

## **Carl J. Milone Interview**

Company L, 317th Inf Reg

*(Library of Congress: Veterans History Project; interviewed by Eric Dale Svingen)*

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

00:00:01 Speaker 1

Alright, today is Saturday, November 23rd and we're interviewing Mr. Carl Malone at the American Legion Post 374.

00:00:10 Speaker 1

My name is Eric swinging and I'm the cameraman.

00:00:14 Speaker 2

I am caramel.

00:00:15 Speaker 2

I am 78 years old, born 222nd, 1924.

00:00:20 Speaker 2

I was with the 317th infantry of the 80th Division in World War 2 and I fought in in Europe and in France and Germany.

00:00:32 Speaker 2

Anything that I was, what we call at 5 or corporal.

00:00:33

In my.

00:00:38 Speaker 2

So if you have any questions I will try to answer them wherever you'd like to know.

00:00:45 Speaker 1

You guys introduce yourselves.

00:00:46 Speaker 3

I am Travis Yarn and I am in the boy.

00:00:51 Speaker 3

I am a of star rank and I am of Troop 308.

00:00:56 Speaker 4

I'm James.

00:00:59 Speaker 4

I'm from trips away and my first class down.

00:01:04 Speaker 3

OK. What would you like started? When were you drafted or were you?

00:01:08 Speaker 2

Released in no I was drafted.

00:01:11 Speaker 2

I had one year of college and at the year of one year of.

00:01:15 Speaker 2

I came home.

00:01:17 Speaker 2

Because everybody else that I knew had already gone into service.

00:01:20 Speaker 2

My dad asked me to wait.

00:01:22 Speaker 2

Which I did.

00:01:23 Speaker 2

And then he was pretty terminally.

00:01:26 Speaker 2

And when I finally decided to go and go on in that he died 2 weeks later.

00:01:31 Speaker 2

But I was drafted, yes.

00:01:34 Speaker 3

Where are you living now?

00:01:36 Speaker 2

Here in Omaha.

00:01:39 Speaker 2

My school was Iowa State College, but I was.

00:01:42 Speaker 2

In Omaha.

00:01:45 Speaker 4

On what field did you go into?

00:01:48 Speaker 2

With a mechanical engineer.

00:01:50 Speaker 2

Went into engineering there and I graduated as a mechanical engineer after the war.

00:01:56 Speaker 3

So did you take your experiences from school and do what she knew what she knew?

00:02:02 Speaker 3

You take it into, yeah.

00:02:03 Speaker 2

The service.

00:02:04 Speaker 2

No, there wasn't much use for engineering where I was.

00:02:07 Speaker 2

I was one of the young college kids craft drafted into what they call the Army specialized training program.

00:02:14 Speaker 2

Which technically was supposed to send us back to crash, crash gorgeous courses in college Commission you and then put you wherever you could best serve. However, they decided that.

00:02:26 Speaker 2

There were going to be a lot of casualties and therefore they needed a lot of infantry, a lot of body right now.

00:02:30 Speaker 2

They terminated the specialized training program and all of us college kids became infantry.

00:02:38 Speaker 4

Did you get to choose any how you were?

00:02:42

No.

00:02:43

French.

00:02:44 Speaker 2

No, but I picked the.

00:02:45 Speaker 2

But other than that, they.

00:02:48 Speaker 2

Put me where they wanted me.

00:02:51 Speaker 4

What do you think your name?

00:02:52 Speaker 2

'Cause, I couldn't swim.

00:02:57 Speaker 2

I thought I was going to get in the Air Force, but because I had taken that test and went to the specialized training program, they wouldn't let me into.

00:03:03 Speaker 2

Had to go back to college with.

00:03:06 Speaker 2

Didn't workout.

00:03:08 Speaker 3

Can you tell me anything about your camp or training experiences?

00:03:12 Speaker 2

Well, I.

00:03:12 Speaker 2

Yeah, my basic training was taken at the Evan Tree School at Fort Bend, Georgia.

00:03:18 Speaker 2

When the program was terminated, I was sent to the 86th Infantry Division in Camp, Livingston, LA, and at that point when they started asking for people to go overseas, I volunteered to go overseas.

00:03:32 Speaker 2

And I.

00:03:35 Speaker 2

Landed in in England, I think in September. As I remember of 44.

00:03:40 Speaker 2

I joined my outfit about the 1st.

00:03:45 Speaker 2

Of November, if I remember.

00:03:49 Speaker 2

With the 80th Division.

00:03:51 Speaker 2

I was captured on the 28th of November, so I lasted in combat.

00:03:56 Speaker 2

About a month.

00:03:58 Speaker 4

Why did you volunteer, Rosie?

00:04:00 Speaker 3

Because.

00:04:02 Speaker 2

I didn't like the outfit I was with.

00:04:06 Speaker 2

As an infant, who? Men you.

00:04:07 Speaker 2

Get.

00:04:08 Speaker 2

The best life.

00:04:11 Speaker 2

And I thought maybe I.

00:04:13 Speaker 2

Everybody else was over.

00:04:14 Speaker 2

Was time ago.

00:04:16 Speaker 3

Do you remember like any of your instructors or anything like?

00:04:19 Speaker 2

That yes and.

00:04:22 Speaker 2

Basic training. My commanding captain was Captain Wilson, graduate of Texas A and M1 of the nicest men I knew.

00:04:31 Speaker 2

I met was a Lieutenant, Carl Geddings from Wisconsin.

00:04:35 Speaker 2

Great man. As I understand that they were both killed in action later on.

00:04:41 Speaker 2

My company commander in combat was a fellow by the name of Greenfield. As I recall, my Lieutenant was Lieutenant Thomas, who was killed today.

00:04:50 Speaker 2

Was captured.

00:04:52 Speaker 4

What was it like in your first days overseas?

00:04:55 Speaker 2

Overseas itself.

00:04:57 Speaker 2

Well, I landed in England and we were just sitting there waiting to be transferred across the channel into France because the army was already in France at that time. Since I didn't get there till.

00:05:12 Speaker 2

The last of October.

00:05:13 Speaker 2

Invasion was in June, so.

00:05:16 Speaker 2

Just waiting to go over and.

00:05:17

The.

00:05:17 Speaker 2

Assigned.

00:05:21 Speaker 4

So did you serve?

00:05:22 Speaker 4

Any other wars besides World War 2?

00:05:25 Speaker 2

No, no, that was enough.

00:05:32 Speaker 4

When you arrived, how did you feel?

00:05:35 Speaker 2

They arrived before France.

00:05:38 Speaker 2

Very lonely. I went over as a replacement and probably every an army replacement. An infantry replacement is the.

00:05:45 Speaker 2

Man in the world because.

00:05:47 Speaker 2

You're not with the people you're trading with.

00:05:49 Speaker 2

You don't know anybody and you don't know who you're going to be with, and you're only.

00:05:54 Speaker 2

And scared.

00:05:56 Speaker 3

Do you have any, like good, memorable?

00:05:58 Speaker 3

Experiences during your time.

00:06:01 Speaker 2

Not over there. No, it wasn't.

00:06:04 Speaker 2

That wasn't any fun.

00:06:05 Speaker 4

Yeah. So you were in the combatant?

00:06:09 Speaker 2

Yes, yes.

00:06:11 Speaker 4

Did you ever get shot?

00:06:13 Speaker 2

I got hit, yes.

00:06:17 Speaker 2

I was hit by shrapnel.

00:06:23 Speaker 3

What about?

00:06:24 Speaker 3

Time. Were you free from prison for your?

00:06:27 Speaker 2

Well, the war ended the 5th of May of 1945, and the German camp that I was in, the guards just left.

00:06:34 Speaker 2

I wandered around.

00:06:36 Speaker 2

Eastern Europe for about a week, maybe 3 or 4 days with the Russian army as I remember, and I and two of my best buddies began traveling, getting on these old box cars, trying to get back to the American lines.

00:06:52 Speaker 2

On the second day or so, the First Army stopped us and picked us off, and I was back in American hands.



00:07:01 Speaker 4

Did you get any medals?

00:07:03 Speaker 2

Got a few there.

00:07:04 Speaker 2

The one that I most infantrymen are most proud of is combat infantry once badge.

00:07:10 Speaker 2

Which tells you that you have to be with at least 21 days of under enemy fire.

00:07:16 Speaker 2

Otherwise, the Purple Heart and the Brown star are there.

00:07:22 Speaker 4

What is the brown star for?

00:07:22 Speaker 3

Video.

00:07:24 Speaker 2

Well, it's supposed to be for actions above and beyond, there's.

00:07:28 Speaker 2

Ron Starr.

00:07:31 Speaker 1

You called those up?

00:07:32 Speaker 2

There's a Purple Heart.

00:07:44 Speaker 2

The one that most infantrymen like to brag about is this one.

00:07:49 Speaker 2

Because that tells you you were in combat.

00:07:54 Speaker 3

Can you keep in touch with your family while you're overseas or in any?

00:07:57 Speaker 3

Of the.

00:07:58 Speaker 2

I never heard from my family and all.

00:08:00 Speaker 2

Time I was overseas.

00:08:03 Speaker 2

I didn't know how they.

00:08:04 Speaker 2

They had news that I had been captured.

00:08:08 Speaker 2

They got the news just before Christmas.

00:08:12 Speaker 2

And captured.

00:08:14 Speaker 2

And for whatever reason, sometime after the first of the year, the Germans broadcast by name over Radio Berlin and Ham radio stations in the United States must 30 to 35 of them picked up the name.

00:08:28 Speaker 2

And all of them notified my parents that I had, or my mom that I had been captured.

00:08:32

He knew.

00:08:32 Speaker 2

At least I was alive.

00:08:35 Speaker 2

But I didn't hear from my family from the day I left until.

00:08:38 Speaker 2

Got back.

00:08:39 Speaker 4

Did you have any close friendships?

00:08:41 Speaker 2

Yes, that's a couple good.

00:08:45 Speaker 2

Good. Very good, good.

00:08:46 Speaker 2

My best buddy was killed the day I was captured.

00:08:49 Speaker 2

The others I one of them from basic training, two of them basic training and one I got beat up with.

00:08:55 Speaker 2

They were my closest friends.

00:08:58 Speaker 4

Like back-to-back trying to save each other.

00:09:02 Speaker 2

Well, you're in foxholes.

00:09:04 Speaker 2

You're always two in a foxhole.

00:09:07 Speaker 2

What they call the buddy system.

00:09:11 Speaker 4

What was the food you like for?

00:09:14 Speaker 2

Combat over there, it's see rations which were little cans of different kinds of meat, spaghetti, meatballs, sparkin beans and that kind of stuff.

00:09:24 Speaker 2

Rations and what they call K rations, which were little boxes about that big that had.

00:09:30 Speaker 2

Crackers and cheese and some meat in them and always a couple of cigarettes.

00:09:37 Speaker 2

And the other thing is what we call the D bar, which was a chocolate bar about that size which was supposed to be worth the full meal.

00:09:43 Speaker 2

We kept those mostly because when you were.

00:09:46 Speaker 2

The tech.

00:09:47 Speaker 2

You didn't want to carry much, and if you were going to be away from the kitchen for a while by that D bar.

00:09:53 Speaker 2

Fit in your clothes very nicely, and so did the K rations.

00:09:57 Speaker 2

But.

00:10:00 Speaker 2

It was food.

00:10:01 Speaker 3

So did you particularly enjoy Holly?

00:10:07 Speaker 2

Oh, no, I still don't eat spam.

00:10:11 Speaker 2

All.

00:10:11 Speaker 2

Only what we called corn bully, which is corned beef and cabbage.

00:10:16

But.

00:10:17 Speaker 2

Otherwise.

00:10:20 Speaker 2

You take what you got over there.

00:10:23 Speaker 2

Yes.

00:10:25 Speaker 2

And when the back when the kitchen could catch up with us. Why we?

00:10:28 Speaker 2

Hot mess?

00:10:30 Speaker 2

If you've got pancakes for breakfast, you know.

00:10:33 Speaker 2

Were going to go on an attack.

00:10:33

Dad.

00:10:36

So.

00:10:37 Speaker 2

But they tried.

00:10:38 Speaker 2

They tried to get to us when they could.

00:10:40 Speaker 4

You can tell it what you're going to do.

00:10:43 Speaker 4

Of assumed by the food.

00:10:46 Speaker 2

Well, that you knew when you got a hot meal in the.

00:10:49 Speaker 2

That it's you were moving out.

00:10:52 Speaker 2

Got it back into the rest areas where they they fed you pretty.

00:11:00 Speaker 3

So there must have been a lot of stress.

00:11:03 Speaker 2

Well, you're scared.

00:11:08 Speaker 2

But like everybody else, you move on.

00:11:11 Speaker 3

Was there anything we like held for? Good luck.

00:11:14 Speaker 3

You have any like good luck charms.

00:11:16 Speaker 2

Oh, my mother gave me what we call a scapular medal that I hung around my neck, but I still have.

00:11:23 Speaker 1

What was that?

00:11:25 Speaker 2

Order little clocks.

00:11:28 Speaker 2

Religious picture.

00:11:31 Speaker 2

But I kept other than that.

00:11:35 Speaker 1

No. Deal it with you.

00:11:38 Speaker 2

Do I have it?

00:11:39 Speaker 2

Yeah, I don't think you can sell.

00:11:41 Speaker 2

It is that you?

00:11:52 Speaker 2

Well, I guess I didn't bring it.

00:11:53 Speaker 2

Must still be at home somewhere.

00:11:55 Speaker 2

Sorry.

00:11:57 Speaker 2

I don't have it here.

00:11:59 Speaker 3

So did you have like, how did you entertain?

00:12:03 Speaker 3

Did you have like any entertainment, or how would you entertain yourself?

00:12:07 Speaker 3

I'm you're off time. You want seen from?

00:12:10 Speaker 3

What time is?

00:12:10 Speaker 2

Well, there really wasn't any entertainment when you were back in a rest area.

00:12:14 Speaker 2

You did was got showered clean clothes.

00:12:17 Speaker 2

You ate well.

00:12:19 Speaker 2

And cleaned your your equipment.

00:12:21

Call.

00:12:21

There.

00:12:22 Speaker 2

Was number entertainment per SE.

00:12:26 Speaker 4

What did you what did you do in your?

00:12:29 Speaker 2

I never got to leave overseas.

00:12:31 Speaker 5

I'm not going.

00:12:31 Speaker 2

Never got.

00:12:32 Speaker 2

Leave.

00:12:33 Speaker 2

Here in the.

00:12:34 Speaker 2

I just came home on the 11 that I had.

00:12:36 Speaker 2

I was only.

00:12:36 Speaker 2

The army for about 26 months.

00:12:38

Call.

00:12:39 Speaker 2

And I only have one bleed so.

00:12:43 Speaker 2

I just came home and enjoyed the family.

00:12:48 Speaker 4

So you were always fighting while you were overseas.

00:12:52 Speaker 2

Only the only about the one month.

00:12:53 Speaker 2

The other months I was over there, I was either in training or prisoner.

00:12:59 Speaker 3



Do you recall any, like humorous times or any good times? Or someone made a good joke or something?

00:13:07 Speaker 2

Well, nobody laughed in PW camp until.

00:13:12 Speaker 2

We knew that the war was over, then maybe somebody might have made a joke or two.

00:13:16 Speaker 2

I remember one guy that never smiled and I asked him one day why he never smiled and he was with the first contingent that landed in Greenville, Greenland.

00:13:27 Speaker 2

And after he thought they were coming home when the ships came down the Atlantic, instead of turning towards home and turned towards England, he says he never smiled from marrow.

00:13:36 Speaker 2

That menu is going into combat.

00:13:39 Speaker 4

Can anybody play any pranks on others?

00:13:45 Speaker 2

No, I don't think so.

00:13:51 Speaker 3

Did you keep a personal diary?

00:13:54 Speaker 2

No, I didn't.

00:13:55 Speaker 2

I have someplace a piece of paper from the day that I was released from prison camp, or the day that I got out of camp for the 8 or 9 days that I traveled.

00:14:05 Speaker 2

But I couldn't find it, so I'm.

00:14:07 Speaker 2

All it was was a day by day where I was.

00:14:11 Speaker 2

Two or three days I spent with the Russian army and otherwise just traveling until I.

00:14:16 Speaker 2

Get back to the American lines.

00:14:18 Speaker 4

Able to take any photographs.

00:14:20

Or.

00:14:20 Speaker 2

No.

00:14:22 Speaker 2

Never got any.

00:14:27 Speaker 2

Yes, I.

00:14:30 Speaker 2

I got out of the arm of the day before Thanksgiving of.

00:14:33 Speaker 2

45.

00:14:36 Speaker 3

Where were you when it happened?

00:14:38 Speaker 2

At Fort Lauderdale in Missouri.

00:14:45 Speaker 3

Cancel.

00:14:47 Speaker 4

What you do when you got, when you when your family got the news that you have been off, that you your service had ended this is.

00:14:56 Speaker 2

Was Thanksgiving, so we had a real nice Thanksgiving dinner.

00:15:01 Speaker 2

I came back to go back to school and finish my education.

00:15:08 Speaker 3

So after you finish school, then you go and put your school and like before you went into the army, did you go into engineering or?

00:15:16 Speaker 2

I had a year before I went into service and when I came back I finished my other three years.

00:15:23 Speaker 4

Said what degree need to get the engine?

00:15:25 Speaker 2

Bachelor Science and mechanical engineering.

00:15:32 Speaker 4

So all your friends had tragedies while they were in there?

00:15:39 Speaker 2

Know it.

00:15:39 Speaker 4

They were in camp.

00:15:41 Speaker 2

No, they would didn't really have tragedies in camp.

00:15:46 Speaker 2

They they all.

00:15:46 Speaker 2

Out pretty good most of them.

00:15:50 Speaker 4

Did you keep any of those and still have have those friendships now?

00:15:54 Speaker 2

I have one in Texas and one in Florida and my best buddy was from Humphrey, Nebraska he.

00:16:00 Speaker 2

Story two years ago.

00:16:05 Speaker 2

But otherwise the rest either I lost contact with or lost over there.

00:16:13 Speaker 2

There were only nine of my platoon left alive when I came. When I was captured.

00:16:20 Speaker 2

Division suffered 17,000 casualties.

00:16:26 Speaker 2

And this lost love.

00:16:29 Speaker 3

So you join a margin, at least, American Legion.

00:16:33 Speaker 2

I actually belong to Omaha Post #1.

00:16:38 Speaker 2

I belong to the American Legion.

00:16:40 Speaker 2

I belong to 48.

00:16:42

You.

00:16:42 Speaker 2

American ex prisoners of war.

00:16:46

Whoops.

00:16:46 Speaker 2

Disabled American Veterans.

00:16:48 Speaker 3

But why do you choose to join organizations like this?

00:16:52 Speaker 2

Been able to help some people.

00:16:55 Speaker 2

There's a lot of veterans out there that need help, and The Expendables in particular, we've been able.

00:17:01 Speaker 2

Help a lot.

00:17:05 Speaker 2

Service organizations do a lot of good.

00:17:10 Speaker 3

What did you go on to do?

00:17:13 Speaker 3

As.

00:17:13 Speaker 3

Career as an.

00:17:14 Speaker 2

State as a mechanical engineer and I worked for heavy.

00:17:19 Speaker 2

Commercial and industrial pipeline contractors.

00:17:26 Speaker 3

Your military experience influence the way you see the army now.

00:17:32 Speaker 2

Probably.

00:17:34 Speaker 2

Probably, but I'm sure it's a different army than what I was in.

00:17:40 Speaker 2

It's just probably different.

00:17:41 Speaker 2

In many ways, I'm sure it's the same.

00:17:42

Monday.

00:17:47 Speaker 2

Not, not really.

00:17:50 Speaker 4

Earlier you said that you joined the organizations for.

00:18:02 Speaker 2

I'm the commander of the Omaha prisoners of war chapter #1.

00:18:06 Speaker 2

And I look for veterans who are needy and need help and have been able to help quite a few of them.

00:18:14

Yeah.

00:18:16 Speaker 2

This disability compensations and get into VA hospitals where they need where they need care.

00:18:22 Speaker 2

And that's where I where I spend most of my time.

00:18:26 Speaker 3

What's POW stand for?

00:18:28 Speaker 2

Prisoners of war.

00:18:33 Speaker 2

Well, the worst thing in the world that can happen to you is to use lose.

00:18:37 Speaker 2

Freedom. When you no longer have any control of your life, that you're strictly at the mercy of somebody else.

00:18:45 Speaker 2

Is a very, very bad thing.

00:18:47 Speaker 2

So loss of your freedom is the worst thing in the world because there's a war going through.

00:18:49

I.

00:18:54 Speaker 2

The.

00:18:56 Speaker 2

You are totally in their hands when you live or die is up to them.

00:19:00 Speaker 2

What you eat, what you don't eat? I lost 50 lbs.

00:19:05 Speaker 1

Did the Germans treat you fairly poorly then?

00:19:08 Speaker 2

They were not physically abusive to me.

00:19:13 Speaker 2

The worst thing was that food. You were hungry all the time.

00:19:17 Speaker 2

That you have to remember the last six months of the war, Germany itself didn't have much.

00:19:24 Speaker 2

But physically I was never known.

00:19:29 Speaker 2

This far tonight, I wasn't a prisoner of the Japanese, where I hear some terrible stories.

00:19:31

Replay.

00:19:35 Speaker 2

But the worst thing was hunger.

00:19:41 Speaker 4

Why did you get out of being a prisoner?

00:19:44 Speaker 2

The war ended the prisoner, the German.

00:19:46 Speaker 2

Just left.

00:19:48 Speaker 2

They were scared to.

00:19:49 Speaker 2

They were going to get taken over by the Russians because we were very near the Russian front, so they fled to get away from the Russians trying to get back. Yet they wanted to be taken by the Americans if they were going to be taken.

00:20:03 Speaker 2

So they just left.

00:20:05 Speaker 4

Were you locked up when you're a?

00:20:08 Speaker 4

Of war or?

00:20:11 Speaker 2

Every night they took our shoes and they took our pants and our coats and then they locked the doors and they locked all the shutters of all the windows.

00:20:20 Speaker 3

He did this so he wouldn't hide.

00:20:22 Speaker 3

Or what was the reason?

00:20:23 Speaker 2

Some of you weren't trying to get away.

00:20:25 Speaker 1

Make you do labor.

00:20:27 Speaker 2

I worked on the railroad for four months. Yes.

00:20:31 Speaker 2

It was a very cold winter.

00:20:33 Speaker 2

Winter in Germany and.

00:20:35 Speaker 2

Actually, I was out in checkers for hockey.



00:20:37 Speaker 2

Last four months and it was very cold and we worked on the railroad trying to keep the snow off tracks and pounding rocks under the ties.

00:20:47 Speaker 2

That's the job they made us do.

00:20:50 Speaker 3

So how did you get captured?

00:20:53 Speaker 2

We were overrun.

00:20:54 Speaker 2

We were trying to attack the city by the name of.

00:20:57 Speaker 2

Of old and.

00:21:00 Speaker 2

You were well prepared for us and we were in the open and they.

00:21:06 Speaker 2

We just never had a.

00:21:07 Speaker 2

And they finished us off and they brought up their tanks and there were about nine of us left.

00:21:11 Speaker 2

The nine of us were captured and the rest were either wounded or killed.

00:21:17 Speaker 4

Why are you attacking that city?

00:21:21 Speaker 2

Get take the towns and keep going. Trying to win the war.

00:21:27 Speaker 4

So they have a lot of supplies that you.

00:21:29 Speaker 4

It to be able to do so.

00:21:31 Speaker 2

Well, they were well prepared for us. They were.

00:21:35 Speaker 2

We were coming and we just.

00:21:38 Speaker 2

Don't know what went wrong, but it was a bad day.

00:21:41 Speaker 1

Do you feel your commanders made some poor decisions regarding that attack?

00:21:45 Speaker 2

I really can't say that wasn't when you're just a Rifleman.

00:21:49 Speaker 2

Don't know what that what's going on up above yet?

00:21:52 Speaker 2

Hopefully they knew what.

00:21:53 Speaker 2

Were doing.

00:21:55 Speaker 2

Down where we were, we didn't think so, but then.

00:22:00 Speaker 2

Hopefully they knew what they were doing.

00:22:03 Speaker 3

So afterwards, have you attended any reunions for Friday, Brenton?

00:22:08 Speaker 2

I'd have been the two reunions I went to reunion of my outfit to try to find out if anybody.

00:22:14 Speaker 2

Why that happened, why we were hit that badly?

00:22:19 Speaker 2

But there was #1 left there that knew, so I never.

00:22:21 Speaker 2

I still don't know why.

00:22:24 Speaker 2

The other one was my division. When I was in training in Louisiana and that was just to be with some.

00:22:29 Speaker 2

The guys I used to know.

00:22:30

Play.

00:22:31 Speaker 2

We're very fortunate they didn't go into combat until 19 March of 1945 and their casualties were very, very few because they were just mopping up.

00:22:42 Speaker 2

They were.

00:22:42 Speaker 2

All there, I think my own company lost maybe two men.

00:22:50 Speaker 2

See who? I could still go.

00:22:54 Speaker 1

After you were released, you did serve for a while longer before being discharged.

00:22:59 Speaker 2

That was made.

00:23:01 Speaker 2

Thank you, miss May. 15th and I came.

00:23:03 Speaker 2

Into a.

00:23:04 Speaker 2

Hands I landed back in the United States.

00:23:07 Speaker 2

They took all the prisoners at that.

00:23:09 Speaker 2

They kept them in camps over there that were named after cigarettes.

00:23:14 Speaker 2

All.

00:23:14 Speaker 2

All the holding camps were like Camp, Lucky Strike, Camp Chesterfield, Camp Campbell.

00:23:18 Speaker 2

Was in lucky strike.

00:23:22 Speaker 2

I was there until sometime the end of June because I landed in Boston the night before my birthday of June 21st.

00:23:31 Speaker 2

States. Then they gave me 60 days leave.

00:23:34 Speaker 2

What they call our an arm rest and recreation, which was pretty good.

00:23:40 Speaker 2

And they sent me to Fort Leonard Wood, where I joined the.

00:23:46 Speaker 2

Training company and I was discharged from there.

00:23:47

Call.

00:23:52 Speaker 2

So I got.

00:23:53 Speaker 2

I think it was one of the day before Thanksgiving, if I remember 21st of November.

00:23:59 Speaker 2

45.

00:24:03 Speaker 3

Do you think your experiences have changed your life?

00:24:07 Speaker 2

Odessa, I think it makes you well aware of a lot of things. What life is worth, what this company is, what this country is worth, and it's worth everything.

00:24:16

I.

00:24:22 Speaker 2

This is the greatest country in the world and I never forget.

00:24:29 Speaker 4

Kind of glad you went out and search.

00:24:31 Speaker 5

That's all good.

00:24:34 Speaker 2

So you have to remember that was a total over this whole country.

00:24:39 Speaker 2

Was a war.

00:24:42 Speaker 2

That's called if there is such a thing, it's called the.

00:24:45 Speaker 2

Lord, if there's any such thing.

00:24:48 Speaker 2

Remember, the whole country was a war. We fought.

00:24:51

All over the world.

00:24:55 Speaker 3

Is there anything else you like?

00:24:56 Speaker 3

Network us.

00:24:57 Speaker 3

You have not problem.

00:24:59 Speaker 2

Not.

00:25:00 Speaker 2

You'll need to emphasize.

00:25:03 Speaker 2

Be thankful for the country you have the opportunity you have here.

00:25:08 Speaker 2

That doesn't exist in most of the world, so we're very.

00:25:12 Speaker 2

To be here.

00:25:13 Speaker 2

This is a wonderful, wonderful country.

00:25:18 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:25:20 Speaker 2

And it's in your hands.

00:25:21 Speaker 2

When you grow up.

00:25:27 Speaker 2

I don't want to be a philosopher. I'm not a philosopher.

00:25:32 Speaker 2

What you do?

00:25:34 Speaker 2

Empty appreciation for what you have.

00:25:42 Speaker 3

Is that all the questions we?

00:25:44 Speaker 1

Have for this.

00:25:48 Speaker 1

Are you willing to talk about being a POW?

00:25:51 Speaker 1

Sure.

00:25:54 Speaker 1

So what would do the routine be like when you're a POW?

00:25:57 Speaker 2

We work six days a week. You get up.

00:26:00 Speaker 2

Had four.

00:26:02 Speaker 2

You had what they call an sats coffee or sats means fake coffee.

00:26:08 Speaker 2

And a slice of bread.

00:26:11 Speaker 2

They had with a 2 kilos loaves of bread.

00:26:14 Speaker 2

Bread was made-up of.

00:26:17 Speaker 2

Some flour, wheat and about 1/3 sawdust.

00:26:24 Speaker 2

Uh, they divided?

00:26:25 Speaker 2

Mike Cabin had probably 20 in it.

00:26:30 Speaker 2

Our beds were big Gunny Sacks filled with strong.

00:26:35 Speaker 2

And lice?

00:26:37

No.

00:26:40 Speaker 2

You have that eraser coffee and then you went out to work at.

00:26:44 Speaker 2

You had very watery what we call grass soup made-up with some grass and cow dies or what is today known?

00:26:53 Speaker 2

Well, I guess in Colorado's we call it Cow Beach because we didn't think even cows would eat them.

00:26:58 Speaker 2

But they're they're big and I still see them in stores today and I can't believe people buy them, but apparently they.

00:27:05 Speaker 2

But they're very thick skinned, very fibrous, and they would cut those up and cut that into the soup.

00:27:12 Speaker 2

Once in a.

00:27:13 Speaker 2

There might be a piece of meat in it.

00:27:16 Speaker 2

Not too often, but I will give you an example of how hungry you can be. At one time I did have a piece of gristle.

00:27:24 Speaker 2

In my suit.

00:27:26 Speaker 2

And I chewed on that for a few minutes and I could not get myself to swallow.

00:27:32 Speaker 2

And the guy next to me says you give it.

00:27:34 Speaker 2

Me. I can do it.

00:27:35 Speaker 2

And he took it out of my mouth and he took it.

00:27:38 Speaker 2



Swallowed.

00:27:39 Speaker 2

That's being hungry.

00:27:41 Speaker 2

And then in the evening, why we'd come back and we'd have.

00:27:44 Speaker 2

Same.

00:27:45 Speaker 2

Water soup again.

00:27:47 Speaker 2

That's pretty much your.

00:27:48 Speaker 2

We were allowed one bucket of charcoal briquettes for our heat.

00:27:54 Speaker 2

We had a pot belly stove.

00:27:58 Speaker 2

That my compound had approximately 250 men in it.

00:28:03 Speaker 2

There was a there.

00:28:04 Speaker 2

A book.

00:28:05 Speaker 2

Titled Hitler's diet, written by.

00:28:07 Speaker 2

George Davis, who just happened to be in my camp and it's a spoof on the types of diet that we had.

00:28:16 Speaker 2

And it's a spoof on on how you.

00:28:17 Speaker 2

It to.

00:28:18 Speaker 2

Weight. If you want to follow the diet.

00:28:21

Yeah.

00:28:23 Speaker 2

George was in Omaha about five years ago and I was lucky enough to have breakfast with him.

00:28:29 Speaker 2

He remembered much more than I.

00:28:31 Speaker 2

We had slit trenches out in the middle.

00:28:33 Speaker 2

The compound.

00:28:34 Speaker 2

We were at the end of the war the first time we were actually attacked from the air.

00:28:39 Speaker 2

Russians bombed.

00:28:41 Speaker 2

Towards the end of the war, but see the Russians were within.

00:28:44 Speaker 2

50 miles of us.

00:28:46 Speaker 2

And they did bomb us.

00:28:49 Speaker 2

At that time, which is the end of the world.

00:28:51 Speaker 2

People.

00:28:52 Speaker 2

They tried to go. Some of them were going.

00:28:54 Speaker 2

Go.

00:28:54 Speaker 2

Prom, but on their way, they discovered that there was a regiment of s s still fighting.

00:29:00 Speaker 2

They turned around and I don't know what happened to them.

00:29:02 Speaker 2

Them.

00:29:02 Speaker 2

I have eight others took off three of us wound up wandering around for I can't remember 810 days before we finally got on the.

00:29:13 Speaker 2

UH-40 and eight boxcar, which was headed.

00:29:17 Speaker 2

The West.

00:29:20 Speaker 2

But.

00:29:20 Speaker 2

The daily routine.

00:29:23 Speaker 2

Once a week, we were allowed to.

00:29:25 Speaker 2

Take a bath.

00:29:27

The.

00:29:28 Speaker 2

Bathtubs were like big horse troughs that you see on farms and you tried to be one of the first ones to get into it because they didn't change the water.

00:29:38 Speaker 2

I carried with me in combat my toothbrush.

00:29:41 Speaker 2

So I had my toothbrush when I was captured and I was able to brush my teeth everyday.

00:29:46 Speaker 2

I'm one of the few who has all of his teeth, yet most of the guys lost their teeth.

00:29:53 Speaker 2

Uh.

00:29:55 Speaker 2

If we want to wash your face every morning they had outside faucets for you to wash your.

00:30:00 Speaker 2

In.

00:30:02 Speaker 2

That night, as I said, they closed the Jan. They kept the big what we would call a big milk can from the farms was your.

00:30:11 Speaker 2

Toilet that was kept in the hallway. 'cause. You had a little entryway about 6 by 6, and then you had the main room.

00:30:19 Speaker 2

And that was a.

00:30:21 Speaker 2

Kind of a filthy mess.

00:30:25 Speaker 2

As I say, our mattresses were big. Donny Sachs filled with straw, as was a good pillow. We did have one blanket.

00:30:37 Speaker 2

The bunks were all double deckers. There were about 10 of them in my my they were shattered at night so that there was no light.

00:30:48 Speaker 2

Sundays was supposed to be the day off, and it usually was unless something happened one day.

00:30:56 Speaker 2

Flight AP51 shot up a train load of oil tankers and burned up some of the tracks on Sunday.

00:31:03

I.

00:31:04 Speaker 2

Had to go out and replace tracks for.

00:31:08 Speaker 2

But other than that, that's that's the daily routine that you had.

00:31:13 Speaker 3

You stay in Boeing.

00:31:15 Speaker 2

They had him.

00:31:16 Speaker 2

Wooden checks.

00:31:19 Speaker 2

That ours was a.

00:31:20 Speaker 2

Maybe 100 feet long that was divided into probably 4 different rooms, and each room contained about. As I say, about 20.

00:31:32 Speaker 2

My uniform. Unfortunately, when I was captured, I have just been.

00:31:38 Speaker 2

Back in the rest area for Thanksgiving. So my uniform was clean when I was captured.

00:31:45 Speaker 2

Germans took it and used it.

00:31:46 Speaker 2

Don't know if you've.

00:31:47 Speaker 2

Seen.

00:31:48 Speaker 2

Something like battleground.

00:31:51 Speaker 2

In which the Germans infiltrated our lines with American uniforms.

00:31:55 Speaker 2

My uniform was taken and used in that.

00:31:58 Speaker 2

For the uniform that I had.

00:31:59 Speaker 2

No cost of thing that.

00:32:02 Speaker 2

I'd give \$1,000,000 to have a.

00:32:04 Speaker 2

Of.

00:32:04 Speaker 2

It was the old easy.

00:32:08

Call.

00:32:08 Speaker 2

Hey Cortana.

00:32:11 Speaker 2

I don't believe you ever got to Washington.

00:32:16 Speaker 2

I didn't actually discover lice on myself.

00:32:21 Speaker 2

Until I was back in American hands.

00:32:23 Speaker 2

And of course, the first thing they did was to take your uniform.

00:32:26 Speaker 2

As I took it offline.

00:32:28 Speaker 2

They were.

00:32:29 Speaker 2

But then they D lousy.

00:32:31 Speaker 2

Everybody was D.

00:32:32 Speaker 2

They took D and they spread powder all over to try.

00:32:36 Speaker 2

Kill our.

00:32:37 Speaker 2

And then they.

00:32:38 Speaker 2

You gave us new cleaning.

00:32:43 Speaker 2

Other than that.

00:32:46 Speaker 2

The main thing about field Hub is being hungry.

00:32:51 Speaker 2

I don't know if you have any questions I can.

00:32:53 Speaker 2

Can answer about it.

00:32:54 Speaker 3

So was anyone interested?

00:32:56 Speaker 3

Did anyone stay in tanks?

00:32:58 Speaker 2

No, no, they were.

00:33:00 Speaker 2

They were.

00:33:01 Speaker 2

They were log hunts where if you want.

00:33:03 Speaker 4

To call it so in the day there was white in it, so you could see it around in the cabins.

00:33:09 Speaker 2

We had a light in the cabin.

00:33:11 Speaker 4

Just at night, it turned off.

00:33:15 Speaker 2

During the day we were out working.

00:33:18

Play.

00:33:22 Speaker 2

They countered us every day as we went out. They counted us every day. When we came back, nobody got out.

00:33:28 Speaker 2

The camp had been a Russian POW camp before we got there in the Russians apparently have been.

00:33:33 Speaker 2

To escape.

00:33:35 Speaker 2

So when they cleared the Russians out then?

00:33:37 Speaker 2

Made sure that they redid the camp so that nobody.

00:33:41 Speaker 2

Get out.

00:33:41 Speaker 2

And none of this did.

00:33:43 Speaker 4



Did anybody try to get out?

00:33:45 Speaker 2

Yeah, couple time what?

00:33:47 Speaker 1

Happened to them.

00:33:49 Speaker 2

They brought him back and then didn't hurt him to my knowledge.

00:33:53 Speaker 2

Didn't hurt.

00:33:55 Speaker 2

I will tell you.

00:33:57 Speaker 2

Three or four days before.

00:33:59 Speaker 2

The war.

00:34:00 Speaker 2

We were lined up outside and we were believe it or not, read a letter in which Adolf Hitler had given orders that all X PO belies were to be executed.

00:34:10 Speaker 2

Let the German camp commander happen to be an old.

00:34:13 Speaker 2

Army.

00:34:15 Speaker 2

Girl and.

00:34:16 Speaker 2

He said.

00:34:17 Speaker 2

I'll never do this.

00:34:18 Speaker 2

He didn't. So.

00:34:21 Speaker 2

To my knowledge, none of the German, none of the prisoners were executed.

00:34:25 Speaker 1

In your camp or any of them.

00:34:27 Speaker 2

Camp that I know of.

00:34:29 Speaker 2

There are anybody that I know.

00:34:32 Speaker 2

Mike, my chapter of Xpow says from all different camps and none of them cover experience and execution.

00:34:42 Speaker 2

Now that's different with the Japanese.

00:34:45 Speaker 2

I can't speak for them.

00:34:48 Speaker 4

But they took your uniform and used it.

00:34:52 Speaker 4

So as deception.

00:34:55 Speaker 4

So you don't have any.

00:34:58 Speaker 4

Like pictures or.

00:34:59 Speaker 2

No.

00:34:59

Alright.

00:35:00 Speaker 2

My combat's uniform, no.

00:35:05 Speaker 2

I have pictures of my car uniform. When I got back.

00:35:07

Hello.

00:35:11 Speaker 2

But combat suits though.

00:35:16 Speaker 4

But you know, if they took anybody else.

00:35:19 Speaker 2

'S everybody that was captured with, they took theirs and they must have.

00:35:22 Speaker 2

A bunch of others.

00:35:23 Speaker 2

Because they used a lot of.

00:35:27 Speaker 2

The only thing they didn't.

00:35:28 Speaker 2

Were my boots.

00:35:31 Speaker 2

Maybe they didn't feel.

00:35:36 Speaker 2

It was cold winter.

00:35:40 Speaker 2

I had two sets of long underwear on.

00:35:44 Speaker 2

I kept those, but they took the out the.

00:35:47 Speaker 2

Of the uniform.

00:35:49 Speaker 1

And they give you workloads to.

00:35:51 Speaker 2

Well, uniforms they gave us must have been from the old Polish armies or something like that because they were.

00:35:59 Speaker 2

Different. They had the old overseas hats like this, except they had tassels on them.

00:36:05 Speaker 2

To me, very.

00:36:06 Speaker 2

But that's what we had.

00:36:10 Speaker 2

We didn't.

00:36:11 Speaker 2

We didn't have other coats because in combat didn't carry your coat.

00:36:16 Speaker 2

You were dressed as lightly as you could, so you could move as fast as you could.

00:36:20 Speaker 2

And then if you stopped for the night in the back rear echelon could bring up your coats or your sleeping bags, they would.

00:36:29 Speaker 2

But because we were in an attack like all we had on was just jackets that combat jackets.

00:36:35 Speaker 2

We didn't have overcoat to them.

00:36:37 Speaker 2

Till they didn't take, we didn't have.

00:36:43 Speaker 2

Other than that doing.

00:36:46

Change similar things.

00:36:47

Would you?

00:36:48 Speaker 1

Mind just showing us some of the things you have.

00:36:50 Speaker 1

You brought with us today.

00:36:53 Speaker 2

Well, I just happened to find these this this is part of the German, supposedly all XP. All prisoners award to be paid. And they did pay us some German marks. Which of course, you couldn't do anything with. But this particular one before that, when the war was over.

00:37:09 Speaker 2

In the camp in the my cabin.

00:37:12 Speaker 2

Signed it so I have in the name of everybody that was with me.

00:37:17

Hello.

00:37:17 Speaker 2

Other than that.

00:37:19 Speaker 2

This is the spoon that the Germans gave me.

00:37:21 Speaker 2

To eat with out of our bucket.

00:37:24 Speaker 2

These are my.

00:37:27 Speaker 2

My dog tags that I used in.

00:37:29 Speaker 2

The reason that there is this rubber around them, this rubber is cut from gas mask. They were giving us.

00:37:36 Speaker 2

You cut the ring from it and put it around her so that at night they didn't jingle, but.

00:37:42 Speaker 2

First thing that everybody did when they went to combat, believe it or not, was to throw their gas mask away.

00:37:48 Speaker 2

Because.

00:37:50 Speaker 2

Gas just wasn't being used, so we threw the gas masks away, cut them up like this and.

00:37:50

Replay.

00:37:55

Then.

00:37:56 Speaker 2

We used the rest of the gas mask sack to put in candy bars and rations and things like that.

00:38:03 Speaker 3

So what did downtown switch to use for identification?

00:38:07 Speaker 2

This this tells you your name, rank, and serial number, while your rank your serial number, your name, your religion, and your blood type so that when you were hit they could look at your dog tag and.

00:38:17 Speaker 2

What type of blood to give?

00:38:22 Speaker 2

That's.

00:38:23 Speaker 2

That's safe my my teeth.

00:38:26 Speaker 1

That's a toothbrush.

00:38:27 Speaker 2

That's my tooth.

00:38:30 Speaker 2

The only thing in an attack that I carried was my toothbrush.

00:38:37 Speaker 2

That's about all I.

00:38:39 Speaker 2

Made sure I had my toothbrush.

00:38:45 Speaker 2

This is what these are little pills that we used. If you were going to drink some water from some place.

00:38:53 Speaker 2

You had to make sure the water was cool.

00:38:56 Speaker 2

Safe to drink and you.

00:38:58 Speaker 2

Know. So you put these pills in there.

00:39:01 Speaker 2

They're their elements, I recall.

00:39:03 Speaker 2

Can't even remember the name.

00:39:05 Speaker 2

Them pills you put those in the water so they would sterilize them when they could use it.

00:39:10 Speaker 2

This is the dog tag that the Germans hung on the when they process.

00:39:16 Speaker 2

You.

00:39:20 Speaker 2

Uh.

00:39:23 Speaker 2

I kept one of the slugs from the P.

00:39:25 Speaker 2

Ones knocked out those.

00:39:28 Speaker 2

I picked that up off the.

00:39:30 Speaker 2

Oil.

00:39:31 Speaker 2

I just picked it up and checked.

00:39:34 Speaker 2

That's about it.

00:39:36 Speaker 2

There's other stuff at home, but I don't know where it's.

00:39:40 Speaker 2

I when they when we left, I tore a map off of the wall of the office in their prisoner so that I could try to follow where we were and how to get back to the.

00:39:51 Speaker 2

Lines but.

00:39:52 Speaker 2

As you can see, it got pretty ugly now.

00:39:58 Speaker 2

That's about it.

00:40:01 Speaker 2

I I have this.

00:40:03 Speaker 2

Only because one of the nights we stopped on the way back trying to get to the American lines, we stopped at a school.

00:40:12 Speaker 2

And there's a.



00:40:14 Speaker 2

Gee, I stole their weights.

00:40:17 Speaker 2

This is from one of their labs.

00:40:20

Hey Cortana.

00:40:20 Speaker 2

I figured they wouldn't miss it.

00:40:26 Speaker 2

Usually when we were traveling trying to get back somehow, we always wound up with the mayor of the town and he would show us where.

00:40:34

I.

00:40:35 Speaker 2

We could sleep for the night or.

00:40:38 Speaker 2

Try to get back.

00:40:40 Speaker 2

In those days.

00:40:41 Speaker 2

The Germans were first attacking. They used to have newsreels showing all the refugees streaming up and down the roads, trying to get away.

00:40:48 Speaker 2

The Germans.

00:40:49

Things.

00:40:50 Speaker 2

But at the end of the war, it was.

00:40:51 Speaker 2

Germans streaming up and down and.

00:40:54 Speaker 2

Trying to get away primarily from the from the Russians, they were scared to.

00:40:58 Speaker 2

Of.

00:40:58 Speaker 2

Russians and justify under so because the Russians had a lot to get back at them for.

00:41:07 Speaker 2

But I don't have many souvenirs.

00:41:09 Speaker 2

As a.

00:41:11 Speaker 2

Prisoner award. Everything I had was taken.

00:41:14 Speaker 2

Me.

00:41:16 Speaker 2

I did. For some reason they never took my watch.

00:41:19 Speaker 2

I did have that watch on when I was captured.

00:41:23 Speaker 2

Band is made from airplane that was down to one of the guys was making the watch bands from the aluminum off the airplanes.

00:41:30 Speaker 2

They never took him to watch.

00:41:34 Speaker 3

Can you tell us anything about what you have for?

00:41:37 Speaker 2

Well, these.

00:41:38

Yeah.

00:41:39 Speaker 2

My kids. Will the.

00:41:41 Speaker 2

Department and asked, understand me whatever I.

00:41:43 Speaker 2

To get.

00:41:45 Speaker 2

Believe it or not.

00:41:46 Speaker 2

I was good. I was good.

00:41:48 Speaker 2

So I got a good conduct.

00:41:52 Speaker 2

That's a good combination.

00:41:55 Speaker 2

Uh.

00:41:58 Speaker 2

For some reason, they thought that everybody that was able to get out of the prisoner bore camp and get back home deserved.

00:42:04 Speaker 2

They called a prisoner of war battle.

00:42:07 Speaker 2

What's?

00:42:13 Speaker 2

For all those who survived, they gave us a victory.

00:42:18 Speaker 2

So that's a battle for vict.

00:42:25 Speaker 2

This is I was over there long enough.

00:42:27 Speaker 2

Gave me an occupation building.

00:42:28

I.

00:42:34 Speaker 2

And that's what they call what everybody was discharged. They gave him a little pin and they called.

00:42:38 Speaker 2

A ruptured duck.

00:42:42

You.

00:42:43 Speaker 2

Man with that pin, you've.

00:42:44 Speaker 2

Been discharged from service.

00:42:47 Speaker 2

These you've seen the Bronze star.

00:42:51 Speaker 2

And and you've seen.

00:42:53 Speaker 2

The Purple Heart.

00:42:56

\*.

00:42:56 Speaker 2

Crossed the river one night.

00:43:00 Speaker 2

Prisoners.

00:43:02 Speaker 2

Since I couldn't swim, they thought maybe I ought to.

00:43:04 Speaker 2

A medal doing.

00:43:04

Right.

00:43:07 Speaker 1

What was that you?

00:43:07 Speaker 3

Won.

00:43:08

In.

00:43:09 Speaker 2

Eastern France.

00:43:12 Speaker 3

So which?

00:43:13 Speaker 3

Which one do you think are cherish most?

00:43:15 Speaker 2

This.

00:43:18 Speaker 2

That's one that tells you that you were a combat infantry.

00:43:23 Speaker 1

How did being a pill W change your life and?

00:43:26 Speaker 1

Ways.

00:43:27 Speaker 1

That wouldn't have been, have you?

00:43:28 Speaker 1

You not been captured.

00:43:31 Speaker 2

The only thing.

00:43:32 Speaker 2

Can do is repeat that it dipped.

00:43:35 Speaker 2

Understanding freedom isn't free.

00:43:37 Speaker 2

When you're a prisoner and realize you totally lost your freedom.

00:43:43 Speaker 2

It's very traumatic.

00:43:46 Speaker 2

And it makes you realize what we have here.

00:43:49 Speaker 2

That's right.

00:43:50 Speaker 2

If it changed me, that's the way it did.

00:43:56 Speaker 2

People don't understand.

00:43:59 Speaker 2

How much this country has until you lose it.

00:44:03

Play.

00:44:03 Speaker 2

You just take it for granted.

00:44:07 Speaker 2

You watch the news every day. You know the people over there. Asia are going through but.

00:44:12 Speaker 2

You don't really really realize it unless you're you lose.

00:44:18 Speaker 2

And that's the thing about being a prisoner is you've lost your freedom.

00:44:18

Tell me a joke.

00:44:26 Speaker 2

That's about it.

00:44:30 Speaker 1

Any other questions for me?

00:44:33

Very aggressive about what?

00:44:34 Speaker 1

Your decision on the way through this.

00:44:38 Speaker 2

As far as services concerned the warranty.

00:44:44 Speaker 2

None you know.

00:44:46 Speaker 2

Was gone.

00:44:47

You.

00:44:48 Speaker 2

Know and when I went to school.

00:44:51 Speaker 2

I only went to school.

00:44:54 Speaker 2

Because I was in the ROTC in high school.

00:44:57 Speaker 2

I remember when war.

00:44:59 Speaker 2

I was a cadet officer and our instructor said the first thing you want to do is get at least a year of college.

00:45:07 Speaker 2

Going to be a long.

00:45:09 Speaker 2

Which of course it was and says the first thing.

00:45:11 Speaker 2

Want.

00:45:11 Speaker 2

Do is to get your college.

00:45:13 Speaker 2

I did that.

00:45:15

By.

00:45:16 Speaker 2

The time I got that year in most everybody was already gone and.

00:45:22 Speaker 2

Time to go, that's all.

00:45:25 Speaker 2

Read what it amounted to.

00:45:26 Speaker 2

Time to go.

00:45:27 Speaker 4

What age were you living at that?

00:45:29 Speaker 2

Was 19.

00:45:30 Speaker 2

I went in service.

00:45:34 Speaker 2

At one time, when the German scar thought I was 29.

00:45:39 Speaker 2



So you age real fast.

00:45:43 Speaker 2

The Germans that took care of us were mostly railroad guards.

00:45:49 Speaker 2

And maybe that's why they weren't as mean as they might have been.

00:45:53 Speaker 2

But.

00:45:56 Speaker 2

My big thankfulness is that I wasn't taken by the Japanese.

00:46:04 Speaker 2

Horror stories. I was fortunate.

00:46:10 Speaker 2

Other than that, yeah, I have. No, I don't think anybody in World War 2 regrets going.

00:46:17 Speaker 2

It's it wasn't the same for Vietnam, obviously, or even Korean.

00:46:22 Speaker 2

That World War 2 is a different story.

00:46:26 Speaker 2

Different story between being attacked as we were.

00:46:30 Speaker 2

Attacking as we did so.

00:46:34 Speaker 3

The other choice was would there be a different?

00:46:38 Speaker 3

Job in the.

00:46:39 Speaker 3

Who would have took taking the?

00:46:41 Speaker 2

I told my brothers to stay out of the infantry.

00:46:47 Speaker 2

I talked them into going into the air, Corr and but one of them wouldn't listen to me and he.

00:46:52 Speaker 2

The Marine Corps.

00:46:55 Speaker 2

I tried to tell him to stay out of the.

00:46:58 Speaker 4

What's the other thing you want me to?

00:47:02 Speaker 2

That's just my hat from the from my organization of the XPOW.

00:47:05 Speaker 4

Thank you.

00:47:11 Speaker 2

That's that.

00:47:14 Speaker 2

And I put that on just to show.

00:47:16 Speaker 2

Combat badge in my outfit.

00:47:22 Speaker 2

This is this hats from the 40 and 8 and I I'm not too active in that.

00:47:27 Speaker 2

The only one that.

00:47:28 Speaker 2

Really active in is the ex prisoners awards because it's a lot of them out there that need help.

00:47:36 Speaker 5

In what way do you say they need help?

00:47:39 Speaker 2

They're destitute, some of them.

00:47:42 Speaker 2

Some of them are physically in bad shape and don't know where to get help.

00:47:46 Speaker 2

They don't understand.

00:47:48 Speaker 2

The VA is there to help them.

00:47:50 Speaker 2

And there are many benefits that they can get.

00:47:54 Speaker 2

And they, as an ex prisoner of war, they have a high priority with the Veterans Administration. Many of them don't know.

00:48:00

It yet?

00:48:00

What you talking?

00:48:01 Speaker 1

Now there are you talking about.

00:48:03 Speaker 2

All that works, all works.

00:48:06 Speaker 2

Any the organization that I belong with, we have them from.

00:48:10 Speaker 2

I don't have any Vietnamese, but they are from Korea and our oldest 1 was captured.

00:48:16 Speaker 2

Wake.

00:48:17 Speaker 2

He was a civilian, as a matter of fact, with his dad working on Wake Island in the Japanese.

00:48:24 Speaker 2

But.

00:48:24 Speaker 2

OK.

00:48:26 Speaker 2

But otherwise, as ex prisoners of war, they are entitled to some VA hospital benefits.

00:48:34 Speaker 2

And a lot of them don't know it.

00:48:38 Speaker 2

So we try to find them and it's difficult to get them. There aren't many.

00:48:43 Speaker 2

At least in the state of Nebraska.

00:48:45 Speaker 2

Aren't that many.

00:48:46 Speaker 2

One time I heard how many of us there are left.

00:48:48

But I don't know.

00:48:50 Speaker 2

They're saying that World War 2 veterans are dying at the rate of 12 to 1300 a day.

00:48:58 Speaker 2

You know, there were at one time I think they said that there were a total of 16,000,000 in some part of the other of the services during World War, Two of which 12 million were in active duty at one time.

00:49:13 Speaker 2

And I think there are some 5 million.

00:49:16 Speaker 2

Alive today.

00:49:18 Speaker 2

There are, I understand, something like 46,000 living next prisoners of war.

00:49:24 Speaker 2

And I think less than 2000 are in Nebraska.

00:49:31 Speaker 2

It's amazing how many of them we can't find.

00:49:36 Speaker 2

That they we.

00:49:37 Speaker 2

You know, there's a lot of them that.

00:49:39 Speaker 2

Homeless.

00:49:40 Speaker 2

And and we can get put in a Veterans Home if we can.

00:49:44 Speaker 2

But they're difficult to find.

00:49:47 Speaker 2

Just don't come for.

00:49:48 Speaker 5

Do you think that's because it's psychologically with some damaging to them compared to the other?

00:49:51 Speaker 2

Yes. Yeah.

00:49:54 Speaker 5

Who fought and were able to come out?

00:49:56 Speaker 2

I really do. I think it's psychological.

00:50:00 Speaker 2

It took me a long time to be able to admit.

00:50:06 Speaker 2

I wasn't ashamed of having been captured, but then I didn't consider it was anything particularly proud of.

00:50:14

Run.

00:50:14 Speaker 2

The thing that I try to.

00:50:17 Speaker 2

Justify in my mind.

00:50:20 Speaker 2

The day I was captured, there were nine of us left alive.

00:50:23 Speaker 2

100 that were in the battle.

00:50:27 Speaker 2

And when the tents came up, my rifle had actually been shattered and I was trying.

00:50:33 Speaker 2

Crawl over to get somebody else's room.

00:50:35 Speaker 2

Tanks finished it off.

00:50:38 Speaker 2

But still I guess I was in denial.

00:50:41 Speaker 2

A long time.

00:50:43 Speaker 2

But then when these guys first contacted me and said, hey, there's people out there that we can help.

00:50:50 Speaker 2

It became a little different attitude for.

00:50:54 Speaker 5

So you didn't get counseling help at?

00:50:56

All but you.

00:50:57 Speaker 5

Kind of started healing a little bit through helping others.

00:51:01 Speaker 2

I think so.

00:51:02 Speaker 2

Think.

00:51:03 Speaker 2

I think that was probably the best.

00:51:05 Speaker 2

That happened to me.

00:51:07 Speaker 2

Besides.

00:51:11 Speaker 2

My wife went through a tough time because I used to have some bad flashbacks.

00:51:17 Speaker 2

It was kind of difficult for her for a while.

00:51:20 Speaker 2

Think that that's best.

00:51:23 Speaker 4

When you were in prison of war camp, did anyone that had glasses that had glasses to the Germans take them away? No.

00:51:34 Speaker 2

If you had glasses and could you still had it?

00:51:40 Speaker 2

My one of my best buddies were shattered by.

00:51:44 Speaker 2

Burst from grenade or whatever it was it.

00:51:48 Speaker 2

Him.

00:51:48 Speaker 2

And he.

00:51:49 Speaker 2

His eyesight without glasses is 2400.

00:51:52 Speaker 2

So he's almost blind.

00:51:56 Speaker 2

But he didn't have plans because they wouldn't give you anything. But they if you had them, they would take.

00:52:09 Speaker 2

What else can I tell you?

00:52:15

About, I assume you came back.

00:52:17

And you said you had.

00:52:19

A successful career in engineering and I assume you raised a family and.

00:52:24 Speaker 2

Been married 53 years.

00:52:27 Speaker 2

Five children.

00:52:28 Speaker 2

Grandchildren.

00:52:30 Speaker 2

Yes, I'm very, very happy.

00:52:32 Speaker 2

The way things turned out.

00:52:36 Speaker 2

He stayed with me.

00:52:39 Speaker 2



And I'm not too sure it was all that easy at times.

00:52:43 Speaker 2

Did believe it or not, attack her?

00:52:45 Speaker 2

Night sometimes.

00:52:47 Speaker 2

Flash map, but that hasn't happened in a long time and I think I'm over it so.

00:52:57 Speaker 2

53 years.

00:53:00

I think that's a success.

00:53:03 Speaker 2

No, OK. We thank our lucky stars. We've been very fortunate.

00:53:12 Speaker 2

OK.

00:53:13 Speaker 1

Thank you very much.

00:53:15 Speaker 2

Your file up.

00:53:16 Speaker 1

I'm gonna turn off the camera now.

00:53:18 Speaker 3

And.