

Gerald Myers Interview #2

Company G, 317th Inf Reg

(Aug 2001, interviewed by COL(ret) Grant Porter)

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

00:00:12 Speaker 1

My name is Gerald Virgil Myers. I was with the 317th Infantry, Second Battalion Company G of the 80th Infantry Division.

00:00:23 Speaker 1

I came into the 80th Division approximately the latter part of September as a replacement. I was not with the original group and I met them right after panamas on and from there until the end of the war. I was not off of the line one day from.

00:00:44 Speaker 1

Any injuries? I did have an injury of Streppel in the arm, but I did not go off of the line because they told me that.

00:00:55 Speaker 1

Due to the.

00:00:57 Speaker 1

Numerous casualties at that time that I was not. I could still maneuver and that they wanted me to stay on the line, which I did.

00:01:11 Speaker 1

If you got anything that.

00:01:14 Speaker 2

Could you tell us you were in the the mortar mortar section?

00:01:19 Speaker 2

Uh.

00:01:21 Speaker 2

Technically, what it involved engaging targets with mortars. Did you fire indirect fire where people radioed you coordinates, or did you see the targets you engage?

00:01:31 Speaker 1

OK, I was with the 60mm mortar, which was right with The Rifleman. We were always within 100 yards back of where The Rifleman were and one specific time that I can think about was during the Battle of the Bulge.

00:01:50 Speaker 1

In just north of Hyder Shide by Dahl, outside of Dal and Tadler, Luxembourg.

00:01:59 Speaker 1

We were on the offensive and one night at 12:00 we were given an objective to.

00:02:09 Speaker 1

To secure a roof junction, the maps that the officers had.

00:02:17 Speaker 1

Were such that they did not indicate that the terrain was as steep as it was and there was about 10 inches, 12 inches of frozen snow on the ground, and as the four TD tanks that were with us went over the Crest of this hill.

00:02:36 Speaker 1

They tried to stop, but they locked their tread and they slid down the hill, just like a bobsled.

00:02:44 Speaker 1

As they slid down the hill to the bottom, the rest of the infantry followed the tanks down, and as we got near the bottom of the hill, the Germans were waiting on us and there weren't supposed to be any Germans in that particular area that night because our intelligence told us that they had moved out of that.

00:03:06 Speaker 1

The area, but evidently they moved back in because.

00:03:10 Speaker 1

They we went into that battle with approximately 200 soldiers and by the time that they started firing, they knocked out all four tanks within two minutes time and they were blazing and showing the flames were given light to the area and the Germans then were firing.

00:03:31 Speaker 1

With their burp guns and with their rifles and captain Dan Fruits.

00:03:38 Speaker 1

At that time, he says, Fellows, he said. We've been caught in an ambush. Let's get the hell out of here. And so we were trying to go back up the hill, and it was so slick that you couldn't stand up and climb that. We were crawling on our hands and knees in these bushes and trees.

00:03:58 Speaker 1

Trying to get up the hill and we finally did get up the hill and he said we will take it, they he had radioed back and they said take defensive on the top of the hill, just over the camelback.

00:04:12 Speaker 1

And so as we went up the hill, they were getting hit. They were getting taken prisoner and the next morning, as sunlight came up, we started counting the number of people we had. And we had 57 people left, as I remember.

00:04:32 Speaker 1

We started stirring around. We had dubbed foxholes that night and shallow foxholes. And as the fellows started stirring around.

00:04:43 Speaker 1

They we had a stiffer that was possibly 500 yards away when we finally located him in the corner of a rock fence and he we couldn't see him firing at that time.

00:05:00 Speaker 1

And we didn't work was coming from but.

00:05:03 Speaker 1

Within a period of 20 minutes, he had shot 7 of the guys that we had and they were when they would stir around and stand up, they didn't even know what.

00:05:15 Speaker 1

Hit them because he got them well. We set the the captain Dampwood says. Set up your mortars and see if we can fire and and get this guy and find out where he is. One of the fellows that was on our right holidays and he said I just saw a puff of of snow from the fence.

00:05:35 Speaker 1

Down in the corner, he said he I think that that's where he is is down.

00:05:40 Speaker 1

There. So we set our 60mm mortar up, set it for 500 yards distance and they we were down. The fellows that were firing that were lower than what the bank was. And I stood up and when I stood up a bullet.

00:06:00 Speaker 1

Went by my head and I could hear it and I froze. I be I was so frightened that I froze and I stood there and I said validate on me and that's what they did is that they used me as the guide for about a minute.

00:06:18 Speaker 1

And they shot. And as we would shoot, we would get up and see where the burst was landing, and then we would adjust either right or left or backwards or forward. And we finally we shot approximately 12 rounds into that corner and finally he quit.

00:06:39 Speaker 1

Firing and whether we got him or not, we don't know because we never did go back there and go down to see. But in about 20 minutes after that, we were given the order to pull back and that's what we did. And from that I was given the Bronze Star.

00:06:57 Speaker 2

You had a weapons heavy weapons squad or weapons platoon in the company. You were part of weapons platoon.

00:07:05 Speaker 1

That's right, we had.

00:07:07 Speaker 1

The weapons platoon that consisted of two machine guns, 2 air cool machine guns and 260mm mortars.

00:07:16 Speaker 1

We would have two fellows that would carry the martyrs breakdown the the tube and the.

00:07:24 Speaker 1

Base plate and the legs. And then we had three fellows that was carrying ammunition and then I was the squad leader of of that they would have.

00:07:36

Yes.

00:07:42 Speaker 1

Yeah. And you carried 3 in the front, 3 shelves in the front, and three shelves on your back, as I remember.

00:07:49 Speaker 1

And each one carried 1 and sometimes if if we needed thought we were going to need extra ammunition. The one carrier would carry two of them. He would carry one in front of him in his arms like this. And the other one was over over his head and.

00:08:09 Speaker 1

With the three in the front and the three in the back.

00:08:12 Speaker 2

Said you call yourself like you you were in charge.

00:08:16 Speaker 2

You are leading A1. Mortar sections are squashed and how many men were?

00:08:19 Speaker 1

That's right, squad.

00:08:21 Speaker 1

In us, there were six of us, including me.

00:08:23 Speaker 2

Six so. So how many rounds would you carry as a basic?

00:08:27 Speaker 1

Load we would carry. Normally it would be 6, it would be 18 rounds and sometimes we would carry 24. We'd carry 30 rounds.

00:08:37 Speaker 2

And how were you resupplied? Tip? There might be vehicles in the rear that would.

00:08:41 Speaker 1

There would, yeah, you. Normally there would be vehicles a a Jeep with a tree.

00:08:47 Speaker 1

And they would bring up ammunition at night and the ammunition bearers would have to go back. And sometimes it was 1000 yards. It might be 500 yards. It depended on where we were and what the terrain was. But a lot of people thought that.

00:09:07 Speaker 1

Mortar run 60mm mortarman would set.

00:09:10 Speaker 1

Back half a mile or 1/4 of a mile back of The Rifleman. That that's not so. We would set up within 100 yards back of where The Rifleman were, in case that we were needed because our trajectory was only about 12 hundred 1500 yards.

00:09:29 Speaker 2

You did you typically stay with either the company commander or platoon leader.

00:09:33 Speaker 1

Platoon leader. We didn't stay with the the company commander would normally be maybe 304 hundred yards back of us and a CP, and he would either have.

00:09:45 Speaker 1

A runner that would come up at that time or we would have telephone lines to the platoon Sergeant, that they would keep in communications with.

00:09:55 Speaker 2

Did you tend to be the person then? That would direct the fire of the.

00:09:58 Speaker 1

Warrior, right, your squad leader.

00:10:00 Speaker 2

And giving directions so many yards, the right dropped so many heads. So many that kind of instruction.

00:10:04 Speaker 1

Exactly, exactly. We were we were the Director, Fire Director.

00:10:12 Speaker 1

Well, in our squad now, I don't know how it was in, in other regiments or battalions, but that's the way that we did it in, in our group.

00:10:24 Speaker 2

Would you tell us some about maybe another engagement?

00:10:29 Speaker 2

How it worked?

00:10:31 Speaker 2

Did you ever fire defending against assaulting Germans?

00:10:37 Speaker 1

In the Battle of the Bulge.

00:10:42 Speaker 1

North of Neader fueling.

00:10:46 Speaker 1

That is West of Middlebrook, between Edelbrock and and Heiderscheid.

00:10:52 Speaker 1

The Germans were starting to counterattack 1 evening and they were coming across a a field that was possibly we could see them 15102 thousand yards away. And so we had set up both of the 60mm.

00:11:13 Speaker 1

Orders when we saw them coming.

00:11:15 Speaker 1

And before the TDs could pull into position to fire. Then we set up. Yeah. The tank destroyers. Yeah. There's a lot of times they use them as as anti personnel and.

00:11:22 Speaker 2

The TV's.

00:11:24 Speaker 2

Thank you. Strollers OK.

00:11:30 Speaker 2

Five person now.

00:11:32 Speaker 2

Did they have a round to fire that was anti personnel round?

00:11:36 Speaker 1

You know, I really don't know what they use, but they would use them and they would hit the ground and explode. So I would assume that that's what they were not using armor piercing, that's for sure.

00:11:49 Speaker 1

But.

00:11:49 Speaker 2

And this infantry attacking, was it supported with armor or was it strictly?

00:11:53

True.

00:11:54 Speaker 1

This happened to be just an infantry group as I would say 100. We could see approximately 100 or maybe more. We didn't count them. I didn't count them anyway and so the main thing we were trying to do was to get the.

00:12:10 Speaker 1

Shells out there as far as we can get them and try to keep them from coming on in. But.

00:12:18 Speaker 1

I didn't do it. The TD's finally pulled up. We could detour them a little bit and they would hesitate, but then they would keep coming on and they were just like we were and we were being shelled by the Germans. Why we would hesitate. But then we would get up and move because we didn't want them to get.

00:12:37 Speaker 1

A. A target on this.

00:12:40 Speaker 2

So this the Germans, you saw you the the right. Your rifle company would have been up to a maximum of 200 people, but depending on the casualties, maybe around 100.

00:12:52 Speaker 2

Sure.

00:12:53 Speaker 2

It varied, I'm sure.

00:12:55 Speaker 2

But.

00:12:55 Speaker 1

From the time that I joined with G Company, I can remember 3 different times that our company.

00:13:04 Speaker 1

Because of casualties was below.

00:13:08 Speaker 1

60 people.

00:13:11 Speaker 1

And then.

00:13:11 Speaker 2

So on this occasion, how many did you have?

00:13:13 Speaker 1

At that time, as I remember, we had about 130 to 35.

00:13:18 Speaker 2

So here were Germans about the same number or slightly more assaulting them, right? That was pretty gutsy on their foot. It seems to have.

00:13:26 Speaker 1

That's right. But they were gutsy and they were good soldiers.

00:13:30 Speaker 1

They were well disciplined. They were well dressed, but they were well trained. In fact, that was one of the reasons that they lost the war. I. That's my opinion.

00:13:41 Speaker 1

Was that they were so well disciplined that they didn't have any self initiative in making the decision. If they were told to take an objective, they would all die trying to take that objective. And the difference that with the Americans, if we running.

00:14:01 Speaker 1

Into a real problem and somebody says, hey, this isn't working.

00:14:06 Speaker 1

We got to change the way that we're approaching this, an attack, and even if it was a private, the Lieutenant would listen and they would say, OK, let's try something different. This isn't working, but the Germans didn't do that. And that was part of the reason.

00:14:27 Speaker 1

I think that the Germans lost a good part of the battles.

00:14:27 Speaker 2

Go away.

00:14:32 Speaker 2

No, just give us.

00:14:34 Speaker 2

About 15 minutes and you come up.

00:14:38

Hi.

00:14:38 Speaker 3

Yeah, I know the Germans refused to listen to their junior leadership and the English army. Also the the officers, you know, at the battle, we rely on our NCO.

00:14:41 Speaker 1

That's right, yeah.

00:14:46 Speaker 2

I must, I must ask you, because we pride ourselves and we feel that in the American army that we.

00:14:54 Speaker 2

But how did you reach that conclusion? Had you talked to German prisoners? Had you simply by watching their behavior? You know what I'm getting at? How did?

00:15:01 Speaker 1

Watching baby, yes.

00:15:02 Speaker 2

You decide that.

00:15:04 Speaker 1

Well.

00:15:06 Speaker 1

1st we can see that if they started to.

00:15:12 Speaker 1

Hidden objective that they just would not give up.

00:15:15 Speaker 2

Even if they were, if it was hopeless.

00:15:16 Speaker 1

Even if they they were, casualties were severe, they would not give up and they wouldn't until they could see that they had completely lost all initiative for for an advance. But you could watch that on every approach. But I talked to a German soldier after the war.

00:15:37 Speaker 1

And.

00:15:37 Speaker 1

Said.

00:15:38 Speaker 1

Why did you continue to attack when you were being mowed down? He says. Because he said you didn't change the the the orders. Whatever your officer told you that you better do because he said if you didn't do it, he said that be we were afraid there have been.

00:15:59 Speaker 1

And S are back there that would shoot you.

00:16:02 Speaker 1

And he said that was the reason one of the reasons that we did that because you just as a minor soldier, you didn't change orders. So only an officer could change orders.

00:16:17 Speaker 2

That's remarkable. Yeah, in in your sense of the combat you saw, were there more American casualties or more German?

00:16:26

But.

00:16:26 Speaker 1

Well, in the area that.

00:16:31 Speaker 1

I particularly was in from east of Panamas on on through the bulge and on through the Big German casualties at that time were way higher during the bulge. I would say that the casualties were at least a third more on the Germans than they were.

00:16:51 Speaker 1

Of the Americans.

00:16:53 Speaker 2

So even though the Americans were attacking most of the time.

00:16:57 Speaker 2

And you typically think of as suffering more casualties on the offensive. There still tended to be more German.

00:17:04 Speaker 2

Candy.

00:17:04 Speaker 1

There was more German casualties. Yeah, because they they would get up and they would.

00:17:11 Speaker 1

Say that they're going to take that objective, and the Americans, were they, they didn't do that. They were more, they had more self.

00:17:24 Speaker 1

Not reliance but, but they would change their approach of an attack even when they started out. If they had, it's all set up. It might say that this squad is going to go first. This squad over here is going to do this and if it didn't work they might change and and the officer.

00:17:43 Speaker 1

Would say hey.

00:17:45 Speaker 1

You're in the center. Take off and get the hell up there and get this done and they would make a change of uh, approaching an objective, even if they were halfway.

00:17:56 Speaker 2

There, but even even individuals down at squad leader or other soldiers, even individually, would decide to do something different.

00:18:05 Speaker 2

Take the.

00:18:05 Speaker 1

If if they would, that's right. And one of the things too is that we had a lot of new officers that come in.

00:18:16 Speaker 1

That they felt that they had to be, you know that. I'm sure that that's the way they were trained in West Point or wherever they were trained as officers that you lead your squads. You go 1st and you do this well. There were many, many days that we would have.

00:18:35 Speaker 1

Four officers out of the company that would get.

00:18:39 Speaker 1

Injured.

00:18:40 Speaker 1

Or killed and the Sergeant had to take over as a Lieutenant. And I can remember that many times we had squad. That or platoons that were led by staff sergeants for three 4-5 days before an officer would.

00:19:00 Speaker 1

Come in.

00:19:01 Speaker 1

And so the the sergeants.

00:19:06 Speaker 1

And the even we've even had carpals.

00:19:11 Speaker 1

That in the bulge I can remember when there were corporals that were acting as lieutenants.

00:19:18 Speaker 2

Go back to the technique techniques of the mortar fire in this attack, but we got sidetracked out here. You were directing the fire, adjusting it as the enemy moved forward or whatever.

00:19:24 Speaker 1

OK.

00:19:31 Speaker 1

As the enemy move forward, we would adjust for the fire.

00:19:36 Speaker 1

The other squad squad would have their mortar set up maybe 50 feet or 50 yards from where we were and we would agree that we would take half of the target that he would down the center and he would take the right hand side of the target and I would take this left hand.

00:19:54 Speaker 1

Side of the target.

00:19:55 Speaker 1

And that's what we would gear on was that we would try to hit.

00:20:00 Speaker 1

The the right in the first part of the soldiers, the Germans coming toward us rather than to shoot over them. We would try to keep the the shelves landing just at the front of them rather than at at the back of them or in.

00:20:16 Speaker 1

The.

00:20:16 Speaker 2

Middle and the the border.

00:20:20 Speaker 2

Have a transverse and elevation T&E mechanism like a machine gun and.

00:20:23 Speaker 1

Oh yes.

00:20:25 Speaker 1

Right, right.

00:20:27 Speaker 1

It was one that you turned and you could traverse it.

00:20:29

MHM.

00:20:32 Speaker 1

Or you could.

00:20:32 Speaker 2

Now you were doing this at the same time receiving mortar and artillery fire from the enemy.

00:20:38 Speaker 1

At that time that we were getting mortar fire, but I don't remember getting artillery at that time, but but we were trying to get them before the rifle fire would.

00:20:43 Speaker 2

Fart flow.

00:20:48 Speaker 2

Would was very severe from the enemy, yes. And how far out would the enemy usually be like in that situation, before they were able to put the they probably engage with machine guns in the first mortars first, then machine guns.

00:21:01

Yeah.

00:21:03 Speaker 1

Machine have mortars, first machine guns. We would try to get them when that they were like if you were on a hill here.

00:21:11 Speaker 1

Before they got down to the valley of the hill or a level place where that they would be 1000 yards away, that's what we would try to do is to keep them at least 1000 yards out when we would start firing on.

00:21:27 Speaker 1

Them.

00:21:28 Speaker 2

Now a technique that the army has taught for a long time or final protective fires does that term.

00:21:34 Speaker 2

Mean anything to you?

00:21:35 Speaker 2

That is, machine guns are placed so that they can fire across, and even riflemen are placed so they can fire a certain direction and on a signal prearrange, everybody shifts to a prearranged position to set up a wall of steel to defend.

00:21:39 Speaker 1

Machine gun 3.

00:21:51

Uh.

00:21:51

The.

00:21:52 Speaker 2

Position. Did you practice that?

00:21:54 Speaker 1

We.

00:21:56 Speaker 1

We did in basic training, but when we got into actual combat it happened now and then, but usually the firing in Luxembourg was so close.

00:22:12 Speaker 1

So near before you realized that you were being hit, that you really didn't set up, but you had a standing, not an order, but they'd say, OK, you guys pick your field of fire. Well, we know what that was. Was pick your field of fire.

00:22:33 Speaker 1

And we would try to do it, but I don't know that it always happened.

00:22:37 Speaker 2

You had to have time to set up a defensive position to set up final protectors, typically right? So.

00:22:43 Speaker 1

Yeah, because many days we would dig 4 foxholes in one day.

00:22:50 Speaker 1

Because you would go forward and you'd think, well, we're going to stay here, then something would happen and maybe some company over on the left or the right would get pinned down and you would have to move up to help relieve them and so.

00:23:08

It.

00:23:10 Speaker 1

It was a lot different than today.

00:23:11 Speaker 2

As a squad leader, did you have to use much to get to keep your soldiers to dig in when they were supposed to, or did they pretty much do that on their?

00:23:21 Speaker 1

When they first come up, they were reluctant sometimes to dig in because it had rained so much every day it rained when we were in in France from the 1st of October until November till Thanksgiving and it would rain and you could dig 6 inches down below the surface and water would start.

00:23:44 Speaker 1

Coming into your foxhole and you'd use your helmet to to dip the water out of the hole. And I remember one time that a young fellow he was digging a foxhole off to my left and he says.

00:23:51 Speaker 2

Hi.

00:23:59 Speaker 1

I'm not going to dig another damned inch if the whole German army comes over that hill.

00:24:06 Speaker 1

Well, just not 20 minutes after that three tank German tank showed up on a hill over beyond us. Maybe half a mile away and started firing some shells. Well, I'll tell you that kid hit the ground and he had about two inches of water in. In what?

00:24:26 Speaker 1

He had dug and he spliced it all up and he laid there and shivered. And when the artillery finally came in and backed those tanks.

00:24:35 Speaker 1

Oh.

00:24:36 Speaker 1

The dirt flew from his spade and he never ever had anything but usually after the first day or two that they were up there.

00:24:47 Speaker 1

You didn't have any any trouble of a guy. The only time we had trouble was in Luxembourg when it was 1820 below 0 and we had 20 inches of snow on the ground and the ground was frozen so hard that even artillery shells wouldn't knock a hole in.

00:25:07 Speaker 1

And if they were hitting at a glance, they would ricochet.

00:25:12 Speaker 2

One one question on that the weather, they talked so much about trench foot and those kind of frostbite in in that fighting were what percent of the casualties people had to be evacuated because of that. Do you?

00:25:27 Speaker 1

Think many, many days. There were times that the casualties.

00:25:32 Speaker 1

From trench foot was greater than the casualties from the enemy fire.

00:25:40 Speaker 1

During the bulge, we didn't get fresh socks and we didn't have the right kind of, we just had.

00:25:50 Speaker 1

Combat boots.

00:25:50

Yeah.

00:25:51 Speaker 1

And they would get soaked, even though they had cosmoline on them. Why they would still get wet. Your socks would get wet. You usually carry 2 pair of socks with you, and then if luckily, why the kitchen would bring up some fresh socks with it. But not every day you would take one pair of socks off.

00:26:13 Speaker 1

Put them inside your shirt, around your body, and then wear the other pair.

00:26:17 Speaker 1

Socks, but a lot of guys didn't do that. You were supposed to take your your shoes off in the foxhole at night and rub your feet and then put your shoes back on naturally. But a lot of guys didn't do.

00:26:31 Speaker 1

That.

00:26:32 Speaker 1

And so consequently, their circulation just, and I don't know why.

00:26:37 Speaker 1

They didn't do it. Whether it was because.

00:26:42 Speaker 1

They didn't think it was necessary or whether they wanted to get trench foot because I'll tell you there were days that I wished I'd get trench foot, but I fortunately my feet just stayed pink and and dry. But I did. I did try to keep my socks there. Times when I wore 2 pair of socks.

00:27:02 Speaker 1

For over well over a week between them, before we got free socks. There were times during the bulge when we didn't have a hot meal. I remember one time for 7-8 days.

00:27:16 Speaker 1

And three days I remember that we were cut off and we we lived on chocolate bar and lemon powder. Now that that is about as bad as you can get and but.

00:27:34 Speaker 1

The casualties from trench foot was confined to basically a that six week period during the bowel of the bulge and there were there were a lot of casualties at that time.

00:27:48 Speaker 2

Would you tell us about the medallion you're wearing? How you got that and what it?

00:27:53 Speaker 1

This medallion in 2001, in June, my wife and I were invited to come to Luxembourg to take part in the US Veterans Friends Organization week.

00:28:10 Speaker 1

Celebration for the American soldiers that fought during the Battle of the Bulge.

00:28:17 Speaker 1

While we were there, the mayor of Middlebrook found out that there was an 80th division person in Luxembourg and he called Constant Gargan, who is the President of the US veteran friend, and said could you get that person to come to Edgebrook?

00:28:37 Speaker 1

And so they set up the time and we went over on a Friday morning at 8:00 and went to the City Hall. And when we went upstairs.

00:28:49 Speaker 1

The conference room had about 30 city employee or 30 people in there. I assumed there's they were city employees, the mayor and the city manager were there that we had the coffee, champagne, orange juice.

00:29:09 Speaker 1

Roles and things like that. And finally after a while, why he said Mr. Myers, would you please come up here by me? And so I said yes and I had no idea what he was going to do.

00:29:24 Speaker 1

And I knew that the 80th Division had had freed the city of Eaglebrook, and that the 80th Division was well thought of, because that is where there is an 80th degree, 80th Division monument in the Middlebrook.

00:29:44 Speaker 1

And the George Patton park. And so I went up and he took this out of a box. And it is a medallion that says Georgius Patton.

00:29:59 Speaker 1

And on the back it says from the city of Eaglebrook mercy. Mercy. Mercy. Thank you. Thank you. Thank.

00:30:06 Speaker 1

You.

00:30:07 Speaker 1

And so he said, as a soldier, that was in the 80th Division during the Battle of the Bulge. It is my pleasure to present to you.

00:30:19 Speaker 1

The Georges Patton.

00:30:20 Speaker 1

Metal given to you or presented to you by the city of people of Littlebrook, and that we want you to know that there are few of these given out. Now I do not know whether or any other divisions get this, but I know that.

00:30:41 Speaker 1

There are not many of them that have been given out and I am so proud to receive it as a representative of the 80th Division.

00:30:50

Yeah.

00:30:52 Speaker 1

That, that's that's.

00:30:54 Speaker 2

We need to research that and see if that is only going to.

00:30:57 Speaker 1

Yeah, I I don't know whether it is or not, but I I didn't ask him because when I got it, I was so elated because I had never seen one before and I haven't seen one since from anyone else.

00:31:12 Speaker 1

I'm sure there are others I know of two others that have them, but I haven't seen.

00:31:19 Speaker 3

Mr. Myers, could you just turn it over and lay it against your chest there? I'm going to zoom in on the backside. Just relax your hand away from the way I can. It'll stay still.

00:31:31 Speaker 3

And it says there Remembrance Day 1945 Mercy Edelbrock.

00:31:41 Speaker 3

That's really quite a coin.

00:31:45 Speaker 2

OK.

00:31:46 Speaker 3

Thank.

00:31:46 Speaker 1

Can you see the other side?

00:31:48 Speaker 3

Yes.

00:31:49

OK.

00:31:52 Speaker 1

I would like to just I don't care whether it's on tape or not, but once a year during the week of June 23rd, the US Veteran's Friends Organization have a week celebration for veterans that helped to free Luxembourg for.

00:32:12 Speaker 1

Or the germ?

00:32:14 Speaker 1

Each day they have a celebration of land or wreath at a monument. It might be the the 5th Division, the 4th Infantry, the 5th Infantry, the 80th Division, the 95th 99th Division. But each day and each evening.

00:32:32 Speaker 1

They have a celebration at noon and one of an event.

00:32:36 Speaker 1

And they do that each day of the week, except on the 23rd. And that is the birthday also of the Prince of Luxembourg. And that day you receive a special invitation to go to his celebration, which is held in the cathedral in Luxembourg.

00:32:56 Speaker 1

City and you are a special guest of his and you set up on the altar next next to the altar to where that you are as close as.

00:33:10 Speaker 1

10 feet from the Duke and his family, and as he comes in, he stands there and gives you just a little nod as you can read into what you want. But I read into it. Thank you. And it was it was a very.

00:33:30 Speaker 1

Very moving time, but you will never be treated like you are during that week because you take part in helping to celebrate all of these other monuments of other units like yours that help to free the people of Luxembourg.

00:33:50 Speaker 2

OK.

00:33:50 Speaker 1

I'd like to make just one point why people.

00:33:54 Speaker 1

People wonder why that the people of Luxembourg are so kind so.

00:34:05 Speaker 1

Helpful.

00:34:07 Speaker 1

They to the American soldier.

00:34:10 Speaker 1

I asked Camille Cohen, who is president of the Cebu organization that is the oldest organization for our veterans. I said Camille, you don't have to do this for us. We don't expect it, he said. But Wordgirl, he said, you got to remember that before the war, the Germans.

00:34:32 Speaker 1

Had taken our country. They had taken our dignity. They had taken our royal family and they.

00:34:40 Speaker 1

Had.

00:34:42 Speaker 1

Succeeded, seceded us into Germany. We were a part of Germany for almost four years. We didn't even have a country name, he said. You Americans came 7000 miles and you were willing to give up your life to help us. And he said you did.

00:35:02 Speaker 1

He said you gave us back our country. He said you gave us back our royal family. He said you gave us back our dignity.

00:35:11 Speaker 1

And he said.

00:35:14 Speaker 1

Whatever we can do would be like 1 grain of sand on a beach compared to what you.

00:35:20 Speaker 1

Did for us.

00:35:24 Speaker 1

And that they show up when you get over there and visit.

00:35:28

Them.

00:35:29 Speaker 2

Maybe someday we can film.

00:35:32 Speaker 2

Over there.

00:35:33 Speaker 2

Yes.

