

Autie Virgil Millican Interview

Company M, 318th Inf Reg

(Library of Congress: Veterans History Project; interviewed by Ali Millican, Ryan Busby)

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

00:00:00 Speaker 1

We are at Alton Milliken's House.

00:00:03 Speaker 1

Ultimately, Kim will be interviewed today.

00:00:07 Speaker 1

His birthday is December 13th, 1920.

00:00:13 Speaker 1

And his address is 721 W Elm.

00:00:18 Speaker 1

Attending the interview will be Alta, which is.

00:00:21 Speaker 1

And Ally Milliken, which is my grandfather and Ryan Busby, is behind the camera.

00:00:29 Speaker 1

What wards and branch of service did you serve in?

00:00:33 Speaker 2

Norman.

00:00:35 Speaker 1

Hey, what was your rank?

00:00:37 Speaker 2

Sergeant.

00:00:39 Speaker 3

OK.

00:00:40 Speaker 1

Where did you serve at?

00:00:44 Speaker 2

Tennessee, Kansas.

00:00:47 Speaker 2

Arizona.

00:00:48 Speaker 2

4 *****, New Jersey.

00:00:52 Speaker 3

And you and the battles you was in, OK?

00:00:55 Speaker 3

You served in France.

00:00:58 Speaker 2

Well, they got the overseas part, I guess.

00:01:01 Speaker 3

Yeah, it says. Where did you serve?

00:01:04 Speaker 3

That's where you serve.

00:01:08 Speaker 2

Yeah, France.

00:01:11 Speaker 2

Little Germany.

00:01:13

OK.

00:01:17 Speaker 1

Alright. Were you drafted or did you and Lance?

00:01:20 Speaker 2

Andrea.

00:01:22 Speaker 1

And where were you living at the time of your drafted?

00:01:28 Speaker 3

Damps are usually where would you live?

00:01:30 Speaker 1

Were.

00:01:30 Speaker 1

Living when you were.

00:01:31 Speaker 2

Living on the farm.

00:01:35

OK.

00:01:36 Speaker 2

They've been on the phone.

00:01:37 Speaker 1

Do you recall your first days in the service?

00:01:42 Speaker 2

First aid in the service. When I got all my shots, vaccinations and all that kind of thing.

00:01:48 Speaker 1

What did it feel like?

00:01:50 Speaker 2

People.

00:01:54 Speaker 2

You can imagine what somebody shoots you. They each arm both arms at the same time. You go down through a line and.

00:01:57

No.

00:02:02 Speaker 2

They had the needles already. All you get there. One of the hits. You in the deep.

00:02:05 Speaker 3

The other arm. But then she wants to know about your going into barracks and all that kind of stuff.

00:02:12 Speaker 3

More so than the neighbors.

00:02:14 Speaker 1

Just like your first days.

00:02:16 Speaker 3

Yeah, your first day is what you did.

00:02:20 Speaker 3

March.

00:02:22 Speaker 2

Whenever we first went in, they wouldn't. They just filled up the barracks and I was about the 5th person in that barracks died. Lay around there a few days.

00:02:30 Speaker 2

Before they get more people coming in to get enough in the barracks to fill it up, Steve.

00:02:36 Speaker 2

So I don't know what I don't really just lay.

00:02:38 Speaker 3

Around I guess. But then what do?

00:02:39 Speaker 3

You do when everybody got there.

00:02:42 Speaker 2

So we started training watching parade and.

00:02:44 Speaker 3

How are you trying?

00:02:47 Speaker 2

Do an exercise.

00:02:50 Speaker 3

Arjun.

00:02:51 Speaker 1

Do you remember your instructors?

00:02:53

Yeah.

00:02:56 Speaker 1

How did you get through it?

00:03:00 Speaker 1

How did you get through all the training and stuff? Just.

00:03:05 Speaker 2

How do I get through it? This is either get through it or lay down and quit so it send it back my ears.

00:03:15 Speaker 1

Which which war did you serve in?

00:03:19 Speaker 2

World War 2.

00:03:21 Speaker 1

Where exactly did you go?

00:03:26 Speaker 2

Went from New York to.

00:03:30 Speaker 2

Scotland and Scotland up to England through England and to France and France and the.

00:03:36 Speaker 2

Germany.

00:03:39 Speaker 1

Do you remember arriving and what it was like?

00:03:46 Speaker 2

We left out of New York on 1st July and we revived in Scotland the 4th of July.

00:03:54 Speaker 2

And we first hit combat and.

00:04:00 Speaker 2

The D-Day was June the 6th, I think.

00:04:04 Speaker 2

And we had come about 30 days late about the 1st July, we hit landed in France.

00:04:11 Speaker 2

Yeah. Mary went on up through and hit front line, but I don't remember what date it was.

00:04:18 Speaker 2

Stayed with them on the frontline and thought.

00:04:24 Speaker 2

Till November the 11th and I live the frontline of the frozen feet and they send me back to England to the hospital.

00:04:34 Speaker 2

Stayed there four months.

00:04:38 Speaker 1

Were there many casualties in your unit?

00:04:41 Speaker 2

And they were.

00:04:42 Speaker 1

Are there many casualties in your unit?

00:04:45 Speaker 2

No, that many not all left not all that good, but.

00:04:50 Speaker 2

That old 3 or 4 with miles boy got killed at one time.

00:04:55 Speaker 1

Could you tell me about a couple of your most memorable experiences?

00:05:02 Speaker 2

But none of the most memorable.

00:05:09 Speaker 2

It's rough either way you go at it.

00:05:14 Speaker 1

Were you awarded any medals or citations?

00:05:18 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:05:21 Speaker 1

How did you get them?

00:05:25 Speaker 2

Right.

00:05:26 Speaker 2

A servant, I guess.

00:05:28 Speaker 3

OK.

00:05:31 Speaker 1

How did you stay in touch with your family?

00:05:34 Speaker 2

Letters.

00:05:37 Speaker 1

And what was the food like?

00:05:39 Speaker 2

Food.

00:05:41 Speaker 2

Well, I won't tell you, but I know that. Good, I'll tell you.

00:05:47 Speaker 2

If you had.

00:05:48 Speaker 2

To.

00:05:48 Speaker 1

Eat it. Yeah, they don't want it.

00:05:50 Speaker 2

They love.

00:05:52 Speaker 2

But it wasn't. It wasn't.

00:05:55 Speaker 1

Did you have plenty of supplies?

00:05:57 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:05:59 Speaker 1

Did you feel pressure or stress?

00:06:03 Speaker 2

No, I don't think so.

00:06:07 Speaker 1

Was there something special you did for good luck?

00:06:12 Speaker 2

No.

00:06:15 Speaker 1

And how did people entertain themselves?

00:06:23 Speaker 2

Well, let's see. How did I entertain myself?

00:06:28 Speaker 2

Go to move it.

00:06:31 Speaker 2

The best.

00:06:34 Speaker 2

Tennessee they had an arcade, and if you go in there and play all them games and things.

00:06:42 Speaker 1

OK.

00:06:44 Speaker 3

To entertain yourself.

00:06:49 Speaker 1

What did you do when on leave?

00:06:51 Speaker 2

Come home.

00:06:53 Speaker 2

Don't furlough, but don't leave and go into town to the.

00:06:57 Speaker 2

Show or something like that. If a dead overnight pass.

00:07:03 Speaker 2

But if I had a two or three weeks leave, would I'd come home?

00:07:09 Speaker 1

Do you recall any particularly humorous or unusual event?

00:07:17 Speaker 2

No.

00:07:21 Speaker 1

What were some of the pranks that you or?

00:07:23 Speaker 1

Others would pull.

00:07:26 Speaker 2

That they will do well.

00:07:28 Speaker 1

What were some?

00:07:29 Speaker 1

Of the pranks.

00:07:30 Speaker 2

OK.

00:07:31 Speaker 1

That you and the others would.

00:07:31 Speaker 2

Pull. I never did pull it off. Brakes on my body.

00:07:36 Speaker 2

But I didn't want food with me.

00:07:40 Speaker 1

Do you have any photographs?

00:07:45 Speaker 1

Any any photographs you got?

00:07:47

Right.

00:07:48 Speaker 3

You got lots of. Hang on.

00:07:51 Speaker 2

The few?

00:07:54 Speaker 1

Who are the?

00:07:55 Speaker 1

People that are in your photographs, you're an amber.

00:07:57 Speaker 2

No.

00:08:01 Speaker 1

What did you think of officers or fellow soldiers?

00:08:05 Speaker 2

They're all pretty good.

00:08:08 Speaker 2

Of course, you know you had to mind. Do what you're supposed to have done it.

00:08:10

So.

00:08:13 Speaker 2

But I'd always tell them what you told me to do. And I got along alright with them.

00:08:19

If.

00:08:21 Speaker 1

Did you keep a personal diary? No.

00:08:27 Speaker 1

Do you recall the day your service ended?

00:08:31 Speaker 2

Round ended in July 19. I mean, in December 19 in.

00:08:40 Speaker 2

When the war in 45.

00:08:43 Speaker 2

December, December, the 2745.

00:08:47 Speaker 1

OK.

00:08:48 Speaker 1

Where were you?

00:08:50 Speaker 2

Pardon.

00:08:51 Speaker 3

Where were you, honey?

00:08:54 Speaker 2

For the.

00:09:00 Speaker 2

The Jefferson Barracks, Missouri.

00:09:03 Speaker 1

OK.

00:09:05 Speaker 1

What did you?

00:09:05 Speaker 2

Saint Louis.

00:09:06 Speaker 1

OK, what did you do in the days and weeks afterward?

00:09:13 Speaker 2

My work.

00:09:14 Speaker 1

What did you do? The days and the weeks after the war?

00:09:20 Speaker 2

Celebrated.

00:09:24 Speaker 1

Did you go?

00:09:24 Speaker 1

To work or go back to school.

00:09:27 Speaker 2

No.

00:09:30 Speaker 1

Was your education supported by the GI Bill?

00:09:34 Speaker 2

No.

00:09:37 Speaker 1

Did you make any close?

00:09:38 Speaker 1

Friendships while in the service.

00:09:41 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:09:45 Speaker 1

Did you continue any?

00:09:47 Speaker 1

Of those relationships.

00:09:51 Speaker 2

Well, not really. Well, I want to see one out in Victoria, TX when we just say it's about a year or two after we just charge.

00:09:58 Speaker 2

That that's a very close friend we live. Went to Mexico, Mexico. We stopped there and spent the night with.

00:10:05 Speaker 3

Him what about Bob?

00:10:09 Speaker 3

They're intensifying.

00:10:12 Speaker 3

What about Bob?

00:10:15 Speaker 2

Well, he come see us, said Bob Merle.

00:10:20 Speaker 2

Here.

00:10:20 Speaker 2

He was a leader.

00:10:24 Speaker 2

In there.

00:10:27 Speaker 1

All right.

00:10:32 Speaker 1

Did you join a veterans organization?

00:10:38 Speaker 2

The American Legion.

00:10:41 Speaker 2

A Member I'm a member of this.

00:10:44 Speaker 2

If that counts.

00:10:45

OK.

00:10:45 Speaker 2

That's all I've done.

00:10:48 Speaker 1

What did you go on to?

00:10:49 Speaker 1

Do as a career after the war.

00:10:56 Speaker 2

Well, they had two or three little jobs before I started pipe hitting.

00:11:02 Speaker 2

The Union would love for you.

00:11:08 Speaker 1

Did your military experience influence your thinking about war, or about the military in general?

00:11:14 Speaker 2

No.

00:11:17 Speaker 1

If in a veteran's organization, what kinds of activities?

00:11:22 Speaker 1

Does your never mind John, do you attend reunions?

00:11:28 Speaker 2

Yeah, yeah.

00:11:33 Speaker 1

How did your service and experiences affect your life?

00:11:42 Speaker 2

I don't get the ball. My feet still ball me.

00:11:46 Speaker 1

OK.

00:11:49 Speaker 1

Is there anything you would like to add that we have not covered in this interview?

00:11:58 Speaker 2

No, I don't. Yes.

00:12:00 Speaker 2

Seemed like he pretty well covered it all.

00:12:02 Speaker 3

OK.

00:12:04 Speaker 1

Thank you for sharing your regulate recollections recollection.

00:12:10

The.

00:12:14 Speaker 2

Come again?

00:12:15 Speaker 1

Thank you for sharing your recollections with us.

00:12:18 Speaker 2

Well, you're welcome.