52 Speaker 2

Fire and knows all of us who've never been in the fire. We're running, dodging all over the place. But I know somebody will. Tired just stepped behind these. This is artillery fire.

00:07:02 Speaker 2

They just stepped behind the tree and stand there till the fire was over. So we got down to the little village and we shook each other's hand that we.

00:07:10 Speaker 2

Survived that first account.

00:07:13 Speaker 2

And then the next thing I comes to mind right now is being in some kind of valley with hills. And as far as the eye can see, you see people mark our guys marching.

00:07:25 Speaker 2

Up the hill.

00:07:27 Speaker 2

She came along and just some guy lying on the ground there.

00:07:30 Speaker 2

And Jeep stops.

00:07:31 Speaker 2

And an officer says kick that man over and see if he's OK. So so.



00:07:35 Speaker 2

Light took their foot rolling over. He was breathing.

00:07:38 Speaker 2

But he had.

00:07:40 Speaker 2

He had some kind of shock and saw a lot of that. And then then we get right near the front. I'm marching up and I see this big hole in the ground there, 7 or 8 did during his lying there. All of them had neat little holes in their.

00:07:55

It.

00:07:56 Speaker 2

It was a pill box and they've just been taken care of before we went past and.

00:08:02 Speaker 2

So.

00:08:03 Speaker 2

So then, then, then we're up there. We're not seeing very much, but.

00:08:11 Speaker 2

That's that's. That's how I ended up.

00:08:13 Speaker 2

On the front line.

00:08:15 Speaker 2

And.

00:08:16 Speaker 2

Fortunately or unfortunately, I had been up there very long. I've been on the front about a month, I suppose.

00:08:24 Speaker 2

When we came and got on hill one.

00:08:27 Speaker 2

Night it was.

00:08:29 Speaker 2

Pouring rain. We hadn't had a chance to dig in, and then all of a sudden we'll.

00:08:32 Speaker 2

Run the mortar.

00:08:33 Speaker 2

Fire. So we flattened out on the ground. I pull my left leg up underneath my raincoat to try and.

00:08:41 Speaker 2

Keep it dry and I.

00:08:42 Speaker 2

Got my left leg blown off with that.

00:08:45 Speaker 2

So then I go in and then, then I'm in.

00:08:48 Speaker 2

Fortunately, some of the guys I had trained with had also gone in there replacement, so they were able to carry me about about two miles, I guess. Where Jeep?

00:08:58 Speaker 2

Could pick me up.

00:08:59 Speaker 2

Rushed me down to an aid station and.

00:09:03 Speaker 2

And then from there on, I felt pretty good because they shot me in full.

00:09:06 Speaker 2

Of morphine.

00:09:08 Speaker 2

And started putting picking shot.

00:09:12 Speaker 2

Then I ended up in a mash hospital in the field you all seen mash on television.

00:09:19 Speaker 2

And we had German stretcher barriers taking US 5. I knew went surgery one night 3 or 4 hours.

00:09:25 Speaker 2

They want to save that leg.

00:09:27 Speaker 2

Actually I've got a telegram I brought with me seeing I was seriously wanted in action when they sent that home when they said you were seriously wanted an action to me meant they didn't expect you to live anyway. But I did.

00:09:38 Speaker 2

I did survive, but I forgot to tell you that I'm a Native American, 100% American Native American. You see it. So we have probably a little that hybrid figure. You see, it didn't mean.

00:09:53 Speaker 2

Another problem, the negative thing you know when you go into battle in those days you they give you all these pills on your.

00:09:59 Speaker 2

Belt.

00:10:00 Speaker 2

On your ammunition belt.

00:10:02 Speaker 2

Once you got hit your foot, they were all sulfur drugs. They were experimenting on us and I took all those sulfur drugs too, and they probably did me some good. They didn't make a lot of.

00:10:10 Speaker 2

Harm, but they probably did me some good.

00:10:13 Speaker 2

So anyway, get getting back to the mash hospital, so those German stretcher bearers, they're prisoners of war of.

00:10:18 Speaker 2

Course.

00:10:19 Speaker 2

They're taking me from.

00:10:20 Speaker 2

From the surgery tent back to the tent where I'm going to be.

00:10:23 Speaker 2

Recuperating for a little while.

00:10:25 Speaker 2

And an airplane comes over. They just sit me down on the ground and they take off so much because they're scared the hell out of them. Figuring another bomb was going to fall. But the bomb didn't fall and I ended up. And then.

00:10:38 Speaker 2

Then.

00:10:41 Speaker 2

These are the sort of things that are in bits and pieces go. That said, I just want to stay alive here at home and I wasn't paying all that much attention. So anyhow.

00:10:50 Speaker 2

Anyhow, I end up at they picked me up in an ambulance.

00:10:55 Speaker 2

This is that backtracking right that first aid station where where they where I was getting the initial.

00:11:00 Speaker 2

Aid.

00:11:01 Speaker 2

Which is just sort of a.

00:11:02 Speaker 2

Triage thing and.

00:11:04 Speaker 2

Or anything to.

00:11:05 Speaker 2

Keep it going to the kitchen to.

00:11:06 Speaker 2

Mash up. Then they put us in ambulances, on stretchers and ambulance, and when the ambulance left.

00:11:14 Speaker 2

You just pulled out of the ways and stopped and and somebody inquired while he stopped and said was waiting for the shelling as the Germans retreated.

00:11:22 Speaker 2

They apparently every crossroads there, they had it zeroed in so they could.

00:11:28 Speaker 2

Lob shells in there, even though it was out, it wasn't within their sight, and the ambulance drivers had learned this and they learned that they come periodically. So they're waiting for the shell to come in, and once they stopped and they.

00:11:39 Speaker 2

Take off like hell.

00:11:40 Speaker 2

And go through it and that's how I got.

00:11:42 Speaker 2

To the Max hospital.

00:11:44 Speaker 2

And and that was just like you see on.

00:11:47 Speaker 2

The television or.

00:11:48 Speaker 2

Tent with beds as far as you could see and surgeons and people operating on people all all night long and all day long through, I suppose. But this was night time.

00:11:58 Speaker 2

And then sometime after that, I don't even. I got into Paris. He took me into Paris for some real surgery.

00:12:07 Speaker 2

And.

00:12:09 Speaker 2

And I'm in some big hospital in Paris.

00:12:11 Speaker 2

And do the.

00:12:12 Speaker 2

Whole, and nobody's paying attention to.

00:12:14 Speaker 2

And I don't.

00:12:16 Speaker 2

But I say my Native American ancestry.

00:12:19 Speaker 2

And being in cotton for a long time, I was a lot darker than that even than I am now. So find that some GI comes over and says something to him and I answer me in English and it surprised him. And he said they thought I.

00:12:31 Speaker 2

Was a a freedom?

00:12:33 Speaker 2

Of by a French freedom fighter or something. That's why they weren't paying attention to so he got.

00:12:37 Speaker 2

He got, he noticed.

00:12:39 Speaker 2

I've gone through the same thing. Hospital here in Indianapolis, so that's no big deal.

00:12:43 Speaker 2

That was all.

00:12:45 Speaker 2

And so I went to more surgery in Paris and then I flew on. Then they put us on stretches, put us on airplanes, and flew us to England, Crystal England. More hospitalization, more surgery.

00:13:00 Speaker 2

And all of us were in the same boat. We've all had serious wounds, while people more serious than others.

00:13:07 Speaker 2

I remember 1 poor guy.

00:13:09 Speaker 2

He was really messed up.

00:13:11 Speaker 2

And and his lower extremities.

00:13:15 Speaker 2

In in we.

00:13:18 Speaker 2

Wonder what happened then? Well, what as the Germans retreated and these units, they were going up and the Germans had left some of these buildings and.

00:13:26 Speaker 2

And he went in there was this nice bathroom. He hadn't seen a.

00:13:30 Speaker 2

Nice job for a long time he sat down and spoke his cigarette and dropped his cigarette that John it blew up on him because the Germans poured a lot of petrol down. All the Johns you see, just just poured this guy's name, but that's a.

00:13:41 Speaker 2

Little Side Story telling.

00:13:44 Speaker 2

And the Red Cross would come through with all the cigarettes and.

00:13:47 Speaker 2

And I grew to back in North Carolina, but I wasn't allowed to smoke, but I'd smoke a few occasion, but that's how they were getting us.

00:13:55 Speaker 2

All.

00:13:56 Speaker 2

Started on the cigarette. Another thing we were all on crutches and we'd have races on crutches. Out. I can. You can throw those crutches out 16 feet and probably sometime race up and down those halls.

00:14:07 Speaker 2

And and then they were doing some skin grafting, probably experimental.

00:14:15 Speaker 2

But by that time we had all learned.

00:14:19 Speaker 2

That there was a apparently a ruling those days that if you were hospitalized and they couldn't get you, well, I'm back on the front six months. They had to send you back state something. So some of the guys would do everything they had, they could to keep their wounds open or whatnot, hoping to get to go home tonight, of course, to do that. But.

00:14:38 Speaker 2

But it did. It did.

00:14:41 Speaker 2

It was the fact that I wasn't.

00:14:43 Speaker 2

Going to be able to.

00:14:45 Speaker 2

To get back on the front within the six month period. So so I was shipped home for more hospitalization.

00:14:53 Speaker 2

Now that's an interesting one. I can't remember all the details, but I remember they had a convalescent hospital in Daytona.

00:15:01 Speaker 2

Beach in in Florida.

00:15:04 Speaker 2

And.

00:15:05 Speaker 2

I was sent there and then in the mornings you have to get up and they take you to the beach. You had to play volleyball. We had running on the beach. I do all these things. But in the afternoon you had free time. You didn't do anything. So that's that's the truth. Although it it is amusing that it was all a lot of fun for me.

00:15:26 Speaker 2

And then then I was slated to go to Japan after that, and I figured.

00:15:27

So.

00:15:32 Speaker 2

I was good.

00:15:32 Speaker 2

Enough, but fortunately, you know he came or VJ day or whatever it was and and shorted there after I was.

00:15:40 Speaker 2



I was.

00:15:42 Speaker 2

Riding up discharges.

00:15:43 Speaker 2

For people clerking and and and getting people out, and eventually I got out myself.

00:15:50 Speaker 2

So very much story. You see bits and pieces.

00:15:52 Speaker 1

Were you? Were you married when you?

00:15:55 Speaker 2

Were drafted. Yeah. I've never had a girlfriend. No, some of those English girls. So they like. They like nothing. Nothing. No.

00:16:06 Speaker 1

Did you get mail any correspondence from home while?

00:16:10

You were off.

00:16:10 Speaker 1

Yeah, we.

00:16:10 Speaker 2

Yeah, we mail call was a big thing there.

00:16:14 Speaker 2

Life is kind of funny. I should sit down this in a way called mail call with the big Deal. You.

00:16:19 Speaker 2

Know yell mail.

00:16:20 Speaker 2

Call. Well, that's the same thing in my house now. My wife and I retired the children all going to mail.

00:16:25 Speaker 2

That's a big.

00:16:25 Speaker 2

Deal. So it was, yeah, we got and and. And of course, you know, we we wrote home very diligently and and and so we.

00:16:33 Speaker 2

The mail did pretty well. I mean it would be, it was censored and probably it was probably saying that certain things are blocked out, but the mail did pretty well.

00:16:42 Speaker 1

So your telegram that said that you were wounded, that went to your mother.

00:16:47 Speaker 2

That went.

00:16:47 Speaker 2

To my love, yeah.

00:16:49 Speaker 2

So my and other mothers are more important than other people that.

00:16:52 Speaker 2

Choose in the case.

00:16:55 Speaker 2

That went to my mother, incidentally, my father was in World War 1.

00:17:01 Speaker 2

And he had 6 fours and everyone I was drafted now either between World War 2 and the.

00:17:07 Speaker 2

Korean War we all.

00:17:08 Speaker 2

We all sold service, but I was the only one that.

00:17:11 Speaker 2

Was unfortunate enough to go overseas and.

00:17:15 Speaker 2

But then that you know, the nice thing was that I had opportunities after that. I would never have had without the GI Bill.

00:17:23 Speaker 2

So when I.

00:17:23 Speaker 2

Came home. I had the GI Bill.

00:17:26 Speaker 2

And I had.

00:17:29 Speaker 2

We had a I went to 2nd grade schools all a whole lot in North Carolina.

00:17:34 Speaker 2

We had three.

00:17:35 Speaker 2

Schools system one for node, that's what's called.

00:17:38 Speaker 2

Color but one.

00:17:38 Speaker 2

For for the African Americans and 1:00.

00:17:40 Speaker 2

For the Indians.

00:17:42 Speaker 2

And and and the school system will like so. So I got I I had done three years of college and.

00:17:48 Speaker 2

And I won't get into details. I started college at page 14, actually done three years when I was drafted not to. So I decided to go back to the local Indian Indian School, which is now the University of North Carolina Pembroke. But. And then when I graduated back back in 47, I decided to do that year and then save my GI.

00:18:08 Speaker 2

You know, for graduate work.

00:18:10 Speaker 2

So I went back that year since it cost my home graduated from Pembroke State College, trained in, and then used my GI bill to do a PhD at Indiana University.

00:18:22 Speaker 1

And what was your degree?

00:18:25 Speaker 2

The.

00:18:26 Speaker 2

Graduate degree I was I ended up one time I was chairman of I'm here at the university and doing.

00:18:33 Speaker 2

All the pre Med stuff.

00:18:35 Speaker 2

Under my graduate degree was biochemistry, Physiology. Undergraduate degree was just general science because.

00:18:42 Speaker 2

Because our.

00:18:42 Speaker 2

Schools weren't quite.

00:18:44 Speaker 2

Up to what most schools were using.

00:18:49 Speaker 2

You've got to run out of questions.

00:18:50 Speaker 1

I'm not going to run out of questions.

00:18:51

OK.

00:18:52 Speaker 1

For a while.

00:18:53 Speaker 1

Do you recall the day that your service ended the day that you were discharged?

00:18:58 Speaker 1

I do. And what did you?

00:19:00 Speaker 1

Do well.

00:19:03 Speaker 2

Well, and and I ended up in Fort Hood, TX after Daytona Beach.

00:19:09 Speaker 2

And our job there we we discharged.

00:19:11 Speaker 2

People and I.

00:19:12 Speaker 2

Was a clerk and.

00:19:13 Speaker 2

And we were right, I I was writing up a form. I don't remember what form it was form they were guys would use when they went to get employment. So I'd ask them what?

00:19:21 Speaker 2

They've done and like this.

00:19:22 Speaker 2

And then I had a buddy, a Texas guy, and we were in.

00:19:26 Speaker 2

Fort Hood was.

00:19:28 Speaker 2

Quite a ways from Dallas and people. A lot of people were flying out of.

00:19:31 Speaker 2

Dallas.

00:19:31 Speaker 2

So he had this nice converter.

00:19:34 Speaker 2

And he would, he would.

00:19:36 Speaker 2

You know, you got a little money when you must. He'd give those people rights to Dallas and if you bring back a little whiskey. So he was selling whiskey to the guys to drink on their way to Dallas. And he was making a fortune. I was just along for a ride and I didn't get in things that but. But then when my turn came when?

00:19:54 Speaker 2

There there was a point system you see had. I've been married and had children, I would have gotten out a little sooner, but I did have a couple of battle stars, one from Germany and.

00:20:02 Speaker 2

1.

00:20:02 Speaker 2

From France and that gave.

00:20:04 Speaker 2

Me some extra so when when?

00:20:05 Speaker 2

When it came my turn.

00:20:08 Speaker 2

They sent me back to Fort Bragg.

00:20:10 Speaker 2

And that was right near my.

00:20:12 Speaker 2

Home and it course it was just.

00:20:15 Speaker 2

What I was we we were we were kind of people when I come home further I never wrote. I knew my folks would always be home when they'd see me, I'd be walking down the railroad track toward toward the.

00:20:24 Speaker 2

Home the dogs would come out.

00:20:25 Speaker 2

And greet me and that sort of thing.

00:20:28

Yeah.

00:20:29 Speaker 2

But anyway, not no big deal. And my first thing I did was just go home.

00:20:35 Speaker 2

Thank God I was still alive. Yeah.

00:20:42 Speaker 1

So immediately after you came home, you went back to school? Or was there a was there a break there?

00:20:47 Speaker 2

Well, I think.

00:20:48 Speaker 2

I got out in February of 46 which?

00:20:51 Speaker 2

Was the middle.

00:20:51 Speaker 2

Of the school year, of course. So.

00:20:54 Speaker 2

I I worked on.

00:20:55 Speaker 2

The farm and then then the next fall. I.

00:20:58 Speaker 2

Went back to.

00:20:58 Speaker 2

The local.

00:20:59 Speaker 2

Indian College and then did the last year and got.

00:21:03 Speaker 2

A degree and then.

00:21:05 Speaker 2

We had a lot of missionaries who came in.

00:21:07 Speaker 2

Did our sending schools and our schools, you know, try teams?

00:21:11 Speaker 2

And the the President of the College at that time had been a missionary in India and come back and he had his sister, who was teaching at Indiana University and.

00:21:23 Speaker 2

He figured I was smart enough to do something, so he gave me a letter of introduction to his sister. So that's how I ended up in Indiana at Indiana.

00:21:30 Speaker 2

Diversity and.

00:21:33 Speaker 2

There was some at one point in.

00:21:34 Speaker 2

Time there I was.

00:21:36 Speaker 2

I was in charge of the lab and compared to.

00:21:39 Speaker 2

That of me.

00:21:40 Speaker 2

In those days, you didn't have too many girls, but if we want table with the girl and there was this beautiful redhead at the table, you see? So she took a liking to me and asked me to marry Aaron.

00:21:54 Speaker 1

And you said.

00:21:54 Speaker 2

Yes, I did. I did.

00:21:59 Speaker 1

How long were you at?

00:22:00 Speaker 1

IU for your graduate.

00:22:01 Speaker 2

Work came Indiana in 1947 and and.

00:22:07 Speaker 2

Those days.



00:22:09 Speaker 2

I had to do some courses. Organic chemistry sort of thing.

00:22:12 Speaker 2

To make up for.

00:22:13 Speaker 2

The efficiency of my undergraduate work, but in those days you could you could still make a lot of money. So in the summertime.

00:22:21 Speaker 2

People from the steel mills and and Gary would come down IU and recruit students to go work at the steel mill. So. So I ended up doing some work at steel mills and making enough money to supplement my GI Bill. So. So I came in at 47.

00:22:38 Speaker 2

And took a year or so off and and and enter them to to work steel mills. And then then then went to start Graduate School in the early.

00:22:46 Speaker 2

50S and got the HD. This was 55.

00:22:58 Speaker 1

Do you recall any pranks that you or others would pull on people when you were in the service?

00:23:06 Speaker 2

No real pranks because it was pretty serious business. But but there were. There were some interesting things like getting up for.

00:23:16 Speaker 2

Roll call before daylight in the morning. When you're young, you could sleep not deep. Nowadays it would be would would be a difficult, but if we had one kid who would get under his mattress, you see? So when they came through, it wouldn't seem as bad. You know, we'd have to do is yell here when.

00:23:30 Speaker 2

They called his name it right.

00:23:33 Speaker 2

So he got a lot more sleep.

00:23:36 Speaker 2

Then the rest of us did.

00:23:39 Speaker 2

So it was just those those.

00:23:41 Speaker 2

Those little things, people.

00:23:42 Speaker 2

Would would would you know, mess up and.

00:23:45 Speaker 2

They'd have to dig hold. But I got a good conduct medal. I never had to do any of it. But I do remember once, once they, you know, you do a lot of these ridiculous parades. It's so hard to train, I suppose. But I remember I I I daydreamed. Well, I suppose.

00:24:00 Speaker 2

One day we're out. We're out in a big Meadow and they're hundreds always out there. And we're lined up and we're supposed to be doing something. And I'm. I don't know where. Next thing I know, knew and I'm halfway down the line. So it took a while to get. There's a general standing in front of me and I.

00:24:15 Speaker 2

Looked.

00:24:15 Speaker 2

Around and everybody else is standing at attention and I'm just standing.

00:24:19 Speaker 2

There you see.

00:24:20 Speaker 2

So I got a little punishment out of that, but all it was is I had to.

00:24:25 Speaker 2

I had to show up in some.

00:24:27 Speaker 2

Office and carry papers around for a while. Little little things like that, you see.

00:24:33 Speaker 2

Just routine happenings.

00:24:35 Speaker 1

Was there anything that you did or any thought that you always kept close to help you get through the service and help you get through?

00:24:42 Speaker 1

The war, when you were in Europe.

00:24:44 Speaker 2

Yeah, probably is at most people I knew I had a home to go to. I didn't appreciate the life I had at the time because it was all working very little.

00:24:57 Speaker 2

But but that that kept you going. You as I you. You just wanted to. You know you wanted to survive. Unfortunately, I didn't survive.

00:25:10 Speaker 1

Is there anybody that you served with?

00:25:13 Speaker 1

That you kept up a relationship with.

00:25:15 Speaker 1

After you came home.

00:25:17 Speaker 2

And the answer is is.

00:25:20 Speaker 2

Pretty much no, because in those days I appreciate.

00:25:26 Speaker 2

That kind, great growing up on the farm, we were pretty well. I said there were 7, seven children and we, you know, nobody else around. So we never had.

00:25:36 Speaker 2

Friends other than the family, friends and those days, as I say, we could.

00:25:41 Speaker 2

We pretty much just stayed on Font, but there were a few guys that from few other Indian guys, Native Americans who were drafted along with me. And although we ended up in different places, we we I after I got home I got.

00:25:59 Speaker 2

Real playing with some, some some.

00:26:01 Speaker 2

Those guys, I wish I had. I had some really like the guys who I told you earlier had carried me down the hill. I.

00:26:10 Speaker 2

Apparently I heard that that that night most of those guys were killed because before they could dig in, there was a counterattack and some hand to hand fighter. So I lost touch with that.

00:26:23 Speaker 2

But we were we had that, that group we've we've been pretty close and sort of helped take care of each other.

00:26:31 Speaker 2

So.

00:26:33 Speaker 2

It was.

00:26:36 Speaker 2

I was in a way, in spite of my problems, I was fortunate that I actually got out of there.

00:26:42 Speaker 2

Before they before this happened.

00:26:46 Speaker 1

Do you are you a member of any veteran service organizations?

00:26:51 Speaker 2

I'm not a joiner. I I've never. I've never joined thing people want to join I.

00:26:59 Speaker 2

I I guess I am a member of the disabled DBA, disabled Veterans of America so, but I'm never going any meetings or anything. It's just that I.

00:27:08

Yes.

00:27:09 Speaker 2

Do support them and.

00:27:11 Speaker 2

And I get all my return address labels from them and and and that sort of thing. But outside the scientific organizations which, you know I belong to, when I after I.

00:27:22 Speaker 2

Got into my into the academic world, no?

00:27:26 Speaker 2

I don't, I don't.

00:27:31 Speaker 1

How do you think that your military service affected?

00:27:35 Speaker 2

Your lives well. The major effect in my life, GI Bill of.

00:27:39 Speaker 2

Rights.

00:27:44 Speaker 2

That would be.

00:27:45 Speaker 2

That turned out to.

00:27:46 Speaker 2

Be a big plus, of course, for people like me who survive and use.

00:27:50 Speaker 2

It.

00:27:51 Speaker 2

It.

00:27:52 Speaker 2

Unfortunately, a lot of a lot of guys that would.

00:27:55 Speaker 2

Drive the victim.

00:27:56 Speaker 2

And most of those guys didn't come back either.

00:27:59 Speaker 2

But the answer to the question is that without the GI Bill, I had never met Senator who.

00:28:01

OK.

00:28:06 Speaker 2

Had these important people.

00:28:07 Speaker 2

That I met after.

00:28:09 Speaker 2

And in my post army life.

00:28:12 Speaker 2

I've got to do all these good things I've gotten to.

00:28:15 Speaker 2

So that, yeah, Bill was, was that was that was really great. Now other than that all we had discipline to the army was good in that respect for most people. But I'm not so sure you know.

00:28:30 Speaker 2

So that benefits your support. I was concerned, but.

00:28:35 Speaker 1

If young people like your grandchildren were to ask you about the service.

00:28:40 Speaker 1

What would you tell them as far as as you know, if they were old enough?

00:28:44 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:28:45 Speaker 2

Wouldn't tell them some of the.

00:28:46 Speaker 2

Same stories, I just.

00:28:47 Speaker 2

Told you and and you know.

00:28:50 Speaker 2

When you get to be, you know, we veterans are up up there a little bit. Now I'm. I just celebrated my 78th birthday and.

00:28:57 Speaker 2

And and my I have a daughter-in-law which is kind of a favorite of mine.

00:29:03 Speaker 2

And for my birthday, she got busy and got all all my war records and.

00:29:09 Speaker 2

Med was. I've forgotten I ever had and and get reacquainted with them, so I've got something to tell them now. I've already and this is it's a showpiece. Actually. I brought this along with me today. That case that she gave me on. Oh you want.

00:29:23 Speaker 2

Me to hold up my point.

00:29:26 Speaker 2

And and there. And so you know, that's something the grandchildren.

00:29:31 Speaker 2

Everybody out.

00:29:34 Speaker 2

Can enjoy.

00:29:36 Speaker 2

And they give them to me. I I didn't. I didn't even say them sometime. But I'm not bragging about that. That's just.

00:29:43 Speaker 2

The.

00:29:44 Speaker 2

Just the fact of life.

00:29:47 Speaker 2

But I'm real proud of them now.

00:29:49 Speaker 1

So if a young person came up to you and and talked, wanted to talk to you, for instance, about the GI Bill and because because they're getting ready to get out of high school, would you would you say that the the military is a good way to go?

00:29:55 Speaker 2

Right.

00:30:02 Speaker 2

For some people, absolutely. And and I would think, I think our volunteer, I mean it serves that purpose very well. I think that.

00:30:09 Speaker 2

I would say it's it would be the only way to go but but but I certainly would not be negative I think.

00:30:20 Speaker 2

I think sometimes you know.

00:30:22 Speaker 2

Well, I know.

00:30:23 Speaker 2

We don't we.

00:30:24 Speaker 2

A lot of us don't appreciate what other people are doing for us, and a lot of times the military people are doing it.

00:30:31 Speaker 2

For us.

00:30:34 Speaker 2

Another question I would I would I would hope you know that that that they don't have to face it like I did, that they could do it in a more peaceful manner. Be peacekeepers instead of instead of the warriors. But but Even so.

00:30:35 Speaker 2

Hope some of.

00:30:38 Speaker 1

Will vote his questions.

00:30:53 Speaker 2

Jobs which have to be done. So. So I I would not be.

00:30:56 Speaker 2

Negative about it.



00:30:59 Speaker 1

Is there anything else you would like to add that I haven't asked you?

00:31:01 Speaker 2

Well, you know you've you've you've done pretty well and and and and for years, I haven't even thought about these things. You see it, I just left them behind me but but but it is it, it is and now nice as I say to.

00:31:18 Speaker 2

To know that somebody thinks something like this is important. If thought about these metals and ribs here, and I'm even beginning to think maybe they're, you know, they're just kind of nice and but when you're young, you know and you're naive and.

00:31:33 Speaker 2

May you and I, you know, you're a lot younger than I am. You should at this stage in life you.

00:31:39

So.

00:31:40 Speaker 2

Should.

00:31:41 Speaker 2

Start appreciating things that you won't appreciate. It won't have around later on so so I what I thought I'd say anyway, you know.

00:31:44

So.

00:31:53 Speaker 1

If you have anything additional.

00:31:53 Speaker 2

But anyway.

00:31:54 Speaker 1

You'd like to add to this.

00:31:56 Speaker 2

I think we've pretty well.

00:31:58 Speaker 2

Pretty well covered.

00:32:01 Speaker 2

Covered enough for me as I told as I told GAIL that you know, you asked me what Division I was in there and I told the attention to Infantry division. I think that was a Pennsylvania division, but.

00:32:15 Speaker 2

I I I guess I represent those those of us who.

00:32:19 Speaker 2

We're, you know, we caught ourselves. Cannon fodder in those days, but we were replacements. So that's another reason I didn't have the post association. Some of some of the because I get thrown in with a group of guys, you know, just as a stranger. And then I didn't train with any of those people, didn't train with any of those people.

00:32:34 Speaker 1

You didn't train with the company from basic training all the way through.

00:32:39 Speaker 2

All the way through. So so anyway.

00:32:43 Speaker 2

These things come back in bits and pieces where we'd conduct this interview at some other time. I'd probably have a lot of other things that would reappear in my brain somewhere. But you know, you've led me today and you've done a good job. So it's we got a few things out.

00:32:59 Speaker 1

We did.

00:32:59 Speaker 1

Before we end the interview, I want to get a snapshot.

00:33:02 Speaker 1

Of your of your Western Union telegram.

00:33:05 Speaker 1

If you would mind.

00:33:05 Speaker 1

Holding that up, this is the.

00:33:06

Yeah.

00:33:08 Speaker 2

Of course, we didn't have telephones. I never talked on the telephone my whole life until I went in into the Armin. So the Telegraph would come to the to the depot. We were near railroad town and then the Guy Depot would walk it down down to the.

00:33:22 Speaker 2

Prime House until that's how this had nothing to do. What we're talking about here, but I I don't like how long telephones cause that when when I was growing up, don't. I've got to talk about somebody who died.

00:33:36 Speaker 2

It was bad news, so it's still so this was very bad news when it.

00:33:44 Speaker 2

Sorry.