

## **Robert L. Moye Interview**

Company E, 317th Inf Reg

(Library of Congress: Veterans History Project; interviewed by Larry Ordner)

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

00:00:03 Speaker 2

This recording is made March 2nd, 2006, with Robert Leroy Moy. Bob resides at 5311 Rosebud Lane in Newburgh IN he is a native of Ridgeway, Illinois, served in the United States Army Infantry Company E, 317th Regiment, 80th Infantry Division. As highest rank attained.

00:00:22 Speaker 2

That is of captain. He served from August 1942 through May of 1946. He entered the army at the age of 21. He is also an awardee of the Bronze Star and is currently pursuing the awarding of the silver.

00:00:36 Speaker 3

Of the.

00:00:38 Speaker 1

So.

00:00:38 Speaker 2

Silver star, thank.

00:00:39 Speaker 2

This recording is made with Larry Ordon, regional director for US Senator \*\*\*\* Lugar. Bob, thanks for being part of the Veterans History project. Appreciate you doing this well, I I see here that you you were a native of Ridgeway, Illinois. Where is that exactly?

00:00:46 Speaker 1

Nice to meet.

00:00:53 Speaker 1

Well, it's in Galton County, Illinois. It's just about 50 miles from here. The Big city go past the big city of New Haven and the county see the Shawnee town, Illinois and.

00:01:09 Speaker 1

Rush.

00:01:11 Speaker 1

Resided there the first few years of my life and.

00:01:15 Speaker 1

We've moved a couple times, once to Harrisburg, IL and wants to the Moines, Iowa.

00:01:23 Speaker 1

And so when I first started school.

00:01:25 Speaker 1

And then to Anna.

00:01:28 Speaker 2

What was the reason for all the?

00:01:29 Speaker 1

Family moves Bob's employment.

00:01:33 Speaker 1

Know that those are tough times.

00:01:36 Speaker 1

In the early 20s and my dad.

00:01:41 Speaker 1

Worked on a federal building in Des Moines, IA.

00:01:47 Speaker 1

And to see sold cars in Harrisburg, IL. And that was.

00:01:51 Speaker 1

1920 cents as a pretty old car, but.

00:01:59 Speaker 1

Then they went to work for my he and my mother both worked at the Anna State Hospital, which is at that time we told her the hospital for the insane.

00:02:11 Speaker 1

And and so then I went to.

00:02:16 Speaker 1

Last two years in my grade school there and four years of high school, and we went to Southern University, which in those days was known as Southern Illinois State Teachers College.

00:02:28 Speaker 1

And my brother.

00:02:30 Speaker 1

HR and 9:00 room together and.

00:02:33 Speaker 1

And he graduated. But the Uncle Sam gave me that expense paid trip to Europe and.

00:02:39 Speaker 2

Well, tell me now where, where were you in your academic program at the time you were drafting?

00:02:43 Speaker 1

Now just finished about finished my junior.

00:02:46 Speaker 2

Your junior year over is over your career.

00:02:49 Speaker 2

Plans at that point.

00:02:50 Speaker 1

I didn't add many. All I wanted to do.

00:02:52 Speaker 1

Is play basketball.

00:02:54 Speaker 2

Play basketball in high school.

00:02:56 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:02:58 Speaker 1

Little bit in college and and that like for some service teams and.

00:03:02 Speaker 2

I have.

00:03:03 Speaker 1

Seven pro now I'm starting.

00:03:05 Speaker 2

Really.

00:03:08 Speaker 2

Well, you were a college junior.

00:03:11 Speaker 2

At the time.

00:03:12 Speaker 2

And going about your business as of of of college.

00:03:17 Speaker 2

Your coursework and and.

00:03:19 Speaker 2

I assume your social life too as a as a college man at that time.

00:03:22 Speaker 1

Well, that's true, but my main thought was sports.

00:03:28 Speaker 1

Yeah, and.

00:03:32 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:03:34 Speaker 1

Married couple of years later in well while I've been served.

00:03:40 Speaker 2

Well, tell me what? What was the reaction? Now, you being in college at the time, what was the reaction though, when the draft notice came? Was that a surprise?

00:03:49 Speaker 1

In a way, and they had a bunch of programs that in in those days of V5 or whatever it was, he'd become an officer in the Navy or this and that. And I thought, well, this will never last very long. So why don't I just write it out? Maybe.

00:04:07 Speaker 1

You know, I it was immaterial to me, I say immaterial. What I mean is if I was drafted, that was fine and most people were getting drafted at that time and so.

00:04:20 Speaker 1

I wasn't any surprise.

00:04:23 Speaker 2

I should have asked you. Do you remember what you were doing when you?

00:04:25 Speaker 2

Got the news about Pearl Harbor?

00:04:28 Speaker 1

I was out hunting rabbits.

00:04:31 Speaker 1

Friend of mine had a store there in Anna Goodrich Tire store and rabbits and came in and his wife said they just bombed Pearl Harbor.

00:04:44 Speaker 1

And I didn't know where Pearl Harbor was. And so, oh, I knew about what it was and.

00:04:52 Speaker 1

That was kind of a surprise. And then?

00:04:56 Speaker 1

You know, once very next moment, so to speak. I was drafted and that was I was ready.

00:05:06 Speaker 2

There are other guys like you being drafted.

00:05:09 Speaker 2

Out of college at.

00:05:09 Speaker 2

The time, yeah.

00:05:11 Speaker 1

Yeah, it was.

00:05:14 Speaker 1

Come to you.

00:05:14 Speaker 2

That kind of throws your your academic program going up in the air, doesn't it?

00:05:18 Speaker 1

Well, it did. Then my brother has graduated that year and.

00:05:26 Speaker 1

By the way, he was siblings in his schools in El Paso, TX and they just built a new elementary school named after him. So.

00:05:36 Speaker 1

And probably for that, Amanda.

00:05:39 Speaker 1

But I enjoyed.

00:05:43 Speaker 1

College life and he and I both joined, believe me, it was a tough go for my parents because the tuition wasn't very much.

00:05:52 Speaker 1

But still, in those days it was 22 boys in college or something out. How they did it all.

00:06:01 Speaker 2

Bob, where did they send you for induction?

00:06:04 Speaker 1

Chicago, IL.

00:06:08 Speaker 1

I forget is Jackson St. to something in the military and I think the National Guard is in Jackson Ave. and then we went out to.

00:06:22 Speaker 1

Close that.

00:06:24 Speaker 1

Camp Grant, which is out by Rockford, IL.

00:06:28 Speaker 1

Versus Chicago, someone and.

00:06:30 Speaker 2

Was that one of your farther trips from home?

00:06:33 Speaker 2

That point.

00:06:36 Speaker 1

I'd say so, yeah.

00:06:39 Speaker 2

Did basic training follow shortly after?

00:06:43 Speaker 1

You got in and needed.

00:06:48 Speaker 1

Oh.

00:06:50 Speaker 1

I immediately went to Fort McClellan, AL. How much?

00:06:54 Speaker 2

I take it you went down by train? Probably. Did you know where you were going?

00:06:55 Speaker 1

Yeah, yeah.

00:06:57 Speaker 1

No.

00:06:59 Speaker 2

That was very common in those days. I think they put people on.

00:07:01 Speaker 2

Trains.

00:07:02 Speaker 2

And and wherever you ended.

00:07:03 Speaker 2

Up. That's just where you ended up.

00:07:05 Speaker 1

I wouldn't tell you their advise you.

00:07:09 Speaker 2

I take it this was a troop train though.

00:07:12 Speaker 1

It does. It recruits the lightly in.

00:07:16 Speaker 1

And I mean roughly.

00:07:18 Speaker 1

In the lower bunk and two.

00:07:22 Speaker 1

And I slept with it.

00:07:24 Speaker 1

Fellow from Chicago.

00:07:26 Speaker 1

And he didn't want.

00:07:28 Speaker 1

You know how big it birth is in a in a passenger train is not very big and they had two down below and one up top.

00:07:36 Speaker 1

And ended up being a drawing room and on the floor but.

00:07:43 Speaker 1

That's got a trip and.

00:07:46 Speaker 1

I had no idea where we're going to can tell and.

00:07:50 Speaker 1

And everything was so we got out of out of Chicago, out of campground, through Chicago and we never going South. We could tell it by the sun had no idea where immediately.

00:08:07 Speaker 1

I was put into infantry.

00:08:13 Speaker 1

In school, not 13 weeks, which is normal at that time. So 13 weeks to going from civilian life to being an infantry. Yeah. Yeah, yeah. And then I went to.

00:08:30 Speaker 2

Well, let me ask you about let me ask you about basic training. What are some of your?

00:08:34 Speaker 2

Record most vivid recollections about basic well.



00:08:41 Speaker 1

Like to tell them all to go.

00:08:44 Speaker 1

Someplace else I had. I never had such a talking to my life as a corporal.

00:08:53 Speaker 1

Dead. And he told me to put my bag in one place and before we got on the train and then moved it a little bit and he let me know who was.

00:09:04 Speaker 1

Boss and.

00:09:06 Speaker 1

Was.

00:09:07 Speaker 1

He was a.

00:09:08 Speaker 1

Corporal and and he's God. And so he went on.

00:09:13 Speaker 1

And one one thing about.

00:09:16 Speaker 1

We had what we called tactical officers.

00:09:19 Speaker 1

And they run around making little notes, you know, and everybody would do something wrong, they thought. And I ended with one fellow won't mention his name.

00:09:30 Speaker 1

A first Lieutenant.

00:09:33 Speaker 1

And he was the biggest thing.

00:09:36 Speaker 1

Town and in a bad sort of way. And later on I he came into my camp.

00:09:44 Speaker 1

And things were reversed. I've gone from the private to the captain. He was still the first Lieutenant.

00:09:51 Speaker 1

And believe me, he never realized I didn't make it real funny.

00:09:57 Speaker 2

And when you went to basic training, it was August. It looks like or early September. It had to be pretty hot down in Alabama, but.

00:10:01 Speaker 1

No.

00:10:04 Speaker 1

Right outside the \*\*\*\*? Yeah.

00:10:06 Speaker 2

That had to be pretty rough time to begin how physically demanding.

00:10:09 Speaker 1

Ohh yeah.

00:10:10 Speaker 2

Was it for you, Bob?

00:10:12 Speaker 1

Not not none.

00:10:13

And then.

00:10:14 Speaker 1

I was in great shape. I was a dash man.

00:10:16 Speaker 1

And.

00:10:18 Speaker 1

Now there's an athlete.

00:10:20 Speaker 2

Yeah. How did you adapt to military life?

00:10:23 Speaker 1

Oh.

00:10:24 Speaker 1

No problem.

00:10:27 Speaker 1

And then.

00:10:29 Speaker 1

And.

00:10:31 Speaker 1

I went to what's called King Creek College. That was.

00:10:34 Speaker 1

And place for special forces. They just sent me out there for a couple of weeks.

00:10:40 Speaker 1

And then.

00:10:42 Speaker 1

So.

00:10:44 Speaker 1

It was nothing but just advanced basic training.

00:10:47 Speaker 2

Kind of things that they drill you on, Bob.

00:10:50 Speaker 1

All the just mainly the well marching of course, and not too much.

00:10:59 Speaker 1

Oh, you you fired to the to the rifle range in the 200 yard line.

00:11:06 Speaker 1

And that was we didn't get too much fire in here.

00:11:12 Speaker 1

And mainly.

00:11:13 Speaker 1

And the the obstacle courses, as they were known, they were played me. A lot of people couldn't get over it, you know.

00:11:23 Speaker 1

And.

00:11:25 Speaker 1

Because I was a dashman and it was just fun to me.

00:11:31 Speaker 1

But.

00:11:32 Speaker 1

All right.

00:11:35 Speaker 1

It was at so-called military life at a regiment and life, and you had to get up when they blew the whistle or shot the gun off or whatever. So.

00:11:47 Speaker 1

And you learn the revelry and all that.

00:11:51 Speaker 1

Sort of thing.

00:11:53 Speaker 2

Bob.

00:11:53 Speaker 2

Assuming at this time that.

00:11:57 Speaker 2

Of course, the US being at war, I guess, was it assumed that.

00:12:00 Speaker 2

You were going to be going to Europe.

00:12:02 Speaker 2

No, no, it was not, not.

00:12:04 Speaker 3

You didn't assume it.

00:12:05 Speaker 1

No, I.

00:12:07 Speaker 1

From Fort McClellan, AL, I went to and facetiously and humorously said an IQ of 46 1/2 because that's what they wanted to.

00:12:18 Speaker 1

2nd Lieutenant, they and I went to the infantry school.

00:12:24 Speaker 1

And Fort Benning. And that that was.

00:12:28 Speaker 1

And very intense training and probably is the best schooling I ever received.

00:12:36 Speaker 2

And why is that?

00:12:37 Speaker 1

Because they were so well prepared and everything was right on the button and you'd go here and half reading here and the guy and everybody was talking about.

00:12:48 Speaker 1

And all the other aspects of army life they taught you and.

00:12:54 Speaker 1

Believe me, in 90 days we call ourselves 90 day wonders.

00:12:57

Hmm.

00:12:59 Speaker 1

And we, we graduated, they graduated about, it started out with class about 200 and then they would run through them. And I shouldn't have to work this car. But they weren't the material I wanted.

00:13:16 Speaker 1

And so they let him go. And we graduated a little over 100 and 102nd lieutenants. And they were doing that every day. Wow. Every day. Well, they're putting out infantry officers and just.

00:13:24 Speaker 2

That's amazing.

00:13:29 Speaker 1

They couldn't put them out fast enough.

00:13:32 Speaker 1

Because.

00:13:35 Speaker 1

Once graduated and waste any time normally and go out to an outfit and.

00:13:43 Speaker 1

And they were heading for, you know, eventually to.

00:13:47 Speaker 1

End up with the.

00:13:49 Speaker 1

On the beaches of Normandy.

00:13:52 Speaker 1

And then the bottom lost your line and I remember people, some of the guys.

00:13:59 Speaker 1

Whenever pulled out of the ranks at a graduation ceremony.

00:14:05 Speaker 1

Then they tell me you didn't make it. They didn't. They did.

00:14:08 Speaker 1

They cry. I should have been only cry.

00:14:12 Speaker 1

OK, one moment.

00:14:15 Speaker 1

That that was well, after you go through such intense training just for 13 weeks.

00:14:22 Speaker 1

I mean a 90 day.

00:14:25 Speaker 1

You love you to accomplish something, then find out you didn't make it. There's a competitive thing there and I'm going to tell you one little story I was in.

00:14:37 Speaker 1

Student company commander.

00:14:40 Speaker 1

And.

00:14:41 Speaker 1

I had a.

00:14:43 Speaker 1

The fellow commander was with the OSX.

00:14:47 Speaker 1

Office of Strategic Services.

00:14:51 Speaker 1

And he interviewed me three times.

00:14:54 Speaker 1

And I turned him down, basically.

00:14:57 Speaker 1

Because he told me they have two to 3% case rate and I said don't mind, that's danger.

00:15:04 Speaker 1

And ours is 2 or 300.

00:15:07 Speaker 1

But I but he they interviewed. That's a 400 course of CIA and they interviewed everybody in my hometown. Somebody every when I got about a service and come back late.

00:15:21 Speaker 1

This fellow came by and asked about you, and they had my whole history, I think.

00:15:27 Speaker 1

And those days are pretty particular.

00:15:29 Speaker 1

And as I say, my IQ 46 and.

00:15:32 Speaker 1

1/2 or whatever it was.

00:15:35 Speaker 1

Evidence itself, and they kind of turned them down.

00:15:41 Speaker 1

And.

00:15:43 Speaker 1

But it was, I found out later it was an honor.

00:15:45 Speaker 1

To be asked.

00:15:49 Speaker 1

That's basically, I mean infantry Training officer training.

00:15:56 Speaker 1

In Fort Benning, GA, was somehow it was just I was. It was almost equal to a four year college.

00:16:05 Speaker 1

So they just.

00:16:06 Speaker 1

Crammed it down, you had to, you had to know everything and and and.

00:16:12 Speaker 2

What was your your first assignment after that training?

00:16:15 Speaker 1

Well, I had a short stay at Camp Wheeler, Georgia. That's outside of Macon for about a week and then they were just waiting to see what?

00:16:26 Speaker 1

Where they needed officers. So then I went to the 80th at Camp Forrest, Tennessee.

00:16:32 Speaker 1

That's out of Tullahoma.

00:16:35 Speaker 1

And the first day I was there, I was.



00:16:36 Speaker 1

2nd and 10.

00:16:38 Speaker 1

And we went over for breakfast at the officers mess hall.

00:16:45 Speaker 1

And I thought, boy, this is the lie, and that's about the last I saw of any bold, so to speak.

00:16:53 Speaker 1

For many weeks, gonna be around maneuvers. Tennessee maneuvers.

00:17:00 Speaker 1

Much more.

00:17:02 Speaker 1

Difficult physically in this combat.

00:17:04 Speaker 2

What kind of terrain were you working with?

00:17:06 Speaker 1

And Hailey Hill hill.

00:17:10 Speaker 1

And.

00:17:11 Speaker 1

Chris Egg didn't want us to drink the water.

00:17:15 Speaker 1

And we had it.

00:17:17 Speaker 1

And there's nothing more horrible than being thirsty. I mean, thirsty to point you really, really gotta have one.

00:17:25 Speaker 1

And then they came out with these water purification pills.

00:17:30 Speaker 1

And you drop one in your.

00:17:33 Speaker 1

Talk.

00:17:34 Speaker 1

You know in your.

00:17:35 Speaker 1

And water container and that was supposed.

00:17:38 Speaker 1

To.

00:17:39 Speaker 1

Cleanse itself within 03 or four or five hours.

00:17:44 Speaker 1

And we wouldn't let it sit 5 minutes.

00:17:48 Speaker 1

And until another pill and then drink that too. But it was very difficult and it was tough going up and down those hills of Tennessee. I said I set foot on every.

00:18:00 Speaker 1

Square foot of tendency that there is.

00:18:04 Speaker 1

There were thousands and thousands of troops there.

00:18:09 Speaker 1

Nashville was something else in those days.

00:18:14 Speaker 1

You should go in.

00:18:16 Speaker 1

In the town of your hotel was.

00:18:20 Speaker 1

And we asked for.

00:18:22 Speaker 1

That's for Lieutenant Ethelbert Dimwit and 4th through the desert, you know. Well, that was a joke. But then.

00:18:33 Speaker 1

Remove from.

00:18:36 Speaker 1

Tennessee maneuvers and gold.

00:18:38 Speaker 1

The whole division to Camp Phillips, Kansas.

00:18:42 Speaker 1

Which is outside of Salina, KS.

00:18:45 Speaker 1

And is now Hope Farm.

00:18:49 Speaker 1

And I was married there. My wife came out and she was in nursing training, held on the Sonic Hospital in Chicago.

00:18:58 Speaker 1

She and her mother came out and.

00:19:01 Speaker 1

Say sometimes that.

00:19:05 Speaker 1

I I didn't. I never don't remember asking her to marry. Marry me. But anyway, we've been married now, 62 years we were married. Married.

00:19:16 Speaker 1

In a Chapel at Camp Phillips Camp.

00:19:20

Thank you.

00:19:23 Speaker 1

And it was a.

00:19:25 Speaker 1

Short trip there and then we moved on. Our whole division moved on desert and it was rather you moved.

00:19:34 Speaker 3

In.

00:19:35 Speaker 1

Desert maneuvers.

00:19:37 Speaker 1

You know? And then you throw away. You gotta be going.

00:19:39 Speaker 1

To shop for shipping.

00:19:42 Speaker 1

Of course, that time we were engaged somewhat in Italy, you know, and and we went out there and we stayed out there a few months and then we.

00:19:54 Speaker 1

Train to.

00:19:56 Speaker 1

Fort Dix, NJ, right outside of Trenton.

00:20:01 Speaker 1

Then.

00:20:04 Speaker 1

My wife.

00:20:06 Speaker 1

Was with me at that point. And then.

00:20:09 Speaker 1

Then we shipped out basically from the same spot.

00:20:14 Speaker 1

Go to England, went across from the Queen Mary and had.

00:20:18 Speaker 1

Something like 17,000 troops in the world.

00:20:20 Speaker 3

That's that's I.

00:20:21 Speaker 2

I've heard those numbers.

00:20:23 Speaker 2

Before and that's just amazing to imagine.

00:20:26 Speaker 1

And they.

00:20:27 Speaker 2

You you were, you went.

00:20:29 Speaker 2

Without a convoluted. Yeah, because that was so such.

00:20:31 Speaker 1

A fast and they changed.

00:20:32

Shut up.

00:20:34 Speaker 1

Of course. Ohh, I'd say every just couple of minutes.

00:20:38 Speaker 3

Yeah.

00:20:41 Speaker 1

And one night I heard him, and that's a distinct sound of your.

00:20:46 Speaker 1

Mine grew off, you know, and.

00:20:51 Speaker 1

They said they're just practicing and I said no.

00:20:56 Speaker 1

You vote in the vicinity somewhere, but we went across in four days.

00:21:00 Speaker 2

What do you remember most about that trip?

00:21:04 Speaker 1

Getting seasick?

00:21:07 Speaker 1

1.

00:21:09 Speaker 1

And I was going down to see my first Sergeant. He was down the deck.

00:21:14 Speaker 1

And.

00:21:16 Speaker 1

And that mode of transportation, half of the people slept on the deck, and then they'd move in.

00:21:23 Speaker 1

For a night or two, then move back out.

00:21:27 Speaker 1

And he was down in he deck and I'd kidded everybody, like, getting seasick because they they treated the officers great.

00:21:34 Speaker 1

Enlisted men? Not so good British.

00:21:40 Speaker 1

Got, you know quite a bit of money.

00:21:44 Speaker 1

All that many troops.

00:21:47 Speaker 1

Excuse me. I'm the Queen Mary.

00:21:49 Speaker 1

But I went down there and said there was like going up and down an elevator and rewriting above the ship. And then I think I believe it should have 88 or 900 feet long.

00:22:02 Speaker 1

Hmm.

00:22:04 Speaker 1

Sarah feel a little funny.

00:22:07 Speaker 1

And I say I puked in every fire bucket from each deck to where I was up in the.

00:22:14 Speaker 1

We had a state room that was built for two.

00:22:18 Speaker 1

And we had nine first lieutenants.

00:22:22 Speaker 1

So.

00:22:24 Speaker 2

Did you encounter any storms on that trip?

00:22:27 Speaker 1

No, I had a big one coming back and it was.

00:22:30 Speaker 1

Hospital ship and.

00:22:32 Speaker 1

We landed at Glasgow, the first of Clyde in Glasgow and Scotland and.

00:22:40 Speaker 1

Immediately rolled on and got on the train and went down there.

00:22:44 Speaker 1

And Ashton, on makerfield.

00:22:47 Speaker 1

So.

00:22:48 Speaker 1

Fun way and we were.

00:22:51 Speaker 1

Went into a public park.

00:22:54 Speaker 1

And they had primeval tent set up.

00:22:57 Speaker 1

And my biggest.

00:23:01 Speaker 1

Job there was keeping the personnel that chased the Englishwoman. They were pretty lonely at that time, you know, because they're boys are all gone to war.

00:23:13 Speaker 1

And then.

00:23:14 Speaker 1

They didn't do much training there.

00:23:17 Speaker 1

And then we got on another train.

00:23:20 Speaker 1

Few weeks later and took off for Southampton and there.

00:23:25 Speaker 1

They're crossing a small boat.

00:23:29 Speaker 1

What month?

00:23:31 Speaker 1

That was in July.

00:23:34 Speaker 1

No 43.

00:23:38 Speaker 2

So you crossed the channel, right?

00:23:40 Speaker 1

Yes, and.

00:23:40 Speaker 3

And.

00:23:42 Speaker 1



It wasn't bad at that time and.

00:23:46 Speaker 1

That that was after D days and we didn't go into combat until what they call a sink low breakthrough and.

00:23:56 Speaker 1

We went through that. That's right.

00:23:59 Speaker 2

Can you kind of give me just a?

00:24:03 Speaker 2

Something of a chronology of the of the occurrences after you landed in France.

00:24:08 Speaker 1

Well, the first thing you did store whatever gas masks.

00:24:11 Speaker 1

And I'd said I'd rather.

00:24:15 Speaker 1

And die breathing must have death and wouldn't wear that thing. So everybody to the death and 1000.

00:24:26 Speaker 1

But then we went across.

00:24:31 Speaker 1

We joined the 3rd Army.

00:24:33 Speaker 1

Have a patent. Don't don't ask me why I think patent.

00:24:37 Speaker 2

Go ahead. I I.

00:24:39 Speaker 1

I thought he was a Utica.

00:24:41 Speaker 1

Idiot.

00:24:42 Speaker 1

And.

00:24:45 Speaker 1

My main call.

00:24:47 Speaker 1

Thing and.

00:24:48 Speaker 1

And he wanted to be a good soldier and.

00:24:50 Speaker 1

It's.

00:24:51 Speaker 1

Probably he's general, but he had a reputation, you know. He he slapped that one boy down in Italy and.

00:25:00 Speaker 1

Because.

00:25:03 Speaker 1

Battle for.

00:25:05 Speaker 1

And he pushed us.

00:25:08 Speaker 1

Very hard, you know.

00:25:10 Speaker 1

We probably took more.

00:25:13 Speaker 1

Land, then the 7th Army or the.

00:25:18 Speaker 1

2nd Army or whatever it was.

00:25:20 Speaker 1

Then we lost a lot, had a lot of casualties and then that.

00:25:25 Speaker 1

I still remember that.

00:25:28 Speaker 1

So I have no.

00:25:30 Speaker 1

I don't have much respect for him.

00:25:34 Speaker 1

And we we would.

00:25:38 Speaker 1

Because we our first major offensive was that how to call the Argentan Falaise Gap?

00:25:46 Speaker 1

And that's when we they, the Germans, had a lot of horses pulling their.

00:25:52 Speaker 1

Artillery pieces, you know, and so forth.

00:25:55 Speaker 1

And there is.

00:25:57 Speaker 1

The only thing may be worse than a dead smell of a dead.

00:26:00 Speaker 1

Horse is a dead.

00:26:01 Speaker 1

Man.

00:26:03 Speaker 1

And and they they had bombed and straight to this road going out of there.

00:26:09 Speaker 1

Killed thousands.

00:26:11 Speaker 1

In German.

00:26:13 Speaker 1

They couldn't get out there. We were on the English. It came in from the north and we came in from the South.

00:26:20 Speaker 1

And they're trying to escape.

00:26:24 Speaker 1

It was.

00:26:27 Speaker 1

Well, I actually felt sorry for him.

00:26:31 Speaker 1

Because yeah, I went down and inspected that thing and there was just one body and the horses and.

00:26:41 Speaker 1

The vehicles are all bombed out.

00:26:46 Speaker 1

And then the.

00:26:48 Speaker 1

Commander of the opposite company of ours, he invited us over fatigue.

00:26:53 Speaker 1

You know, we didn't have many tea parties in.

00:26:57 Speaker 1

Infantry in those days.

00:27:01 Speaker 1

There.

00:27:02 Speaker 2

That, that, that, that scene, that that you just described that just had to be a horrendous thing to see. And then.

00:27:11 Speaker 1

I can't remember seeing the Germans. We spotted some people there and including children before that and.

00:27:22 Speaker 1

Next mentioned Jim Hayes letter.

00:27:27 Speaker 1

We talked about that.

00:27:29 Speaker 1

But he almost became callous as far as his death was concerned.

00:27:35 Speaker 1

And somebody said, were you afraid? I said, what do you think about it and that?

00:27:40 Speaker 1

You know, and I.

00:27:43 Speaker 1

Almost truthfully, they mostly.

00:27:45 Speaker 1

The heroes are dead.

00:27:48 Speaker 1

And we lost a lot of a lot of.

00:27:53 Speaker 1

And one he became almost as a callous to death because he saw bodies all over the place, his own people and the Germans and everything else.

00:28:03 Speaker 1

And it was a it would get to you when the guy was in the death row.

00:28:10 Speaker 1

But at one time we pulled the little attack on the German position.

00:28:16 Speaker 1

And it wasn't. We went in pretty fast and we'd kill.

00:28:22 Speaker 1

Us.

00:28:22 Speaker 1

Several and they they rested and retreated.

00:28:27 Speaker 1

And.

00:28:28 Speaker 1

But.

00:28:29 Speaker 1

Walking up this road.

00:28:32 Speaker 1

I saw a German soldier. He was dead, but he was sitting in a ditch, just like I'm sitting in his armchair. You know, he just rolled back and one hand he was holding his bow.

00:28:44 Speaker 1

The machine gun cut across it.

00:28:47 Speaker 1

And it's valid just.

00:28:49 Speaker 1

Spilled out another name. That picture of his family.

00:28:53 Speaker 1

And that.

00:28:55 Speaker 1

That ship is very few things. I got shook about in those days.

00:29:00 Speaker 1

With that shipment.

00:29:03 Speaker 1

Because it was.

00:29:05 Speaker 1

He's just like me. He's out there.

00:29:07 Speaker 1

I know war and.

00:29:11 Speaker 1

Now it's decisions they say.

00:29:14 Speaker 1

They have another war. They they use live ammunition. I'm not going.

00:29:21 Speaker 1

But the the Germans and.

00:29:25 Speaker 1

Basically, a lot of people say, oh, you can't name that they were better soldiers than they could Germany. The military during nation, you know?

00:29:37 Speaker 1

Thing and they were and I captured some.

00:29:41 Speaker 1

Officer candidate could that, said the school at Mets.

00:29:48 Speaker 1

And they were as arrogant and sure of themselves as anything you ever saw.

00:29:54 Speaker 1

Maybe you said just.

00:29:56 Speaker 1

Get on with it.

00:29:59 Speaker 1

And they wouldn't tell you anything.

00:30:02 Speaker 1

Of course we didn't.

00:30:04 Speaker 1

Burn their feet trying to get them to say something, but.

00:30:07 Speaker 1

And that that's they were they were.

00:30:11 Speaker 1

They were good so.

00:30:14 Speaker 1

Ohh, because at that time they were they were holding us off and.

00:30:20 Speaker 1

Russian and so forth.

00:30:22 Speaker 1

And and.

00:30:25 Speaker 1

When you come across.

00:30:27 Speaker 1

Some of those people who who?

00:30:31 Speaker 1

Real, real military people, they were tough and tough.

00:30:36 Speaker 1

And they had a bunch of color worm act.

00:30:40 Speaker 1

Which they use prisoners out of Czechoslovakia and the other countries and practically marked beside them with a.

00:30:47 Speaker 1

Gun.

00:30:48 Speaker 1

To fight now those.

00:30:50 Speaker 1

They were not, not soldiers at all, Linda, so.

00:30:54 Speaker 1

You could only you could tell in the.

00:30:56 Speaker 1

You didn't see a lot of germs.

00:31:00 Speaker 1

I want to tell you if you don't mind, I'll tell you. Try standing with Jim Hayes, my time Commander. And Jim.

00:31:08 Speaker 1

And wrote these letters and you read very brave fellow and.



00:31:13 Speaker 1

He's first in his class at West Point and they were discussing what went on that day at dusk.

00:31:21 Speaker 1

And here comes the guy, and he's a replacement. We had a lot of those because.

00:31:26 Speaker 1

We were losing people through, you know, casualties and.

00:31:31 Speaker 1

And he came in and he had some, I don't know where he got him, but he had some looked like Pancho Villa and bandoliers around, and he wanted to know where the ammunition depot was.

00:31:42 Speaker 1

And I say son.

00:31:45 Speaker 1

Son, now 2223 years old.

00:31:48 Speaker 1

I said if you fire.

00:31:51 Speaker 1

Each one of those bullets had a German. You see, you didn't win this.

00:31:59 Speaker 1

He had. He's burdened down with belts and ammunition and he wanted more because he was ready.

00:32:06 Speaker 1

To go to war.

00:32:08 Speaker 1

And probably you know, it might have lasted two or three days.

00:32:11 Speaker 1

About what you did in those days.

00:32:15 Speaker 1

Let us.

00:32:16 Speaker 1

Try to keep people in line.

00:32:19 Speaker 1

The.

00:32:22 Speaker 1

They couldn't let it. The fight again, you know, because they.

00:32:26 Speaker 1

We lost a lot of a lot.

00:32:27 Speaker 1

Of people.

00:32:30 Speaker 1

And these these boys would come up specially had air superiority, didn't always said I don't know how we won that war.

00:32:38 Speaker 1

If it hadn't have been.

00:32:39 Speaker 1

That we had air superiority after the first.

00:32:43 Speaker 1

Go around, you know? Yeah.

00:32:45 Speaker 1

There was a.

00:32:47 Speaker 1

I don't know.

00:32:49 Speaker 1

I don't know what we'd have done if.

00:32:50 Speaker 1

We were bombed stripes every day, you know.

00:32:52 Speaker 2

How far have you advanced Bob?

00:32:54 Speaker 1

They always cross friends into the.

00:32:57 Speaker 1

Passed the Moselle. My personally, my company went on.

00:33:02 Speaker 1

And the the.

00:33:05 Speaker 1

The Mosel river. They go like called the Moselle.

00:33:09 Speaker 1

That was some of our fiercest fighting and the.

00:33:12 Speaker 1

And then twenty 30-40 miles and there's that of what to call then the rice frontier.

00:33:20 Speaker 1

It was claimed by both even before the war by.

00:33:23 Speaker 1

Both the French.

00:33:25 Speaker 1

In the Germans.

00:33:27 Speaker 1

And no, we we we suffered.

00:33:31 Speaker 1

So many casualties I was.

00:33:35 Speaker 1

I was in combat about three months.

00:33:38 Speaker 1

I got hit twice. One we go to scratch.

00:33:42 Speaker 1

And the second time was.

00:33:46 Speaker 1

In another Commission.

00:33:47 Speaker 2

Can you tell me about the?

00:33:48 Speaker 2

What exactly happened? What were the conditions of?

00:33:50

OK.

00:33:51 Speaker 1

That well, I was standing in a little hole that some Germans started to build a pothole. I guess it must have been foot deep.

00:33:59 Speaker 1

And I was talking on a walkie-talkie where walkie talkies and other days were pretty good side, and that those little things now they got.

00:34:07 Speaker 1

And I was trying to get Lieutenant on the.

00:34:12 Speaker 1

2nd platoon.

00:34:14 Speaker 1

Back at me to get a machine gun.

00:34:17 Speaker 1

And place it.

00:34:19 Speaker 1

Knocking knock it out because we were, we were.

00:34:22 Speaker 1

Kind of stalled.

00:34:25 Speaker 1

And I.

00:34:27 Speaker 1

Spoke to my runner and told him to go somewhere. I can't remember what it was I told him, but anyway.

00:34:32 Speaker 1

At that time that that.

00:34:35 Speaker 1

Walkie-talkie flew out of my hand.

00:34:37 Speaker 1

And I wonder what?

00:34:39 Speaker 1

And.

00:34:42 Speaker 1

I got a tree burst.

00:34:44 Speaker 1

The worst time?

00:34:46 Speaker 1

And right above me and.

00:34:49 Speaker 1

It put a lot of shrapnels in my face and jaw and broke my jaw.

00:34:58 Speaker 1

Still affected by that?

00:35:01 Speaker 1

But I that put me I mean.

00:35:06 Speaker 1

I I was in a French hospital a few months back.

00:35:11 Speaker 1

Just for a couple 3 days.

00:35:12 Speaker 2

Do you remember anything about?

00:35:15 Speaker 1

Being transported. Yeah, I may. I'm. I knew we went across on a DC3 and flew across and had we had just laden constantly build up the sign inside of.

00:35:31 Speaker 1

Playing and in hospital playing and.

00:35:36 Speaker 1

And that's I've had a little treatment.

00:35:39 Speaker 1

And in that French hospital or whatever it.

00:35:41 Speaker 1

Was.

00:35:42 Speaker 1

Because I didn't remember anything, I remember they were shooting me every two hours of penicillin. That was before penicillin, by the way. We had twice the casualties and deaths for the dead because before that.

00:35:54 Speaker 1

OK.

00:35:59 Speaker 1

Human self inject.

00:36:01 Speaker 1

And a lot of guy.

00:36:03 Speaker 1

And you were almost destined to get an infection if you got it.

00:36:11 Speaker 1

Mine, for instance my ear, the.

00:36:15 Speaker 1

They swell out about that form. There's a little hole and just side of that thing. You, you know, you sick you when you stick your finger and.

00:36:25 Speaker 1

And that was in in England and.

00:36:29 Speaker 1

And I had the.

00:36:32 Speaker 1

A fellow named Luis told me I was on what they call a maxillofacial ward. That was all the people that had you see guys as their jaw shot off and that I was in good shape and better than him and I.

00:36:50 Speaker 1

In army hospitals, only about a year.

00:36:52 Speaker 2

How how would you describe it that the injuries?

00:36:54 Speaker 2

To your face.

00:36:56 Speaker 1

Well, I could stick 2 fingers, you know. You know that that wasn't too bad to fix that up.

00:37:05 Speaker 1

And let's just Lewis.

00:37:09 Speaker 1

He's Lieutenant Colonel and he later on I found out he found his.

00:37:14 Speaker 1

One of the best plastic surgeons in the country from these volunteers.

00:37:20 Speaker 1

Go over there and work. Some people like me and out to vote.

00:37:25 Speaker 1

I was lucky to get certainly work and so.

00:37:30 Speaker 1

And then most of my stay in the hospital when I found out it was going to live.

00:37:35 Speaker 1

Was in with three construction.

00:37:41 Speaker 1

Ohh.

00:37:42 Speaker 1

Tried everything I I developed what they call businesses and I couldn't open my mouth.

00:37:48 Speaker 1

They they crazy muscles.

00:37:51 Speaker 1

Shot away. There were quite a few of them and.

00:37:58 Speaker 1

I don't have any scarves shown here, but inside and it's like a rope and it comes down through there and it.

00:38:05 Speaker 1

The shrapnel.

00:38:08 Speaker 1

Right. You didn't see many people get hit by the machine and that might sound amazing, but.

00:38:15 Speaker 1

I said very few of the people that I had that when when my company got hit and got wounded or killed or hit by machine.

00:38:23 Speaker 2

He went through months for combat, in some cases fierce combat, and then suffered this injury.

00:38:26 Speaker 3

Thanks.

00:38:30 Speaker 3

I mean I I would think.

00:38:33 Speaker 2

What is the motivation?

00:38:34 Speaker 2

What keeps you your your focus going?

00:38:38 Speaker 1

Well, I think you know I'm.

00:38:43 Speaker 1

We were fighting for.

00:38:45 Speaker 1

Oh, I I don't want to sound like an hero or something like that then.



00:38:50 Speaker 1

Death to everybody you know. And just to keep my family.

00:38:52

Yeah.

00:38:54 Speaker 1

And the the.

00:38:57 Speaker 1

You were there and and it's been horrible if you walked off and I had a couple of these that I was.

00:39:05 Speaker 1

Proud that most of them.

00:39:06 Speaker 1

A lot of them didn't.

00:39:07 Speaker 1

Do.

00:39:07 Speaker 1

That but that we were in constant combat.

00:39:11 Speaker 2

Tell me what that's.

00:39:13 Speaker 2

For like in the sense of.

00:39:16 Speaker 3

Of just having to dig in and and just live under those conditions because you know it had no doubt had to deal with with mud. And just what is that like?

00:39:25 Speaker 1

Wow, yes. Where you find a place? I didn't. I never dug a fox all my life and find a hole somewhere. And and it didn't matter. And you lay down flat on the ground and pouring down rain or whatever it was. And. And you. I remember one time I got.

00:39:45 Speaker 1

German started splintering.

00:39:48 Speaker 1

And I laid them, made a good bed.

00:39:51 Speaker 1

And laid down there and had my head up and on everything. But during the night they had a little storm.

00:39:57 Speaker 1

And I was laying there and just comfortable with the devil. And it was during the evening, late night and.

00:40:06 Speaker 1

When I got out of there and cold hit me and I.

00:40:10 Speaker 1

Was.

00:40:11 Speaker 1

So you don't go back to your barracks and get a new set of.

00:40:16 Speaker 1

You know threads on. He just wore what they were until they go up and we'd.

00:40:18

So.

00:40:23 Speaker 1

We never had any relief, you know, maybe our team most of the time, year, year.

00:40:31 Speaker 1

And you had to be alert because.

00:40:37 Speaker 1

We reserve, I don't know where that position was. We're all right up front.

00:40:45 Speaker 2

As far as eating, you had your rations, right? What?

00:40:49 Speaker 2

What did those consist of?

00:40:50 Speaker 1

Typically, mostly C rations would be and meat.

00:40:57 Speaker 1

You know, some kind of meat mixed with.

00:40:59 Speaker 1

The bad.

00:41:00 Speaker 1

They weren't bad. You got used to them and back to.

00:41:04 Speaker 1

And he takes something to get a little Peppers and seasoning.

00:41:08 Speaker 1

And weren't that bad and you had basically 6 cans.

00:41:14 Speaker 1

A day.

00:41:15 Speaker 1

If you if they could catch up with.

00:41:18 Speaker 1

And sometimes very neat for.

00:41:21 Speaker 1

The.

00:41:24 Speaker 1

And then then, then the ration was the chocolate bar that had a lot of.

00:41:31 Speaker 1

Things that break her teeth and she she's down.

00:41:35 Speaker 1

Other types of but not like they've got these MRE's they.

00:41:39 Speaker 1

There we got now.

00:41:40 Speaker 2

You know, in terms of of any communication with family, there was no way to do that obviously wasn't.

00:41:48 Speaker 1

Possibly after I left they they'd get.

00:41:52 Speaker 1

You know, because I was only there about 3 months and and you didn't have any postal clerks coming up and getting mail and.

00:42:01 Speaker 1

I I don't. I remember 1 I got 1 little pack.

00:42:08 Speaker 1

Home and some Hershey bars and I looked at that and I was standing there with Jim Hayes. And I get together, use my battalion.

00:42:20 Speaker 1

Get 4 companies and and.

00:42:23 Speaker 1

And we he stood up in my wedding. By the way. Ken Phillips candy.

00:42:28 Speaker 1

We could we still maintain contact with each other.

00:42:32 Speaker 1

But we were.

00:42:34 Speaker 1

And that's when this fella came up.

00:42:38 Speaker 1

With that.

00:42:39 Speaker 1

Bandelier don't understand it. Don't what we're going to do. You know what we had in mind to do the next day?

00:42:46 Speaker 1

And this fellow, just when I was.

00:42:50 Speaker 1

Again, I've already just reached someone.

00:42:53 Speaker 1

Take it off, I said. You know what?

00:42:56 Speaker 1

Notion.

00:42:59 Speaker 1

Alright, you know what company you're supposed?

00:43:00 Speaker 1

To be with, he said. I get deeper.

00:43:03 Speaker 1

He said. I'm Mrs. Sergeant Jones.

00:43:06 Speaker 1

And.

00:43:08 Speaker 1

And that he just.

00:43:11 Speaker 1

I never didn't seen that today.

00:43:15 Speaker 1

Use replacement and then.

00:43:18 Speaker 1

Those are the guys that felt so sorry for I talked to psychiatrists.

00:43:23 Speaker 1

Spend them out here in town because I tell you, you talked about stress.

00:43:29 Speaker 1

That's a private.

00:43:31 Speaker 1

And it and it comes in as replacement in an infantry company.

00:43:37 Speaker 1

And he don't know whether he's going to be.

00:43:39 Speaker 1

Alive 5 seconds from now.

00:43:41 Speaker 1

And let's stress, I said, and every day.

00:43:47 Speaker 1

Great deal amount of stress.

00:43:53 Speaker 1

You know you you knew you might.

00:43:55 Speaker 1

He I've got 1 fellow that I know in my company that went through the war on escape.

00:44:03 Speaker 1

Sergeant Bill Courtney and and he lives in. Afraid of Pennsylvania, but he never got wounded. And that's that's really something out.

00:44:12 Speaker 3

That that's remarkable.

00:44:13 Speaker 1

Because we my company, turned over twice.

00:44:18 Speaker 1

You know in numbers.

00:44:21 Speaker 1

And then you get those people coming up there that didn't know how to fire anyone rather than, you know, how to live in one. And he all he did was try to keep them alive or, you know, down get down.

00:44:33 Speaker 2

And you guys were so young, but you still became the old guys to them.

00:44:37 Speaker 1

Ohh yeah.

00:44:39 Speaker 1

Yeah, everybody calls me the old man, you know.

00:44:43 Speaker 1

And the most of them.

00:44:45 Speaker 1

I'd say nice senator over now and.

00:44:51 Speaker 3

How long was?

00:44:52 Speaker 2

Convalescence set in in France at that first hospital.

00:44:56 Speaker 1

Just few days, 3 minutes because see, we weren't too far. I mean, in mileage.

00:45:05 Speaker 1

You know, I don't know how wide France is. I know, like television walked across France as my major accomplishment in the war.

00:45:12 Speaker 3

It's about the water.

00:45:14 Speaker 1

But the.

00:45:16 Speaker 1

I just spent a few days there and they were shooting me with penicillin and I said every two hours. I hate to see that nurse come.

00:45:23 Speaker 1

And that's about all I remember being in there.

00:45:27 Speaker 1

Of course my face.

00:45:28 Speaker 1

Is all swelled up and then and.

00:45:31 Speaker 1

Hadn't started working on it until I got.

00:45:33 Speaker 1

Back into England.

00:45:37 Speaker 1

Under good health.

00:45:38 Speaker 2

You you were you hospitalized in England.

00:45:40 Speaker 3

And was in a good area.

00:45:40 Speaker 1

Ohh yeah, five months.

00:45:42 Speaker 2

Five months now.

00:45:45 Speaker 1

And then that's when I came back in the convoy.

00:45:49 Speaker 1

We landed at Camp Edwards, but leaving it in both.

00:45:51 Speaker 2

And you came back on a on a hospital ship, right along with other. Yes, many other.

00:45:56 Speaker 1

Oh yeah, the whole big three stacker full of.

00:46:00 Speaker 2

Alright.

00:46:01 Speaker 1

Wounded personnel.

00:46:04 Speaker 2

How do you how would you describe the?

00:46:06 Speaker 2

The care that you received.

00:46:08 Speaker 2

Like coming home on editing.

00:46:10 Speaker 1

Was actually.

00:46:13 Speaker 1



Yeah, it was excellent. I was always amazing nurses and volunteered, you know, and. And they were they were American nurses.

00:46:23 Speaker 1

In France, we had come, I remember one later French.

00:46:29 Speaker 1

No, they we we received extra care.

00:46:32 Speaker 2

Sometimes the nurses were also.

00:46:34 Speaker 2

Often.

00:46:35 Speaker 2

Not talked about as much.

00:46:36 Speaker 2

But they they did a very valiant duty, didn't.

00:46:41 Speaker 1

See people that were.

00:46:45 Speaker 1

No, no. We received excellent care.

00:46:48 Speaker 1

And I went into.

00:46:51 Speaker 1

No, Hannah told sister.

00:46:54 Speaker 1

And that, like booster shot ourselves, you know, and it's part of it's not.

00:46:58 Speaker 1

But I went into Perth, they call them and they said warm beer once they because we demand they put some ice in it. But anyway we had a.

00:47:11 Speaker 1

We had a guy.

00:47:13 Speaker 1

Is it T5I may call it text?

00:47:16 Speaker 1

Tech man, he was the two stripes and the tee in there. He he's a clerk.

00:47:21 Speaker 1

You know, you knew that they drink.

00:47:25 Speaker 1

And he was he had a big round table and he had a.

00:47:28 Speaker 1

Bunch of English girls when?

00:47:31 Speaker 1

He was telling someone those horrific stories I ever heard.

00:47:35 Speaker 1

And I hear I was banged up with, like, some kind of a movie, you know, and all this band is going to jaw and everything else.

00:47:45 Speaker 1

And I walked over, I said something.

00:47:49 Speaker 1

I said.

00:47:50 Speaker 1

You you never were in combat, really.

00:47:54 Speaker 1

Motion.

00:47:56 Speaker 1

I said, well, don't don't do this to those because I know what you're trying to do and.

00:48:02 Speaker 1

Trying to get your real attention but.

00:48:05 Speaker 1

I said just.

00:48:06 Speaker 1

Go back in, have a good time.

00:48:09 Speaker 1

Because most of the guys were in there were wounded, you know and.

00:48:15 Speaker 1

Here he was. He was had them all. So some terrific tales. I think he was. He got the Medal of Honor.

00:48:23 Speaker 3

Real live story.

00:48:24 Speaker 1

No.

00:48:27 Speaker 3

The.

00:48:29 Speaker 1

The I was in the hospital.

00:48:32 Speaker 1

I went to the I always tried to get you close to home. Well, they missed for a few 100 miles because I ended up at and Madigan General Hospital. I had to go to the general.

00:48:43 Speaker 1

So.

00:48:44 Speaker 1

And.

00:48:46 Speaker 1

And and and nag in general in Fort Lewis, WA right side of the corner.

00:48:51 Speaker 2

So you arrived back on the East Coast and then had a long train.

00:48:54 Speaker 1

And then all around to the West Coast.

00:48:55 Speaker 2

Did you just flight or did you?

00:48:57 Speaker 1

No, we were we were on train.

00:49:00 Speaker 2

That not being the condition you were and be transported that far.

00:49:05 Speaker 1

Well, I was in pretty good condition by that time. I mean, I still had a lot of work to be done, but I was.

00:49:12 Speaker 1

Well.

00:49:12 Speaker 2

Yeah. Did you get to see?

00:49:13 Speaker 2

Your family in the meantime.

00:49:15 Speaker 1

When I got to Washington.

00:49:18 Speaker 1

I did after several weeks, my wife came out there and.

00:49:23 Speaker 1

Nurses training and she was with me then and then we went overseas.

00:49:29

And the.

00:49:31 Speaker 1

That's the reason.

00:49:33 Speaker 1

We got married, you know. And when I joined the ages.

00:49:38 Speaker 1

Is.

00:49:41 Speaker 1

But.

00:49:44 Speaker 1

Oh I.

00:49:46 Speaker 1

I think that it was harder on my wife and my mother probably than it was on me. I knew what was going on. They didn't.

00:49:54 Speaker 1

You know.

00:49:56 Speaker 1

And Jim Hayes, when I was wounded.

00:49:59 Speaker 1

They carried me out on a stretcher and four guys and.

00:50:03 Speaker 1

One of them I found out later on in, in going to the reunion and the outfit.

00:50:10 Speaker 1

That one fellow, his name is Young. Somewhere. I got his address out in California.

00:50:15 Speaker 1

He replaced the guy. He replaced the one and one man that was shot and killed.

00:50:21 Speaker 1

And so they had to get another guy and just. Yeah. And. And then I got to Jim Hayes, all my jaw all smashed. And he described it there. And master.

00:50:34 Speaker 1

Crushed flesh and bone. But he he held my hand and talked to him. I couldn't say anything but and head when you bleed you just.

00:50:46 Speaker 1

It was.

00:50:48 Speaker 1

Probably looked worse than it was and it was pretty bad, but.

00:50:51 Speaker 1

He thought I'd never make it back to the net.

00:50:57 Speaker 1

You know. Yeah, putting me on a.

00:51:00 Speaker 1

A Jeep. That's where the.

00:51:05 Speaker 1

Stretcher just laid right across them.

00:51:08 Speaker 1

And it's I I remembered very little when I got there because it was it was shot was morphing. And I think sometimes the good Lord takes care of you in this situation like that. You think that I was agonizing?

00:51:21 Speaker 1

And I really.

00:51:23 Speaker 1

My pain came later.

00:51:24 Speaker 1

And starts swelling.

00:51:27 Speaker 1

But.

00:51:32 Speaker 1

In combat.

00:51:34 Speaker 1

It was a ohh like a fantasy, you know. You know.

00:51:37 Speaker 1

And you just.

00:51:39 Speaker 1

You were there, and yet you weren't, you know, but and some people said, well, how did you sleep? Well, I told you I slept.

00:51:49 Speaker 1

And as Jim Hayes points out.

00:51:54 Speaker 1

An infant geology.

00:51:56 Speaker 1

He might get 20 minutes.

00:51:59 Speaker 1

A day.

00:52:00 Speaker 1

You know you're gonna be dead, so you couldn't lay down because you're basically in combat all the time and.

00:52:12 Speaker 1

And I've done myself and seen many people do it and marching and.

00:52:18 Speaker 1

Yes.

00:52:19 Speaker 1

Right off and lay down.

00:52:21 Speaker 1

Go to sleep.

00:52:21 Speaker 1

You were asleep for you. Hit your drink and you always had to have some alert guys following me.

00:52:28 Speaker 1

You know in your squad or whatever, I agree.

00:52:32 Speaker 1

So he could wake those guys up and get them go. They just slept.

00:52:35 Speaker 1

Up there and then.

00:52:37 Speaker 1

You get so tired, you know.

00:52:40 Speaker 1

And somebody said, well, you're an officer, you had an officer. I was head scout, you know, because I didn't expect him to go any place that I wouldn't go and. And it was tough.

00:52:55 Speaker 1

The men.

00:52:57 Speaker 1

By the way, I always thought.

00:53:00 Speaker 1

Patient was responsible for it, but when I got hit for the last time.

00:53:07 Speaker 1

We we had AG company which.

00:53:11 Speaker 1

In a little town called Seebri, and for a while they.

00:53:14 Speaker 1

Were.

00:53:15 Speaker 1

Doing pretty good and the Germans got him there.

00:53:19 Speaker 1

And then he yelled for help. And that's when they sent me down there to get him out. So he, Lieutenant Ellsworth, his name.

00:53:27 Speaker 1

And get him and the rest of his company out.

00:53:31 Speaker 1

And there wasn't a there wasn't a tree 3 foot tall between us and.

00:53:36 Speaker 1

That.

00:53:38 Speaker 1

Little town and it was at the base of Mount Saint Jean.

00:53:43 Speaker 1

Which is I thought was.

00:53:45 Speaker 1

20,000 feet. But there they were just sitting up there, just looking.

00:53:49 Speaker 1



Down at it.

00:53:51 Speaker 1

And they came out of woods. And when they ordered me on this attack.

00:53:56 Speaker 1

And it was hurried up.

00:54:00 Speaker 1

Thing, and it's supposed to 0 in with HG High explosive.

00:54:05 Speaker 1

And then so.

00:54:07 Speaker 1

Smoking there, you know, that's.

00:54:09 Speaker 1

Cut me off.

00:54:10 Speaker 1

From the mountain, so they couldn't see it.

00:54:14 Speaker 1

Well, they fired.

00:54:16 Speaker 1

Couple of three rounds of high explosives.

00:54:19 Speaker 1

Into it.

00:54:21 Speaker 1

The smoke shell out there and missed the target about a mile and that was it.

00:54:26 Speaker 1

But but when they ordered me to go, Colonel Cameron.

00:54:31 Speaker 1

His name is Regimental Command Region full kernel.

00:54:35 Speaker 1

And he said they won't send it.

00:54:38 Speaker 1

And he said it's suicide.

00:54:42 Speaker 1

And they relieved him on the spot.

00:54:46 Speaker 1

And I figured that was.

00:54:49 Speaker 1

It was getting down through Patton's division commander.

00:54:55 Speaker 1

His name is McBride and he's selling horrible, horrible.

00:54:59 Speaker 1

That good.

00:55:02 Speaker 1

Really, with us and we got, I have no idea how many categories we have.

00:55:06 Speaker 1

On that and later on, it took more than a.

00:55:10 Speaker 1

Company to get that?

00:55:13 Speaker 1

Bunch of Germans out of this position.

00:55:16 Speaker 2

Was your recovery.

00:55:19 Speaker 1

Altogether, everything about 13.

00:55:23 Speaker 1

But that's pretty good duty. Yes, I learned how to play golf.

00:55:28 Speaker 2

You mentioned it was harder on your wife and your mother.

00:55:32 Speaker 2

And that was something that they were able to to come to grips with for a period of time, I take it.

00:55:38 Speaker 1

Well, yes. And and I was fortunate to be.

00:55:42 Speaker 1

Had Jim Hayes, my commander, because he stood up at my wedding, knew my wife and.

00:55:52 Speaker 1

He he got word to her that I was wounded and seriously. But he said he'll he told him live and I'd live. I wouldn't care about him.

00:56:04 Speaker 1

We and then we lost contact.

00:56:05 Speaker 1

For a long time.

00:56:07 Speaker 1

It was about 13 months, I guess I was wounded October.

00:56:13 Speaker 1

I I said to Ford, the record show the 3rd. So I lost today in there somewhere the last time but.

00:56:20 Speaker 1

And when I get back into state service, everything was rosy then.

00:56:26 Speaker 1

In I guess so.

00:56:29 Speaker 1

And I had a bed, you know, and and Madisonville hospital. They worked on me. And then then then they couldn't do it all in one day.

00:56:38 Speaker 1

And the surgeons were overloaded. So I said, well, why don't I just come out?

00:56:47 Speaker 1

Maybe 3 days, you know a week.

00:56:51 Speaker 1

If you haven't got anything scheduled for him at that time, I'm still a patient.

00:56:55 Speaker 1

And then I want to.

00:56:58 Speaker 1

Bother you and I said. You call me. Finally, you know, arranged that.

00:57:03 Speaker 1

So then I didn't have to worry about having to go out there tomorrow or something like that and.

00:57:09 Speaker 1

That's where I got.

00:57:11 Speaker 1

Begin 5:00.

00:57:13 Speaker 1

That it was my wife is with me. We are an apartment in town.

00:57:19 Speaker 1

And she sold.

00:57:20 Speaker 1

The women's clothes and I played that.

00:57:23 Speaker 1

And it was good duty. In fact, they tried three days to find me kind of fine.

00:57:29 Speaker 1

Well, they needed the bed because it occasionally, as you were coming in from the South Pacific.

00:57:34 Speaker 1

Better.

00:57:35 Speaker 1

Doesn't that sound?

00:57:38 Speaker 2

When were you finally discharged?

00:57:41 Speaker 1

Separating the service in May of 46 when I got out of the hospital and they they gave me, I was went before a retirement board.

00:57:53 Speaker 1

And they say give me 6 months temporary duty.

00:57:57 Speaker 1

So to speak.

00:57:59 Speaker 1

And I wouldn't couldn't go back into combat.

00:58:02 Speaker 1

So that was it. And it gave me a replacement company that at one time.

00:58:09 Speaker 1

And I had them.

00:58:12 Speaker 1

And I of course, I was a basketball player and I played on poker team even when I was a patient in the hospital and it was.

00:58:22 Speaker 1

I was in there several months and then I got home once and.

00:58:29 Speaker 1

And I got to see my.

00:58:30 Speaker 1

Mother and dad, except for.

00:58:33 Speaker 3

You never returned to any other period of war after that.

00:58:36 Speaker 1

No, no.

00:58:39 Speaker 1

I didn't volunteer and and.

00:58:40

So.

00:58:42 Speaker 1

They wouldn't have probably, you know, interested. I was limited service.

00:58:50 Speaker 1

It it kind of goes well and we got into England and this maximum official.

00:58:57 Speaker 1

Where they were trying to patch guys up and get them over because that's about.

00:59:00 Speaker 1

And and that wasn't during the bows, it was close to.

00:59:04 Speaker 1

It.

00:59:05 Speaker 1

But it got bit down on the K right and right and I wasn't broke the jaw. Again, it hadn't healed right. So then.

00:59:13 Speaker 1

Is it no more jaw patients who once you?

00:59:17 Speaker 1

Put back in service.

00:59:20 Speaker 1

I'll tell you.

00:59:22 Speaker 1

That was something for those guys to come out for a month or 10 and go back in and they knew they knew then what they've been doing.

00:59:30 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:59:31 Speaker 1

It was. I had a bunch of good people, a presidential citation I was wasn't with them when they crossed the line, but.

00:59:41 Speaker 1

And we got all we got the that accommodation and.

00:59:45 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:59:46 Speaker 2

You were never able to.

00:59:47 Speaker 3

Meet up with your guys again.

00:59:52 Speaker 1

In fact, did Jim Hayes and I lost contact for a long time.

00:59:57 Speaker 1

And he found out I'd lived and was all.

01:00:00 Speaker 1

And.

01:00:01 Speaker 1

So a couple of years ago I flew out to see. He lives in Westlake village, CA. He left service early, so to speak, when the when the war was over, he was in for a short time and in fact, one time he wanted me to come to the Pentagon and.

01:00:17 Speaker 1

He's giving me permanent rank. It's just I think he's like, permanent. And I said, no, don't think so. But then he left and went with the think tank that ran properly and he traveled the world with.

01:00:30 Speaker 1

Him.

01:00:31 Speaker 1

He related Kitty Guy speaks about 6.

01:00:33 Speaker 1

Or 7 languages.

01:00:36 Speaker 1

His father was a chief Petty Officer in the Navy and his mother was Turkey. He were great friends.

01:00:43 Speaker 3

How do you look?

01:00:44 Speaker 2

Back all these years later about that experience.

01:00:47 Speaker 3

In your life.

01:00:49 Speaker 1

Oh, I'm glad I made it through, you know? Naturally.

01:00:53 Speaker 1

And I don't.

01:00:55 Speaker 1

I talk more today about the combat than I haven't did in my life, I guess.

01:01:00 Speaker 3

I appreciate you the way.

01:01:01 Speaker 2

You did. This is fascinating insight.

01:01:04 Speaker 1

Well, you know, you just had.

01:01:09 Speaker 1

You couldn't describe anything to somebody and make.

01:01:12 Speaker 1

Them believe it it.

01:01:13 Speaker 1

It really hadn't been there, you know, just to.

01:01:16 Speaker 3

There's nothing to compare it with, I mean.

01:01:17 Speaker 1

Now.

01:01:19 Speaker 1

And I I.

01:01:22 Speaker 1

Not really.

01:01:24 Speaker 1

It got me was my own people getting killed, you know? And the salt killed.

01:01:30 Speaker 1



And and close people. I I just sent a donation to. We're going to put up a monument. I have found out where it's going to do so I'm going to get \$16,000.

01:01:40

We are.

01:01:41 Speaker 1

Old Lady of division.

01:01:44 Speaker 1

And so I send a little bit not not that now, but.

01:01:51 Speaker 1

But then they insured great people and they.

01:01:54 Speaker 1

You thought you'd known him for the rest of your life.

01:01:58 Speaker 1

And then all the ones you're gone.

01:02:00 Speaker 1

And.

01:02:01 Speaker 1

You know what happened until.

01:02:04 Speaker 1

I was with the guy who was the mayor of, I mean the governor of Indiana was the governor being.

01:02:13 Speaker 2

Over here at the Tobins port.

01:02:17 Speaker 1

No, he was a combat veteran and he was a major with them, no?

01:02:28 Speaker 1

In the 40s.

01:02:29 Speaker 3

Yeah.

01:02:31 Speaker 1

And what?

01:02:33 Speaker 1

Anyway, I was I'd gone.

01:02:35 Speaker 1

To work for the railroad and.

01:02:37 Speaker 1

Was that in Terre Haute and?

01:02:40 Speaker 1

We got. We found out it was with the 80th Division or something.

01:02:45 Speaker 1

You said I should join the.

01:02:48 Speaker 1

The old outfits.

01:02:51 Speaker 1

You know.

01:02:52 Speaker 1

Society.

01:02:54 Speaker 1

And I didn't know they had one until when I got back and then got back to some of the people that they served with me.

01:03:03 Speaker 1

That what was his name? Well known, I mean.

01:03:07 Speaker 1

The government, the state of Indiana one time.

01:03:10 Speaker 1

Bigger.

01:03:11 Speaker 3

Remember, I'm not.

01:03:13 Speaker 1

That 196263.

01:03:20 Speaker 1

We're watching, yeah.

01:03:21 Speaker 2

Matt Welch, Reagan's friend.

01:03:22 Speaker 1

No. Is that before him, I guess Matt, Welches and Vincent?

01:03:28 Speaker 2

Carol Handley.

01:03:31 Speaker 1

Name starts with a VM, sure.

01:03:34 Speaker 2

Brannigan.

01:03:35 Speaker 2

Roger brannigan.

01:03:37 Speaker 1

No, I remember. I remember Randy. And he's quiet, though. Yeah. So this guy.

01:03:38 Speaker 2

He was from.

01:03:38 Speaker 2

Terra haute.

01:03:44 Speaker 1

Any politician too.

01:03:47 Speaker 1

And I don't think we can get out of the book and look back and see if the governors were state of Indiana. Anyway, he he had been a major Lieutenant Colonel and he.

01:04:01 Speaker 1

We talked to him and so he got me put him back in the 80s.

01:04:06 Speaker 1

You know, retired people.

01:04:09 Speaker 1

And so I got to see a few guys, but most of mine.

01:04:11 Speaker 2

Boy boy.

01:04:13

Born.

01:04:14 Speaker 1

Not dead, no bowling. No. No bone. No, no bone.

01:04:18

I'm trying to think.

01:04:19 Speaker 1

Blow bonus. Well, you will too, but then you will feel doing it, but.

01:04:28 Speaker 1

Then I got, but we didn't have a lot of people, so I only got 1 fellow.

01:04:34 Speaker 1

Still living.

01:04:36 Speaker 1

I'm not coming besides me.

01:04:38 Speaker 1

That's about 185 unless minutes 6 off.

01:04:44 Speaker 1

And a lot of them were found that.

01:04:47 Speaker 1

I sent the donation to this monument jewelry. We're going to put the in the name of the.

01:04:54 Speaker 1

Lieutenant Henry Walker.

01:04:56 Speaker 1

Didn't know his family. Never met him.

01:04:59 Speaker 1

And that I saw him.

01:05:04 Speaker 1

I sent it, you know, to get the Lord wrong.

01:05:10 Speaker 1

And we got we shepherd late.

01:05:13 Speaker 1

And he got it. And her son. And that that shook. And that really shook they just they just cut him too. And he got him.

01:05:24 Speaker 1

And very fellow.

01:05:27 Speaker 1

That that.

01:05:30 Speaker 1

I wish I.

01:05:31 Speaker 1

Could hope shake hands all of one day?

01:05:37 Speaker 1

Mayor.

01:05:38 Speaker 1

Anybody could stand up there and know they might get killed next minute.

01:05:44 Speaker 1

And they they had my dying love and respect and and the only thing I could.

01:05:50 Speaker 1

Never.

01:05:52 Speaker 1

Say, come on over here.

01:05:53 Speaker 1

I want to talk to you because.

01:05:55 Speaker 1

You get a couple of guys welcome and talk to me. They knew that was German and all on to you here. That pop sniper was there.

01:06:06 Speaker 1

So I'll tell the guys he's going to talk.

01:06:08 Speaker 1

To me, get back.

01:06:13 Speaker 2

What would you say, Bob?

01:06:14 Speaker 2

That somebody who might listen.

01:06:16 Speaker 2

To this tape, many years from now.

01:06:18 Speaker 2

About what the US accomplished in World War 2.

01:06:22 Speaker 1

Ohh, now that's bringing where we are now.

01:06:28 Speaker 1

And there we had to we couldn't let Hitler take over Europe, and that's what he's going to do. And then he would have come here.

01:06:36 Speaker 1

Because he was a nut that wanted power and.

01:06:40 Speaker 1

You know, he had obliterated all the other countries in Europe and the Austrians and whatever Czech.

01:06:52 Speaker 1

And so he had to be stopped and.

01:06:56 Speaker 1

The British and the French couldn't do it.

01:06:59 Speaker 1

By themselves so they.

01:07:01 Speaker 1

That's where we got into it, you know.

01:07:05 Speaker 1

And by the way, I wasn't real.

01:07:08 Speaker 1

And I was and I was a great fellow, no doubt about it. And I never met him. But.

01:07:13 Speaker 1

He I just didn't think that they.

01:07:18 Speaker 1

We're well prepared these days.

01:07:20 Speaker 1

You see, they they suffered, I think 2500 killed.

01:07:23 Speaker 1

No, they're not free anymore.

01:07:26 Speaker 1

And when I went in on that beach.

01:07:29 Speaker 1

And looked up there and saw the gun in place.

01:07:33 Speaker 1

And then I said, oh.

01:07:35 Speaker 1

Well, we we could have done something a little better now.

01:07:39 Speaker 1

And and of course, we didn't have enough air support when they went in and I had a great deal.

01:07:45 Speaker 1

Of sympathy to it.

01:07:47 Speaker 1

Going to be there, I'm just happy I was in there and.

01:07:54 Speaker 1

But I'll tell you, if you see a guy that went all the way as a combat soldier.

01:08:00 Speaker 1

I wasn't wounded, maybe scratched like I was the 1st and I got bitten, but.

01:08:06 Speaker 1

And I I'd never got a Purple Heart for that.

01:08:09 Speaker 1

Because I just put a Band-Aid over it, you know, although in in my citation from start, says Lieutenant. More at that time was wounded, but refused treatment in the what he was going to do.

01:08:27 Speaker 1

It knocked me on my head, so it was about 5 minutes and just like Joe Lewis punched me right there, I said hello.

01:08:35 Speaker 2

Bobby, thanks so much for doing this.

01:08:37 Speaker 2

Do you have any final thoughts you want to add?

01:08:40 Speaker 1

Well, I hope we can avoid war.

01:08:44 Speaker 1

I hope we can do something else with that and then enjoy the utmost and the performance and.

01:08:51 Speaker 1

Yeah, we got a great country and we're invited all over the world. I.

01:08:55 Speaker 1

Might be.

01:08:56 Speaker 1

But I just.

01:09:00 Speaker 1

One thing I've been there and.

01:09:02 Speaker 1



These people have say.

01:09:04 Speaker 1

You know, you know Iraq. That's the one I'm.

01:09:09 Speaker 1

I I think we should get out of there as soon as we can and everybody keeps saying that's not civil. Well, I think.

01:09:15 Speaker 1

It's civil war.

01:09:16 Speaker 1

Those people fight for religion. They don't. They don't fight for Democrats or Republicans or or citizens or anything like that. Anybody that can walk into a place with a bomb strip.

01:09:28 Speaker 1

And.

01:09:29 Speaker 1

And blow himself up the bits.

01:09:32 Speaker 1

I think he's going to heaven and get some.

01:09:36 Speaker 1

Bunch of Beverly Beverly's up there, you know.

01:09:40 Speaker 1

But I I've seen that for.

01:09:44 Speaker 1

Saddam Hussein said, well, he just did what was.

01:09:48 Speaker 1

Expected as the commander.

01:09:50 Speaker 1

But I'm against that. I've got a nephew or my.

01:09:54 Speaker 1

In.

01:09:57 Speaker 1

He's well, he's my brother. Tension. He's he was.

01:10:00 Speaker 1

And then the service and went to arrange the.

01:10:02 Speaker 1

Training that's heading out of there.

01:10:05 Speaker 1

Getting into whack or something because.

01:10:10 Speaker 1

He's in Afghanistan now and he's 2. Two of his buddies got killed the.

01:10:14 Speaker 1

Other day.

01:10:16 Speaker 1

And so I I just said.

01:10:19 Speaker 1

I think you know I have the.

01:10:21 Speaker 1

Utmost respect for soul.

01:10:24 Speaker 1

And and nobody can say that I'm not from my country because I am and but I just don't. I just hate to see those people.

01:10:36 Speaker 1

Blown away over there.

01:10:38 Speaker 1

Yeah, I'm going to get.

01:10:39 Speaker 1

Worse.

01:10:41 Speaker 1

But I I couldn't.

01:10:44 Speaker 1

I just say let's let's talk, you know.

01:10:47 Speaker 1

Because when you get a shooting in bullets, somebody's going to get hit.

01:10:52 Speaker 1

I.

01:10:52 Speaker 1

It's been a pleasure. Thanks, Sir.

01:10:54 Speaker 1

I think you tell Senator Legal hasn't even.

01:10:57 Speaker 1

Done a great job, thank.

01:10:58 Speaker 2

You.