

## **Stephen Charles Mace Interview**

Company C, 319th Inf Reg

*(Library of Congress: Veterans History Project; interviewed by unknown)*

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

00:00:16

Stream program like this one.

00:00:19

Thepcnt.com.

00:00:20

Take.

00:00:32

None.

00:00:53 Speaker 1

We're here with Steve.

00:00:54 Speaker 1

So World War 2 veteran, who served in the army.

00:01:00 Speaker 2

How is that?

00:01:01 Speaker 1

You remember what you were doing before the war started?

00:01:05 Speaker 2

Ah yes.

00:01:08

I.

00:01:09 Speaker 2

After I graduated from high school.

00:01:13 Speaker 2

I lived in a coal mining town.

00:01:16 Speaker 2

The only jobs available if you wanted to stay there was to work in the mines. So I worked in the mines in a small town Patch town.

00:01:28 Speaker 2

West of Hazleton called Humboldt.

00:01:32 Speaker 2

I worked in the mines.

00:01:35 Speaker 2

In the night shift and the day shift, I took a job for Sears Roebuck and a company in Hazleton in the garage, putting tires on, putting batteries on cars that they bought.

00:01:49 Speaker 2

We were very poor.

00:01:52 Speaker 2

It was a depression and we needed the money, so that's why I had to take two jobs and.

00:02:00 Speaker 2

Help.

00:02:01 Speaker 2

Family, which consisted of five siblings.

00:02:06 Speaker 2

And my mother and father help them with paying the bills.

00:02:11 Speaker 1

Did you enlist or were you drafted?

00:02:14 Speaker 2

Ah, Pearl Harbor was attacked by the Japanese.

00:02:22 Speaker 2

December the.

00:02:24 Speaker 2

7th of 1941.

00:02:29 Speaker 2

Immediately, President Franklin D Roosevelt.

00:02:34 Speaker 2

Issued an order and had it approved by the.

00:02:39 Speaker 2

Powers to be in Washington to give everyone up on it from 18 till the age of Fourty 4A draft number.

00:02:52 Speaker 2

This was in the 11th of December 1941.

00:02:59 Speaker 2

On July the 18th.

00:03:02 Speaker 2

Of 1942, six months after.

00:03:06 Speaker 2

I was conscripted and had to report for duty.

00:03:11 Speaker 1

And where did you go to report for duty?

00:03:16 Speaker 2

They took the bus from Hazleton to Indian town there.

00:03:23 Speaker 2

Where I was inducted and they shipped us to campus, Tennessee for basic training camp. Forest was located in southeastern Tennessee.

00:03:38 Speaker 2

Between the towns of Tullahoma and Murfree.

00:03:44 Speaker 2

We spent 16 weeks there. Basic training.

00:03:50 Speaker 2

Very, very strenuous, hard.

00:03:54 Speaker 2

They really toughened us up in a hurry.

00:03:57 Speaker 1

Had you ever been that far away from home before?

00:04:00 Speaker 2

Never. And it was an education for me.

00:04:05 Speaker 2

Because it changed my life. Going to the army.

00:04:09 Speaker 2

It changed me the way I felt about life. I saw how other people lived and it just changed my life that.

00:04:20 Speaker 2

I didn't want to go back to my former status in life.

00:04:25 Speaker 1

You enlisted, right?

00:04:27 Speaker 2

No, I was drafted.

00:04:29 Speaker 1

And you were not able to choose the army then?

00:04:33 Speaker 2

What's that, you.

00:04:34 Speaker 1

Were you able to choose the army, or did you were you were assigned to the army? No.

00:04:41 Speaker 1

So basic training in in Tennessee tell us more about about how that was.

00:04:48 Speaker 2

Basic training.

00:04:51 Speaker 2

Was.

00:04:53 Speaker 2

A lot of things that as a civilian you could do and it worked, but there you had to pay attention to what they wanted you to do.

00:05:04 Speaker 2

I remember one of the things that the troops.

00:05:08 Speaker 2

In basic training, disliked was the fact that.

00:05:12 Speaker 2

Oh, we would have an inspection.

00:05:15 Speaker 2

Spotless.

00:05:16 Speaker 2

Shiny shoes shined of gun, all of equipment and top top order, and we'd go out on a 25 mile hike in this beautiful polished up uniform.

00:05:30 Speaker 2

In a rain or Thunder storm and trample through the mud and the worst of places. And then with we would come back, they would give us like 2 hours to clean up our equipment.

00:05:47 Speaker 2

And it was a mess.

00:05:49 Speaker 2

Was.

00:05:49 Speaker 2

It was.

00:05:50 Speaker 2

It was just everything.

00:05:54 Speaker 2

And pretty hard to understand what the purpose of this.

00:06:01 Speaker 2

Type of training was, however, it did learn us to take orders and be good soldiers.

00:06:10 Speaker 2

Ask any questions as do as what the.

00:06:16 Speaker 2

People.

00:06:18 Speaker 2

The sergeants the instructors wanted us to do.

00:06:23 Speaker 1

Were you up for that level of activity? The 25 mile hike, was that something you could do?

00:06:29 Speaker 2

No, but it became after several of these it became a kind of a routine, and it was no strenuous job the first couple of times.

00:06:42 Speaker 2

It was hard.

00:06:44 Speaker 2

But then you got hardened into it and.

00:06:48 Speaker 2

You knew what to expect and it.

00:06:53 Speaker 2

Didn't seem so terrible to. We first thought it was.

00:06:58 Speaker 1

Were you trained on any specific weapons or firearms?

00:07:04 Speaker 2

I was in.

00:07:07 Speaker 2

A rifle platoon.

00:07:11 Speaker 2

Three men.

00:07:13 Speaker 2

With rifles, foot troopers, infantry.

00:07:18 Speaker 2

Combat men.

00:07:20 Speaker 2

Our general call this the Queen of battle.

00:07:25 Speaker 2

Our job was to.

00:07:29 Speaker 2

Attack after a heavy shelling and bombing of an area on enemy position and to.

00:07:39 Speaker 2

Clean up and dather up the soldiers.

00:07:45 Speaker 2

That would give up or one that wouldn't come out of the foxholes. We would have to maybe throw a grenade in on them.

00:07:54 Speaker 2

War is just terrible. What you have to do.

00:07:59 Speaker 2

To survive, you don't always do what you're taught to do.

00:08:03 Speaker 2

You don't always do what you think is right. What you were taught was right.

00:08:09 Speaker 2

You have to do.

00:08:12 Speaker 2

Anything you can do to stay alive.

00:08:15 Speaker 1

And.

00:08:18 Speaker 1

Did this reality get through to you when you were in basic training?

00:08:20 Speaker 1

This what your sergeants told you, how hard it would be.

00:08:25 Speaker 1

Did your sergeants tell you how hard war would be?

00:08:29 Speaker 2

Ah.

00:08:31 Speaker 2

Toward the end of our basic.

00:08:34 Speaker 2

Of our.

00:08:35 Speaker 2

I shouldn't say basic.

00:08:37 Speaker 2

There was other training to follow.

00:08:41 Speaker 2

Army would bring back.

00:08:45 Speaker 2

Soldiers who had been in combat.

00:08:48 Speaker 2

Who had the experience as our leaders, and they would tell us first hand from their experience on the front lines just how the war was and what to expect.

00:09:02 Speaker 2

So we had very, very good training in those lines.

00:09:07 Speaker 1

What type of gun did you use?

00:09:11 Speaker 2

The.

00:09:13 Speaker 2

30 caliber Durand that was a semi automatic weapon. A rifle 30 caliber bullet and it had eight shell capacity to a clip.

00:09:28 Speaker 2

And each time you pull the trigger, it was gas operated and and the piston would work and he throw out the empty shell and put a new shell.

00:09:39 Speaker 2

In until the clip was emptied, and then the clip would flip up and out and you could slide another clip from the top of the chamber down into the the chamber where which held.

00:09:54 Speaker 2



The clip for the bullets.

00:09:57 Speaker 2

It was a weapon that could be used with the bayonet in hand to hand fighting.

00:10:04 Speaker 2

Had a bayonet to attach to it.

00:10:06 Speaker 2

It also had an adapter that would fire grenades.

00:10:14 Speaker 2

For instance, the purpose of that was.

00:10:19 Speaker 2

In case we were attacked or.

00:10:25 Speaker 2

Would in case the the Germans after we took a position would counter attack, they would come with tanks. We were trained to let the tank yet never shoot it. Grenade.

00:10:40 Speaker 2

At the front of the tank, because the armor on the tank was 3 inches thick.

00:10:45 Speaker 2

Around the outside.

00:10:49 Speaker 2

The weak part was.

00:10:51 Speaker 2

A lesser amount of metal into the bogey wheels.

00:10:55 Speaker 2

So you would have to a tank was sideways from you and you shot into the bogey wheels which disengaged them and also disengaged the tank from operating.

00:11:09 Speaker 1

Where did you go after you were in Tennessee for your next phase of training?

00:11:14 Speaker 1

With that, where did you go afterwards for training after Tennessee?

00:11:20 Speaker 2

After Tennessee.

00:11:23 Speaker 2

The apparently scheduled our unit to go to the South Pacific.

00:11:29 Speaker 2

O we went to Camp Phillip, Kansas.

00:11:33 Speaker 2

Open country and trained from there we went to.

00:11:39 Speaker 2

Hackahola Desert Camp in Yuma, AZ.

00:11:45 Speaker 2

They gave us a post office address in California.

00:11:52 Speaker 2

So we were all ready to go to California.

00:11:56 Speaker 2

After being there and waiting.

00:12:00 Speaker 2

The.

00:12:02 Speaker 2

Strategy, I guess on the war changed and we were.

00:12:09 Speaker 2

Earmarks to go to the European dealer of operation.

00:12:15 Speaker 2

From there, we come back to Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, and four \*\*\*\*\*, and from 4 \*\*\*\*\* we got sent on the Queen Mary.

00:12:28 Speaker 2

July the 1st, 1944.

00:12:32 Speaker 2

To.

00:12:36 Speaker 2

Scotland.

00:12:38 Speaker 2

Now it took us seven days to get there, so we arrived there.

00:12:43 Speaker 2

July the 7th.

00:12:46 Speaker 2

Of 44.

00:12:48 Speaker 1

So this was a few weeks after the invasion of D-Day.

00:12:52 Speaker 2

This was after the.

00:12:54 Speaker 2

Yes, the invasion was the 5th of.

00:13:00 Speaker 2

May or June.

00:13:01 Speaker 1

The 5th of May into the 6th of May into the 6th of June, or rather overnight June 6th was D-Day.

00:13:04 Speaker 2

Right, right.

00:13:07 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:13:10 Speaker 1

We how?

00:13:11 Speaker 1

How soon did you get into Europe?

00:13:13 Speaker 1

The fighting.

00:13:15 Speaker 2

How soon did I want?

00:13:16 Speaker 1

How soon did you get over to France?

00:13:20 Speaker 1

To the fighting in France, were you in Scotland a couple weeks?

00:13:25 Speaker 2

I was in Scotland for about 3 weeks and on 1/3 of August we.

00:13:31 Speaker 2

Landed in France at Utah Beach.

00:13:37 Speaker 1

What was that like to describe Utah beach that point?

00:13:39 Speaker 2

Was.

00:13:42 Speaker 2

Very, very discouraging.

00:13:45 Speaker 2

It would make the average person cry.

00:13:50 Speaker 2

To see how devastating.

00:13:54 Speaker 2

War really is.

00:13:57 Speaker 2

Everything was bombed.

00:14:00 Speaker 2

The remnants of.

00:14:03 Speaker 2

Large concrete obstruction, barbed wire all over the beach. Just.

00:14:10 Speaker 2

Travel lanes were cut through it so that we could get to the shore safely and we entered.

00:14:19 Speaker 2

On that beach.

00:14:22 Speaker 1

When you went over to Utah Beach, did you go over as a unit or were you scheduled to be replaced?

00:14:26 Speaker 2

We went as a unit and we walked through the water from the assault post into the shore and we walked them into the town and.

00:14:38 Speaker 2

Got the information and continued on through.

00:14:44 Speaker 2

To the front lines.

00:14:47 Speaker 2

I might say that one of the first sites I saw was a German soldier.

00:14:56 Speaker 2

In the gutter along the road as we March through this town.

00:15:00 Speaker 2

He had been dead for quite some time.

00:15:05 Speaker 2

His hands were exposed, the flesh on his hands had deteriorated and he was coming off the bones and the first thing I saw was a.

00:15:16 Speaker 2

Conduct eating in this decayed flush.

00:15:23 Speaker 2

And.

00:15:23 Speaker 1

How'd that make it feel?

00:15:25 Speaker 2

It really, really made me sip to my stomach and really.

00:15:30 Speaker 2

Gave me a touch of what to expect.

00:15:35 Speaker 2

My next thing that I saw that attracted my attention was a young mother.

00:15:42 Speaker 2

With a three or four month old baby carrying it with a pack on her back with all of it along is just walking toward the rear.

00:15:53 Speaker 2

Of us into safety and in her hand she was guiding.

00:16:01 Speaker 2

A little boy, about 5 or 6 year old, and this was also very disheartening to me.

00:16:10 Speaker 2

It was something that I didn't expect to see, but this pertain to every living thing in the area that was bombed and straight the cattle, the chicken, the birds, anything.

00:16:24 Speaker 2

Was affected by the heavy shell.

00:16:29 Speaker 2

But the Ariat?

00:16:31 Speaker 2

It just could not have nothing survive in my opinion.

00:16:37 Speaker 1

You told me about two incidents involving cows.

00:16:40 Speaker 1

Can you describe the incidents involving cows?

00:16:44 Speaker 2

Yes, we had.

00:16:45 Speaker 2

I was in two affairs that involved cows.

00:16:54 Speaker 2

The one affair was kind of funny.

00:16:59 Speaker 2

It was when he first started out in France and we had.

00:17:05 Speaker 2

Pushed ahead and taken our objective and we were told to secure the.

00:17:11 Speaker 2

So there was a fence row outside of town that I dug my platoon in along this to protect.

00:17:21 Speaker 2

The direction that the Germans left when they left the area and.

00:17:29 Speaker 2

The first night we had a policy of.

00:17:34 Speaker 2

Every other person in the foxhole would stay awake.

00:17:39 Speaker 2

To give us protection and visual assistance in case we were attacked during a night or something happened during the night that they needed some help and.

00:17:52 Speaker 2

This happened for, I believe, two nights and the people involved out there on the lines.

00:17:59 Speaker 2

Came to me and told me that.

00:18:03 Speaker 2

During the night while they were in their holes.

00:18:07 Speaker 2

That they would hear German soldiers.

00:18:11 Speaker 2

In right in front of them, walking around and making some noises.

00:18:17 Speaker 2

And what can we do about it?

00:18:22 Speaker 2

So I had to make a decision I after thinking it over, I.

00:18:31 Speaker 2

Suggested that I go up there with them and that when this noise occurs.

00:18:39 Speaker 2

I would give them a signal and they would all empty their guns in the direction where they heard the noise.

00:18:48 Speaker 2

And.

00:18:49 Speaker 2

See what happens.

00:18:51 Speaker 2

Well, this happened and everybody unloaded their guns and.

00:18:58 Speaker 2

We had success. The noise stopped.

00:19:02 Speaker 2

The next morning.

00:19:06 Speaker 2

Ah, we checked.

00:19:09 Speaker 2

To see what was out there, how many soldiers was there and so forth.

00:19:16 Speaker 1

To see who you might have killed.

00:19:18 Speaker 2

Well, lo and behold, all we found was a dead cow.

00:19:23 Speaker 2

There was another instance of a dead of a living cow and this cow.

00:19:30 Speaker 2

I attributed to be an asset to me personally.

00:19:36 Speaker 2

We had taken a town.



00:19:40 Speaker 2

Assuming that the town was clear of the enemy.

00:19:45 Speaker 2

I went into a building and looked around to see if there's any German soldiers lingering.

00:19:56 Speaker 2

Lo and behold.

00:20:00 Speaker 2

Opened the door slightly and I threw a potato masher.

00:20:05 Speaker 2

A potato masher was a German grenade which was explosive and it was attached to a wooden handle that they had threw.

00:20:15 Speaker 2

And the thing went off and deafened me and I didn't know what to do.

00:20:20 Speaker 2

Thought if I stayed there.

00:20:24 Speaker 2

I wouldn't live, so I ran up some broken old steps to the second floor.

00:20:31 Speaker 2

I got to the second floor, thought it was safe.

00:20:34 Speaker 2

But then there was footsteps on the.

00:20:39 Speaker 2

Stairs leading to the second steps and.

00:20:43 Speaker 2

Another grenade was thrown in steps, so I went up to the third.

00:20:49 Speaker 2

And the winds were blowing out, and it was devastating. And lo and behold.

00:20:57 Speaker 2

The person.

00:21:00 Speaker 2

Here I have to assume was on his way up to the third floor.

00:21:06 Speaker 2

The window was broke out.

00:21:09 Speaker 2

I thought I can't stay here and be killed.

00:21:12 Speaker 2

I'm going to jump out the window and see what happens.

00:21:16 Speaker 2

I jumped out the window and this is including.

00:21:22 Speaker 2

A 70 LB pack on my back with my raincoat.

00:21:25 Speaker 2

Pup tent extra shelves.

00:21:29 Speaker 2

A blanket than all the other ammunition things that I need 70 lbs with the load I carry.

00:21:37 Speaker 2

And I my fall was broken when I landed on a tile roof.

00:21:45 Speaker 2

Now every German family had a little Guernsey cow.

00:21:51 Speaker 2

For their their own personal use in milk and cheese and butter, and they also had a flock of chickens walking around and the chickens were furnished them with the eggs.

00:22:04 Speaker 2

So I jumped and I landed on this roof and it broke my fall.

00:22:11 Speaker 2

And I crashed on through down and I landed beside a cow.

00:22:17 Speaker 2

And it's stable and it was kind of messy as you can imagine and it was the first time I knew that.

00:22:26 Speaker 2

From the diet it had in grasses and stuff and corn had a stomach produced a lot of gas.

00:22:35 Speaker 2

First thing I heard was this stomach's cow's stomach grumbling and the cow passing air and.

00:22:45 Speaker 2

I checked myself to see that I was all right.

00:22:48 Speaker 2

I worked my feet to see that nothing was wrong in my arms, and I looked around and I moved around and.

00:22:57 Speaker 2

And I was lucky I was not wounded at all. No.

00:23:03 Speaker 2

Signs of any injuries at all.

00:23:06 Speaker 2

So I made a choice.

00:23:09 Speaker 2

What do I do? So I decided.

00:23:12 Speaker 2

Dark outside.

00:23:13 Speaker 2

I'm going to stay here all night until it gets light.

00:23:17 Speaker 1

View all by herself.

00:23:18 Speaker 2

I stay all by myself.

00:23:20 Speaker 1

How did you get separated from your unit?

00:23:23 Speaker 2

In the fighting, everything was.

00:23:26 Speaker 2

The fighting is terrible. You're just it's a it's a bunch of.

00:23:33 Speaker 2

Things that everybody's shooting and you don't.

00:23:36 Speaker 2

Don't.

00:23:36 Speaker 2

You don't even know who you're shooting at half of the time, but you do get separated.

00:23:43 Speaker 2

Off to the side, and in this case I was in a building and by myself and.

00:23:44 Speaker 1

Do you remember what where you were?

00:23:49 Speaker 1

Town was it?

00:23:50 Speaker 2

And so when it got light, I poked my nose out the door.

00:23:57 Speaker 2

And I looked around and there was number sign of any activity and after a while I.

00:24:04 Speaker 2

Had enough courage to run to the next object for cover, and there I thought I'd better.

00:24:13 Speaker 2

Make a decision here on where I want to go.

00:24:17 Speaker 2

So.

00:24:19 Speaker 2

Every attack we went on a certain asthma. According to our compass, 360° in a circle.

00:24:28 Speaker 2

So I took the office of Azmath that that came in on.

00:24:34 Speaker 2

And in a short time I had contacted.

00:24:39 Speaker 2

Some of my.

00:24:41 Speaker 2

Men.

00:24:43 Speaker 2

And rejoined and reorganized.

00:24:46 Speaker 1

You remember where you were. Where did this happen?

00:24:51 Speaker 2

It was right before the battle. The bulge, and it was cold.

00:24:51 Speaker 1

There's a.

00:24:57 Speaker 2

I remember.

00:24:58 Speaker 2

I welcomed the warmth of the cow as I laid there beside her.

00:25:04 Speaker 2

Even though it wasn't the best of conditions, otherwise pretty smelly.

00:25:10 Speaker 2

I smell.

00:25:13 Speaker 1

So after this night with the cow and you got back to your unit, where did you go next?

00:25:19 Speaker 1

What happened?

00:25:19 Speaker 2

I joined my troop.

00:25:22 Speaker 2

We would get replacements after dark.

00:25:28 Speaker 2

And I see saw and made a list of who were still around and I.

00:25:37 Speaker 2

Made a request for X number of.

00:25:41 Speaker 2

Of replacements to replace the men that were missing.

00:25:47 Speaker 2

Missing some were killed.

00:25:51 Speaker 2

Some just took off and ran away.

00:25:54 Speaker 2

I didn't know where they were, but they were missing.

00:25:59 Speaker 2

Under my jurisdiction it.

00:26:00 Speaker 1

You would have been missing for a day or two while you were.

00:26:03 Speaker 1

The house, right?

00:26:05 Speaker 1

Right.

00:26:06 Speaker 2

So.

00:26:07 Speaker 1

So what did your unit do? Once they got organized again?

00:26:11 Speaker 1

Where did they go?

00:26:13 Speaker 2

We got organized and.

00:26:21 Speaker 2

Went on from there.

00:26:25 Speaker 2

Our instructions were very very.

00:26:27 Speaker 2

They would give you a sketch of what you had to do and what they expected you to do, and the UN according to that.

00:26:38 Speaker 1

So you had a plan from higher ups where to go?

00:26:41 Speaker 2

Everything and many times we had.

00:26:46 Speaker 2

Very, very detailed instructions where even a Privy was on the the map that we had or the.

00:26:57 Speaker 2

That we used that was given to us to give us a better idea of what we were going to be confronted with.

00:27:07 Speaker 1

Were you involved in the battle of the Bulge?

00:27:10 Speaker 2

What's that?

00:27:10 Speaker 1

Were you involved in the battle of the Bulge?

00:27:14 Speaker 2

I was just on the edge.

00:27:18 Speaker 2

Of where the main push come through now, the Battle of the Bulge was a last attempt by Germany to.

00:27:28 Speaker 2

Go to Antwerp and take over the port of Antwerp.

00:27:32 Speaker 2

As so, they align the tanks. I would say there was.

00:27:38 Speaker 2

A role of six rows of tanks and armored vehicles, and they just fired and fired.

00:27:49 Speaker 2

Until and everything in front of them was just looked like a plowed field.

00:27:54 Speaker 2

Lived if you were in that area. I was on the sidelines.

00:28:00 Speaker 2

And they went and they expended all of their.

00:28:07 Speaker 2

Gas and all of their shelves. And that was the turning point when they had to stop and and forget about their objective, that they wanted to take.

00:28:20 Speaker 1

Did you hear the guns of the battle?

00:28:21 Speaker 2

Oh, yes, yes, some was. Up to maybe 25 miles away.

00:28:27 Speaker 2

And you couldn't hardly hear them.

00:28:30 Speaker 2

But then the thing you would.

00:28:35 Speaker 2

Hear is the whistle of the shell coming in and the bang that explosion.

00:28:44 Speaker 2

I never was too concerned about.

00:28:48 Speaker 2

The artillery.

00:28:50 Speaker 2

Because it had an effect where the shell hit the ground and the shrapnel splashed upward.

00:28:58 Speaker 2

Like a raindrop hitting a cement walk, but then later on in the war.



00:29:05 Speaker 2

The enemy come out with a time fire.

00:29:08 Speaker 2

This was a shelter that exploded when it got 20 feet above the ground and the shrapnel come down in a shower form.

00:29:17 Speaker 2

And it was much more deadly.

00:29:20 Speaker 2

Than the former type that hit the ground and splashed upward.

00:29:27 Speaker 1

So were you involved in any enemy action yourself?

00:29:33 Speaker 1

And what were you involved?

00:29:35 Speaker 1

Any enemy action that did you shoot anybody did? Did you encounter any Germans?

00:29:39 Speaker 2

Oh yes, my first encounter.

00:29:44 Speaker 2

After seeing the dead soldier and the mother.

00:29:50 Speaker 2

Within 24 hours, we were on the front lines and I was in company C.

00:29:58 Speaker 2

A 319 and we had lost contact with Company B.

00:30:05 Speaker 2

And my platoon was picked to.

00:30:08 Speaker 2

A contact company.

00:30:11 Speaker 2

Well, lo and behold, when I asked my scouts.

00:30:18 Speaker 2

I I met with resistance because they.

00:30:21 Speaker 2

They they knew what it meant, and this was the real thing. Up until now it was.

00:30:28 Speaker 2

Just.

00:30:29 Speaker 2

But now we're in a real thing.

00:30:31 Speaker 2

So rather than have a big hassle, I took the lead in a diamond formation.

00:30:38 Speaker 2

Ah, we went into a forest in the direction.

00:30:44 Speaker 2

Where the company was supposed to be and the forest over there.

00:30:51 Speaker 2

Were all.

00:30:52 Speaker 2

In other words, they were.

00:30:54 Speaker 2

There wasn't left here where there just trees growing.

00:30:58 Speaker 2

They were in rows, so I am the leader in the point and I'm going through in the direction where.

00:31:07 Speaker 2

Supposedly be company was supposed to be.

00:31:10 Speaker 2

And a German half track come up through the woods.

00:31:15 Speaker 2

And it.

00:31:16 Speaker 2

I thought, Oh my goodness, it went to pass us, but then it stopped.

00:31:22 Speaker 2

On this dirt Rd. through the forest and I stayed behind a tree and I looked around that everybody was in position. My men, my other three men.

00:31:36 Speaker 2

And a German soldier.

00:31:39 Speaker 2

A young man with blonde hair.

00:31:42 Speaker 2

They got out and they started to relieve themselves and smoke cigarettes and stuff.

00:31:47 Speaker 2

A little break and he can walking down the road toward me.

00:31:52 Speaker 2

Well, I was trained to take the enemy.

00:31:58 Speaker 2

As prisoners if possible.

00:32:01 Speaker 2

Being my first.

00:32:04 Speaker 2

Day.

00:32:06 Speaker 2

In, in encountering the enemy, I thought I would do what I was taught to do.

00:32:13 Speaker 2

I yelled out to.

00:32:15 Speaker 2

To halt and I put my gun against the tree and pointed it right out on me and he pulled his pistol out.

00:32:23 Speaker 2

And he shot at me.

00:32:25 Speaker 2

And I had my sights right on him, on his chest, and I pulled the trigger and he just slumped down.

00:32:34 Speaker 2

And.

00:32:35 Speaker 2

I looked around and I motioned my men to run back.

00:32:39 Speaker 2

Get out of here because I had no other alternative.

00:32:45 Speaker 2

With a half track with automatic weapons on.

00:32:50 Speaker 2

It.

00:32:50 Speaker 2

I often think about this.

00:32:55 Speaker 2

Why?

00:32:57 Speaker 2

A young boy.

00:33:01 Speaker 2

Healthy.

00:33:03 Speaker 2

Polished uniform.

00:33:06 Speaker 2

Why he had to lose his life.

00:33:10 Speaker 2

Because.

00:33:12 Speaker 2

He was trained to shoot me and I was trained to shoot him.

00:33:18 Speaker 2

Despite the fact that we didn't know each other, we shouldn't have people that we don't know who are just like us.

00:33:27 Speaker 2

And it was pretty hard for me to accept.

00:33:34 Speaker 2

What I had to do?

00:33:37 Speaker 2

Later on, when the war was over, I talked to.

00:33:41 Speaker 2

The clergy, both all types that I knew of and asked them why we had to do this and they all felt that.

00:33:54 Speaker 2

It was a matter where the government decided to do it. Then we were under the government and we were to obey their instructions.

00:34:04 Speaker 2

So it it didn't satisfy me but it said yes, but at what cost and what worried to all of us, gentlemen who were there and had to do this?

00:34:19 Speaker 2

I will mention that General Patton was the smartest man. I think there was in any.

00:34:26 Speaker 2

He had all kinds of strategies that he used, one of them that I didn't like was when we broke through the enemy lines.

00:34:35 Speaker 2

We had to keep going till we ran out of.

00:34:39 Speaker 2

Ammunition and food and stuff.

00:34:43 Speaker 2

Or we just collapsed.

00:34:44 Speaker 2

Just.

00:34:45 Speaker 2

And then he used a pincer movement to cut the enemy off, and that was his main.

00:34:53 Speaker 2

Trick that he used.

00:34:57 Speaker 2

For gaining.

00:35:00 Speaker 2

Area area that was held by the Germans.

00:35:06 Speaker 2

In Scotland.

00:35:09 Speaker 2

The last.

00:35:10 Speaker 2

Talked that General Patton gave to us and this was not in person.

00:35:16 Speaker 2

It was over a loud microphone.

00:35:18 Speaker 2

Was instructions that we should.

00:35:22 Speaker 2

We are here to kill Germans.

00:35:26 Speaker 2

And we should kill as many as quick as we can, which will mean that we will go back home a lot sooner.

00:35:35 Speaker 2

It was pretty hard to accept.

00:35:38 Speaker 2

But that was his words for us.

00:35:42 Speaker 1

Was this before the Battle of the Bulge?

00:35:44 Speaker 2

Oh yes, this was before. This was as we were leaving Belgium or as we were leaving Scotland to go into the France. He gave this speech to everybody on the loudspeaker and.

00:35:59 Speaker 1

So during that battle, when you were on the edge, when you're on the edge of the battle of the bulge, what did you do after? After that was over 'cause that was in the winter.

00:36:12 Speaker 2

After that was over.

00:36:15 Speaker 2

The Germans.

00:36:18 Speaker 2

Attitude that the soldiers was different.

00:36:21 Speaker 2

They knew that they had.

00:36:25 Speaker 2

Lost the war.

00:36:28

Ah.

00:36:29 Speaker 2

Not until they admitted it, but they knew that the.

00:36:35 Speaker 2

Thing had turned and that they had no chance of winning a war.

00:36:41 Speaker 1

You you told me when we spoke prior to this about a Purple Heart and a bronze star and A and a silver star.

00:36:49 Speaker 1

Can you tell us what happened?

00:36:51 Speaker 1

Why were you awarded those?

00:36:52 Speaker 2

Yeah, I am.

00:36:54 Speaker 2

I possess the Silver Star and the Bronze star.

00:37:00 Speaker 2

Both of those awards.

00:37:05 Speaker 2

Or by accomplishments.

00:37:08 Speaker 2

That I got credit for, but I have mixed feelings about it.

00:37:19 Speaker 2

I did not.

00:37:21 Speaker 2

As such.

00:37:25 Speaker 2

Do.

00:37:26 Speaker 2

The script with it says my platoon as a unit.

00:37:33 Speaker 2

40.

00:37:34 Speaker 2

36 men 312.

00:37:36 Speaker 2

Squads did the work, now I feel.

00:37:41 Speaker 2

That each of those people should have been recognized and not just the platoon leader.

00:37:48 Speaker 2

I I personally feel that way and I still feel that way, that what about the guys that really did the work?

00:37:56 Speaker 2

Guys that were crippled for life, the soldiers that lost their lives.

00:38:02 Speaker 2



In accomplishing that particular objective.

00:38:07 Speaker 1

What was the particular objective that they awarded?

00:38:10 Speaker 1

For.

00:38:12 Speaker 1

What was the what did the?

00:38:13 Speaker 2

Unit do for taking a pill, wal.

00:38:18 Speaker 2

With so many men, and at that moment actually attacking the pillbox, putting a phosphorus grenade down through the vent.

00:38:27 Speaker 2

And that went off in the the bunker that they're in the cement bunker and they had to come out or.

00:38:37 Speaker 1

What happened when they did come out?

00:38:38 Speaker 2

We took him prisoners.

00:38:41 Speaker 1

What's it like taking someone prisoner?

00:38:43 Speaker 1

Do you get him back?

00:38:44 Speaker 2

Ah, it's hard because.

00:38:48 Speaker 2

You don't know what this man is thinking about.

00:38:51 Speaker 2

You have some nut are very, very cooperative.

00:38:58 Speaker 2

And some that are dedicated to the lost, they'll fight it to the last.

00:39:03 Speaker 2

We found that.

00:39:06 Speaker 2

A great part of the soldiers that we fought were not that died in the wool German soldier. They were people from Poland and other countries that the Germans had.

00:39:22 Speaker 2

Taken over and they put a uniform on them and they needed manpower out there, so they used them on their lines.

00:39:32 Speaker 2

Our strategy before we attacked.

00:39:37 Speaker 2

Any position?

00:39:40 Speaker 2

Was to find out.

00:39:44 Speaker 2

How many?

00:39:46 Speaker 2

Soldiers are in the enemy lines out there.

00:39:51 Speaker 2

And unless we had three times that number.

00:39:56 Speaker 2

We could not.

00:39:58 Speaker 2

It took at least three to one to run that position over, according to.

00:40:05 Speaker 2

The strategy by our leaders.

00:40:08 Speaker 1

When you're attacking an entrenched position, it's much tougher than if you met an open field.

00:40:13 Speaker 2

That's exactly right. They are on the.

00:40:18 Speaker 2

Offensive and you're on the defensive.

00:40:21 Speaker 1

It's much safer to be on the defensive.

00:40:23 Speaker 2

Yes it is.

00:40:24 Speaker 1

So what was it like going across an open area to attack that pillbox?

00:40:29 Speaker 1

Or.

00:40:30 Speaker 1

How did can you?

00:40:31 Speaker 1

Tell us how how did you attack that pillbox that surrendered to you, to your unit?

00:40:37 Speaker 2

It was a thing where we just rushed it.

00:40:44 Speaker 2

Fire not all the.

00:40:45 Speaker 2

Now the pillboxes had apertures in them and it was like a funnel. They could swing that gun back and forth.

00:40:55 Speaker 2

Next pillbox covered part of their area so that there was complete coverage in front of the pillbox. Now that meant that if we could get out of the.

00:41:07 Speaker 2

Line of that pillbox we could get get in there and get behind them.

00:41:11 Speaker 2

Our idea was to get behind them and and.

00:41:16 Speaker 2

Use the foster grenades on their own events.

00:41:20 Speaker 2

All the pill boxes that the Germans had in the line.

00:41:25 Speaker 2

Were connected by trenches.

00:41:28 Speaker 2

And after a while.

00:41:32 Speaker 2

The soldiers.

00:41:35 Speaker 2

That would get killed while they were traveling back and forth.

00:41:41 Speaker 2

You would just pull the dirt in on them and you'd walk over them.

00:41:46 Speaker 2

Was.

00:41:47 Speaker 2

It was pretty.

00:41:48 Speaker 2

I'll tell you to do this.

00:41:53 Speaker 2

After the war.

00:41:56 Speaker 2

There's some people that felt that we should account for all missing in action soldiers and.

00:42:07 Speaker 2

From being there.

00:42:09 Speaker 2

I felt.

00:42:11 Speaker 2

From the beginning, this is impossible.

00:42:14 Speaker 2

I've had men.

00:42:17 Speaker 2

Who had direct hits or bombs in their foxhole?

00:42:24 Speaker 2

There was no identification error left of them, not a piece.

00:42:29 Speaker 2

They were blown to smithereens.

00:42:33 Speaker 2

Ah.

00:42:36 Speaker 2

It's it's one of the.

00:42:41 Speaker 2

Things that.

00:42:43 Speaker 2

Us humans on earth, which are supposed to be the smartest.

00:42:50 Speaker 2

I don't know where it is that we continue to have.

00:42:56 Speaker 2

The jealousy and the hatred and the ego of people to think even more war is horrible.

00:43:07 Speaker 1

So you were awarded the Purple Heart.

00:43:10 Speaker 1

What happened that you got that?

00:43:12 Speaker 2

There have been several reasons for that.

00:43:16 Speaker 2

I was hit several times.

00:43:19 Speaker 2

With shrapnel on the back of my leg.

00:43:23 Speaker 2

They were not wounds that incapacitated me with sulfur drug on them, or medic or or platoon medic. And and you kept going or you went back and they treated you and they put you out back on the line.

00:43:41 Speaker 2

There was number getting once you're on that line, you were.

00:43:44 Speaker 2

You stayed there until you got killed or something drastic happened to you that.

00:43:54 Speaker 2

Would make you eligible to be taken off the front lines.

00:44:00 Speaker 1

How many days were you on the front lines?

00:44:02 Speaker 2

I was on the front lines, not directly on the front lines but in reserves. Say 100 yards in the back of them in case they needed me.

00:44:12 Speaker 2

For 274.

00:44:15 Speaker 1

Did you get any time off to go have a rest?

00:44:18 Speaker 2

There was no time off.

00:44:19 Speaker 2

Just stayed there.

00:44:23 Speaker 2

And I had hoped.

00:44:28 Speaker 2

That to get out of.

00:44:31 Speaker 2

That if I could just give you a hand or a finger or a foot.

00:44:38 Speaker 2

It would be worthwhile just to get out of the mess I was in.

00:44:42 Speaker 2

It was terrible.

00:44:45 Speaker 1

When you were in the battle of the bulge, were you in the southern area of the of the front?

00:44:52 Speaker 1

We were in southern France during the Battle of the.

00:44:55 Speaker 2

Yes.

00:44:57 Speaker 2

There.

00:44:59

At.

00:45:01 Speaker 2

They we were in a different area and we didn't know what was going on. We were ill informed.

00:45:09 Speaker 2

We many times didn't know why we were doing things we didn't know the the whole picture, so we didn't have no idea what was happening. But to us at that time.

00:45:21 Speaker 2

Seemed.

00:45:23 Speaker 2

Why are they doing this?

00:45:25 Speaker 2

We just crossed the sour river and now they're pulling us back.

00:45:30 Speaker 2

There was a reason for all of this.

00:45:34 Speaker 2

I remember a Nuremberg, Germany.

00:45:41 Speaker 2

We didn't know it, but the heads of the army had planned that the Russians would take the city of Nuremberg.

00:45:55 Speaker 2

Well, it didn't workout that way.

00:45:56 Speaker 2

Got there first.

00:46:00 Speaker 2

So then we had to pull back and wait for the Russians to come in and take it so that.

00:46:07 Speaker 2

To fulfill the plan of what these.

00:46:12 Speaker 2

Top officials planned on.

00:46:15 Speaker 1

What did the city of Nuremberg look like?

00:46:18 Speaker 1

Was it?

00:46:19 Speaker 2

It.

00:46:19 Speaker 1

Bomb.

00:46:19 Speaker 2

It was bombed. Everything was.

00:46:24 Speaker 2

Shelled it was. It was terrible that.

00:46:30 Speaker 2

For the many, many years.



00:46:34 Speaker 2

That it took to build up these cities and beautiful churches and beautiful buildings.

00:46:41 Speaker 2

That now.

00:46:43 Speaker 2

We would just knock them to the ground.

00:46:46 Speaker 2

Was terrible, terrible, terrible.

00:46:50 Speaker 1

Did you do any house to house fighting there or was that prior, we thought?

00:46:56 Speaker 2

A reconnaissance told us that Nuremberg they had evacuated us and that it would be a matter of justice taking possession.

00:47:09 Speaker 2

Our intelligence was excellent, except that.

00:47:13 Speaker 2

They're human.

00:47:15 Speaker 2

So that when we did enter the city.

00:47:20 Speaker 2

In the rubble.

00:47:23 Speaker 2

There was soldiers all over the place.

00:47:27 Speaker 2

They hadn't evacuated, but they made it appear as if the evac.

00:47:33 Speaker 1

The gin counter enemy fire in that incident.

00:47:38 Speaker 1

Was thought, did you get shot at by the enemy?

00:47:39 Speaker 2

Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah.

00:47:41 Speaker 1

So what's it like?

00:47:43 Speaker 1

What do you do when you're when you're encountering the enemy?

00:47:46 Speaker 2

No. So.

00:47:47 Speaker 1

You duck. You dig a trench.

00:47:51 Speaker 2

What's that?

00:47:51 Speaker 1

How do you avoid getting shot when you're in war?

00:47:58 Speaker 1

How do you avoid getting shot when you're in war, when you're count or the enemy?

00:48:02 Speaker 2

Ah, you have a good question here.

00:48:07 Speaker 2

Ah, take it from me. I wrote my mother after one week in the arm in the world over there that I had \$10,000 in life insurance.

00:48:20 Speaker 2

That I couldn't come.

00:48:22 Speaker 2

There was no way I could come back from the way I saw it.

00:48:27 Speaker 2

She should spend that for a new refrigerator and a new sink and a kitchen.

00:48:37 Speaker 2

There's no way.

00:48:41 Speaker 2

I'm a believer that.

00:48:44 Speaker 2

There's no such a thing as luck.

00:48:47 Speaker 2

If you buy.

00:48:50 Speaker 2

An investment and you make.

00:48:51 Speaker 2

It's luck if you lose money, it's bad luck.

00:48:57 Speaker 2

If you don't do anything and don't buy 1, you have no luck.

00:49:04 Speaker 2

So luck I feel is.

00:49:09 Speaker 2

Not always as we think it is. You can make luck.

00:49:14 Speaker 2

By doing certain things.

00:49:19 Speaker 2

Ah, did I tell you about the incident in church with my friend that was killed in church?

00:49:25 Speaker 1

No, please do.

00:49:26 Speaker 2

No.

00:49:26 Speaker 2

Well, here's an example.

00:49:30 Speaker 2

Several times.

00:49:32 Speaker 2

I had met the enemy around the building face to face.

00:49:39 Speaker 2

And for someone known reason, he looked at me and I looked at him and we walked away.

00:49:45 Speaker 2

Basically, we were supposed to be there to kill one another.

00:49:51 Speaker 2

I asked people about this and they said well.

00:49:57 Speaker 2

They didn't know.

00:50:00 Speaker 2

But my conclusion was that it was the eye to eye contact.

00:50:05 Speaker 2

Rather than shoot out somebody on known out there, there was the guy that had a shoot.

00:50:13 Speaker 2

I related to her mentioned about this incident in a church on luck.

00:50:20 Speaker 2

There are several times that I was in an area and I had a funny feeling.

00:50:26 Speaker 2

That I'd better move over there.

00:50:29 Speaker 2

And would you believe?

00:50:33 Speaker 2

After I got there and got settled in, there's a shell hit where I was stood.

00:50:39 Speaker 2

Is that luck? Is it?

00:50:40 Speaker 2

Is.

00:50:41 Speaker 2

Is it intuition?

00:50:43 Speaker 2

Is it?

00:50:44 Speaker 2

How did I know to move?

00:50:47 Speaker 2

Well, anyway to talk about this church incident, we had taken this town of Hyde Shield.

00:50:53 Speaker 2

Germany and.

00:51:00 Speaker 2

Member of my platoon. By the name of Hunter.

00:51:06 Speaker 2

We wound up outside this church.

00:51:10 Speaker 2

And Bill was very religious and he said, Steve, he said let's win the church.

00:51:18 Speaker 2

He.

00:51:18 Speaker 2

They're not going to bomb the church.

00:51:21 Speaker 2

So we went in the church and beautiful stained glass windows and then beautiful stone and stained glass windows and stone.

00:51:31 Speaker 2

Were standing under the windows and I said to him, I said Bill.

00:51:36 Speaker 2

I said I'm uncomfortable here.

00:51:39 Speaker 2

The shell should hit up there.

00:51:42 Speaker 2

Ah.

00:51:44 Speaker 2

Both of us are going to get it, I.

00:51:46 Speaker 2

Let's go over by the stone and we'll have some protection.

00:51:53 Speaker 2

Bill said Steve, he said they're not going to bomb the church.

00:51:58 Speaker 2

And I moved over.

00:52:02 Speaker 2

Within minutes.

00:52:05 Speaker 2

Shell hit up above us.

00:52:08 Speaker 2

A piece of the shrapnel took Bill's head right off here.

00:52:13 Speaker 2

I looked.

00:52:14 Speaker 2

I saw white brains.

00:52:17 Speaker 2

Then I saw the blood come up and I saw Bill slump.

00:52:21 Speaker 2

And falls down on between the pews. In a church, it was cold.

00:52:28 Speaker 2

The blood went down through the fuse and the steam was coming off of from the warm blood hitting the cold of the church.

00:52:39 Speaker 2

What did I do to save my life and didn't save his or? I don't know. I don't know.

00:52:46 Speaker 1

You chose to be by the wall and he said the church wouldn't be bombed.

00:52:48 Speaker 2

Yeah, yeah.

00:52:49 Speaker 2

In other words, so it's it's something I did that that caused this.

00:52:56 Speaker 2

And I often think of this.

00:53:01 Speaker 2

I shouldn't have mentioned his name because.

00:53:04 Speaker 2

His relatives have been.

00:53:07 Speaker 2

In contact with me to explain to them just how Bill got killed.

00:53:14 Speaker 2

There.

00:53:16 Speaker 2

Note from the Army was a letter stating that he was killed in action.

00:53:22 Speaker 2

And they understand that I was with him when he was killed, and that if I could tell him how.

00:53:30 Speaker 2

Truthfully.

00:53:33 Speaker 2

And in my judgment, I never told them I didn't see.

00:53:39 Speaker 2

Any benefit?

00:53:42 Speaker 2

In them, knowing how their loved one was killed, it was too gruesome and too heartbreaking for me to tell them.

00:53:53 Speaker 1

Kind of a senseless.

00:53:54 Speaker 1

Death wasn't shooting at the enemy at that time, hiding from the enemy, maybe.

00:54:00 Speaker 2

Mm.

00:54:04 Speaker 1

So after after that incident.

00:54:07 Speaker 1

When did you find out that you would be able to go home?

00:54:12 Speaker 2

Ah.

00:54:16 Speaker 2

We fought and fought.

00:54:18 Speaker 2

Were.

00:54:19 Speaker 2

We had a big radio that our messenger carried on his back with a big Uriel, and it was poor, and we almost had none.

00:54:29 Speaker 2

And it so happens that we.

00:54:33 Speaker 2

Fought 2 days after the war was over because we didn't get the word.

00:54:39 Speaker 2

And when we got the word.

00:54:46 Speaker 2

Congregate us in Austria.

00:54:50 Speaker 2

In an area that was going to be.

00:54:55 Speaker 2

Used.



00:54:56 Speaker 2

To send the soldiers from.

00:55:01 Speaker 2

There over to Africa, Japan to fight Japan.

00:55:07 Speaker 2

And.

00:55:10 Speaker 2

I consider my friend when Harry Truman took over.

00:55:14 Speaker 2

He decided to use the atom bomb.

00:55:17 Speaker 2

And his use of the atom bomb.

00:55:19 Speaker 2

It not only took a lot of lungs, but it saved a lot of lives.

00:55:23 Speaker 2

I was one of them that as a result of that I did not have to go to.

00:55:31 Speaker 2

Japan the fight which I was earmarked for, but rather.

00:55:37 Speaker 2

With my points that I had for my.

00:55:42 Speaker 2

Time in service and all the other things that gave me points.

00:55:46 Speaker 2

I was scheduled to come home rather than go over there.

00:55:51 Speaker 2

So I was discharged October 26th, 1945.

00:55:58 Speaker 1

So from.

00:55:59 Speaker 2

Indian Indian time lap.

00:56:00 Speaker 1

From about May to October, you were namely in Austria.

00:56:04 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:56:06 Speaker 1

Austria is that where you work?

00:56:07 Speaker 2

Yeah, yeah.

00:56:10 Speaker 2

After the war that we got the word why they.

00:56:15 Speaker 2

They congregated us in Austria and.

00:56:19 Speaker 1

How did you get back home?

00:56:21 Speaker 2

On the queen mirror.

00:56:23

Say.

00:56:23 Speaker 1

Same ship you left on.

00:56:24 Speaker 2

The same ship I got there.

00:56:27 Speaker 2

Going over.

00:56:29 Speaker 2

To avoid German submarines, the Queen Mary would change its course every so many minutes.

00:56:39 Speaker 2

So that if we were spotted by a submarine, a German submarine, that they could not get a bead on us to shell us, that would change our direction every so often.

00:56:56 Speaker 2

So it took seven days of zig zagging to get over there. However, coming back at took less time.

00:57:06 Speaker 2

The Queen Mary was not a luxury boat as it was supposed to be.

00:57:12 Speaker 2

Everything was removed from the boat except the bare floors.

00:57:18 Speaker 2

And we had a curl up on the bare floors and get some rest if you're wondering.

00:57:24 Speaker 2

And the food.

00:57:28 Speaker 2

Was a mutton.

00:57:30 Speaker 2

Mutton Stew. I got so tired of mutton Stew that I never ate it since.

00:57:38 Speaker 2

Being a British on a Scottish.

00:57:42 Speaker 2

Source that had.

00:57:44 Speaker 2

On the ship, I guess that was their main food like ours is beef.

00:57:52 Speaker 1

So what was it like when you got home?

00:57:55 Speaker 2

When I got home.

00:58:00 Speaker 2

I would have to ask.

00:58:03 Speaker 2

Who is that? Because the period of time that I went these youngsters.

00:58:10 Speaker 2

Grew U so fast that I didn't even know my neighbors anymore.

00:58:16 Speaker 2

And.

00:58:20 Speaker 2

My mother was concerned about me.

00:58:24 Speaker 2

The fact that I could not sleep.

00:58:29 Speaker 2

I would lay down and.

00:58:32 Speaker 2

For some reason.

00:58:34 Speaker 2

After being in the war.

00:58:36 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:58:38 Speaker 2

I say I cut my one eye open.

00:58:42 Speaker 2

I never did get into sound sleep.

00:58:45 Speaker 2

Until later on and I still have.

00:58:51 Speaker 2

Dreams that are so real, so real, that I think I'm there.

00:58:58 Speaker 2

It's just.

00:59:00 Speaker 2

It's.

00:59:00 Speaker 2

It's a heck of a thing, but that's the way it is and I can understand.

00:59:06 Speaker 2

The soldiers that were.

00:59:09 Speaker 2

In some of these conflicts, when they explain themselves how they feel because.

00:59:14 Speaker 2

I am one of them.

00:59:17 Speaker 2

Am grateful.

00:59:19 Speaker 2

That I plan controller and keep it under control an that it goes away.

00:59:27 Speaker 1

What they call post traumatic stress disorder these days, a lot of soldiers have that after being in battle.

00:59:31

Mm.

00:59:34 Speaker 1

So after you adjusted back to the real world what you do?

00:59:40 Speaker 2

I come back and I went back into the coal mines.

00:59:43 Speaker 2

Job was.

00:59:44 Speaker 2

I was guaranteed that.

00:59:47 Speaker 2

And I hated it.

00:59:50 Speaker 2

The coal mines at that time was on its way out. The oil and gas and stuff was.

00:59:59 Speaker 2

Electricity was replacing the coal.

01:00:03 Speaker 2

So coal was no longer a king.

01:00:07 Speaker 2

One time, coal was king.

01:00:10 Speaker 2

Gerard College in Philadelphia was built by Coleman Estates, who owned a big coal mine up where I lived.

01:00:18 Speaker 2

So they did do a lot of good in what they did for the country here.

01:00:24 Speaker 2

And.

01:00:28 Speaker 2

What time?

01:00:28 Speaker 1

What did you do after the coal?

01:00:30 Speaker 2

After the coal, I saw a piece in the paper.

01:00:37 Speaker 2

Stating that.

01:00:39 Speaker 2

He came, commissioned a Pennsylvania game commissioner, was going to.

01:00:45 Speaker 2

Hire.

01:00:47 Speaker 2

25 men.

01:00:50 Speaker 2

To train as district aim Protectors, 150 game protectors in the state.

01:00:56 Speaker 2

And they had enough districts facing and covered by other officers that they were going to hire.

01:01:04 Speaker 2

I was.

01:01:06 Speaker 2

Spent a lot of time where I lived in the woods, trapping and hunting and everything.

01:01:13 Speaker 2

And so I knew a lot of what they wanted to know about me, so.

01:01:19 Speaker 2

Out of 2052 people, I was one of 25.

01:01:26 Speaker 2

Who made the grade?

01:01:28 Speaker 2

I credit that to my background being.

01:01:34 Speaker 2

Born in the woods and hunting and trapping and spending all my time in the woods. I.

01:01:38 Speaker 2

Every tree.

01:01:40 Speaker 2

I live with my uncle awhile and he taught me the things that are fit to eat in the woods that are growing that are not poisonous and that poisonous things and and we we.

01:01:54 Speaker 2

Sent our furs over animals we strapped to.

01:01:58 Speaker 2

Taylor and and Funston and Company and Johnny Muskrat was a fur buyer for sure.

01:02:05 Speaker 2

Was there a furbar?

01:02:06 Speaker 2

Muskrat Philadelphia.

01:02:09 Speaker 2

And.

01:02:13 Speaker 2

The furs at that time, mink would bring \$40 today because of demand.

01:02:22 Speaker 2

A mink would only bring US 3 or 4 dollars.

01:02:27 Speaker 2

Russia at that time was our main.

01:02:31 Speaker 2

Country.

01:02:33 Speaker 2

To buy our furs and.

01:02:37 Speaker 2

I did not with the Dean Ermission I sent the year at the Ross Lester School of Conservation.

01:02:43 Speaker 2

A year of probation in Berks County here under the.

01:02:49 Speaker 2

Guidance of the full time being Protector Joe line. Decker and I passed all of the required months and I was sent to York.

01:03:02 Speaker 2

As a district aim protector in May of 1950.

01:03:09 Speaker 1

What would you tell a young person today who might be interested in the military?

01:03:13 Speaker 2

Ah, it would be a matter of opinion.

01:03:17 Speaker 2

I would explain how it is and I would tell him that if he chose this type of life, he should join.

01:03:25 Speaker 2

We're going to need soldiers.



01:03:30 Speaker 2

There's going to be wars as long as there's people.

01:03:35 Speaker 2

We can't avoid it. That's been.

01:03:38 Speaker 2

Way, way back.

01:03:39 Speaker 2

They fought from horses and Spears and things of that sort.

01:03:47 Speaker 2

Very barbaric and ever since thought that we've had wars and wars and it's all because of greed, jealousy, money.

01:03:59 Speaker 2

People's desires to.

01:04:05 Speaker 2

Be above and over and untouchable.

01:04:13 Speaker 1

Well, we've been talking with Steve Macy, a veteran of World War 2.

01:04:16 Speaker 1

You for your service.